



AMCEN



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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Eighteenth session

Ministerial segment

Dakar, 15 and 16 September 2022*

Report of the ministerial segment of the resumed eighteenth session

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The ministerial segment of the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Dakar, on 15 and 16 September 2022.
2. The segment was attended by representatives of Member States of AMCEN, other States, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, and the secretariats of various environmental conventions, partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and major groups.
3. The ministerial segment began at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 15 September. The opening of the segment was chaired by the President of AMCEN, Abdou Karim Sall, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Ligia Noronha, Head of the New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP, and by Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission. Mr. Sall delivered the keynote statement, and officially opened the meeting.
5. Further statements were delivered by: Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States of America; Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner in charge of Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission; Hailemariam Desalegn, former Ethiopian Prime Minister and member of the global board of trustees of the African Wildlife Foundation; Patrick Verkooijen, Chief Executive Officer, Global Center on Adaptation; and, on behalf of the Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders, David

* In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held on 26 May 2022, the eighteenth session of the Conference, which was adjourned on 16 September 2021, resumed as an in-person meeting in Dakar from 12 to 16 September 2022.



Munene, Programs Manager, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa.

II. Launch of the report: *Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa*

6. Deliberations on this matter were chaired by Mohamed Atani, Head of Communications and Outreach for Africa, UNEP. Statements were delivered by Youba Sokona, Coordinating Co-Chair, Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa, and Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Adelheid Onyango, Director, Universal Health Coverage/Healthier Populations Cluster, WHO Regional Office for Africa; and Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission.

7. The report was officially launched by the President of AMCEN, Abdou Karim Sall.

III. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

8. The representatives adopted the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(II)/1).

B. Organization of work

9. The representatives agreed to follow the programme of work set out in annex II to the annotated provisional agenda (AMCEN/18(II)/1/Add.1).

IV. Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group

10. The chair of the expert segment, Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal, reported on the work and outcomes of the expert segment

11. The representatives took note of the report.

V. Preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

12. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was scheduled to take place from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

13. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Youba Sokona, Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Bogolo Kenewendo, Special Advisor, Africa Director, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change high-level champions for climate action; Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt; Collins Nzovu, Minister of

Green Economy and Environment, Zambia; and Ephraim Shitima, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change.

14. Statements were made by Eve Bazaiba Masudi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Leila Benali, President of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco; Boualam Chebihi, Ambassador of Algeria to Senegal; Garam Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Niger; and Mpoki Ulisubisya, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to Canada.

VI. Preparations for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

15. The resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was also the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, was scheduled to be jointly hosted by the Governments of Canada and China in Montreal, Canada from 7 to 19 December 2022.

16. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Francis Ogwal, Co-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and Flora Mokgoloa of South Africa on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity.

17. Additional statements were made by Guillaume Nzabonimana, First Counsellor, Embassy of Rwanda to Senegal; Eve Bazaiba Masudi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Safiatou Diallo, Secretary General, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Guinea; and Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt.

VII. Africa's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

18. The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, through resolution 5/14, entitled "End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument", called for the convening of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

19. Introductory presentations on this agenda item were made by Frank Turyatunga, Director, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP, and Kwaku Afriyie, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ghana.

20. Additional remarks were made by Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia; Mpoki Ulisubisya, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to Canada, James Chibwana Gaya Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi; Adeshola Olatunde Adepoju, Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Research Institute, Nigeria; and Carlos Martin-Novella, Deputy Executive Secretary, secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm

Conventions. The representatives called for active participation by Africa in the development of the proposed instrument.

VIII. Ministerial policy dialogues

21. Ministerial dialogues took place in the context of the theme “Strengthening the role of AMCEN: looking inward while exploring outward actions”. Three dialogues took place, each chaired by a moderator. For each dialogue, a panel of keynote speakers made opening statements, which were followed by contributions by other speakers.

A. Waste and plastics management

22. The dialogue was moderated by Kwaku Afriyie, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ghana. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme of the dialogue. The panel of speakers comprised Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt; Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco; Garam Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Niger; and Bogolo Kenewendo, Special Advisor, Africa Director, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change high-level champions for climate action.

