



Global Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network (GCSAYN) in partnership with IAAS Africa, GCSAYN Centers of Excellence, and ACS2 Youth Engagement Taskforce

THEME: GCSAYN ROAD to ACS2 (GCSAYNROAD2ACS2)

BACKGROUND

The inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS1) held in September 2023 resulted in the Nairobi Declaration, a powerful commitment from African leaders to act on climate, with specific targets on finance, adaptation, and green growth. However, youth engagement was only mentioned under inclusivity, not as a central mechanism for implementation. Ahead of the second Africa climate summit (ACS2) in Addis Ababa (8th-10th September, 2025), there is an opportunity to reposition youth as **co-deliverers** of these commitments. GCSAYN has launched the **Road2ACS2**, a youth-driven initiative to mobilize, coordinate, and influence ACS2 from the grassroots to the high table. Also, GCSAYN will send a delegation following two Centers of Excellence (CoE) based in Ethiopia to join effort in-person while the entire team will engage virtually prior to September

RATIONAL

The Africa Climate Summit (ACS) is needed to advance climate action across Africa and to track the progress made since 2023. Non-state actors have been actively engaged through seven thematic working groups, which are: climate finance, adaptation, nature, energy, green minerals and manufacturing, sustainable agriculture (including land use, water, and oceans), and sustainable infrastructure and urbanization.

Significant progress has been made in addressing these climate and energy priorities since the 2023 summit. However, there is no structured mechanism to track youth engagement in ACS1 or ACS2 goals. Therefore, to ensure inclusive and sustainable climate action, youth must participate to influence, deliver, and monitor progress from the local to continental level.

The summit will provide a platform to share, discuss, and review progress, and identify key priorities for future action, ensuring that young people are at the center of climate action and decision-making for a climate-resilient Africa.

OBJECTIVES

1. To position African youth as key actors in delivering ACS1 commitments and shaping ACS2 outcomes.
2. To facilitate continent-wide dialogues through the GCSAYN Road2ACS2 D-Groups, enabling youth, women, PWDs, and indigenous people to contribute meaningfully.
3. To showcase youth-led innovations and scalable solutions, and create awareness through strong social media engagement and collaboration with ACS2 Communications teams.

PARTICIPANTS / TARGETS

- Youth aged 15–35 across Africa
- Members of the CSOs
- Youths, women, PWD and indigenous people
- All approved centers of excellence across Africa and the interns

KEY ACTIVITIES

Activity	Timeline	Description
Launching of GCSAYN Road to ACS2 (GCSAYNRoad2ACS2)	July 2025	A discussion group (D-group) where the Chair and members of the CSOs and Inclusivity Committee will contribute meaningfully. The key deliverable will be a <i>Common Position Document</i> to be shared with H.E. for high-level advocacy on behalf of youth, women, PWDs, indigenous people, etc.
Support social media engagement	August 2025	GCSAYN will assign one or two representatives to join the ACS2 Communications Team as agreed during the call, supporting online visibility and outreach.
Mobilizing, sensitizing, and domesticating the ACS2 agenda across Africa.	September 2025	GCSAYN will ensure the ACS2 agenda is promoted and embedded across all African regions and beyond. All approved Centers of Excellence Leads from Central, West, East, North, Southern Africa, and the SIDS are included in the loop for sustainable and meaningful support to the ACS2 event.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Increase awareness and understanding of ACS1 commitment and the Nairobi Declaration among youth from global to grassroots.
2. Inclusion of voices from marginalized groups, women, PWDs, and indigenous communities, ensuring broader representation in climate dialogue.
3. Discovery and promotion of youth-led, community-based climate research and innovation with potential for scale-up, replication, and funding.

4. Greater visibility and recognition of youth contributions through ACS2 side events, exhibitions, and media.
5. Enhance collaboration between youth networks, CSOs, research institutions, and policymakers.
6. Strengthen platforms for continued youth engagement beyond ACS2, laying the groundwork for future climate summits.