

African Major Groups and Stakeholders Statement to the Twelfth Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF12) and the 26th Regular Session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC26/GMEF).

PREAMBLE

We, representatives of African Major Groups and Stakeholders embrace UNEP's role in constructively engaging us on key environmental issues to be addressed by the Member States during the GC26/GMEF;

Recognizing 'paragraph 63 of the Bamako Declaration on the environment for sustainable development' adopted during the 13th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Bamako, that urged African Countries to continue to support processes aimed at improving the international environment governance system;

We recommend:

I. INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

1. The IEG consultations should involve more public participation at all levels with concrete input from the African Major Groups and Stakeholders;
2. All the options for broader reform be elaborate, transformational, detailed but concise and open to all other suggestions;
3. Special attention should be paid to the European Union funded African Union programme on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) being coordinated by UNEP for its expansion and promotion of synergy for effective coordination and implementation. Synergy between MEAs should also be considered as a package when talking about the environment;
4. The implementation of MEAs should be improved by reinforcing UNEP's capacity and enhancing UNEP's presence in Africa;
5. The action plan of NEPAD's Environment Initiative should be reviewed, popularized and implemented as one of the strategic tools to address environmental degradation in Africa and we urge African Governments and Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, IGAD, ECA, SADC, ECCAS and COMESA) to constructively engage African major groups and stakeholders in the implementation of the initiative.

II. GREEN ECONOMY

1. Sufficient safeguards should be put in place so as to ensure that the rights of the indigenous people and local communities are protected during the implementation of the Green Economy agenda and indigenous knowledge be adopted to provide a concrete base for technology transfer, especially concerning renewable energies as part of the Green Economy agenda;
2. An African summit on green economy should be convened and technology transfer, financing and building of the capacity of African governments and major groups and stakeholders fast tracked in the area of green economy; and setting up of concrete structures for appropriate technology transfer especially concerning renewable energies;
3. The provision of both financial and technical support to African major groups and stakeholders to build their capacities towards implementing the green economy;

4. The phasing out of fossil fuel lending by the International Financial Institutions (such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund etc) in favour of sustainable and reliable energy services for poor, and also the transition to zero or ultra-low –carbon development;
5. UNEP in Africa in collaboration with national Governments should expand the Green Economy initiative to include more number of African countries.

III. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

1. The provision of concrete financial and technical support for the implementation of African roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production activities under the Marrakech Task Force with enhanced engagement of major groups and stakeholders;
2. The exploring of the on-going integration of African States through Regional Economic Communities to enhance the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production activities;
3. The establishment of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders platform on Sustainable Consumption and Production to consolidate Major Groups and Stakeholders views, input and expertise to the African 10 Year Framework programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

IV. RIO+20 AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. More financial support for UNEP to extend consultations and preparations for Rio+20 to the sub-regional, national and sub-national levels in Africa so as to sufficiently prepare the continent to effectively participate and signify its contribution to the Rio+20 process;
2. UN-DESA and UNEP avails predictable and sufficient funding to ensure effective participation of African Major Groups and Stakeholders during the preparatory process at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels.

Other regional matters

1. Major Groups and Stakeholders should not only be involved in meeting participation **BUT** rather be fully engaged in all UNEP environment programmes and projects in Africa;
2. Major Groups and Stakeholders engagement in the deliberations of AMCEN and AMCOW be enhanced through financial and other technical support;
3. A mechanism should be developed to update and inform African Major Groups and Stakeholders about projects, programmes, up coming events and establish an open platform for deliberating on critical issues of concern to the region;
4. Concerning technology transfer, the urgent need for the know-how for adaptive technologies to eradicate poverty and decrease natural and economical pressures on the poor communities
5. The creation of an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank for the implementation of the action plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD with Major Groups and Stakeholder representation.