23. Contributions to the dialogue were made by Lalya Kamara, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania; Vina Marie Orléa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar; Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Cabo Verde; Parfait Kouadio, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Côte d’Ivoire; Leila Chikhaoui, Minister of Environment, Tunisia; Barthelemy Ndongo, Inspector General, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Cameroon; Philda Nani Kereng, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Botswana; and Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, International Labour Organization.

B. Strengthening implementation actions

24. The dialogue was moderated by Makhotso Magdeline Soty, Deputy Minister, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme of the dialogue. The panel of speakers comprised Abdou Karim Sall, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal; Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia; Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Cabo Verde; and Getahun Garedew Wodaje, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia.

25. Contributions to the dialogue were made by Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco; Wilson Tarpeh, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia; Philda Nani Kereng, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Botswana; Garam Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Niger; David Munene, Programs Manager, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (speaking on behalf of the Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders); and Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa.

C. One Health in Africa

26. The dialogue was moderated by Lee White, Minister of Forests, Seas and Environment, Gabon. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme of the dialogue. The panel of speakers comprised Charity Gamure Denhel, Climate Change Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and

Hospitality Industry, Zimbabwe; Maminata Traore Coulibaly, Minister of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation, Burkina Faso; and Adelheid Onyango, Director, Universal Health Coverage/Healthier Populations Cluster, WHO Regional Office for Africa.

IX. Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

27. A representative of the secretariat presented a report entitled “General trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment” (AMCEN/18(II)13).

28. The representatives took note of the report.

X. Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions and key messages of the session

29. A representative of the secretariat introduced the draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages submitted by the expert group.

30. The ministers adopted the following decisions: decision 18/1, an omnibus decision on enhancing the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; decision 18/2, on Africa’s participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; decision 18/3, on biodiversity, wildlife and desertification; and decision 18/4, on climate change.

31. The ministers also adopted the Dakar Declaration on securing people’s well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa.

32. The declaration, decisions and key messages were adopted on the understanding that they would be issued in both English and French as soon as possible. The declaration is set out in annex I while the decisions are set out in annex II to the present report.

33. The representative of Algeria expressed his country’s reservation with regard to the adoption of any decision that did not make reference to AMCEN as a subcommittee of a specialized technical committee of the African Union, and to the leadership role of the African Union, and requested that the position of his country be noted in the report of the ministerial segment.

XI. Venue and date of the nineteenth session

34. It was agreed that the nineteenth session of AMCEN would be hosted by a member State from East Africa, on a date to be decided by the Bureau, in conjunction with the secretariat and in consultation with the host country.

35. Although the Sudan had been nominated as Vice-President and Rapporteur of the Bureau for the period 2021–2023, the representative of the Sudan indicated that his country would be unable to host the session. Ethiopia therefore offered to host the nineteenth session in 2023.

XII. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

36. The representative of the secretariat introduced the draft report of the ministerial segment. The ministers agreed to entrust the finalization of the report to the secretariat and adopted the report on that basis.

XIII. Other matters

37. There were no other matters for consideration.

XIV. Closure of the session

38. Brief closing statements were delivered by Frank Turyatunga, Director, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP; Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission; and Abdou Karim Sall, the President of AMCEN and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal.

39. The President declared the resumed eighteenth session of AMCEN closed at 4.15 p.m. on Friday, 16 September 2022.

Annex I

Dakar Declaration on securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa

We, African ministers for the environment,

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Committed to continue taking environment and climate actions to unlock inclusive wealth creation that safeguards the socioeconomic well-being of the people in Africa,

Recognizing that the environment plays a strategic and critical role in providing practical, affordable, and innovative solutions to bridge gaps in Africa's socioeconomic development,

Acknowledging the important role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in providing political guidance in environment matters;

Guided by the outcomes of previous sessions of the Conference in its 37 years of existence,

Further guided by the decisions of the Assembly of the African Union that have provided leadership to the Conference on Africa's policy on environment, climate change and development matters,

Acknowledging the contribution to Africa's development of the various global outcomes on environment and sustainable development,

Noting with appreciation the progress made and aware of the constraints faced in implementing the decisions of the Conference,

