

Climate Commission for the Sahel Region



CLIMATE COMMISSION
SAHEL REGION **CCSR**

Executive Secretariat



8th Meeting of the ^{Joint} Working Group of
experts from CCRS member countries
Niamey, October 21-24, 2024

FINAL REPORT

Introduction

From October 21 to 24, 2024, the eighth (8th) Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) of experts from CCRS member countries was held at the Bravia Hotel in Niamey, Niger.

The overall objective of the 8th ^{meeting} of the GTC is to contribute to the implementation of the roadmap of priority actions for the operationalization of the Executive Secretariat and the Climate Fund for Sahel Resilience. The specific objectives of this meeting were to:

- a. Present the process of operationalizing the CCRS;
- b. Formally install the GTC presidium for the 2024-2026 term;
- c. Review and validate the revised document of the Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel Region (PIC-RS) and its operationalization tools;
- d. Review and validate the deliverables of the complementary study for the operationalization of the Climate Fund for Sahel Resilience ;
- e. Discuss the process of the Sahel Climate Resilience and Security Facility;
- f. Review and validate additional documents necessary for the proper functioning of the CCRS Executive Secretariat;
- g. Review the status of implementation of member countries' NDCs;
- h. Prepare and validate the report of the 8th ^{meeting} of the GTC.

1. Participants in the 8th GTC Meeting

The following took part in this meeting:

- 1.1 Experts from the following CCRS member states: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad
- 1.2 Consultants and expert resource persons
- 1.3 Experts representing the following partner institutions and organizations: the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Integrated Development Authority of the Liptako-Gourma States (ALG), the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mercy Corps, World Food Programme (WFP), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Niger River Basin Authority (NBA), Volta Basin Authority (VBA), Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), WaterAid, Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The list of participants is attached to this report.

2. Progress of the work

The work of the meeting took place in five (05) main phases:

- the opening ceremony;

- the formal installation of the GTC presidium for the 2024-2026 term of office, which was preceded by the presentation of the framework elements and the process for the operationalization of the CCRS;
- the review and validation of the draft documents announced above;
- exchanges on the status of implementation of member countries' NDCs;
- the closing ceremony.

3. Opening ceremony

It was punctuated by:

3.1 Welcome words from Brigadier General Abdou Assoumane Harouna, Governor of the Niamey Region
In his speech, the Governor of the Niamey Region warmly welcomed all participants to Niamey, while noting the particular context of the holding of the 8th ^{GTC} Meeting, namely the extreme weather phenomena (the Harmatan, scorching temperatures and torrential rains) experienced by the region in 2024. Finally, he praised the efforts of the highest authorities of the member countries and those of the Executive Secretary to make the CCRS fully operational, and hoped that the meeting would produce concrete results.

3.2 Speech by Mrs. Kinday Samba, WFP Country Representative and Director in Niger
The Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Niger expressed her gratitude for the invitation to speak at this important event and congratulated the Executive Secretariat of the CCRS for the successful organization of the meeting. She recalled that climate crises, including floods, are destroying the development efforts of countries in the Sahel region, and stressed the importance of financing climate risk management projects. The Representative and Country Director of WFP in Niger indicated that WFP is implementing several projects aligned with Agenda 2063 and the vision of the CCRS. She reiterated WFP's commitment to working closely with the CCRS to support large-scale innovative actions.

3.3 Speech by Ms. Nicole Flora Kouassi, UNDP Resident Representative in Niger
The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Niger expressed her gratitude to the Nigerien authorities for their leadership in supporting the implementation of resilience actions. She also congratulated the Executive Secretary of the CCRS for his leadership in conducting the activities of the Commission and praised the perfect organization of the 8th ^{Meeting} of the GTC. UNDP, she said, remains committed to supporting the CCRS in its governance efforts and the development of structuring projects to strengthen the resilience of populations and communities in the Sahel.

3.4 Speech by HE Issifi Boureima, Executive Secretary of the CCRS
The Executive Secretary welcomed the remarkable mobilization of the participants, while also saluting and magnifying the sustained commitment of the Republic of Niger to the process of operationalizing the CCRS. He also expressed his thanks to the highest authorities of the Republic of Niger for facilitating the organization of this event, as well as to the partners, including the UNDP and the AfDB.

The Executive Secretary also recalled the various achievements and prospects relating to the implementation of the roadmap of priority actions developed in accordance with the guidelines of the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government. He concluded ^{his} speech by reaffirming the commitment of the CCRS to continue its efforts to strengthen the climate resilience and sustainable development of its member countries.

3.5 Opening speech by Colonel Abdoulaye Maizama, Minister of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Environment of the Republic of Niger, President of the Ministerial Meeting of the CCRS

The Minister of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Environment of the Republic of Niger, President of the Ministerial Meeting of the CCRS, on behalf of His Excellency Brigadier General Abdourahamane Tiani, President of the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Fatherland, Head of State of Niger and HE Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, Prime Minister of Niger, Minister of Economy and Finance, welcomed all participants.

He stressed that Niger, like other member countries, welcomes the remarkable progress made in the operationalization of the CCRS. He recalled that inaction in the face of climate challenges is not an option and called for enhanced synergy between stakeholders to address these challenges facing the region.

The Minister also encouraged member countries to work towards fulfilling their commitments while reaffirming Niger's firm determination to maintain the momentum of its leadership in order to enable this inter-state organization, whose headquarters are located in Niger, to successfully carry out its mission within the framework of strengthening synergy between stakeholders, supporting the development of structuring projects and the mobilization of resources.

4. Formal installation of the GTC presidium for the 2024-2026 term

This session, chaired by HE Issifi Boureima, Executive Secretary of the CCRS, began with the presentation of the objectives and the framework elements for the proper conduct of the work.

This was followed by a communication on the process of operationalizing the CCRS, which allowed participants to be presented with the bodies and governance bodies of the Commission, the main achievements as well as the priority actions of the Executive Secretariat for 2025-2026.

Regarding the establishment of the GTC presidium for 2024-2026, a reminder was made regarding article 5 of the additional protocol which subdivided the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS) into the following three geographical sub-regions:

- Zone 1 composed of the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Gambia, the Republic of Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Senegal;
- Zone 2 composed of the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Niger and the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Zone 3 composed of the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Djibouti, the State of Eritrea, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Chad.

After consultations and discussions, the meeting validated the composition of the GTC presidium for the 2024-2026 term as follows:

- ✓ President : Niger, country of zone 2 ensuring the presidency of the Ministerial Meeting
- ✓ 1st Vice-President: Chad, for zone 3
- ✓ 2nd Vice-President: Senegal, for zone 1
- ✓ Rapporteur 1: Executive Secretariat of the CCRS
- ✓ Rapporteur 2: Benin, on behalf of French-speaking countries
- ✓ Rapporteur 3: Gambia, on behalf of the English-speaking countries

5. Review and validation of draft documents

At the start of the work, the Chair of the GTC first reassured herself of a consensus within the plenary session with regard to the methodological approach relating to the validation of documents. The document validation methodology used is as follows:

- ✓ Presentation of documents by consultants;
- ✓ General observations on each document;
- ✓ Specific observations and consideration of proposed amendments.

5.1 Review and validation of deliverables relating to the revision of the PIC-RS

As a reminder, the Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel Region (PIC-RS) was adopted on February 25, 2019 during the first Conference of Heads of State of the CCRS. After six years of implementation, it appeared necessary to revise this plan to take into account new challenges such as climate security as well as the evolution of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of member countries which are the bases of the PIC-RS. Thus, the total estimated cost for the implementation of the revised PIC-RS is 127.209 billion US dollars over the period 2025-2030, corresponding to a contribution of 20% in covering the projected costs of the third generation NDCs of member countries. This revised PIC-RS is thus organized around five (05) strategic axes, ten (10) Programs and Twenty-two (22) Sub-Programs.

Discussions relating to the review and validation of the PIC-RS focused mainly on the substance and form of the content of the following deliverables:

- The revised PIC-RS document
- The governance mechanism for the implementation of the PIC-RS
- The PIC-RS monitoring and evaluation system
- The monitoring and evaluation guide for the implementation of the NDCs of member countries

After review, the deliverables were validated subject to taking into account the following observations and contributions:

- Further develop the argument for choosing 20% as the PIC-RS contribution to the implementation of third-generation NDCs in member countries;
- Take into account the following priority actions in the revised PIC-RS programs and sub-programs: climate risk management and anticipatory actions, support for the mobilization of the private sector in the financing of projects and programs;
- Reorganize axis 4 (climate security) to take into account conflicts linked to resources as well as climate mobility;
- Strengthen coordination between the different levels of the governance system for the implementation of the PIC-RS;
- Formalize, if necessary, the establishment of National Working Groups (NWGs) at the level of each member country through official acts;
- Clearly define the steps and methods for operationalizing GTNs.

