

PRESS RELEASE

Strategic Retreat Workshop to Validate the ACMAD 2024-2027 Strategic Plan Niamey, February 28, 2025

On Friday, February 28, 2025, the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) organized a Strategic Retreat Workshop to review and validate the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and the ClimSA Project Extension Workplan. The workshop brought together ACMAD's Vice President of the Board, leadership, and all staffs to ensure full ownership of the strategic plan by employees. The meeting was officially opened by the President of the ACMAD Board.

In his opening speech, the Vice President of the Board, Mr. Katiellou Lawane, highlighted ACMAD's longstanding leadership in supporting National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in providing and delivering weather and climate information. He emphasized the critical importance of the strategic plan, stating, *"This Strategic Plan 2024-2027 provides a clear roadmap for the future of the institution, ensuring that our objectives remain aligned with Africa's evolving climate challenges and development priorities."*

Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye, the Director General of ACMAD, underscored the importance of organizing such workshops to ensure that the strategic plan reflects lessons learned, remains user-centered, and aligns with partner frameworks while securing strong employee ownership. He stated, *"This strategic plan represents ACMAD's vision to be a world-class continental operational center of excellence, contributing to a prosperous Africa where people are resilient to extreme events and empowered to mitigate climate change impacts. We need everyone to understand, own, and support its implementation."*

Dr. Ndiaye also outlined the next steps, which include developing a communication plan, presentation to stakeholders (beneficiaries, technical partners and donors), an implementation plan, and resource mobilization.

The workshop was highly productive, with series of plenary and group sessions focusing on the key activities to strengthen ACMAD's future direction. The Centre is now well-prepared to move forward with its strategic objectives and ensure impactful service delivery across the continent.