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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

**Nineteenth session**

Addis Ababa, 14–18 August 2023

**General trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment\***

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was established to provide financial support, wholly or partially, for the functioning of the organs of the Conference and the implementation of its activities and to ensure a sustainable financial base for the Conference.
2. The general trust fund was established on the basis of voluntary contributions. However, due to the importance of the fund as the main means of resource mobilization and the most important means of securing the commitments of African Governments, it was felt that mandatory contributions would be necessary to mobilize the financial resources required to implement the activities of the Conference.
3. Consequently, at its eighth session, held in Abuja in 2000, the Conference in its decision 8/5, resolved to restructure its institutional arrangements and adopt a scale of member State contributions to the general trust fund. It mandated the United Nations Environment Programme to invoice member States for their contributions to the fund on the basis of the goodwill enshrined in the decisions taken with regard to the fund.

**II. Pledges and contributions to the general trust fund**

4. Article 27 of the Constitution of the Conference stipulates that contribution to the general trust fund by member States shall be obligatory. Additionally, observers are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions as they may be in a position to do so.
5. The Constitution of the Conference provides that pledges of contributions to the general trust fund shall be made at each session of the Conference and that the fund shall be an agenda item at each ordinary session of the Conference.
6. Countries' contributions to the general trust fund are based on pledges that they make. Countries are invoiced by the United Nations Environment Programme, as the secretariat of the Conference, after making pledges. Very few countries made pledges to the general trust fund, and this led to unpaid arrears amounting to \$2.1 million having to be written off in 2010.
7. Consequently, during its thirteenth session, held in Bamako in June 2010, member states agreed that the work of the Conference required considerable financial resources and that it was necessary to ensure that the general trust fund was adequately funded. The Conference, therefore,

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

through its decision 13/4, urged member States to pay their contributions to enable the Conference to scale up its work and tackle the perennial financial constraints that the Conference was facing.

### **III. Decision adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference**

8. In its decision 13/4, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment resolved:

- (a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their contributions to the general trust fund.
- (b) To urge Governments to make a compulsory yearly minimum contribution of \$10,000 to the general trust fund to enable the Conference to carry out its activities.
- (c) To urge those Governments that can pay more than the yearly minimum contribution to the general trust fund to do so to enable the Conference to scale up its activities.
- (d) To agree to invest US Dollars 2 million of the principal of the general trust fund as an absolute minimum investment.
- (e) To request the Bureau to establish a working group to review new and more efficient methods and modalities to mobilize resources.
- (f) To request the President of the Conference to send regular reminders to member States to make their contributions.
- (g) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested to carry out Conference activities, cover the costs of Bureau meetings and meet the costs of ordinary sessions of the Conference and to request the secretariat to make proposals on such use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation.
- (h) To agree that the general trust fund should continue to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as long as the secretariat of the Conference remains with that organization.
- (i) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at sessions of the Conference.
- (j) To extend its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the Conference.

### **IV. Implementation of decision 13/4 of the Conference**

9. Since the adoption of decision 13/4, efforts have been made to encourage member states to make their contributions to the general trust fund. However, of great concern is the fact that several member States have yet to make their contributions to the fund since the decision was adopted despite continued appeals by the Conference and reminders by the secretariat.

10. The non-contribution by most member States to the general trust fund has continued to affect the ability of the Conference to effectively carry out its mandate. Member States have been urged to clear their outstanding mandatory contributions and to work with all organs of their governments to ensure that the annual contributions to the fund are made in a timely manner.

11. As decided at the thirteenth session and reiterated at subsequent sessions of the Conference, letters reminding member States to make contributions to the trust fund are regularly sent out by the secretariat. The secretariat has also continued to undertake bilateral discussions with countries to ensure the payment of outstanding contributions to the fund are made.

