



Pan-African Conference on  
Environment, Climate Change  
and Health: Science to Policy  
**21-24 OCTOBER 2025**

## **Highlights from the Pan African Pre-Conference Webinar on Environment, Climate Change and Health: Science to Policy**

### **1<sup>st</sup> August, 2025**

The first preparatory webinar for the **Pan African Conference on Environment, Climate Change, and Health** brought together a distinguished panel of experts and stakeholders from across the continent. Moderated by **Leah Aoko Otieno**, the session set the tone for the main event scheduled for October 2025 in Nairobi.

The opening keynote was delivered by **Dr. Mamo B. Mamo**, Director General of NEMA, who highlighted the urgent need for a united approach: *“There is a strong nexus between the environment, climate change, and human health... to respond effectively, we must adopt a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach.”* Dr. Mamo expressed concern over gaps in data, adding, *“Data is often scarce or outdated, yet it is critical for evidence-based policymaking.”* He lauded the conference for providing a space where *“stakeholders can access innovative, data-driven insights.”*

This message was reinforced by **Dr. Joanes Atela**, Director of the Africa Research and Impact Network, who emphasized the three key gaps his organization identified: inadequate transdisciplinary evidence, lack of skilled capacity, and poor collaboration among sectors. He explained, *“This conference is not just another meeting. It’s a solution-oriented conversation... aimed at providing collaborative responses to climate and health challenges.”* He underscored the importance of *“...creating a conversation space where different actors coordinate to confront the complex challenge of climate change, environment, and health.”*

Scientific depth was added by **Prof. Elijah Songok**, Director General of KEMRI, who illustrated the reality of the climate-health nexus with vivid evidence. *“Climate, environment, and health are not separate domains. They are deeply interconnected, especially in the African context,”* he stated. From rising malaria in highland zones to the health effects of urban air pollution and occupational heat stress, Prof. Songok demonstrated that *“This nexus is not theoretical. It is real, measurable, and escalating.”* He closed with a powerful call to action: *“This upcoming conference is not just about sharing knowledge; it is about catalysing transformation.”*

**Dr. Gloria Maimela, Chair of the CHANCE Network**, highlighted the power of partnerships and networking. *“Climate brings us together. It affects all of us, especially in Africa,”* she said, pointing to the value of dialogue and cross-country collaboration. With over 400 members across the continent, she stressed that, *“We are very intentional about networking... we make sure the program allows for engagement beyond the sessions.”* She hailed the upcoming conference as a milestone: *“For the first time, we are bringing climate, health, and environment stakeholders together under one roof.”*

From the NGO sector, **Dr. Martin Muchangi, Director for Population Health and Environment, Amref Health Africa** echoed the need for practical outcomes. *“If the conversations of this conference do not influence innovation, research, and action, we will not have done justice to the people we serve,”* he cautioned. He underscored the need for accountability and continuity, noting, *“We are forming a working group to monitor commitments and ensure accountability beyond the event.”*

On financing, **Dr. Charles Akataobi, Senior Technical Officer, Africa CDC** focused on unlocking sustainable resources for climate and health. *“This is a conference tailored to move from science to policy, and from policy to action,”* Charles said. He stressed the critical role of local ownership, noting, *“Sometimes what you're looking for is in your own house. Let's explore local financing and private sector partnerships.”*

Bringing in the environmental technology lens, **Dr. Charles Lange, Deputy Director for Environmental Planning and Research Coordination, NEMA-Kenya** emphasized the role of innovation. *“Challenges we face can no longer be addressed through traditional approaches, we need homegrown technological innovations,”* he said. He expressed excitement about showcasing solutions developed across Africa, adding, *“This conference is a blessing. It allows us to break silos and address issues through a multidisciplinary lens.”* He encouraged researchers to submit their work through abstracts, side events and exhibitions: *“Let's use this opportunity to share, access, and apply the technological solutions that can influence real policy change.”*

**Conference logistics** were handled by **Ann Irungu**, who outlined the structure, partners, and goals of the October conference. With seven convening organizations and nine thematic tracks, the event aims to **“promote best practices, foster innovation, and build multi-sectoral resilience.”** Registration and abstract submission deadlines were shared, alongside sponsorship details and support opportunities for students and early-career researchers.

Closing the session, Leah and co-moderator John Musau praised the speakers for staying within time, delivering such high-quality insights and emphasizing that the upcoming conference must go beyond talk and be a launchpad for real, coordinated action across Africa.

**CONVENED BY:**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FORESTRY**



**CHANCE**  
CLIMATE & HEALTH AFRICA NETWORK FOR COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT



**ORIN**  
AFRICA RESEARCH & IMPACT NETWORK



*In Service of Better Health*



**nema**  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



**amref**  
health africa



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT



**AfricaCDC**  
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

**Funded by**

