

FACTSHEET

5TH WASCAL MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING

WASCAL 5TH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING EXPLAINED

- The 5th WASCAL Ministerial Council Meeting is hosted under the patronage of the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) of the Republic of Ghana, Honorable Dr. Kwaku Afriyie.
- The biennial meeting is the fifth gathering of sector Ministers within the WASCAL member states in West Africa as enshrined in the corporate agreement signed by the ten (10) founding countries.
- Per the constitution, The Ministerial Council is the highest Organ of the Institution, and its meeting is geared towards deepening the relationships among the country members on one side and between them and the German partner at the policy-making levels.
- This year's theme, "Journey towards climate resilience to improve livelihoods in West Africa: Building sustainable partnerships and policies" is also in alignment with the 2015 Paris Agreement which was signed by some 195 countries in 2015 with the aim of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change.
- WASCAL is dedicated to achieving this through its climate-resilient interventions in the areas of research and capacity building as well as through the promotion of the Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen programme.
- The WASCAL Council of Ministers elects a chairperson to serve for a term of two (2) years, renewable only once. The Republic of Ghana, in its capacity as WASCAL host country, occupies the seat of a Permanent Vice-Chair of the Council. The Council of Ministers is responsible for examining and approving the long-term programme of work of WASCAL with regard to ensuring conformity with the climate change and green hydrogen policies prevailing in the Member States and ensuring its sustainability.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROMOTE GREEN HYDROGEN

Ahead of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), COP28 in Dubai in December, Ministers responsible for climate change and higher education within the West African sub-region will be meeting in Accra for the 5th Ministerial Council Meeting of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL).

Under the patronage of the Republic of Ghana, through the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI), which acts as the permanent vice-chairperson of the Ministerial Council, the one-day meeting will bring together 12 Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps from WASCAL member states to dialogue on pathways

to achieving their integrated approach to combating climate change and improving livelihoods as enshrined in the cooperation agreement on the establishment of WASCAL. The headquarters of WASCAL is based in Accra, Ghana, with its Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The meeting, themed "Journey towards climate resilience to improve livelihoods in West Africa: Building sustainable partnerships and policies" is also in alignment with the 2015 Paris Agreement which was signed by some 195 countries with the aim of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius of research and capacity building as the bedrock to combating climate change and improving livelihoods.

HOSTED BY



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY

Per the cooperation agreement leading to the establishment of WASCAL an African inter-governmental organization, ten (10) governments, represented by their ministers of state in charge of either higher education, research, environment, or climate change, the ministerial council shall meet biennially to take stock of each country's commitment to the agreement and take a look at the bigger picture of regionally combating climate, change and improving livelihoods in the sub-region.

The countries met in Lome in 2009 to sign the cooperation agreement for the establishment of WASCAL to improve the projection of the impact of climate change on the economic development of the region and the means to provide empirical evidence to policymakers on land use policies that will help counter these effects, and for this purpose to encourage, promote and undertake research at the regional and national levels.

The Council of Ministers is responsible for examining and approving the long-term programme of the work of WASCAL with regard to ensuring conformity with the climate change policies prevailing in the Member States.

KNOWING WASCAL

The West African Science Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use, WASCAL, is an international organization created by 10 West African member countries - Benin, Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo together with the Federal Republic of Germany during the Ministerial Conference in Lomé February 12, 2012.

WASCAL is a leading international academic and transdisciplinary research organization serving its member countries within the sub-Saharan. It cooperates with many agencies and universities in the region, providing a knowledge platform of excellence for its partners. WASCAL is linked closely with other international organizations in its mandate area.

As a wholly West African international organization, WASCAL connects partners, builds capacities, facilitates research and delivers climate services. It is committed to working with key organizations and development partners to play a frontline role in West Africa in achieving the International, African and regional agenda on climate change, environment and economic development. It does this through Research and Capacity Building support to young West African Scholars in fields of natural and social sciences and by strengthening West African universities and climate service departments in WASCAL member countries.

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WASCAL'S LEADERSHIP IN WEST AFRICAN GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

It is worth noting that WASCAL is at the forefront of mobilizing civil society organizations within the sub-region to take stock of West Africa. West African Hub of the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST), a consortium of civil society actors working together to support the Global Stocktake (GST), the formal process established under the Paris Agreement to periodically take stock of collective progress toward term long-term goals of combating climate change.

The mandate of the WASCAL Ministerial Council is to oversee the governance of the organization and ensure its relevance to the attainment of UN Sustainable Goal 13 on climate change and beyond. It is also to foster stronger collaborations amongst member states to ensure regional integration in achieving the global target of improving livelihoods and combating climate change in West Africa, regarded as one of the most climate-vulnerable regions.

In the three decades since the Rio Summit and the launch of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) has convened member countries every year to determine ambition and responsibilities and identify and assess climate measures.