Determined to strengthen our efforts and actions to strengthen implementation of our decisions as a contribution in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and the Addis Ababa Action Plan,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To express our full commitment to strengthen the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the principal forum for advancing collective national and regional environmental policies and actions.
2. To commit ourselves to continue addressing and finding solutions to environmental challenges that the African continent faces and to take advantage of the opportunities available to advance national and regional environmental agendas.
3. To commit ourselves to continue strengthening the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and to take concrete actions to implement past and future decisions of the Conference, and, in this regard, have made the key policy guidance annexed to this declaration.
4. To reiterate our commitment to integrating climate actions into our socioeconomic and environmental policies, plans and programmes to secure our development pathways.
5. To acknowledge the paper on the African common position on energy access and transition adopted by Africa Union Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/1353(XLI)) at its forty-first ordinary session, held from 20 June to 15 July 2022, in Lusaka, as contained in the report of the Second Extraordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy.

6. To commit ourselves to collaborate with the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in forging collective efforts and actions to accelerate socioeconomic and environmental development and green investments in Africa.

7. To welcome the establishment of a forum that brings together heads of environment protection agencies in Africa to share experiences, knowledge exchange, and best practices, advance science to policy interface and find solutions on technical and operational challenges.

8. To commit to collaborate with the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to convene the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Maputo Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and to support the environment protection agencies forum and its programme of work.

9. To recognize that antimicrobial resistance poses an increasing threat to global health and sustainable development and stress the need to take urgent and collective action to prevent and minimize its adverse impacts, whilst addressing its potential implications for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization.

10. To urge Member States to provide leadership and direction for the adoption and implementation of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to raise the visibility of biodiversity and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, including through their effective participation in the high-level segment, second part, of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

11. To reiterate that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must include a solution for sharing the benefits arising from genetic resources, and propose that the best way to achieve access and benefit sharing is the creation of a global multilateral benefit sharing mechanism under the Convention.

12. To call on the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to recognize that financing and mobilization of resources is indispensable for the effective achievement of the goals and targets to be set for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and thus requires adequate, additional and predictable financing and a strategy for resource mobilization, supported by a strong mechanism for capacity development and technology transfer, and further call for the establishment of a dedicated global biodiversity fund, and the adoption of a global strategy for resource mobilization alongside the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

13. To intensify regional and international collaboration to promote a multistakeholder approach to the conservation and sustainable management of Congo Basin peatlands, in accordance with the 2018 Brazzaville Declaration adopted at the third meeting of the partners of the Global Peatlands Initiative.

14. To commit ourselves to provide policy direction and momentum in the implementation of the Africa green stimulus programme and the African Union green recovery action plan, among others, as important complementary initiatives for achieving Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

15. To call upon United Cities and Local Governments of Africa to be supported and to be part and contribute in the implementation of the decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

16. To reiterate our commitment to the development of an African ocean governance strategy, to harmonize and coordinate the governance, conservation, and sustainable and equitable use of our oceans, rivers, wetlands and lakes.

17. To welcome the efforts of regional seas conventions and action plans in advancing ocean governance frameworks in support of the proposed African oceans governance strategy.

18. To stress the urgent need to enhance sustainable soil governance for protecting biodiversity, providing ecosystem services, food systems, combating climate change, desertification, deforestation and pollution as well as promoting land degradation neutrality and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. To commit ourselves to reducing open dumping and burning of waste in Africa and to promote the use of waste as a resource for value and job creation so as to build more inclusive and sustainable economies, and call upon development partners to support African countries to reduce methane and black carbon emissions associated with waste.

20. To commit ourselves to supporting the United Nations Climate Change high-level champions and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in their work in encouraging countries in phasing out open burning and dumping of waste.

21. To appreciate the work of the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Circular Economy Alliance and other partners, among others, in the development of a regional programme that promotes and upscales the circular economy and innovative green financing in Africa.

22. To express our appreciation to the African Group of Negotiators in advancing Africa's interests and priorities in the United Nations Environment Assembly and the United Nations Environment Programme.

23. To welcome the outcomes of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and commit ourselves to actively participate in the sixth session of the Environment Assembly and support the work of the Presidency held by the Kingdom of Morocco.

