

Summary Report January-December 2022

Regional Facilitator, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa

The year 2022 was an active year for the Regional Facilitators:

- From January to August, Mrs. Gertrude Kenyangi (Support for Women in Agriculture and Development) and Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui (Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection) served as Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa
- From August to December, Mr. David Munene (Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa) and Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui (Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection) served as Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa

The five key priorities for the Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa in 2022 were:

- 1) Keep the African Major Groups and Stakeholders engaged
- 2) Increase the number of African Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UNEP
- 3) Engage strongly with the second part of the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2)
- 4) Engage strongly with the Resumed Session of the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN 18.2)
- 5) Engage with other Multilateral Environmental Opportunities (UNEP@50, Stockholm+50, UNCCD COP15, UNFCCC COP27, UNCBD COP15)

The three Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa who have served in 2022 would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the African Major Groups and Stakeholders for their support, cooperation and guidance, to the UNEP Secretariat for their steadfast and ever reliable support and advice as well as to the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, ANAW and PACJA for their partnership. Mr. David Munene and Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui express particular appreciation, on behalf of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders, to Mrs. Gertrude Kenyangi who concluded her second mandate as Regional Facilitator, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa, this year.

Key Activities January-December 2022:

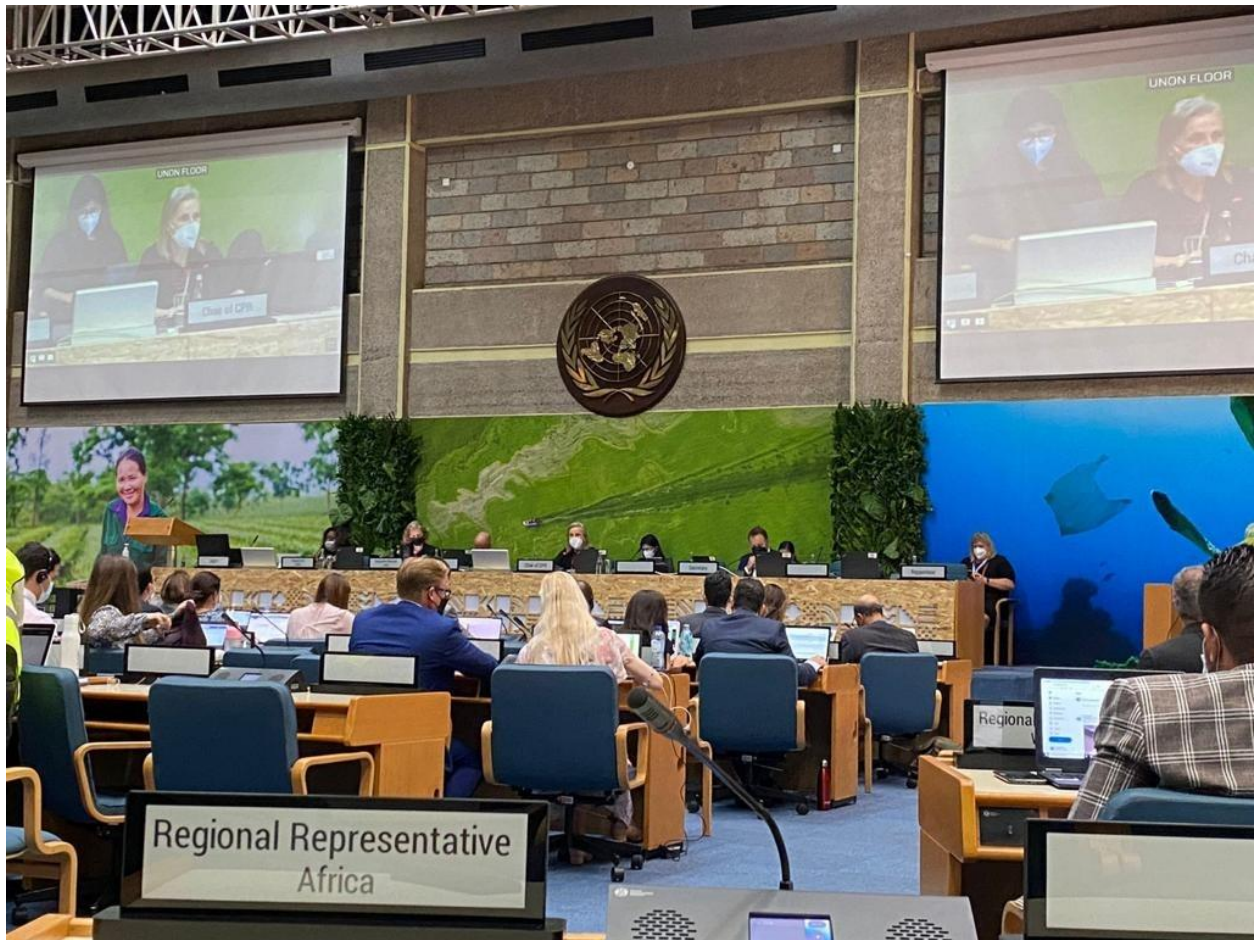
- Communication
 - 10 email campaigns sent to the Members of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders (as of December 18th 2022, 281 contact emails in that mailing list managed directly by the Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa, following an invitation by UNEP CSU to manage it, representing a 42 % increase compared to December 2021). An additional Google Groups mailing list is also used by the Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa.
 - An “MGS Africa” WhatsApp group comprising 240 participants (increase of 53 % in participants compared to December 2021)
- Directly UNEP related coordination
 - Participation and Engagement in UNEA 5.2 and UNEP @50:
 - “Major Groups and Stakeholders Dialogue with UNEP Executive Director”, UNEP
 - Speaker: “Major Groups and Stakeholders Dialogue with UNEA 5 President”, UNEP
