Minutes of the OIBC4 Plenary Meeting held on 25 June 2026 in Microsoft Teams

Present:

Edward Kilawe, Chair, Co-Convener (FAO)
Rose Mwebaza, Co-convener (UNEP)
Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng Co-Convener (UNECA)
Louis Lubango - (UNECA)
Christopher Ambala (UNEP)
Clara Makenya (UNEP)
James Lomax (UNEP)
Galine Yanon (UNICEF)
Amjad Abbashar (UNDRR)
Mathewos Tulu (UNDRR)
Walters Tubua (UNFCCC)
Nana Antwi Boasiako Amoah (AGN, Chair)
Chiagozi Udeh (UNFPA)
Zainab Yunusa (UNFPA)
Irie Yuka (FAO)
Linus Asanji Mofor (UNICEF)
Mariane Diop Kane (WMO)
Maha Sall (UNESCO)
Mekalia Paulos (UNECA)
Zablon Shilenje (WMO)
Daisy Mukarakate (UNDP, OIBC4 Secretariat)
Catherine Mwangi (UNEP, OIBC4 Secretariat)
Omar Zemrag (UNDP, OIBC4 Secretariat)
Kindie Alamneh (FAO, OIBC4 Secretariat)

Absent with apologies
Mathias Naab, Co-convener (UNDP)
Margaret Oduk (UNEP)

Discussions and Resolutions

The meeting was held on 25 June 2026. The Chair, Edward Kilawe, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He set out the agenda for the meeting, comprising: (1) an update on COP32 preparations and support to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN); (2) the El Niño situation in Africa; (3) operationalizing the climate–energy–water–food nexus; (4) the implementation status of the OIBC4 2026 work plan; and (5) any other business.

Agenda item 1: Update on COP32 Preparations and Support to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)

1a. COP32 preparations – presented by Cosmas Ochieng (UNECA)

- Preparations for COP32, to be held in Ethiopia, are advancing rapidly: national elections have concluded, June board meetings are done, and a UNFCCC audit team is visiting within the month.
- The Government frames COP32 as an "African COP" that strengthens multilateralism, rebalances climate action and support, and is anchored in equity and science – a long-term, next-decade vision building on the 1st and 2nd Africa Climate Summits (Nairobi and Addis declarations).
- Governance is in place: five delivery task teams, each led by a minister, are all well advanced. The COP31 (Türkiye) team was reportedly impressed by Ethiopia's readiness.
- The engagement approach consolidates pan-African co-ownership across state and non-state actors: continental institutions (AU, AfDB, ECA) for convening power; civil society; private sector; youth; academia/think tanks; and media/influencers.
- "Listening sessions" – a three-day, back-to-back non-state-actor engagement, tentatively planned for August/September in Addis Ababa (Day 1: private sector and academia/think tanks; Day 2: civil society and youth; Day 3: media and social influencers) – are being planned, and OIBC4 was asked to help facilitate.
- The private-sector focus is on mobilising private capital for climate investment and addressing barriers to climate finance, targeting institutional investors, DFIs/MDBs, banks, insurance, high-net-worth individuals (including diaspora) and project developers, and building project pipelines ahead of COP for post-COP implementation.
- The UN Country Team in Ethiopia is organising a "UN system offer," drawing on regional and global offices.

Discussion

- Daisy Mukarakate (UNDP) enquired about the COP30 presidency mission expected in early July 2026. Cosmas Ochieng responded that the programme has not yet been conveyed and that the COP32 president-designate and secretariat were at London Climate Week and the content/negotiations team was in Bonn. He mentioned that feedback would follow.
- Rose Mwebaza (UNEP) offered to share session information with UNEP's "major groups" (800+ registered in Africa), which holds a major-groups event before each United Nations Environment Assembly session. She proposed synergy including a UNEP major-groups meeting in Addis later this year and a possible back-to-back with the CCDA.
- The Chair asked about strategies beyond the listening sessions. Cosmas Ochieng (UNECA) noted that state-actor engagement is well advanced (a partnership MoU with AUC/AUDA-NEPAD; a recent briefing for the COP32 president with African ambassadors accredited to Ethiopia), that analytical studies and inventory/gap analyses (logistics, investment, operations, HR) are complete, and that a co-design/co-creation approach under Chatham House rules is being used to avoid upstaging COP30/COP31.

1b. Support to the AGN

- Recap: the AGN Chair had previously requested OIBC4 support to (i) align OIBC4 work with the AGN, (ii) build evidence/data for negotiators, and (iii) deliver jointly (pre-COP preparation, joint pavilions).
- Two tracks were noted: immediate support (partly overtaken by events, e.g. support around the Bonn Climate Meeting) and a coordinated partnership plan through to COP32, mapping agency expertise, data/evidence and knowledge products (e.g. just transition, agriculture, loss and damage).
- The Secretariat had circulated a table for agencies to indicate support; several members (Chiagozie Udeh, UNFPA; Zablon Shilenje, WMO) noted it needs to be clearer and more structured.
- Zablon Shilenje (WMO) noted WMO can support with climate data (El Niño evolution), forecasting products, Early Warning for All information, and climate trends.
- Chiagozie Udeh expressed interest in supporting and requested clarity on where/how to submit input. He later requested the names of AGN lead negotiators and their countries to enable country-office support.
- Rose Mwebaza (UNEP) noted that the AGN was created by African ministers under AMCEN, and proposed that OIBC-4 meet with the AGN Chair to help structure the request for support.

Rose Mwebaza's AMCEN update

- The AMCEN Bureau meets regularly with ministers; Africa's common position is set by ministers, and negotiators work on it.
- 9 June 2026: an expert-group meeting was held during which Lead negotiators presented Africa's positions (CBD COP, UNCCD COP in August, and the Climate COP).
- 10 June 2026: at the Bureau meeting, negotiators requested technical and financial support, noting they are understaffed and under-resourced. A 2026 - 2027/COP32 roadmap was shared.
- The Bureau president is Libya, with a vice-president per region. AMCEN meets biennially (last in July 2025; next in 2027).
- Both ministerial Sessions agreed to a joint session of Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Environment at COP32; the Bureau mandated UNECA to plan it and to support Ethiopia in delivering COP32.
- An AMCEN Trust Fund supports AGN travel/DSA but is underfunded; some pledges were noted (e.g. South Africa).
- The Bureau also decided to hold a ministerial briefing session during COP32; the AGN Chair asked that more ministers stay to help break negotiation impasses.

➢ Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Secretariat, with the Chair, would refine and recirculate the AGN support table with clearer thematic areas. Cosmas Ochieng and Rose Mwebaza would meet the AGN Chair to help structure the request before sending a refined table to OIBC4 members. Corresponding action points are recorded in the table at the end of these minutes.

Agenda item 2: El Niño Situation in Africa

- Rose Mwebaza (UNEP) reported that a super El Niño season is expected to affect Africa from July, with differentiated impacts: drought in Southern Africa, intermittent flooding and dry spells in the Horn, and extreme heat in the Sahel. She proposed that OIBC4 produce a note/guidance for Resident Coordinators (RCs) and Member States and pursue anticipatory action across climate, food systems, water and community resilience.
- Zablon Shilenje (WMO) confirmed an 80–90% (near-certain) likelihood of El Niño. ACMAD released its Africa Continental Climate Outlook and Advisory the previous week, with sectoral implications and advisories; other regional/local systems are also being monitored.
- Daisy Mukarakate (UNDP) reported that the UNDP Nairobi resilience hub prepared preparedness briefings for Southern Africa (shared with countries), with similar analyses underway for East, Central and West Africa, to be converted into fundable appeals. She flagged the need for coordination, as countries are already reaching out.
- Amjad Abbashar (UNDRR) recommended making RCs aware of available regional tools (SADC early warning; IGAD/ICPAC drought and flood watch); ensuring national DRR governance (disaster-management and hydromet agencies) is operating for both forecasting and impact; mapping vulnerabilities/exposure via probabilistic risk assessment; and strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and risk communication at national level. He noted that UNDRR, WMO, IFRC and ITU have Early Warning for All partners.
- Clara Makenya noted that country-level mechanisms already exist, citing Tanzania's DRR subgroup under the RC/UNCT; the 2023–24 National El Niño Contingency Plan was government-led and UN-supported, and multi-sectoral (including the private sector). She emphasized working within existing country mechanisms.

