



AMCEN



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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*


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

Dakar, 12 -16 September 2022

## **Information note on the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

### *"Securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa"*

**Introduction**

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was created in 1985 to promote regional cooperation between African Governments in addressing environmental challenges confronting the region. The work of AMCEN has contributed significantly to the heightened policy responses of African Governments and the international community to Africa's environment and sustainable development opportunities and challenges.
2. Over the years, AMCEN has demonstrated strong leadership in advancing African causes and interests in environment and sustainable development matters. AMCEN through its meetings provides guidance with regard to key regional policies and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 9 of its Constitution, AMCEN holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years.
3. In view of this, and in response to the kind offer by the Government of the Republic of Senegal at the seventeenth session held in Durban from 11 to 15 November 2019, the eighteenth ordinary session of AMCEN will be held from 12 to 16 September 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. The session will consist of a meeting of the expert group from 12 to 14 September, and a ministerial segment, on 15 and 16 September.
4. The eighteenth ordinary session of AMCEN was scheduled to be held in 2021. However, in view of the then prevailing situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and based on consultations with the AMCEN Bureau, it was agreed that the eighteenth session of AMCEN would take place in two parts. The first part would take place in a virtual setting with a streamlined agenda to address only urgent and procedural matters. Substantive matters that required in-depth negotiations would be deferred to a resumed in-person meeting to be held in 2022. Consequently, the first part of the eighteenth ordinary session of AMCEN was convened online from 13 to 16 September 2021.
5. The focus of the resumed eighteenth session of AMCEN is the need for a people-centred recovery that focuses on people's well-being through environmental actions that create jobs and improve livelihoods. Accordingly, the session will review environmental challenges and opportunities in Africa in the post-Covid-19 era, and consider other issues related to sustainable development in Africa, as well as the effective functioning of the Conference. The session will therefore be held under the following theme: "*Securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa*". The theme builds on the focus of the seventeenth ordinary session of AMCEN on Taking Action for Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity in Africa.
6. The resumed eighteenth session of AMCEN will be an opportunity for ministers to provide policy guidance for the effective participation of African countries in the upcoming key global environmental events, including the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) scheduled to take place from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt; and the resumed fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United

Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD-COP15) to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 17 December 2022.

7. The AMCEN session will also provide an opportunity for the delegates to be briefed on the outcomes of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), the status of implementation of the resolutions that were adopted at that session, including the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, with a focus on the organization of Africa's participation in the intergovernmental negotiating committee as well as key issues for the continent on plastic pollution.

8. The session will provide an opportunity for countries to reflect on the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP15) that took place in Abidjan from 9 to 20 May 2022 and agree on the way forward, including the call for the development of an instrument on land degradation and the need for a group of countries that should represent Africa in these negotiations.

9. The session will offer an opportunity to discuss other pertinent issues, including matters related to soils governance in Africa; phasing out of open burning and dumping of waste; Antimicrobial Resistance; enhancing the role of the Environment Protection Agencies in Africa; progress in the development of an African Oceans Governance Strategy; AMCEN's engagement with other sectors, especially ministries of finance, planning and economic development; contributions to the AMCEN Trust Fund, and review of the implementation of decisions adopted at previous sessions of AMCEN.

10. Finally, ministers will adopt a declaration, decisions and a set of key messages reflecting their discussions during the session.

#### **Associated meetings**

11. The following associated meetings will be held:

- (a) 11 September 2022: Pre-AMCEN major groups and stakeholders (civil society) meeting;
- (b) 16 September 2022: Breakfast meeting focusing on the Global Methane Pledge.

#### **Side events**

12. A number of side events will be held during the session. Details of these events will be published as soon as they become available.

#### **Venue**

13. The resumed eighteenth session of AMCEN will be held at the **King Fahd Palace Hotel** in Dakar, Senegal ([www.kingfahdpalacehotels.com](http://www.kingfahdpalacehotels.com)).

