

VIII. Proposed Agenda

ACCOF-22: Technical Session - Analysis of global, continental, and subregional climate variability, with review and discussion of forecast outputs in the context of the anticipated El Niño.

Time (CAT)	Session Title / Activities	Presenter / Facilitator	Moderator/Chair
DAY 1 Tuesday, 8 September 2026 ACCOF-22 Opening and Climate Situation Assessment (Common understanding of climate drivers and anticipated El Niño conditions)			
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants and virtual meeting connection logistics		ACMAD Logistic Team
09:00 – 09:30	Official Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks	ACMAD, WMO, AUC, PR of Benin with WMO	ACMAD Communication Team
09:30 – 10:00	Overview of Workshop Objectives, Expected Outputs, and Agenda	ACMAD	
Group Photo & Coffee Break 10:00 – 10:30			
Session 1: Analysis of the Current State of continental, and sub-regional climate variability, as well the Review and Discussion of the forecast output (ACCOF-21 Continental Climate Outlook Statement update, key warning messages, identified climate-risk hotspots)			
10:30 – 11:30	Review the Outcomes of ACCOF 21: including verification of the MJJ and JJA 2026 continental outlook statement and lessons for the coming season	ACMAD	Chair: ACMAD Rapporteur:
11:30 – 12:30	Regional Experiences rainfall season MJJ and JJA 2026 during start of El Niño and other drivers, and of the observed impacts from June to August 2026	Northern Africa RCC-Network, RCC ECOWAS (AGRHYMET), RCC ECCAS (CAPC-AC), RCC IGAD (ICPAC), IOC/SWIONetwork	

12:30 – 13:00	Questions / Discussion	All Participants
Lunch Break 13:00 – 14:00		
Session 1: (RCC technical session)		
14:00 – 15:00	Presentation of forecasts for OND-NDJ 2026-2027 from the different RCCs: West, Central, East, Southern, North Africa and Indian Ocean regions: key warning messages and climate-risk hotspots	All RCCs (10 min each)
15:00 – 15:30	Presentation of the Continental: Harmonization with the Regional Forecasts inputs	ACMAD, All RCCs
Coffee Break 15:30 – 16:00		
16:00 – 17:15	Draft of the Continental Outlook Statement, Policy Brief, expected hazards: update of the ACCOF-21 statement and Policy brief, advisories	ACMAD, All RCCs
17:15 – 17:30	Day 1 Wrap-up	All Participants
DAY 2 Wednesday, 9 September 2026 Harmonization of Long-Range Forecasting / Review and adoption of the Common Framework		
Session 2: Harmonization of long-range forecasting data, tools and methods (RCC technical session)		
09:00 – 09:30	Recap of Day 01	

09:30 – 10:30	Preparation of the RCC inputs to the user engagement segment : briefing on how the forecast production chain will be presented to users	ACMAD, All RCCs	Chair: ACMAD
Coffee Break 10:30 – 11:00			
11:00 – 13:00	Introduction the RCC Common Framework for Seasonal Forecasting (ACMAD/ICPAC) Draft Common Framework for Seasonal Forecasting Methodologies, Calibration Techniques and Downscaling Approaches: Review, adoption,	All RCCs	Chair: ICPAC
	Scope and purpose; current state across RCCs, including completion of the inventory for the outstanding centres and agreement on areas of convergence and divergence; observational data and reference datasets; hindcast period; model selection and ensemble weighting; calibration and downscaling; AI/ML and hybrid forecasting; common verification framework; uncertainty; sectoral tailoring and impact-based forecasting; standardized communication, categories, colour palette and map templates; governance of the common open-source forecasting software; monitoring, evaluation and learning.		
Lunch Break 13:00 – 14:00			
14:00 – 15:30	Ctnd - Draft Common Framework for Seasonal Forecasting Methodologies, Calibration Techniques and Downscaling Approaches: Review, adoption,	All RCCs	
Coffee Break 15:30 – 16:00			
16:00 – 17:00	- Presentation of the ACMAD AFRIMET Initiative (ACMAD) - Open discussion on alternative solutions to the IRI Data Library sunset, transition pathway: inventory of affected workflows, datasets and operational products	ACMAD / All RCCs	
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap-up of Day 02	All RCCs	