12. During its seventeenth session held in Durban in 2019, the Conference urged member States to expedite implementation of its decision 13/4, which called on countries that had not yet paid their contributions to urgently meet their obligations and to provide additional resources to the general trust fund. The decision also urged countries to prioritise, plan and budget for, as appropriate, the contributions due to the general trust fund.

13. At the resumed eighteenth session of the Conference held in Dakar in 2022, member states committed to make every effort to pay their contributions to the general trust fund and other multilateral environmental agreements. Despite this commitment, not much improvement was recorded during the reporting period. This is a major concern for the secretariat that needs to be addressed by the Conference.

## V. Status of the general trust fund

14. Pursuant to decision 13/4, the implementation of Conference activities is funded by the interest generated by the trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested. However, the interest earned on the trust fund and the contributions received during the reporting period have been minimal and this is no longer sustainable for the implementation of the Conference activities.

15. The United Nations Environment Programme, as the Conference secretariat, continues to manage the trust fund, which is audited together with other United Nations Environment Programme trust funds. The most recent audit undertaken by the United Nations Board of Auditors in the United Nations Environment Programme did not have specific recommendations for the attention of the Conference.

16. However, a concern was raised by the United Nations Board of Auditors regarding the high level of outstanding contributions to the trust fund that have accrued since the year 2010. The secretariat was requested to closely engage the Conference and member States with the view to having this issue addressed.

17. As of 31 December 2022, unpaid arrears amounting to US Dollars 3,986,024.70 have accrued between the years 2010 and end of 2022. The Conference is requested to take a decision regarding these unpaid arrears, either to retire them or urge member States to honour their commitments.

18. Contributions received from member States during the period 2022–2023 amounted to US Dollars 412,664 with the interest generated by the trust fund over the same period totalling US dollars 13,684. Total income for the period 2022–2023, therefore, amounted to US Dollars 426,348.

19. Limited financial support from partners working with the Conference was received during the reporting period to cover some of the activities undertaken. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme continued to support the activities of the Conference by making contributions in terms of financial and technical resources through several projects.

20. The interim statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2022, as well as for the period from January to May 2023, together with the interest allocation report as of 31 December 2022, are set out in Annex I and Annex II to the present note. The status of member States contributions to the general trust fund as of 31 May 2023 is shown in Annex III.

## VI. Considerations by the Conference at the nineteenth session

21. The unpaid contributions by member states continues to accrue with the arrears amounting to US Dollars 4,437,540 having accrued between year 2010 and 31 May 2023. These unpaid arrears cannot continue to be reflected in the books of the general trust fund every year with no indication as to when they will be cleared. As noted above, the secretariat has been tasked by the United Nations Board of Auditors to closely engage the Conference and the member States to address this issue through efforts to have these arrears paid.

22. The Constitution provides that pledges of contributions to the trust fund shall be made at each ordinary session of the Conference. At the nineteenth session, member states are encouraged to make their pledges of contribution to the trust fund and the secretariat to follow up to ensure that the pledges are fulfilled.

23. The Conference is invited to make further directions regarding contributions to the trust fund, especially with regard to the unpaid arrears and how such arrears will be settled.

24. The Conference is invited to make any other appropriate decisions at its nineteenth session that can encourage member States to meet their obligations with regard their contributions as well as encouraging observers to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund of the Conference.

**Annex I**



1000/32AML - TF African Ministerial Cf Ent AMCEN  
 M1-32AML-000002 - AMS0101087 (Sub-project of CP50101008) -

**Donor : 140000030 - GROUP OF SPONSORS**

**Interim Certified Financial Statements (IMIS + Umoja) for the period ended 31 May 2023**

(Expressed in US dollars)

	<u>Cumulative to 31</u> <u>December 2022</u>	<u>For the period from 01 January</u> <u>2023 to 31 May 2023</u>	<u>Cumulative to 31</u> <u>May 2023</u>
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions received	5,119,425.92	45,546.43	5,164,972.35
Transfers (from)/to Grant <sup>iv</sup>	-	31,128.89	31,128.89
Transfers from/(to) Grant <sup>iv</sup>	(100,000.00)	-	(100,000.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,019,425.92</b>	<b>76,675.32</b>	<b>5,096,101.24</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Staff and other personnel cost	58,644.74	16,903.71	75,548.45
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	3,311.07	-	3,311.07
Contractual Services	66,479.23	-	66,479.23
Travel	1,534,834.40	203,550.08	1,738,384.48
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	619,399.41	375.00	619,774.41
<b>Total direct expenditures</b>	<b>2,282,668.85</b>	<b>220,828.79</b>	<b>2,503,497.64</b>
Indirect Support Costs (United Nations) <sup>iv</sup>	296,746.95	28,707.74	325,454.69
<b>Total indirect support costs</b>	<b>296,746.95</b>	<b>28,707.74</b>	<b>325,454.69</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>2,579,415.80</b>	<b>249,536.53</b>	<b>2,828,952.33</b>
<b>Net excess/(shortfall) income over expenditure</b>	<b>2,440,010.12</b>	<b>(172,861.21)</b>	<b>2,267,148.91</b>
Exchange rate (loss)/gain	(8,495.85)	-	(8,495.85)
<b>Available Balance</b>	<b>2,431,514.27</b>	<b>(172,861.21)</b>	<b>2,258,653.06</b>

<sup>iv</sup> Transfer in from grant R1-32CPL-000069

<sup>iv</sup> Transfer out to grant R1-32NFL-000156

<sup>iv</sup> Indirect Support Cost (United Nations) has been manually adjusted in lieu of pending full PSC batch run.

Certified by: Stephen Ndeti Date: 07/07/2023  
 Stephen Ndeti  
 Fund Management Officer  
 United Nations Environment Programme

Cleared by: Miriam Kizito Date: 06/07/2023  
 Miriam Kizito  
 Chief, Financial Reporting Unit  
 BFMS, UNON

Approved by: Onesmus Thiong'O Date: 07.07.2023  
 Onesmus Thiong'O  
 Chief, Financial Management Services  
 United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Office at Nairobi  
 ACCOUNTS SECTION  
 Budget and Financial  
 Management Service

## Annex II

## General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (32AML)

## Status of contributions as at 31st May 2023


(United States dollars)

