



AMCEN AU

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English and French only*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment***African Ministerial Conference on the Environment****Eighth special session**

Ministerial meeting

Online, 4 December 2020

**Annotated provisional agenda****I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with articles 9 and 10 of its constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) may hold special sessions between its ordinary sessions. At its meeting held online on 28 May 2020, the Bureau of AMCEN recommended holding a special session of the Conference.
2. Pursuant to that recommendation, and in view of the prevailing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it was decided that the eighth special session of the Conference would be held online in November and December 2020. The theme of the special session is “Enhancing environmental action for effective post-COVID recovery in Africa”. The special session will consist of an expert group meeting, to be held on 30 November 2020, and a ministerial meeting, to be held on 4 December 2020.
3. The Secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting, which is set out in document AMCEN/SS.VIII/1.
4. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the eighth special session (AMCEN/SS.VIII/INF/1). A complete list of the documents prepared for the session is set out in annex I to the present document.

**II. Objectives and overview of the eighth special session**

5. At its special session, the Conference will consider key issues for discussion at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will be held online in February 2021, and agree on Africa’s common approach for engagement in the Assembly session. The fifth session of the Environment Assembly is aimed at consolidating environmental action within the context of sustainable development and giving impetus to effective implementation, in line with the outcomes of the seventeenth regular session of AMCEN, which called for an action-oriented approach with effective mechanisms for implementation of environmental policies to fully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 strategic framework of the African Union.
6. The special session will provide an opportunity for the continent to find common ground for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, in 2021. The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties comes at a critical time, taking into consideration the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in the number of zoonotic diseases owing to destruction of habitats by human activity. At the meeting, the Conference of the Parties will also be finalizing its post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
7. Participants in the eighth special session of AMCEN will also consider the ways in which the environment sector, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, can contribute to resetting the economy of the region on a path towards a more environmentally sustainable and low-carbon developmental trajectory. It is proposed that a green stimulus programme for Africa be developed and implemented as a priority to contribute to the overall post-COVID-19 recovery plan for Africa. A draft of the proposal will be considered at both the expert meeting and the ministerial meeting.

8. Ministers will also be briefed on the preparations and key negotiation matters for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 1 to 12 November 2021.
9. The expert group will bring to the attention of ministers a number of matters for their consideration. Ministers will be invited to exchange views on those matters in order to reach agreement thereon.
10. Finally, ministers are expected to adopt by consensus a ministerial statement and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various agenda items.

### **III. Items of the provisional agenda**

#### **Item 1**

##### **Opening of the meeting**

11. The President of AMCEN will preside over the official opening ceremony and will introduce opening speakers, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

#### **Item 2**

##### **Organizational matters**

**(a) Adoption of the agenda**

12. The President will introduce the provisional agenda (AMCEN/SS.VIII/1) for consideration and adoption.

**(b) Organization of work**

13. The President will introduce the draft programme of work set out in annex II to the present document and draw the attention of participants to the list of documents for the session, as set out in annex I.

#### **Item 3**

##### **Summary of the expert group's deliberations**

14. The Chair of the expert group will present the report of the expert group segment, which will include a summary of the proceedings and the recommendations developed.

15. Ministers will take note of the report and consider the draft ministerial statement and key messages under the appropriate agenda item.

#### **Item 4**

##### **Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

16. The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will be held under the overarching theme "Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". The theme calls for strengthened action to protect and restore nature and the nature-based solutions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in their three complementary dimensions (social, economic and environmental).

17. However, just as the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement or cancellation of many global meetings and negotiations, its ongoing impact is likely to affect the convening of the Environment Assembly session. A two-step approach has therefore been proposed for the holding of the fifth session, which would allow for it to be convened online in February 2021 to address time-sensitive administrative and budgetary matters necessary for the business continuity of UNEP, and a resumed session to be held in 2022 to deliberate on substantive matters.

18. A representative from the Governance Affairs Office of UNEP will make a presentation on the road map to and structure of the first part of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly. A representative of the African Diplomatic Corps technical team will make a presentation on progress

made in relation to the preparations for the online Environment Assembly session and will highlight outcomes of the expert group discussions related thereto. Information related to this agenda item is set out in document AMCEN/SS.VIII/3.

