

SWECC at the Launch of the IGAD Regional Youth Coalition on Climate and Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems

Event Report | Nairobi, Kenya | 4–5 May 2026



Youth representatives, officials and partners at the launch of the coalition in Nairobi.

Somali Women in Environment and Climate Change (SWECC) took part in the launch of the IGAD Regional Youth Coalition on Climate and Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 4–5 May 2026. SWECC Director **Hani Asad Yasin** represented Somali youth and women at both days of the event.

Event Details

Event	Launch of the IGAD Regional Youth Coalition on Climate and Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems
Dates	4 May 2026 (technical session) and 5 May 2026 (official launch)
Venue	Nairobi, Kenya
Organisers	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and the IGAD Youth Envoy, supported by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
SWECC representative	Hani Asad Yasin, Director

About the Coalition

The coalition is a new regional platform that brings together youth and youth-led organisations working on climate action across IGAD Member States, with a focus on agriculture and food systems. It aims to turn scattered youth efforts into one coordinated voice within IGAD.

Its priorities are to mobilise young people, improve their access to climate information and early warning services, support green innovation and jobs, and give youth a stronger role in climate and agricultural policy. It begins with about 30 youth representatives from Member States and plans to grow into a much wider network.

SWECC's Participation

Hani Asad Yasin attended both the technical session on 4 May, where the coalition's framework, governance and work plan were validated, and the official launch on 5 May. She represented the voices of Somali youth and women and brought attention to the seasonal climate crises facing Somalia. Sharing SWECC's expectations from the coalition, she said:

“As Somalis, about 75% of our population are youth. We expect this coalition to give us the empowerment to raise our voice and to deal with the crises we face every season — the floods and droughts caused by climate change.”

SWECC also hopes the coalition will:

- **Include young women fully**, recognising that women and girls carry a heavy share of the burden from drought, floods and displacement.
- **Make climate information reach communities**, by sharing ICPAC forecasts and early warnings in Somali and through local channels, so families can prepare before each season.
- **Open access to climate finance** for youth- and women-led initiatives, including those working in fragile settings such as Somalia.
- **Build skills** through mentorship and training in climate-smart agriculture, water management and green enterprise.
- **Support communities displaced by climate shocks**, linking resilience work with the needs of pastoralist and farming families.
- **Give Somali youth a seat in policy**, so their experience shapes regional and global climate decisions.

Highlights from the Launch

- The coalition was officially launched by Fikirini Jacobs, Kenya's Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, who urged young people to lead climate solutions.
- IGAD Youth Envoy Sam Ogwal noted that nearly 70% of the region is arid or semi-arid and that climate shocks have displaced millions.
- ICPAC Director Dr Abdi Fidar stressed the need for better climate prediction and early warning, citing recent floods in Mogadishu.
- AGRA highlighted the barriers young people face in accessing finance, land and information.
- Youth leaders from across the region called for moving from participation to leadership and implementation.

Way Forward

SWECC will stay actively engaged in the coalition and will:

- Share coalition opportunities with young people and women's groups across Somalia.
- Advocate for Somali youth and women's priorities in the coalition's work plan.
- Promote the use of climate information and early warning in Somali communities.
- Build partnerships with ICPAC, AGRA and fellow youth organisations in the region.

SWECC thanks IGAD, ICPAC, the IGAD Youth Envoy and AGRA for organising the launch and for including Somali voices in this important regional initiative.

Photo Gallery



Officials and partners officially launch the coalition.



ICPAC presents its climate services to coalition members.



SWECC Director Hani Asad Yasin shares SWECC's expectations from the coalition.



Members write their commitments on the coalition pledge board.

Sources

- Capital FM, "IGAD unveils Regional Youth Coalition to shape climate policy", 5 May 2026.
- The Eastleigh Voice, "IGAD unveils youth-led climate coalition to strengthen resilience in Eastern Africa", 5 May 2026.
- ICPAC, "Call for applications: IGAD Regional Youth Coalition on Climate and Climate-Resilient Agri-food Systems", 4 May 2026.