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Africa Climate Summit 2025: Shaping Africa's Climate Future and Key Outcomes



The **2nd Africa Climate Summit (ACS2)**, held from 8-10 September 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, marked a pivotal moment in shaping Africa's response to the climate crisis. Leaders from across the continent, together with global partners, came together to accelerate climate action and affirm Africa's role as a solutions leader in the global transition.

At the centre of the Summit was the Addis Ababa Declaration, which positions Africa as a renewable energy hub and commits to expanding access while driving green economic transformation. Key targets included:

- **Scaling renewable energy capacity to 300 GW by 2030**
- **Mobilising finance through the establishment of new mechanisms such as the Africa Climate Innovation Compact and the African Climate Facility**
- **Expanding energy access for communities across Africa currently living without reliable power**

These outcomes reflect Africa's determination to frame climate action as an economic opportunity, one that can address long-standing structural inequalities while creating pathways for sustainable growth.

Equally significant was the Summit's emphasis on adaptation, resilience, and climate justice. By prioritising these priorities, ACS2 highlighted the urgency of supporting Africa's most vulnerable communities while reinforcing that the continent's development needs must remain central to global climate action.

Implementation takes Centre Stage at Climate Week 2025

Leading up to ACS2, from 1-6 September 2025, Addis Ababa hosted the Second Climate Week of 2025 (CW2), which forms part of the UN Climate Change 'Climate Week Series' that convenes regional and global actors to tackle real-world implementation challenges and identify scalable solutions.

A key focus of CW2 was on unlocking and aligning finance for implementation, through the innovative potential of [Article 6](#) mechanisms under the [Paris Agreement](#). During CW2, over 40 initiatives driving implementation

Key outcomes under existing initiatives included:

- [UAE Just Transition Work Programme](#): Parties and non-Party Stakeholders highlighted a need for COP30 negotiations to result in institutional arrangements that enable UN Climate Change body to partner with other international organisations already supporting country JET pathways.
- [Accelerating NDC Implementation through Carbon Markets in Africa](#): Africa must utilise Article 6.4 mechanism as a reference to engage carbon markets and unlock finance.
- **Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme**: There was consensus on the potential of unlocking

were presented, to identify solutions that can be replicated in other regions and scaled up.

mitigation solutions in the waster sector, particularly circular economy approaches.

CW2 also advanced work on key issues that will be negotiated at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, including climate adaptation, finance pathways, and just transitions.



Africa's Climate Agenda from ACS2 to COP30 and the G20

The outcomes of ACS2 CW2 carry weight far beyond the continent. As we look ahead to COP30 and the G20 deliberations taking place in November, Africa's unified voice will be critical in shaping global climate action. The Addis Ababa Declaration, together with the continent's call for increased climate finance, sets out a clear agenda that ensures Africa's development priorities such as expanding energy access and creating jobs are firmly embedded in the global climate agenda.



In their keynote remarks at ACS2, Ethiopia’s Prime Minister, His Excellency **Abiy Ahmed**, and Kenya’s President, His Excellency **William Ruto**, emphasised Africa-led solutions that address the continent’s structural inequalities. They called for increased investment in climate action, highlighting the need for locally driven solutions that are inclusive of women, youth, and marginalised communities. Building on this momentum, ACS2 positions Africa to approach COP30 and the G20 with a unified voice.

NBI in Action Advancing Inclusive Energy Solutions

The **National Business Initiative (NBI)** reinforced this momentum by engaging in critical discussions at ACS2 which highlighted the importance of gender-responsive solutions, workforce development, and collaborative partnerships. We participated in the panel **“Scaling up gender-responsive climate and energy solutions: from finance to policy and data,”** hosted at the African Development Bank (AfDB) Pavilion.



The discussion emphasised how inclusive approaches in policy, finance, and data are essential to delivering climate and energy solutions that place communities at the centre

of the transition. Building on our [partnership](#) with AfDB through the [Just Energy Skilling for Employment Programme](#) (JET SEP), the panel demonstrated how investing in women-owned businesses and SMMEs, alongside skills development and innovative financing models, can equip not only South Africa's, but the African continent's workforce to drive a just and sustainable energy transition.

Following this, NBI hosted the dialogue **“A Skilled Transition: Unlocking Green Jobs through Just Energy Transition Partnerships”** at the Pavilion. The session included insights from **Boitumelo Molete**, Social Development Policy Coordinator at the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), and **Blessing Manale**, Head of Communications at the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), who emphasised the role of partnerships in mobilising finance, strengthening skills development, and creating inclusive opportunities.



Furthermore, it showcased progress since the launch of JET SEP, shared lessons from implementing Just Energy Transition Partnerships, and reaffirmed the private sector's essential role in advancing skills development and employment within the energy transition.

As we move forward, the NBI urges greater commitment from all stakeholders to scale inclusive solutions that place people and communities at the centre of Africa's energy transition.

[Contact us to learn more about JET SEP](#)