Minutes of the OIBC-4 Plenary Meeting held on Thursday 27 August 2026 in Microsoft Teams

Participants

The following participants attended the meeting:

Name	Organisation
Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng	Chair, Co Convener, UNECA,
Yuka Irie	FAO
Matthias Naab	UNDP- Co-Convener
Chiagozie Udeh	UNFPA
Margaret Oduk	UNEP
Mekalia Paulos	UNECA
Jose Diego Hopkins Alfaro	

Louis Mitondo Lubango	UNECA
Nozipho Simelane	RCP/Joint Secretariat
Kindie Alamneh	OIBC4-Secretariat, FAO
Omar Zemrag	OIBC4-Secretariat, UNDP
Catherine Mwangi	OIBC-4 Secretariat, UNEP
Daisy Mukarakate	OIBC-4 Secretariat

Absent with apologies

Rose Mwebaza, UNEP, Co Convener
Edward Kilaw, FAO, Co Convener

Outcome of the Conveners Meeting

A Preliminary Meeting was held by the Co-Conveners of OIBC-4. The discussion focused on operationalization of the RCP Pooled Fund, DRC request and AGN request and improving accountability for outstanding actions. Members agreed on the urgency and criticality of quality reporting

Agenda

1. Updates on COP32 preparation
2. OIBC-4 Financial Resources/Pooled funding
3. Request from DCO Africa/RCP Joint Secretariat - Support for Capacity Development/Training on Financing Instruments/Blended Financing in Somalia
4. Outstanding issues
    I. Status of the support to DRC
    II. Template to Map UN Agency Support for El Niño Preparedness and Anticipatory Action
    III. Climate-Water-Energy-Food Nexus programming

IV. Joint OIBC-4 Support to Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) - AGN Chair concept Note – 2026-2027 – **Chair/Conveners**

V. Mid-Year Results Reporting

5. Any other business

Discussions and Resolutions of the Plenary Meeting

Agenda Item 1. Updates on COP32 preparation

Cosmas Ochieng (UNECA) briefed members on a recent meeting between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Ethiopia and the COP32 Presidency, held in preparation for the UNCT listening session with the COP 32 Presidency. He noted that the UN is making significant progress in establishing a coherent and systematic "One UN" approach to support COP32 preparations and engagement.

Members were informed that the **Government of Ethiopia** has clearly expressed its commitment to taking full ownership of COP32 and is advocating for a coordinated **One UN** approach in support of the conference. This includes close collaboration with the **Executive Office of the Secretary General - Climate Action Team** (EOSG-CAT) through the **Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition -Mr Selwin Hart**. The Government reiterated the importance of a unified and coordinated UN offer to effectively support COP32 preparations and delivery.

COP32 Presidency is planning to organize a meeting with AGN on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2026 (UNGA81)

Members were informed that **OIBC4** has been requested to appoint a liaison focal point to engage with the UNCT. Reflecting the current UNCT coordination arrangement, where **UNEP** and **UNDP** serve as liaisons with the Government on COP32, OIBC4 may choose to adopt a similar approach or nominate another UN agency to act as the liaison with UNCT Ethiopia.

Members were invited to submit nominations and suggestions to the **OIBC4 Secretariat by Friday, 4 September 2026**.

Members noted that the minutes of the recent **UNCT half-day retreat** had not yet been circulated to the OIBC4 group. **UNECA** agreed to share the minutes with members and advised agencies that they could also contact their respective country office focal points, as the minutes had already been distributed to UNCT members.

Matthias (UNDP) suggested that, in addition to circulating the minutes, OIBC4 could convene a dedicated session at which **UNECA** would provide a briefing on the outcomes of the half day UNCT retreat ahead of the UNCT Listening Session. This would allow members to review the key discussions and provide any relevant inputs or recommendations.

Agenda Item 2. OIBC-4 Financial Resources/Pooled funding

Nozipho Simelane on behalf of the RCP Joint Secretariat, delivered a brief presentation on the status of the RCP Pooled Fund, covering:

- Progress in implementation;
- Status of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signatures;
- Strategies for moving the Fund forward;

- Engagement of new funders ; and
- The RCP Resource Mobilization Strategy.

She informed the meeting that total available resources currently amount to **US$304,536**, comprising:

- **US$204,536** in the Joint Secretariat (JS) funding window, representing contributions from DCO, ECA, and UNDP, including 2026 allocations and unspent balances; and
- **US$100,000** in the main RCP funding window, representing new contributions from UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO, and UNAIDS.

Estimated commitments for 2026 currently stand at **US$42,742**, including **US$26,000** earmarked for the RCP Retreat scheduled for the second week of October 2026. The meeting discussed how the remaining pooled fund resources should be prioritized to maximize support to Resident Coordinators (RCs), UN Country Teams (UNCTs), and the Regional Platform for Integration (RPI) during 2026-2027. An 8-point package of recommendations for the RCP October retreat were also presented

Regarding the operationalization of the Fund, Nozipho reported that **13 MoU signatures** had been secured to date, with **17 signatures still outstanding**, representing approximately **45 percent** of the target. It had previously been agreed that the Fund could be launched once **15 signatures (50 percent)** have been obtained. The meeting noted the need to decide whether to wait for the remaining two signatures required to reach the agreed threshold or proceed with the launch at the RCP retreat based on the 13 signatures already received .

Matthias (UNDP) advised that a decision on the establishment of the Pooled Fund should be taken expeditiously. He noted that the RPI forms an important part of the UN80 and Regional Reset agenda, which calls for the rapid deployment of support to RCs through an "expertise-on-demand" approach. He further recommended that discussions on the future configuration of the RCP and the Regional Reset agenda be included as a substantive item on the agenda of the next OIBC4 plenary session.

Agenda Item 3. Request from DCO Africa/RCP Joint Secretariat - Support for Capacity Development/Training on Financing Instruments/Blended Financing in Somalia

The Chair (UNECA) informed that OIBC4 responded positively to the DCO Africa request to deploy an OIBC4 member (UNDP) in-person to support the finance training in collaboration with UNCDF, UNCT Somalia and Somalia Joint Fund representing RCP/ OIBC4.

1.

Agenda Item 4. Outstanding issues from previous meetings

a) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Request

Louis Mitondo of UNECA, representing the DRC Request Technical Taskforce, informed the meeting that the Taskforce had convened twice to deliberate on the Democratic Republic of the Congo's proposal for an Africa Carbon Markets and Research Centre and the New Climate Economy Initiative. The request was submitted to the OIBC4 Secretariat approximately one year earlier, but support was delayed due to staff transitions.

The Taskforce noted that the proposed budget had been significantly revised downward from US$1.37 billion to US$2.9 million, making the proposal more realistic and increasing the Taskforce's confidence in the feasibility of supporting it. However, a key outstanding issue relates to identifying a lead UN agency to submit the DRC's GCF Readiness Proposal. While the Government had proposed UNEP as the lead agency, UNEP indicated that it is currently unable to support readiness proposals for vertical funds, given the upfront investment requirements and the prevailing resource-constrained environment. As a result, further discussions are required to identify a suitable lead agency for the proposal

The Chair (UNECA) requested the taskforce through the taskforce lead person (Louis -UNECA) to generate the specific request and that the Chair will circulate to UN members for volunteers to lead the GCF readiness submission, giving a deadline of mid-September.

b) El Niño Preparedness and Anticipatory Action mapping

The Secretariat reported that this task was successfully completed and that the filled-in template with contributions from **FAO, UNDP, UNDRR, UN-Habitat, UNFPA and WMO** was shared with the DCO/ RCP Africa Joint Secretariat. The information is intended to inform and support UN Resident Coordinators in strengthening anticipatory action, preparedness, and response measures at country level.

c) Climate Water Energy Food Nexus

The taskforce is making good progress and has organized their next meeting.

d) *Joint OIBC-4 Support to Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN)*

The AGN took time to submit their 2-year workplan and estimated budget to OIBC4 co-conveners. The response took longer than expected despite several reminders by the Secretariat. The Chair (UNECA) will circulate the AGN proposal to OIBC4 group to submit their support offers by mid-September 2026.

e) Mid-Year Reporting to the RCP Secretariat

The Secretariat noted that only a limited number of submissions had been received for the OIBC4 Mid-Year Report, despite the reporting deadline of 28 August 2026 set by the Africa RCP Joint Secretariat. To allow additional time for outstanding contributions, the Secretariat will request a one-week extension of the reporting deadline, to 4 September 2026.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business (AOB)

The Secretariat recommended that, in recognition of UNECA's critical role and contributions, UNECA should nominate a representative to serve as a member of the Secretariat.

Meeting adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 15:53 EAT.

Action items – OIBC-4 Plenary Meeting, 27 August 2026

Item and next steps	Action	Lead	Target date

COP32 Preparations	1. Circulate minutes of UNCT COP32 retreat 2. Proposal to organize an OIBC4 briefing on UNCT retreat outcomes ahead of UNCT listening session with COP32 Presidency 3. Agencies to submit nominations for an OIBC4 liaison focal point to engage with the UNCT on COP32	Cosmas/Yosef/UNECA/OIBC-4 Members	4 September 2026
RCP Pooled Fund	Organize an OIBC4 Session on future configuratio n of the RCP, the Regional Reset agenda , including RC support by OIBCs	Co-Conveners	30 September 2026
Support status for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Taskforce to generate an email request and send to the Chair who will then circulate it to Agencies and invite volunteers to lead the DRC GCF Readiness proposal submission.	Louis/UNECA	15 September 2026
Climate-Water-Energy-Food Nexus coordination	Awaiting colleagues' availability responses via email to schedule the next session.	Simon/UNOSD Maha Sall /UNESCO	15 September 2026
Joint OIBC-4 Support to Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) - Concept Note 2026-2027.	Chair to circulate AGN workplan and budget for the 2026-2027 cycle and Agencies to submit support offers	All OIBC-4 members	15 September 2026
Mid-Year Results Reporting for the Africa RCP Joint Secretariat.	Deadline was 28 August 2026. Request extension to 4 September 2026	Co-Conveners/Flagship Co-leads All members	4 September 2026