24. To agree that the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment be reviewed to identify areas that require revision in line with the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

25. To recognize that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held in Saudi Arabia in 2024 and therefore the need for adequate preparations by the Africa region to effectively participate in the Conference.

26. To welcome the Abidjan Legacy Programme as an outcome of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties aimed at combating desertification and its consequences, particularly on agricultural production and appreciate the support provided by development partners.

27. To pledge our full support to the Arab Republic of Egypt as incoming President of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and commit to work for a successful and ambitious Conference outcome that responds decisively to the latest science and take concrete and actionable steps

towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We pledge to work towards the unity of the African Group and speak with one voice at the Conference.

28. To call on the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a decision that recognizes the special needs and special circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement in line with the relevant previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

29. To call on developed countries to fulfill promised finance commitments including delivery of the \$100 billion per year, the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change financial pledges, pledge new and additional resources for adaptation and make significant progress on setting an ambitious new collective quantified goal for 2025, while considering a Just Transition financing framework to support developing countries.

30. To welcome the establishment of the African Group of Negotiators on plastics pollution to coordinate Africa's interests and urge Member States to prepare and actively participate in the intergovernmental negotiation committee processes to develop an international legally binding instrument towards ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

31. To commit ourselves to combating illegal shipments of hazardous waste, including plastic, electrical and electronic waste, in accordance with the Bamako Convention, into Africa.

We also:

32. Commit ourselves to make every effort to pay our contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and other multilateral environmental agreements.

33. Extend appreciation to United Nations Environment Programme and urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the Conference.

34. Express our profound appreciation to the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other development partners and institutions, among others, for their continued support to the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

35. Mandate the President of the Conference to submit the report of the eighteenth session of the Conference, including the present Dakar Declaration on enhancing the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the annex thereto, to the African Union Commission for further action by the policy organs of the African Union.

36. Mandate the President of the Conference to convey the priorities and positions contained in the present declaration, decisions, key messages, and the report of the eighteenth session of the Conference to all parties, including partners and organizations, with a view to enlisting their support and collaboration, and to report thereon to the Conference at its nineteenth session.

37. Pay tribute to the President of Senegal, His Excellency, Macky Sall, and the Government and the people of Senegal for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants, for the excellent facilities made available, and for the generosity extended to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eighteenth session.

Annex II

Decisions adopted at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Decision 18/1: Omnibus decision on enhancing the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the outcomes of the seventeenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Durban from 11 to 15 November 2019,

Recalling also Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015,

Recalling further resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, in which Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling also the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held on 27 July 2015, which aimed at strengthening the framework for financing sustainable development and the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on Turning Environmental Policies into Action through Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges in Africa, adopted at the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Nairobi on 19 September 2018, where the ministers for the environment urged Member States to invest in innovative approaches and accelerate implementation of innovative solutions to environmental challenges so as to unlock inclusive wealth, build climate resilience and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Decision 18/1(a): Fostering sustainable soil governance in Africa

Recognizing the importance of soils for the survival of human beings and for protecting the environment and its resources,

Recalling Decision 17/1/V, paragraph 19, of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which provided for the adoption of the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, as Africa's commitment to implement the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030,

Recognizing that degradation of soil resources has been on the rise in Africa due to natural and anthropogenic causes,

Aware of the need of African countries to strengthen their soils management plans and programmes including information and data management,

Acknowledging the importance of strengthening national and regional policies and strategies on sustainable land management and,

Stressing the urgent need to enhance sustainable soil governance for protecting biodiversity, providing ecosystem services, food systems, combating climate change and pollution as well as promoting land degradation neutrality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, among others,

Decide:

1. To urge Member States to strengthen national policy, institutional and legislative measures to protect soils and optimally utilize soils for maximized socioeconomic dividends.
2. To encourage Member States to enhance public awareness, build capacity on sustainable soil management, and create relevant incentives for resource efficiency in soil-dependent socioeconomic activities.
3. To urge Member States to establish mechanisms for the collection of scientific data and information on sustainable soil management to inform policymaking.
4. To request Member States to cooperate in the development of regional frameworks, plans and programmes on sustainable soil management.
5. To encourage civil society, the private sector, young people, women and other stakeholders to raise awareness and promote sustainable soils management among the population.
6. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, other United Nations agencies, and development partners to support Member States in enhancing awareness, mobilizing technical and financial resources and developing national and regional frameworks, plans and programmes on sustainable soil management.