19. The presentations will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.

## **Item 5**

### **Briefing on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity**

20. The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is scheduled to be held in 2021. At that meeting, the Conference of the Parties is expected to address a number of matters related to the implementation of the Convention and its protocols. It is also anticipated that the final decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be taken, together with decisions on related topics, including capacity-building and resource mobilization.

21. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework aims to build on the Convention's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity with the aim of ensuring that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.

22. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity will make a brief presentation on the preparations by the region to date, setting out Africa's views and perspectives on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and highlighting the outcomes of the expert group discussions on the matter.

23. The presentation will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.

## **Item 6**

### **Consideration of the proposed green stimulus programme for Africa**

24. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated economic, social and environmental challenges globally, but especially in Africa. Recognizing that dealing with the impact of the virus requires a sound environmental response, the AMCEN Bureau has considered how the environmental sector can best respond to the pandemic and has proposed the development and implementation of a green stimulus programme for Africa as a contribution towards the recovery of the continent from COVID-19.

25. The green stimulus programme will seek to enhance ambition to boost implementation of existing environmental and sustainable development programmes in Africa through consolidated resource mobilization, technical support, capacity-building, and improved coordination and cooperation under the umbrella of the programme.

26. A representative from the AMCEN President's office will give a brief presentation on the proposed programme, highlighting the road map for its development and implementation and the recommendations from the expert group discussions. A summary of the proposed programme is set out in document AMCEN/SS.VIII/4.

27. The presentation will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.

## **Item 7**

### **Briefing on preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

28. The twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was originally due to have been held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 9 to 19 November 2020, but was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be held in the same venue from 1 to 12 November 2021.

29. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change will give an overview, analysis and progress report on the climate change negotiations and preparations to date, highlighting the negotiation matters of interest to Africa, and will present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers.

30. The presentation will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.

### **Item 8**

#### **Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and key messages submitted by the expert group**

31. Given that the special session is being held online, a non-negotiated ministerial statement will be the main outcome of the session.
32. The President will introduce the draft ministerial statement and key messages. A representative of the secretariat will take the ministers through the draft ministerial statement and the key messages and invite their opinions thereon.
33. The President will thereafter invite the ministers to consider and adopt by consensus the ministerial statement and the key messages of the eighth special session.

### **Item 9**

#### **Other matters**

34. Major issues of interest not included on the agenda will be highlighted and noted.

### **Item 10**

#### **Closure of the meeting**

35. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President will make concluding remarks before bringing the meeting to a formal close.

## Annex I

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Document</i>
<b>Working documents</b>	
AMCEN/SS.VIII/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group meeting
AMCEN/SS.VIII/EGM/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group meeting
AMCEN/SS.VIII/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting
AMCEN/SS.VIII/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting
AMCEN/SS.VIII/3	Africa's engagement in the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
AMCEN/SS.VIII/4	Summary of the Africa green stimulus programme
<b>Reference documents</b>	
AMCEN/17/9	Report of the ministerial segment of the seventeenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
<b>Information documents</b>	
AMCEN/SS.VIII/INF/1	Information note on the eighth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

## Annex II

### Programme of work for the ministerial segment\*

Friday, 4 December 2020

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
Noon–12.45 p.m.	<b>Item 1:</b> Opening ceremony
12.45–1 p.m.	<b>Item 2:</b> Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the agenda</li> <li>• Organization of work</li> </ul>
1–1.15 p.m.	<b>Item 3:</b> Summary of the expert group’s deliberations, led by the Chair of the expert group
1.15–2 p.m.	<b>Item 4:</b> Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
2–2.30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2.30–3.30 p.m.	<b>Item 5:</b> Briefing on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
3.30–4.30 p.m.	<b>Item 6:</b> Consideration of the proposed green stimulus programme for Africa
4.30–5 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
5–5.45 p.m.	<b>Item 7:</b> Briefing on preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
5.45–6.45 p.m.	<b>Item 8:</b> Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and key messages submitted by the expert group
6.45–7 p.m.	<b>Item 9:</b> Other matters
7 p.m.	<b>Item 10:</b> Closure of the meeting

\* All times shown are Nairobi time (UTC + 3).