



United Nations
Climate Change



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Unlocking Finance: Accelerating NDC Implementation through Carbon Markets in Africa

CLIMATE WEEK 2
ADDIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
05-06 SEPTEMBER 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

OVERVIEW

As part of Climate Week 2, the UNFCCC Secretariat is hosting a two-day dialogue to explore how carbon markets—particularly those under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement—can be leveraged to unlock climate finance and accelerate the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) worldwide, with a special focus on Africa.

The event will bring together representatives from governments, the private sector, regional and multilateral organizations, and technical experts. Through a mix of information sessions, interactive discussions, and peer-to-peer learning, participants will strengthen foundational knowledge, exchange regional experiences, and identify practical strategies to expand investment and engagement in high-integrity carbon markets.

While the workshop will have a strong Africa-focused and action-oriented approach—aimed at building readiness, mobilizing finance, and advancing NDC implementation—the discussions and insights will also be relevant to other regions.



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OBJECTIVES

01

Examine the current state of climate and development finance in Africa, identifying gaps and opportunities for leveraging carbon markets.

02

Explore how African countries are embedding carbon markets and pricing into their NDCs, and what institutional frameworks are emerging.

03

Build a shared understanding of carbon market mechanisms, particularly the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism.

04

Highlight case studies of African countries that have undertaken carbon market transactions, and the institutional innovations enabling them.

05

Facilitate experience sharing between countries, regional bodies, and multilateral organizations to accelerate learning and action.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Enhanced understanding to engage with carbon markets and leverage Article 6.4 for NDC implementation.



Actionable recommendations for integrating carbon markets into national climate and finance strategies.



Identification of priority actions and partnerships for de-risking and scaling up investment.



Identification of scalable and transformative project pipeline in Africa.



Strengthened networks among African governments, private sector, and development partners.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Day 1: Understanding the fundamentals and the regional context

SESSION 1

0900 - 1000	Opening Session Unlocking Finance: Accelerating NDC Implementation through Carbon Markets
	Welcome Remarks and Context Setting
	Opening session with welcome remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNFCCC (Deputy) Executive Secretary- AU NEPAD Representative (tbc)- AfDB Representative (tbc) UNFCCC led walkthrough the plan of the discussions over the next two days, followed by a group picture.

SESSION 2

	Africa's Climate Finance Landscape and Carbon Market Potential
	High Level Panel Discussion
1000 - 1100	<p>This session will focus on contextualizing Africa's climate finance context and strategic opportunities for leveraging carbon markets (including PACM) to support NDCs.</p> <p>Key Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are Africa's most pressing climate finance challenges and prospects?• How can carbon markets and PACM accelerate NDC achievement? <p>Panelists:</p> <p>El Hadji Mbaye Diagne UNFCCC Article 6.4 Supervisory Body Member Victor Escalona - Project Manager UNDP Climate Hub Carbon Markets Perumal Arumugam - Manager Markets, Non-Markets and Stakeholder Interaction UNFCCC</p>

SESSION 3	
1100 - 1230	Technical Deep-dive: Carbon Market Mechanisms under Article 6
	Interactive Presentation
	<p>UNFCCC Experts explain the Article 6 cooperative mechanisms in a townhall format, followed by moderated discussions with the audience. This session aims to foundational knowledge on voluntary/compliance markets, Article 6.2, and Article 6.4 PACM, including examples of regional initiatives and those in the pipeline.</p> <p>Key Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining market mechanisms under Article 6, main differences and distinctions with other modalities including VCMs. What lessons from early country pilots apply regionally? <p>Presenters: Umamaheswaran Krishnan, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre MENA & South Asia Yannick Wabo, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre Western and Central Africa</p>
1230 - 1330	Lunch Break
SESSION 4	
1330 - 1500	Group Discussion: Mobilizing and aligning finance for climate action and carbon markets
	<p>Participants will be divided into multiple groups, each representing one stakeholder group (MDBs, UN Agencies, Governments, Private Sector, NGOs, Carbon Markets Project Developers).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspectives from MDBs, UN Agencies, Governments, private sector, and other stakeholders on mobilizing finance for NDCs, and identify where carbon markets can complement existing finance streams. <p>Initially each group will discuss the following over the first 30 minutes in a group setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends, gaps, and opportunities in climate finance flows to Africa Unlocking finance, addressing gaps, exploring carbon markets development in the context of existing finance landscape <p>Rapporteur from each group will then share a summary of the insights from the discussions (30 minutes), followed by a guided discussion across the stakeholder groups (30 minutes).</p> <p>Group Discussion Moderators</p>

SESSION 5

Case Studies: Regional Experiences in integrating carbon markets into NDCs

1500 - 1630

This session would aim to spotlights approaches and early experiences of integrating carbon markets into the NDCs and climate policies in Africa from pre-selected countries, and partners supporting carbon markets development in Africa and beyond.

Possible Cases: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, UNEP-CCC, UNFCCC RCCs, GIZ (60 minutes) - **TBC**

The case study discussions will be followed by an open discussion moderated by the UNFCCC to focus on:

- What are the critical support requirements for an effective engagement under Article 6 markets? (30 minutes)

Moderated by: Zubair Shahid, UNFCCC Secretariat

SESSION 6

Connecting the Dots: Insights and Next Steps

1630 - 1700

UNFCCC moderated Townhall Discussion

A facilitated plenary conversation to weave together the day's key insights and learning moments. This interactive exchange will highlight important connections across themes, create a shared understanding of emerging opportunities and challenges, and chart the focus for the next day's discussion.

