

Dakar Declaration on securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa

We, African ministers for the environment,

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Committed to continue taking environment and climate actions to unlock inclusive wealth creation that safeguards the socio-economic well-being of the people in Africa,

Recognising that the environment plays a strategic and critical role in providing practical, affordable, and innovative solutions to bridge gaps in Africa's socio-economic development,

Acknowledging the important role of African Ministerial Conference on Environment in providing political guidance in environment matters;

Guided by the outcomes of previous sessions of the Conference in its 36 years of existence,

Further guided by the decisions of the Assembly of the African Union that have provided leadership to the Conference on Africa's policy on environment, climate change and development matters,

Acknowledging the contribution to Africa's development of the various global outcomes on environment and sustainable development,

Noting with appreciation the progress made and aware of the constraints faced in implementing the decisions of the Conference,

Determined to strengthen our efforts and actions to strengthen implementation of our decisions as a contribution in the achievement of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and Addis Ababa Action Plan.

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To express our full commitment to strengthen the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the principal forum for advancing collective national and regional environmental policies and actions.
2. To commit ourselves to continue addressing and finding solutions to environmental challenges that the African continent faces and to take advantage of the opportunities available to advance national and regional environmental agenda.
3. To commit ourselves to continue strengthening the role of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and to take concrete actions to implement past and future decisions of the Conference, and, in this regard, have made key policy guidance annexed to this declaration.
4. To reiterate our commitment to integrating climate actions into our socio-economic and environmental policies, plans and programmes to secure our development pathways.
5. To acknowledge the paper on African common position on energy access and transition adopted by the Africa Union Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/1353(XLI)) at its forty first Ordinary Session, 20 June to 15 July 2022, in Lusaka, as contained in the report of the second extraordinary Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy.
6. We commit ourselves to collaborate with the conference of African Ministers for Finance, Planning and Economic Development in forging collective efforts and actions to accelerate socio-economic and environmental development of and green investments in Africa.
7. We welcome the establishment of a forum that brings together heads of environment protection agencies in Africa to share experiences, knowledge exchange, and best practices, advance science to policy interface and to find solutions on technical and operational challenges.

8. We commit to collaborate with the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to convene the first meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Maputo Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and to support the environment protection agencies forum and its programme of work.
9. We recognize that antimicrobial resistance poses an increasing threat to global health and sustainable development and stress the need to take urgent and collective action to prevent and minimize its adverse impacts, whilst addressing its potential implications for access to genetic resource and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilisation.
10. We urge member states to provide leadership and direction for the adoption and implementation of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to raise visibility of biodiversity and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development and the Agenda 2063, the Africa we Want, including through the effective participation in the high-level segment second part of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
11. We reiterate that the global biodiversity framework, must include a solution for sharing the benefits arising from genetic resources, and propose that the best way to achieve access and benefit sharing is the creation of a global multi-lateral benefit sharing mechanism under the Convention.
12. We call on the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to recognise that financing and mobilisation of resources is highly indispensable for the effective achievement of the goals and targets to be set for the post- 2020 global biodiversity framework and thus requires adequate, additional and predictable financing and a strategy for resource mobilisation, supported by a strong mechanism for capacity development and technology transfer, and further call for the establishment of a dedicated global biodiversity fund, and the adoption of a global strategy for resource mobilization alongside the global biodiversity framework.
13. We will intensify regional and international collaboration to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to the conservation and sustainable management of Congo Basin peatlands, in accordance to the 2018 Brazzaville Declaration adopted at the third meeting of the partners of the Global Peatlands Initiative.
14. We commit ourselves to provide policy direction and momentum in the implementation of the Africa green stimulus programme and the African Union green recovery action plan, among others, as important complementary initiatives for achieving Agenda 2063, the Africa we Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
15. We call upon united cities and local governments of Africa to be supported and to be part and contribute in the implementation of the decisions of Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
16. We reiterate our commitment to the development of an Africa ocean governance strategy, to harmonise and coordinate the governance, conservation sustainable and equitable use of our oceans, rivers, wetlands, and lakes.
17. We welcome the efforts of regional seas conventions and action plans in advancing ocean governance frameworks in support of the proposed Africa oceans governance strategy.
18. We stress the urgent need to enhance sustainable soil governance for protecting biodiversity, providing ecosystem services, food systems, combating climate change, desertification, deforestation, and pollution as well as promoting land degradation neutrality and for the achievement of the sustainable development goals.
19. We commit ourselves to reducing open dumping and burning of waste in Africa and to promote use of waste as a resource for value and job creation so as to build more inclusive and sustainable economies, and call upon development partners, to support African countries to reduce methane and black carbon emissions associated with waste.
20. We commit ourselves to supporting the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champions and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in their work in encouraging countries, in phasing out open burning and dumping of wastes.
21. We appreciate the work of the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, Africa Circular Economy Alliance

and other partners, among others, in the development of a regional programme that promotes and upscales circular economy and innovative green financing in Africa.

22. We express our appreciation to the Africa group of negotiators in advancing Africa's interest and priorities in the United Nations Environment Assembly and the United Nations Environment Programme.
23. We welcome the outcomes of the resumed fifth United Nations Environment Assembly and commit ourselves to actively participate in the sixth session of the Environment Assembly and support the work of the presidency held by the Kingdom of Morocco.
24. We agree that the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment be reviewed to identify areas that require revision in line with the Constitution of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
25. We recognize that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held in Saudi Arabia in 2024 and therefore the need for adequate preparations by the Africa region to effectively participate in the Conference.
26. We welcome the Abidjan Legacy Programme as an outcome of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its Fifteenth Conference of the Parties aimed at combating desertification and its consequences, particularly on agricultural production and appreciate the support provided by development partners.
27. We pledge our full support to the Arab Republic of Egypt as incoming President of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and commit to work for a successful and ambitious conference outcomes that responds decisively to the latest science and take concrete and actionable steps towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We pledge to work towards the unity of the Africa group and speak with one voice at the conference.
28. We call on twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a decision that recognizes the special needs and special circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement in line with the relevant previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
29. We call on developed countries to fulfill promised finance commitments including delivery of the one hundred billion united states dollars Bn per year, the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change financial pledges, pledge new and additional resources for adaptation and make significant progress on setting an ambitious new collective quantified goal for 2025; while considering a Just Transition financing framework to support developing countries.
30. We welcome the establishment of the African group of negotiators on plastics pollution to coordinate Africa's interest and urge member States to prepare and actively participate in the intergovernmental negotiation committee processes to develop an international legally binding instrument towards ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
31. We are committed to combating illegal shipments of hazardous waste, including plastic, electrical and electronic waste in accordance with the Bamako Convention into Africa.

We also:

32. Commit ourselves to make every effort to pay our contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements
33. Extend appreciation to United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the Conference.
34. Express our profound appreciation to the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other development partners and institutions, among others, for their continued support to the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
35. Mandate the President of the Conference to submit the report of the eighteenth session of the Conference, including the present Dakar Declaration on enhancing the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the

Environment and the annex thereto, to the African Union Commission for further action by the policy organs of the African Union.

36. Mandate the President of the Conference to convey the priorities and positions contained in the present declaration, decisions, key messages, and report of the eighteenth session of the Conference to all parties, including partners and organizations, with a view to enlisting their support and collaboration, and to report thereon to the Conference at its nineteenth session.
37. Pay tribute to the President of Senegal, His Excellency, Mr. Macky Sall, the Government and the people of Senegal for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants, for the excellent facilities made available, and for the generosity extended to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eighteenth session.

ADVANCE