

Concept Note:

**Planning Retreat of Opportunity Issue Based (OIBC4) on Climate Action, Resilience and Food Systems
for a Joint Work Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy**

Speke resort & Conference Centre Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda

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1. Introduction:

The Africa Opportunity and Issues-Based Coalitions (OIBCs) are a group of UN-led coalitions that work to address challenges in Africa. The OIBCs are part of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) which is comprised of six Opportunity and Issues-Based Coalitions (OIBCs) clustered around cross-cutting policy issues and three inter-agency Task Forces. Serving as the main vehicles for the substantive work of the Platform, the OIBCs pool UN system-wide expertise in an agile and timely manner to respond to changing regional and country needs. The RCPs are chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by two vice-chairs from the Regional Economic Commissions and the United Nations Development Programme. The OIBCs have their flagship initiatives which are aligned with AU priorities, there is need to focus more on a few high impact critical areas during a given year. These priorities are demand-driven and results-oriented, avoiding both siloed approaches and overlaps.

OIBC-4 focuses on climate action, resilience and food systems on climate change and resilience, the coalition is working on developing analysis to quantify losses, inform how this could be tracked across countries, and unpacking the L&D fund to enable contextual application in Africa. OIBC4 also provides Policy advice and technical support on carbon markets which were identified as a critical impactful area, as part of the climate action in Africa. On food systems & food security, the coalition is working on the implementation of food systems transformation pathways, with emphasis on follow-up and support in implementation of national food system transformation pathways; policy and capacity development support on development and implementation of post-harvest management initiatives of member states; support to the African Union (AU) food systems transformation initiatives; and follow up on the Food Sovereignty Agenda (FEED AFRICA: Food Sovereignty and Resilience initiative), with specific focus on analyzing.

The Co-convenors of this coalition (UNEP, FAO, UNDP & UNECA), are working with several UN agencies and partners in areas related to SDG 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16 & 17 and building a network for experts to connect and share knowledge in a Community of Practice (CoP) which is under The Africa Knowledge Management Hub developed by the United Nations Development System in Africa and acting as a one-stop-shop for data, information, actions, and knowledge resources relevant to 2030 global development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other continental development agendas .

Retreat Rationale

Recognizing the existing challenges of limited coordination due to different geographical location of the different UN agencies, the absence of a fully integrated joint work plan, and insufficient financial resources, OIBC 4 is planning a retreat aimed at developing a comprehensive joint work plan and a robust resource mobilization strategy. The result of these challenges has resulted in inadequacy in reporting due to lack of joint planning. It is hoped that the retreat which is planned to take place after the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development-11 (ARFSD), will bring together key stakeholders to foster collaboration, define shared priorities, and outline concrete actions for enhanced impact and reporting of results. This is particularly important given that OIBC activities are only validated as collaborative if they involve joint participation of three or more UN Agencies. The implementation of these activities requires up-front time-bound coordination of expected inputs on a common Programme area using the same measures of success, common indicators and reporting system.

The planned retreat will provide a critical opportunity for OIBC-4 to strengthen its coordination, increase commitment of members, increase the number participating agencies, develop a shared vision, and mobilize resources for impactful joint actions. By working collaboratively, OIBC-4 members and partners can make significant strides in addressing the complex challenges facing Africa and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Objectives:

The primary objectives of this retreat are to:

- To assess the overall performance and challenges of OIBC4
- Develop a comprehensive and integrated joint work plan for OIBC-4, outlining specific activities, timelines, responsible parties, and expected outcomes.
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration among OIBC-4 members and partners.
- Enhance ownership and commitment to joint programming
- Identify opportunities for synergy and complementarity among different initiatives.
- Formulate a robust resource mobilization strategy to secure diversified funding for the implementation of the joint work plan.

3. Expected Outcomes/outputs:

- A comprehensive and integrated 2025 joint work plan for OIBC-4.
- Enhanced coordination and collaboration among OIBC- 4 members and partners.
- A robust resource mobilization strategy outlining potential funding sources, fundraising mechanisms, and partnership opportunities.
- Increased ownership/membership and commitment to joint programming.
- A clear roadmap for implementing and reporting of OIBC-4 initiatives.

4. Methodology:

The retreat will employ a participatory and interactive approach, including:

- Plenary sessions for presentations and discussions.
- Brainstorming sessions to identify innovative solutions and approaches.
- Breakout groups for focused discussions on the joint areas of collaboration including budget
- Development of a resource mobilization strategy.
- Networking opportunities to foster collaboration and partnerships and increase of membership

5. Participants:

The retreat will bring together representatives from:

- UN agencies involved in OIBC-4
- The RCP Secretariat
- Experts and resource-persons

6. Suggested focus areas

Welcome and opening remarks by high-level representatives.

- Overview of OIBC-4 mandate, objectives, and past achievements.
- Review of existing challenges and opportunities.
- Setting the stage for the retreat: objectives, expected outcomes, and methodology.

Setting the Stage and Reviewing Progress

- Presentations on key thematic areas: climate change, food systems and food security, early warning systems, and other flagships.
- Interactive discussion on interlinkages and synergies among thematic areas.
- Identification of key priorities for joint action.

Developing the Joint Work Plan

- Breakout sessions by thematic area to develop specific activities, timelines, responsible parties, and expected outcomes.
- Facilitated discussions on cross-cutting issues (e.g., gender, youth, capacity building).
- Plenary session to consolidate the outputs from the breakout sessions.
- Review and refinement of the draft joint work plan.
- Discussion on monitoring and evaluation framework.

Resource Mobilization Strategy and Partnerships

- Brainstorming session to identify potential funding sources (e.g., bilateral donors, multilateral institutions, private sector, foundations).
- Discussion on innovative financing mechanisms (e.g., carbon finance, blended finance).
- Development of a draft resource mobilization strategy.
- Workshop on partnership development and engagement.

- Identification of potential partners and collaboration opportunities.
- Finalization of the resource mobilization strategy.

7. Way Forward and Closing

- Presentation of the finalized joint work plan and resource mobilization strategy.
- Discussion on implementation arrangements and next steps.
- Agreement on roles and responsibilities.
- Closing remarks and adoption of the retreat outcomes.
- Networking and informal discussions.

8. Post-Retreat Activities:

- Finalization of the joint work plan and resource mobilization strategy document.
- Dissemination of the retreat outcomes to all stakeholders.
- Establishment of a follow-up mechanism to monitor implementation.
- Regular progress reporting and communication.