Submission by the Republic of Ghana on behalf African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on the Informal Note Referred to in Paragraph 4 of FCCC/SBI/2026/L.4 Views on Strengthening Existing Activities and Developing a New Action Plan under the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

I. Introduction

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) appreciates the opportunity to provide views on the informal note referred to in paragraph 4 of FCCC/SBI/2026/L.4.

The AGN considers the development of a new Action Plan under the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) to be a critical opportunity to reposition ACE as an implementation mechanism that empowers people, institutions and governments to deliver the objectives of the Convention, the Paris Agreement and sustainable development.

Africa remains one of the regions most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change despite having contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions. Building resilient societies therefore requires sustained investment in climate education, public participation, institutional capacity, knowledge systems and partnerships. These are not complementary activities; they are fundamental enablers of effective climate action.

The AGN therefore believes that the successor Action Plan should transition from a framework primarily focused on dialogue and awareness to one that delivers measurable implementation outcomes supported by adequate means of implementation.

II. Vision for the New ACE Action Plan

The AGN proposes that the new Action Plan be guided by the following vision:

> A people-centred, implementation-oriented and adequately resourced Action Plan that strengthens national capacities, accelerates climate action at all levels, promotes inclusive participation, and contributes directly to achieving the goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

The Action Plan should be founded on the principles of equity, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), country ownership, gender responsiveness, intergenerational equity, inclusiveness and respect for national circumstances.

III. Strategic Priorities

1. From Dialogue to Delivery

The AGN welcomes the progress made under the Glasgow Work Programme in fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange. However, experience has demonstrated that dialogue alone is insufficient.

The new Action Plan should focus on:

- implementation at national and local levels;
- measurable outcomes;
- institutional strengthening;
- sustainable financing;
- accountability for implementation.

ACE should become a practical instrument for achieving climate ambition rather than solely a platform for exchanging experiences.

2. Means of Implementation

The effectiveness of the new Action Plan will depend on predictable and adequate support for developing countries.

The AGN proposes that the Action Plan explicitly integrate:

- financial support;
- capacity-building;
- technology development and transfer;
- institutional development;
- technical assistance.

Means of implementation should not be treated as cross-cutting considerations but as essential components underpinning all ACE activities.

3. National Ownership

Implementation should be nationally driven and aligned with existing national planning processes.

The Action Plan should encourage Parties to integrate ACE into:

- Nationally Determined Contributions;
- National Adaptation Plans;
- Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies;
- national development plans;
- education and sectoral policies.
- Sectoral policies and plans
- Disaster preparedness.

National ACE Strategies should be recognized as important implementation instruments and supported through dedicated technical and financial assistance.

IV. Strengthening the Six ACE Elements

The AGN supports retaining the six established elements of ACE while enhancing their effectiveness.

Climate education should move beyond awareness to developing practical skills that enable climate-resilient livelihoods, green employment and innovation.

Training should strengthen institutional capacity across governments, academia, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

Public awareness programmes should be culturally appropriate, locally driven and accessible in national and local languages.

Public participation should ensure meaningful engagement of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in climate decision-making.

Public access to information should be strengthened through improved climate information systems, open data platforms and enhanced communication of scientific information.

International cooperation should facilitate South-South cooperation, regional collaboration, knowledge exchange and partnerships that support implementation.

V. New Areas of Focus

The AGN proposes that the new Action Plan incorporate several additional areas that have emerged as priorities since the adoption of the Glasgow Work Programme.

Climate Finance Literacy

Communities, civil society organisations and local governments require greater capacity to understand, access and manage climate finance.

Digital Transformation

Digital technologies should be used to expand climate education, facilitate knowledge exchange and improve access to climate information, while addressing Africa's digital divide.

Youth and Children

Young people and children should be recognised as partners in climate action. The Action Plan should strengthen youth leadership, climate entrepreneurship and child-centred climate education.

Indigenous and Local Knowledge

The Action Plan should strengthen the integration of indigenous knowledge and community-based approaches with scientific knowledge to improve locally led climate action.

Green Skills and Employment

The AGN recommends greater emphasis on vocational training, innovation and entrepreneurship that prepare young people for employment opportunities arising from the transition to climate-resilient and low-emission economies.

VI. Improving Implementation

To enhance effectiveness, the AGN recommends that the new Action Plan include:

- clear objectives;
- measurable indicators;
- implementation milestones;
- voluntary national reporting;
- periodic review of progress;
- mechanisms for sharing lessons learned and best practices.

Monitoring should focus on outcomes and impacts rather than solely on activities undertaken.

VII. Partnerships

Effective implementation requires strengthened partnerships among governments, United Nations agencies, regional organisations, financial institutions, academia, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, youth organisations and the private sector.

The AGN encourages greater collaboration with regional centres of excellence and African institutions to support capacity development and knowledge sharing.

VIII. Carbon Market and Critical Minerals.

Carbon markets and critical minerals. Carbon markets and critical minerals are emerging areas where ACE is urgently needed. Communities, women, and youth need education, training, and access to information so they can participate meaningfully and share the benefits fairly. Strong ACE will help make these transitions transparent, just and inclusive.

VIII. Conclusion

The African Group of Negotiators believes that the new Action Plan under the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment should mark a transition from dialogue to implementation.

The Action Plan should be practical, adequately resourced and responsive to the needs of developing countries. It should empower Parties to integrate ACE into national climate policies, strengthen institutional capacities, mobilise partnerships and deliver measurable improvements in climate literacy, public participation and community resilience. Implementation of the Action Plan should be supported by a voluntary monitoring framework that enables Parties to assess progress while respecting national circumstances and avoiding additional reporting burdens for developing countries.

The AGN stands ready to work constructively with all Parties to develop an ambitious, balanced and action-oriented framework that accelerates implementation and supports achievement of the long-term goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.