

**Consultative Meetings for Africa Region in Preparation of the  
Special Session of the  
African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)  
and the 2019 UN Environment Assembly**

**15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Background**

The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly will take place from 11-15 March 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya, under the overarching theme “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”. The Assembly is traditionally preceded by Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, a meeting of mainly accredited civil society organizations to prepare for the Assembly and discuss common positions and engage in a dialogue with the Executive Director, Member States representatives and UN Environment colleagues on the themes of the Assembly from a global civil society perspective.

The theme of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly relates to Agenda 2030, particularly to Goal 12 on “ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns” and provides the Assembly an opportunity to align this Goal in the delivery of other Goals. Regional Ministerial Fora as well as Regional Multi Stakeholder Consultations will take place in the run-up to the UN Environment Assembly and feed into the preparatory process by providing civil society inputs to the suggested theme.

Three proposed focus areas have been identified:

- Sustainable food systems including food security and eradication of hunger
- Life-cycle approach to resource and waste management
- Business development for sustainable development in a time of rapid technological change

The seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) is scheduled to take place at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 20 September 2018. The session will consider key issues to be discussed at the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) and Africa’s common approach for engagement in the

Assembly. It will focus on how environmental challenges can be addressed through innovative solutions and interventions and by promoting sustainable consumption and production. The session will therefore be held under the following theme: **"Turning Environmental Policies into Action through Innovative Solutions"**.

The special session will provide an opportunity for the continent to prepare for the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD-COP14) scheduled for 17 to 29 November in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, as well as the 24th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP24) to be held in Katowice, Poland later in the year.

AMCEN at its 14th session held in 2012 adopted a decision to establish an African Environment Partnership Platform (AEPP) to coordinate, mobilize resources, foster knowledge and align support for the implementation of the Environment Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Platform was officially launched during the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22) in Marrakech, Morocco in 2016. The goal of the partnership platform spearheaded by the NEPAD Agency is to promote sustainable environmental management in Africa through enhanced partnership, coordination and harmonization of activities as well as pooling of resources at various levels. The focus during this meeting will be to review environmental management in Africa under the theme "50 years of Environmental Governance and Sustainability in Africa".

The multi-stakeholder preparations and engagement in the Assembly is based on:

- (1) The need to reinforce the visibility and impact of the UN Environment Assembly in the context of the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global and regional levels (including the High Level Political Forum and the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development convened by the UN Regional Commissions);
- (2) The need to harmonize the regional environmental agenda, through the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), with the global agenda through UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

- (3) The mandate set out in the Rio + 20 Conference in 2012, where governments highlighted that the engagement of civil society in the UN Environment Assembly and its decision-making process is an important factor that will ensure relevance and success of the new global assembly.
- (4) The need to give a space to stakeholders, in particular from civil society, to build early consensus on strategic and structural issues in view of the fourth session of the Assembly, so that regional inputs can be feed into the preparatory process of the Assembly.

### **1. Participants and target audience**

The regional consultations will bring together Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) accredited to UN Environment, non-accredited regional Major Groups and Stakeholders partners, member states, International Organization, UN agencies and the private Sector

### **2. Purpose and Objectives of the Meeting**

The objective of the two-day consultations is for the African Major Groups and Stakeholders to prepare their inputs for the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. The outcome of the meeting will be a regional statement by civil society which will constitute the information document to the UN Environment Assembly.

### **3. Expected Outcomes:**

- Key messages for the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).
- Key messages from the African Major Groups and Stakeholders to Civil Society Statement UNEA-4 and a regional statement for AMCEN which will also serve as Information Document to the Assembly which will be part of the official background information.

## 4. Draft Agenda

### Day 1

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

#### **Opening and Introductions**

09:00 – 09:30 Introductory Remarks:

- Representative of UN Environment - Africa Office

- Representative of Civil Society Unit Alexander Juras

- Representatives from Sponsoring Organizations and the Regional Facilitators from Africa

09:30 - 09:45 Introduction to the meeting, agenda, rules and roles

**Moderator:** Mohamed Atani, UN Environment, Africa Office

09:45 – 10:00 Stakeholder Engagement at UN Environment: Presentation by UN Environment Civil Society Unit Laetitia Zobel

10:00 – 10:20 Update on the 7<sup>th</sup> special session of AMCEN, Africa Environment Partnership Platform, CBD COP and UNFCCC COP, By David Ombisi, UN Environment, Africa Office

10:20 – 10:40 Discussion

10:40 – 11:00 Tea break

11:00 – 11:20 The 2019 UN Environment Assembly: Agenda and setting: UN Environment, Civil Society Unit Alexander Juras

11:20 – 11:40 Business development through innovative solutions in Africa, Patrick Mwesigye, UN Environment, Africa Office

11:40 – 12:10 Discussion

12:10 – 12:30 Presentation of Africa Waste Management Outlook, Abdouraman Bary, UN Environment, Africa Office

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 – 13:50 Food security and eradication of hunger in Africa, Richard Munang, UN Environment, Africa Office

13:50 -14:10 Discussion

**Session 2: Working Groups, Preparation of the regional statement**

14:10 – 17:30 Working Groups on the inputs to the UNEA-4 and 7<sup>th</sup> special session of AMCEN.

*It is expected that each working group results in a statement, not more than one page, that lists:*

1. Contribution of African Civil Society to sustainable food systems and food security in Africa.
2. Contribution of African Civil Society to promote Life-cycle approach to resource and waste management.
3. The role of African Civil Society in business development for sustainable development.
4. Input of the Africa Civil Society to the upcoming CBD COP and the Africa Summit.
5. Status on the implementation of SDGs and Paris Agreement in Africa

*These will become part of the regional statement. The working group on the Regional Statement will work on the general text that accompanies these outcomes of the working group.*

**Day 2**

09:00 – 10:00	Group Presentations and discussions	<b>Moderator:</b> TBC
10:00 - 10:20	Tea break	
10:20 – 10:40	The Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum Preparations: Presentation by Mithika Mwenda, PACJA	
10:40– 11.30	Preparation of key messages to 7 <sup>th</sup> AMCEN special session.	
11.30 – 12.00	Open Discussion	
12:00 – 13:00	Preparation of the African Major Group Statement to UNEA-4	
13:00 – 13:30	Open Discussion	
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15.00	The role of the Africa media to raise awareness on environmental issues: Telling the African Story, by <b>TBC</b>	
15.00 – 15.30	Way forward, next steps and wrap-up	

15.30 – 17:00

Announcement of the Finalists for the African Climate Change and Environmental Reporting Award