

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative  
for Policy Dialogues

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The Position of African Civil Society

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative for Policy Dialogues - ACCID

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Week ending 23 October 2009

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### Editor's choice

#### **[Africa readies united front for crucial Copenhagen talks](#)**

*Inter Press Service*

United Nations: As African leaders meet in Ethiopia to discuss the devastating impacts of climate change, the United Nations has released a report, [Climate change and its possible security implications](#), warning that the economically-troubled continent will be one of the hardest hit by the ravages of global warming...

#### **[Climate change and African political stability](#)**

*University of Texas*

Austin: The Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law has been awarded a \$7.6 million grant by the US Department of Defense. The five-year grant will fund the Center's Program on Climate Change and African Political Stability, which will identify how climate change could trigger disasters in Africa that undermine political stability...

#### **[Southern African Five Cities Network launched](#)**

*New Era*

Walvis Bay: Representatives of various international environmental agencies, local authorities and some ministries attended a workshop last week at Walvis Bay that focused on the impact of climate change. The meeting looked at establishing a framework that would help humanity to adapt to the effects of climate change...

### UNU collaborates with African universities

*Peace FM*

Accra: The United Nations University (UNU) is collaborating with African universities to develop postgraduate programmes on climate change and sustainable development to assist Africa in adjusting to climate change conditions. The UNU is also collaborating with academics and scientists to create a network, from which information sharing and scientific knowledge could be made practical and available to people...

### Africans demand voice in climate change meeting

*Business Daily*, 19 October 2009

Nairobi: Last week's call by President Kibaki for the African declaration on climate change to be translated into native languages spoken in the continent has rekindled a long-standing debate on the involvement of communities who bear the brunt of global warming in the global negotiations...

### Report: Kenyans ignorant on climate change

*Capital FM*, 19 October 2009

Nairobi: Despite Kenya's vulnerability to climate change with the severe drought and flooding, many barely understand what climate change really is, according to a report by British government agencies. [Research](#) done by the British Council and BBC World Service Trust indicates Kenyans do not have the tools to understand and effectively respond to the changing climate...

### Swedish EU Presidency: Environment, climate change and security

*ISRIA*, 19 October 2009

Stockholm: Today's conference has brought together eminent experts from different sectors to explore the multi-dimensional impacts of climate change on our collective security. The purpose has been to build understanding and awareness on an issue that is rapidly becoming a reality for many of us...

### World 'has five years' to stop climate change

*Business Day*, 19 October 2009

Johannesburg: The world has just five years to move to a low-carbon economy if runaway climate change is to be prevented, says the Climate Solutions II report released by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) last week. It finds that runaway climate change is almost inevitable without specific action to implement low-carbon reindustrialisation over the next five years...

[East Africa: Regional MPs advocate for climate change mitigation](#)

*The New Times*, 19 October 2009

Kigali: Regional parliamentarians have vowed to support the policy, legal and institutional frameworks that enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and to also lobby for transparency in cross-border resource management. They made the recommendation at the closure of the regional Parliamentary Forum on Environmental Security in Eastern Africa...

[East African Community/AMCEN climate change workshop proceedings](#)

*UNEP*, 20 October 2009

Kigali: The AMCEN Secretary extended his thanks to the Government and people of Rwanda for hosting the current [meeting](#), recalling that climate change posed unprecedented challenges to Africa and threatened to erode the modest gains made by the continent in attaining the Millennium Development Goals...

[First Africa gender and climate change training of trainers kicks off](#)

*UNEP*, 20 October 2009

Addis Ababa: The first Africa Gender and Climate Change training of trainers workshop being held in Addis Ababa, was officially opened by the UNEP Representative to the Africa Union, UNECA and Ethiopia Dr Strike Mkandla. Welcome remarks were made by Dr Coumba Mar Gadio, the UNDP Gender practice leader for West Africa...

[Chief scientist says it would be 'unwise' not to develop GM crops in Britain](#)

*The Telegraph*, 20 October 2009

London: Professor John Beddington said the world will have to produce 50 per cent more food by 2030 in order to feed the growing population. He said the only way to do this is to grow more crops on less land by using the latest scientific innovation, including crops genetically modified to be drought or disease resistant...

[Preparing to mitigate negative impact of El Niño](#)

*Irin*, 20 October 2009

Nairobi: As countries across East Africa and the Horn of Africa begin to receive El Niño-related enhanced rainfall, disaster risk reduction experts from 10 countries in the region are meeting in Nairobi to develop strategies for reducing the negative impact of the evolving El Niño phenomenon...

[Humanitarian stockpile takes shape - on paper](#)

*Irin*, 21 October 2009

Bamako: When a storm hits in Togo, disaster relief items must be flown in from Brindisi, Italy, but that is just too far, according to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which is formalizing the region's first government-operated humanitarian stockpile in Mali's capital Bamako...

[Include climate change programmes on budget, government urged](#)

*Newsnet*, 21 October 2009

Kadoma: Parliamentarians who attended a two day climate change workshop in Kadoma have called on government to start considering putting in place a budget for climate change adaptation programmes that include water harvesting, re-forestation, conservation farming and irrigation equipment...

[India, China ink pact to fight climate change together](#)

*Economic Times*, 21 October 2009

New Delhi: India and China Wednesday signed an agreement to cooperate on ways to fight climate change. They will also continue to work together in international climate deal negotiations. There is virtually no difference between Indian and Chinese "negotiating positions" on international climate treaties, India's Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said...

[Global forest monitoring to help mitigate climate change](#)

*APO*, 21 October 2009

Rome: For the first time worldwide, free and ready-to-use high-resolution satellite data is now available to monitor forests and help reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The monitoring system has been launched by FAO and other partners as part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment...

