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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Expert group
Thirteenth meeting
Bamako, 21–25 June 2010

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Introduction

1. According to paragraph 1 of article 9 of its constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. An offer by the Government of Mali to host the thirteenth session was accepted by AMCEN at its twelfth session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 12 June 2008.
2. Pursuant to that offer, it was agreed that the thirteenth session would be held in Mali from 21 to 25 June 2010. The session would consist of an expert group segment from 21 to 23 June 2010 and a ministerial segment from 23 to 25 June 2010.
3. In that connection, the Bureau considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session, which is set out in document UNEP/AMCEN/13/1. The Bureau also chose “Enhancing the interrelationship between climate change, biodiversity and desertification for sustainable development” as the theme for the session.
4. A few weeks before the opening of the session, the secretariat will distribute an information note under the symbol UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/1. A complete list of the documents for the session is provided in annex I to the present document.

I. Objectives and overview of the ministerial segment

5. The main objective of the session is to provide a platform for environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa that must be tackled in the context of desertification, continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity. The ministers participating in the session will consider the indicative AMCEN work programme for 2011–2012. They will also review progress made towards:
 - (a) Africa’s preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;
 - (b) Development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
 - (c) Africa’s preparations for developing a common negotiating position on an international regime on access to and the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, with a view to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010;
 - (d) Africa’s approach to continent-wide measures to combat desertification.
6. The ministers will also deliberate on the status and use of the AMCEN trust fund. The available records show that States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective

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implementation of AMCEN decisions and its work programme. There is, therefore, a pressing need for ministers to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.

7. The ministers will reconsider the revised draft AMCEN constitution, which was amended pursuant to the recommendations of ministers at the eighth session, endorsed at the ninth session and referred for further consideration at the tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions, with a view to adopting the revised constitution.

8. The ministers will also consider the relatively new status of AMCEN as part of the Specialized Technical Committee of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union and related matters.

9. The expert group will bring emerging issues, such as chemicals, to the attention of the ministers for their consideration. The group will also highlight a review of work being undertaken on the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

10. The ministers will adopt decisions reflecting their discussions under the various items on the agenda.

II. Items of the provisional agenda

A. Item 1: Opening of the meeting

11. The representative of the Minister of Environment of South Africa, the incumbent President of AMCEN, will chair the expert group segment, while the representative of the Vice-President of the AMCEN Bureau from Burkina Faso will serve as rapporteur. In the absence of either of those Bureau members, however, a Bureau meeting will be convened on the eve of the opening of the session, on 20 June 2010, to take stock of the management of the meeting and decide which of the Bureau members present will be assigned responsibilities during the session, consistent with the provisions of the constitution.

12. The Bureau currently comprises the following members:

President: South Africa

Vice-presidents: Eritrea, Gabon and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Rapporteur: Burkina Faso.

13. Representatives of United Nations agencies, the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat, the subregional economic communities of Africa, the African Development Bank and other bilateral and multilateral partners are expected to attend the session.

14. The representative of the President will make opening remarks.

B. Item 2: Organizational matters

15. The expert group will have before it a provisional agenda (UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/1) to consider for adoption. A work programme for the meeting is contained in annex II to the present document.

1. Election of officers

16. Consistent with the provisions of the AMCEN constitution and the rules of procedure, the expert group segment will be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the twelfth session. Accordingly, South Africa will serve as chair, while Burkina Faso will act as rapporteur. The vice-chairs will be Eritrea, Gabon and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

17. Regional consultations will be encouraged for the election of office-bearers for the next biennium. The elections will be aimed at filling the posts of president and rapporteur. A vice-president will be elected from each remaining region. A breakdown of the office-bearers since 1985 will be circulated and may be used in consideration of this sub-item.

2. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work

18. The experts may wish to adopt their agenda and organization of work on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/1 and the programme of work in annex II to the present document.

19. The secretariat will list the various working groups and drafting groups and the Chair will invite experts to consider joining one or the other of the groups. The experts will have to make their choices known to the secretariat by the lunch break on the first day.

C. Item 3: Consideration of the report of the secretariat

20. The representative of the AMCEN secretariat will present a report on AMCEN activities during the intersessional period (UNEP/AMCEN/13/4).

D. Item 4: Presentation by the African Union Commission on the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development programme

21. A report will be presented by the representative of the African Union Commission on the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development programme, a programme that is aimed at building the capacity of African countries to monitor the environment, facilitate the management of natural resources and deal with the challenges of sustainable development.

E. Item 5: Presentation by the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development on the review of the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

22. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Union Commission and AMCEN, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have launched a process to review the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD. This involves a comprehensive stock-taking exercise, analytical work, the preparation of relevant documents with recommendations, a consultative meeting for key stakeholders and the establishment of a partnership platform. The review began in April 2010 and is expected to be completed in July 2010 with the launch of the partnership platform. The representative of the Planning and Coordinating Agency will present a report on the progress made.

F. Item 6: Consideration of the outcomes of regional consultations for African countries on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing

23. The rationale for the deliberations on biodiversity is to discuss and adopt an African common position and contribution to the final decision-making process on access and benefit-sharing at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At that meeting, the Conference of the Parties is expected to assess whether the 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of biodiversity loss has been achieved, to adopt an international regime on access and benefit-sharing and to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

24. Relevant activities to be undertaken in the region from July to October 2010 will also be considered.

G. Item 7: Consideration of the draft indicative work programme for the biennium 2011–2012 and status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

25. The interim draft indicative AMCEN work programme for the biennium 2011–2012 (UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/3) will be presented for consideration. It is worth noting that one of the main objectives of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD is to complement relevant African processes, including the work programme of AMCEN, with a view to improving environmental conditions in Africa so as to contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty eradication.