	Country	Member State BP Number	Total minimum annual contributions from year 2010 to 2023	Contributions received in 2010	Contributions received in 2011	Contributions received in 2012	Contributions received in 2013	Contributions received in 2014	Contributions received in 2015	Contributions received in 2016	Contributions received in 2017	Contributions received in 2018	Contributions received in 2019	Contributions received in 2020	Contributions received in 2021	Contributions received in 2022	Contributions received in 2023	Contributions received for 2024	Total contributions received	Unpaid balance
1	Algeria	1111000002	140 000					40 000		19 970	10 000	20 030							90 000.00	50 000.00
2	Angola	1111000003	140 000					40 000	10 000				40 000						90 000.00	50 000.00
3	Benin	1111000017	140 000								9 764		90 428						100 192.63	39 807.37
4	Botswana	1111000021	140 000		10 026		20 000	10 000	10 000								10 000		60 026.00	79 974.00
5	Burkina Faso	1111000025	140 000		6 540.00	5 646.00	5 858.13									6 651			24 695.48	115 304.52
6	Burundi	1111000026	140 000				573												573.48	139 426.52
7	Cameroon	1111000028	140 000																—	140 000.00
8	Cabo Verde	1111000030	140 000																—	140 000.00
9	Central African Republic	1111000031	140 000																—	140 000.00
10	Chad	1111000032	140 000																—	140 000.00
11	Comoros	1111000036	140 000																—	140 000.00
12	Congo	1111000037	140 000								19 476								19 476.22	120 523.78
13	Côte d'Ivoire	1111000039	140 000						50 000		4 223.61								54 223.61	85 776.39
14	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1111000180	140 000			10 000													10 000.00	130 000.00
15	Djibouti	1111000046	140 000																—	140 000.00
16	Egypt	1111000050	140 000		10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000		20 000		10 000		20 000				100 000.00	40 000.00
17	Equatorial Guinea	1111000052	140 000											100 000					100 000.00	40 000.00
18	Eritrea	1111000053	140 000																—	140 000.00
19	Ethiopia	1111000055	140 000						40 000	30 000	30 000		10 000	10 000					120 000.00	20 000.00
20	Gabon	1111000059	140 000		10 075								77 561						87 636.10	52 363.90
21	Gambia	1111000060	140 000		500	500		3 000	6 000										10 000.00	130 000.00
22	Ghana	1111000063	140 000							30 000	30 000	10 000	28 320		1 636				99 956.01	40 043.99
23	Guinea	1111000067	140 000				30 000												30 000.00	110 000.00
24	Guinea-Bissau	1111000068	140 000										7 000						7 000.00	133 000.00
25	Kenya	1111000085	140 000		10 000		10 000		10 000		50 000		20 000						100 000.00	40 000.00
26	Lesotho	1111000091	140 000			9 975	20 000	10 000	10 000	10 000									59 975.00	80 025.00
27	Liberia	1111000092	140 000				19 950				30 000		24 753						74 703.08	65 296.92
28	Libya	1111000093	140 000																—	140 000.00
29	Madagascar	1111000097	140 000		9 074					30 825	51 320			10 000					101 219.15	38 780.85
30	Malawi	1111000098	140 000												4 603		6 426.18		11 029.18	128 970.82
31	Mali	1111000100	140 000		10 508							9 375				71 204	2 140		93 226.53	46 773.47
32	Mauritania	1111000103	140 000												108 669				108 668.86	31 331.14
33	Mauritius	1111000104	140 000	17 732	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	20 000		10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000			137 732.00	2 268.00


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Country	Member State BP Number	Total minimum annual contributions from year 2010 to 2023	Contributions received in 2010	Contributions received in 2011	Contributions received in 2012	Contributions received in 2013	Contributions received in 2014	Contributions received in 2015	Contributions received in 2016	Contributions received in 2017	Contributions received in 2018	Contributions received in 2019	Contributions received in 2020	Contributions received in 2021	Contributions received in 2022	Contributions received in 2023	Contributions received for 2024	Total contributions received	Unpaid balance	
34	Morocco	1111000110	140 000	9 681	10 040		10 000	9 906	19 965	10 000		10 000	10 993	20 000	10 000			<b>120 585.43</b>	19 414.57	
35	Mozambique	1111000111	140 000		10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000		10 000		20 000	10 000					<b>80 000.00</b>	60 000.00	
36	Namibia	1111000113	140 000			10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000					40 000		<b>120 000.00</b>	20 000.00	
37	Niger	1111000118	140 000																—	140 000.00
38	Nigeria	1111000119	140 000				40 000											<b>40 000.00</b>	100 000.00	
39	Rwanda	1111000135	140 000	10 000		10 000	20 000	10 000		20 000	10 000	20 000		15 025	5 000	10 000	7 786	<b>137 810.50</b>	2 189.50	
40	Sao Tome and Principe	1111000141	140 000																—	140 000.00
41	Senegal	1111000143	140 000												123 457			<b>123 456.63</b>	16 543.37	
42	Seychelles	1111000144	140 000	50 000	10 000	10 000						30 000						<b>100 000.00</b>	40 000.00	
43	Sierra Leone	1111000145	140 000				10 000	30 000	20 312	20 292	9 708							<b>90 312.00</b>	49 688.00	
44	Somalia	1111000150	140 000																—	140 000.00
45	South Africa	1111000151	140 000		10 000		110 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000			10 000	<b>210 000.00</b>	(70 000.00)	
46	South Sudan	1111000191	140 000																—	140 000.00
47	Sudan	1111000154	140 000																—	140 000.00
48	Swaziland/ eSwatini	1111000156	140 000		20 000	10 000		20 000					40 000					<b>90 000.00</b>	50 000.00	
49	Togo	1111000162	140 000				20 000											<b>20 000.00</b>	120 000.00	
50	Tunisia	1111000164	140 000		10 000		10 000	10 000		20 000	10 000							<b>70 000.00</b>	70 000.00	
51	Uganda	1111000167	140 000	10 000	10 000										100 000			<b>120 000.00</b>	20 000.00	
52	United Republic of Tanzania	1111000171	140 000											89 962				<b>89 961.87</b>	50 038.13	
53	Zambia	1111000181	140 000																—	140 000.00
54	Zimbabwe	1111000182	140 000	10 000				5 000	5 000									<b>20 000.00</b>	120 000.00	
<b>Total</b>			<b>7 560 000</b>	<b>87 732</b>	<b>166 404</b>	<b>96 161</b>	<b>346 382</b>	<b>243 000</b>	<b>226 218</b>	<b>196 053</b>	<b>369 491 91</b>	<b>70 030</b>	<b>417 437</b>	<b>210 993</b>	<b>279 895</b>	<b>336 312</b>	<b>68 566</b>	<b>7 786</b>	<b>3 122 459.76</b>	<b>4 437 540 24</b>
<b>Number of countries making contributions</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	

