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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment***African Ministerial Conference on the Environment****Fourteenth session**

Meeting of the expert group

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 10 and 11 September 2012

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) process: draft indicative work programme of AMCEN, including priority regional programmes**

## **Draft work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the biennium 2013–2014**

### **Note by the secretariat**

## **I. Proposals for the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014**

### **A. Introduction**

1. The main objective of the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is to provide a platform for African environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa as a follow-up to the key outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, recently held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition, at its just concluded nineteenth ordinary session, the African Union Assembly requested the Conference to analyse the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development and provide guidance on the way forward. The meeting will therefore focus on the implications of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development for Africa and is expected to cover the following: analysis of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, their implications for Africa and follow-up, including operationalization of the green economy at the regional and national levels, a framework of actions and preparation for the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. The ministers participating in the session will also review progress made towards:

(a) Africa's preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in November and December 2012 in Doha;

(b) Africa's preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012.

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\* AMCEN/14/EGM/1.

(c) The ministers will consider the status of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and related issues. The ministers will also deliberate on the status and use of the Conference trust fund. The available records show that member States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of the decisions and work programme of the Conference. There is, therefore, a pressing need for ministers to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.

3. The expert group will also bring to the attention of the ministers for their consideration other issues such as the proposed coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity; the Africa Environment Outlook process; the review, by the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; commemoration of Africa Environment Day and ratification of the Revised African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; and the potential for strengthening the African Regional Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the African Eco-labelling Mechanism.

4. The preparation of the work programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment has in recent years taken into account the commitments made by heads of State and others in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; the African Union Assembly; in the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; in the Millennium Development Goals; and in the aims and decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its sessions.

5. It is therefore noteworthy that the current draft work programme for 2013–2014 has taken into consideration the key outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, the just concluded nineteenth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly and other pertinent issues and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development in Africa. The work programme will be fine-tuned to take into consideration the outcomes and decisions of the current session.

## **II. Clusters in the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014**

6. The draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014 is organized in clusters of priority regional programmes, processes involving environmental conventions and related awareness and capacity-building activities to be implemented in the biennium. A description of these clusters follows.

### **A. Regional priority programmes**

7. The outcome document from the Conference on Sustainable Development underlines the political commitment of the Conference participants to the promotion of sustainable development and calls upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their effort on effectively integrating the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development in their policies and strategies. It further highlights some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels in response to key economic, environmental and social challenges.

8. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues discussed in the outcome document may vary from country to country, there are some common measures that could be taken by countries by way of implementing certain programmes.

9. It is therefore suggested that the 2013–2014 work programme include the establishment of a number of key regional flagship programmes to support African countries in the implementation of the key substantive outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Such programmes could include:

- (a) An African green economy partnership (AGEP);
- (b) An ecosystem-based adaptation programme for Africa (EBAPA);
- (c) An African programme on sustainable energy development (APSED);
- (d) A partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa (PSCPA);
- (e) An integrated waste management programme for Africa (IWMPA);

- (f) An integrated environmental assessment for sustainable development planning;
- (g) A programme of Africa-Brazil-China cooperation for Africa's sustainable Development (ABC-CASD).

## **B. Environmental conventions**

10. The key components of the environmental conventions cluster include:
- (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
  - (b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
  - (c) Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - (d) Chemicals-related conventions;
  - (e) Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention) and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention);
  - (f) Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention);
  - (g) Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.

## **C. Capacity-building activities (others)**

11. The key components of the capacity-building (others) cluster include:
- (a) The Africa Environment Outlook process and the African Environment Information Network;
  - (b) Environmental education and technology-supported learning;
  - (c) Commemoration of Africa Environment Day (Wangari Maathai day).
12. Further details on the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014 can be found in the annex to the present document. The matrix set out in the annex outlines the main objectives and key components of the work programme, along with specific activities to be undertaken and possible collaborators.

