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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*


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**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment****Sixteenth session**

Expert segment

Libreville, 12–14 June 2017

**Draft report of the expert segment meeting****Introduction**

1. The expert group segment of the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Libreville from 12 to 14 June 2017.
2. It was attended by experts from AMCEN member States, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, the secretariats of various environmental conventions and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
3. The expert group segment was chaired by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Development and External Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Egypt, representing the President of AMCEN, Mr. Khaled Fahmy, Minister of the Environment of Egypt.

**I. Opening of the session**

4. The meeting was opened at 10.05 a.m. on Monday, 12 June 2017, by the Chair. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Estelle Ondo, Minister of Forest Economy, Fisheries and Environment of Gabon; Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Africa Office; Mr. Almami Dampha, representing the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy of the African Union Commission; and Ms. Fouad, who officially opened the meeting.

**II. Organizational matters****A. Election of officers**

5. At its first plenary meeting, on the morning of 12 June 2017, the expert group agreed, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the Conference and its rules of procedure, that the expert group segment would be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the fifteenth session. Accordingly, Egypt served as Chair, while Gabon served as Rapporteur. Office-bearers for the biennium 2017–2018 would be elected through subregional consultations.

**B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

6. At its first plenary meeting, on the morning of 12 June 2017, the expert group adopted its agenda and organization of work on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/16/EGM/1) and programme of work (AMCEN/16/EGM/1/Add.1). The expert group also agreed to establish working groups as deemed necessary to assist in carrying out its work.
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Organizational matters.
    - (a) Election of officers;
    - (b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.

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*Note:* The present document is being issued in English and French only.

3. Consideration of the report of the secretariat.
4. Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment:
  - (a) Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
  - (b) Regional flagship programmes;
  - (c) Specialized technical committees of the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
5. Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa.
6. Towards a pollution-free planet: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
7. Other issues related to sustainable development in Africa:
  - (a) Climate change;
  - (b) Desertification;
  - (c) Ocean governance;
  - (d) Illegal trade in wildlife;
  - (e) Migration and environmental security;
  - (f) Energy;
  - (g) Environment and youth engagement;
  - (h) Briefings on the outcomes of the recent conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
  - (i) Update on the preparations for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention;
  - (j) Update on the preparations for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - (k) Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
8. Breakout sessions on:
  - (a) Investing in innovative environmental solutions;
  - (b) Third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
  - (c) Other matters relating to sustainable development.
9. Consideration of the draft declaration and the draft decisions and key messages.
10. Adoption of the report of the expert segment.
11. Other matters.
12. Closure of the expert segment.

### **III. Consideration of the report of the secretariat**

7. At the first plenary meeting of the expert group, on the morning of 12 June 2017, the representative of the secretariat presented the report of the secretariat on the work of AMCEN for the period 15 March 2015 to 31 May 2017 (AMCEN/16/EGM/3).
8. Following the presentation, brief statements were made by the representatives of Senegal and Togo. The Chair invited delegates to provide to the secretariat, in writing, any suggestions for inclusion of additional information in the report.
9. The expert group took note of the report of the secretariat.

#### **IV. Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

10. At its first plenary meeting, on the morning of 12 June 2017, the expert group considered agenda item 4, which had three parts. The issues raised were referred to the working groups for further discussion, as appropriate.

##### **A. Trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

11. The representative of the secretariat introduced a report by the secretariat on the general trust fund of AMCEN (AMCEN/16/4). Statements were made in response by the representatives of Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Morocco, Namibia and Togo.

##### **B. Regional flagship programmes**

12. The representative of the secretariat summarized the progress that had been made in implementing the regional flagship programmes.

##### **C. Specialized technical committees of the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

13. The representative of the secretariat presented a report of the secretariat on the advantages and disadvantages of retaining AMCEN as an independent body (AMCEN/16/7). Brief statements were made on the matter by the representatives of Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and Swaziland.

#### **V. Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa**

14. At the first plenary meeting, on the morning of 12 June, Mr. Richard Munang, Coordinator of the Africa Regional Climate Change Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, gave a presentation concerning agenda item 5.

