



AMCEN



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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Eighteenth session

Ministerial meeting

Online, 16 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 an expert group meeting 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 ministerial meeting of the first part of the eighteenth session, which is set out in document AMCEN/18.1/1.
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 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 a number of other matters to the attention of ministers for their consideration. Ministers will be invited to exchange views on those matters and reach agreement thereon.
11. Ministers are expected to adopt an outcome document, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions.

III. Items of the provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

12. The representative of the outgoing President of the Conference, the Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of South Africa, will preside over the opening of the meeting. A detailed programme for the opening session will be circulated prior to the opening of the meeting.
13. The representative of the outgoing President will introduce the outgoing Bureau members and deliver welcoming remarks that will include highlights of achievements during the Presidency of South Africa.
14. The representative will then invite participants to make their opening remarks, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission.
15. The representative will invite a dignitary from Senegal to officially open the ministerial session.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Election of officers

16. The representative of the outgoing President will present the outcome of the subregional consultations on filling the vacant seats of the Bureau in the manner prescribed by the Constitution of the Conference and will make her final remarks.
17. The representative of the outgoing President will invite the representative of the new President to deliver his inaugural speech, after which the official handover of the presidency of the Conference from South Africa to Senegal will take place.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

18. The representative of the President will introduce the provisional agenda (document AMCEN/18.1/1).
19. The representative of the President will introduce the draft programme of work as set out in annex II to the present document and will draw attention to the list of documents for the meeting, set out in annex I.

Item 3

High-level segment and ministerial statements

20. The representative of the President will invite speakers to make brief remarks and ministers to make brief national statements.

Item 4

Launch of the online platform for the Africa green stimulus programme

21. After the conclusion of the ministerial statements, the online platform of the Africa green stimulus programme will be launched. A brief programme for the launch will be circulated.

22. The online platform, consisting of a website, an administration portal and a data management system, has been developed to share information on the portfolio of projects and initiatives of the stimulus programme and to ensure that information on the stimulus programme can be regularly updated and accessed publicly.

Item 5

Consideration of the expert group report

23. The Chair of the expert group meeting will present a report on that meeting, which will include a summary of the proceedings and the expert group's recommendations relating to both urgent and procedural matters. Ministers will take note of the report and any decisions and key messages.
24. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity will give a brief presentation on preparations in the region in relation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, providing an overview of African perspectives and priorities. The presentation will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.
25. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change will provide an overview and analysis of and an update on climate change negotiations and matters outstanding in the preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The presentation will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.
26. A representative of the Africa Diplomatic Corps technical team based in Nairobi will give a brief presentation on the outcomes of the first part of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and on the work done by the African Group to prepare for the resumed fifth session of the Assembly. A representative of the Governance Affairs Office of UNEP will deliver a presentation on the road map towards the resumed fifth session of the Assembly. The presentations will be followed by brief interventions by ministers.

Item 6

Special event: fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme and fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

27. A short special event on the fiftieth anniversary of UNEP and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment will take place. This will be followed by brief interventions by ministers. A brief programme for the special event will be circulated.

Item 7

Outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

28. The representative of the President will introduce the draft ministerial outcome document, decisions and key messages of the first part of the eighteenth session. Ministers will review the draft ministerial outcome document with the assistance of a representative of the secretariat and provide input.
29. The representative of the President will invite ministers to consider and adopt by consensus the ministerial outcome document, decisions and key messages of the first part of the eighteenth session.

Item 8

Other matters

30. Other key matters of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed.

Item 9

Closure of the meeting

31. The President will bring the first part of the eighteenth session to a formal close after the customary exchange of courtesies.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Document</i>
Working documents	
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
Information documents	
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
Reference documents	
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 ministerial meeting on 16 September 2021

Thursday, 16 September 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
Noon–12.30 p.m.	Item 1 Opening of the meeting
12.30–1.00 p.m.	Item 2 Organizational matters: (a) Election of officers (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
1–1.45 p.m.	Item 3 High-level segment and ministerial statements
1.45–2.15 p.m.	Item 4 Launch of the online platform for the Africa green stimulus programme
2.15–3 p.m.	Item 5 Consideration of the expert group report
3–3.30 p.m.	Break
3.30–4 p.m.	Item 6 Special event: fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme and fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
4–5.30 p.m.	Item 7 Outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
5.30–5.45 p.m.	Item 8 Other matters
5.45–6 p.m.	Item 9 Closure of the meeting