



AMCEN



AU



UNEP

Distr.: General
20 September 2021

Original: English
English and French only

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Eighteenth session

Ministerial meeting

Online, 16 September 2021

Report of the ministerial segment of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The ministerial segment of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held online on 16 September 2021.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of member States of AMCEN, other States, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations entities and the secretariats of various environmental conventions, partners, and intergovernmental, non-governmental and civil society organizations.
3. The opening of the ministerial segment was chaired by the President of AMCEN, Ms. Barbara Creecy, Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa.
4. The ministerial segment was opened at noon on Thursday, 16 September 2021¹ by the Chair.
5. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Creecy; Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and Ms. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission, who officially opened the meeting.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

6. The following countries were elected by acclamation to serve on the Bureau for the period 2021–2023:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Subregion</i>
President	Senegal	West Africa
Vice-President and Rapporteur	Sudan	Eastern Africa
Vice-President	Botswana	Southern Africa
Vice-President	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Central Africa
Vice-President	Mauritania	North Africa

7. The incoming President, Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal, delivered an inaugural statement.

¹ All times indicated are Nairobi time (UTC + 3).

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The representatives adopted the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(I)/1).
 1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. High-level segment and ministerial statements.
 4. Launch of the online platform for the Africa green stimulus programme.
 5. Consideration of the expert group report:
 - (a) Urgent matters;
 - (b) Procedural matters.
 6. Special events: fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme and fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.
 7. Outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Closure of the meeting.
9. The representatives agreed to follow the programme of work set out in annex II to the annotated provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(I)/1/Add.1).

III. High-level meeting and ministerial statements

10. The President invited representatives to deliver statements. Statements were delivered (in order of delivery) by Mr. Beyene Russom, Ambassador of Eritrea to Kenya and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi (statement circulated only); Mr. Erie Tamale, on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; Mr. Aziz Rabbah, Minister for Energy, Mines and Environment, Morocco; Ms. Samia Moualfi, Minister for the Environment, Algeria; Mr. Wombi Biyela Dilingi, Head of Research, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of Ms. Ève Bazaiba Masudi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Mr. Kamel Doukh, Minister for Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia; Mr. Somanegre Nana, Technical Coordinator, Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Burkina Faso; Mr. Rashid Hassan, Secretary-General, Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources, Sudan; Ms. Nancy Tembo, Minister for Forestry and Natural Resources, Malawi; Mr. Gobopang Duke Lefhoko, High Commissioner of Botswana to Kenya, on behalf of Ms. Philda Kereng, Minister for the Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, Botswana; Mr. Foday Jaward, Minister for the Environment, Sierra Leone; Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister for the Environment, Egypt; Mr. Selemani Saidi Jafo, Minister of State, President's Office (Union and Environmental Affairs), United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Hassan Wasswa Galiwango, High Commissioner of Uganda to Kenya, on behalf of Mr. Sam Cheptoris, Minister for Water and the Environment, Uganda; Ms. Rose Muchiri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, on behalf of Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, Kenya; Ms. Baomiatotse Vahinala Raharinirina, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar; Mr. Pierre Hélé, Minister for the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Cameroon; Mr. Kwame Ababio, Senior Programme Officer, African Union Development Agency; and Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui, Regional Facilitator, AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders.

IV. Launch of the online platform for the Africa green stimulus programme

11. The item was introduced and chaired by Mr. Mohamed Atani, AMCEN secretariat. Statements on the matter were delivered by Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director, UNEP Africa Office; Ms. Creecy; Mr. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma, Acting Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank; Ms. Alice Ruhweza, Regional Director for Africa, World Wide Fund for Nature; and Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, Economic Commission for Africa.

12. Mr. Stuart Mangold, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, delivered a presentation on the Africa green stimulus programme and its online platform.

13. The President of AMCEN officially launched the online platform of the Africa green stimulus programme.

V. Consideration of the expert group report and related matters

14. Ms. Thuli Khumalo, on behalf of the Chair of the expert group, Ms. Nomfundo Tshabalala, Director-General, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, delivered a report on the expert group meeting of the eighteenth ordinary session of AMCEN, held online on 13 and 14 September 2021.

15. Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Director, Governance Affairs Office, UNEP, delivered a presentation on preparations for the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its preparatory meetings.

16. Mr. Tanguy Gahouma, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change, delivered a presentation on the status of Africa's preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 12 November 2021.

17. Mr. Mike Ipanga, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity, delivered a presentation on the status of Africa's preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, and online from 11 to 15 October 2021, and related matters.

VI. Special events: fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme and fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

18. Ms. Biao Koudenoukpo introduced and chaired the discussion on the special events to mark the fiftieth anniversary of UNEP and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

19. Statements on the event were delivered by Mr. Laguna-Celis, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP; and Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Ambassador, Stockholm+50 and Senior Advisor, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Sweden. Further statements were delivered by Ms. Muchiri, Mr. Russom and Mr. Tobiko.

VII. Outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

20. The representative of the secretariat introduced the draft ministerial outcome document and key messages of the first part of the eighteenth session of AMCEN.

21. Statements were delivered by Ms. Siham Mourabit, Deputy Ambassador of Morocco to Kenya and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP; Ms. Selma Malika Haddadi, Ambassador of Algeria to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, on behalf of Ms. Samia Moualifi, Minister for the Environment, Algeria; and Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla, Chef de Cabinet of the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal.

22. The ministers adopted by consensus the ministerial outcome document, including the key messages, of the first part of the eighteenth session of AMCEN, on the understanding that they would be finalized by the secretariat and would be issued in both English and French as soon as possible.

VIII. Other matters

23. There were no other matters for consideration.

IX. Closure of the meeting

24. The President declared the eighteenth session of AMCEN closed at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 16 September 2021.

Annex I

Statement and key policy messages from the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

We, the African ministers for the environment,

Convening online from 13 to 16 September 2021 for the first part of the eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment under the theme “securing people’s well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa”,

Having deliberated on procedural and urgent matters that are affecting the work of the Conference,

Aware that substantive and other matters affecting the environment on the continent that require in-depth deliberation will be considered at the resumed second part of the eighteenth session of the Conference to be held in-person in 2022,

Do hereby state as follows:

1. We welcome the progress made in implementation of the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Conference held in Durban, South Africa from 11 to 15 November 2019 and that of the eighth special session of the Conference that took place virtually from 30 November to 4 December 2020.
2. We affirm the recommendations made by the Bureau in their meetings held on 28 May 2020 and 26 to 27 May 2021 including on the need to hold the eighteenth session of the Conference in two parts.
3. We mandate the Bureau to determine the agenda, format and date of the in-person second part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
4. On the urgent work of the Conference, we;
 - (a) express our deepest appreciation of the contributions made by the outgoing members of the Bureau composed of South Africa as President, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Algeria, Sudan and Senegal as Vice Presidents for the preceding period of 2019-2021, and
 - (b) welcome the incoming members composed of Senegal as President, Sudan, Mauritanian, Botswana and Democratic Republic of Congo as Vice Presidents for the proceeding period of 2021-2023.
5. On the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, we,
 - (a) urge member states to take every effort to honour their contributions to the fund,
 - (b) encourage that all member States to make pledges to the fund at every regular session of the Conference and prepare the necessary payment schedules and commit to honouring the pledges, and
 - (c) encourage those member states that can contribute more than the yearly minimum contribution to the fund to do so to enable the Conference to meet its mandate and scale up its work.
6. We welcome the outcomes of the workshop by the African major groups and stakeholders as part of their contribution to the first part of the eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment that was held online on 10 September 2021.
7. We appreciate the progress made by member States in their efforts to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage them to prioritize the institution of green and sustainable recovery measures that can deliver mutual benefits and co-benefits for social, economic, and environmental resilience.

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

8. On the Africa green stimulus programme, we,

- (a) appreciate the efforts of the working group and welcome the progress made towards the operationalisation of the African green stimulus programme, including the launch of its online platform and the offer by the African Union Development Agency to host the platform,
- (b) will establish a coordination committee to oversee the operational aspects of the programme to be comprised of representatives of member states, UN agencies, organizations, partners and other stakeholders, and
- (c) will engage in partnerships and actively mobilize resources amongst member States, organizations, partners and other stakeholders to contribute towards the implementation of the programme.

