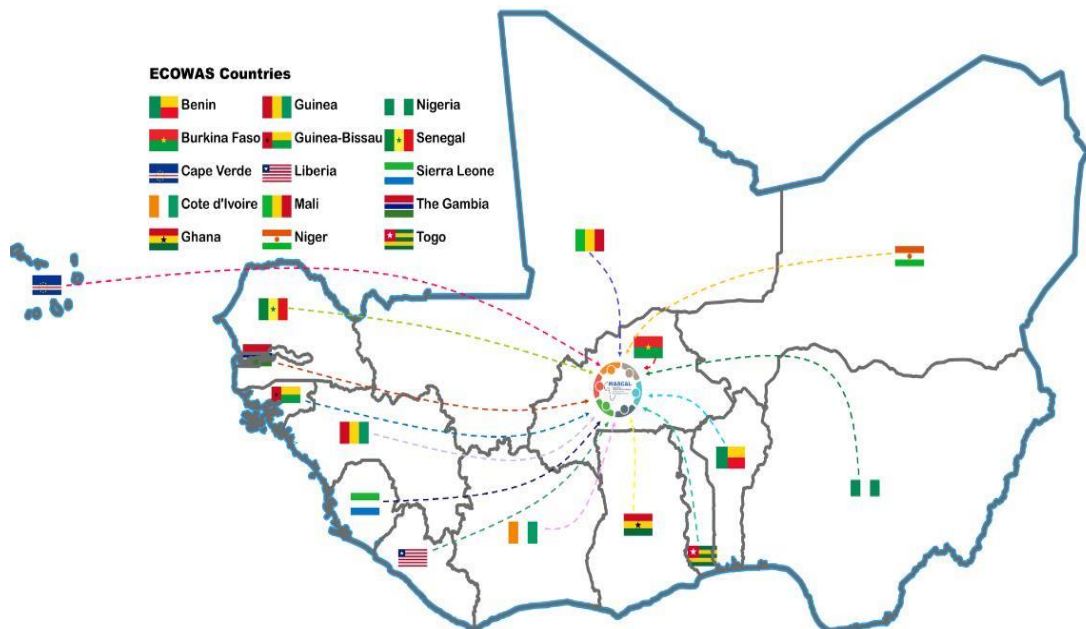




# INDEPENDENT GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (iGST)

## Establishment of youth-based think-tank of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub (iGST WA Hub)



### Terms of Reference

September 2023

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## **1. Background**

As part of global efforts to ensure adequate civil society contribution to the process of Global Stocktake (GST), the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) being a consortium of regional civil society hubs and four thematic working groups on mitigation, adaptation, finance, and equity seeks to work together to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In this framework, WASCAL and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of South Africa have been commissioned by ClimateWorks Foundation to lead the process of formation and operationalization of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub (iGST WA Hub). The iGST WA Hub aims at bringing together climate civil society stakeholders, including campaigners and climate researchers, to support the GST and to push for more climate action in the region. By fostering cooperation and knowledge sharing, the iGST WA Hub contributes to the enhancement of regional and global efforts at tackling climate change by calling for greater ambitions in climate mitigation and adaptation while actively participating in actionable climate-related projects. The iGST WA Hub was formed and officially launched in May 2023, and its operationalization is guided by an operationalization document that has been co-designed with the hub's members.

Among the activities foreseen in the operationalization document for the year 2023, there is the establishment of youth-based think-tank to conduct a review study on the achievements of the Parties (countries) in West Africa in line with the development, revision, and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the establishment of the youth-based think-tank of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub are to:

- Analyze the West Africa Parties commitment in the NDCs including their goals, ambitions, and strategies related to climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Analyze the contents of NDCs vis-à-vis to the policies of the different development sector of each country.
- Evaluate the alignment of NDCs with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

- Identify gaps in information and data on climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a specific focus on the unaccounted Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) efforts or relevant actions in the field.
- Evaluate the relevance of the NDCs at a local context.
- Providing research outputs to the core working group.

### **3. Methodological approach**

An extensive literature review will be conducted to synthesize information from relevant documents, including NDCs, various national climate policies and reports on climate action in West African countries. Important aspects such as mitigation and adaptation goals and targets, strategies and measures proposed to achieve these goals, timeframes, milestones for implementation, and financial commitments and support mechanisms, will be considered. This will be completed by interviews with relevant government officials, climate experts, and stakeholders from West African countries to gain insights into the NDCs development process, challenges, and priorities.

Next, for each country, critical analyses will be globally performed, but also according to specific development sectors to identify gaps in information and data, including unaccounted civil society organizations (CSOs) efforts, contributions, and actions. These analyses will also allow to assess whether NDCs address specific adaptation needs and examine their relevance in a local context.

Finally, the youth-based think tank will engage local communities and stakeholders to gather their challenges and perspectives related to the NDCs' goals and strategies.

### **4. Basic requirements**

To effectively conduct the study, individuals applying must not have more than 35 years of age when submitting their applications. We will consider youth members of the Hub with the following qualifications, skills, and backgrounds will be considered:

- A master's or PhD's degree in fields related to environmental science, climate change policy, and sustainability.
- Strong understanding of climate change, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and familiarity with the Paris Agreement's objectives and mechanisms.

- Proficiency in research methodologies, data collection, and data analysis, including the ability to conduct critical review and content analysis of complex documents.
- Ability to manage activities and tasks, follow instructions, meet deadlines.
- Critical thinking skills and strong ability to work within a multidisciplinary and multicultural team.
- Knowledge of the cultural, social, and environmental context of West African countries.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Proficiency in English or French is essential, the working knowledge of the second language is desired.
- Experience or skills in engaging with a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, experts, and local communities, to gather insights and feedback.
- Willingness to learn from (and to be coached by) senior experts.

## **5. How to apply**

By **October 25, 2023**, submit your application by sending your CV and motivation letter to: [igstwahub@wascal.org](mailto:igstwahub@wascal.org) .

The iGST West Africa Regional Hub strongly encourages applications from qualified youth graduates (as specified above) from member organizations.

## **6. Timeline, monitoring, and reporting.**

The duration of the study is for a maximum of 6 months from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The think-tank is expected to produce preliminary results by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. A tentative final comprehensive report will be produced at the end of the study namely by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at most. This final report encompasses the different objectives of this task. The report will be reviewed by the core working group of the Hub, and the definitive final report will be produced by the think tank by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the latest.

In terms of monitoring of the process, some training and methodological sessions will be organized online before the study starts. Next, the think tank will meet with the core working group every two weeks online to evaluate progress, fix any existing issues and make recommendations.