

**STATEMENT BY AFRICAN MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO THE  
FIRST PART OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF AMCEN**

**Summary Statement as delivered**

Merci infiniment M. le Président,

Nous vous communiquons nos plus chaleureuses félicitations et serons heureux de travailler en partenariat avec vous. Nous remercions également la présidence sortante de l'Afrique du Sud pour son labeur engagé.

Les messages clés ayant été convenus par le groupe en Anglais, je m'exprimerai en anglais.

Honourable President,

Esteemed Executive Director,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Fellow African Major Groups and Stakeholders,

I am Ayman Cherkaoui with the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection; and, as a Regional Facilitator, I have the honour of reading this summary statement on behalf of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders. The full statement has been shared with the Secretariat and will be made available online.

*We urge* AMCEN to enhance their commitment to conserving, protecting and enhancing the resilience of Africa's environment, animals, and natural resources as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

*We request* AMCEN to take decisive action on underlying pandemic risks, unsustainable consumption and production, transformation of food systems, climate crisis, nature crisis, pollution and waste crisis.

*We further urge* the International Community, particularly Developed Countries, as well as African Countries to provide adequate resources to address environmental issues and support new and existing programmes such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel, the African Renewable Energy Initiative, the African Adaptation Initiative and the regional Climate Commissions.

*We commend* AMCEN for its role in providing strategic and policy guidance for the creation of the African Green Stimulus Programme.

*We strongly encourage* African Countries to adopt and support the African Green Stimulus Programme in an inclusive manner.

*We request* for the meaningful inclusion of African Major Groups and Stakeholders in the Coordinating Committee of the Africa Green Stimulus Programme.

*We deplore* that the increased dependency, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, of international multilateralism on digital platforms has constricted spaces with African and Major Groups and Stakeholders as the most affected due to poor internet connectivity and funding constraints.

*We call* upon African countries to support the African Group of Negotiators during the forthcoming Climate COP to finalize the Paris Agreement rulebook and oblige developed countries to fulfil their commitments such as emission reductions to meet the 1.5°C target, provision of adequate and predictable climate finance, progress on adaptation and clarity on compensation for loss and damage.

*We urge* AMCEN to commit to active engagement in the negotiations and successful implementation of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework once adopted and address biodiversity loss without jeopardizing benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities.

*We draw attention to the* problem of plastic pollution which has serious economic, environmental, and social consequences.

*We express* our staunch support to the submission by the African Group that concluded that “UNEA-5 delivers the solution [...] by providing the negotiation mandate for a new legally binding instrument to combat plastic pollution”.

*We further express* our strong support to Decision 3/8 of the Bamako Convention which also called for a new legally binding global agreement to combat plastic pollution.

*We therefore call on* AMCEN to formally support the Ministerial statement and the Rwanda-Peru draft resolution that were presented during the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution of September 2021.

*We welcome* UNEP’s facilitation of global, regional and national environmental policymaking and implementation through, inter alia, support of environmental negotiations, education, policies, law, assessments and the promotion of access to environmental information.

*We welcome* the approval of the medium-term strategy for the period 2022 - 2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022 - 2023.

*We encourage* African Countries to participate actively at UNEA 5.2 under the theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.

*We express our profound appreciation* that the UNEP Headquarters are located in Africa, *express our firm belief* that Africa must be an important component of the identity of UNEP and *support* the call by the African group for a more coordinated regional delivery of the programme of work including through strengthening UNEP in Nairobi.

*We highlight* the importance of commemorating UNEP @50 and *pledge* support and cooperation in the preparations towards this vital event.

*We call on* AMCEN to lend its support and active participation to a successful UNEP @50 commemoration that results in tangible and positive outcomes globally and for Africa.

*We finally call* on AMCEN to recognize that environmental challenges cannot be attended to in silos, *recall* the important role we play in the effective implementation of resolutions and decisions made at these fora and *request* meaningful and constant inclusion, in particular of women, youth and vulnerable communities.