## **III. Conclusion**

13. As shown in the report of the secretariat for the biennium July 2010–August 2012 (AMCEN/14/EGM/3) apart from the implementation of some activities in some programme areas, efforts to scale up the level of activities have generally been unsuccessful due to the perennial financial constraints facing the Conference. It is hoped that the current session will result in progress on alleviating this major constraint that is hampering the enhanced implementation of the work programmes and decisions of the Conference.

14. The regional priority programmes proposed above for inclusion in the 2013–2014 work programme offer an opportunity to scale up the activities of the Conference. They also offer a good opportunity for resource mobilization and for their successful implementation. The successful implementation of activities related to climate change during the past two bienniums is a good indicator of how this might work.

## Annex

## Draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014

<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Collaborators (indicative list)</i>
<b>1. Regional priority programmes</b>			
African green economy partnership (AGEP)	Provide a coordinated and consolidated support structure to African countries during their transition to a green economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of green economy and green job principles and approaches in national development policies and planning processes</li> <li>• Development of green villages for the implementation of a green economy at the local level</li> <li>• Mobilization of financial, technical and technological capacity and resources for the promotion of a green economy</li> <li>• Consolidation and replication across the region of key lessons and best practices from within and outside the region</li> <li>• Technical assistance and policy support for employment-led green economy development strategies and programmes for the creation of green jobs</li> </ul>	African Union Commission (AUC) and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization, African Development Bank (AfDB), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Ecosystem-based adaptation programme for Africa (EBAPA)	Implement adaptation actions that build the resilience of Sub-Saharan African countries' ecosystems and communities and prepare Africa to better utilize existing and emerging opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of targeted small-scale ecosystem-based adaptation pilot projects</li> <li>• Integration of ecosystem-based adaptation in national policies and strategies</li> <li>• Access to larger-scale funding for ecosystem-based adaptation through technical support for project proposal development</li> <li>• Establishment and strengthening of an African adaptation knowledge network</li> </ul>	UNEP, UNDP, African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)
African programme on sustainable energy development (APSED)	Develop energy sectors on a sustainable basis, with a particular focus on the three main goals of the United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of an African strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative</li> <li>• Development of renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar and wind energy</li> <li>• Promotion of energy efficiency in</li> </ul>	AUC and its NEPAD Agency, UNEP, AfDB, UNDP, ACPC

<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Collaborators (indicative list)</i>
	with the objective of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development	buildings, industries and among the general public through technical support programmes and innovative demand-side management programmes	
Partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa (PSCPA)	Develop local and national sustainable consumption and production policies, improve access to sustainable African products in regional and global markets and enhance existing institutional frameworks, including the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the coordination mechanism with regional institutions including the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  Ensure strong linkages and synergies between the African and the United Nations ten-year framework programmes on sustainable consumption and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building of the capacities of existing regional networks and processes on sustainable consumption and production and on emerging production and consumption issues</li> <li>• Development and implementation of local and national sustainable consumption and production programmes</li> <li>• Development of regional initiatives that provide direct support to small and medium-sized industries and community groups engaged in innovative sustainable consumption and production practices</li> <li>• Strengthening of existing knowledge platforms and promotion of South-South cooperation on development, dissemination of region-relevant knowledge and the replication of best practices</li> </ul>	UNEP, UNIDO, ECA, African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, German Federal Ministry of Environment
Integrated waste management programme for Africa (IWMPA)	Enhance the capacities of African countries to develop and implement an integrated waste management programme aimed at converting waste into valuable resources and thereby achieving the triple benefit of generating economic value, creating jobs and reducing environmental pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building of the capacities of African urban centres to develop and implement integrated solid waste management programmes</li> <li>• Assistance to African countries in developing and implementing an e-waste management strategy</li> <li>• Provision of technical support to African countries in converting waste agricultural biomass into energy and other useful by-products</li> </ul>	UNEP, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNDP, United Nations Centre for Regional Development
Integrated environmental assessment for sustainable development planning	Provide consolidated, reliable and up-to-date environmental information that can feed into national planning processes and provide the basis for sound decision and policy-making at the national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of integrated environmental assessment tools and products for national development planning</li> <li>• Enhancement of national capacities for integrated environmental assessment</li> <li>• Provision of support to countries in the preparation of national integrated environmental assessment products</li> </ul>	UNEP, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, GRID-Arendal
Africa-Brazil-China cooperation for Africa's sustainable development (ABC-CASD)	Create a foundation for more consolidated South-South cooperation and promotion of sustainable development in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of better understanding and harmonization of positions on key issues of global importance in the field of sustainable development</li> <li>• Provision of strategic technical support that ensures the</li> </ul>	AUC and its NEPAD Agency, UNEP, Governments of Brazil and China