5.2 Review and validation of the deliverables of the complementary study on the operationalization of the Climate Fund for the resilience of the Sahel

As a reminder, this study follows the feasibility study for the establishment of the Climate Fund for Sahel Resilience which was carried out and adopted by the CCRS bodies between 2022 and 2023. The aim was to provide the Sahel region with a financial mechanism to facilitate the mobilization of resources to finance projects to combat climate change in order to contribute to the implementation of the Climate Investment Plan (PIC-RS) and its Priority Program to Catalyze Investments (PPCI).

The strategies and procedures for mobilizing resources for the benefit of the Sahel Climate Fund for Resilience and those relating to project financing were presented and discussed.

The discussions relating to the examination and validation of the deliverables of the complementary study on the operationalization of the Climate Fund for Resilience in the Sahel focused mainly on the substance and form of the content of the following documents:

- The Operational Manual
- The capitalization strategy

- The Resource Mobilization Guide

These deliverables were validated after examination of the contents of the documents subject to taking into account the following observations:

- Simplify the framework for submitting projects for financing from the Climate Fund for Resilience in the Sahel;
- Facilitate access to financing from the Sahel Climate Fund for Resilience for member countries while ensuring strict compliance with standards relating to the administration of financial flows;
- Clarify the conditions and criteria for access to financing from the Climate Fund for Resilience in the Sahel by national structures and entities;
- Clarify the role of GTNs in the project endorsement and submission process;
- Clarify the distribution key for funds between member countries;
- Highlight the priority of adaptation financing in light of the importance and crucial challenge of adaptation for CCRS member countries;
- Identify innovative capitalization mechanisms, in particular through the mobilization of endogenous resources
- Detail the procedures for mobilizing resources for capitalization
- Further detail the action plan for the capitalization strategy, specifying in particular the results of the capitalization actions as well as their respective budgets
- Taking into account environmental and social criteria to ensure that investments from the Sahel Resilience Climate Fund meet sustainability standards
- Create a framework for collaboration with the Designated National Authorities to deepen the feasibility analysis for the Climate Fund for the resilience of the Sahel to use the project readiness mechanisms proposed by the Green Climate Fund and other international financial instruments.

5.3 Discussions on the mobilization of financial contributions from member countries and the process of establishing the Facility for Resilience and Climate Security in the Sahel

The Executive Secretariat of the CCRS presented a communication relating to decision No. 03/CCRS/CCEG.02/23 of the 2nd ^{Conference} of Heads of State and Government setting out the terms of contributions for their participation in the 1st ^{Capitalization} of the Climate Fund for Sahel Resilience and the operation of the Executive Secretariat of the CCRS as well as that of the Climate Fund for Sahel Resilience. It emerges that only Niger is up to date with respect to the part of the contributions to be mobilized by March 2024 at the latest.

Following the discussions that followed, the participants recommended that the Executive Secretariat of the CCRS send official correspondence to be transmitted through diplomatic channels to relaunch member countries regarding the implementation of the commitments of member countries, in particular the mobilization of contributions in accordance with the aforementioned decision.

A second communication was presented by the Executive Secretariat of the CCRS in connection with the establishment of the Facility for Resilience and Climate Security in the Sahel. This is indeed a Facility planned to be operationalized in collaboration with the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) which presents comparative advantages and guarantees of coherence, coordination and efficiency in the mobilization and execution of financing from various sources within timeframes adapted to the urgency required for the implementation of resilience and pacification actions in the Sahel.

The participants welcomed this approach, which should ensure the effective implementation of the Climate Fund for Sahel Resilience while working towards the regular and sustained implementation of resilience actions for the benefit of the Sahel region.

5.4 Discussions on the establishment of the CCRS regional carbon market

A presentation on the process of establishing a regional carbon market of the CCRS was made by Mr. Louis Lubango of the ECA, which gave rise to discussions between the participants. Clarifications were provided regarding the steps necessary for the establishment of the regional market and the need to establish a link between national markets and the regional carbon market.

5.5 Review and validation of revisions to the Executive Secretariat procedures manual

Following the communication presented by the consultant in connection with the revision of the Procedures Manual to comply with the new accounting plan to govern non-profit organizations and institutions, the participants appreciated and took good note of said revision aimed at ensuring coherent operation of the Executive Secretariat.

6. Exchanges on the status of implementation of the NDCs of member countries

The member countries present at the meeting successively presented the status of implementation of their NDCs for information purposes.

The implementation framework of the Niger NDC was presented for information by Mr. Sani Maazou, National Facilitator NDC Partnership.

This session was closed by a presentation by Mr. Ibrahim LANKOANDE, Consultant, on the comparative analysis of the NDCs of member countries. This presentation made it possible to make proposals for improvements within the framework of the third generation NDCs that will be developed.

7. Recommendations made by the 8th Meeting of the GTC

The 8th Meeting of the GTC formulated a series of recommendations annexed to this report, addressed in particular to:

- From the Executive Secretariat of the CCRS
- Member countries
- From the Republic of Niger
- From the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
- From the African Union Commission
- From the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- sub-regional and regional bodies for the implementation of climate actions and sustainable development
- technical and financial partners (TFP)
- other CCRS stakeholders (private sector, CSOs, local authorities, etc.).

8. Thanks and congratulations from the 8th GTC Meeting

The 8th Meeting of the GTC addressed a series of thanks and congratulations annexed to this report, addressed in particular to:

- From the Republic of Niger
- From the Executive Secretariat

- Technical and Financial Partners (TFP)
- resource persons mobilized within the framework of the organization of the 8th Meeting
- of the Presidium of the Joint Working Group (JWG) of Experts from member countries

9. Closing ceremony

The 8th Meeting of the GTC closed its work after adoption by the plenary of this Final Report under the Presidency of HE Issifi Boureima, Executive Secretary of the CCRS who took the opportunity to congratulate the participants for the success of the work before wishing them a safe return to their respective countries.

Conclusion

The 8th Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) of experts from CCRS member countries marked an important step towards strengthening the institutional framework and efforts to mobilize the resources needed to address climate challenges in the Sahel.

Participants engaged in in-depth discussions and provided valuable recommendations for improving the deliverables from the PIC-RS review and the additional studies for the operationalization of the Sahel Climate Resilience Fund. These discussions resulted in the validation of all documents submitted for assessment by the GTC, subject to taking into account the observations and recommendations made for the attention of the consultants who conducted the studies.

The GTC reaffirmed its commitment to advancing climate resilience and sustainable development in the region.

Done in Niamey on October 24, 2024,

For Reunion:

Mrs. ABBA KIARI Ramata, President of the GTC

ANNEX 1: LIST OF JWG PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 : RECOMMENDATIONS

8th Meeting of the
Joint Working Group (JWG) of Experts from CCSR Member
Countries
Niamey, October 21-24, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 8th Meeting of the Joint Working Group of Experts from member countries and partners of the CCSR, held in Niamey, Niger from October 21 to 24, 2024, makes the following recommendations:

1. To the Executive Secretariat of the CCSR:

Considering the success of the results recorded during its first year of operation;

Considering the guidelines of the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government relating to the monitoring of the settlement of due diligences linked to its operationalization and those of the Climate Fund for Resilience in the Sahel (FCS);

The Meeting recommends sending reminders through diplomatic channels to member countries to implement their commitments; continuing advocacy with technical and financial partners in the Sahel Region to maintain their commitments, as well as with the African Union Commission for its sustained commitment .

The Meeting urges to strengthen the synergy between the actors of the Sahel resilience and adaptation agenda in order to ensure coherence and efficiency of actions.

The Meeting recommends strengthening the mobilization of all non-state actors in the face of climatic and other subsequent challenges affecting the Sahel Region

2. To the member countries of the CCSR:

Considering the decision to create the CCSR born from the desire of the Leaders of the Sahel Region to pool their efforts within the framework of the agenda of resilience, adaptation and sustainable development;

Considering the decisions of the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government relating to the operationalization of its Executive Secretariat and the Sahel Climate Resilience Fund (FCS);

The Meeting recommends accelerating the implementation of the respective commitments and supporting the advocacy agenda by taking the CCSR into account in the frameworks of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

3. To the Republic of Niger:

Considering that the Joint Working Group (JWG) is placed under the Ministerial Meeting of the CCSR chaired by the Republic of Niger;

The Meeting recommends that these recommendations be brought to the attention of the member countries and partners of the Sahel as well as to the African Union (AU) in relation to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, assuming the current presidency of the AU.

