



AMCEN



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### *African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

## **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

### **Eighteenth session**

Meeting of the expert group

Online, 13 and 14 September 2021

## **Annotated provisional agenda**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with paragraph 1 of article 9 of its Constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. An offer by the Government of Senegal to host the eighteenth session was accepted by the Conference at its seventeenth session, held in Durban, South Africa, from 11 to 15 November 2019.
2. In view of the situation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and after consultation with the Bureau of the Conference, it was agreed that the eighteenth session of AMCEN should be held in two parts. The first part of the session will be held online, with a streamlined agenda, to address urgent and procedural matters. Substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations will be deferred to a resumed, in-person meeting of the session, to be held in Senegal in 2022, on a date to be agreed upon.
3. Pursuant to the above, the first part of the eighteenth session of AMCEN will be held from 13 to 16 September 2021. It will consist of a meeting of the expert group, to be held on 13 and 14 September, and a ministerial meeting, to be held on 16 September.
4. The Bureau of the Conference considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the expert group meeting of the first part of the eighteenth session, which is set out in document AMCEN/18.1/EGM/1.
5. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the first part of the eighteenth session (document AMCEN/18.1/INF/1). A list of the documents prepared for the session is provided in annex I to the present document and the programme of work is set out in annex II.

### **II. Objectives and overview of the eighteenth session**

6. The theme of the session is “Securing people’s well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa”. Central to the theme is the need for a people-centred recovery that focuses on well-being through environmental action that creates jobs and improves livelihoods.
7. The first part of the eighteenth session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the ways in which the environmental sector can continue to contribute towards the region’s recovery from the impact of COVID-19 in the context of the implementation of the Africa green stimulus programme, which was considered by the Conference at the ministerial meeting of its eighth special session, in December 2020.
8. The first part of the eighteenth session will present an opportunity to develop policy guidance and galvanize international cooperation with a view to supporting the effective participation of countries in the region in key global environmental meetings, including the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held online from 11 to 15 October 2021; 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 31 October to

12 November 2021; and the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, to be held in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022.

9. The eighteenth session will also address matters of importance for AMCEN, in particular contributions by member States to its General Trust Fund.

10. The expert group will bring the above matters to the attention of ministers, providing drafts of the outcome document, decisions and key messages to ministers for their consideration during the ministerial meeting.

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

#### **Item 1**

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

11. The representative of the President of the Conference, the Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of South Africa, will chair the expert group meeting, while the representative of the Vice-President of the Conference, Senegal, will serve as Rapporteur. In the absence of either of those Bureau members, a Bureau meeting will be convened on the eve of the opening of the eighteenth session to take stock of the management of the Conference and decide which Bureau members will be assigned responsibilities during the session, in accordance with the Constitution of the Conference.

12. The Bureau of the Conference currently comprises the following members:

- (a) President: South Africa;
- (b) Vice-Presidents: Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan;
- (c) Vice-President and Rapporteur: Senegal.

13. The representative of the Vice-President of the Conference, Senegal, will deliver a welcoming statement. The representative of the President of the Conference, South Africa, will deliver opening remarks. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as secretariat of the Conference, and of the African Union Commission will also make opening statements.

#### **Item 2**

##### **Organizational matters**

14. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Conference and its rules of procedure, the expert group meeting will be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the seventeenth session. Accordingly, South Africa will serve as Chair, while Senegal will act as Rapporteur.

##### **(a) Adoption of the agenda**

15. The experts may wish to adopt the agenda based on the provisional agenda (document AMCEN/18.1/EGM/1).

##### **(b) Organization of work**

16. The experts may wish to adopt the programme of work contained in annex II to the present document.

17. The expert group may wish to establish such online working groups as it may deem necessary.

18. A representative of the secretariat will present an introduction, an overview of the objectives of the meeting and information on the online working groups, if any.

#### **Item 3**

##### **Consideration of the report of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

19. The secretariat will introduce a report on the activities of the Conference during the 2019–2021 inter-sessional period (document AMCEN/18.1/3).

## Item 4

### Urgent matters

#### (a) Africa green stimulus programme

20. During the ministerial meeting of the eighth special session of AMCEN, held online on 4 December 2020, the Conference considered the Africa green stimulus programme, an African-led initiative to support the continent's recovery in a sustainable manner in the context of the socioeconomic and environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Considerable progress has been made in the preparation and implementation of the stimulus programme since the special session.

21. The secretariat will give a brief presentation on the progress achieved, the details of which are set out in document AMCEN/18.1/4.

#### (b) Africa's position in online negotiations

22. At its meeting held online on 26 and 27 May 2021, the Bureau of the Conference noted the need for the continent to continue to engage in multilateral cooperation on matters related to the environment and climate change at the regional, continental and global levels by participating in online meetings, while avoiding online negotiations to the extent possible. In that regard, the Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare an assessment report on the consideration of substantive matters in online meetings and negotiations and to present it to the Conference at its next session.

23. A representative of the secretariat will deliver a presentation on the matter. The secretariat has also prepared a discussion paper on the subject (document AMCEN/18.1/5).

