

African  
Union



**Title of event:** Mobilizing Financing to Scale Up Weather, Water and Climate Services for a Climate-Resilient Africa

**Venue:** Africa Pavilion, Addis International Conference Convention Center

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Date:** 10 September 2025, time: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (UTC+3)





## **African Climate Summit Side Event Concept Note**

**Nature of the event: high-level meeting at the African Climate Summit**

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**Venue: Africa Pavilion, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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### **Background and Context**

Africa is among the regions most vulnerable to climate variability and change, despite contributing only about 4% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. The continent faces increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events—floods, droughts, heatwaves, tropical cyclones, and rising sea levels—that threaten human lives, livelihoods, and critical socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, health, housing, and transport. Recent disasters, including Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, as well as recurrent urban flooding across West and Southern Africa, have caused billions of dollars in damages, displaced millions, and reversed hard-won development gains.

The human cost is stark. Between 2000 and 2019, floods and droughts alone accounted for more than 96% of the 337 million people affected by natural disasters in Africa, and nearly half of disaster-related deaths. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the only region where flood mortality rates have not declined since the 1990s. Urban areas—home to rapidly growing populations, informal settlements, and vulnerable infrastructure—are emerging as hotspots of climate risk. By 2030, exposure of African cities to high-frequency flooding is projected to rise by several hundred percent, with profound implications for poverty reduction, food security, health, and economic resilience.

Yet, evidence shows that effective climate information and early warning systems (CIEWS) can dramatically reduce losses. A 24-hour warning before a hazard strike can cut damages by up to 30%, while investments of USD 800 million in early warning systems could avert USD 3–16 billion in annual losses. Countries with comprehensive systems in place report disaster mortality rates eight times lower than those without. In agriculture, access to reliable climate services enables farmers to adapt planting decisions, reduce losses, and increase productivity. Insurance mechanisms and climate-informed risk financing are also proving valuable in protecting smallholders and vulnerable communities.

Despite these benefits, Africa continues to face significant financing gaps. Less than half of the continent is currently covered by effective early warning systems, and more than half of its population lacks access to tailored climate information. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) institutions remain underfunded, with inadequate infrastructure, data coverage, and human capacity. Africa hosts only 10% of the world's land-based observation networks, and over half of its surface weather stations are unable to collect accurate data.

The African Union and its partners have made progress through initiatives such as the Africa Strategy on Weather, Water and Climate Services, the Programme of Action for the Sendai Framework, the ClimSA programme, and the African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS). However, sustaining and scaling these efforts requires mobilizing greater resources. Innovative and blended finance solutions—linking public, private, and multilateral actors—are urgently needed to strengthen the entire value chain of climate information services, from data generation to community-level action.

This side event will catalyze dialogue and partnerships to bridge the financing gap for weather, water, and climate services (WWCS) in Africa. It will showcase opportunities to leverage existing policy frameworks, including the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy, the Nairobi Declaration of the 2023 Africa Climate Summit, and the global “Early Warnings for All” initiative, while advancing Agenda 2063’s vision for climate-resilient economies and communities.

### **Objectives of the event**

The specific objectives are to:

- Highlight financing gaps and challenges in current investments across the WWCS value chain—from observation to service delivery and last-mile communication.
- Showcase success stories and lessons learned from regional and national investments, including initiatives like AMHEWAS, ClimSA, CREWS, and Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF).
- Explore pathways to mobilize scaled and sustained financing, including:
  - Multilateral climate funds (e.g., GCF, GEF, AF)
  - Private sector engagement and public-private partnerships (PPPs)
  - Domestic budget allocation and regional cooperation mechanisms
- Facilitate dialogue between member States, development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector to foster investment commitments and joint action.
- Sensitize National Designated Authorities to the GCF on the readiness initiative by AUC and GCF to strengthen the capacities of NMHS and DRR institutions.

### **Alignment with ACS-2 Priorities:**

The proposed side event is fully aligned with the priorities of ACS-2 especially:

- Climate Information Services and Early Warning Systems
- Climate and Health



- Sustainable Agriculture, Land Use, and Water and Ocean Governance
- Adaptation and Resilience Strategies
- Climate finance, carbon markets, and innovative financing mechanisms

## **Organisers**

**Lead Partner:** African Union (AUC), the European Union, and Green Climate Fund (GCF)

**Contributing partners:** National Designated Authorities (NDA), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, National Disaster Management institutions, AfDB, WMO, ACMAD, RCCs, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECA.

## **Agenda**

### **ACS-2 Side Event - Agenda**

***Theme: Mobilising Financing to Scale Up Weather, Water and Climate Services for a Climate-Resilient Africa***

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Speaker(s) / Role</b>
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	High-level Opening Segment	<p>Moderator: Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Director, SEBE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director, GCF – Keynote (3 min)</li> <li>• H.E. Amb. Nino Perez, EU Del to AU (3 min)</li> <li>• H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner DARBE – Keynote (3 min)</li> <li>• Hon. Minister CC and Sustainability (Ghana/Vice Chair AMCOMET) – Keynote (3 min)</li> </ul>
<b>10:45 – 10:55</b>	Technical Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUC presentation</li> <li>• Joseph Intsiful, Senior Hydromet Specialist, GCF – Country readiness for financing climate services and Early Warning</li> </ul>
<b>10:55 – 11:25</b>	High-Level Panel Discussion	<p>Moderator: Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Director, SEBE</p> <p>Panelists / Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Fetene Teshome, President of RA I (Africa) =&gt;&gt;. Emphasize national level, close gaps at national showcase</li> <li>• Ousmane Ndiaye, ACMAD-RCC: how ClimSA has provided background on scaling up WWICIS in Africa</li> <li>• Representative, AfDB (TBC), As accredited Entity,</li> <li>• M. Amjad Abbashar, UNDRR, how Climate Services is used for Early Warning (AMHEWAS)</li> <li>• WMO, ASG</li> <li>• UNDP, ASG</li> </ul> <p>Format: 30 min moderated discussion + Q&amp;A</p>
<b>11:25– 11:35</b>	Closing Reflections	<p>Closing remarks and call to action (Moderator: Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Director, SEBE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner DARBE –</li> </ul>