## Annex III

 AM50101087 (Sub-project of CP50101008) - Donor: GROUP OF SPONSORS Interest allocation report as at 31 December 2022 Fund: 32AML			
<b>Grant</b>	MI-32AML-000002		
<b>Agreement Contribution</b>	4,248,525.44		
<b>Agreement Period</b>	2013-2026		
Period of allocation	Average proportion of grant cash balance in fund over the allocation period	Interest Income from Cash Main Pool attributable at Fund level (including Unrealized gains/losses)	Interest Income from Cash Main Pool attributable at grant level (including Unrealized gains/losses) <sup>av</sup>
		US\$	US\$
2013	2.46%	17,052.16	419.19
2014	44.51%	19,734.20	8,784.31
1st Half of 2015	98.98%	3,511.51	3,475.55
2nd Half of 2015	97.95%	2,182.51	2,137.76
1st Half of 2016	98.92%	20,164.80	19,947.34
2nd Half of 2016	98.36%	1,391.50	1,368.70
1st Half of 2017	97.86%	16,893.26	16,531.93
2nd Half of 2017	97.26%	17,368.93	16,893.12
1st Half of 2018	96.44%	18,572.96	17,911.49
2nd Half of 2018	95.27%	30,847.23	29,388.66
1st Half of 2019	94.44%	36,533.44	34,503.04
2nd Half of 2019	93.22%	28,610.73	26,669.92
1st Half of 2020	91.97%	37,689.03	34,662.84
2nd Half of 2020	91.57%	6,273.99	5,745.08
1st Half of 2021	91.67%	2,328.43	2,134.43
2nd Half of 2021	91.77%	979.59	898.93
1st Half of 2022	92.31%	(17,290.39)	(15,960.74)
2nd Half of 2022	91.90%	32,257.58	29,644.73
<b>Total</b>		<b>275,101.46</b>	<b>235,156.29</b>

<sup>av</sup> Interest Income from Cash Main Pool attributable at grant level (including Unrealized gains/losses) is made up of (i) Realized investment revenue from Cash Main Pool Participation attributable at grant level of US\$262,893.56 and (ii) Unrealized losses from Cash Main Pool Participation attributable at grant level of (\$27,737.27).

  
**United Nations Office at Nairobi**  
**ACCOUNTS SECTION**  
**Budget and Financial**  
**Management Service**

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Date: 18/07/2023