

# COP27 Africa Regional Resilience Hub: Call for session proposals

The vision for the [Resilience Hub](#) is to be a significant force in catalysing climate-just action and increasing finance on resilience through an inclusive and dynamic space at and between COPs, uniting and motivating actors from across different sectors, scales and geographies. Its particular focus is to broaden and deepen the engagement of non-state actors in resilience actions as home to the [Race to Resilience Campaign](#) and in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Building resilience requires **urgent** but **continuous** action and investment in view of the already ongoing and increasing impacts of climate change. The Resilience Hub is not simply an event space at COPs, but a 'connector' for a diverse community of actors from businesses, investors, cities, civil society, research institutions, community-based organisations, grassroots federations and many other actors engaged in driving efforts on adaptation and resilience.

The Resilience Hub COP space is a key uniting moment, but it is also cumulative of the continuous process of dialogue, advocacy and action that will take place throughout the year, building from the first ever COP26 Resilience Hub and through to 2030, aligning and engaging with key international resilience initiatives and targets.

## COP26 Resilience Hub highlights

*"We're delighted that the Resilience Hub has been a real success here and we hope that it goes from strength to strength to draw more attention and direct more resources to resilience solutions"* - Nigel Topping, High Level Champion for Climate Action at COP26, during a High-level Plenary at COP26, end of week 2

The first ever Resilience Hub, the home to UN Race to Resilience at COP26, provided a unique convening, learning, and connecting platform for actors across the full spectrum of resilience and adaptation landscape. It advanced action and commitments on adaptation, and helped provide a strong collective voice on resilience for all – those who were at COP physically and those who were able to participate for the first time ever:

- Brought together a community of state and non-state actors in an unprecedented collaboration.
- Was comprised of seven geographic hubs:
  - Five Regional Virtual Hubs: (1) Africa; (2) South Asia; (3) South East and East Asia; (4) Pacific; and (5) Latin America
  - Two in-person hybrid hubs in Glasgow: (1) in the Blue zone; and (2) in Glasgow Caledonian University
- Had 154 separate events organised by 80 partners;
- Featured speakers from 176 participating organisations;
- Had over 10,000 physical visitors to the Blue Zone location;
- 23,000 users visiting the [Resilience Hub dedicated website](#) with 5,000 watching the live stream, and over 7,100 virtual participants from 182 countries using the virtual platform. Post-COP the website is still seeing traffic and all event recordings are now made available for on demand replay.

## The role of Regional Resilience Hubs

The Regional Resilience Hubs play a crucial role in delivering the overarching vision for the Resilience Hub. They ensure the voices and perspectives of communities and constituencies most impacted by climate change are amplified to increasingly drive the global resilience agenda. The Regional Hubs will elucidate and communicate regional priorities, actions, solutions and challenges to be shared onto a global stage.

The COP27 Resilience Hub has five Regional Hubs, covering the following regions:

1. **Africa** – led by the [Climate Development Knowledge Network \(CDKN\)](#), hosted by [SouthSouthNorth](#)
2. **South Asia (S Asia)** – led by the [International Centre for Climate Change and Development \(ICCCAD\)](#)
3. **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)** – led by [AVINA](#)
4. **South East Asia (SE Asia)** – Awaiting confirmation of lead
5. **The Pacific** – Awaiting confirmation of lead

Regional Hubs are not separate from the Resilience Hub, but rather a crucial component in ensuring the Resilience Hub is useful and appropriate to the Global South, and that lesser-heard and under-represented voices are included.

### Regional Hub objectives

The objectives of the Regional Hubs contribute to achieving the overarching objectives of the Resilience Hub, and are summarised below:

1. To **elucidate and amplify respective regional priorities, actions, solutions and challenges** into the Resilience Hub; through the development and delivery of respective Regional Hub event programmes.
2. To provide an opportunity for **those on the frontlines of climate impacts** in all their diversity to **influence global dialogues on resilience and adaptation at COP**.
3. To **strengthen and consolidate the influencing potential** of different frontline constituencies over time to increase their participation at each COP.
4. To **share practical resilience solutions** already being implemented around the world by communities and climate leaders in the Global South.
5. To **facilitate an inclusive Resilience Hub** and its associated events that actively engages women, young people, people with disabilities and Indigenous peoples, and showcases thought leadership, experience and expertise from the Global South.

## The COP27 Africa Regional Resilience Hub

**The COP27 Africa Regional Resilience Hub (Africa Hub) will deliver a programme of in-person and virtual sessions and engagements on regional priority topics.** A particular emphasis is placed on engaging voices from frontline communities and lesser-heard and under-represented constituencies, amplifying their perspectives through the COP27 Resilience Hub. The Africa Hub will link with existing regional initiatives and bring these regional messages to COP27.

