Opportunity and Issue-Based Coalition (OIBC4)

Plenary Meeting held on 23 April 2026 in Microsoft Teams

Present

- Edward Kilawe – Chair, OIBC4 Convener, FAO
- Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng – Convener (UNECA)
- Matthias Naab - Convener (UNDP)
- Louis Mitondo Lubango (UNECA)
- Sara Castro De Hallgren (UNOSD)
- Margaret Oduk (UNEP)
- Nozipho Freya Simelane (UNECA)
- Yuka Irie (FAO)
- Kindie Alamneh, OIBC4 Secretariat (FAO)
- Omar Zemrag, OIBC4 Secretariat (UNDP
- Daisy Mukarakate, OIBC4 Secretariat (UNDP)
- Catherine Mwangi, OIBC4 Secretariat (UNEP)

Agenda

1. Preparations for the Twelfth Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-12)
2. Briefing on COP32 Preparations and Engagement of OIBC4

Proceedings

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting commenced with initial connectivity challenges experienced by the Chair, Edward Kilawe (FAO), who was joining remotely from another venue. The Secretariat requested support from Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng (UNECA) to ensure the meeting proceeded without delay.

Agenda Item 1: Preparations for ARFSD-12

Presentation of the Draft Programme for the Pre-event Session of the UNRCs

Louis Mitondo Lubango presented the draft programme for the OIBC4 pre-event engagement linked to ARFSD-12.

Main Components of the Programme included the following:

Opening Segment

- Welcome remarks by the co-chairs of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP).
- Opening remarks by the Director of the Regional Coordination Office.
- Moderation by Mr. Said Adejumobi (Director, UNECA)

Dialogue Sessions

- Introductory framing presentation
- Keynote presentation
- Moderated panel discussions
- Interactive question-and-answer sessions

Louis explained that panel discussions would focus on:

- Integrated climate-water-energy-food nexus solutions
- Financing for nexus approaches
- Planning and coordination mechanisms
- Experiences from different African sub-regions

Regional Structuring of Sessions

The sessions were structured geographically as follows:

Session One: Climate-Water-Energy-Food (CWEF) Nexus Solutions: Setting the scene

Session Two: Climate-Water-Energy-Food (CWEF) Nexus solutions: Regional success cases on finance and governance

- **Cases from Southern Africa and Central Africa**
- **Cases from West Africa and East Africa**
- **Cases from North Africa and the Mediterranean Basin**

Session Three: Outcome statements

Clarifications by Sara Castro De Hallgren

Sara clarified that:

- There would only be one keynote speaker
- Moderators would mainly focus on two guiding questions to ensure focused discussions.
- Additional questions would only be entertained if time allowed.
- Moderator briefing notes would be circulated before the event.

She also informed participants that:

- A policy brief on finance and nexus approaches had been finalised, and the previous requests for comments had not received responses. It would be shared during the event as a working reference.

Discussion on Logistical Arrangements: Presentation by Nozipho Freya Simelane, UNECA)
Nozipho briefed the meeting on logistical preparations as follows:

Venue and Facilities

- ECA's Conference Room 5 (CR5) had been secured for the full day.
- Earlier concerns about scheduling conflicts with another RCP event had been resolved.

Procurement and Administrative Arrangements

The following were being processed through the RCP Joint Secretariat:

- Catering services
- Interpretation services
- Refreshment provisions

She informed the meeting that a purchase order was still pending approval.

Rapporteurs and Reporting

- Rapporteurs had already been identified jointly by RCPJS and OIBC4.
- Kindie Alamneh would:
    - Coordinate rapporteur assignments
    - Develop the reporting template and reporting format

Hybrid Participation Arrangements

Nozipho confirmed that:

- Online participation infrastructure had been arranged.
- Technical support and equipment would be available.
- She confirmed that Ammanuel Meles would oversee technical assignments and online
- The reliability of arrangements for online interventions.
- The need to ensure technical support for virtual participants and presenters was emphasised. Nozipho assured the meeting that technical teams were fully engaged and that necessary online support systems and equipment had already been arranged.

ARFSD Preparations

The meeting agreed that:

1. The ARFSD programme should be finalised immediately and circulated to all participants with immediate effect.
2. Moderator guidance notes should be finalised and shared promptly.
3. Leadership participation should be prioritised due to the attendance of Resident Coordinators.
4. The policy brief would serve as a working reference document during the dialogue.

Agenda Item 2: Briefing on COP32 Preparations

Presentation by Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng

Cosmas delivered a detailed briefing on Ethiopia's preparations for hosting COP32.

Key Discussion Areas

A. Ethiopia's Vision for COP32

Cosmas explained that Ethiopia views COP32 as a "Restoration COP," intended to:

- Restore confidence in multilateral climate action.
- Deliver politically resilient and implementable climate outcomes.
- Showcase African leadership, innovation, and agency in climate action.

He stated that the Government of Ethiopia seeks outcomes that are:

- Inclusive
- Transformational
- Development-oriented
- Sustainable beyond political cycles

Participation Approach

The Government intends to ensure robust participation of:

- Civil society
- Local communities
- Youth
- Private sector actors

Participation would extend beyond attendance to include:

- Co-design of initiatives
- Co-implementation of programs and activities
- Long-term ownership

B. COP32 Governance and Delivery Structure

National Coordination Framework

The process is being coordinated through:

- A National Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.
- A whole-of-government approach.