09:30 – 9:50	Overview of Workshop Objectives, Expected Outputs, and Agenda	ACMAD	
09:50 – 10:30	Keynote: The Looming El Niño 2026/2027 – Risks & Preparedness • Overview on ENSO and implications • Reflections from past El Niño episodes (2015-16, 2023-24) • Historical regional implications • Observed impacts from June to August 2026	ACMAD	
Coffee Break 10:30 – 11:00			
11:00 – 11:30	How a seasonal forecast is produced:? • From global model output to the continental consensus outlook: inputs, calibration, downscaling, terciles and probabilities, what forecast skill means and where the limits lie (20 min) • Questions & Answers / Discussions (10 min)	ICPAC	
11:30 – 11:55	Presentation of the Continental Climate Outlook update and expected hazards update of the ACCOF-21 statement (15 min) • Questions & Answers / Discussions (10 min)	AGHRYMET	

Time (CAT; UTC+1)	Session Title	Presenter / Facilitator	Moderator
DAY 3 Thursday, 10 September 2026: Co-production of Climate Services, for El Niño Sep 2026 to Jan 2027			
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants and virtual meeting connection logistics	AUC	
09:00 – 09:30	Official Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks	ACMAD, WMO, AUC, PR of Benin with WMO	

11:55– 13:00	<i>The value of using climate and weather information in preparedness and response activities challenges and opportunities in the context of El Niño:</i> • <i>UNDRR Presentation on El Nino Preparedness the Role of IBF Task Force by UNDRR</i> • <i>State of El Nino Preparedness in Greater Horn of Africa by AA Task Force IGAD</i> • <i>From Forecast to Action: Staying Ahead of El Nino by IFRC Regional Office</i> • <i>Action Anticipatoire en Afrique de l'Ouest et Central by AA Task Force CILSS</i> • <i>Impact de El Nino sur le démarrage de la Saison Agricole : Cas du Burkina by ARC • Questions & Answers / Discussions (15min)</i>	Users and partners	
Lunch Break 13:00 – 14:00			
14:00 – 14:15	Presentation of the prototype continental climate bulletins and of the Continental Climate Policy Brief template	ACMAD	
14:15 – 15:15	Parallel group work on the bulletin and policy brief templates: - Completeness: does the current structure contain everything the sector needs, measured against its own decisions and against comparable products issued elsewhere in the world? What is missing, redundant, or expressed unhelpfully	Group-1: DRR & Humanitarian Group-2: Agriculture & Food Security	
	- Who provides what? content owner for each section (ACCOF, NMHSs, RECs, sector institutions, users), data source, production deadline, review and clearance, feedback loop - Roadmap and assigned responsibilities for ACCOF-22 in October, where the first bulletins	Group-3: Health	
15:15 – 16:00	Parallel group work on the bulletin and policy brief production exercise: Using the template and the draft Continental Climate Outlook updated statement	Groups 1, 2 & 3	
Coffee Break 16:00 – 16:30			
16:30 – 17:00	Ctnd - Parallel group work on the bulletin and policy brief production exercise:	Groups 1, 2 & 3	

17:00 – 17:15	Day 4 Wrap-up		
DAY 4 Friday, 11 September 2026: Action Planning and Continental Outlook Statement			
09:00– 09:15	Recap of Day 4		
09:15 – 10:00	Presentation of the outcomes of the group work; (15 min each) Finalization of the continental bulletin and policy brief templates and of the responsibility matrix	Groups Rapporteur	
10:00 - 10:20	Presentation on best practices for communication channels, user engagement and feedback mechanisms for early warnings and climate services	AUB	
Coffee Break 10:00 – 11:00			
11:00 - 11:20	Presentation of the RCCs Common Framework for seasonal forecasting methodologies, calibration techniques, and downscaling approaches across African Regional Climate Centres	ACMAD/ICPAC	
11:20 - 11:40	ACMAD AFRIMET Initiative - African alternative solution to the IRI Data Library sunset,	ACMAD	
11:40 – 12:30	• Presentation and Adoption of the update Continental Climate Outlook Statement: • Consolidated recommendations for El Nino preparedness and resilience for Sep 2026 to January 2027 season	ACMAD and All	
12:30 – 13:00	Closing Session • Closing statements • Media interaction	ACMAD, Benin Met	
Lunch Break 13:00 – 14:30			