H. Item 8: Consideration of the second draft constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

26. By its decision 3, taken at its tenth regular session, AMCEN noted with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat to facilitate the completion of the document on the revised constitution. It also noted that few countries had submitted comments on the draft constitution and therefore requested the secretariat to circulate the draft revised constitution, both in English and in French, to all African countries for their review and comments. At its eleventh and twelfth sessions, AMCEN decided to defer discussion of the constitution until the evolving structures of the African Union became clearer.

27. In view of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) of February 2009, by which the African Union Assembly decided to reconfigure the specialized technical committees of the African Union (DOC. EX.CL/496(XIV)), AMCEN currently belongs to the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union. There is therefore now a need to reconsider the second draft constitution.

I. Item 9: Preparation for the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session

28. Two working groups will be established. The first will deliberate on policy-related matters, while the second will consider technical matters. Experts will be invited to join either group. The experts will have to make their choices known to the secretariat by the lunch break on 21 June 2010.

29. The first working group will be expected to consider the draft Bamako Declaration; the biodiversity and desertification components of the ministerial policy dialogue; outcomes of regional preparatory meetings held in connection with an international regime on access and benefit-sharing; and the draft constitution.

30. The second working group will be expected to consider an interim draft indicative work programme for the biennium 2011–2012; the climate change component of the ministerial policy dialogue; the draft comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes; the general trust fund; and the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development programme.

J. Item 10: Adoption of the report of the expert segment

31. The rapporteur will present an overview of the report of the segment, including the draft decisions, and request that the report be considered for amendment and adoption under the guidance of the Chair of the expert group segment.

32. The Chair will invite experts to make comments, paragraph by paragraph. Only comments of substance will be considered and these must, of necessity, be submitted to the rapporteur in writing.

33. The Chair 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.

K. Item 11: Other matters

34. Major issues of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed.

35. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should be in a position to provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session. An English version of any such text must be made available. Should there be need for a decision to be taken, a draft text should also be available, in English.

L. Item 12: Closure of the session

36. The Chair will invite the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the Director of the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Economy and Environment to make their concluding remarks before declaring the meeting closed.

Annex I

List of documents

Working documents	
UNEP/AMCEN/13/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/13/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/13/3	Report of the expert group segment
UNEP/AMCEN/13/4	Report of the secretariat July 2008–June 2010
UNEP/AMCEN/13/5	Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
UNEP/AMCEN/13/6	Draft revised constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
UNEP/AMCEN/13/7	Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment of the African Union and related matters
UNEP/AMCEN/13/8	Draft comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes
UNEP/AMCEN/13/9	Draft African Ministerial Conference on the Environment climate change communication strategy
UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/3	Interim draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the biennium 2011–2012
Information documents	
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/1	Information note on the thirteenth session
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/2	Report on the implementation of decision 6
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/3	Report on the African regional seas programme
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/4	Compilation of recommendations for combating climate change in Africa and the subregions
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/5	Africa regional implementation meeting policy statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production
AMCEN/SS/III/6	Report of the ministerial segment of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/EX.MTG/II/2	Report of the second extraordinary meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change

AMCEN/SS/III/4	Report of the expert group segment of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/AHLPCC/2/2	Report of the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change
AMCEN/CA/CC/1	Report of Central African subregional meeting on climate change convened by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/EAC/CC/1	Report of the Eastern African subregional meeting on climate change, jointly convened by the East African Community and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/NSA/CC/1	Report of the North and Southern African subregional meeting on climate change
Reference documents	
AMCEN/13/Ref/1	Review and analysis of the negotiating text on long-term cooperative action in the light of the specific circumstances of Africa
UNEP/AMCEN/Ref/2	Climate change, clean technology and green growth opportunities in Africa
UNEP Doc.	State of biodiversity in Africa

Annex II

Organization of work, 21–23 June 2010

21 June 2010	
9.30–10.30 a.m.	Item 1: Opening of the meeting
10.40–11 a.m.	Item 2: Organizational matters: <i>Item 2 (a):</i> Election of officers <i>Item 2 (b):</i> Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work Establishment of drafting groups
11–11.20 a.m.	Item 3: Consideration of the report of the secretariat
11.20–11.35 a.m.	Item 4: Presentation by the African Union Commission on the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development programme
11.35–11.50 a.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
11.50 a.m.–12.05 p.m.	Item 5: Presentation by Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development on the review of the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
12.05–12.20 p.m.	Item 6: Consideration of the outcomes of regional consultations for African countries on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing
12.20–12.35 p.m.	Synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions: a case study
12.35–2.10 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2.10–2.30 p.m.	Item 7: Consideration of the draft indicative work programme for the biennium 2011–2012 and status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
2.30–2.45 p.m.	Item 8: Consideration of the second draft constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
2.45–3 p.m.	Introduction of the breakout sessions and formation of drafting groups
3–4 p.m.	Item 9: Preparation for the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session – meeting of the working and drafting groups
4–4.15 p.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
4.15–6 p.m.	Meeting of the working and drafting groups (cont.)

22 June 2010	
9–11 a.m.	Meeting of the working and drafting groups (cont.)
11–11.20 a.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
11.20 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Meeting of the working and drafting groups (cont.)
12.30–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2–4.30 p.m.	Meeting of the working and drafting groups (cont.)
4.30– 6 p.m.	<p>Consideration of reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of the working and drafting groups, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports of the groups - Draft Bamako Declaration - Draft decisions - Draft indicative work programme • Report of the plenary sessions
23 June 2010	
9–11 a.m.	Consideration of reports (cont.)
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	<p><i>Item 10: Adoption of the report of the expert segment</i></p> <p><i>Item 11: Other matters</i></p> <p><i>Item 12: Closure of the meeting</i></p>