

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF UNEP MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS, AFRICA TO AMCEN 19

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Ayman Cherkaoui, with the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and I am one of the two Regional Facilitators, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa.

This statement is on behalf of the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa. It summarizes our perspectives. The full statement will be made available online.

First of all,

We express our deepest appreciation to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and UNEP for their generous support to our 2023 Regional Consultative Meeting. We congratulate the Republic of Senegal for running the presidency of AMCEN 18 in a meaningfully inclusive manner. We congratulate the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for successfully hosting COP15, the Democratic Republic of the Congo for successfully hosting Pre COP 27, The Arab Republic of Egypt for successfully hosting COP 27; the Kingdom of Morocco on the occasion of becoming the first UNEA African Presidency; and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for ascending to the Presidency of AMCEN 19.

We applaud the African Group of Negotiators for their critically important work across the environmental spectrum

On the implementation of the decisions of AMCEN,

We recognize that AMCEN decisions do not take place in a vacuum and require enabling means of implementation at all levels,

We call for the development of a mechanism that enables long-term and result oriented collaboration between AMCEN and African ministers of finance and economic planning

On Climate Change,

We are profoundly aware that climate change is a justice issue that has disproportionately affected millions of Africans,

We affirm that the energy transition in Africa must be just, contextual and enhance reliable and affordable electricity access while increasing investment in renewable energy.

We call on AMCEN to push for new and additional climate finance that is adequate, flexible, predictable, and accessible to grassroots communities especially those at the forefront of climate change impacts. We emphasize that funding should be grant-based, in alignment with Africa's special

needs and circumstances and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We acknowledge the significant efforts made by African member states to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change,

We firmly call on developed countries to not only honor but exceed their obligations to double funding provided for adaptation to developing countries, with a particular focus on Africa. Further, *we call for* COP28 to finally finalize the framework for the global goal for adaptation.

We look forward to the Africa Climate Summit hosted by the Republic of Kenya

On the implications of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on Africa,

We are alarmed by the rate of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in Africa and globally.

We urge AMCEN to ensure that the implementation of the framework reflects the aspirations and priorities of Africa, including through revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by COP16.

We encourage African member states to ratify the Marine Biodiversity Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

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

We ask AMCEN to consider the following:

- The mandate for the treaty's scope is clearly to end plastic pollution across the full lifecycle of plastics, that includes all plastics and associated pollution with no exceptions, and remediation of existing pollutants.
- With regard to the principles of the treaty, the Resolution is underpinned by many principles of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which includes among others:
 - The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities
 - Liability and compensation
 - Transboundary environmental justice
 - The Preventive and Precautionary Principle
 - The Polluter Pays Principle

With regards to UNEA 6,

We emphasize the need for an ambitious ministerial declaration that reflects on progress achieved since previous UNEA sessions and charts a path ahead

We urge UNEA to ensure that the necessary means of implementation, including finance are mobilized, so that all adopted resolutions are implemented, in particular in Africa.

We highly appreciate the meaningful and ongoing engagement of the Moroccan UNEA 6 Presidency with us and the broader UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders and look forward to UNEA 6

We urge UNEP to make appropriate arrangements to support robust and meaningful in-person participation of African Major Groups and Stakeholders at UNEA 6

We strongly urge UNEA to strengthen the coordinating role of UNEP to address the triple planetary crisis. We further call on AMCEN to urge UNEP to strengthen the leadership role of African experts in UNEA Processes and in UNEP and congratulate, in that regard, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema and Dr. Rose Mwebaza for their appointments.

We further urge UNEA to look meaningfully into the issue of illegal transboundary movements of chemicals and waste as reported by African Member States in line with the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions.

We commend the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for acknowledging the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and urge UNEA to mainstream that recognition across the environmental spectrum.

We celebrate the role of women in environmental action and call on UNEA to further commit to supporting their work, especially at the grassroots level.

We call on UNEA to support meaningful youth engagement across the spectrum of environmental governance and request the mainstreaming of Youth Assemblies in upcoming UNEAs, building on the inaugural Global Youth Environment Assembly at UNEA 5.2.

Finally, we reaffirm our commitment to work hand in hand with every single one of you to co-construct and implement solutions to all the issues we have identified, leaving no one behind.

Thank you