

2026 China-Africa Capacity Building Seminar on Addressing Climate Change and Promoting the Africa Solar Belt Initiative (14-27 June 2026)

The 2026 China-Africa Capacity Building Seminar on Addressing Climate Change and Promoting the Africa Solar Belt Initiative was held from 14-27 June 2026 in Suzhou and Changzhou, China. The seminar was organized by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of China, co-organized by the Research Institute for Environmental Innovation (Suzhou) of Tsinghua University (RIET), with support from UNICEF, the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the China Environmental Protection Foundation.

Theme: *Addressing Climate Change and Promoting the Africa Solar Belt Initiative*

The theme emphasized strengthening China-Africa cooperation in addressing climate change through the expansion of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, while advancing sustainable development, enhancing climate resilience, and accelerating the transition to low-carbon economies across the African continent.

Objectives

The seminar sought to:

1. Share China's experience and best practices in climate governance and ecological civilization.
2. Promote renewable energy cooperation under the Africa Solar Belt Initiative.
3. Strengthen South-South cooperation and technical capacity among African countries.
4. Enhance knowledge exchange on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
5. Foster long-term partnerships to support sustainable development and climate action.

The seminar brought together officials from ten African countries: Kenya, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Comoros, South Africa, Seychelles, Zambia, Gabon, and Malawi. The diverse participation provided a valuable platform for South-South cooperation, enabling countries to exchange experiences, discuss common climate challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration in climate governance, renewable energy deployment, and sustainable development.

Kenya was represented by officials from the Climate Change Directorate under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum. The Kenyan delegation actively participated in technical discussions and shared experiences on national climate policies, renewable energy initiatives, and sustainable development efforts while learning from China's approaches to climate governance, ecological civilization, and low-carbon development.

The seminar combined expert presentations, policy dialogues, panel discussions, and technical field visits, enabling participants to gain practical insights into China's climate policies, clean energy technologies, and sustainable development initiatives. Participants visited leading renewable energy and environmental enterprises, research institutions, and innovation centres, where they observed the application of advanced solar technologies, low-carbon industrial practices, ecological restoration measures, and sustainable urban development approaches.

A key focus of the programme was the Africa Solar Belt Initiative, which aims to expand access to clean and affordable energy, accelerate renewable energy deployment, enhance climate resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote inclusive socioeconomic development across Africa. The seminar also highlighted the importance of international cooperation, innovation, and capacity building in achieving global climate goals and supporting Africa's sustainable energy transition.

The seminar strengthened partnerships between China and African countries while equipping participants with practical knowledge, technical expertise, and professional networks to support the implementation of national climate and energy priorities. The knowledge and experiences gained will contribute to advancing Kenya's climate action agenda, promoting renewable energy development, strengthening regional cooperation, and supporting the achievement of national, regional, and global climate commitments\.

