



Distr.: General
11 September 2018
Original: English
English and French only

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Seventh special session

Ministerial meeting

Nairobi, 19 September 2018

Annotations to the provisional agenda

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with articles 9 and 10 of its constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) may hold special sessions between its ordinary sessions. At its meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, on 17 and 18 April 2018, the Bureau of AMCEN agreed that there was a need to hold a special session of the Conference.
2. Pursuant to that recommendation, it was decided that the seventh special session of the Conference would be held at the seat of the secretariat of the Conference in Nairobi from 17 to 19 September 2018. The theme of the special session is “Turning environmental policies into action through innovative solutions”. The ministerial meeting of the special session will be held on 19 September 2018.
3. The Bureau considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting, which is set out in document AMCEN/SS.VII/1.
4. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the seventh special session (AMCEN/SS.VII/INF/1). A complete list of the documents prepared for the session is set out in annex I to the present document.
5. The special session will be jointly organized with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development agency and will be held back-to-back with the first meeting of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform, which will take place at the same venue on 20 and 21 September 2018. The aim of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform is to promote sustainable environmental management in Africa through enhanced partnership, coordination and harmonization of activities.

II. Objectives and overview of the ministerial meeting

6. The primary objective of the ministerial meeting is to provide a platform for African ministers for the environment to deliberate on the strategies and plans required to move the concept of innovative environmental solutions beyond the strategic level, as highlighted at the sixteenth regular session of AMCEN, held in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017, and the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, to actualizing the concept through the implementation of practical, innovative actions. The deliberations will be undertaken within the context of the overarching theme of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly: “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”.
7. The meeting will provide an opportunity for ministers to prepare for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November 2018, and for the African Biodiversity Summit, which is being organized by Egypt back-to-back with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
8. In addition, ministers will deliberate on Africa’s preparations for the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Katowice, Poland, from 3 to 14 December 2018. The year 2018 is important for international climate diplomacy, as Governments are expected to finalize guidelines for bringing the

Paris Agreement under the Framework Convention on Climate Change into full operation and to take stock of the progress that countries are making collectively towards the realization of the aims and ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

9. The expert group will bring to the attention of ministers a number of issues for their consideration. Ministers will be invited to exchange views on those issues in order to reach agreement thereon.

10. Finally, ministers are expected to adopt a declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various agenda items.

III. Items of the provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

11. The President of AMCEN will preside over the official opening ceremony and will introduce the Bureau members and opening speakers, including the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

12. The President will invite a dignitary from Kenya to officially open the ministerial session, after which there will be a short break.

13. A detailed programme for the opening session will be circulated prior to the opening of the meeting.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

14. The President will introduce the provisional agenda (AMCEN/SS.VII/1) for consideration and adoption.

(b) Organization of work

15. The President will introduce the draft programme of work set out in annex II to the present document and draw the attention of participants to the list of documents for the session, as set out in annex I.

Item 3

Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group

16. The Chair of the expert group will present the report of the expert group segment, which will include a summary of the proceedings and the recommendations and draft decisions developed.

17. Ministers may wish to take note of the report and consider the draft decisions under the appropriate agenda item.

Item 4

Briefing on the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference and the outcomes of the Global Landscapes Forum regional conference “Landscape Restoration in Africa: Prospects and Opportunities”

(a) Sustainable Blue Economy Conference

18. Canada and Kenya will co-host the first global high-level Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy in Nairobi from 26 to 28 November 2018. The goal of the Conference is to develop concrete commitments and practical actions that can help the world to transition to the blue economy. A representative of the Government of Kenya will provide a short briefing.

(b) Global Landscapes Forum regional conference “Landscape Restoration in Africa: Prospects and Opportunities”

19. A representative of the secretariat will provide a short briefing on this regional conference, held in Nairobi on 30 and 31 August 2018, which focused on the coordination and promotion of

national, international and private sector support for forest and landscape restoration, paving the way for its implementation.

Item 5

Preparations for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the African Biodiversity Summit

20. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November 2018. It will be preceded on 14 and 15 November 2018 by the high-level segment of the Conference, which will be held under the overarching theme of “Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet”.

21. Egypt will also host the African Biodiversity Summit on 13 November 2018 in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme. The theme for the Summit is: “Land and ecosystem degradation and restoration: priorities for increased resilience in Africa”.

22. The ministerial meeting will focus on elaborating Africa's priorities for increased investment in biodiversity and discuss Africa's views and perspectives on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will be submitted for consideration during the preparation of the framework. Ministers will also discuss issues relevant to the African Biodiversity Summit and possible outcomes therefrom, including proposals on ways in which land degradation can be combated and ecosystem restoration enhanced.

23. The secretariat will give a brief presentation on this agenda item, which will be followed by a ministerial discussion on the agenda item in plenary. The secretariat has prepared a background document (AMCEN/SS.VII/3) to facilitate further discussion on the matter.