14. King Fahd Palace Hotel is located in Les Almadies, a neighborhood in Dakar on the western tip of Senegal's west coast, close to some of Dakar's most popular landmarks, such as Les Mamelles Lighthouse and Le Monument de la Renaissance Africaine.

#### **Services to delegates**

15. Since its inauguration in 1991, the King Fahd Palace Hotel and Conference Center has built a reputation for excellence by hosting more than 3,000 national and international events.

16. In addition to the conference centre, the hotel offers the following services: room service, airport shuttle, business centre, laundry, dry cleaning, hair salon /beauty salon, VIP room facilities, breakfast in the room, ironing service, currency exchange, souvenir shop/gifts, shoe shine, packed lunches, car rentals, excursion desk, fax /photocopies, ticket service, ATM, concierge service, nightclub /DJ, private check-in /-out, shuttle service (at extra cost), special diet menus (upon request); WIFI (free in room, in the shared areas of the hotel and the conference centre as well).

#### **Registration**

17. All participants will be required to pre-register prior to the conference and on arrival at the King Fahd Palace Hotel, Dakar from Sunday, 11 September 2022, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

18. Badges will be issued to participants upon registration. For identification, security reasons, and to access the meeting rooms, participants are reminded that they should wear their badges at all times during the meeting.

## Documents

19. The main pre-session documents for the meeting will be dispatched to AMCEN national focal points in advance of the meeting. The documents will also be available on the AMCEN website: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/resumed-eighteenth-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen>. Delegates are kindly reminded to bring the pre-session documents with them to the meeting, as the documents will only be available at the King Fahd Palace Hotel in very limited quantities as we are striving to reduce the carbon footprint of the meeting.

## Greening the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of AMCEN

20. *Paper Smart meeting:* AMCEN is the main regional environmental decision-making body in Africa and therefore intends to lead by example in all its activities and interventions, by reducing its carbon footprint. Ideally, the eighteenth ordinary session of AMCEN will endeavour to service delegates with the varied methods of accessing documentation including all unrestricted, official documents and statements, while making efficient use of its resources by avoiding waste.

21. The information and documentation will be made available in digital platforms and formats. In addition to the distribution of information and background documents on the AMCEN website, in-session documents and statements will be shared by email. Limited on-demand hard copy of official documents will be made available, only upon request in meeting rooms.

22. Efforts will be made to ensure that the meeting is a plastic free meeting. Therefore, meeting badges, water bottles, refreshments, *inter alia*, will be provided with plastic free material.

## Hotel reservations, airport transfers and transport for delegates

23. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel bookings as soon as possible. A list of recommended hotels, with negotiated special rates and contact details will be made available on the AMCEN website: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/resumed-eighteenth-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen>.

24. The Government of Senegal will provide transport between Blaise Diagne de Diass International Airport (about 55 km to Dakar, and to the recommended hotels and the venue of the meeting). A time schedule will be made available. Please note that there will be no transport to the meeting venue for participants who opt to stay outside the recommended hotels.

25. With regard to logistical arrangements, participants should send information on flights, dates of arrival and departure and the name of the hotel where they intend to stay to Ms. Julie Kaibe (tel: +254 20 762 1354; e-mail: [julie.kaibe@un.org](mailto:julie.kaibe@un.org); with copies to [unenvironment-amcen@un.org](mailto:unenvironment-amcen@un.org); and Mr. Amel Kane, e-mail: [amelkane04@gmail.com](mailto:amelkane04@gmail.com)

## General information on the Republic of Senegal

26. Situated at the western edge of the Sahel, Senegal covers an area of 196,722 square kilometres and has a population of around 16 million people. It is bordered by Mauritania to the north, Mali to the east, and the Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau to the south. Senegal also shares a maritime border with Cape Verde. Senegal's economic and political capital is Dakar, which is also home to banks and other institutions which serve all of Francophone West Africa and is a hub for shipping and transport in the region.

