



AMCEN



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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

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Eighteenth session

Ministerial meeting

Dakar, 15-16 September 2022

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

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The ministerial segment of the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Dakar, on 15 and 16 September 2022.
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, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and major groups.
3. The ministerial segment was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 15 September 2022. The opening of the ministerial segment was chaired by the President of AMCEN, Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Ligia Noronha, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Director, UNEP New York Office, representing 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. Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, the President of AMCEN and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal, delivered the keynote statement, and officially opened the meeting.
5. Further statements were delivered by Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; Senator John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States; Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner in charge of Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission; Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Ethiopian Prime Minister, Global Board of Trustees, African Wildlife Foundation; Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, Chief Executive Officer, Global Centre on Adaptation; and David Munene, speaking on behalf of the major groups.

II. Launch of the report: Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa

6. The item was introduced and chaired by Mr. Mohamed Atani, UNEP. Statements on the matter were delivered by Prof. Youba Sokona, Coordinating Co-Chair, Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa and Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Dr. Adelheid Onyango, Director, Universal Health Coverage – Healthier Populations Cluster, World Health Organization; and Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission.

7. Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Senegal and President of AMCEN officially launched the report.

III. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

8. The representatives adopted the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(II)/1).
1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda
 - (b) Organization of work.
 3. Consideration of the report of the expert group.
 4. Preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
 5. Preparations for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
 6. Africa's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
 7. Ministerial policy dialogues:
 - (a) Waste and plastics management
 - (b) One health in Africa
 - (c) Strengthening Implementation actions
 8. Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
 9. Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions and key messages of the session.
 10. Venue and date of the nineteenth session.
 11. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment
 12. Other matters.
 13. Closure of the meeting

B. Organization of work

9. The representatives agreed to follow the programme of work set out in annex II to the annotated provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(II)/1/Add.1).

IV. Consideration of the expert group report

10. At the first plenary meeting of the ministerial segment, on the morning of 15 September, the chair of the expert segment, Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal, reported on the work and outcomes of the expert segment.
11. The representatives took note of the report.

V. Preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

12. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.

13. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Prof. Youba Sokona, Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Ms. Bogolo Kenewendo, Africa Director, Special

Advisor, UNFCCC Climate Champions; Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt; Mr. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia; and Mr. Ephraim Shitima, Chair of the African group of negotiators on climate change.

14. Interventions were made by Mrs. Eve Bazaiba Masudi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of Congo; Dr. Leila Benali, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco; Mr. Boualam Chebihi, Ambassador of Algeria to Senegal; Ms. Garam Saratou Rabiou Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Niger; and Mr. Mpoki Ulisubisya, Tanzanian High Commissioner to Canada.

VI. Preparations for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

15. The second part of the fifteenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilization, to be jointly hosted by the governments of China and Canada in Montreal from 7 to 19 December 2022.

16. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Mr. Francis Ogwal, Co-Chair for the Post-2020 Open Ended Working Group and Ms. Flora Mokgoloa of South Africa on behalf of the Africa group of negotiators on biodiversity.

17. Additional interventions were made by Mr. Nzabonimana Guillaume Serge, First Counsellor, Embassy of Rwanda to Senegal; Mrs. Eve Bazaiba Masudi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of Congo; Ms. Safiatou Diallo, Secretary General, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Guinea; and Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt.

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

18. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), through resolution 5/14 on "End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument", called for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

19. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Director, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP, and Dr. Kwaku Afriyie, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ghana.

20. Interventions to the presentations were made by Mr. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia; Mr. Mpoki Ulisubisya, Tanzanian High Commissioner to Canada; Mr. James Chibwana Gaya Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi; Mr. Adeshola Olatunde Adepoju, Director-General/Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Research Institute, Nigeria; and Mr. Carlos Martin-Novella, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The representatives called for active participation by Africa in the development of the instrument.

VIII. Ministerial policy dialogues:

21. At the second meeting of the ministerial segment, on the morning of 16 September, ministerial dialogues took place in the context of the theme: "Strengthening the role of AMCEN: looking inward while exploring outward actions". Three dialogues took place, each chaired by a moderator. For each dialogue, a panel of keynote speakers made opening statements followed by contributions from other speakers.

A. Waste and plastics management

22. The dialogue was moderated by Dr. Kwaku Afriyie, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ghana. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme of the

dialogue. The panel of speakers comprised Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister for the Environment, Egypt; Dr. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco; Ms. Garam Saratou Rabiou Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Niger; and Ms. Bogolo Kenewendo, Africa Director, Special Advisor, UNFCCC Climate Champions.

23. Contributions to the dialogue were made by Mrs. Lalya Kamara, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania; Mrs. Vina Marie Orléa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar; Mr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Cape Verde; Perfect Kouadio, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ivory Coast; Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui, Minister of Environment, Tunisia; Prof. Barthelemy Ndong, Inspector General, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Cameroon; Nigeria; Ms. Philda Nani Kereng, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Botswana; and Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, International Labour Organization.

B. Strengthening Implementation actions

24. The dialogue was moderated by Ms. Makhotsa Magdeline Sotyu, Deputy Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme of the dialogue. The panel of speakers comprised Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal; Mr. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia; Mr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Cape Verde; and Dr. Getahun Garede Wodaje, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia.

25. Contributions to the dialogue were made by Dr. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco; Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia; Ms. Philda Nani Kereng, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Botswana; Ms. Garam Saratou Rabiou Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Niger; Mr. David Munene, major groups; and Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa.

C. One health in Africa

26. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Lee White, Minister of Forests, Seas and Environment, Gabon. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme of the dialogue. The panel of speakers comprised Ms. Charity Gamure Denhel, Climate Change Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Zimbabwe; Dr. Maminata Traore Coulibaly, Minister of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation, Burkina Faso; Dr. Adelheid Onyango, Regional Office for Africa, World Health Organisation (WHO).

IX. Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

27. A representative of the secretariat presented a report on the general trust fund of AMCEN (AMCEN/18(II)/13). The Conference took note of the report.

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

28. A representative of the secretariat introduced the draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages submitted by the expert group for consideration by the ministers.

29. Ministers adopted the following decisions: decision 18/1, an omnibus decision on enhancing the role of the African ministerial conference on the environment; decision 18/2, on Africa's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; decision 18/3, on biodiversity, wildlife and desertification; and decision 18/4, on climate change.

30. Ministers also adopted the Dakar declaration on securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa.

31. The declaration, decisions and key messages were adopted on the understanding that they would be issued in both English and French as soon as possible. The declaration is set out in annex I while the decisions are set out in annex II to the present report.

32. Algeria expressed its reservation on the adoption of any decision that does not make reference to AMCEN as a sub-committee of the specialized technical committee of the African Union and the role of the African Union leadership, and that its position should be included in the report of the conference. Morocco expressed its reservation on the adoption of any decision that make reference to AMCEN as a sub-committee of the specialized technical committee of the African Union and that its position be included in the report of the conference.

XI. Venue and date of the nineteenth session

33. During the ministerial segment, it was agreed that the nineteenth session of AMCEN would be hosted by a member State from Eastern Africa, on a date to be decided by the Bureau, in conjunction with the secretariat and in consultation with the host country.

34. Sudan had been nominated as Vice-President and Rapporteur of the Bureau for the period 2021–2023 and would therefore have hosted the nineteenth session but indicated that it would not be in a position to host the session. Ethiopia offered to host the nineteenth session of AMCEN in 2023.

XII. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

35. The representative of the secretariat introduced the draft report of the ministerial segment. The ministers agreed to entrust the finalization of the report to the secretariat and adopted the report on that basis.

XIII. Other matters

36. There were no other matters for consideration.

XIV. Closure of the meeting

37. Brief closing statements were delivered by Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Director, UNEP's Regional Office for Africa; Ms. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission; and Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, the President of AMCEN and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal.

38. The President declared the resumed eighteenth session of AMCEN closed at 4.15 p.m. on Friday, 16 September 2022.
