



AMCEN



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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Eighteenth session

Online, 13, 14 and 16 September 2021

and Dakar, 12–16 September 2022

Ministerial segment

Dakar, 15 and 16 September 2022*

Annotated provisional agenda**

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 1 of article 9 of its Constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. An offer by the Government of Senegal to host the eighteenth session was accepted by the Conference at its seventeenth session, held in Durban, South Africa, from 11 to 15 November 2019.
2. In view of the situation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and after consultation with the Bureau of the Conference, it was agreed that the eighteenth session of the Conference should be held in two parts. The first part of the eighteenth session was held online from 13 to 16 September 2021. Substantive matters that required in-depth negotiations were deferred to a resumed, in-person meeting of the session, to be held in 2022.
3. Pursuant to the above, the resumed eighteenth session will be held from 12 to 16 September 2022 at the King Fahd Palace Hotel in Dakar, Senegal. The ministerial segment will be held on 15 and 16 September 2022.
4. The Bureau of the Conference considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial segment of the resumed eighteenth session, which is set out in document AMCEN/18(II)/1.
5. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the resumed eighteenth session (document AMCEN/18(II)/INF/1). A list of the documents prepared for the session is provided in annex I to the present document and the programme of work is set out in annex II.

II. Objectives and overview of the resumed eighteenth session

6. The focus of the resumed eighteenth session 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 theme: "*Securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa*". The theme

* In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held on 26 May 2022, the eighteenth session of the Conference, which was adjourned on 16 September 2021, will resume as an in-person meeting in Dakar from 12 to 16 September 2022.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

builds on the focus of the seventeenth ordinary session of the Conference on Taking Action for Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity in Africa.

7. To that end, ministers will have ministerial policy dialogues on open waste burning and waste management in Africa: from commitment to action; antimicrobial resistance; and on the platform for implementing the decisions of the Conference.

8. In addition, the resumed eighteenth session of the Conference 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 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 to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 17 December 2022. The session will discuss 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.

9. The resumed eighteenth session will offer an opportunity to discuss other pertinent issues, including matters related to the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; 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; engagement of the Conference with other sectors, especially ministries of finance, planning and economic development; contributions to the general trust fund of the Conference, and review of the implementation of decisions adopted at previous sessions of the Conference.

10. The expert group will bring to the attention of ministers a number of matters for their consideration. Ministers will be invited to exchange views on those matters in order to reach agreement thereon.

11. Finally, ministers are expected to adopt a declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various agenda items.

III. Items of the provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

12. The President of the Conference, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, will preside over the official opening ceremony and will introduce opening speakers, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.

13. After the official opening of the segment, there will be a brief launch of the report: Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa, which was called for by the Conference at its seventeenth session in Durban in 2019.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

14. The President will introduce the provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(II)/1) for consideration and adoption.

(b) Organization of work

15. The President will introduce the draft programme of work set out in annex II to the present document and draw the attention of participants to the list of documents for the session, as set out in annex I.

Item 3**Consideration of the report of the expert group**

16. The Chair of the expert group will present the report of the expert group segment, which will include a summary of the proceedings and the recommendations developed. Ministers will take note of the report and consider the draft declaration, decisions and key messages under the appropriate agenda item.

Item 4**Preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

17. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place from 7 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. It will advance the global climate talks, mobilize action, and provide a significant opportunity to look at the impacts of climate change in Africa.

18. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change will give an overview, analysis and progress report on the climate change negotiations and preparations to date, highlighting the negotiation matters of interest to Africa, and will present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers.

Item 5**Preparations for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

19. The first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity convened virtually from 11-15 October 2021. The resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 17 December 2022. It is expected that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted at the fifteenth meeting, marking a significant milestone in the history of international biodiversity governance.

20. The Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators on biodiversity will give a brief presentation, highlighting the key outcomes from the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the expectations for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and key issues for consideration by the ministers.

Item 6**Africa's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

21. The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, through resolution 5/14 on "End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument", called for international action by developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

22. The resolution requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee. An ad-hoc open-ended working group meeting was held from 29 May to 1 June 2022 in Dakar to prepare for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The organization of Africa's participation and negotiation in the intergovernmental negotiating committee is very critical.

23. A representative of the secretariat will provide a brief presentation on the matter, including the recommendations discussed by the expert segment. The secretariat has also prepared a background note on the subject, document AMCEN/18(II)/11.

Item 7**Ministerial policy dialogues****(a) Open waste burning and waste management in Africa: from commitment to action**

24. Open dumping and burning of waste occur widely across Africa due to a lack of waste management infrastructure. This results in the discharge of numerous environmental pollutants, including short-lived climate pollutants that create health hazards and contribute to climate change.

Attempting to address the problem of open burning through piecemeal and isolated interventions at one or another point of the waste management system would be neither effective nor efficient.

25. During the dialogue, ministers are expected to deliberate on how to initiate policy interventions and processes that will lead to phasing out of open dumping and burning of waste in Africa.

26. The secretariat has prepared a background note, document AMCEN/18(II)/6 to help with the discussions on the subject.

(b) Antimicrobial resistance

27. Antimicrobials have contributed to reducing infectious diseases in humans, animals and plants for decades. However, scientific evidence strongly indicates that antimicrobial resistance represents a significant vulnerability in all countries, especially in Africa. A direct result of antimicrobial resistance is an increasing trend in severe illnesses and deaths and increases in health-associated costs, including lowered population productivity.