Item 6

Preparations for the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

24. The twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held in Katowice, Poland, from 3 to 14 December 2018. The year 2018 is important for international climate diplomacy, as Governments are expected to finalize guidelines for bringing the Paris Agreement into full operation and to take stock of the progress that countries are making collectively towards the realization of the aims and ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

25. Africa's commitment to tackling climate action is resounding. With a ratification rate of over 80 per cent, the region stands out as a leader in ratifying the Paris Agreement. The secretariat will give a brief presentation based on the background document “Analysis for implementing Africa's climate obligations catalytically: science, policy and action” (AMCEN/SS.VII/4).

26. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators will then give an overview, analysis and progress report on the climate change negotiations within the context of bringing the Paris Agreement into full operation and a number of other outstanding issues in preparation for the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poland in December.

27. The importance of adaptation has regularly been emphasized as a priority for Africa. To that end, the Africa Adaptation Initiative was launched during the twenty-first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November–11 December 2015, to galvanize support for the development and implementation of concrete action on adaptation. The Coordinator of the Africa Adaptation Initiative will provide a short briefing on the implementation of the Initiative, including the round-table meeting for partners planned to be held in the margins of the General Assembly in New York on 24 September 2018.

28. The above presentations will be followed by ministerial discussion on the agenda item with a view to providing guidance on the way forward.

Item 7

Africa's engagement in the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

29. The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will take place in Nairobi from 11 to 15 March 2019 under the overarching theme of "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production". The "innovative solutions" of the theme, covering policies, financing, technologies, partnerships and multi-stakeholder processes, are key, both to solving many environmental challenges and to accelerating sustainable development.

30. Brief presentations will be made by representatives of the secretariat on the roadmap to the fourth session of the Environment Assembly and on practical examples of what is already under way on the African continent towards implementing the strategic-level provisions of innovative environmental solutions. A representative of the Africa Diplomatic Corps technical team will make a presentation on progress made in relation to the preparations for the Environment Assembly, including proposed resolutions and key priority areas for Africa.

31. The presentations will be followed by a ministerial dialogue on the agenda item in plenary, covering the key issues to be discussed at the Environment Assembly, Africa's common approach for engagement and key messages for the Environment Assembly. The secretariat has prepared a background document (AMCEN/SS.VII/5) to support the discussions on this agenda item.

Item 8

Consideration and adoption of the draft declaration and draft decisions submitted by the expert group

32. The President will introduce the agreed draft declaration, decisions and key messages. A representative of the secretariat will take the ministers through the draft declaration, decisions and key messages and invite their opinions thereon.

33. The President will thereafter invite the ministers to consider and adopt the declaration, the decisions and the key messages of the seventh special session.

Item 9

Adoption of the report of the ministerial meeting

34. A representative of the secretariat will introduce the draft report of the ministerial meeting. The President will thereafter invite the ministers to discuss the report.

35. The President will request that the report be adopted in principle, on the understanding that comments from the floor will be integrated by the secretariat into the final report, which will be produced in English and French.

Item 10

Other matters

36. The President will invite ministers to briefly discuss any key matters of interest not included in the agenda. It is proposed that any Government wishing to introduce any other matter should provide the secretariat with a background document for circulation during the session.

Item 11

Closure of the meeting

37. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President will bring the meeting to a formal close.

Annex I

List of documents

Symbol	Document
Working documents	
AMCEN/SS.VII/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS.VII/EGM/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS.VII/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS.VII/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS.VII/3	Land and ecosystem degradation and restoration: priorities for increased resilience in Africa.
AMCEN/SS.VII/4	Analysis for implementing Africa's climate obligations catalytically: science, policy, action
AMCEN/SS.VII/5	Innovative environmental solutions: moving from policy-level concept to implementation
Reference documents	
AMCEN/SS.VII/REF/1	Report of the first consultative meeting for the African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity
AMCEN/SS.VI/6	Report of the ministerial segment of the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/16/3	Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa
AMCEN/16/8	Report of the ministerial segment of the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Information documents	
AMCEN/SS.VII/INF/1	Information note on the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Annex II

Programme of work for the ministerial segment

Wednesday, 19 September 2018

Time	Description
9 a.m.–9.45 a.m.	Item 1: Opening ceremony
9.45 a.m.–10 a.m.	Item 2: Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of agenda • Organization of work
10 a.m.–10.30 a.m.	Item 3: Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group, led by the Chair of the expert group
10.30 a.m.–11 a.m.	Item 4: Briefing on the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference and the outcomes of the Global Landscapes Forum regional conference “Landscape Restoration in Africa: Prospects and Opportunities
<i>Ministerial discussions</i>	
11 a.m.–11.45 a.m.	Item 5: Preparations for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the African Biodiversity Summit
11.45 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 6: Preparations for the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
12.30 p.m.–2 p.m.	Lunch break
<i>Ministerial discussions</i>	
2 p.m.–2.45 p.m.	Item 7: Africa’s engagement in the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly
2.45 p.m.–5 p.m.	Item 8: Consideration of the draft declaration and draft decisions submitted by the expert group
5 p.m.–5.30 p.m.	Item 9: Adoption of the report of the ministerial meeting
5.30 p.m.–5.45 p.m.	Item 10: Other matters
5.45 p.m.–6 p.m.	Item 11: Closure of the meeting
<i>Ministerial discussions</i>	
6.30 p.m.–8.30 p.m.	Cocktail reception and awards ceremony