

EIGHTEENTH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-18):

**‘Providing Continental Climate Outlook Services through improved
Coordination and Harmonization of Methods, Data, Tools, Products and
Services in Africa’**

THEME:

**“IMPROVED CLIMATE SERVICES DELIVERY FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING IN
AFRICA”**

29th October to 1st Nov 2024, AngeHill Hotel, Accra, Ghana

TARGET SEASON: NOVEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025(NDJF) 2024-25

Hybrid Mode

CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 BACKGROUND

The recent State of Climate Report for Africa reveal that over the past 60 years, Africa has recorded a warming trend that has become more rapid than the global average. In 2023/2024, the Continent experienced heatwaves, heavy rains, extreme floods the Sahel, tropical cyclones, and prolonged droughts. While many Countries in the Horn of Africa continued to suffer from exceptional multi-year drought, others experienced extreme precipitation events leading to flooding with significant casualties. These extreme events had devastating impacts on communities, with serious economic implications.

The African Continent, with abundant diverse ecosystems, rich cultural heritage, and growing populations, faces disproportionate burdens and risks arising from climate change-related weather events and patterns. These events cause massive humanitarian crises with detrimental impacts on agriculture and food security, education, energy, infrastructure, peace and security, public health, water resources, and overall socioeconomic development across the continent

Considering these challenges, and as part of the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services in Africa through the Climate Services and Related

Applications (ClimSA) Programme, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and its partners are collaborating to coordinate, integrate and harmonize methods, tools and products to produce improved continental climate forecasts. More so, considering the recent climatic conditions observed during summer season from June to September 2024 in the Northern Hemisphere of Africa from Cape Verde to Djibouti, as well as the observed trends in Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) of Ocean Basins with rainfall activity in the Southern Hemisphere, ACMAD, in close collaboration with World Meteorological Organization (WMO), African Union Commission (AUC), the African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and other Partners is organising the Eighteenth Africa Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-18) to contribute to mitigate the challenges of extreme weather events due to climatic variability and change in the Continent.

ACCOF is the mechanism set up at ACMAD, to facilitate the implementation of the African RCOFs coordination function of the WMO designated RCCs for all Africa.

The main goal of this Eighteenth edition of the forum is to review the recommendations of the ACCOF-17 and adopt an improved practical approach for the harmonization of forecasting methods and tools. In addition, the Consensus Continental Outlook statement for Africa will be generated and issued to raise awareness on the quality and derived benefits of an Integrated and Harmonized Climate Outlooks at Continental level for adaptation to climate change across African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

2.0 AIM AND OBJECTIVES

ACCOF-18 aims at improving the contribution of RCCs to Early Warning and Anticipatory Action and review the recommendations of the ACCOF-17 and adopt an improved practical approach for the harmonization of forecasting methods and tools for the Continent. The **specific objectives** of the meeting are to:

- i) **Review the Outcomes of ACCOF 17**
- ii) **Verify the performance/skills of the forecasts** for May to September 2024 Season.
- iii) **Analyse the current evolution of the main climate drivers** including the ENSO evolution and their impacts at the continental level for the November 2024 to February 2025 period.
- iv) **Develop a Consensus Continental Climate Outlook for NDJ-DJF 2024-25** season and **adopt a road map** for data and methods harmonisation
- v) **Review and Harmonize data, tools and methods for a consensual continental drought Bulletin.**
- vi) **Facilitate through User Engagement interaction the generation of Co-Produced Products Outputs from Climate Outlooks** for Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, SADC, IOC) and other Partners.

- vii) **Support and Promote release of Impact/Risk Based Seasonal Climate Outlook Statements** at Sub-Regional and Continental levels.
- viii) **Create more awareness on benefits of integrated and harmonized Climate Outlook mechanism** at Continental Level.

3.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outcomes of the 18th African Continental Outlook Forum include:

- i) **Verified Performance/Skills of the Forecasts/Outlooks** for May to September 2024.
- ii) **Prevailing Climate Drivers Analysed to inform the quality of forecast outlook** to be produced for the November 2024 to February 2025 period.
- iii) **Consensus Continental Climate Outlook Developed for NDJ-DJF 2024-25 season.**
- iv) **Harmonized Road Map for Forecasting Techniques Adopted** by Climate Experts in the RCCs and other Partners.
- v) **Harmonized data, tools and methods for the continental drought bulletin.**
- vi) **Co-Produced Products Outputs from Climate Outlooks** for Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, SADC, IOC) and other key Partners.
- vii) **Enhanced Impact/Risk Based Seasonal Climate Outlook Statements for improved climate-smart decision making** at Sub-Regional and Continental levels.
- viii) **Capacity among Climate Experts built on Benefits of the integrated and harmonized Climate Outlook forecasting techniques** at Continental Level.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS

Participants for the upcoming ACCOF-18 in Ghana includes:

- (i). **RCCs and their Respective Pilot Countries Representatives:** Experts and officials from the RCCs representing the RECs (UMA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC & IOC).
- (ii). **Regional UN Organizations and other Technical Partners:** Representatives of the relevant UN Organizations in Africa: (UNECA, OCHA, FAO, WHO, UNDRR, WMO-ROA, UNHCR, WFP, IFRC, EU, ARC, CLIM-HEALTH AFRICA, CIMA & EU JRC).
- (iii). **Other Regional Stakeholders:** Representatives of the following critical organizations: (OACPS, ANBO, NBI, PAFO, ROPPA, AUC, ECCAS, SADC & IGAD Sit Rooms).
- (iv). **Selected National Stakeholders (End Users):** Representatives from key sectors: agriculture and disaster risk management, water resources management, health etc. from host country- Ghana.

5.0 FORMAT OF ACCOF-18:

The 18th ACCOF will be conducted in **Hybrid Format** (both physical and online). The forum will feature a series of sessions as follows:

- i) **Session 1: Review and Discussion of the forecast output** from ACCOF 17.
- ii) **Session 2: Analysis of the Current State** of global, continental and sub-regional climate variability.
- iii) **Session 3: Harmonization data, tools and methods for the continental drought bulletin.**
- iv) **Session 4: User Engagement Session:** Interactive sessions with RCCs and other Partner Organizations to refine needs, challenges, and opportunities for co-production of products and services.
- v) **Session 5: Statement of the Continental Climate Outlook** for the coming season and interaction with stakeholders.

6.0 EXPECTED RESULTS

The following deliverables are expected at the end of the NCOF Program:

- i) **Harmonized Forecasting Technique Road Map Document** for Adoption by all RCCs/NMHSs.
- ii) **Regional Outlook Products and Statement for the NDJ & DJF Season** with socio-economic implications (hazards, potential impacts) and recommended sectoral anticipatory actions.
- iii) **A validated prototype continental drought bulletin**
- iv) **One joint Press Release and Communiqué** in collaboration with Partners and Ghana Meteorological Agency (G-Met).
- v) **Social media handles featuring the ACCOF-18 Event** and livestreaming of the final opening and closing ceremony.
- vi) **One Detailed Report** of the ACCOF-18 Event.

7.0 DATE AND VENUE

The 18th ACCOF is scheduled to be held (in hybrid) between 29th October-1st November 2024 at AngeHill Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The event will be hosted by Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet).

8.0 ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT

The organization of the 18th ACCOF will be coordinated by the ACMAD with kind assistance of GMet. Logistical arrangements will be handled by ACMAD with financial support from the ClimSA programme.

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