#### (c) Resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and other issues related to the United Nations Environment Programme

24. Owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the first part of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was held online on 22 and 23 February 2021. The resumed fifth session of the Assembly is expected to be held in person from 28 February to 2 March 2022.

25. A representative of the Africa Diplomatic Corps technical team based in Nairobi will give brief presentations on the outcomes of the first part of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and on the work done by the Africa Group to prepare for the resumed fifth session of the Assembly. A representative of the Governance Affairs Office of UNEP will give a presentation on the road map towards the resumed fifth session of the Assembly. The co-facilitators will give a short briefing on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277".

#### (d) Africa's preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

26. The twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to take place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland. At the eighth special session of AMCEN, key messages for Africa were adopted in preparation for the Conference of the Parties. Work by the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change has continued in that context.

27. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change will provide an overview, analysis and update on climate change negotiations and on matters outstanding in the preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties.

28. A representative of the African Union Commission will give a brief presentation on the Africa climate change strategy that is being developed.

#### (e) Africa's engagement in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

29. The eighteenth session of AMCEN will provide an opportunity to reach agreement on a common position for Africa in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will

finalize the post-2020 biodiversity framework, which is expected to play a significant role in building resilience and galvanizing international cooperation.

30. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity will deliver a presentation on the preparations in the region to date, indicating Africa's priorities and highlighting views and perspectives with regard to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## **Item 5**

### **Procedural matters**

**(a) Second part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

31. The resumed, in-person meeting of the eighteenth session of the Conference is expected to be held in Senegal in 2022 to address substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations. The Chair will invite the experts in attendance to discuss the resumed session, including proposals for the dates of the session and for matters to be considered at the session.

**(b) Membership of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

32. Subregional consultations will be encouraged for the election of the office bearers for the biennium 2021–2023 to fill the posts of Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur representing Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa and Southern Africa on the Bureau of the Conference. A breakdown of the office bearers since 1985 has been circulated in document AMCEN/18.1/INF/2 for reference in the consideration of this sub-item.

**(c) Status of the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

33. Contributions to the General Trust Fund, and the interest that it generates, continue to be in decline. The situation has been worsened by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference has, on several occasions, underlined the importance of all member States making their contributions in line with the decisions of the Conference. The secretariat of the Conference has continued to encourage member States to make their contributions to the trust fund; however, little improvement has been observed.

34. A representative of the secretariat will report on the status of the General Trust Fund as set out in document AMCEN/18.1/6.

## **Item 6**

### **Preparation of the outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

35. A representative of the secretariat will present an overview of the draft outcome document, draft decisions and key messages to be forwarded to the ministerial meeting and will request that they be considered for amendment and endorsement under the guidance of the Chair of the expert group meeting.

## **Item 7**

### **Other matters**

36. Any key matters of interest not included on the agenda will be discussed.

37. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session. An English version of any such text must be made available.

## **Item 8**

### **Closure of the meeting**

38. The Chair will invite the Director of the UNEP Africa Office and the Director of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission to make their concluding remarks before declaring the meeting closed.

## Annex I

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Document</i>
<b>Working documents</b>	
AMCEN/18.1/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group meeting
AMCEN/18.1/EGM/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group meeting
AMCEN/18.1/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting
AMCEN/18.1/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting
AMCEN/18.1/3	Report of the secretariat for the biennium 2019–2021
AMCEN/18.1/4	Report on progress in the development and implementation of the Africa green stimulus programme
AMCEN/18.1/5	Assessment report on Africa's engagement on substantive matters in online global meetings and negotiations
AMCEN/18.1/6	Status of the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
<b>Information documents</b>	
AMCEN/18.1/INF/1	Information note on the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/18.1/INF/2	AMCEN Bureaux 1985–2021
<b>Reference documents</b>	
AMCEN/17/9	Report of the ministerial meeting of the seventeenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/SS.VIII/6	Report of the ministerial meeting of the eighth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

## Annex II

### Programme of work for the meeting of the expert group on 13 and 14 September 2021

#### Monday, 13 September 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
Noon–12.30 p.m.	<b>Item 1</b> Opening of the meeting
12.30–12.45 p.m.	<b>Item 2</b> Organizational matters: (a) Adoption of the agenda (b) Organization of work
12.45–1.15 p.m.	<b>Item 3</b> Consideration of the report of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
1.15–3 p.m.	<b>Item 4</b> Urgent matters: (a) Africa green stimulus programme (b) Africa's position in online negotiations (c) Resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and other issues related to the United Nations Environment Programme
3–3.30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3.30–6 p.m.	<b>Item 4</b> Urgent matters (continued): (d) Africa's preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (e) Africa's engagement in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

#### Tuesday, 14 September 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
Noon–1.30 p.m.	<b>Item 5</b> Procedural matters: (a) Second part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (b) Membership of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (c) Status of the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
1.30–3.30 p.m.	<b>Item 6</b> Preparation of the outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
3.30–4 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
4–4.15 p.m.	<b>Item 7</b> Other matters
4.15–4.30 p.m.	<b>Item 8</b> Closure of the meeting