COP31 ARC Flagship Side Event Concept Note

Title

Partners for Resilience Financing in Africa: Scaling Early Action and Climate Risk Protection in an Era of Growing Climate Extremes

Convened By

African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group in partnership with the AUC, AfDB, AUDA-NEPAD ACMAD, and partners.

Date

11 November 2026

Time

16:30 – 18:00 hrs

Duration

90 Minutes

Venue

Africa Pavilion, COP31 Blue Zone, Antalya, Türkiye

Concept and Strategic Rationale

As Africa faces increasing climate volatility and growing climate shocks, including recurring droughts, floods, cyclones, and the prospect of future El Niño-related shocks, the need for predictable, pre-arranged and scalable financing mechanisms has never been greater. Despite growing recognition of the importance of early warning systems, significant gaps remain in translating warnings into anticipatory action and timely financing at scale Therefore, there is an urgent need to strengthen partnerships and mobilize sustainable financing for resilience. For over more than a decade, ARC, working under its African Union mandate, has supported African countries through climate and disaster risk financing solutions, capacity building in early warning, contingency planning, and sovereign risk transfer mechanisms. The next phase of this journey thus requires a stronger coalition of governments, regional institutions, development banks, humanitarian actors, climate funds and bilateral partners to collectively finance resilience and scale protection for vulnerable populations.

This ARC flagship roundtable will bring together African policy makers and leaders, development partners, multilateral institutions and climate finance actors to discuss practical approaches for scaling resilience financing, strengthening early action systems and protecting vulnerable communities. The session will also provide an opportunity to recognize the tremendous contribution of partners that have accompanied ARC throughout its journey and identify new pathways for collaboration and resource mobilization for Africa's resilience while discussing practical pathways for strengthening climate risk financing architecture in Africa as countries prepare for increasing climate shocks and anticipated El Niño-related impacts.

Theme Question

What partnerships and financing solutions are required to protect Africa from the next climate shock before it becomes a humanitarian crisis?

Programme Format

- Opening Leadership Remarks (15 min)
- Partnership Circle Dialogue: High-Level Fireside Roundtable with a discussion question for each speaker (45 min)
- Voices from the Partnership Community (20 min)
- Partnership Commitments and Call to Action (10 min)
- Closing Remarks (5 min)

Proposed Speakers

- H.E. Mr. Fassou Théa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Guinea - as ARC CoP Chair Member State – Opening Remarks
- Minister from the Republic of Madagascar – as ARC Payout beneficiary Country perspective remarks - TBC
- Dr. Jean Chrysostome Ngabitsinze, Director General, ARC Group – Welcome Remarks
- H.E. Moses Vilakati, AUC-ARBE Commissioner – Strategic Remarks from AU perspective
- H.E. Madam Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD – Resilience as an African Development Imperative perspective
- Director General, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye, ACMAD – Continental Climate information services perspective
- Director of the Agricultural Finance and Rural Development, Mr. Richard Kwaku Ofori-Mante, African Development Bank- Continental Resilience Funding perspective
- Director for Climate and Resilience, Mr. Richard Choularton, WFP - Humanitarian value of Resilience financing perspective

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened visibility for ARC and its partners.
- Enhanced dialogue on financing resilience in Africa.
- Identification of partnership and resource mobilization opportunities.
- Concrete commitment statements from participating institutions and Call to Action

For any further information and enquiries, please contact the ARC Liaison to the African Union, Mr. Babatunde Iyanda at: (email: babatunde.iyanda@arc.int); (Mobile:+225 05 95 80 4747/Whatsapp: +27712148725)