<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Collaborators (indicative list)</i>
		<p>environmental sustainability of investments in Africa by Brazil, China and companies from the two countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of knowledge and technologies from China and Brazil to Africa to enhance the capacities of African countries for better management of their natural resources</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Environmental conventions</b>			
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and facilitate Africa's quest for a shared vision for climate change and a common and informed voice for the continent at sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>• Better coherence and enhanced implementation of measures to combat climate change in the region and subregions</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated common negotiating position for Africa for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>• Implementation of comprehensive framework African climate change programme</li> <li>• Implementation of subregional framework climate change programmes</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNEP, AUC, ACPC
Convention to Combat Desertification	Play an advocacy role to enhance measures to combat land degradation, drought and desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of desertification-related initiatives and activities</li> </ul>	Convention to Combat Desertification, UNEP, AUC
Convention on Biological Diversity	Support the negotiation process for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common negotiating position for Africa at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties in October 2012</li> <li>• Establishment of the African group of negotiators for biodiversity</li> </ul>	CBD, UNEP, AUC
Chemicals-related conventions	Build the technical and institutional capacities of African countries to manage chemicals	Implementation of proposed African framework to reduce chemical risks to health and the environment	AUC, UNEP, convention secretariats
Nairobi Convention and Abidjan Convention	Promote a more holistic approach to the implementation of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources by the contracting parties to the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions	Ecosystem-wide approach to the management of large marine ecosystems by the contracting parties carried out through specific actions	AUC, UNEP

<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Collaborators (indicative list)</i>
Maputo Convention	Encourage member States to ratify or accede to the Maputo Convention	Ratification of and accession to the Maputo Convention by African countries increased through support provided to the African Union Commission	AUC, UNEP
Bamako Convention	Encourage member States to ratify or accede to the Bamako Convention	Ratification of and accession to the Bamako Convention by African countries enhanced through support provided to the African Union Commission	AUC, UNEP
<b>3. Capacity-building (others)</b>			
<b>Capacity-building (others)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide political support and policy guidance for capacity-building efforts</li> <li>• Build capacity of African countries to implement the Rio and other regional conventions</li> <li>• Promote environmental education and technology-supported learning;</li> <li>• Facilitate commemoration of Africa Environment Day (Wangari Maathai day).</li> </ul>	Strengthening of the Africa Environmental Information Network as a regional knowledge platform on integrated environmental assessment through the Africa Environment Outlook process	NEPAD Agency, AUC, UNEP, ECA, Asia-Caribbean-Pacific secretariat, convention secretariats, international organizations, civil society organizations
<b>4. Resource mobilization and partnership</b>			
<b>Resource mobilization and partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure increased funding for implementation of priority programmes in Africa</li> <li>• Expand strategic partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of donor profiles, including priorities for funding, basis of decision-making and key points of contact;</li> <li>• Preparation of a calendar on key donor meetings and events and alignment of resource mobilization operations to those meetings and events</li> <li>• Preparation of high-quality project proposals</li> <li>• Formalization of partnerships through instruments such as memorandums of understanding</li> <li>• Development of joint programmes on specific thematic areas and projects with partners</li> </ul>	AUC, ECA, UNEP, AfDB