Five Delivery Pillars

The organising body of the government of Ethiopia for COP32 is structured along the following five pillars:

1. Content and Negotiations
2. Infrastructure, Logistics and Operations
3. Media and Communications
4. Digital and ICT
5. Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

Staffing Requirements

The Government estimated it would require:

- Over 500 senior experts
- Over 400 junior professionals
- Approximately 5,000 volunteers

The COP32 Secretariat itself urgently requires:

- Technical experts
- Young professionals
- Operational support staff

C. Infrastructure and Operational Preparations

Venue Selection

The selected venue for COP32 is:

- The venue for COP32 will be the Artificial Intelligence University site located at the outskirts of Addis Ababa on the way to Adama.

Delegate Projections

Expected attendance:

- Between 60,000 and 80,000 delegates.

Security Preparedness

Security agencies had already begun orientation sessions with support from UNDSS to ensure:

- Compliance with UN standards
- Appropriate handling of international delegates
- Alignment with UN meeting protocols

D. Partnership and Coordination Framework

Role of UNECA

Cosmas further informed participants that:

- UNECA was given the responsibility by the UN Secretary-General to coordinate UN support before and during the COP32.
- A Memorandum of Cooperation had been signed between UNECA and the Government of Ethiopia.
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Coordination Mechanisms

National Level

Coordination would be anchored within the:

- UN Country Team (UNCT)

Regional Level

Proposed regional coordination platforms include:

- OIBC4
- AMCEN
- AGN

- CAHOSCC
- Clean Development arrangements

Global Level

Regional Commissions will coordinate broader UN support and peer-learning arrangements.

Participant Discussions

Intervention by Matthias Naab

Matthias emphasized:

- The importance of clear role definition within the UN system.
- The need to avoid duplication and competition among agencies.
- The importance of aligning agency support with comparative advantages.

He stressed that:

- Ethiopia's success in hosting COP32 would represent success for the entire African continent, and OIBC4 should clearly define its strategic support role.

He further noted the need for:

- Structured support to the UN Country Team
- Clear regional coordination arrangements
- Alignment between OIBC4 and broader RCP structures

Margaret Oduk (UNEP) welcomed the proposal to engage the UN Country Team and reflected on lessons from:

- The Africa Climate Summit
- The Food Systems Summit

Concerns Raised

- However, she raised concerns about the weak coordination experienced during the Africa Climate Week. Margaret recommended that there be stronger Resident Coordinator leadership, structured coordination arrangements, and Clear communication channels.

  She also emphasised that there should be early engagement

  - AMCEN Presidency
  - CAHOSCC
  - Other African climate governance structures

She emphasised that Ethiopia was relying heavily on UN technical expertise and coordinated support.

Daisy Mukarakate (UNDP) requested clarification regarding the following:

- Whether the Human Resource requirement for COP32 is related to the previously announced African Union climate fellowship initiative.
- Whether there was engagement with regional climate commissions and alliances

Cosmas clarified that:

- The staffing figures referred specifically to Ethiopian Government requirements.
- The Resident Coordinator was already leading:
    - A mapping of requests received by individual agencies
    - A mapping of agency contributions and comparative advantages

He stated that government ministries were engaging agencies based on sector-specific needs and that the COP32 Secretariat was primarily a coordination structure rather than an implementation body. Cosmas further emphasised that the government values coordinated UN engagement because it reduces transaction costs. He also mentioned that OIBC4 could play an important role in co-designing African presidency initiatives. He was of the view that dedicated OIBC4 sessions on COP32 planning would be required.

The meeting resolved that:

1. Ethiopia's COP32 preparations should be supported as a continental priority.
2. OIBC4 should establish a structured engagement mechanism for COP32 support.
3. OIBC4 should organise a dedicated session on COP32 planning and engagement.
4. UN system coordination should be strengthened through the Resident Coordinator system.
5. Clear agency roles and comparative advantages should be mapped.
6. Engagement with AMCEN, AGN, CAHOSCC and related African climate structures should begin early.
7. Stakeholder listening sessions involving civil society, the private sector and local communities should be supported.

Closing Remark

The meeting concluded by appreciating all the members for their contribution to the significant coordination efforts required for both the ARFSD engagement and COP32 preparations

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party	Timeline
Finalise ARFSD programme and agenda	Louis Mitondo Lubango & Sara Castro, Catherine	Immediate
Circulate the final programme to participants	OIBC4 Secretariat	24 April 2026
Finalise moderator guidance notes	Sara Castro, Louis, Catherine	24 April 2026
Confirm procurement arrangements for catering and interpretation	Nozipho Simelane	Immediate
Finalise rapporteur assignments and reporting formats	Kindie Alamneh	24 April 2026
Confirm participation of leadership and Resident Coordinators	Nozipho Simelane	Immediate
Ensure online participation support systems are operational	Amanuel Meles & Technical Team	24 April 2026
Organise UNCT engagement session with COP32 Secretariat	UNECA & RC Office Ethiopia/Cosmas	May 2026
Conduct mapping of agency requests and contributions	Resident Coordinator Office/Cosmas	Ongoing
Develop a coordinated UN support framework for COP32	UNECA & UNCT/Cosmas	Ongoing
Organize dedicated OIBC4 session on COP32	OIBC4 Secretariat/Cosmas	Upcoming meeting
Initiate engagement with AMCEN, AGN and CAHOSCC leadership	UNECA /UNEP & Relevant Agencies	Early preparation phase
Facilitate stakeholder listening sessions for COP32	COP32 Secretariat & UNECA	Ongoing