

**OPENING STATEMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AT 10<sup>TH</sup>  
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AMCEN, HELD AT IVOIRE HOTEL (SOFITEL HOTEL),  
ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE**

**By :**

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the UNON and UNEP.**

**Head of the DRC delegation.**

**Abidjan, September 2024**

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished guests, all protocols observed,

Mr. President,

1. My delegation taking the floor for the very first time in this session, allow me, on the outset, to extend my admiration and respects to the Government and the People of Cote d'Ivoire for the quality welcome and facilitations extended to my delegation, making our participation in this 10<sup>th</sup> AMCEN Special Session a real moment of constructive exchanges on the future of our continent and, at the same time, providing a pleasant set up at an individual level.
2. Furthermore, the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to commend you, Mr. Chair, for your exemplary leadership, as we would like to thank the African Union Commission (AUC) and the UNEP and UNCCD Secretariats, as well as all involved partners for their financial and logistical support for the success of these important discussions.

Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The DRC fully supports the positions adopted by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in regard with the thematic discussions of this Special Session of the AMCEN and, at this closing session, we would like to put emphasis on the following:
  - The DRC supports the call for Africa to speak in one voice during the negotiations at COP16 in Riyadh in order to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, whose mandate and Terms of reference will result in the preparation and adoption of a legally binding protocol on drought to be presented to the COP17, that is in two years-time;
  - The DRC would also like to emphasize the interdependence between drought, land degradation and desertification, biodiversity conservation and climate

change, as well as the need to increase synergies and complementarity between the three Rio Conventions and others Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in order to achieve mutual social, economic and environmental benefits for all Member States;

- Equally, the DRC firmly supports the creation of an active collaboration platform for the three Rio Conventions# African Groups of Negotiators (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD) for the purpose of achieving policy and synergy approaches coherence on African positions in their respective conventions, as well as in their implementation at national level.

Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. In line with this 10<sup>th</sup> AMCEN Special Session themed **##Raising Africa's Ambition to reduce Land degradation, Desertification and drought##**, the DRC, endowed with over 155 million hectares of the Congo Basin rainforests amounting to over 60% the said basin cover, is committed to playing its natural role and assuming its responsibilities in view of climate challenges of our time, in regard with our common initiatives and actions within the AMCEN and in sync with all our financial and technical multilateral partners.

I would like to conclude by expressing my hope that the spirit of cohesion that marked these Abidjan discussions will live on in the continuum of our collective efforts, in order to spare Riyadh, the fate a lost opportunity for our continent.

Thank you,