[Legislative intervention in Nigeria's gas sector](#)

*ThisDay*, 21 October 2009

Lagos: Nigeria has continued to be a country of paradoxes and ironies, almost fifty years after its independent political existence. It is the sixth largest producer of crude oil in the world, yet it has continued to import petroleum products from other member countries of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries...

[Carbon capture effort collects critics](#)

*Inter Press Service, 21 October 2009*

Berlin: The capture and underground storage of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, is a dubious method of effectively reducing the pollution that causes global warming, experts warn...

[Kenya digs in for funds to fight climate change risks](#)

*Business Daily, 21 October 2009*

Nairobi: Kenya will join other African nations in demanding that the industrialised world pays for damages of climate change caused by decades of heavy carbon emissions. It will team up with the developing world in seeking financial compensation for bearing the greatest burden of climate change President Kibaki said...

[Copenhagen: Ghana to spearhead continent's position](#)

*The Chronicle, 22 October 2009*

Accra: The government is to spearhead a strong African voice at the Copenhagen talks on climate change, which is seven weeks away. The move is to signal the seriousness of climate change issues as they affect Africa and other vulnerable countries in the third world. This was disclosed by Mr Rudolph Kuuzegh, the Director of Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology at a high-level policy dialogue on climate change in Accra yesterday...

[Special AU summit in Uganda discusses climate change](#)

*African Press Agency, 22 October 2009*

Kampala: African nations were on Wednesday urged to place climate change at the center of development to avoid more displacement of people on the continent. The African Union Commissioner in charge of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs Rhoda Tumusiime, said that it is important that Africa speaks with a strong unified voice in future international negotiations, and that this voice should be heard...

[London MEF meeting: Chair's summary](#)

*US State Department, 22 October 2009*

London: The fifth meeting at the Leaders' representative level of the Major Economies Forum on energy and climate met in London. It was attended by officials from seventeen major economies, as well as the United Nations and Denmark, with ministerial observers from Lesotho and the Maldives participating in the session, and additional observers from Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, and Norway...

[Gas emissions from industrialized countries increased in 2007](#)

*Afrique en ligne*, 22 October 2009

Lusaka: Greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized countries increased in 2007, continuing the upward trend of the previous six years, the United Nations Climate Change secretariat revealed Wednesday...

[Oil world says fossil fuels most realistic for now](#)

*Reuters*, 22 October 2009

London: The world must invest heavily in fossil fuels or face an energy crisis, said leaders of the oil industry gathered in London this week as they voiced scepticism about prospects for a climate change deal in Copenhagen. The oil industry has shifted its message to a more climate-friendly approach, but argued that for now oil and gas were the ways to meet the world's energy needs...

[SA firms 'not preparing for climate change risks'](#)

*Business Report*, 23 October 2009

Johannesburg: Law firm Webber Wentzel, a sponsor of the South African [Carbon Disclosure Project](#), is warning companies that climate litigation has started to become a reality - and is likely to increase as the effects of climate change become more acute...

[Cotton producers in Mali speak out against climate change](#)

*VOA News*, 23 October 2009

Dakar: Cotton producers in southern Mali held a climate change awareness day to highlight the effects of global warming on agriculture and sustenance. The aid agency Oxfam, which backed the event, says livelihoods in the region are threatened by unpredictable weather patterns. Almost one third of Malians rely on the cotton industry...

[Global Sugar Alliance: climate change, Doha](#)

*Reuters*, 23 October 2009

Sao Paulo: The huge challenges facing the world economy demonstrate -- if such demonstration was needed -- that we live in a global economic system and there is no escape behind protectionist trade barriers. World leaders, acting together, have taken decisive steps to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of the financial system...

[Fewer Americans see solid evidence of global warming](#)

*Pew Research Centre, 23 October 2009*

There has been a sharp decline over the past year in the percentage of Americans who say there is solid evidence that global temperatures are rising. And fewer also see global warming as a very serious problem - 35% say that today, down from 44% in April 2008. The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center...

[Geoengineering the planet: the possibilities and the pitfalls](#)

*Yale Environment 360/Reuters, 23 October 2009*

Atmospheric scientist Ken Caldeira first became known for his groundbreaking work on ocean acidification, a phrase originally coined as a headline for one of his papers. Of late, however, Caldeira's research has led him into the controversial area of geoengineering - the large-scale, deliberate manipulation of the Earth's climate system...

[Lester Brown: The rising tide of environmental refugees](#)

*Inter Press Service, 23 October 2009*

Washington: Our early twenty-first century civilisation is being squeezed between advancing deserts and rising seas. Measured by the biologically productive land area that can support human habitation, the earth is shrinking. Mounting population densities, once generated solely by population growth, are now also fueled by the relentless advance of deserts and may soon be affected by the projected rise in sea level...

[Desmond Tutu: Spirit that freed South Africa must now rescue the planet](#)

*Sydney Morning Herald, 23 October 2009*

Sydney: The intense debate about dealing with climate change has mostly taken place between powerful players in the rich world. The battles between coal and oil companies, whose products cause climate change, and environmentalists have largely been fought in rich countries. The United States, European Union and China have driven negotiations on the international stage...

[Changement climatique: Les Africains imperméables aux discours](#)

*Afrique en ligne, 23 October 2009*

Dakar: Les résultats d'un projet de recherche dénommé "Africa talks climate", publiés jeudi à Dakar, Sénégal, par le British Council et la BBC World Service Trust, montrent que la plupart des Africains ne comprennent pas les contours du discours sur le changement climatique dont le continent est pourtant l'une des plus grandes victimes...

## **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)**

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