

POST RIO+20 CONFERENCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND TRADE UNIONS IN Africa

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AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION & RECOMMENDATIONS DURING THE 14TH AMCEN SESSION, ARUSHA, TZ



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BACKGROUND

- AMCEN provides guidance with respect to key regional policies and initiatives related to the environment
- AMCEN-14 was held in Arusha, Tanzania on 10 – 14 September 2012
- The session consisted of two meetings:
 - A meeting of the expert group held from 10 to 12 September
 - A ministerial segment, held on 13 and 14 September.

BACKGROUND

- AMCEN-14 was held soon after the Rio+20, and thus was meant to provide guidance to the continent with respect to the implementation of key outcomes of Rio+20.
- The main objective of the session, held under the theme “Africa’s post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development” was:
 - “ to provide a platform for African ministers of the environment to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa as a follow-up to the key outcomes of the Rio+20 summit”

THE CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS



PRE-AMCEN PARTICIPANTS POSE FOR A PHOTO WITH THE AMCEN INCOMING PRESIDENT, TANZANIAN MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

THE CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS



CIVIL SOCIETY HOLDS A PRESS CONFERENCE DURING AMCEN-14

THE CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- **UNEP Regional Office for Africa partnered with PACJA to host a pre-AMCEN Africa Civil Society Consultative Workshop on 7 – 9 September 2012**
- **119 participants from 35 countries participated in the CSOs workshop**
- **The aim of the CSOs workshop was to build consensus of key NGOs issues to be submitted to AMCEN-14**
- **CSOs also interrogated the AMCEN-14 agenda with a view of identifying key areas they could input – in 2 segments**

THE CSOS RECOMENDATIONS TO AMCEN

We identified the following as overarching priority areas of intervention to achieve sustainable development and combat Climate Change in Africa:

- Poverty eradication
- Access to quality Education for All
- Sustainable Agriculture and food security
- Gender responsiveness,
- Resource mobilization and management and
- Protection of environment and ecosystems.

THE CSOS RECOMENDATIONS TO AMCEN **CONCERN ABOUT BROADER PARTICIPATION**

In ensuring that civil society is actively involved, access to information, public participation and access to justice are key ingredients for an inclusive, transparent and open sustainable development process.

AMCEN should initiate a process of developing guidelines for constructive engagement, participation of civil to utilise their expertise and avail resources in the processes and programmes aimed at ensuring sustainable development in Africa.

THE CSOS RECCOMENDATIONS TO AMCEN CONCERN ABOUT SINGLE FOCUS ON ISSUES:

African governments should strengthen their engagement with various Multilateral Environment Agreements negotiations such as CBD, CCD and UNFCCC not only on scientific knowledge but also on Justice and human rights - gender, land ownership, food sovereignty in their efforts to integrate the Conventions into national laws as well as national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies.

THE CSOS RECCOMENDATIONS TO AMCEN

BOTTOM-UP NOT TOP-DOWN:

Governments should adopt a bottom-up participatory approach in designing of post-Rio Agenda

- We are seeking to see the development of sustainable development goals that are realistic, measurable and reportable and ensure that national consultative processes are held that are characterized by broad based participation.

THE CSOS RECCOMENDATIONS TO AMCEN

HARMONY WITH MOTHER NATURE VS “AFRICA WE WANT.”

It is possible to eradicate poverty, hunger, and injustice in a sustainable manner that will not disturb the harmony between nature and humanity.

Possible if we commit to work together – leaders and the citizens, local communities, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to create the conditions and mechanisms that will guarantee the fulfilment of this vision of the “Africa We Want.”

LIFE IS A STRUGGLE AND...



Never ever give up