The virtual event programmes will **end in September** to ensure ample time to build momentum around key regional messages and priorities that can then be shared at COP27.

The outcomes and key messages that emerge from the Africa Hub will be integrated and amplified through the COP27 Resilience Hub in the following ways:

- Africa Hub session leads will have the opportunity to engage with Resilience Hub thematic co-leads on the hybrid COP27 Blue Zone Resilience Hub platform for specific regional priority topics and/or constituencies.
- Key messages will be showcased through the dedicated COP27 Resilience Hub online platform and through the COP27 Resilience Hub communications architecture.
- Demands, talking points, examples and stories from the continent will be communicated to the High-Level Champions to inform their conversations with state actors and the private sector.
- Knowledge and learning from communities will be shared with the Global Stocktake process.

## Africa Hub: Call for session proposals

The COP27 Africa Hub welcomes all interested individuals, initiatives, and organisations involved in adaptation and resilience in Africa to submit session proposals for virtual events that share **key African priorities, solutions, challenges and opportunities** under the five standalone and two cross-cutting [Resilience Hub themes](#) listed below.

### *Stand-alone themes*

- Finance and investment
- Food and agriculture
- Resilient infrastructure
- Water and natural ecosystems
- Cities and urbanisation

### *Cross-cutting themes*

- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Engaging and amplifying voices from frontline communities and lesser- heard and under-represented constituencies, including Indigenous communities, young people and women

Innovative engagement formats are encouraged, including: facilitated dialogues, learning clinics, master classes, panel discussions, round tables, games, storytelling, lightning talks, talk shows, marketplaces and other creative methods to share resilience solutions and innovations.<sup>1</sup>

Session organisers will also be responsible – in collaboration with CDKN – to develop key synthesised messages from their session, for COP 27. Such messages are encouraged to be packaged in a creative format to be brought to the Resilience Hub.

## Format of submissions

Please send your application to [yoliswa@southsouthnorth.org](mailto:yoliswa@southsouthnorth.org) by the latest **18 August 2022, 18h00 Central African Time** including the following information.

Organisations may submit a maximum of three proposals.

1. Title of session/event (max 20 words)
2. Thematic focus (max 50 words) (sessions can cover more than one theme and ideally should include a cross-cutting theme)
3. Brief description and objectives (max 250 words)
4. Target audience (max 50 words)

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<sup>1</sup> Koelle, B. Jackson, P.Z, Bachofen, C., Cur, M. (2019). Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Available at: [https://ctk.climatecentre.org/downloads/modules/training\\_downloads/3b%20Creative%20conferences,%20engage%20and%20energize.pdf](https://ctk.climatecentre.org/downloads/modules/training_downloads/3b%20Creative%20conferences,%20engage%20and%20energize.pdf)

5. Speakers, including from lesser-heard and frontline communities. In your application, please clearly indicate which speakers represent community voices and constituents and how they will engage in the session. Please include how community constituents have contributed to the design and content of the session.
6. Indication of session/event format (e.g. roundtable discussion) (max 100 words)
7. Indication of how you intend packaging key messages from the session (max 100 words)
8. Please specify if you will be using your own platform to host the session (e.g. Zoom or MS Teams) or whether you need assistance in this regard
9. Event duration (90 or 120 minutes)
10. Preferred session date (between 19 September and 21 September)

If you are involved in a regional initiative that is hosting an event outside of these dates and would like to include a specific Africa Hub session, this is very welcome. Please reach out with the above details by the deadline.

## Criteria

All session proposals will be evaluated by a steering group that is coordinating the Africa Hub, including representatives from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, SouthSouthNorth and the [Global Resilience Partnership](#).

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Sessions must be led by an African organisation
- At least 50% of speakers must be women
- At least 60% of speakers must be African

Evaluation criteria:

- Alignment with one or more of the Africa Hub themes
- Incorporation of gender and social inclusion priorities and perspectives
- The degree to which the event engages lesser-heard or under-represented constituencies as speakers, or through other means such video interviews
- The diversity of speakers and panellists
- Innovation of format

## Timelines

The outcome of the proposal evaluation will be communicated no later than **24 August** so that organisations can begin planning their sessions as soon as possible. The COP27 Africa Regional Hub will run from **19-21 September**.

The key messages and outputs that emerge from the African Hub's virtual programmes will be actively integrated into the broader COP27 Resilience Hub programme. This will ensure that there is ample time to meaningfully input and integrate the Africa Hub priorities into the COP27 Resilience Hub programme.

## More information

If you would like to learn more about the Africa Hub and how to get involved, please email Michelle du Toit ([michelle@southsouthnorth.org](mailto:michelle@southsouthnorth.org)). To learn more about the Regional Hubs in general, please email the Regional Hubs coordinator, Ameil Harikishun ([aharikishun@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:aharikishun@globalresiliencepartnership.org)).