

Adopted Key Messages of the Africa Major Groups & Stakeholders at the Regional Consultative Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, 2022

Outcomes of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Preparations for the Twenty-seventh Session

1. We call on the AMCEN to advance as an imperative of climate justice, substantive progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), including the value of locally-led adaptation in contributing to the formulation and implementation of the Goal. We also specifically call for the involvement of the Africa Adaptation Initiative in advancing the GGA.
2. We call for substantive and transparent progress in defining a specific and ambitious goal for climate finance, particularly for adaptation finance, acknowledging Africa's special needs and circumstances. This financial target needs to include considerations for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups, and specify how locally led adaptation is prioritized.
3. We call on AMCEN to urgently recognize the reality of loss & damage for the continent and work towards the delivery of a just, inclusive and equitable responsive loss and damage finance facility.
4. Call on Ministries of Environment to do more with their Ministries of Finance, Economies, Planning, and other relevant ministries to mainstream adaptation, loss & damage, and climate risk into policies, planning, and financing of our own budgets and planning processes at national and subnational level to advance a just, resilient and equitable transition. They must leverage the Africa Green Stimulus Program and fully implement AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2032.
5. We call on the AMCEN to further recognize the Africa Adaptation Initiative's importance for the continent's efforts to accelerate adaptation. We call on AMCEN to provide a permanent institutional arrangement for the AAI, providing substantial resources - in terms of finance and people - to fully realize its potential. The AMCEN also needs to clearly indicate the mechanisms for countries to access the AAI's knowledge and expertise such that it supports the continent's adaptation needs. Appreciating the broadness of the AAI's mandate, the Initiative needs to embody the Locally Led Adaptation Principles, in order to directly benefit and empower local communities at the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Africa's Participation in the Development of An International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment

We call on AMCEN to;

1. Ensure that Africa speaks as one voice calling for curbing plastic production and the circulation of single-use plastic in the continent
2. Establish an African negotiation group, inclusive of civil society, to participate in the Global Plastic Treaty negotiations to advocate for the inclusion of indigenous people, women, youth, vulnerable groups and the informal sector in decision-making related to the full lifecycle of plastics. These groups have a long history in advocacy and experience in the impact of the plastics lifecycle in vulnerable communities, as well as evidence of their contribution to the climate crisis.
3. Advocate for the establishment of technical and financial mechanisms to be included in the treaty, to promote just transitions that takes into account the special needs and circumstances of African member states.
4. Establish an African scientific panel, inclusive of African major groups and stakeholders, to serve as a reliable source of verifiable regional data, analytics and research findings that are fact and evidence based.

Outcomes of the Resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and Preparations for the Sixth Session of the Assembly

Following the Resolutions adopted during UNEA 5 and proposed by majority of African member states, for UNEA 6, under African presidency, we:

1. Demand that AMCEN makes critical consideration of prioritizing climate change financing for adaptation and loss and damage as an agenda item in global climate discourse, alongside commitment to ensuring a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is given utmost attention as well as inclusive and ecologically and socially just transition.
2. Demand the establishment and appropriate funding for the development of scientific committees on environmental justice and chemical management as well as set up an evaluation commission on animal welfare with adequate representation of the African Major Groups & Stakeholders. This would result in a clear roadmap and guidelines for African major groups & stakeholders and African member states. We, therefore, urge, bearing in mind common but differentiated responsibilities, Members states, including African Member States, that have signed and ratified the conventions including UNCBD, UNCCD, BRS,

UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to respect their commitments, urge Member states, bearing in mind common but differentiated responsibilities, including African Member States, that have signed and not yet ratified those conventions to ratify them, and encourage, bearing in mind common but differentiated responsibilities, Member States, including African member states, who have not signed these conventions to sign and ratify them to impact and promote innovation and create green employment for youths and local communities and promote environmental preservation.

Outcomes of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

1. **UNCCD COP 15:** We commend Côte d'Ivoire on hosting the UNCCD COP 15 and for the outcomes from the conference, especially with regard to the declarations on gender equality, youth and advancing land tenure security.
2. We call on AMCEN to advocate for The provision of predictable and additional funding in a timely manner and the appropriate utilization of such funding to enhance the role of women and youth in decision-making and implementation in achieving land degradation neutrality, combating desertification and adapting to climate change while ensuring increased management rights to land for youth and women, promoting sustainable soil management and ensuring land tenure security for communities.
3. **COVID-19:** COVID-19 has increased the vulnerability of the African people consequently exposing them to various risks including poverty, forced migration, loss of jobs, increased mortality, gender-based violence, closing down of SMEs, etc. Hence the need to push for more finance to cushion the post-COVID era and to reduce the aftershocks. This finance should be used by governments to offer the following: 1. Targeted Tax reliefs to SMEs, youth and women (2) Low-interest loans and capital to SMEs (3) Cash transfers to identified vulnerable persons.

Preparations for the Resumed Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

We note and support the positions by experts on Resource Mobilization, Capacity building, Digital Sequence Information and Access and Benefit Sharing. We however love to bring attention to the following additional issues:

1. Ecosystem integrity is key for providing ecosystem services especially addressing climate change and for reducing the spillover of zoonotic diseases therefore should be used as a key indicator for area based conservation.
2. We note the role of area based conservation in Conservation and target 3. However, we stress area based conservation must not only be accompanied by other effective area based conservation measures and transformations in consumption and production, especially through circular economy, to reduce their impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Target 3 should also be implemented taking into account the national priorities and circumstances, be gender responsive and inclusive of youth and respecting the rights of IPLCs.
3. While we agree that resources must flow from developed to developing countries to meet the biodiversity financing gap, as articulated in article 20 of the Convention, we believe that African parties must increase domestic resource mobilization for biodiversity.
4. One of the points of failure in the Aichi framework was lack of a robust implementation and monitoring mechanism. This should be strengthened in the Post2020 GBF and taking into account the Human Rights Based Approach, whole of government and whole of society approach.
5. In order to address the impacts of business on biodiversity, we call upon African Member States to support the implementation of the Task Force on Nature Related Financial Disclosures by Business to ensure businesses account for the impacts of the businesses, across the entire value chains, on biodiversity and ecosystems. Safeguards must be put in place against greenwashing

Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

1. Transforming social and economic systems means improving our relationship with nature; understanding value and placing it at the heart of our decision-making
2. Involve African major groups and stakeholders in the formulation of strategy documents as well as monitoring & evaluation mechanisms to combat the effects of environmental decline on key sectors: energy and water production, consumption patterns and efficient use of resources.
3. Uphold the democratic character of the UN processes by increasing time granted to the african major groups and other stakeholders to articulate their issues of concern as providers of checks and balances and also the vital linkages, particularly highlighting bottom-up approaches, with the practice level of grassroot communities.