➢ It was agreed that the Secretariat, with the Chair, would develop a simple template and issues brief capturing, per agency, what is on offer at regional/country level, plus a contact person, to guide RCs on anticipatory action; agencies would map current/planned El Niño work to feed the template; and Zablon Shilenje would share the ACMAD advisory in the group chat.

Agenda item 3: Operationalising the Climate–Energy–Water–Food Nexus

- The meeting reviewed the well-received Side Event at the Africa Regional Sustainable Development Forum (ARSDF), which drew strong interest from many RCs.
- The task before the OIBC-4 is on operationalization at country level: empowering RCs/UNCTs for integrated delivery; moving from institutional coordination to joint interventions leveraging agency comparative advantage; with OIBC4 to support via tools, financing guidance, expertise and backstopping.
- This is already embedded in the OIBC-4 work plan under the food-systems/security flagship. Agencies already engaged include UNU, UNESCO, UNDESA, ECA and UNEP. The missing piece is a concrete action plan.

- ➢ It was agreed that the Secretariat would develop a concrete action plan to operationalise the nexus, in consultation with members already working under the flagship, and that members implementing the nexus would work closely with UNCTs and map agency engagement.

Agenda item 4: Implementation Status of the OIBC4 2026 Work Plan

- The Secretariat had asked flagship leads for a brief implementation status. Input remains outstanding.
- The aim is to produce a mid-term implementation report (by end-June) for discussion at the next plenary, consolidated by thematic cluster (e.g. climate, agriculture/food security).
- DCO requested a one-pager/infographic of OIBC4 accomplishments (from the pre-event) to share as good practice with other coalitions.

- ➢ It was agreed that flagship leads/members would send a brief implementation status to the Secretariat, and that the Secretariat would consolidate a mid-term report for the next plenary and that a small team would produce a one-pager/infographic of OIBC4 achievements for DCO.

Any Other Business

The DRC request to OIBC4 remains pending. The Chair called on the team to review the request, indicate areas of support, and prepare OIBC4's response for the next plenary.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 16:40 hrs.

Action points

Action	Responsible	Date
1. ECA to share the draft programme and concept note for the non-state-actor listening sessions with OIBC members.	ECA (Cosmas)	TBC
2. Share listening-session information with UNEP's major groups and explore synergy (Addis Ababa meeting; possible CCDA back-to-back).	(UNEP)	TBC
3. Refine and recirculate the AGN support table with clearer thematic areas.	Secretariat	Before the next Plenary
4. Consult internally and complete the AGN support table (knowledge products, data, participation, financial/technical support).	OIBC4 members	TBC
5. Meet the AGN Chair (Dr Antwi) to help structure the request for support, then send a refined request/table to OIBC4 members.	Cosmas Ochieng (UNECA) and Rose Mwebaza (UNEP)	9 July 2026
6. Share AMCEN Bureau outcomes and negotiation-track presentations with the co-conveners.	Rose Mwebaza	Before the next Plenary Meeting
7. Develop a simple template and issues brief capturing, per agency, what is on offer at regional/country level on El Niño, plus a contact person, to guide Resident Coordinators on anticipatory action.	Secretariat	Before the next Plenary meeting
8. Develop a concrete action plan template to operationalize the climate–energy–water–food nexus, consulting members already working under the flagship.	Secretariat	TBC
9. Send brief implementation status reports of the OIBC4 2026 work plan to the Secretariat. Consolidate a mid-term implementation report for the next plenary.	Flagship leads/Co-Leads/Members	30 July 2026
11. Produce a one-pager/infographic of OIBC4 accomplishments for DCO.	Small team from OIBC-4 and RCP Joint Secretariat	TBC
12. Review the DRC request and prepare OIBC4's response for the next plenary.	Members supporting DRC request	Next plenary