

THIRTIETH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-13):

**A Mechanism to provide Continental Climate outlook Services and
improve coordination and harmonization on methods, data, tools,
products and services for all Africa**

THEME: "THE FUTURE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE AND WATER ACROSS GENERATIONS"

21 July 2023

Online

**TARGET SEASON: August-September-October-November-
December (ASOND) 2023**

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The last episode of the El-Niño phenomenon with high impact over Africa was 2015/2016. During this episode, severe drought hit parts of Southern Africa and heavy rains were reported in Eastern Africa. This year, El Nino alert is in effect with El Nino of at least moderate intensity very likely by the end of the year. Extreme heat is affecting many parts of the globe and the western part of north Africa in particular. Information on the potential for persistence of this hazard is of major importance for the region.

Given the devastating impacts of 2015/16 El Nino, countries in Africa and their partners are exploring opportunities to develop preparation, anticipatory action and response plans to reduce losses and damages. Science based climate information is at the foundation of effective planning and action.

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications and Development (ACMAD) as the continental WMO designated Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for Africa is organizing as part of its RCC coordination function, the thirteenth session of Africa Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-13).

This forum provides continental climate outlook and improves capacity amongst WMO designated and developing Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) to regionalize climate services from WMO Global Producing Centres (GPCs). It is also a platform for technical discussions and exchanges on latest advances in climate science and technology, interregional interactions within Africa and between Africa and other WMO Regional Associations, review and verification of the seasonal climate outlook for the most recent past season across the continent. A continental climate outlook for the upcoming four to five months period emphasizing expected climate anomalies, hazards outlooks, potential impacts and proposed response measures and actions

required to update or implement Emergency Preparation and Response (EPR) plans is provided.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The ACCOF aims at improving the contribution of RCCs to early warning and disaster preparedness, taking into account information on drivers of climate variability such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), Atlantic Dipole, Benguela Niño, Sub-tropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD), North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), Southern Annular Mode (SAM), Atlantic Ridge (AR), Eurasian snow cover, Arctic sea Ice amongst others. Co-production of tailor-made climate services will be made possible by involvement of participants from constituents of the continental sector user interface platforms.

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Review and verify forecasts for the MAM, AMJ and MJJ 2023 climate season
- Discuss the current evolution of the El-Niño episode and other drivers of climate variability as well as their impacts on the upcoming seasons ASO, SON and OND 2023 periods across the continent and develop consensus climate forecasts continental for the ASOND 2023 season;
- Integrate and harmonize verification methods, tools and products between the continental and sub-regional levels;
- Ensure consistency of forward-looking statements at regional and continental levels;
- Strengthen the interregional network of cross-border risk management centers;
- Obtain user feedback on the impacts of El Niño on the ASOND 2023 seasonal climate.

METHODOLOGY AND PARTICIPATION

The forum is organized into three main parts: Part 1: Performance of the past season over the RECs and the whole Continent; Part 2: Analysis of the current State of global, continental and sub-regional climate; Part 3: Generation of the climate outlook statement for the upcoming season and interaction at the user interface.

Participants in the ACCOF will include climate experts and scientists from the designated Global and Regional Climate Centres. Experts from NMHSs are also encouraged to participate. Users from Agriculture, DRR, Water and Health sectors form part of additional stakeholders providing feedback and supporting uptake of climate information for building resilience and adaptation to climate change required for sustainable development.

Experts from AUC Departments including Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment and Blue Economy, WMO Climate Programmes, UNECA Division for Natural Resources, Climate and Technology, and other International Centers such as ECMWF, JRC, NCEP and others are very much welcomed

EXPECTED KEY RESULTS

- Continental and Regional MAMJJ 2023 seasonal forecasts reviewed and verified;
- Climate Outlook Statement for the upcoming season prepared and published;
- Verification and outlook products integrated and harmonized between continental and regional levels;
- Methodologies, data and tools for seasonal forecasting and verification normalized through Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- Sectors potential hazards, risk events and impacts/consequences for ASOND 2023 season identified and user feedback on the impacts of ASOND 2023 outlook documented.

MEETING FORMAT

The ACCOF is a collaborative effort between ACMAD, AUC and RECs through the RCCs. The meeting will be conducted in hybrid mode and facilities are provided for virtual participation through the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87585341874?pwd=UW5BS3grbWhmcVFWeEpibUwxcjNTQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 8534 1874

Passcode: Accof13

The meeting will run for 1,5h from 0900 hours West African Time (8AM GMT).

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