

Pre-event: Dialogue on Advancing Environmental Sustainability, COP 29 Outcomes, Carbon Markets, Energy Access, and Climate Action in Africa

Date: 6th of April 2025

Organizers: Africa Regional Collaborative Platform and Opportunity and Issue Based Coalition 4 (Fostering Climate Action, Resilience and Food Systems) co-convened by UNEP, UNDP, ECA, and FAO

The pre-event brought together diverse stakeholders, including UN Resident Coordinators, Regional Directors, and key partners, to discuss how to leverage the outcomes of COP 29 in fostering a sustainable and inclusive future for Africa. The dialogue focused on carbon markets, energy access, and adaptation, with the goal of translating COP 29's global agreements into actionable plans that aligned with Africa's unique climate priorities and development goals.

The dialogue aimed to strengthen collaboration on environmental challenges, explore pathways for mainstreaming sustainability in UN development support, identify flagship programs under the Regional Collaborative Platform, and enhance synergies across UN agencies. It also focused on key COP29 outcomes, Africa's energy transition, and preparations for COP30.

The dialogue delivered on enhanced understanding of COP 29 decisions and their implications, fostered discussions among regional stakeholders to address shared priorities and solutions, raised awareness on implementing COP29 decisions, particularly for sustainable development in Africa, and contributed to identifying concrete strategies for advancing climate action and sustainability goals.

Key outcomes of the session:

1. **COP 29 Outcomes:** COP 29 emphasized the need for African countries to strengthen internal capacities, adopt a self-reliant approach, and engage collectively under the African Union to achieve climate and development goals. It also highlighted the opportunities and challenges in accessing climate finance, including the New Collective Quantified Goal and the Loss and Damage Fund, and the need for robust governance to access funds and carbon market mechanisms.
2. **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on Carbon Markets:** The discussions on Article 6 highlighted Africa's potential to leverage carbon markets for sustainable development through mechanisms like bilateral ITMO trading, the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism, and non-market approaches. Realizing these opportunities requires strengthening regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, financial access, and ensuring safeguards, with regional coordination and leadership being crucial for transforming carbon market potential into tangible benefits for Africa.
3. **Energy Access:** The session underscored Africa's significant energy access challenges, with 685 million people lacking electricity. It stressed the need for regional cooperation, mobilizing climate and private finance, and scaling up decentralized renewable energy solutions to overcome structural barriers. Strategic interventions such as regulatory reforms and regional power integration are vital to ensuring energy access that drives inclusive growth and climate-resilient development, with leadership from African nations.

Monitoring and reporting:

Progress on the implementation and report of the outcomes will be done through a) OIBC 4 annual plans and mid and annual report to the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform; and b) through co-conveners institutions planning and reporting mechanism.
