



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Regional meeting of the technical segment of Experts in view of the validation of the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy

Tuesday April 26 and Wednesday April 27, 2022 in Accra, Ghana

AND

Virtual meeting of the Specialized Ministerial Technical Committee of Ministers in charge of Environment for the Validation of the ECOWAS regional climate strategy and the Climate Financing Strategy based on the needs assessment in West Africa

Friday, April 29, 2021

1 Context and justification

Since December 2020, the ECOWAS Commission has been engaged in a process of formulating its **Regional Climate Strategy (RCS)**, in response to the recommendation of the regional workshop on strategic thinking for climate action in West Africa held in **Lomé in September 2019** (cf. final communiqué of the workshop attached). This recommendation reaffirmed the importance of a collective, concerted and united action to support regional and national responses in the fight against climate change, as well as in the effective implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Paris Agreement in West Africa.

The call for the formulation of the RCS is based on a rich history of interventions in the fight against climate change in the ECOWAS region and particularly within its member states, as evidenced by the Niamey Declaration (April 2015) formulated collectively ahead of the COP21. The ECOWAS Commission, which ensures the political and institutional support of the GCCA+ West Africa project¹ has officially mandated the project to provide the technical support necessary for the development of this strategy.

Considering the founding principles of subsidiarity, solidarity, complementarity and cooperation, the participants in the Lomé workshop stressed the need for the ECOWAS Commission to play an even stronger political leadership role in order to accelerate climate policies in the region for the benefit of the populations of its Member States.

The ECOWAS RCS will facilitate the strengthening of the regional approach for more coordination and solidarity in climate action in West Africa, through project preparation, funding mobilisation, capacity building and monitoring & evaluation.

The RCS addresses key issues and challenges related to adaptation, mitigation and financing in the areas of competence of ECOWAS and according to the modes of intervention provided by its mandate. To this end, it covers several sectors: energy,

¹ The Global Climate Change Alliance+ West Africa project aims to contribute to the regional effort to implement the Paris Agreement and strengthen West Africa's resilience to climate change. This regional project, funded by the European Union, is implemented by Expertise France under the institutional leadership of ECOWAS and in partnership with CILSS / <https://www.expertisefrance.fr/fiche-projet?id=721711>



infrastructure and transport, natural resources (including forests, natural ecosystems and water resources), agriculture, industry, health, coastal areas, risk management and climate services; and presents a **long-term vision aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the ECOWAS Vision 2050**, for the 2030 and 2050 horizons, which will accelerate the transition of ECOWAS countries to a sustainable development pathway, resilient to the negative effects of climate change and low in greenhouse gas emissions.

The formulation of the RCS was based on a review of existing regional frameworks and a diagnostic analysis presented at the first regional stakeholder consultation workshop on 6 July 2021. The process of formulating this RCS also **took into account the common priorities identified by the countries in their NDCs**, their commitment to regional integration and the transboundary nature of climate change impacts. The ECOWAS Commission also wished to follow an inclusive and participatory approach to inform the formulation of its regional strategy.

To this end, a steering committee (ECOWAS SC), in the form of an interdepartmental committee, was created internally at the Commission to lead the strategy development process.

In addition to this internal Commission mechanism, broader regional stakeholder consultations were planned during the development process. These consultations brought together the climate focal points of the 15 ECOWAS Member States, representatives of other regional institutions such as WAEMU, CILSS, EBID, BOAD, ECOWAS' technical and financial partners, as well as representatives of civil society.

The first workshop, which took place virtually on 6 July 2021, **helped to build the vision, strategic and sectoral objectives of the RCS**.

In addition, the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government instructed, through a declaration on climate change adopted in December 2021 during the 60th ordinary session of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, the Commission to finalize and accelerate the implementation of the SRC, in collaboration with specialized regional institutions and Member States.

This process has resulted to date in a draft SRC document that the ECOWAS Commission plans to submit to the Ministers for validation on Friday, April 29, 2022 through a virtual meeting of the Specialized Ministerial Technical Committee (SMTC) of Ministers in charge of environment. Ahead of this Ministerial meeting, the document will be analysed by the meeting of Experts serving as a second consultation, scheduled for April 26 and 27, 2022 in Accra in hybrid format. To this end, a virtual platform will be set up to allow the participation of participants who could not make it to Accra.

In addition to the climate strategy, it will also be submitted to the ministerial meeting for validation, the Need-based climate finance strategy developed with the support and facilitation of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This strategy had already been validated by the experts in 2021. It will therefore be presented to the experts in order to ensure ownership before its submission to the Ministers for validation.

The present terms of reference specify the objectives and expected results of the second workshop of the extended regional consultations.



2 Objectives of the workshop

2.1 Overall objective

The objective of this regional workshop is to review and validate the draft regional climate strategy document and the Need-based climate finance strategy in West Africa by the SMTC.

2.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

1. present the RCS document in its entirety,
2. recall the vision and specific cross-cutting objectives,
3. collect participants' recommendations on the sectoral objectives, the institutional set-up and the means of implementation through group and plenary work,
4. promote ownership and obtain endorsement for technical validation by the SMTC,
5. ensure the validation of the Need-Based Climate Finance Strategy validated by experts in 2021;
6. To foster the commitment of all to the implementation of the RCS.

2.3 Date

The workshop will be held in a hybrid format in Accra on 26-27 April 2022, with Member State representatives attending physically **the meeting in Accra and then the SMTC** on 29 April, while their Ministers will participate virtually.

This will require the Member States' representatives to have briefed their Ministers on 28 April.

The SMTC will be chaired by His Excellency the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana.