

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

Ministerial segment

Durban, South Africa, 14 and 15 November 2019

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Trust fund of the African Ministerial  
Conference on the Environment****The general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on  
the Environment\*\*****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) is a permanent forum of African environment ministers established in 1985 in Cairo, Egypt with the aim of halting environmental degradation and promoting sustainable development in Africa by enhancing inter-governmental co-operation as set out in the Cairo Programme, adopted at the first session of AMCEN. Since then, 16 regular sessions of the Conference have been convened, and hosted by different African countries. In addition, seven special sessions of the Conference have been organized to consider specific issues of concern related to environment and sustainable development of the region.

2. At its first regular session, AMCEN decided that the Cairo Programme should primarily be financed by African Governments themselves. Funding for the operations of the Conference as originally conceived at its first session were to come from two sources:

(a) Voluntary contributions by member States from an agreed percentage of funds provided by respective United Nations Development Programme country offices under budget lines generally known as indicative planning figures;

(b) Contributions from donor countries and agencies.

3. It was calculated at that time that, on the basis of a 5 per cent indicative planning figure contribution from each Government each year, African Governments would contribute \$32 million over a five-year period. However, this option did not materialize as none of the Member states ever allocated funds from their indicative planning figure budget lines, and the resulting lack of funding became a major constraint facing the Conference and an underlying reason for its challenges in implementing its activities.

**A. Background information on the general trust fund**

4. At its fourth session, in 1991, and taking into consideration the financial constraints that had hampered its activities, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decided to set up a general trust fund to ensure a sustainable financial basis for the Conference. The main objective of the fund was to provide financial support, wholly or partially, for the functioning of the organs of the Conference and the implementation of its activities.

\* AMCEN/17/1.

\*\* The present note is being issued without formal editing.

5. The general trust fund was established in accordance with article 27 of the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. The Constitution provides that pledges of contributions to the trust fund shall be made at each session of the Conference and that the fund shall be an agenda item at each regular session.
6. The general trust fund was established on the basis of voluntary contributions. However, at the sixth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, it was reported that only a few member States had made contributions to the fund. Aware of the importance of the fund as the major means of resource mobilization and the most important means of securing the commitments of African Governments to the Conference, it was felt that mandatory contributions would be necessary to mobilize the financial resources required to implement the activities of the Conference.
7. At its eighth session, held in Abuja in April 2000, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment accordingly adopted a series of proposals for policy and institutional change. In its decision 8/5, the Conference resolved to restructure its institutional arrangements and adopt a scale of member State contributions to the general trust fund. In the same decision, it urged its member States to increase their contributions to the trust fund to a total of \$3 million by December 2001 on the basis of the new system of contributions agreed upon at that session. It appealed to donor Governments to make generous contributions to the fund. It also mandated the United Nations Environment Programme to invoice member States for their contributions to the fund on the basis of the goodwill enshrined in the decisions taken with regard to the fund.
8. At its thirteenth session, held in Bamako in June 2010, delegates highlighted that the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment required considerable financial resources and that it was necessary to ensure that the general trust fund was adequately funded. They therefore, through decision 13/4, urged member States to pay their contributions to enable the Conference to scale up its work and tackle the perennial financial constraints that it faced.
9. At the fourteenth session, held in Arusha in September 2012, several representatives expressed concern that the non-contribution by most member States to the trust fund continued to affect the ability of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to carry out its activities effectively. Member States were urged to clear their outstanding mandatory contributions and to work with all organs of their Governments to ensure that the mandatory annual contributions to the fund were made in a timely manner.
10. In the Cairo Declaration of its fifteenth session held in March 2015, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment again urged member states to continue clearing their outstanding mandatory contributions to the general trust fund.
11. At the sixteenth session held in June 2017 in Libreville, delegates urged member States to pay their contributions to the general trust fund, including outstanding arrears, in a timely manner and invited the secretariat of the Conference to ensure an early notification of member States regarding their contributions to the trust fund, to allow sufficient time for internal payment procedures. The Secretariat has endeavoured to send such notifications with most member States not responding at all and those that respond promising to clear their arrears, but not fulfilling the promises.
12. Many member States have yet to contribute to the fund, despite continual appeals by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and reminders by the secretariat to member States. Unpaid pledges amounting to \$2.1 million had to be written off in 2010, and contributions to the fund continue to be irregular and insufficient. Unpaid pledges between 2010 and 2019 have amounted to US\$3,517,866. These pledges continue to be reflected in the books of the trust fund with no indication as to when the arrears will be cleared.<sup>1</sup>