4. To the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

Considering the decisions of the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government relating to the creation of the Sahel Climate Fund for Resilience (FCS) and the designation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as its host country;

Considering the guidelines of the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government given to the Executive Secretariat of the CCSR for rapid operationalization of the said Fund for the benefit of member countries;

Considering the expected role of this regional financial mechanism in the framework of the mobilization of resources in relation to the Executive Secretariat of the CCSR;

The Meeting recommends taking the necessary steps in relation to the Executive Secretariat for the settlement of due diligences relating to the rapid operationalization of the Climate Fund for Resilience in the Sahel.

5. To the African Union (AU)

Considering that the CCSR is placed under the aegis of the African Union (AU) like its other counterparts;

Considering the call addressed to the African Union (AU) Commission by the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the CCSR held in Addis Ababa on February 17, 2023 for its sustained support for the operationalization of the Executive Secretariat of the CCSR;

Considering the existence of support mechanisms provided for African climate initiatives at the level of the Technical Departments of the African Union Commission;

Noting the low level of commitment to the support expected from the Pan-African organization;

The meeting recommends that the African Union Commission (AUC) promote the establishment of a coherent and sustainable partnership framework with climate commissions, particularly which dedicated to the Sahel.

6. To the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which holds the current presidency of the African Union (AU)

Considering the political will displayed and the leadership affirmed by the current President of the African Union, HE Mohamed Cheikh El- Ghazouani , in favor of all pan-African initiatives, particularly those relating to resilience and sustainable development in the Sahel;

The Meeting recommends that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania bring to the African Union (AU) the recommendation on the establishment of a coherent and sustainable partnership framework between the African Union Commission and the African Climate Commissions.

7. To sub-regional and regional organizations for the implementation of climate actions and sustainable development

Considering the important role of sub-regional and regional organizations in the implementation of climate and sustainable development actions;

The Meeting urges to contribute to strengthening the synergy of actions in a spirit of subsidiarity to facilitate the implementation of climate resilience and

sustainable development actions in the Sahel in line with the regional and national priorities of the member countries of the Sahel Region.

8. To technical and financial partners (TFP)

Considering the appeal of the 2nd Conference of Heads of State and Government to technical and financial partners

Reunion reiterates this call for sustained support from the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCSR) as part of supporting climate and sustainable development policies in the Sahel Region.

9. To other stakeholders in the Sahel Region (private sector, CSOs, local authorities, etc.)

Considering the need for synergy of actions between all actors and the important role of non-State actors in the fight against climate change and for sustainable development;

The Meeting recommends greater commitment to the mobilization of resources for the financing of climate resilience actions.

ANNEX 3: MOTIONS OF THANKS

8th Meeting of the
Joint Working Group (JWG) of Experts from CCSR Member
Countries

Niamey, October 21-24, 2024

MOTIONS OF THANKS

The 8th Meeting of the Joint Working Group of Experts from member countries and partners of the CCSR held in Niamey, Niger from October 21 to 24, 2024, extends the following thanks:

1. To the Republic of Niger

- Expresses its deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Niger for the warm welcome and exemplary hospitality which greatly facilitated the organization of the 8th Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG);
- Welcomes the efforts made by Niger in fulfilling its commitments within the framework of the operationalization of the CCSR.

2. To the Executive Secretariat of the CCSR

- Expresses its warm congratulations for the substantial results obtained during the first year of its operationalization due to the commitment and dedication of its team in relation to the other stakeholders.
- Expresses its warm thanks for the excellent organization of the 8th JWG Meeting;

3. To the Technical and Financial Partners (TFP)

- Expresses its sincere thanks to the CCSR partners for their support in organizing the 8th JWG Meeting, in particular the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Integrated Development Authority of the Liptako -Gourma States (ALG), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), GIZ, Mercy Corps, World Food Program (WFP), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Niger River Basin Authority (NBA), the Volta Basin Authority (VBA), the Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG), the

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), WaterAid , Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

- Reaffirms its deep gratitude to the AfDB, UNDP and GIZ for their sustained commitment to the operationalization of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCSR).

4. To the resource persons mobilized within the framework of the organization of the 8th JWG Meeting

- Expresses its sincere thanks to all the consultants for the quality of the work carried out;
- Reiterates its warm thanks to the support staff mobilized for the successful organization of the 8th JWG Meeting.

5. To the Presidium of the Joint Working Group (JWG)

- Congratulates the Presidium of the Joint Working Group (JWG) for the quality of the conduct of the work of the 8th Meeting of the Joint Working Group.