 - Co-Chair: “Major Groups and Stakeholders Dialogue with UNEA 6 President”, UNEP
 - Convener: “African Major Groups and Stakeholders Dialogue with AMCEN Secretariat”, UNEP
 - Convener: “African Major Groups and Stakeholders Dialogue with UNEP Civil Society Unit and the UNEP Africa Regional Office”, UNEP
 - Convener: “African Major Groups and Stakeholders Coordination Meetings”, African MGS
 - Panelist: “Climate justice, resilience and development in Africa: what contribution for the youth?”, Lex Climatica Winter School
 - Panelist: “Road to COP 27”, Youth Love Egypt Foundation
 - Panelist: “From Commitments to Action Towards Stockholm +50: Partnerships for the African Green Stimulus Programme”, UNEP & UNECA
 - Moderator: “Towards a circular economy for the sustainable management of plastic waste on beach and ocean ecosystems”, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection
 - Speaker on behalf of all Major Groups and Stakeholders: “UNEA 5.2 Closing”
 - Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum:

- Moderator: Plenary Session on “What’s on the agenda for UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50?”
 - Co-Facilitator: Working Session on Resolution cluster “Nature-based solutions”
 - Presenter: Plenary session on “Outcomes of Working sessions”
- Engagement with Stockholm +50
 - Co-Facilitator: “Stockholm +50 Africa Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation” UNEP | Online April 2022
 - Opening Speaker: “Stockholm +50 Associated Event: “Environmental Education acting to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Africa”” Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection | Online June 2022
- Organisation of a Special Event at Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training “African MGS Meeting “Looking back at UNEA 5 – Looking towards UNEA 6”” in partnership with UNEP & ANAW in June 2022
- Participation and Engagement in the Second part of the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (September 2022) at the Expert and Ministerial Segments
- A dozen webinars/online or hybrid events organized or co organized including:
 - Opening Speaker & Presenter on “Next Steps and Implementation Assessing UNEA 5 – The Next Steps Forward” University of Nairobi, ICEL, GJIE & IUCN WCEL | Online March 2022
 - Opening and Closing Speaker for the “Special Session: World Commission on Environmental Law and Soils Webinar Update, Second ASEAN Environmental Law Conference” Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law | Online April 2022
 - “24 Hour Environmental Rule of Law Global Symposium | 40th Anniversary of the Montevideo Programme and 50 years of international environmental law” UNEP & ARIEL & IUCN WCEL | Online May 2022
 - Closing Keynote Speaker: “The Role of Environmental Law to Address the Climate Crisis and promote Sustainable Development”
 - Opening Speaker: “Partnerships to Advance Environmental Law in Africa”
 - Opening Speaker: “African Green Universities and Youth Education Network Little Book of Green Nudges Training”

Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection & UNEP | Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training May 2022

- Chair of the Roundtable “The Role of Law in Governing Sustainable Agrifood Systems and Protection of Natural Resources: Identification of Challenges to Legislation, Implementation, and Compliance”, Governing Sustainable Agrifood Systems: Strengthening Legislation and Building Capacity to Support Implementation, Compliance and Enforcement FAO & IUCN WCEL & UNEP | Online July 2022
- Moderator: Side event: “Delivering Ocean Solutions for the SDGs: the role of Africa in the Alliance of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and in Developing a Sustainable Blue Economy” Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection & INRH & UNESCO IOC | Lisbon, Portugal July 2022
- Regional Consultative Meeting and Resumed Eighteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN):
 - Coordinated the development of the concept note and programme for the Regional Consultative Meeting for African Major Groups and Stakeholders on the sidelines of the AMCEN 18.2
 - Coordinated invitation of high-level panel speakers at the Regional Consultative Meeting for African Major Groups and Stakeholders including the African Group of Negotiators’ UNFCCC Chair and the representation of the AMCEN Presidency
 - Moderated and coordinated the Regional Consultative Meeting for African Major Groups and Stakeholders in a hybrid manner with support from the UNEP
 - Coordinated the adopted key messages, long, and short summary statements with both in-person and online contributions, as outcomes of the Regional Consultative Meeting of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders on the sidelines of the AMCEN 18.2
 - Delivered the African Major Groups and Stakeholders’ Summary Statement to the African Ministers during the AMCEN 18.2 in Dakar, Senegal.

Selection of Illustrative Pictures



View from the Desk of the Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa in February 2022



Group Picture of Major Groups and Stakeholders with UNEP ED, Kenya, February 2022



Dialogue of UNEA 5 President with Major Groups and Stakeholders, Kenya, February 2022



Dialogue of UNEA 6 President with Major Groups and Stakeholders, Kenya, March 2022



Ayman Cherkaoui, Regional Facilitator, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa delivering on behalf of Major Groups and Stakeholders, the closing statement to UNEA 5.2, Kenya, February 2022



UNEA 5.2 “Road to COP27” Side Event organized by Youth Love Egypt, Member of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders, in partnership with the Egyptian COP27 Presidency, Stockholm +50 and Members/Observers of the MGFC, Kenya, February 2022



Meeting between African Major Groups and Stakeholders and the AMCEN Secretariat, Kenya, February 2022



Meeting with the Vice President of AMCEN, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the presence of Isaiah Otieno, Civil Society Unit, UNEP



“Reviewing UNEA 5 & looking forward to UNEA 6” Workshop, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, Morocco, February 2022



Opening Remarks of H.E Leila Benali, UNEA 6 President, sitting next to Alexandre Juras, Chief, UNEP Civil Society Unit, during the “Reviewing UNEA 5 & looking forward to UNEA 6” Workshop, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, Morocco, February 2022



Mohamed Atani, Head of Communications and Outreach, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, taking part in the “Reviewing UNEA 5 & looking forward to UNEA 6” Workshop, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, Morocco, February 2022



African Major Groups and Stakeholders taking part in person to the Regional Consultation Meeting for Africa, Senegal, February 2022



David Munene, Regional Facilitator, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa, making an intervention during the High-Level Segment of AMCEN 18.2, Senegal, September 2022



David Munene & Ayman Cherkaoui, Regional Facilitators, Major Groups & Stakeholders, Africa in conversation during AMCEN 18.2, Senegal, September 2022



Meeting of the Major Groups and Stakeholders during COP27 in Egypt, Moroccan Pavilion, November 2022

ANNEXES

Annex 1A: African MGS Statement to UNEA President on 25th of February 2022

Excellency,

Dear Major Groups and Stakeholders and friends at the UNEP Secretariat,

I, Ayman Cherkaoui with the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, on behalf of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders share with you these key messages.

1. Africa is a repository of the world's most diverse ecosystems, the cradle of indigenous peoples whose knowledge is vital for the conservation of natural resources, and has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Yet, our continent is the most vulnerable to the impacts of the triple planetary crises
 - But Africa is not a passive victim: Africa is convening the world to make meaningful progress for the environment, hosting UNEA here in Nairobi and the Desertification and Climate Change COPs in Abidjan and Sharm el-Sheikh.
2. We believe that unlocking a successful UNEA 5.2 outcome will be done through 7 keys:
 - One: Decisions and declarations made here must not regress from past established principles and agreements, but further ambition and action.
 - Two: A clear focus on implementation that considers existing African initiatives such as the African Green Stimulus Programme with predictability on finance, technology and capacity building
 - Three: We are dismayed by any narrative or action that may lead to a weakening of UNEP here in Nairobi. *We highlight* the importance of adequately commemorating UNEP @50.
 - Four: The establishment of an intergovernmental committee with a mandate to negotiate a new legally binding global agreement to address pollution from plastics in all environments and in all forms.
 - Five: The recognition of animal welfare as a firm pillar towards implementing One Health and One Welfare;
 - Six: Bringing down silos to address the triple planetary crises of Nature, Climate and Pollution;
 - Seven: Meaningful engagement with Major Groups and Stakeholders including us Africans in spite of technology and funding challenges

- In conclusion:
 - *We urge* all to enhance their commitment to conserving, protecting and enhancing the resilience of the people and the planet.

Annex 1B: Joint Closing statement UNEA 5.2

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear colleagues,

I am Ayman Cherkaoui with the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection. I am Regional Facilitator, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa.

I am speaking on behalf of all the Major Groups and Stakeholders:

As we close this UNEA, we, as a global community, do so with significant progress having been made on important issues for the people and the planet.

The triple planetary crises that we are confronted with do not leave us much time. We need to implement the decisions as soon as possible, on the ground, with solidarity, positive impact, and leaving no one behind. Indeed, as a critical example, very few representatives of the Indigenous community were able to join in person here, even though they have more than 80% stewardship of nature and biodiversity.

Regarding the Ministerial Declaration, it is a shame that it does not refer to the human right to a clean, sustainable and healthy environment which was recognised by the UN Human Rights Council only last year. The recognition was a victory for humankind and for nature, and it is very strange that UNEA is ignoring this fact. Ministers of the Environment meeting at UNEA should applaud this ! Fortunately, the UNHCR decision will influence the work of UNEP in any case and governments everywhere should be fully prepared for that.

We appreciate all of the work that went into the proposed plastics resolution, and are excited about the change that it represents. We are indeed writing history today. Civil society and science have played a tremendous role in achieving this win. We encourage member states to maintain the spirit of cooperation from those negotiations into the meetings to come in the proposed Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

We welcome the historic resolution adopted on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. Dedicated action to protect animals and their welfare in the UN policy process has been insufficient to date, with devastating consequences for biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and global public and

environmental health. With this resolution, UNEA is now providing much needed leadership to catalyze intergovernmental action for the environment.

The 3 chemicals resolutions being adopted are very important to address the global crisis of chemical pollution, and protect and support groups that are most impacted by unsustainable chemicals use such as women farm workers and waste pickers.

Independent science on chemical and waste pollution is key to support the implementation of the BRS and Minamata Conventions. And that it values traditional, women's and indigenous knowledge is essential. The Major Groups and Stakeholders are ready to engage. We do regret, however, that no coordinated global action was taken on pesticides which poison 385 million farmers and workers every year.

We welcome the progress made on Sustainable Nitrogen Management as it will make a difference to the health of the planet and its people. However, we regret that the goal to halve nitrogen waste globally by 2030 was lost in the negotiations.

Regarding the resolution on mineral and metal resources, we are disappointed to see the lack of support at UNEA to together develop global mineral resource governance. The use of secondary materials needs to be the absolute priority and we need strict criteria for no-go areas for extractive industries and democratic control and transparency over resource use. It is a missed opportunity not to set up an intergovernmental working group, but Major Groups and Stakeholders are happy to actively engage in the foreseen regional consultations.

In conclusion, we congratulate Member States, UNEP and all participants on the adoption of many groundbreaking resolutions, but **NOW THE REAL WORK BEGINS.**

It is crucial to start implementing the resolutions adopted. Agreeing here on language is one thing, implementation and enforcement on the national levels is often not happening. Major Groups and Stakeholders could build the bridge between words and practice, holding governments accountable, but for that we need your trust and support.

We call on all, to ensure that implementation of all resolutions, including in particular on plastics, chemicals, minerals and Nature-based solutions, is not dominated by narrow and short term interests driven by greed, but instead fully respects and builds on the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples, women and small farmers through the lens of intra and intergenerational equity.

As an African, as a Moroccan, I am excited by the nomination by the African Group of the Kingdom of Morocco as the candidate for the presidency of UNEA 6. We, as Major Groups and Stakeholders, are happy about this nomination and look forward

to our collaboration in that context. However, tonight is not about packing our bags and reconvening in 2 years. Preparing UNEA 6 starts tomorrow, and we, the Major Groups and Stakeholders, are ready to engage with you through an open, transparent and participatory process.

Thank you.

Annex 1C: African Major Groups and Stakeholders Position on the Draft Political Declaration of the Special Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme

Key Messages:

1. African Leadership:

- Africa as a continent has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions levels in spite of being a repository of the world's biggest percentage of flora and fauna, boasting the largest share of lakes, rivers, mountains, and being the cradle of the biggest population of indigenous peoples whose knowledge is vital for the conservation of natural resources;
- African Member States have demonstrated excellent leadership in bringing forward many important draft resolutions for UNEA 5.2. We strongly appreciate the commitment of the African Member States Delegations to UNEP in Nairobi to ensure that these draft resolutions are passed without undue weakening as they will combine to make a real impact on the multiple environmental crises we are facing. We are hoping that the same leadership and commitment will be shown and facilitated by the African Group in relation to finalizing the political declaration;
- The preparations and the main commemorative event on UNEP @50 will be held in Nairobi, further placing the focus on Africa;
- The presence of a vibrant, committed and enthusiastic network of Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders calls for meaningful consideration, including through strengthening Access to Information and Public Participation in order to reinforce Informed Environmental Decision Making all across the continent.

2. The strengthening of UNEP, the only UN headquarters in Africa and in the Global South, is an urgent imperative that can't and must not be further delayed, because of, inter alia:

- Its key role in setting the global environmental agenda, as recalled in para 13 (b) of the Key Policy Messages of AMCEN 18.1 where African Ministers for the Environment indicated they “appreciated the key role played by the United Nations Environment Programme, as the global authority on the environment, in advocating for and catalysing actions to protect the environment and natural resources”.
- UNEP's funding being an enabler for scale rather than a hurdle for ambition and action to its key role, its approved Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and the vision that prevailed at the creation of UNEP.

Since UNEP's creation, environmental needs have been made even more pressing in urgency and scale given the alarming triple planetary crises. So-called developed countries have a moral and legal duty to provide such support, with a specific focus on developing countries, in particular in Africa.

3. The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable Environment is a Universal Human Right that enable several other Human Rights and that right must be a tangible reality for both present and future generations:
 - The political declaration must further enshrine the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment following its recognition by the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The failure to do so would strongly undermine UNEA's status as the world's environmental assembly.
4. Regression is unacceptable to all, in particular the most vulnerable:
 - It is vital that this declaration does not regress from past established principles and agreements, but on the contrary furthers understanding, ambition and action, all the more so given the triple planetary crises the world is confronted with and that Africa is particularly vulnerable to.
5. Environmental Law must be implemented effectively and efficiently in Africa and globally
 - Environmental Law and Governance must foster and not hinder ambitious environmental action, in the context of Agenda 2030. Its implementation in Africa must be aligned with our African Sovereignty and African values.
6. Environmental Rule of Law is a key component of impactful and equitable on the ground environmental action, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication:
 - Environmental rule of law features as an internationally recognized concept in, inter alia:, Decision 27/9: paras 4 and 5a), Report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to : General Assembly resolution 72/277: Section F, para 2 l, Resolution 73/333: para 17, Rio+20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability: p. 4, among others, UNEP Website, the IUCN World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law
 - Environmental Rule of law is key and must be included in the declaration:
 - Without rule of law, the gap between the level of ambition and action that is needed to address the triple planetary crises and what actually takes place on the ground will never be filled.
 - In addition, the 7 aspirations of Agenda 2063 would be challenged, in particular aspiration 3: "An Africa of good

governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law”

- Environmental Rule of law is a critical component to address Environmental Injustice that Africa disproportionately suffers from and the meaningful implementation of key principles to the African Continent, such Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

Annex 2: Bridging UNEA 5 to UNEA 6: The Bouknadel Implementation Roadmap

We, African Major Groups and Stakeholders, having gathered in person and online on June 20th and 21st 2022 at the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, the academic branch of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa

Having reviewed the resolutions adopted during the second part of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having discussed key priorities for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the challenges encountered by African Major Groups and Stakeholders, Having further considered the role of African Major Groups and Stakeholders,

1. **Thank** the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, the African Network for Animal Welfare and the United Nations Environment Programme for having convened us,
2. **Express our profound gratitude** to the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection for having made it possible for the “Looking back at UNEA 5 – Looking Towards UNEA 6” Meeting of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders held in Sidi Bouknadel, Morocco;
3. **Request** the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection to convey to the people of the Kingdom of Morocco the gratitude of the African Major Groups for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants;
4. **Express our firm support** to the Moroccan Presidency of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, an African presidency coordinating an urgent and global answer to environmental challenges at a critical juncture;
5. **Commit** to enhancing and deepening our engagement with the United Nations Environment Programme processes;
6. **Decide** to:
 - (a) *Put in place* an African Major Groups and Stakeholders United Nations Environment Assembly Presidency Support Unit and entrust it with the mandate to:
 - (i) *Review* the implementation of resolutions adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
 - (ii) *Identify* themes and priorities for the sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
 - (iii) *Provide* strategic and substantive advice to Moroccan Presidency of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

- (b) *Designate the* Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa, as focal points to coordinate the work of this Support Unit;
- (c) *Invite* the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection to host, at the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, the Secretariat to support this Support Unit;

7. **Encourage** African Member States and all Member States to support the Moroccan Presidency of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in working towards an ambitious and inclusive outcome at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in the context of sustainable development,
8. **Strongly encourage** Major Groups and Stakeholders from other regions to also support Moroccan Presidency of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in working towards an ambitious and inclusive outcome at the United Nations Environment Assembly and to collaborate with us in that regard.

Annex 3: AMCEN 18.2

Annex 3A: RCM Adopted Key Messages

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40510/Africa%20RCM%202022%20Key%20Messages%20%5bADOPTED%5d.pdf?sequence=8&isAllowed=y>

Annex 3B: RCM Long Statement

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40510/Long%20Statement%20by%20Africa%20MGS%20for%20AMCEN%202022-15Sep.pdf?sequence=7&isAllowed=y>

Annex 3C: RCM Summary Statement

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40510/Africa%20MGS%200Summary%20Statement.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y>

Annex 4: Ninth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/41048/Statement%20of%20the%20Africa%20MGS.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>