9. On Africa's position on engagement on substantive matters in online global meetings and negotiations, we,

- (a) will advocate for negotiations that are transparent, inclusive and fully participatory taking into account long-term environmental, economic, political, social, policy and legal implications,
- (b) agree that online negotiations, in their current format, when dealing with substantive matters are still a challenge to the Africa region due to serious problems of the digital divide, time zone differences and other issues related to virtual engagements and which have resulted in the member states not being able to consult and fully participate in an equitable manner,
- (c) will continue to engage secretariats of the various multilateral environmental agreements and institutions to identify the best options that would facilitate Africa's full participation, and
- (d) therefore agree to (i) continuing to engage in online meetings for keeping the momentum and information sharing, (ii) not to engage in online negotiations on substantive matters, (iii) consider a hybrid approach, combining in-person and online participation with a clear and minimum criteria, aimed at ensuring inclusive, transparent, equal, full and meaningful participation of African countries (iv) encourage resuming full in-person engagements, as soon as it is safe and possible to do so, and (v) encourage supporting African countries, where possible, to effectively participate in online meetings.

10. On the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme, we,

- (a) appreciate the work of the African group in Nairobi who have continued to advocate for the interests of Africa in the United Nations Environment Programme and agree to the key policy messages as contained in **appendix I** to this statement,
- (b) urge that the resumed second part of the fifth Assembly should be held in an in-person format to enable full, inclusive and equal participation of all member states and relevant stakeholders to consider substantive matters that require negotiations,
- (c) welcome the assumption by the Africa region of the presidency of the sixth session of the Assembly, and invite African member States interested in assuming the presidency to announce their candidacy by 15 October 2021 and, in this regard, decide to convene a special session of the Conference to agree on the two African nominees to Assembly by February 2022,
- (d) request the African Group in Nairobi, within the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the support of the United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Africa, taking into account the need for a limited number of resolutions, to prepare Africa's sponsored draft resolutions, including on green recovery, circular economy, biodiversity and health,
- (e) endorse Algeria, as the African representative to the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to lead the facilitation of the preparations for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme, and
- (f) call upon the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare and negotiate a global legally binding agreement to combat marine litter and plastic pollution.

11. On Africa's participation at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held from 31 October to 12 November 2021, we,

(a) appreciate the work of the African group of negotiators on climate change who have continued to advocate for the interests of Africa and agree to the key policy messages as contained in **appendix II** to this statement,

(b) express our full support and commitment to the Arab Republic of Egypt in hosting the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and request all African institutions to provide any needed support, in this regard,

(c) highlight the importance of the forthcoming twenty-sixth session to focus on the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement,

(d) express concern regarding the discriminatory and illogical COVID-19 restrictions and high visa processing costs imposed by the host country of COP26 and accommodation challenges, which undermine the effective participation of African countries, and call on the host country to ensure appropriate conditions for all Parties to participate on equal terms in an inclusive, transparent and Party-driven process, and

(e) take note of the progress made in the preparation of the African Union climate change strategy and its importance as the overarching framework to foster coherence in addressing climate change in the continent and recommend its finalisation before COP26 as per decision of the June 2021 Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change,

12. On Africa's engagement in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, we,

(a) appreciate the work of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity for their continued work to formulate common Africa's positions on key biodiversity issues especially for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

(b) will continue working with other nations across the world, through the African group of negotiators, to secure a robust, ambitious, balanced and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework that takes into account interests of the Africa region,

(c) will continue to advocate Africa's common positions on key issues, as contained in **appendix III** to this statement, including means of implementation, resource mobilization by, inter alia, establishing a dedicated biodiversity fund, raising levels of ambition, biodiversity and human health linkages, local community participation, access and benefit sharing, as well as the principle of common but differentiated responsibility,

(d) will continue to provide support to enable the work of the Group of Negotiators to continue, and

(e) will continue to take advantage of relevant African forums to deliberate on the African common position on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the upcoming African Protected Areas Congress to be hosted by Rwanda in March 2022.