## **B. Resolution adopted at the thirteenth session**

13. In its decision 13/4, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment resolved:
  - (a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their contributions to the general trust fund;
  - (b) Also to urge Governments to make a compulsory yearly minimum contribution of \$10,000 to the general trust fund to enable the Conference to carry out its activities;
  - (c) To urge those Governments that can pay more than the yearly minimum contribution to the general trust fund to do so to enable the Conference to scale up its activities;

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<sup>1</sup> Note: US\$90,428 was received from Benin on 15 October 2019, which is not reflected in this report.

- (d) To agree to invest \$2 million of the principal of the general trust fund as an absolute minimum investment;
- (e) To request the Bureau to establish a working group to review new and more efficient methods and modalities to mobilize resources;
- (f) To request the President of the Conference to send regular reminders to member States to make their contributions;
- (g) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested to carry out Conference activities, cover the costs of Bureau meetings and meet the costs of regular sessions of the Conference and to request the secretariat to make proposals on such use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation;
- (h) To agree that the general trust fund should continue to be managed by UN Environment as long as the secretariat of the Conference remains with that organization;
- (i) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at sessions of the Conference;
- (j) To extend its appreciation to UN Environment and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the Conference.

14. As decided at the thirteenth session and reiterated at the subsequent sessions of the Conference, letters reminding member States to make contributions to the trust fund were sent out by the Secretariat. Contributions received from member States in the biennium 2017–2018 amounted to \$465,846, with the interest generated by the trust fund over the same period totalling \$83,682. Total income for the biennium 2017–2018, therefore, amounted to \$549,528.

15. The United Nations Environment Programme, as the Conference secretariat, continues to manage the general trust fund, which is audited together with the other United Nations Environment Programme trust funds. The most recent audit undertaken resulted in no auditor recommendations for the attention of the Conference. The Statement of Financial Performance for the year 2017 and 2018, together with the interim unaudited Statement of Financial Performance as at 20 September 2019, is set out in Annex I, Annex II and Annex III to the present note. The status of member State contributions to the trust fund as at 30 September 2019 is shown in Annex IV.

16. The Secretariat would like to bring it to the attention of the Conference that it is becoming ever more challenging to convene sessions of the Conference and in fact it will no longer be possible to convene special sessions of the Conference in the periods between regular sessions. It is important to note that on average the cost of convening a session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is approximately \$1.3 million.

17. There is an urgent and increasing need for all member States to make their contributions, including clearing outstanding arrears, to the general trust fund in a timely manner and on a regular basis.

## II. Use of the trust fund

18. Pursuant to decision 13/4, the secretariat only utilizes the interest generated by the general trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested to fund the implementation of Conference activities. However, the interest earned on the trust fund and the contributions received during the reporting period has relatively been small and this is no longer sustainable for the implementation of the Conference activities.

19. Limited financial support from development partners was also received during the reporting period to cover some of the activities undertaken. The Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme has also continued to make resources available through several United Nations Environment Programme projects to cover the cost of some activities.

20. Since the interest earned on the trust fund is relatively small, the balance of the principal fund may in future have to be used for sponsoring meetings, for some key activities or as leverage funds for resource mobilization. This is an approach that the Secretariat would not recommend.

### **III. Criteria for contributions to the general trust fund**

21. Article 27 of the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment provides that pledges to the fund shall be made at each session of the Conference. Member State contributions are thus obligatory. It also provides that development partners and observers shall also be encouraged to make such voluntary contributions as they may be in a position to make and that efforts shall be made to mobilize financial resources from bilateral and multilateral sources.
22. The minimum annual contribution to be made by each Member State was set at \$10,000 through decision 13/4 in 2010. Member States with the ability to pay more were, of course, encouraged to do so.
23. It was envisaged that such an approach would ensure that the burden of payment was shared equally by all member States. For that reason, the base level of payment was made sufficiently low to encourage all member States to contribute.
24. Countries' contributions to the fund are provided based on pledges that they make. Countries are invoiced by United Nations Environment Programme as the Conference secretariat after making pledges. As a rule, the United Nations Environment Programme cannot invoice a country that has not made a pledge. However, very few countries make pledges to the trust fund.
25. It is evident that the Conference needs to look ahead and tackle the issue of funding for its sessions, which include regular and special sessions and Bureau meetings. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment has continued to encourage member States to pay their contributions to the trust fund, with limited improvement being observed. It is proposed that letters sent to ministers of the environment also be copied to ministers for foreign affairs and/or finance for follow-up to ensure that contributions are made.

### **IV. Way forward**

26. At its seventeenth session, therefore, the Conference should provide a clear direction regarding contributions to the trust fund, including by adopting a decision that all member States should come to every regular session with their pledges in writing, and requesting the secretariat to follow up on such pledges with the required invoices to the member States to ensure that contributions are made.
27. The Conference may in addition, adopt a decision that for any member State to be eligible to serve on the Bureau of the Conference, such a member State should not have any outstanding arrears to the trust fund.
28. In addition, the Conference may adopt a decision that delegates to be supported to participate in the sessions of the Conference must be from member states with no outstanding arrears to the trust fund. Alternatively, the Conference may wish to decide that only member states with no arrears to the trust fund be allowed to take the floor during the Conference sessions.
29. These proposals are meant to encourage delegates at the seventeenth session of the Conference to come up with a lasting solution to the perennial funding challenges facing the Conference as well as commitment from the member states.

## Annex I



General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)  
(Fund code : AML)

I. Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2017  
(United States Dollars)

	Total 2017
<b>Revenue</b>	
Voluntary Contributions	289,420
Other Revenue	7,990
Investment Revenue	34,262
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>331,672</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Non-employee compensation and allowances	17,930
Travel	303,029
Other operating expenses	174,502
Other expenses	3,732
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>499,193</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>(167,521)</b>

II. Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2017  
(United States Dollars)

	Total 2017
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash equivalents	199,922
Investments	1,780,351
Other receivables	225
Advance Transfers	11,000
Other assets	31,424
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,022,922</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
Investments	558,824
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>558,824</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,581,746</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(11,243)
Employee benefits liabilities	2,089
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(9,154)</b>
<b>Total Non current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(9,154)</b>
<b>Net of Total Assets and Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,590,900</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Accumulated surpluses/ (deficits) - unrestricted	2,590,900
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,590,900</b>

III. Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended 31 December 2017  
(United States Dollars)

	Total 2017
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Period	2,758,421
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(167,521)
<b>Total Net Assets at the End of the Period</b>	<b>2,590,900</b>

*Annette Waweru*

Annette Waweru  
Chief

ACCOUNTS SECTION

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE, UNOM



United Nations Office at Nairobi 18/10/2019  
ACCOUNTS SECTION  
Budget and Financial  
Management Service

## Annex II



General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) (Fund code : AML)	
I. Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2018 (United States Dollars)	
	Total 2018
<b>Revenue</b>	
Voluntary Contributions	3,321,430
Other Revenue	801
Investment Revenue	49,420
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,371,651</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Employee salaries allowances and benefits	3,659
Non-employee compensation and allowances	758
Travel	99,603
Other operating expenses	982,305
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,086,325</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>2,285,326</b>
II. Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2018 (United States Dollars)	
	Total 2018
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash equivalents	236,073
Investments	2,024,397
Voluntary contributions receivable	2,456,050
Other receivables	215
Advance Transfers	11,000
Other assets	(3,918)
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,723,817</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
Investments	156,801
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>156,801</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,880,618</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,515
Employee benefits liabilities	1,877
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,392</b>
<b>Total Non current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,392</b>
<b>Net of Total Assets and Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,876,226</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Accumulated surpluses/ (deficits) - unrestricted	4,876,226
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>4,876,226</b>
III. Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended 31 December 2018 (United States Dollars)	
	Total 2018
<b>Net Assets at the Beginning of the Period</b>	<b>2,590,900</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	2,285,326
<b>Total Net Assets at the End of the Period</b>	<b>4,876,226</b>
 Annette Waweru Chief ACCOUNTS SECTION BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE, UN	
 United Nations Office at Nairobi ACCOUNTS SECTION Budget and Financial Management Service	
18/10/2019	

## Annex III

	
<b>General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)</b> (Fund code : AML)	
<b>I. Interim Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 20 september 2019</b> (United States Dollars)	
	<b>Total 2019</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Voluntary Contributions	480,000
Other Revenue	(801)
Investment Revenue	38,794
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>517,993</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Non-employee compensation and allowances	(392)
Travel	(1,112)
Other operating expenses	(781,094)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(782,598)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>1,300,591</b>
<b>II. Interim Statement of Financial Position as at 20 September 2019</b> (United States Dollars)	
	<b>Total 2019</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash equivalents	2,646,433
Voluntary contributions receivable	3,519,085
Other assets	3,118
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>6,168,636</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,168,636</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(7,317)
Employee benefits liabilities	(865)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(8,182)</b>
<b>Total Non current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(8,182)</b>
<b>Net of Total Assets and Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,176,818</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Accumulated surpluses/ (deficits) - unrestricted	6,176,818
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>6,176,818</b>
<b>III. Interim Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended 20 september 2019</b> (United States Dollars)	
	<b>Total 2019</b>
<b>Net Assets at the Beginning of the Period</b>	<b>4,876,227</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>1,300,591</b>
<b>Total Net Assets at the End of the Period</b>	<b>6,176,818</b>
 	
Annette Waweru Chief ACCOUNTS SECTION BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE, UNON	15/10/2019 United Nations Office at Nairobi ACCOUNTS SECTION Budget and Financial Management Service

Note: US\$90,428 was received from Benin on 15 October 2019, which is not reflected in this report.

## Annex IV

## General trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment: status of contributions as at 30 September 2019

(United States dollars)

Country	Total minimum annual contributions from year 2010 to 2019	Contributions received in 2010	Contributions received in 2011	Contributions received in 2012	Contributions received in 2013	Contributions received in 2014	Contributions received in 2015	Contributions received in 2016	Contributions received in 2017	Contributions received in 2018	Contributions received in 2019	Total contributions received	Unpaid balance	
1 Algeria	111100002	100,000				40,000		19,970	10,000	20,030		90,000	10,000	
2 Angola	111100003	100,000					40,000	10,000			40,000	90,000	10,000	
3 Benin	111100017	100,000							9,764			9,764	90,236	
4 Botswana	111100021	100,000	10,026		20,000	10,000	10,000					50,026	49,974	
5 Burkina Faso	111100025	100,000	6,540	5,646	5,858							18,044	81,956	
6 Burundi	111100026	100,000			573							573	99,427	
7 Cameroon	111100028	100,000										0	100,000	
8 Cabo Verde	111100030	100,000										0	100,000	
9 Central African Republic	111100031	100,000										0	100,000	
10 Chad	111100032	100,000										0	100,000	
11 Comoros	111100036	100,000										0	100,000	
12 Congo	111100037	100,000							19,476			19,476	80,524	
13 Côte d'Ivoire	111100039	100,000					50,000		548			50,548	49,452	
14 Democratic Republic of the Congo	1111000180	100,000		10,000								10,000	90,000	
15 Djibouti	111100046	100,000										0	100,000	
16 Egypt	111100050	100,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000		20,000		10,000	80,000	20,000	
17 Equatorial Guinea	111100052	100,000										0	100,000	
18 Eritrea	111100053	100,000										0	100,000	
19 Ethiopia	111100055	100,000					40,000		30,000		10,000	80,000	20,000	
20 Gabon	111100059	100,000	10,075									77,561	87,636	
21 Gambia	111100060	100,000	500	500		3,000	6,000					10,000	90,000	
22 Ghana	111100063	100,000						30,000	30,000	10,000		70,000	30,000	
23 Guinea	111100067	100,000			30,000							30,000	70,000	
24 Guinea-Bissau	111100068	100,000										0	100,000	
25 Kenya	111100085	100,000	10,000		10,000		10,000		50,000			80,000	20,000	
26 Lesotho	111100091	100,000		9,975	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000				59,975	40,025	
27 Liberia	111100092	100,000			19,950				30,000		24,753	74,703	25,297	
28 Libya	111100093	100,000										0	100,000	
29 Madagascar	111100097	100,000	9,074					30,825	51,320			91,219	8,781	
30 Malawi	111100098	100,000										0	100,000	
31 Mali	111100100	100,000		10,508								10,508	89,492	
32 Mauritania	111100103	100,000										0	100,000	
33 Mauritius	111100104	100,000	17,732	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000		10,000	107,732	-7,732	
34 Morocco	111100110	100,000	9,681	10,040		10,000	9,906	10,059	10,000		20,000	79,686	20,314	
35 Mozambique	111100111	100,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000			10,000		20,000	70,000	30,000	
36 Namibia	111100113	100,000		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000		70,000	30,000	
37 Niger	111100118	100,000										0	100,000	
38 Nigeria	111100118	100,000				40,000						40,000	60,000	
39 Rwanda	111100135	100,000		10,000		10,000	20,000	10,000		20,000	10,000	80,000	20,000	
40 Sao Tome and Principe	1111000141	100,000										0	100,000	
41 Senegal	1111000143	100,000										0	100,000	
42 Seychelles	1111000144	100,000	50,000	10,000	10,000							70,000	30,000	
43 Sierra Leone	1111000145	100,000				10,000	30,000	20,312	9,980	9,708		80,000	20,000	
44 Somalia	1111000150	100,000										0	100,000	
45 South Africa	1111000151	100,000		10,000		110,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	180,000	-80,000	
46 South Sudan	1111000191	100,000										0	100,000	
47 Sudan	1111000154	100,000										0	100,000	
48 Swaziland	1111000156	100,000		20,000	10,000		20,000					50,000	50,000	
49 Togo	1111000162	100,000				20,000						20,000	80,000	
50 Tunisia	1111000164	100,000		10,000		10,000	10,000	10,000		20,000	10,000	70,000	30,000	
51 Uganda	1111000167	100,000	10,000	10,000								20,000	80,000	
52 United Republic of Tanzania	1111000171	100,000										0	100,000	
53 Zambia	1111000181	100,000										0	100,000	
54 Zimbabwe	1111000182	100,000	10,000						5,000	5,000		20,000	80,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,400,000</b>	<b>87,732</b>	<b>166,404</b>	<b>96,161</b>	<b>346,382</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>226,218</b>	<b>145,834</b>	<b>365,816</b>	<b>70,030</b>	<b>222,314</b>	<b>1,969,891</b>	<b>3,430,109</b>

Number of countries making contributions:

4 17 11 17 15 15 10 19 6 9 34

Note: US\$90,428 was received from Benin on 15 October 2019, which is not reflected in this report.