27. Three rivers run through the country: the Senegal River (1700 km long), the Gambia River (750 km long) and the Casamance River (300 km long). Senegal is divided into 14 administrative regions and 45 departments. The name “Senegal” comes from the Wolof word “Sunugaal”, which means “our canoe”. The official language of Senegal is French.

28. Like other post-colonial African states, the country includes a wide mix of ethnic and linguistic communities, with the largest being the Wolof, Fula, and Serer people, and the Wolof and French languages acting as lingua francas. The economy of Senegal is driven by mining, construction, tourism, fishing, agriculture, and services which are the main sources of employment in rural areas. Most of the population is on the coast and works in agriculture or other food industries. The massive oil and gas reserves of over 1 billion barrels located offshore between Senegal and Mauritania are putting the country on the map as a major new hydrocarbon producing nation.

29. Senegal has a tropical climate with pleasant heat throughout the year with well-defined dry and humid seasons that result from northeast winter winds and southwest summer winds. The dry season (December to April) is dominated by hot, dry trade wind known as the “harmattan”. Dakar, the capital, has a tropical climate, with the heat and humidity being moderated by cooler breezes coming from the ocean. Dakar's annual rainfall of about 600 mm occurs between June and October when maximum temperatures average 30 °C (86.0 °F) and minimum 24.2 °C (75.6 °F). September is a moderately hot month in Dakar with average temperature fluctuating between 28.2°C (82.8°F) and 26.8°C (80.2°F).

30. The electric current in Senegal is 220 volts, 50Hz. Two-pin attachment plugs are in use. The official currency is the CFA franc, which serves as legal tender in eight West African States. Currently, the value of the CFA franc is equivalent to approximately US\$ 1.00 = CFAF 640. Delegates and participants are advised to check exchange rates at the time of their arrival in Senegal. Master, Visa and Bank cards can be used and banks are open and available near the meeting venue.

### **Visas**

31. Visitors to Senegal require a visa unless they come from one of the visa exempt countries. Visitors must hold passports that are valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival. Participants are informed that the entry visa to Senegal in case of need can be obtained at all embassies of Senegal or on arrival, or through the website [www.visasenegal.sn](http://www.visasenegal.sn). Participants will be expected to send a copy of their passports and their arrival date for the visa facilitation letter.

32. Holders of a Laissez-Passer issued by the United Nations traveling on duty and holders of a Laissez-Passer issued by the Economic Community of West African States do not require a visa.

### **Health**

33. If you are a COVID-19 vaccine certificate holder, you won't need to present a negative PCR test result. Since information may change quickly, participants are advised to follow up on the latest Senegal travel updates and/or contact their Senegalese local embassy.

34. Immunization for yellow fever is an entry requirement if the journey starts or entails passing through the yellow fever belt. Travelers are required to be vaccinated at least ten days prior to entering the Republic of Senegal.

35. Participants are advised to take adequate travel and health insurance before leaving their respective countries. The Government of Senegal or any of its partners organizing the conference will not be held liable for any incidents that may arise due to a lack of adequate travel and health insurance.

36. Nevertheless, an on-site emergency medical service consisting of a medical facility and a fully staffed ambulance will be extended to all participants and support staff on the days of the AMCEN meeting. Hospitalization at either a state or private healthcare facility will be on the account of the patient.

### **Time zone**

37. The time zone for Senegal is: GMT/UTC + 0 hour

### **Contacts and further information**

38. For further information on the resumed eighteenth session of AMCEN, please do not hesitate to contact the AMCEN secretariat (tel: +254 20 7621354/7621396; e-mail: unenvironment-amcen@un.org, with a copy to julie.kaibe@un.org and david.ombisi@un.org and in Senegal, Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla, e-mail: dc@environnement.gouv.sn, Baba DRAME, e-mail: directeur.deec@environnement.gouv.sn with a copy to Mr. Amel Kane, e-mail: amelkane04@gmail.com.

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