

**UNEP Regional Consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders for Africa
Libreville, Gabon, 10-14 June 2017**

**African Major Groups and Stakeholders Statement and Recommendations to the 16th Session of
AMCEN and 3rd Session of The United Nations Environment Assembly**

The Regional Consultation for Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders was held in conjunction with the Sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), on the 10-11, in Libreville, Gabon.

The Meeting engaged participants from Africa civil society, Government, research institutions, and representatives of UN Environment Programme. The Meeting was preceded by an Africa Civil Society Pre-AMCEN Consultative Workshop, held under the theme "*Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions to accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa*", and The Women Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Energy Workshop, whose goal was to develop an action framework that outlines the different approaches for women entrepreneurs to access technical and business skills and know-how, build technical competencies in sustainable energy technologies, utilize existing distribution networks and gain access to start up and working capital.

The Regional Consultation for Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders gave Africa Civil Society representatives and other stakeholders an opportunity to reflect on emerging global perspectives and actions on climate change and implications of the Paris Agreement for Africa as well as the SDGs, and Africa Agenda 2063. Participants were able to contribute to the key issues that will be discussed at the Third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3.0 of the UN Environment), whose theme is "Towards a Pollution Free Planet" with the view to reaching an Agreement on Africa's common approach for engagement in the Assembly¹.

The Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders take note of the resolutions and decisions made in the year 2016 during the 6th Special Session of the AMCEN, UNEA-2, and UNFCCC COP22, and following the deliberations, made key recommendations;

1. On AMCEN:

Member states through the African Heads of State must revisit the proposal to dissolve AMCEN. And improve the provision of policy guidance and heightened responses to regional environmental and sustainable development challenges.

The Member States must live up to their obligation and pay the mandatory annual contribution to the Trust Fund. The contributions will ensure sustainable financing for convening AMCEN and implementation of its activities. The MGS commend all member states who have met their obligation and single out Madagascar, Mauritius and South Africa for contributing beyond the mandatory amount. The AMCEN and African member states must financially support the engagement of the African Civil Society to effectively participate in environmental governance processes in Africa.

2. On implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Africa Agenda 2063:

African Governments must accelerate the implementation of SDGs and Africa Agenda 2063, by taking an integrated, inclusive, innovative and gender-responsive approach to ensure collective actions. And

¹ The Assembly will take place in December 2017, in Nairobi, Kenya.

must cap foreign debt and domestically mobilize and effectively utilize both financial and natural resources to reflect African priorities.

3. On climate change and acceleration of Implementation of the Paris Agreement:

African Governments must adopt a declaration to affirm their commitment and strongly condemn the decision by the United States to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. Governments that have not yet ratified the Agreement should do so and prepare comprehensive low-carbon and climate-resilient strategies.

The African Governments must support the Africa Group of Negotiators in the development of an “Africa Paris Rulebook” before the 23rd session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP23). And they are strongly urged to develop, pursue and implement their climate and sustainable development commitments.

4. Renewable Energy:

African Governments must develop robust plans and resource mobilization strategies to invest and harness the great renewable energy potential in the continent in order provide access to millions of energy poor populations across the continent.

Leaders must safeguard the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and put in place necessary procedures to ensure this remains Africa-driven and deliver the energy transformation the continent is aspiring for.

5. Pollution:

African Governments must take decisive action to combat all forms of pollution including ban on production, importation and use of plastics. African Governments should adopt best practices from a country like Rwanda on plastics ban.

Governments must increase investment on research, advance clean technologies and implement existing laws to deal with all types of pollution and at all levels. This includes addressing pollution related to mining, agriculture, waste, including transboundary pollution, by monitoring compliance with regulatory frameworks.

6. Illegal Wildlife Trade

Member states must accelerate the implementation of the African Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, and to implement the Convention on Migratory Species to prevent the risk of poisoning of wildlife, develop and enforce legislation to regulate and restrict the use and disposal of toxic chemicals used to poison wildlife.

7. Gender, youth and indigenous peoples:

African Governments must embark on gender-responsive and participatory approaches where both women, men and youth are equally involved and well represented at all levels. And should harness the vast potential of indigenous knowledge of the African people to provide sustainable solutions to environmental challenges.

The Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders strongly reiterate commitment to collaborate and support efforts by Africa Governments and other stakeholders to promote initiatives geared towards investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa.