Minutes of the Plenary Meeting of the Opportunity Issue-Based Coalition (OIBC-4) on Climate Action, Resilience and Food Systems
22 October 2026

Participants

Name	Agency
Adewumi, Ibukun	UNESCO
Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng	UNECA, Convener (Chair)
Kilawe, Edward	FAO, Convener
Malo, Meshack	FAO
Carla Mucavi	FAO
Irie Yuka	FAO
Mamusa Siyunyi	RCP Joint Secretariat
Josephine Marealle Ulimwengu	RCP Joint Secretariat
Linus Asanji Mofor	UNICEF
Chiagozie Udeh	UNFPA
Zainab Yunusa	UNFPA
Louis Mitondo Lubango	UNECA
Mekalia Paulos	UNECA
Jose Dieo Hopkins Alfaro	UNECA
Margaret Oduk	UNEP
Mariane Diop Kane	WMO
Marco Massabo	UNDRR
Daisy Mukarakate	UNDP, OIBC-4 Secretariat
Catherine Mwangi	UNEP, OIBC-4 Secretariat
Omar Zemrag	UNDP, OIBC-4 Secretariat
Alamneh Kindie	FAO, OIBC-4 Secretariat
Absent with apology	
Rose Mwebaza	Convener (UNEP)
Mathias Naab	Convener (UNDP)

Agenda

1. Tribute to the late Charles Nyandiga, Former Team Leader, UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa
   (a) Institutional update
2. Update on COP 32 preparation
3. OIBC-4 at COP31
4. Future configuration of the RCP under the Regional Reset agenda
5. Request from the Resident Coordinator of Botswana
6. AOB

Outstanding assignments

(i) Development of an action plan for operationalising Climate-Water-Energy-Food Nexus support to RCs and UNCTs
(ii) AGN Concept Note and Submission of Support Offers by OIBC-4 Members
(iii) Democratic Republic of Congo Summary of discussions

Summary of deliberations

Agenda 1: Tribute to the late Charles Nyandiga

The meeting opened with a tribute to Charles Nyandiga, who had served as an alternate OIBC-4 co-convener and led UNDP's Nature, Climate and Energy portfolio at the Africa Regional Hub. Daisy Mukarakate recalled his long service to the United Nations, his work across country offices and headquarters, and his commitment to inter-agency collaboration and community-level results. She noted his involvement in OIBC-4 and the Resident Coordinators' engagement at the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in Uganda.

Margaret Oduk (UNEP) recalled working with Charles early in their careers at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute and described his passion for inter-agency work, collegiality and humour. Catherine Mwangi (UNEP) highlighted Charles's thoroughness, kindness and persistence in ensuring that OIBC-4 developed a two-year work plan for 2025-2026. Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng thanked colleagues for their tributes and observed that the best way to honour Charles would be to sustain and strengthen the group's shared work and ambition.

Members collectively reaffirmed the importance of continuing Charles Nyandiga's legacy through sustained inter-agency collaboration and delivery.

Agenda 1 (a) Institutional update: FAO representation

Edward Kilawe (FAO) advised that this was his last meeting in his current capacity as an OIBC-4 co-convener, as he would be moving to a country representative role. He thanked members for their collaboration and stated that he hoped to remain engaged with OIBC-4 through his new role as FAO Representative in Namibia. Edward introduced Meshack Mekasha Malo, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa.

Malo expressed condolences following Charles Nyandiga's passing, confirmed FAO's continued engagement in OIBC-4 and committed to continuing the collaborative work. Cosmas welcomed him and stated that, once formal communication was made, Edward would be invited back to a subsequent meeting for a proper farewell.

Agenda 2: Update on COP 32 preparation

The Chair reported that a planned October briefing between the COP32 Presidency-designate and the UN system had been postponed because it coincided with pre-COP31 activities and the swearing-in of the new government. The briefing was expected to take place after COP31, potentially in December or January; the date remained unconfirmed.

He mentioned that the new government arrangements were not expected to cause a fundamental change in the preparations and described the recruitment of senior advisers/strategists to the COP32 Secretariat. He also stated that the UN was discussing how to organise support through UN Country Team engagement and through global UN entities working on climate issues. A meeting was planned on the sidelines of COP31 in Antalya to begin coordinating global-level support to the Presidency-designate. Mariane Diop Kane requested that relevant global institutions, including WMO, receive invitations early.

Agenda 3: OIBC-4 engagement and coordination at COP31

The Chair noted that planning for a single collective OIBC-4 event at COP31 had not advanced sufficiently. As an immediate coordination measure, the Secretariat would circulate a survey requesting each agency's planned COP31 activities so the group could map participation and identify opportunities for synergy at COP31.

Members discussed the value of coordinating support to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN). The Chair proposed a meeting with the AGN Chair to discuss how OIBC-4 members could support them in a more coherent and systematic manner. Mariane Diop Kane (WMO) emphasised that scientific support should be made available for the negotiators. She suggested that OIBC-4 engage with them ahead of COP32.

Ibukun Adewumi (UNESCO) outlined COP31 engagement, including participation in Earth Information Day with WMO on ocean observation, side events on ocean acidification and ocean observation, showcasing the Ocean Eye initiative, presenting a report on the ocean within the UNFCCC system, and supporting the AGN with ocean-related information. The speaker offered to provide details for the shared mapping document. Cosmas also noted that ECA would share its COP31 events, including the planned briefing for African stakeholders by negotiators at the Africa Pavilion.

The Chair outlined how the energy, food and water nexus work could inform COP31 outcomes and COP32 preparations. Options included a post-COP31 review or a more specific activity linked to COP32, potentially using upcoming opportunities such as the joint COM/AMCEN meeting or the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. Separately, the UN Country Team was considering a UN-led event at COP31 to demonstrate system-wide support for COP32; details were still under discussion.

He stated that the immediate priorities were to map agency activities, coordinate AGN support, and develop a proposal for using the nexus work to inform the COP process.

Agenda 4: Transition from the RCP to the Regional Platform for Integration (RPI)

Josephine Marealle Ulimwengu, representing the RCP Joint Secretariat, briefed members on a draft transition roadmap from the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) to the Regional Platform for Integration (RPI). She explained that the roadmap was informed by the Africa position paper on the RPI and consultations on the Africa theory of change. It remained a work in progress and had been shared with the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on UN reforms; governance arrangements and the implementation approach were still evolving.

She mentioned that the proposed shift emphasises moving beyond coordination of joint delivery towards integration that demonstrates measurable country-level results. Other themes include cross-pillar integration across development, peace, humanitarian action and human rights; access to experts on demand; stronger links with regional intergovernmental institutions, particularly the African Union and its organs; regional analytics, knowledge and foresight; more structured UN–AU cooperation; and stronger results and accountability. Potential sources of demand for RPI support include Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams, multi-country or cross-border requests, UN entities and requests from the African Union.

Josephine said the roadmap extended to July 2027, but implementation had not yet been activated pending feedback from the Special Adviser's office. Members were invited to provide comments within a week. Cosmas said the Secretariat would circulate the document and coordinate a separate internal discussion on how OIBC-4 should position itself in relation to the RPI transition.

Agenda 5: Request from the Resident Coordinator of Botswana

Marco Massabo (UNDRR) outlined a request connected with Botswana's plans to reform its disaster risk management and preparedness system. The government had asked the Resident Coordinator for support to strengthen the framework for responding to compounding disasters, including an inception workshop. The request included both logistical/financial support for the workshop and technical inputs from UN agencies on disaster risk management, emergency response, early warning systems and anticipatory action. Catherine clarified the background to the follow-up communication a UNDRR and WMO and emphasized that they were seeking expressions of interest from other agencies so that a response could be made to the Resident Coordinator by the end of October.

Mariane Diop Kane (WMO) stressed that countries needed timely support in view of seasonal rainfall and drought risks and suggested that the technical response should be considered for other countries as well. Edward Kilawe supported exploring a wider regional approach, noting that other Southern African countries may have similar needs.

Cosmas concluded that there were two distinct but partly overlapping requests and that agencies should indicate their interest in supporting each one. The Secretariat was requested to help circulate the requests and follow up with agencies. Separately, the group agreed that the existing El Niño information shared with DCO should be followed by a more systematic collective plan, rather than

responding only to individual country requests. Agencies were asked to indicate interest in both requests as soon as possible. The broader disaster-risk-management request required a response to the Resident Coordinator by the end of October 2026.

Any Other Business

(i) Support to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)

The Chair reported that two surveys had been conducted to identify agency support for the AGN, including a second survey based on a more detailed request from the AGN. The Secretariat had received input on this support from UN-Habitat, UNEP, ECA, UNDRR, UNDP, and WMO. The Secretariat was requested to consolidate the offers for presentation to the AGN in a systematic manner. Agencies that had not yet responded but wished to contribute were requested to complete the survey or contact the Secretariat for guidance.

(ii) Request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The Chair reported that the task force led by Louis Mitondo Lubango had completed its review of the DRC request, which had been pending for approximately a year, and submitted recommendations to the co-conveners. The co-conveners planned to meet the following week to review the task force recommendations and determine the way forward.

(iii) **Development of an action plan for operationalising Climate-Water-Energy-Food Nexus**

The Task Force met in September 2026. They agreed to reconvene during the week of 26 October or 2 November 2026 to develop a concrete course of action.

Meeting adjournment

Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng thanked participants for their time and contributions and closed the meeting. He looked forward to meeting colleagues at upcoming regional and international meetings, including the Food Forum in Addis Ababa and COP-related meetings.

Action items

	Action	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate the RPI transition roadmap to OIBC-4 members; Review and submit comments to the RCP Joint Secretariat	OIBC-4 Secretariat/Members	29 October 2026
2.	Review the RPI roadmap and submit comments to the RCP Joint Secretariat.	All OIBC-4 members/agencies	Within one week of circulation
3.	Arrange a dedicated follow-up discussion on OIBC-4's positioning under the proposed RPI.	OIBC-4 Secretariat, in coordination with Chair and the RCP Joint Secretariat	Date to be agreed
4.	Send invitations to relevant global UN entities, including WMO, for the COP31 sidelines coordination meeting on COP32 support.	Cosmas / organisers of the COP32–UN coordination meeting	TBA
5.	Circulate the COP31 agency-activity mapping survey and compile agencies' events and participation.	OIBC-4 Secretariat; all member agencies to provide inputs	22 October 2026
6.	Arrange a meeting with the AGN Chair to coordinate agency support	Cosmas / OIBC-4 Secretariat	TBA
7.	Work with the energy, food and water nexus team to propose how its work could inform COP31 outcomes and COP32 preparations.	Chair/OIBC-4 Conveners	Proposal to follow; no date specified
8.	Share the broader Botswana disaster-risk-management request with the Secretariat for circulation to members.	Marco Massabo / UNDRR, with WMO as relevant	22 October 2026
9.	Indicate interest in supporting the broader Botswana disaster-risk-management reform/workshop request.	Interested OIBC-4 agencies; coordinate through UNDRR and WMO	By the end of October 2026, to enable a response to the Resident Coordinator
10.	Develop a more systematic collective follow-up plan for El Niño preparedness support to countries, building on the survey shared with DCO.	OIBC-4 Conveners, with relevant agencies with input from DCO	TBA
11.	Review the task force recommendations on the DRC request and communicate the decision to members.	OIBC-4 Co-Conveners	Task force led by Louis Mitondo Lubango submitted recommendations
12.	Arrange a formal farewell for Edward Kilawe after receipt of formal communication on the FAO transition.	OIBC-4 co-conveners / Secretariat	At a subsequent meeting; date to be confirmed