High-Level Dialogue

African Leadership on Climate Action: Resilience, Adaptation and Sustainable Development

12 November 2026, 15:30 – 17:00, Leaders' Roundtable Room 1 (Selimiye)

1. Overview and Context

Climate change is a significant challenge to the sustainable development of many African states. It has direct impacts on food security, infrastructure, economic activity, natural resource use and protection, and public finances. Across various regions of the continent, recurrent storms and floods, droughts, and heat waves have demonstrated how quickly climate shocks can reverse development gains, while longer-term trends in temperature, desertification, and ecosystem change pose risks far into the future.

These impacts often fall hardest on people who are already vulnerable due to poverty, protracted crises, or fragility. Where these pressures overlap, governments and communities have less capacity to adapt to, withstand, and recover from shocks, which can have subsequent consequences on food security, livelihoods, and access to essential services, including water. Resources continue to lag behind need: Across the most climate-vulnerable countries, facing compounding crises, less than a quarter of costed climate needs had been mobilized in 2024.

African states are taking important steps to reverse this trend and to ensure resources reach those who need them, that investments are made in knowledge and practice around what works, and that mutual resilience and adaptation remain at the forefront of climate discussions. Investments in resilience and adaptation, and climate-smart action in the fields of food security, energy, and youth do far more than address climate risk: they protect development gains, strengthen social cohesion, and reduce the likelihood that climate shocks compound into wider challenges. As reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. In this spirit, strengthening resilience and advancing sustainable development remain mutually reinforcing priorities.

Investing and supporting climate action across sectors, protecting food security, livelihoods, and institutions is a key priority for African states and organizations. Through the Nairobi Declaration of 2023 and the Addis Ababa Declaration in 2025, a common agenda on climate action for Africa is clear, and will drive discussions ahead of next year's COP in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Together with international partners, who have also made commitments to scale up the response in places where it is most needed, the challenge from now until then is to turn national and regional priorities in key sectors into concrete investments, with resources mobilized, action delivered, and results ready to measure. The Dialogue will also help sustain African-led cooperation from COP 31 in Antalya towards COP 32 in Ethiopia, supporting the advancement of African priorities and implementation efforts.

Adaptation and resilience should be treated as strategic development priorities, not only as a response to disasters. For African countries, the challenge is to scale up resources, improve access, diversify instruments and ensure that investment reaches those most exposed, including communities affected by

multidimensional crises. Success will be measured by the ability to turn commitments into investments, investments into results, and results into greater resilience, sustainable development.

2. Purpose and Objectives

This Dialogue will consider how African-led adaptation and resilience can advance sustainable development, protect populations, and advance prosperity and contribute to resilience. It will focus on how to mobilise the domestic, regional, and international resources need to deliver these investments, including in underserved and crisis-affected areas.

Its objectives are to:

- Showcase African leadership: share national experiences of policies, strategies and coordination mechanisms for adaptation, resilience and climate finance.
- Frame adaptation and climate action as an investment in mutual resilience and sustainable development: show how climate action advances national development priorities while reducing the risk that shocks compound into wider crises.
- Identify concrete sectors in which implementation can accelerate, explore how climate action can support resilient agricultural approaches, water systems, and livelihood support, and look at how fragmented approaches constrain action.
- Set a path for follow up: Commit to a pathway for cooperation and joint African approaches towards COP 32.

3. Participation Level

The Dialogue will be attended by Heads of State and Government, and leaders of international organizations, including the African Union Chairperson and the President of the African Development Bank and CEOs.

4. Session Overview and Format

The Dialogue will follow four segments:

- **Opening:** The moderator will introduce the topic, the objectives and the main challenges for adaptation and resilience in Africa. The framing will highlight the need to turn international commitments into concrete investments, including in underserved and crisis-affected areas.
- **Leaders' Segment:** The Heads of State and Government of Mozambique, Chad and Türkiye will present national experiences, priorities for adaptation and resilience, the effects of compounding vulnerability, and opportunities for resource mobilisation.
- **Strategic Debate:** The moderator will lead a discussion on the strategic questions, encouraging comparison of experiences and the identification of practical solutions. Proposed respondents from African and international institutions will reflect on how their support can align with national priorities.
- **Closing:** The moderator will summarise the main messages, cooperation opportunities and priority recommendations, and outline next steps towards COP 32.

5. Guiding Questions

Participants are invited to structure their interventions along the following guiding questions:

- How are African countries turning national adaptation and development priorities into costed, fundable plans, and what support would allow them to deliver at scale? What lessons are being learned that can be applied elsewhere in the world?
- What are the main obstacles that African countries face in accessing international climate finance, and what concrete measures can speed up the mobilization of resources for national priorities? How does this relate to countries facing compounding crises and challenges? How can innovative financial instruments and the private sector help increase available resources without compromising public debt sustainability or environmental integrity?
- How can African countries mobilise and direct climate finance to strengthen food security, increase the resilience of food and water systems and protect small farmers from droughts, floods and other extreme weather events?
- Where do national priorities align with the interests of international partners, and how can adaptation contribute to sustainable development and social cohesion? What would it take to turn this shared interest into initiatives with clear ownership, measurable results and transparent use of resources?

6. Logistical Details

Hosts / Organizers:	Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Chad and COP 31 Presidency of Türkiye
Date and time:	12 November 2026, 15:30–17:00
Venue:	Leaders' Roundtable Room 1 (Selimiye), COP 31 Antalya
Format:	High-Level Dialogue (90 minutes)