

PUBLIC EVENT: TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION, A CALL TO DELIVER ACTION AT COP30.

Delivered by Commissioner Aishat Abdulazeez Barde, Taraba State, Nigeria.

What have your initiatives been able to deliver so far? And how can this framework that we just presented support you in delivering more and faster?

Remarks:

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

Under2 Coalition, with Taraba State as a member welcomes the new framework. The COP process is tough to navigate. A clearer structure will help to drive subnational government efforts in implementing the Global Stocktake.

Taraba is one of 36 States in Northeastern Nigeria, where I, Aishat Barde, serve as Commissioner of Environment and Climate Change, we face a dual reality.

We have rich biodiversity, culture, natural resources and diverse ecological zones such as the Gashaka Gumti National Park, one of the largest in West Africa, but we face devastating and ongoing impacts from climate change – severe flooding, prolonged droughts, and declining crop yields – which impacts our economy.

In this context, we're already driving action in line with the new Action Agenda.

First, on indicator 11, multilevel governance, a cross-cutting issue, we have had three vertically integrated workshops on climate action with the National Council on Climate Change and our newly restructured Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in Taraba.

Based on these discussions, we have drafted our first ever Subnational Transition Plan, the Taraba State Climate Change Policy and Action Plan. It is a roadmap for a climate-resilient Taraba by 2060.

This is how we will take national ambitions into local implementation. For a African, subnational State like Taraba, this is groundbreaking.

National alone cannot deliver NDC obligations.

Our state plan is not just a document; it is a declaration of intent. Our long-term implementation pathway. It will set ambitious targets of:

- 90% renewable energy penetration by 2060,
- 10,000 hectares of land restoration by 2030,
- and a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 for the transport sector.
- Promote climate smart agriculture and sustainable livestock practices.

The Action Agenda can now support us by providing a platform where subnational contributions to the ‘globally determined contribution’ can be tracked transparently.

The second key aspect of the Agenda I want to raise is the cross-cutting issue of finance, technology, and capacity building. Particularly indicator 26.

With support from our partner the Under2 Coalition and Africa Climate Foundation climate action is accelerating – our plan is evidence of that.

Just last year we allocated 5% of the Taraba State budget to the Re-Greening Taraba Initiative to promote environmental sustainability.

We're doing what we can with the limited resources we have.

But we must address the lack of direct access to international climate finance funds that many governments like ours face.

In summary, here are three ways in which the action agenda can support local and regional governments:

First, ensure a space where we can learn from existing solutions that are relevant to the global south.

Second, prioritise direct technical and capacity support to subnational actors who are closer to the risks—and the solutions.

Third, facilitate direct access to grant-based funding for subnational governments from international funds.

And just as importantly, we must ensure that this Action Agenda is not a one off. We must ensure momentum is not lost towards 2030.

Let us move forward with clarity and collaboration. Let us ensure that the Global Climate Action Agenda is not only fit for COP30 — but fit for the future.

Thank you.

Please share 1 sentence as a call to action for stakeholders from your areas to accelerate implementation of the climate action towards the first GST outcome.

We need direct access to grant based climate finance at the State level, where significant juridical powers sit. We need it now. Let us implement our plans.