The African Climate Policy Centre retools to strengthen the implementation of the Paris Agreement for Africa’s transformation.

The Paris Agreement on climate change represents a pipeline of hope for Africa in particular, and developing countries in general. It signaled a new dawn – a political endorsement of a development model that is not achieved at the expense of resource efficiency and growth. In short, the Paris Agreement was a political triumph to nudge solidarity from nation states through the recognition that the magnitude of the problem warrants greater urgency. As a collective responsibility for global leaders to recalibrate economies to a temperature guardrail below 2 degrees. A key outcome of the 2015 Paris Agreement was the adoption of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as the mechanism by which all signatories to the agreement would address climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. But African countries will need analytical, policy and economic development mandate. The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) serves as the secretariat and the analytical arm of the Climate Change and Sustainability (CCDS). With the ACPC’s promotion of the uptake and use of Climate Information Services for development planning is also being achieved through its Climate Change Adaptation Research for Development (CR4D) and its flagship annual Climate Change and Development in Africa conference (CCDA).

Transitioning for the African transformation: staying the NDC course. While emissions from economic activity in Africa remains extremely low, by signing up to the Paris Agreement and submitting NDCs, African countries have sent a clear signal of their commitment to achieve climate-resilient and low-carbon development while contributing to global climate actions. However, many of the continent’s NDCs are currently in need of significant re-elaboration as it has become clear that they were initially rushed to meet submission deadlines for the COP 21. Nevertheless, African nations remain committed to the achievement of climate-resilient and low-carbon development through their NDCs. ACPC will continue to respond to on-going requests from Member States to assist them with the refinement and implementation of NDCs. As such ACPC will ensure that policymakers, private sector and development practitioners are using climate-informed analyses to design adaptation, mitigation and risk reduction programmes elaborated in their NDCs.

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