



# PARLIAMENTARIANS DIALOGUE

Forging Parliamentary Pathways for  
Effective Climate Action

4TH AND 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Concept  
Note



Hosted by the Kenyan Parliament  
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# Background

The 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that accelerating warming of the planet is now estimated to reach 1.5°C by 2030. In addition to these findings, the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) “Traffic Light Assessment” (TLA) report, provides that the targets set out in most nations’ NDCs are not sufficient to safeguard the 1.5°C goal, particularly in those countries who have long since exceeded their fair-share of the global carbon budget, when taking into account fairness considerations, including equity.

Africa is increasingly confronted with the accelerating effects of global climate change, with rising temperatures, severe droughts, and frequent floods. Additionally, climate vulnerable African countries are missing out on opportunities for greater energy independence as well as access to green investment and export opportunities. The continent needs to strengthen its mechanisms and frameworks for responding to and influencing the climate change agenda nationally, regionally and internationally by leveraging all stakeholders including Parliaments. A resolute response is needed, encompassing comprehensive approaches, incorporating the acceleration of adaptation through greater international climate finance, the widespread adoption of renewable energy sources, the priority delivered to energy efficiency and the development of sustainable energy infrastructure. To achieve these objectives, it is imperative to instate judicious policy interventions that expedite necessary reforms, bolster investments, drive decisive climate action, and ensure equitable access to efficient energy resources. In this multifaceted pursuit, Africa can pave the way toward a greener, more sustainable future.

# Africa Climate Summit

The Africa Climate Summit is a high-level congregation of African heads of State and Governments focused on climate change, hosted by H.E. President William S. Ruto of Kenya, co-convened with the Global Center on Adaptation, and organised in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. This significant event will be held in Nairobi from 4-6 September 2023, coinciding with this year's Africa Climate Week, creating a powerful platform for collaboration and progress. During the in-person summit, six crucial thematic areas will be explored:

**Climate Finance**

**Climate Adaptation and Resilience**

**Mitigation and Green Growth**

**Loss & Damage**

**Climate Vulnerable groups**

**Research Innovation and Technology**

These focused discussions will pave the way for tangible solutions and actions.

The Summit will focus on delivering innovative green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the world. A central theme of the Summit is climate adaptation. There is an ever-present need to accelerate adaptation through stronger international climate finance for Africa. The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP), are mobilising US\$25 billion by 2025 for climate adaptation in the areas of food security, resilient infrastructure, climate finance, and youth employment. There is a need to promote the full realisation of the AAP by reinforcing national adaptation priorities and mobilising additional resources to fund those national priorities. Climate Adaptation Country Compacts will be launched during the Leaders Dialogue on Adaptation Action. The main objective of the Climate Adaptation Country Compacts is to increase adaptation investments in Africa, in the current context of frequent and intense adverse impacts of climate change on national economies.

The ubiquitous adverse effects associated with the current agri-food production systems, climate change and conflicts call for urgent actions to reduce climate risks associated with consumption and production patterns and ensure efficient use of resources in the preproduction, production, and value transformation stages of food chains. This entails designing appropriate interventions that respond to the challenges associated with the increase in forced displacement and migration from rural to urban areas, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) within and across borders, in part fuelled by climate change impacts on natural resources dependent sectors, such as drought in agriculture. Evidence-based innovations focusing on climate action in the realms of technology, finance, social and institutional structures are needed across agri-food systems. Underpinned by enabling and aligned sector policies, they also require appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks that lower entry barriers and/or stimulate public and private investments in innovative and inclusive climate financing mechanisms.

During the Pan-African Parliament's Summit on Climate Policy and Equity, H.E. President Ruto emphasised that the upcoming Africa Climate Summit is set to provide an opportunity to highlight and forge consensus on the modalities of unlocking Africa's vast potential to positively impact the climate agenda and rally the world to tap the numerous opportunities that Africa presents towards global net-zero ambition. The role of parliaments and parliamentarians in this pursuit cannot be overstated.

Parliaments and parliamentarians play crucial legislative, budget approval and oversight roles which are important in policy-making and implementation, therefore ensuring government accountability and effectiveness. They also provide vital knowledge links with constituents which facilitates need-based and effective climate action. At the international scale, parliamentarians have the opportunity to work with their counterparts to build synergies and coordinated approaches for the common regional interests. Despite this understanding, the role of parliamentary institutions and parliamentarians is yet to gain adequate traction and support in the climate negotiation processes, especially for African countries. Indeed, according to an Africa All Party review, until recently, development partners have tended to focus exclusively on the executive branch of government, with limited involvement of parliaments, thus undermining their role, understanding and potential contribution to climate governance and processes.

## **PARLIAMENTARIANS DIALOGUE**

The Parliamentarians Dialogue will provide a platform for discussing the role and potential contribution of parliaments to climate action. Additionally, it will interrogate the implementation pathways from the perspective of legislatures for the delivery of the commitments made during the Summit. Legislators will be invited to deliberate on how they can collaborate with relevant stakeholders (e.g., local communities, industry representatives, and civil society organisations) to foster an inclusive and participatory energy transition and to better understand the concrete benefits that renewable energy would have for communities in rural and urban settings (i.e., decentralised renewable energy). The Dialogue will examine the fluctuating opposition to renewable energy in parliaments, the media and the public, the reasons for this situation and ways of remedying it.

It is imperative that legislative bodies across the breadth of the African continent empower themselves to ensure that the outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit transcend mere rhetoric and platitudes. Parliamentarians are bestowed with the responsibility to vigilantly oversee and ensure effective climate action across the entire continent. As such, the commitments made by the executive during the high-level meeting must be treated with the utmost seriousness. Furthermore, the Parliamentarians Dialogue will contribute to the outcomes of the Accountability Summit at COP28 convened by the Climate Vulnerable Forum's Global Parliamentary Group (CVF GPG), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and the Global Renewables Congress (GRC).

During this crucial gathering, parliamentarians shall receive, scrutinise, and engage in extensive debates to extract and refine strategies for robust parliamentary oversight and the identification of capacity-building gaps that necessitate attention to achieve sustained and impactful climate action throughout the continent. By doing so, Africa can demonstrate its willingness to make meaningful changes and fulfil its commitments to combat the pressing climate challenges facing our planet.

# KEY INFORMATION

## OBJECTIVE

Convene leading African parliamentarians responsible for climate action in their respective parliaments to deliberate on the role of parliaments in achieving the Africa Climate Summit outcomes, in a discussion divided into three sessions (details below).

## OUTCOME

The Dialogue will culminate in the adoption of a statement by parliamentarians presented at the Africa Climate Summit.

## PARTICIPATION

African parliamentarians and partner organisations with a keen interest in the work of parliaments.

## FORMAT

1-hour session on 04 September and full day event on 06 September.

## LANGUAGE

The Dialogue will take place in English.

## DATE AND VENUE

ACS Convention Centre- ACS 5 Atlas Mountain on 04 September and National Assembly Chamber, Parliament of Kenya on 06 September.

## CO-CHAIRS

- Hon. Senator Moses Kajwang, Chair and Convener, Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Action, Kenya Parliament Senate
- Hon. Jacqueline Amongin, Uganda MP, Chair APNCA,
- Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Marfo, Chairman, CVF Global Parliamentary Group and Environment Committee of Ghana's Parliament



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## **SESSION 1 ON RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- Discuss the manner in which renewable energy potential in Africa can be developed quickly and responsibly and how rural areas can benefit from decentralised renewable energy deployment.
- Identify the role of legislators in driving the renewable energy transition and how they can effectively collaborate with relevant stakeholders (e.g., local communities, industry representatives, civil society organisations) to foster an inclusive and participatory energy transition.
- Demonstrate how the deployment of renewable energy can be accelerated in climate-vulnerable countries, including the policies and regulatory frameworks that need to be put in place.
- Highlight the measures needed to achieve the global tripling of renewable electricity target by 2030, its implications for local economies and policy-making.

## **SESSION 2 ON ON GREEN GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION**

- Provide a platform for stakeholder engagement on the theme “green growth and sustainable production”, including climate-related social vulnerabilities, with a particular focus on the transition to more sustainable food systems in Africa and climate security resilience.
- Discuss how the continent can achieve a resilient, secure and nutritious food supply and increased added value and diversification, including the adoption of green technologies to meet the growing demands in the context of climate change.
- Identify the role, opportunities, policy incentives and financial tools (e.g., de-risking and investment cost reduction mechanisms) for the private sector to increase investments in climate change mitigation and contribute to a booming climate-smart agri-food value chain.

## **SESSION 3 ON CLIMATE ACTION**

- Determine areas where parliamentarians’ capacities can be strengthened to ensure effective oversight of the implementation of climate action.
- Build consensus on continent-wide parliamentary action to defend the Summit outcomes in the run-up to COP28 and beyond.