#### **VI. Towards a pollution-free planet: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

15. At its first plenary meeting, on the morning of 12 June, the expert group considered two presentations, by Mr. Bary Abdouraman, a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Ms. Ntesang Molemele, Chair of the African Diplomatic Corps technical team based in Nairobi. At the second plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 12 June, the representative of Togo made a brief statement in response to the presentations.

#### **VII. Other issues related to sustainable development in Africa**

16. At its second plenary meeting, on the morning of 12 June 2017, the expert group considered agenda item 7, including eleven sub-items. The issues raised were referred to the working groups for further discussion, as appropriate (see agenda item 8).

##### **A. Climate change**

17. Presentations were made by Mr. Mohamed Nasr, representing the African Group of Negotiators, on the current status of negotiations on climate change; by Mr. Richard Munang, on the science of climate change and the effects of climate change on Africa; and by Mr. Aliou Dia, the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional Service Centre for Africa, on the activities of UNDP supporting implementation of environmental programmes and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. Statements were made on the matter by the representatives of Kenya and Morocco.

##### **B. Desertification**

19. The representative of the secretariat introduced a report by the secretariat on drought, land degradation and desertification in Africa (AMCEN/16/EGM/6).

20. Statements were made on the matter by the representatives of Kenya, Namibia and South Africa. In response to a request from the representative of South Africa, the expert group agreed that the issue of peace and security be excluded from further consideration of the matter.

### **C. Ocean governance**

21. The representative of the secretariat introduced a report by the secretariat on governance mechanisms for ocean ecosystem-based management in Africa using the regional seas programmes (AMCEN/16/EGM/8).

### **D. Illegal trade in wildlife**

22. The representative of the secretariat introduced the sub-item on illegal trade in wildlife, including the current status of activities regarding implementation of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa.

### **E. Migration and environmental security**

23. Discussion of the sub-item was deferred pending clarification of the status of the matter.

### **F. Energy**

24. The representative of the secretariat introduced a report on energy as an enabler to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa (AMCEN/16/EGM/4).

### **G. Environment and youth engagement**

25. The representative of the secretariat introduced a report on the environment and youth engagement (AMCEN/16/EGM/9).

### **H. Briefings on the outcomes of the recent conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

26. The representative of the secretariat informed the expert group of some of the key outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, held in Geneva from 24 April to 5 May 2017. The representative of Gabon gave additional information on the matter. A brief statement was made on the matter by the representative of the Congo.

### **I. Update of the preparations for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention**

27. The representative of the secretariat gave a brief report on progress towards the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, to be held in Abidjan from 18 to 20 October 2017. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire indicated his country's readiness and willingness to host the meeting.

### **J. Update on the preparations for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

28. The representative of Egypt informed the expert group that his country would host the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (and related meetings) in the last quarter of 2018.

### **K. Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**

29. The representative of the secretariat introduced an information note on the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (AMCEN/16/INF/4).

30. Statements were made on the matter by the representatives of Botswana and the Congo.

## **VIII. Breakout sessions**

31. At its second plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 12 June, the expert group established four working groups to consider a range of issues during breakout sessions.

**A. Investing in innovative environmental solutions**

32. The first working group was tasked with discussing investment in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa.

**B. Climate change issues**

33. The second working group, which would mainly include representatives of the African Group of Negotiators, was tasked with updating the African common negotiation position and platform on climate change, discussing the operationalization of the Paris Agreement on climate change and outstanding issues in preparation for the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and reviewing the implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Africa Adaptation Initiative.

**C. Third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

34. The third working group was tasked with discussing the preparations for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including proposed resolutions and key priority areas for Africa, and defining Africa's common approach for effective engagement in the work of the Assembly.

**D. Other matters relating to sustainable development**

35. The fourth working group was tasked with considering other issues related to sustainable development in Africa and addressing matters related to the Conference, including follow-up to previous decisions, the general trust fund of the Conference, regional flagship programmes and the specialized technical committees of the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

36. All four working groups were tasked with working on relevant decisions, key messages for the Conference and elements of the proposed Libreville declaration.

**IX. Consideration of the draft declaration and the draft decisions and key messages**

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**X. Adoption of the report of the meeting of the expert segment**

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**XI. Other matters**

39. At the second plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 12 June, a representative of the Global Environment Facility provided an update on the seventh replenishment of resources of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

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**XII. Closure of the expert segment**

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