Appendix I

Key policy messages on the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme

We, African ministers for the environment,

1. We note the outcomes of the first part of the fifth Assembly, which took place online 22 and 23 February 2021 to deliberate on procedural and urgent matters.
2. We urge member States to actively participate and represent the Africa region at the resumed fifth session of the Assembly to be held in Nairobi, from 28 February to 2 March 2022.
3. We request the African Group in Nairobi, within the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to engage in the preparation of the draft ministerial declaration, taking into consideration, among others, means of implementation and the Rio Principles, and, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
4. We agree that the African Group in Nairobi, within the Committee of Permanent Representatives, requires more time to engage among themselves and find consensus on the candidate for presidency and bureau of the sixth session of the Assembly.
5. We welcome the assumption by Africa region of the presidency of the sixth session of the Assembly and agree that the African Group in Nairobi requires more time to engage among themselves and find consensus on the candidate for presidency and bureau of the sixth session of the Assembly, and invite African member States interested in assuming the presidency to announce their candidacy by 15 October 2021 so as to allow for consultations and consensus, and, in this regard, decide to convene a special session of the Conference to agree on the two African nominees to Assembly by February 2022.
6. We note that Africa will be represented at the sixth Bureau by two African countries, including Senegal, which holds the presidency of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
7. We further note the special circumstances and time constraints under which the Africa region is expected to nominate its members in the sixth Bureau of the Assembly, namely the preparation and chairing of the special session of the Assembly dedicated to commemorate the fifth anniversary of UNEP to be held in March 2022, back to back with the resumed fifth Assembly.
8. We advocate that Africa region must serve the full and effective term of the presidency of the sixth session of the Assembly.
9. We note the process of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333 and call for its outcome to focus on ensuring means of implementation and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme and its headquarters in Nairobi, in accordance with paragraph 88 (g) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The Future We Want’.
10. We will work towards having a new global legally binding agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution that takes a comprehensive approach to address the full lifecycle of plastics, from production and design to waste prevention and management, while ensuring coherence and coordination of activities undertaken by existing regional and international instruments, and create a supporting structure for implementation in developing countries, as well as taking into account the gap between developing and developed countries in terms of scientific knowledge, capacity, technological advances, technical and financial support in the fight against marine waste and plastic pollution.
11. We support the draft resolution on marine litter and plastic pollution, presented by Rwanda and supported by other countries.
12. We agree to develop a common Africa regional approach on engagement on the proposed draft resolution on marine litter and plastics pollution.
13. On the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme, we,
 - (a) take note of the special session on the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme to be held 3 and 4 March 2022,

- (b) appreciate the key role played by the United Nations Environment Programme, as the global authority on the environment, in advocating for and catalysing actions to protect the environment and natural resources,
- (c) will engage in activities at national, regional and global levels to create awareness for more ambitious future actions to protect nature, combat pollution, land degradation and climate change in all their forms,
- (d) call for a theme for the commemoration that has a focus on implementation and strengthening UN headquarter function in Nairobi, Kenya,
- (e) urge member States to organise, at national level, activities for the commemoration,
- (f) recognise the important role women, young people and vulnerable communities play in addressing the environmental challenges in Africa, and
- (g) take note of the international meeting on Stockholm+50 and that the event should be mutually reinforcing with commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Appendix II

Key messages on climate change

We, African ministers for the environment,

1. We acknowledge the findings of the international scientific community, including the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the Physical Science Basis of Climate Change that calls for urgent ambitious action on climate change by all, and emphasize the findings that recognized the special needs and circumstance of Africa that contribute to the vulnerability of African countries to climate change.

2. We recognize the fact that COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the health and the economy of Africa, affecting the already highly volatile markets, contracting the GDP of the continent by up to 3.4% with an estimated loss of between \$173.1 billion and \$236.7 billion for the years 2020–2021, thereby exacerbating the debt crisis and the adverse impacts of climate change and reducing the capacity of African countries to adapt to climate change.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring an effective multilateral approach for addressing climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement and reiterate our commitment for their implementation in line with the principles and provision of the Convention, while emphasizing equitable access to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of African countries by Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

4. We reaffirm the commitment of African countries to the implementation of the Paris Agreement in line with its Articles 2 and 3 by communicating and pursuing the implementing of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions that include mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, reflecting equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of parties, while acknowledging the special circumstances of Africa, we stress on the importance of respecting country ownership and policy space in all aspects related to climate change.

