

SEVENTEENTH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-17):

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

THEME: “ IMPACT BASED CLIMATE OUTLOOK STATEMENTS FOR EARLY WARNING FOR ALL IN AFRICA”

MAY 30-31 2024

TARGET SEASON: JUNE to SEPTEMBER(JJAS) 2024

Hybrid mode

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

As part of the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services in Africa through the Climate Services and Related Applications programme (ClimSA), the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and partners are collaborating to coordinate, integrate and harmonize methods, tools and products towards integrated Continental Climate Outlooks. From June to September, the northern summer climate variability affects Africa from Cape Verde to Djibouti. The WMO designated Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for all Africa (ACMAD) in close collaboration with other developing or designated RCCs in Africa and partners is organizing the Seventeenth Continental Climate Outlook Forum for Africa.

The meeting will be held from May 30 to 31, 2024 in Addis Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, back-to-back with the ACMAD/ClimSA Steering committee meeting on May 28, 2024 and the 23rd Ordinary Session of the ACMAD Board of Governors from May 29 to 30, 2024 to accelerate high level awareness raising on the value of continental integration to accelerate early warning for all and adaptation to climate change across African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The continental forum also provides a platform for discussions and technical exchanges on the latest advances in climate science and technology with emphasis on emerging applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI), new products development in WMO's World Meteorological Centres (WMCs) and interregional interactions in Africa

and between Africa and other WMO Regional Associations. Value addition from Implementation of WMO Congress resolution 1 on open data will be demonstrated. ACCOF-17 will evaluate the past climate season from January to April 2024 over Africa and enable discussions on the El Niño transition to ENSO neutral and La Nina expected during the second half of 2024. The Africa Climate outlook for June-September 2024 with emphasis on the Sahel from Cape Verde to Djibouti will be delivered.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

ACCOF aims at improving the contribution of RCCs to early warning and anticipatory action. Information on drivers of climate variability such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) from global centres and their impacts on the Africa climate will be discussed. The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Review and verify forecasts for the January to April 2024 season by RCCs;
- Discuss the current evolution of the main climate drivers including the El Niño Southern Oscillation, dipoles of the tropical and subtropical Atlantic and Indian oceans, Mediterranean Sea Surface Temperatures and their impacts at the regional and continental level with focus on the June to September 2024 period across the continent;
- Develop continental objective climate outlook for the June to September 2024 season;
- Update Climate Outlooks for Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, UMA, SADC, IOC);
- Ensure consistency and promote impact based seasonal climate outlook statements at sub-regional and continental levels.
- Raise awareness on the quality and value of integrated and harmonized Climate Outlooks at continental level.

METHODOLOGY AND PARTICIPATION

The forum is organized into three main parts, namely **Part 1: Performance of the past season (January-April 2024) over the Regions and the whole Continent;** **Part 2: Analysis of the current Status of global, continental, and sub-regional climate variability;** **Part 3: Continental climate outlook statement** for the upcoming season and interaction with stakeholders.

Participants for the ACCOF will include climate experts and scientists from the Global Producing Centres for Long Range Forecasting and Regional Climate Centres. Experts from NMHSs are also encouraged to participate. The high-level statement on impact based climate outlook will be presented at a joint session with ACMAD Board and ClimSA Steering Committee highlighting application of impact

based climate outlooks for anticipatory action contributing to early warning for all in Africa.

Experts from the AUC Departments including Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue Economy, Social Affairs, Infrastructure, peace and security, WMO Climate Programme, UNECA Division for Natural Resources, Climate Change and Technology, and other International Centers such as ECMWF, JRC, NCEP are welcomed.

EXPECTED KEY RESULTS

- Continental and Regional January to April 2024 seasonal forecasts reviewed and verified;
- Continental Climate Outlook Statement for the upcoming season prepared and published;
- Regional Climate Outlook statements updated;
- Hazards, potential impacts and proposed anticipatory actions discussed;
- High level awareness raised on the quality and value of continental integration of climate information through a joint session.

MEETING FORMAT

The ACCOF is a flagship initiative and collaboration between ACMAD, AUC, UNECA and RECs through the RCCs. The meeting will be conducted in a hybrid mode.

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