



AMCEN



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## *African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

### **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

#### **Tenth special session**

Expert group meeting

Abidjan, 3 and 4 September 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

## **Annotated provisional agenda\*\***

### **I. Introduction**

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds its special sessions as and when necessary. The thirty-fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Conference at its meeting, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 1 March 2024 agreed to hold the tenth special session of AMCEN from 3 to 6 September 2024 in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire. An offer by the Government of Cote d' Ivoire to host the tenth special session was accepted by the Bureau of the Conference
2. Following the above, the tenth special session will be held at Sofitel Hotel Ivoire in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire. The tenth special session will be held in two segments: the experts' segment on 3 and 4 September 2024 and the ministerial segment on 5 and 6 September 2024.
3. The Bureau of the Conference considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the tenth special session of the Conference, which is set out in document AMCEN/SS.10/1.
4. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the tenth special session (document AMCEN/SS.10/INF/1). A list of the documents prepared for the session is provided in annex I to the present document and the programme of work is set out in annex II.

### **II. Objectives and overview of the tenth special session**

5. The tenth special session will be held under the theme: "*Raising Ambition for Accelerating Action on Drought Resilience and Combating land degradation and desertification*". The theme envisages a renewed commitment of member states, partners, and stakeholders to raise the ambitions of Africa that will enhance the resilience of the people to the effects of drought and increase investments to adaptation, degradation, and desertification.
6. The session aims to further strengthen the work of the Conference in its contribution to the region's environment and sustainable development agenda including strengthening efforts to mitigate droughts in Africa; assessing progress of land degradation neutrality targets in Africa; enhancing opportunities for ecosystems restoration and; identifying and strengthening partnerships and synergies to enhance resource mobilization to address land degradation, desertification and drought.
7. The session will also be an opportunity for ministers to provide policy guidance for Africa's participation in upcoming key environmental events, including the sixteenth session of the Conference

\* AMCEN/SS.X/EGM/1.

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

of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5);, among others.

8. The expert segment of the Tenth Special Session will bring to the attention of ministers several matters for their consideration.

9. The expert segment will prepare a draft declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various agenda items for consideration and adoption of the Ministerial segment of the Conference.

### **III. Items of the provisional agenda**

#### **Item 1**

##### **Opening of the meeting**

10. The representative of the President of the Conference and the minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia will chair the expert group segment, while the representative of the Vice-President of the Conference will serve as Rapporteur.

11. The representative of the President of the Conference will deliver a welcoming statement. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme, as secretariat of the Conference, and the African Union Commission will also make opening remarks.

#### **Item 2**

##### **Organizational matters**

12. The representative of the President of the Conference will introduce the provisional agenda, document AMCEN/SS 10/EGM/1.

13. The Chair of the expert segment, representing the President of the Conference, will introduce the draft programme of work as set out in annex II to the present document and draw attention to the list of documents for the expert segment, set out in annex I.

#### **Item 3**

##### **Discussions on strengthening efforts to mitigate drought in Africa**

14. This agenda item will explore the critical need to enhance drought mitigation strategies across Africa, a continent increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The session will address the multifaceted nature of drought, which not only threatens water security but also exacerbates food shortages, economic instability, and environmental degradation. Key discussions will focus on innovative solutions, including the implementation of advanced water management technologies, the promotion of drought-resistant crops, and the strengthening of early warning systems. Furthermore, the session will emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts among African nations, regional bodies, and international partners to develop resilient infrastructure and sustainable practices. The session will culminate in actionable decisions to build a more drought-resilient Africa.

15. The Chair of the expert segment will open the floor for discussions from Member States and stakeholders.

#### **Item 4**

##### **Discussions on progress in achieving land degradation neutrality targets in Africa**

16. This agenda item will delve into the advancements and challenges in achieving land degradation neutrality targets across Africa. Recognizing land degradation as a significant threat to sustainable development, this session will evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies and policies aimed at restoring degraded land and preventing further degradation. Discussions will highlight successful case studies, innovative land management practices, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern techniques. The session will also address the role of policy frameworks,

financial mechanisms, and capacity-building initiatives in supporting Land Degradation Neutrality objectives. Emphasis will be placed on the need for coordinated efforts among African countries, regional organizations, and international stakeholders to enhance monitoring, reporting, and verification processes. The session will aim to reinforce commitments and accelerate actions towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.

17. The Chair of the expert segment, will open the floor for discussions from Member States and stakeholders

## **Item 5**

### **Discussions on enhancing opportunities for ecosystems restoration**

18. This agenda item will focus on identifying and expanding opportunities for ecosystems restoration across Africa. The session will explore a range of restoration initiatives aimed at rehabilitating degraded landscapes, enhancing biodiversity, and improving ecosystem services. Key topics will include the implementation of large-scale restoration projects, the use of nature-based solutions, and community-driven restoration efforts. The discussions will highlight successful restoration models, the integration of restoration goals into national policies, and the potential for creating green jobs through restoration activities. By fostering a collaborative approach, the session aims to unlock the full potential of ecosystems restoration as a means to combat climate change, support sustainable development, and enhance the resilience of African landscapes.

19. The Chair of the expert segment will open the floor for discussions from Member States and stakeholders

## **Item 6**

### **Discussions on partnerships and synergies to enhance resource mobilization to address land degradation, desertification and drought**

20. This agenda item will explore strategies for strengthening partnerships and creating synergies to enhance resource mobilization efforts aimed at tackling land degradation, desertification, and drought in Africa. The session will emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder collaborations, including governments, private sector, civil society, and international donors, to pool resources and expertise. Discussions will focus on innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, public-private partnerships, and climate finance opportunities, to support sustainable land management practices. The session will also address the role of regional and international frameworks in facilitating coordinated actions and resource allocation. The session will explore efforts to foster robust partnerships to enhance the capacity of African nations to effectively address land degradation, desertification, and drought, thereby promoting sustainable development and resilience across the continent.

21. The Chair of the expert segment will open the floor for discussions from Member States and stakeholders.

## **Item 7**

### **Africa's preparations for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

22. This agenda item will focus on Africa's strategic preparation for the upcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The session will aim to consolidate Africa's position and priorities to effectively address desertification and land degradation issues at the global level. Key discussions will include reviewing the progress of national and regional action plans, identifying critical challenges, and sharing best practices and innovative solutions.

23. The session will also emphasize the importance of a unified African voice in negotiations to secure necessary support and commitments from the international community. Additionally, it will explore opportunities for enhancing capacity-building and resource mobilization to implement its objectives. By aligning national strategies with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification goals and strengthening collaborative efforts, the session aims to ensure that Africa is well-prepared to advocate for its interests and contribute significantly to the global fight against desertification and land degradation at COP16.

24. The Chair of the expert segment, representing the President of the Conference, will invite the Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to provide a brief presentation on Africa's Road map to the upcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
25. The Chair will then open the floor for discussions from Member States and stakeholders

## **Item 8**

### **Africa's preparations for other upcoming international environmental conferences**

#### **(a) Preparations for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

26. The twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to take place from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
27. The twenty-ninth session is set to explore a fair and ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG) adequate to the urgency and scale of the problem, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.
28. The Africa Group of Negotiators on climate change will make a brief presentation on the preparations to date, highlighting the negotiation issues of interest to Africa and the key messages to be considered by the expert group in preparation for the ministerial segment.

#### **(b) Preparations for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

29. The sixteenth session of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity is scheduled to take place from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia under the theme 'Peace for Nature'.
30. The Africa Group of Negotiators on biodiversity will make a brief presentation on the preparations to date, highlighting the negotiation issues of interest to Africa and the key messages to be considered by the expert group in preparation for the ministerial segment.

#### **(c) Preparations for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

31. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, is scheduled to take place from 25 November to 1 December 2024 at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center in Busan, Republic of Korea.
32. The fifth session of the International Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will delve into the compilation document of the text of the proposed legally binding agreement and will continue with negotiations with a view to completing its work on the instrument by the end of the fifth session.
33. The Chair of the expert segment will invite the Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators on Plastics Pollution to provide a brief presentation on Africa's Road map to the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

## **Item 9**

### **Venue and dates of the twentieth ordinary session**

34. The twentieth session of the Conference is to be hosted by a member State from North Africa.
35. During the 19th Ordinary Session, the ministers agreed that consultations within the North Africa subregion would continue on the issue of the venue and dates of the twentieth ordinary session, with a view to the subregion reaching a decision and reporting back during the consultative meeting of the Conference to be held in the margins of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

36. At the 35th Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference held on 1 March 2024, the Bureau noted the ongoing consultations of the North Africa Region and urged the sub-region to achieve a consensus on the venue of the twentieth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

37. The expert segment will provide a report to the Ministerial Segment on the possible hosting options available for the twentieth session.

### **Item 10**

#### **Consideration of the draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages**

38. The Chair of the expert segment will present the draft declaration, decisions and key messages for consideration and discussions.

### **Item 11**

#### **Other matters**

39. Other key matters of interest not included in the agenda may be discussed. It is proposed that any member State that introduces any other matter should provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session.

### **Item 12**

#### **Closure of the meeting**

40. The Chair of the expert segment will call on the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the African Union Commission to give closing remarks. The chair will bring the session to a formal close with a statement.

## Annex I

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Working documents</b>	
AMCEN/SS.10/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS.10/EGM/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS.10/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS.10/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS.10/2	Background paper on Raising Ambition for Accelerating Action on Drought Resilience, and Combating land degradation and desertification
AMCEN/SS.10/3	Background paper on Leveraging Financing and Partnerships for Combating drought, land degradation, and desertification in Africa
<b>Information documents</b>	
AMCEN/SS.10/INF/1	Information note for participants to the tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/SS.10/INF/2	AMCEN Bureaux 1985 – 2023
<b>Reference documents</b>	
AMCEN/BUR.9/3	Rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/BUR.9/2	Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

## Annex II

### Programme of work for the ministerial meeting on 3 and 4 September 2024

#### Tuesday, 3 September 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<b>Item 1</b>
9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	Opening of the meeting
	<b>Item 2</b>
10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Organizational matters
	<b>Item 3</b>
10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	Discussions on strengthening efforts to mitigate droughts in Africa
	<b>Item 4</b>
12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Discussions on progress of land degradation neutrality targets in Africa
1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	<b>Lunch break (And Associated Events)</b>
	<b>Item 5</b>
3.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Discussions on enhancing opportunities for ecosystems restoration
	<b>Item 6</b>
4.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Partnerships and synergies to enhance resource mobilization for DLDD

#### Wednesday, 4 September 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<b>Item 7</b>
9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Africa's preparation for the 16th COP UNCCD
	<b>Item 8</b>
10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Africa participation in COP 29 UNFCCC, COP 16, CBD, INC 5
	<b>Item 9</b>
11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Venue and dates of the twentieth ordinary session
1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	<b>Lunch break</b>
	<b>Item 10</b>
3.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions and key messages
	<b>Item 11</b>
5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Other matters
	<b>Item 12</b>
6.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Closure of meeting