Decision 18/1(b): Towards phasing out open burning of waste in Africa

Recognizing that Africa should benefit from an integrated waste management ecosystem, supported by a comprehensive framework and sufficient infrastructure, funding and capabilities,

Acknowledging the direct implication of waste management with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore on climate change, biodiversity, human health, food systems, resource scarcity, and social and economic development,

Acknowledging the direct and indirect implications of waste management on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want,

Recognizing that the open dumping and burning of waste occurs widely in Africa due to poor waste management,

Appreciating that a large amount of waste generated in urban areas in Africa is recyclable and that only a small amount of the waste is recycled, mainly by informal waste service providers and recyclers,

Noting that the open dumping and burning of waste is a significant source of pollution that contributes to premature deaths in Africa particularly affecting vulnerable populations and marginalized communities,

Further noting that methane emissions from open dumps and landfills as well as decomposing organic waste contribute to climate change,

Recalling the 10-year implementation plan for 2014–2023 of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, which set an ambitious aspiration that by 2023 African cities will recycle at least 50 per cent of the waste they generate,

Appreciating the work of the United Nations Climate Change high-level champions in facilitating collaboration between non-State actors and national and local governments in the fulfillment of commitments to address climate change through, among others, multistakeholder partnerships, and fully phase out open burning of waste by 2050,

Recognizing the need to address structural and institutional deficiencies in waste management through a holistic approach and promote circularity through the use of waste as a resource for value and job creation so as to build more inclusive and sustainable economies,

Noting that the context of extreme climate emergencies and the consequences on biodiversity require an implementation framework in order to accelerate the effective execution of decisions taken by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the important role of local authorities in anchoring and effectively implementing decisions on the ground regarding sustainable waste management and plastic waste management,

Welcoming the efforts made by local government organizations to mobilize cities and contribute to the strengthening of the framework of inter-city decentralized cooperation in the field of waste,

Noting the findings of the report on the Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa, in response to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 17/2, which urges that countries support the development and implementation of 37 recommended measures as a continent-wide Africa clean air programme, coordinated with strong country-led initiatives, cascaded to the regional economic communities and higher levels of policy setting,

Decide:

1. To encourage Member States to mobilize and allocate the financial resources needed to develop the required institutional frameworks and physical infrastructures for efficient and integrated waste management systems.
2. To promote public education, capacity-building and awareness creation at all levels of society on the health and environmental impacts of open burning of waste, with particular focus on those affecting vulnerable communities and populations.
3. To support private enterprises and informal waste service providers, with particular focus on women and youth groups, to actively engage in reprocessing waste into valuable products that can create jobs, generate incomes and sustain livelihoods.
4. To urge Member States to eliminate open dumping and burning of waste through the strengthening and implementation of integrated solid waste management systems, policies and legislation, including promotion of incentives for reuse of waste as a secondary resource input.
5. To urge Member States to strengthen the monitoring and assessment of the state of atmospheric pollution in Africa, particularly of methane and black carbon emissions, and its associated impacts on health and the environment.
6. To encourage Member States, local authorities, civil society actors, community groups, the private sector and development partners to join the multistakeholder partnership in eliminating open burning of waste and the dumping of waste.
7. To encourage Member States, and all relevant local, national and regional stakeholders to join the Global 50 by 2050 waste initiative of the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, advocated by the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to achieve the 50 per cent treatment and recycling target for solid waste generated on the continent by 2050, and further encourage Member States and stakeholders to implement, as appropriate, necessary actions, in line with national circumstances, to address systemic deficiencies in waste management.

8. To request development partners, including the African Development Bank, the Resilience and Sustainable Trust of the International Monetary Fund and the Green Climate Fund, to support African countries to reduce methane and black carbon emissions associated with waste with a focus on reducing the open burning of waste.

