

PROPOSAL TO HOST THE

# CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

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## (CTC)

**Submitted by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)**

*An Intergovernmental Think Tank Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya*

*Established 1988*

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| Proponent           | African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)                       |
| Type                | Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO), Non-profit Think Tank        |
| Founded             | 1988, by the late Prof. Calestous Juma                             |
| Headquarters        | Konza Technopolis, Konza, Kenya                                    |
| Charter Signatories | Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Malta; TWAS; ICRAF (CIFOR-ICRAF)     |
| Executive Director  | Prof. Tom Ogada                                                    |
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| Submission Deadline | 16 March 2026                                                      |

*"The future belongs to those who can harness knowledge for action. ACTS exists to be that bridge — between science and policy, between innovation and the communities that need it most."*

— Prof. Calestous Juma, Founder, ACTS

## SECTION A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A.1 About ACTS

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The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) is an intergovernmental, non-profit research think tank founded in 1988 by the late Professor Calestous Juma, one of Africa's most celebrated scientists and development scholars. For nearly four decades, ACTS has pursued one unwavering mission: to strengthen the capacity and policies of African countries and institutions to harness science, technology, and innovation (STI) for sustainable development.

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, a city that is increasingly a global hub for climate innovation, technology diplomacy, and multilateral engagement. ACTS is uniquely positioned at the intersection of research, policy, and implementation. With charter signatories including Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and Malta, plus international organisations such as The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF/CIFOR-ICRAF), ACTS holds a legal status and governance legitimacy that few organisations can match.

ACTS operates five strategic programmes: Climate Resilient Economies (CRE), Agriculture Food and Nutrition Security (AFNS), Science Technology Innovation Knowledge and Society (STIKS), the ACTS AI Institute (ACAI), and Gender Youth and Inclusive Development (GYID). All five are directly relevant to the mandate of the CTCN.

### A.2 Our Vision for the CTCN

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ACTS proposes to host a reimagined CTCN, one that is not merely a responsive service desk for developing countries, but a proactive, networked catalyst for climate technology-driven transformation. Our vision is grounded in three strategic pillars:

- **South-Centred Leadership:** Moving the CTCN's operational centre of gravity to the Global South, embedding it within the lived realities, innovation ecosystems, and policy environments of the countries it serves, starting from Africa but extending to Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and SIDS anchored on south-south-north knowledge, technology and capabilities exchange.
- **AI-Augmented Delivery:** Leveraging ACTS's AI Institute (ACAI) to deploy responsible artificial intelligence for technology needs assessment, matchmaking, portfolio management, and evidence synthesis, accelerating the speed and quality of responses to developing country
- **Endogenous Innovation First:** Privileging Indigenous and endogenous technologies, local innovation ecosystems, women- and youth-led enterprises, and community-driven solutions, shifting the CTCN from a conduit for technology import to an engine for technology sovereignty in relation to generation and access for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Under ACTS leadership, the CTCN will respond faster, reach deeper into underserved communities, build more durable capacities, and generate more equitable technology outcomes than at any point in its history.

### **A.3 Key Strengths**

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- 37 years of sustained policy research and technical assistance at the nexus of STI and sustainable development in Africa and the Global South.
- Proven track record across 30+ major climate-related projects, spanning adaptation, mitigation, clean energy, food systems transformation, urban resilience, air quality, and circular economy.
- Deep expertise in gender-responsive and youth-led climate innovation — directly aligned with the revised CTCN functions under Annex 1.
- Pioneering AI-for-development capabilities through the ACTS AI Institute, with active scholarship programs, mentorship hubs, and responsible AI research across 5 development domains.
- Established partnerships with UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, UNESCO, World Bank, USAID, FCDO, IDRC, NORAD, Sida, Stockholm Environment Institute, and dozens of national governments and universities.
- Intergovernmental legal status enabling ACTS to enter agreements with governments, UN agencies, and international bodies with full fiduciary and diplomatic recognition.
- Located in Nairobi — home of UNEP headquarters and a growing cluster of climate finance, innovation, and development institutions — enabling exceptional access to the CTCN's primary stakeholder community.

### **A.4 Financial Commitment Summary**

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ACTS commits to providing substantial in-kind and financial support to the CTCN secretariat for the initial 5-year hosting period, including: dedicated office space within ACTS's campus and technology center; administrative, HR, legal, and IT support services; and active resource mobilisation leveraging its funding and strategic partnerships. A full budget breakdown is provided in Section D.

### **A.5 Transition and Continuity**

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ACTS will establish a dedicated Transition Management Unit (TMU) from day one of appointment, drawing on existing staff with deep CTCN-relevant expertise. ACTS commits to a zero-disruption transition protocol: ongoing requests will be honoured, NDE relationships maintained, and all knowledge assets transferred within a structured 90-day handover period working closely with the current host and the UNFCCC Secretariat.