

Report of the ministerial segment of the Tenth Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The ministerial segment of the tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Abidjan, on 5 and 6 September 2024.
2. The segment was attended by representatives of Member States of AMCEN, other States, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, and the secretariats of various environmental conventions, partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and major groups.
3. The ministerial segment started at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday, 5 September and was chaired by the President of AMCEN, Mr. Seyoum Mekonen Hailu, State Minister of Planning and Development in charge of Environment and Climate Change and Population and Development of Ethiopia.
4. Remarks were delivered by Mr. Jacques Assahore Konan, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC, Ms. Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECA, Ms Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary, UNCBD, Mr. Kevin Kariuki, Vice-President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank, Mr. Osama I. Faqeha, Deputy Minister of Environment, Saudi Arabia, Ms. Correa Leonel Josefa, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission.
5. Further statements were made by Ms. Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention, Amb. Jabril Ibrahim Abdulle, Chair of the Africa Group in Nairobi and Mr. David Munene, Representative of Civil Society.
6. The President of AMCEN invited ministerial statements from the delegations of AMCEN member States present. These statements are available on the official AMCEN website.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

7. The representatives adopted the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/SS.10/1).

B. Organization of work

8. The representatives agreed to follow the programme of work set out in annex II to the annotated provisional agenda (AMCEN/SS.10/1/Add.1)

III. Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group

9. The chair of the expert segment, Mr. Mensur Dessie, Director, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiation, Ministry of Planning and Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, reported on the work and outcomes of the expert segment
10. The Ministerial Segment took note of the report.

IV. Official keynote address

11. The official keynote address was delivered by His Excellency Robert Beugré Mambé, the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

12. The keynote address was preceded by remarks from the Mayor of Cocody, Abidjan, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Ms. Inger Andersen, and Mr. Jacques Assahore Konan, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Côte d'Ivoire.

VI. Ministerial policy dialogues

13. Four ministerial dialogues were held under the theme “*Accelerating Africa’s ambition to reduce land degradation, desertification, and drought.*” For each dialogue, a panel of keynote speakers made statements, which were followed by calls for intervention from other speakers on the floor. The president of AMCEN, Seyoum Mekonen Hailu, State Minister of Planning and Development in charge of Environment and Climate Change and Population and Development of Ethiopia moderated three dialogues while Mr. Abou Bamba, Coordinator, Abidjan Legacy Programme moderated the fourth dialogue.

A. Finance and partnerships for land degradation, desertification and drought

14. This dialogue was introduced by, Mr. Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank.
15. The panel of speakers for this dialogue included Ms. Paula Domingos Francisco Coelho, State Secretary for Climate Action and Sustainable Development Angola, Ms. Sithembiso G. G. Nyoni, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Zimbabwe, Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility.

B. Optimizing benefits for natural capital in Africa

16. The dialogue was introduced by Mr. Charles Sebukeera, Regional Science-Policy Coordinator, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP.
17. The panel of speakers comprised of, Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment of African Union Commission, Ms. Musonda Mumba, Executive Secretary, Ramsar Convention and Mr. Philippe Poinot, UN Resident Coordinator, Côte d'Ivoire.

C. Africa’s preparedness for UNCCD COP 16

18. The panel of speakers in this dialogue included Ministers from Mr. Rachid Firadi, Directeur du Partenariat, de la Communication et de la Coopération, Secrétariat d'Etat chargé du Développement Durable, Morocco, Mr. Aden Bare Duale, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Kenya, Mr. Hélé Pierre, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development Cameroon, Mr. Mandla Tshawuke Minister of Agriculture, Eswatini and Deputy Minister of Environment, Saudi Arabia, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, Executive Secretary United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

D. Addressing marine and coastal challenges in the Abidjan Convention

19. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Abou Bamba, Coordinator, Abidjan Legacy Programme and the panel comprised of Mr. Jacques Assahore Konan, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Mima Yema Mimi Sobba-Stephens, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Sierra Leone, Mr. Dion George, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa and Ms. Jessye Lapenn, Senior Coordinator for Atlantic Cooperation - Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs - US Department of State.

VII. Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

20. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2024.
21. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Mr. Kennedy Ondimu, Director Environmental Services, UNCCD Science and Technology Correspondent, National Environment Management Authority,

Kenya on behalf of the Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) on UNCCD to provide a briefing on Africa's preparations for the COP.

VIII. Preparations for the resumed sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

22. The resumed sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will also be the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the fifth 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, is scheduled to be hosted by the Government of Colombia in Cali, Colombia from 21 October to 1 November 2024.
23. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Mr. Ousseynou Kasse, the Executive Director of the National Biosafety Authority, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, on behalf of the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity.

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

24. The twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was scheduled to take place from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
25. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Mr. Aden Bare Duale, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry of Kenya and, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate change.

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

26. The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, through resolution 5/14, entitled "End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument", called for the convening of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
27. The intergovernmental negotiating committee on developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution has had four sessions and the fifth session is scheduled for November 2024.
28. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Ms. Lydia Essuah of Ghana and Chairperson of the African Group of Negotiators on plastic pollution to provide an overview of Africa's engagement in the intergovernmental negotiating committee and preparations for the fifth session.
29. Contributions were made by Kenya, Angola and Senegal position ahead of the fifth session and in support of the report by the African Group of Negotiators on plastic pollution. Egypt and Algeria noted their reservations on Decisions 19/2 of the nineteenth session of AMCEN and its Annex of key messages.

XI. Venue and date of the twentieth session

30. The Chair of the expert Segment, Mr. Mensur Dessie, Director, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiation, Ministry of Planning and Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia provided the report on this agenda item.
31. The meeting noted that the North Africa subregion had not yet reached a decision on the venue for the twentieth session of AMCEN. It was agreed that the subregion be given more time to continue consultations, and report back to the AMCEN consultative meeting that will be held in the margins of UNFCCC COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

32. If no decision is reached by the North Africa subregion at the consultative meeting in Baku, the twentieth session of AMCEN will be held at the location of the AMCEN Secretariat in Nairobi, in accordance with Rule 6 of the AMCEN Rules of Procedure.
33. Morocco made an intervention on this agenda item and highlighted their offer to host the 20th ordinary session of AMCEN in accordance with the principle of rotation. Algeria also expressed their intention to host the 20th Ordinary Session of AMCEN and underscored the goodwill in the North African Sub-region to continue consultations with a view to reaching a decision on the host of the 20th ordinary session.

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

34. A representative of the secretariat introduced the draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages submitted by the expert group.
35. The ministers adopted the following decisions: decision AMCEN SS/X/1, Opportunities to raise ambition to combat desertification, land degradation and enhance drought resilience in Africa, decision AMCEN SS/X/2, an omnibus decision on advancing Africa's common positions in conferences of Parties and meetings, decision AMCEN SS/X/3 on climate change.
36. The ministers also adopted the Abidjan Declaration, **AMCEN SS/X/** on raising Africa's ambition to reduce desertification, land degradation, and drought.
37. 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.

XIII. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

38. 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.

XIV. Other matters

39. Angola proposed that the theme of the 20th Ordinary Session of AMCEN should focus on plastics and chemicals management.
40. Zimbabwe highlighted their upcoming hosting of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, scheduled from 23 to 31 July 2025 in Victoria Falls, under the theme 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future,' and extended an invitation to all AMCEN ministers to attend.
41. The meeting took note of the outcomes of the twelfth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa that was held in Abidjan 30 August to 02 September 2024. The outcomes of the session are annexed to this present report.
42. Cote d'Ivoire presented the declaration of the African Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change on the theme: "Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in the Implementation of International and National Climate Change Commitments in Africa" that was held, in the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, 1 – 3 September 2024. The outcomes of the session are annexed to this present report.

XV. Closure of the session

43. Brief closing statements were delivered by Ms Rose Mwebaza, Director, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP; Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission; Mr. Jacques Assahore Konan, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, and Mr. Seyoum Mekonen Hailu, State Minister of Planning

and Development in charge of Environment and Climate Change and Population and Development, Ethiopia, the President of AMCEN.

44. The President declared the resumed Tenth Special session of AMCEN closed at 6.15 p.m. on Friday, 6 September 2024.