5. We stress the importance of the equitable, effective, and timely implementation of the Convention and its Paris Agreement, and the link between actions of developing countries and the support provided to them, and that developed countries take the lead in climate action and in provisions of predictable, sustainable, and adequate support to developing countries.

6. We are concerned with the current and future adverse impacts of climate change on the African continent, currently witnessed in African countries, with expected increase in frequency and severity as confirmed by science, we are further concerned with the new climate related policies and regulations that are not in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of the Convention and its Paris Agreement and do not consider Africa's special circumstances, needs and developmental challenges with expected potential impacts on African countries on access to climate finance, African external trade, African use of its natural resources, thus leading to social and economic negative impacts in African countries and on our African communities.

7. We emphasize that adaptation is a key priority of the African Continent in this regard, we stress the need for further elaboration of adaptation planning and implementation under the convention and Paris Agreement to address extreme weather events and slow-onset events. We call upon all Parties to reach an agreement in a timely manner on the implementation of article 7 of the Paris Agreement, including on the global goal of adaptation, adaptation needs and associated costs, and the recognition of the contributions made by African Countries from their own budgets, and encourage African countries to report their adaptation needs, gaps, planning, efforts, and action;

8. We stress the importance of COP 26 in Glasgow to have among others an outcome on adaptation that will enable practical progress, including launching a formal programme of work on the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation under the CMA.

9. We emphasize the need to increase the adaptive ability and resilience of the African population to the adverse impacts of climate change by at least 50% by 2030 and by at least 90% by 2050. In this regard, focus would be placed on the most vulnerable people and communities; the health and well-being; food and water security; infrastructure and the built environment; and ecosystems and ecosystem services.

10. We note the recognition by the IPCC even with scaled-up action on by adaptation that it will not be possible to avoid and reduce all loss and damage from the impacts of climate change and by 2030 the economic costs of loss and damage in developing countries is expected to be between USD 290 billion and 580 billion throughout Africa as the most vulnerable continent to the impacts of climate change are already experiencing loss and damage of an increasing magnitude and frequency.

11. We stress the need for an ambitious outcome on Loss and Damage at COP 26 and further call for the guidance of the COP on matters relating to loss and damage, including a decision which operationalizes the Santiago Network within a realistic institutional set up on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and ensures that African countries and the vulnerable people and communities promptly receive the technical assistance and services they need to avert, minimize and address loss and damage; including to mobilize action and support to meet the needs of African countries for addressing loss and damage.

12. We further emphasise the need for leadership by the developed country parties in the implementation of NDCs and in provisions of support for African NDCs implementation, and ensure that they are fair, progressive and ambitious, and highlight the US\$ 3 trillion estimated finance gap to implement NDCs of African countries, stressing importance of enhanced, predictable, additional and sustainable climate finance and technology transfer to allow for the effective implementation of the full scope of nationally determined contributions, we further stress on the importance of ensuring that support provided to African countries does not lead to additional burden on African countries and future generation, in particular debt burden.

13. We emphasize that the effective and full achievement of the Paris Agreement goals depends on the fulfilment of the pre-2020 obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and urge developed country parties to deliver on their commitments on the overdue pre-2020 mitigation and finance targets; we are concerned about attempts to carry over responsibilities of pre-2020 and mitigate its burden to developing countries.

14. We further stress that as a reflection of ambition and progression we must initiate deliberations on setting a new collective quantified mobilization goal prior to 2025 from a floor of USD 100 billion per year from both public and private sources taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. As a starting point on a new post 2025 climate finance mobilization goal Developed countries should commit to mobilizing jointly at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2030, of which 50% for mitigation and 50% for adaptation and a significant percentage on grant basis from a floor of USD 100 billion, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries and in particular the special circumstances of Africa, nothing that the mobilizing goal is over and above the obligations on developed countries to provide climate finance as per the Convention;