28. The dialogue represents an opportunity for ministers to engage in a constructive discussion aimed at taking ambitious, collaborative action with other stakeholders to prevent and minimize the adverse impacts of environmental pollution exacerbating the unfolding regional and global antimicrobial resistance crisis.

29. The secretariat has prepared a background note, document AMCEN/18(II)/9 to help with the discussions on this issue.

(c) Platform for implementation of the decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

30. The Conference has been making important decisions to promote the prudent management of the region's environment and natural resources. However, some of these decisions have not been implemented as expected. It is proposed to establish a platform for dialogue between African ministers of environment and implementing partners.

31. Ministers are expected to deliberate on how the proposed platform will facilitate a consultative process between parties to suggest solutions and identify opportunities to implement decisions of the Conference.

Item 8

Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

32. Contributions to the general trust fund and the interest that it generates continue to be in decline. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation. The Conference has, on several occasions, underlined the importance of all member States making their contributions in line with the decisions of the Conference. The secretariat of the Conference has continued to encourage member States to contribute to the general trust fund, with only a slight improvement observed.

33. The ministers are expected to make a critical assessment and provide further guidance on how to ensure that member States meet their obligations.

34. A representative of the secretariat will report on the status of the general trust fund as set out in document AMCEN/18(II)/13.

Item 9

Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions and key messages of the session

35. The President of the Conference will introduce the agreed draft declaration, decisions and key messages during a closed session open only to African member States and regional institutions.

36. A representative of the secretariat will take ministers through the draft declaration, decisions and key messages for their consideration, input and subsequent adoption.

Item 10

Venue and date of the nineteenth session

37. The nineteenth session of the Conference is to be hosted by a member State from Eastern Africa. To ensure optimal planning, it is proposed that the date and venue of the nineteenth session be

agreed upon in the form of a decision. In the absence of any offers to host the session, the President will propose that the nineteenth session be hosted by UNEP in Nairobi, the seat of the secretariat.

Item 11

Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

38. A representative of the secretariat will introduce the draft report of the ministerial segment for adoption by the Conference, on the understanding that the secretariat will finalize the report after the meeting.

Item 12

Other matters

39. Other key matters of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session. Any draft decisions submitted by Governments should also be made available in writing

Item 13

Closure of the meeting

40. The President will bring the session to a formal close after the customary exchange of courtesies.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Document</i>
Working documents	
AMCEN/18(II)/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/18(II)/EGM/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/18(II)/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/18(II)/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/18(II)/2	Report of the secretariat for the period from December 2019 to July 2022
AMCEN/18(II)/3	Implementation of the Africa Green Stimulus Programme
AMCEN/18(II)/4	Enhancing the role of environment protection agencies in Africa
AMCEN/18(II)/5	Collaboration between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and African ministers of finance and economic planning
AMCEN/18(II)/6	Phasing out of open burning of waste in Africa
AMCEN/18(II)/7	Fostering sustainable soil governance in Africa
AMCEN/18(II)/8	Progress in the development of an African ocean governance strategy
AMCEN/18(II)/9	Environmental solutions to antimicrobial resistance in Africa
AMCEN/18(II)/10	Outcomes of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, preparations for the sixth session, and the UNEP@50 commemoration
AMCEN/18(II)/11	Africa's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
AMCEN/18(II)/12	Outcomes of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
AMCEN/18(II)/13	Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/18(II)/14	Review of the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Information documents	
AMCEN/18(II)/INF/1	Information note for participants in the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Reference documents	
AMCEN/17/9	Report of the ministerial segment of the seventeenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/SS.VIII/6	Report of the ministerial segment of the eighth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/18(I)/8	Report of the ministerial segment of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/SS.IX/4	Ministerial statement and key policy messages of the ninth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
UNEP/EA.5/Res.14	End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument
AMCEN/18(II)/Ref.1	Rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/18(II)/Ref.2	Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Annex II

Programme of work for the ministerial segment, 15 and 16 September 2022

Thursday, 15 September 2022

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
8.30 a.m.–10.00 a.m.	Item 1 Opening ceremony
10.00 a.m.–10.15 a.m.	Photo session and chief guest departs
10.15 a.m.–10.45 a.m.	Other invited speakers
10.45 a.m.–11.00 a.m.	Launch of the report: Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa
11.00 a.m.–11.15 a.m.	Item 2 Organizational matters: (a) Adoption of the agenda (b) Organization of work
11.15 a.m.–11.30 a.m.	Item 3 Consideration of the report of the expert group
11.30 a.m.–1.00 p.m.	Item 4 Preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m.	Lunch break
3.00 p.m.–4.30 p.m.	Item 5 Preparations for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
4.30 p.m.–6.00 p.m.	Item 6 Africa's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Friday, 16 September 2022

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
9.00 a.m.–10.15 a.m.	Item 7 Ministerial policy dialogues (a) Open waste burning and waste management in Africa: from commitment to action (b) Antimicrobial resistance (c) Platform for implementation of the decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
10.15 a.m.–11.30 a.m.	
11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	
12.30 a.m.–1.00 p.m.	Item 8 Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m.	Lunch break
3.00 p.m.–4.30 p.m.	Item 9 Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions and key messages of the session
4.30 p.m.–4.45 p.m.	Item 10 Venue and date of the nineteenth session
4.45 p.m.–5.00 p.m.	Item 11 Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment
5.00 p.m.–5.30 p.m.	Item 12 Other matters
5.30 p.m.	Item 13 Closure of the meeting