Moderated by: Zubair Shahid, UNFCCC Secretariat

Day 2: Understanding the fundamentals and the regional context

SESSION 1

0900 - 1030

High integrity and impactful carbon markets participation under PACM

Panel Discussion followed by Audience Q&A

The session will begin with a concise UNFCCC presentation framing the significance of effective participation and how PACM safeguards environmental and social integrity while driving climate ambition.

This will set the stage for a dynamic panel discussion featuring representatives from the UNFCCC Article 6.4 Supervisory Body, World Bank (tbc), UNFCCC Secretariat, and IETA. Panelists will discuss diverse participation pathways, how PACM ensures quality and impact, and the roles of private sector actors, local communities, and NGOs to realize the opportunities presented by PACM. (60 minutes)

This will be followed by an interactive Q&A, enabling the audience to engage directly with panelists, deepening understanding and exploring practical approaches for inclusive, high-integrity market participation in Africa and beyond. (30 minutes)

Panelists:

Perumal Arumugam - UNFCCC Secretariat

UNFCCC Article 6.4 Supervisory Body Members (TBC)

Björn Fondén - International Policy Manager & APAC Lead

SESSION 2

1030 - 1200

De-risking carbon market investments and stimulating demand

This session dives into the essential financial tools and strategic approaches that reduce investment risks in carbon markets while actively stimulating demand for carbon credits. It highlights how guarantees, insurance products, blended finance models, and enabling regulatory reforms can unlock private and public capital, particularly in the African context.

The session will open with short, focused case presentations showcasing successful risk mitigation and demand-creation initiatives from the World Bank (tbc), African Development Bank's Africa Carbon Support Facility, MSCI, followed by a moderated discussion. (60 minutes)

A moderated discussion with the audience will follow to share practical insights on engaging with these approaches, aligning incentives, and overcoming barriers. (30 minutes)

Panelists:

World Bank (tbc)

AfDB (tbc)

Juana Hernandez - Vice President and Carbon Markets International Policy Lead, MSCI Inc

Moderated by Zubair Shahid - UNFCCC Secretariat

SESSION 3

Understanding Demand: Buyers and Market Potential for Carbon Credits

UNFCCC and MSCI | Presentations

This session will follow on the preceding discussions, with the UNFCCC outlining the current and emerging sources of demand for carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's Article 6 framework, both under 6.2 and the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM). The presentation will elaborate on:

- Demand drivers from compliance markets embracing Article 6 trades
- Linkages between voluntary carbon markets and Article 6 market mechanisms
- How countries and regulated entities generate demand through NDC ambitions and international commitments

1200 - 1300

This will be followed by the MSCI presenting their insights from their latest market forecast reports, covering:

- Forecasted market growth in voluntary and compliance carbon markets through 2030 and beyond
- Underlying assumptions and scenarios affecting potential market size (policy, corporate climate commitments, development of high-integrity credits)
- Demand trends by buyer type and sector, including the role of removal credits
- Implications of market integrity initiatives including through PACM for demand expansion.

This will be followed by an audience Q&A, encouraging participants to engage with the implications of growing demand, integrity challenges, and market opportunities.

Speakers:

Perumal Arumugam - UNFCCC Secretariat

Juana Hernandez - Vice President and Carbon Markets International Policy Lead, MSCI Inc

Moderated by Zubair Shahid - UNFCCC Secretariat

1300 - 1400

Lunch Break

SESSION 4

Enhancing collaboration and Capacity Building

This session will showcase some of the main support initiatives and resources available from regional and multilateral actors aimed at building technical capacity, institutional readiness, and collaborative frameworks essential for effective carbon market participation in Africa.

This would include the UNFCCC Secretariat and its Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs), UNEP-Copenhagen Climate Centre, GIZ, alongside other key partners involved in capacity building and technical assistance.

(60 minutes)

Following these showcases, the session facilitates an interactive group discussion where participants focus on:

- Identifying gaps and overlaps in current capacity-building efforts.
- Exploring options for enhanced coordination and partnerships.
- Pinpointing concrete next steps for joint initiatives and knowledge sharing platforms

SESSION 5	
1530 - 1700	From Dialogues to Action: Charting the next steps
	<p>The concluding session turns the rich discussions from the past two days into tangible action pathways at the country or regional level. Participants will work in small, mixed-stakeholder groups within the plenary hall to draft preliminary action roadmaps for integrating carbon markets—particularly through high-integrity mechanisms like the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)—into their NDC implementation strategies, including the development of scalable and transformative project pipelines. (30 minutes)</p> <p>The group exercise will be followed by a report back, where each group briefly presents their priorities and ideas.</p> <p>UNFCCC Secretariat and key partners including RCCs, Regional Alliances, IRENA, UNIDO, AfDB, GIZ will share their support offers, engagement opportunities and outline next steps for continued technical engagement, knowledge sharing, and regional coordination. (30 minutes)</p> <p>Moderated by UNFCCC Secretariat</p>
	Closing Remarks
1630 - 1700	UNFCCC (Deputy) Executive Secretary Representatives of AU / AfDB

Important Details

We are still in the process of getting confirmations from the partners who will participate in delivering or facilitating some sessions. The session details will be subsequently updated, and a final agenda will be shared in advance of the event.

More information on the Climate Week can be found here:

<https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-weeks#Climate-Week-September-2025>

UNFCCC Secretariat's message to IGOs and UN Agencies:

<https://unfccc.int/documents/648836>

For any further information or queries, please contact:

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