15. We note the importance of the Just Transition when making financial flows consistent with the pathway and underscores the opportunity for African countries to increase climate investment flows tied to the global low-emission and climate resilience shift. We urge the CMA to ensure that the implementation of the Paris goal Article 2.1.c be operationalised in a manner that recognises different national circumstances and capacities to allow developing countries to maintain the pathway towards low emission and climate resilient development while maintaining economic and social development. We further call for a harmonised, efficient, effective, just and equitable implementation of Article 2.1.c, including a common understanding and clear guidelines towards its implementation by Parties, the operating entities of the financial mechanism, international financial institutions, and other stakeholders in the financial sector. We further request the African Group of Negotiators to develop a regional approach and guiding framework to support the process of making financial flows consistent with the pathway towards low emissions and climate-resilient development, including approaches to ensure that resources that are available to finance the Just Transition, including for technology transfer, development and diffusion, capacity building and public education, awareness and training.

16. We urge the consideration of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in terms of raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation actions and help to meet the cost of adaptation for developing countries, and to emphasise on the need for the market and non-market-based approaches to ensure environmental integrity, avoid duplication and double counting, and support fair regional distribution and inclusiveness, and stress on the importance to ensure that no discrimination between the different new market mechanisms, in particular the cooperative approaches (Article 6.2. of the Paris Agreement) and that all the market mechanisms should provide proceeds to adaptation primarily through the Adaptation Fund;

17. We acknowledge with appreciation the work of the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA), the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), and the African Climate Commissions (Congo Basin Climate Commission, the Climate

Commission for the Sahel Region and the African Islands States Climate Commission) in coordinating the implementation of Africa's response to Climate Change; and We call for additional support to scale up the implementation of these initiatives.

18. We welcome the initiative of the Government of Egypt to promote a coherent approach for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and land and ecosystem degradation. Stressing the need to enhance synergies at the international level and between the three Rio environmental conventions (climate change, biodiversity and combatting desertification) and the need to support and promote this initiative, as appropriate and, taking into account national and organizational circumstances,

19. We highlight the importance of the forthcoming twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and stress the importance of balance in both its organization and outcome to reflect the three-goals of the Paris Agreement, that are related and equally important aspects of ambition: ambition on mitigation, ambition on adaptation and ambition on means of implementation, we confirm our commitment to work with the UK as COP26 president to ensure a successful fair and equitable outcome.

20. We welcome the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host COP27 and express our full commitment to work with and support Egypt for hosting COP27 and request all African institutions to provide any needed support in this regard.

21. We welcome with appreciation the support provided by our partners at the continent level including the AUC, AFDB and on the international level including by the Federal Republic of Germany to enhance Africa role in the global action to tackle climate change.

22. Finally, we acknowledge and applaud the work done by the African Group of Negotiators in the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) promoting Africa's interest, and the role played by the African members in the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and other constituted bodies under the UNFCCC. We further recognize and acknowledge the leadership by the Republic of Gabon, and the Chair of the African Group chair for good work his leadership provided to the Group over the two years.

