

The GLOCEPS

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Research and Analysis in Governance and Ethics Focus

Priority Issues for the Africa Climate Summit 2025: Financing a Resilient and Just Future

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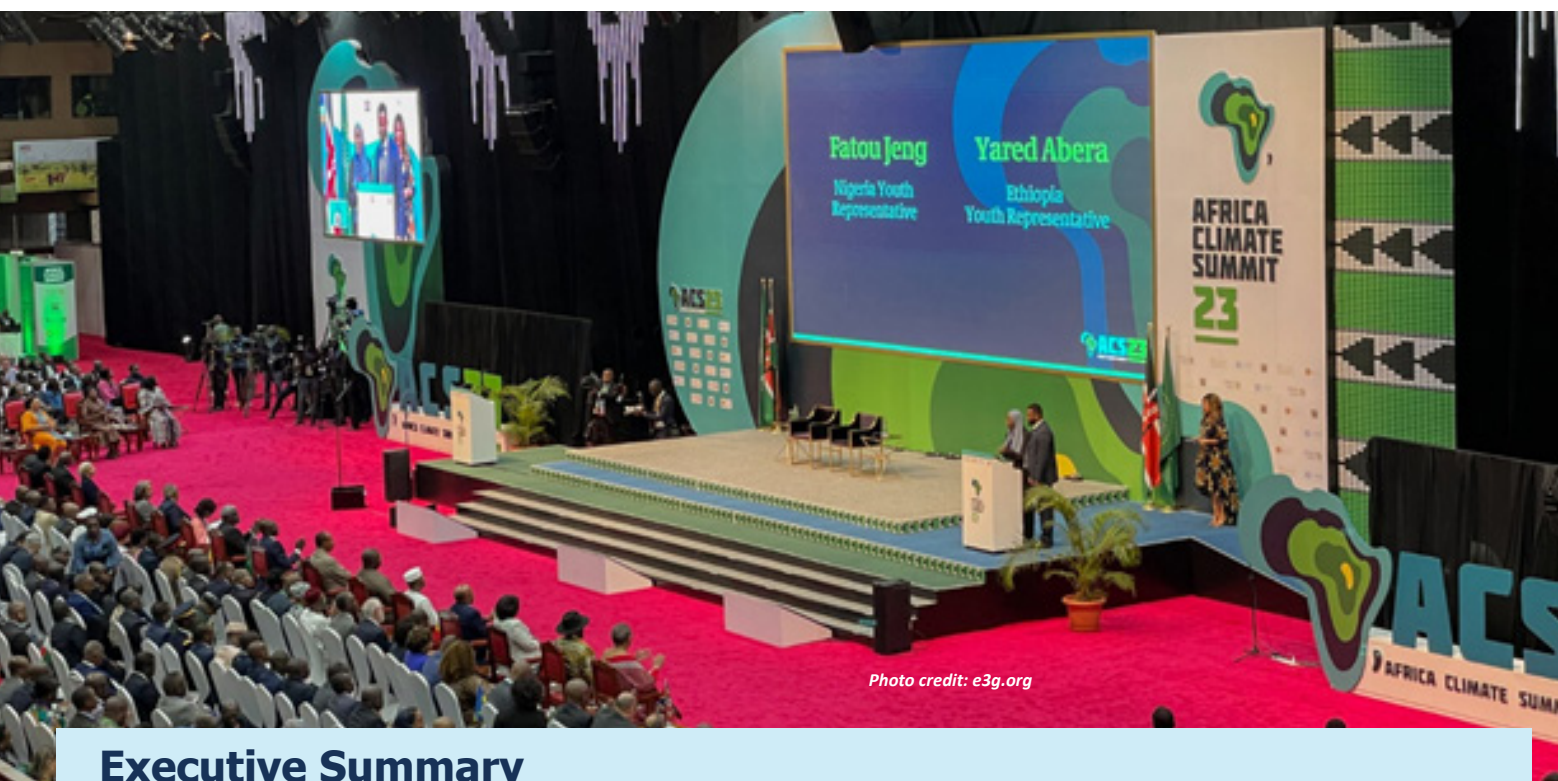


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Executive Summary

The Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) in Addis Ababa represents a pivotal moment for shaping the continent's collective climate agenda ahead of COP30. This policy brief identifies five critical priority issues that demand concerted action: innovative financing mechanisms, access to emerging technologies, a just transition in the critical minerals value chain, operationalization of the loss and damage fund, and closing the policy implementation gap. The brief argues that Africa's climate resilience and green development hinge on reforming an inequitable global financial architecture and securing grant-based, low-cost capital. It concludes with specific recommendations for a unified African

position, emphasizing the need to leverage ACS2 as a strategic platform to secure equitable outcomes at COP30 and beyond.

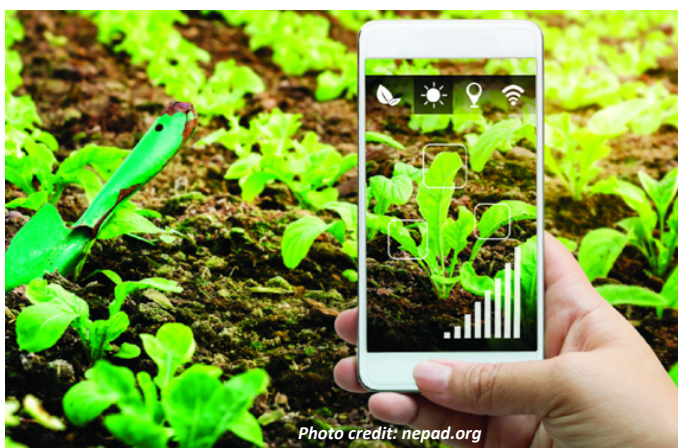
Context

The ACS2, hosted by the African Union (AU) and Ethiopia in September 2025, is convened under the theme "Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development." The summit arrives at a critical juncture. African nations, despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, face disproportionately severe climate impacts from catastrophic droughts in the Horn of Africa (HoA) to devastating floods in East and Southern Africa.



These events exacerbate food insecurity, strain public health systems, and reverse developmental gains.

ACS2 serves as a crucial platform for strategic continental coordination preceding COP30 in Brazil. Its success depends on the ability of African leaders to forge a unified agenda that translates climate ambitions into actionable outcomes. This brief synthesizes the key issues and proposes a set of targeted recommendations to ensure ACS2 effectively advances Africa's climate interests on the global stage.



Critical Priority Issues

Unlocking Emerging Technologies for Climate Action

Africa's capacity for climate adaptation and mitigation is severely constrained by limited access to affordable, context-appropriate technologies. Precision agriculture, smart irrigation, advanced renewable energy systems, and digital climate monitoring tools remain out of reach for many due to high costs, restrictive intellectual property regimes, and an overreliance on imports. This is particularly paradoxical given Africa's vast reserves of critical minerals like cobalt, lithium, and coltan, which are essential for these very technologies. Yet, the continent captures less than 5% of the global battery value chain, exporting raw materials instead of fostering local industrialization.



Ensuring a Just Transition in the Critical Minerals Value Chain

The global demand for minerals essential to the clean energy transition presents both an opportunity and a risk. Current models often replicate extractive patterns, where raw materials are exported for processing and manufacturing elsewhere. This practice, termed by some as "green colonialism," yields minimal financial benefits for African nations while imposing significant social and environmental costs, including community displacement and ecosystem degradation. A just transition requires a deliberate pivot towards local value addition, domestic manufacturing of renewable energy components, and equitable benefit-sharing agreements that prioritize community welfare and environmental sustainability.

Innovative African Financing Mechanisms

The financing gap remains the most significant barrier to implementing Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). An estimated \$3 trillion is required by 2030, yet current flows amount to a mere \$40-50 billion annually only 3-4% of global climate finance, predominantly in the form of debt-inducing loans. Compounding this, traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) is shrinking. In response, African policymakers are innovating through green bonds, blended finance platforms, risk-sharing instruments (e.g.,





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African Risk Capacity), and exploring debt-for-climate swaps. However, these domestic efforts are insufficient without parallel reforms to the global financial system, including addressing debt burdens and improving access to concessional finance.

Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund

The loss and damage fund, established at COP27, remains largely non-operational due to disputes over governance, contributor obligations, and disbursement modalities. For climate-vulnerable African nations, this delay has dire consequences. Communities facing irreversible losses from climate disasters lack a functional financial mechanism for recovery, forcing governments to divert scarce domestic resources from development to emergency relief. The fund need to be operationalized with urgency, capitalized through predictable and grant-based financing, and governed through mechanisms that ensure equitable and direct access for African countries.



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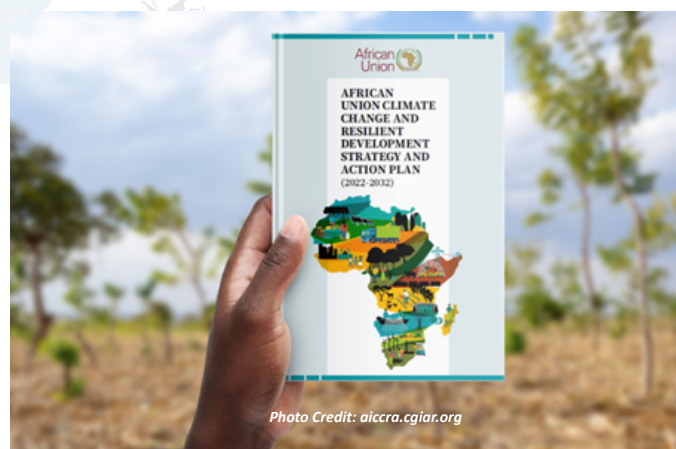


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Closing the Policy Implementation Gap

A persistent gap exists between climate policy ambition and on-the-ground implementation across Africa. While over 90% of African nations have ambitious NDCs, most are deemed unachievable without a significant influx of international finance and technical capacity. This gap stems from inadequate fiscal space, fragmented governance, and weak institutional capacity. Closing it requires mainstreaming climate action into national development plans and national budgets, strengthening regulatory coherence, and scaling up proven, locally-led adaptation initiatives.



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Conclusion

The Africa Climate Summit 2025 is more than a talking shop; it is a strategic imperative. By uniting around a common agenda focused on equitable finance, technology justice, and operational inclusivity, African leaders can transform ACS2 into a powerful catalyst for change. A cohesive



African position is essential to leverage the continent's collective negotiating power at COP 30. By showcasing its vulnerability alongside its immense potential as a source of solutions, Africa

can secure the partnerships and resources needed to build a resilient and prosperous future, advancing global climate goals in the process.

Recommendations

To address these interconnected challenges, ACS2 needs to culminate in a cohesive and actionable African position. We propose the following recommendations:

1. African states should:
 - a) Unify around a call for reforming the global climate finance architecture. This includes;
 - i) pressing for equitable, grant-based financing to avoid exacerbating Africa's debt crisis;
 - ii) securing easier access to concessional finance from multilateral development banks; and
 - iii) supporting the development of regional blended finance platforms, carbon markets, and insurance pools.
 - b) Advocate for reforms to intellectual property regimes to enable affordable technology transfer and adaptation.
 - c) Promote policies and investments that foster local value addition for critical minerals, ensuring they power African industrialization and job creation.
 - d) Invest in regional innovation hubs to develop and deploy homegrown, climate-smart technologies.
 - e) Position the Loss and Damage fund as a non-negotiable priority for COP30 with a governance structure that reflects African priorities and ensures disbursements are predictable, grant-based, and accessible to those most affected.
 - f) Integrate climate goals into national budgetary processes and development plans.
 - g) Strengthen institutional capacity and cross-ministerial coordination for climate policy execution.
 - h) Champion the effective participation of marginalized groups, including women and youth, in climate finance governance and decision-making.

