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Meeting Report

GCSAYN Road to ACS2 (GCSAYNRoad2ACS2) Planning Session

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Time: 5PM EAT / 3PM WAT

Venue: Zoom (Virtual)

Duration: 90 minutes

Participants: 26

Chairperson: Divine Ntiokam, Executive Director (ED), GCSAYN

Theme: Setting Up Working Groups and Finalizing the Road to ACS2

Event Reference: Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) – September 5–10, 2025 (Main Summit: Sept 8–10)

1. Introduction

The meeting commenced with warm greetings and a critical update from the Executive Director, Divine Ntiokam. He shared that GCSAYN had received a **congratulatory call from the Government of Ethiopia**, thanking the organization for submitting a well-prepared concept note. The government also apologized for the delayed response and reaffirmed its appreciation for GCSAYN's commitment to youth-led climate action.

The ED emphasized the **strategic importance of ACS2** as a continental platform and encouraged active engagement across all GCSAYN structures. He noted that this initiative is **about Africa**, and the commitment of youth at this stage would shape regional and global perceptions.

2. Meeting Objectives

- Set up working groups for ACS2 coordination
- Define roles and responsibilities for active Centers of Excellence (CoEs)
- Finalize the launch date for GCSAYN Road to ACS2
- Develop a social media engagement strategy
- Discuss mobilization and sensitization strategies across Africa
- Establish timelines and expectations for reporting

3. Strategic Announcements and Dates

- **ACS2 Date:** September 5–10, 2025 (Main Summit: Sept 8–10)
- **UN Global Stocktaking (Addis Ababa):** July 27–29, 2025
- **Official Launch of GCSAYNRoad2ACS2:**
 - **Date:** Thursday, July 17, 2025
 - **Time:** 9 AM EST / 4 PM EAT / 2 PM WAT
 - **Format:** Virtual (1-hour launch session)
 - **Speakers:** One representative each from the Ambassadors and Interns
- **Reporting Deadline:** Between July 17 and August 17, all CoEs are expected to submit activity reports

4. Key Decisions & Action Points

a. Working Groups & CoEs Leadership

- All **active Centers of Excellence (CoEs)** will lead one or more working groups/task forces.
- **In-person consultations** are expected to be hosted by each CoE, as detailed in the concept note.
- Each CoE is to **domesticate and localize** ACS2 activities, integrating them into local contexts.

b. Social Media Strategy

- Led by **Jessey Raney Bridges**, who volunteered to coordinate efforts and support CoEs in their social media planning.
- Strategy includes:
 - Use of a **common hashtag** for all campaigns.
 - **Mandatory tagging** of GCSAYN platforms in every post.
 - Development of a **unified flyer template** with space to personalize logos and names.
 - **Campaign launch timing** to be standardized for global visibility.
 - **Content frequency** to ensure consistent outreach.
- **Suggestions from members:**
 - *Keshia*: Common hashtag and financial support for local branding (e.g., T-shirts, face caps).
 - *Basit*: Timed posting for better engagement.
 - *Madam Irene Kimani*: Emphasized posting frequency to enhance visibility.

c. Mobilization & Sensitization

- Activities to be guided by the **concept note** uploaded on the GCSAYN website.
- ACS2 activities must be **localized** and **community-oriented**, showcasing **youth-led innovations and agribusiness**.
- Ambassadors and CoEs to hold **in-person discussions and focused group sessions** exploring key ACS2 themes.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- All **CoEs** to coordinate their task forces and engage local stakeholders.
- Interns and Ambassadors to mobilize student communities and promote ACS2 initiatives.
- Regular **report-back meetings** to be held **bi-monthly** to track progress.
- A **report submission window** is set from **July 17 to August 17, 2025**.

6. Comments & Member Contributions

- *Basit* commended the strong team spirit within GCSAYN.
- *Gift* and *Miriam* shared positive reflections and appreciation for the ED's leadership.
- *Prof. Adeolu Ayanwale* encouraged members to remain committed and proactive in their roles.

7. Proposals and Recommendations

- Use social media to extend advocacy to **students and universities**.
- Introduce **financial support mechanisms** for CoEs to enable effective mobilization.
- Ensure **representation and inclusion** across youth demographics including women, PWDs, and Indigenous Peoples.

8. Closing Remarks

- *Basit* gave closing remarks, emphasizing unity and teamwork.
- The ED thanked everyone for their continued support and reiterated that **success demands even greater commitment than before**.
- Members were encouraged to leverage this opportunity to **amplify youth-led climate action across Africa**.

9. Next Steps

Activity	Responsible Party	Deadline
Finalization of Working Groups	GCSAYN Secretariat	July 16, 2025
Launch of GCSAYN Road to ACS2	All Members	July 17, 2025
Submission of CoE Activity Reports	CoEs	August 17, 2025
Social Media Campaign Launch	Jessey & Comms Team	July 17, 2025
Bi-monthly Check-in Meetings	Secretariat	Starting August 2025

Prepared by:

GCSAYN AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE – GA4C



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