Appendix III

Key messages on biodiversity

1. Biodiversity and nature's contributions in Africa are economically, socially and culturally important, essential in providing the continent's food, water, energy, health and secure livelihood, and represent a strategic asset for sustainable development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,
2. Therefore, the integration of Agenda 2063 goals and Sustainable Development Goals into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is crucial to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that enhance human well-being and development outcomes in Africa,
3. We welcome the progressive work of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity towards the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity
4. Recalling that AMCEN decision 14/8, established the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, to articulate African perspectives, priorities and common positions during all the negotiations of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, in October 2020; and acknowledge, that currently we do not have a clear African Position on the proposal to protect the 30% of the global land and sea areas by 2030, due mainly to lack of clarity over means of implementation support. However, we are of the view that a holistic approach in the conservation and sustainable management of all land and water using participatory ecosystem-based approaches is crucial, to ensure conservation, restoration, coherence and sustainable use of biodiversity for the benefit of all towards an ecologically, socially and economically just and sustainable world by 2050,
5. Reaffirm decisions taken during the Seventeenth regular session of AMCEN in Durban in 2019 and at the African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2018, emphasizing the critical need for adequate provision of financial resources, access to technology and capacity enhancement, commensurate with the level of ambition of the new GBF,
6. Note with grave concern that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our economies and affecting our efforts to meet our developmental agenda and therefore welcome the green stimulus programme to support the Continent's recovery response in a sustainable manner to the devastating socio-economic and environmental impacts,
7. We commend the Arab Republic of Egypt's leadership during its chairing of the 14th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and its efforts in moving forward the ongoing discussions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
8. We recognize and acknowledge that of the Bureau of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has adopted an in principle decision to respond to the current extraordinary circumstances as related to the negotiation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and that this does not set a precedent for the organization of similar meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the future,
9. We therefore, reiterate the need to refrain from making any final decisions during virtual negotiations, when doing the work under the Convention until the much needed face-to-face intersessional meetings are undertaken, taking into account that not all Parties are able to attend due to, among others, limited capacity of poor internet infrastructure, and the time zones of the meeting,
10. We note that mainstreaming is an essential tool for unlocking the necessary scale of investment in biodiversity in Africa therefore we need to increase our collective focus on mainstreaming and enhance the capacity available for making the case for biodiversity,
11. We uphold our position on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as a holistic approach that use biodiversity, and ecosystem functions and services to manage the risks of climate-related impacts and disasters, while contributing to biodiversity conservation and degraded land restoration,
12. We welcome the inclusion of a specific biosafety target under the GBF and further acknowledges the relevance of the Protocol and its implementation plan and capacity-building action plan to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

13. We welcome the recognition of sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in providing essential benefits including nutrition, food security, medicines and livelihoods for people especially the most vulnerable. We will continue to explore ways in which promotion of a biodiversity economy can provide economic incentives to overcome the drivers of biodiversity loss whilst supporting sustainable livelihoods, businesses and the economy at large through setting up biodiversity enterprises to promote internationally competitive biodiversity-based businesses and community livelihood options,

14. We reaffirm that ecosystem restoration is very important to Africa, we strongly believe the GBF should place more emphasis on restoration, and on sustainable, integrated, participatory management of all ecosystems,

15. We urge all Parties to reduce, mitigate or reverse direct drivers of land and ecosystem degradation; mainstream land and ecosystem restoration in relevant sectoral policies, plans and programmes; identify and implement specific actions to achieve agreed ecosystem restoration commitments and targets; and communicate ecosystem restoration efforts, results and benefits to increase and promote active public support and involvement,

16. We acknowledge role of indigenous people and local communities, women and youth in the use, management and conservation of biodiversity in Africa and their inclusion on the GBF is essential in achieving sustainability objectives as it is in advancing equal rights,

17. We reaffirm that utilization of African natural assets, including genetic resources and related digital sequence information and traditional knowledge, must result in sufficient sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits to make sustainable use of biodiversity more attractive than unsustainable extraction, ensuring good conservation outcomes, and therefore the global biodiversity framework must contain a solution for sharing the benefits arising from utilisation of digital sequence information,

18. We call for the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework will remain dependent on the implementation of national strategies and action plans for biodiversity. biodiversity.

19. We strongly urge the international community to establish, as part of an ambitious and transformative new deal for people and nature, a national and global benefit sharing mechanism that will direct adequate benefits to custodians of biodiversity to ensure conservation and sustainable use; this has a critical role in implementation of the third objective of the convention and resources mobilisation for implementation of conservation and sustainable use interventions,

20. We recall the important role of technology development and transfer to support implementation of the GBF and urge that it includes updating technology needs assessments, provision of support for the implementation of the outcomes of technology needs assessments, identification of technologies that are ready for transfer and enhancement of enabling environments to address barriers and meet the specific needs and concerns of Africa, including the development aspirations contained in Agenda 2063,

21. We reaffirm the importance of means of implementation as an integral part of the GBF and stress the need for adequate provision of financial resources, access to technology and capacity enhancement, including the establishment of a dedicated biodiversity fund to support effective implementation of the GBF,

22. We note that the global annual financing gap for biodiversity is estimated at \$700 billion and we urge that adequate financial resources to implement the post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework are available and deployed, starting with at least 400 billion per annum and progressively closing the remaining 300 billion per annum financing gap, to at least \$700 billion per year by 2030.

Annex II

Eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

Ministerial segment

Online, 16 September 2021

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