9. To invite waste management stakeholders to support efforts of local government organizations to accelerate the effective implementation of decisions related to chemicals, waste and plastics of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Decision 18/1(c): Environmental solutions to antimicrobial resistance in Africa

Recognizing that increasing antimicrobial resistance in human and animal life is a major health threat globally and in African countries,

Noting that antimicrobial resistance is an emerging issue of importance to the Africa region and that there is a need to provide leadership on enhancing the environmental dimensions in the fight against antimicrobial resistance,

Noting the new tripartite definition of the One Health approach, as endorsed in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/6 on biodiversity and health and the World Health Organization global action plan on antimicrobial resistance,

Taking note of decision 14/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity, which adopted the global action plan for biodiversity and health,

Noting the need to agree on measures for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and digital sequence information shared under the One Health approach,

Aware that the effective sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of biodiversity can result in improvements in health outcomes and benefits, and can be an effective means of promoting a healthier, more equitable and sustainable world,

Recognizing that mainstreaming biodiversity-health linkages into national policies, strategies and programmes is crucial in promoting an integral approach to health,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/4, on environment and health, which notes that human, animal and plant health and the environment are interconnected; World Health Assembly resolution 72/5; and United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 5/1, on animal welfare and 5/6, on biodiversity and health, which encourage awareness and understanding of the importance of addressing antimicrobial resistance,

Acknowledging the need for Member States, stakeholders, and the general population in Africa to take ambitious and collaborative action to prevent and minimize the adverse impacts of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change in order to prevent and minimize antimicrobial resistance,

Decide:

1. To request the tripartite partnership for One Health, in collaboration with the secretariat, the African Union Commission and other

partners, to undertake a regional assessment of environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance to identify medical and veterinary products with negative impacts to biodiversity as well as contamination hotspots, taking into account best practices.

2. To encourage Member States and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and promote understanding of the need to address the threats of antimicrobial resistance to human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

3. To urge Member States to consider a One Health approach and the implications of genetic resources in addressing antimicrobial resistance in Africa by:

(a) Strengthening the participation of the environment sector in national coordination mechanisms and the development and review of antimicrobial resistance-specific policies, strategies, action plans, reporting, surveillance, and monitoring,

(b) Reducing and minimizing the release of pollutants from human and animal health sectors into the environment, and to integrate effective waste, wastewater, and vector control management systems,

(c) Enhancing governance, planning and regulatory frameworks on the environment so as to strengthen multilevel coordination and intersectoral coherence in combating antimicrobial resistance, including enhanced synergy in policy actions among the key sectors involved, such as land, agriculture, animal production, health, and the environment.

4. To invite Member States, partners, and relevant stakeholders, including from the private sector and civil society, to prioritize sustainable financing, research and innovation, capacity-building, technology development and technology transfer to address the environmental aspects of antimicrobial resistance.

5. To request United Nations agencies, academia, scientific and research institutions, the private sector and civil society to address gaps in knowledge and awareness on antimicrobial resistance to inform decision-making on prioritizing interventions to prevent and mitigate antimicrobial resistance and its spread in the environment.

6. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to develop capacity enhancement programmes for Africa to enhance awareness and understanding of the importance of addressing antimicrobial resistance.

Decision 18/1(d): Strengthening collaboration with the African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning

Recognizing that the planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution and waste are exerting pressure on African countries to exploit their natural capital at the expense of achieving environmental protection and climate change ambitions,

Aware that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic reversed the gains achieved by African countries in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in relation to poverty, health, education, and employment, which in turn affects the gains made over the years in environmental protection,

Noting that environmental issues are too large to be addressed by any single entity, but rather require concerted efforts by all sectors to foster joint actions and interventions to contribute to building Africa's prosperity,

Acknowledging that environment action is an enabler for socioeconomic development requiring the harmonization of policies and coherent implementation of actions across various sectors,

Noting further that the environment plays a strategic role in providing practical, affordable and innovative solutions to bridge gaps in Africa's socioeconomic development,

Acknowledging that alliances among finance, economic development and environment sectors can offer opportunities to accelerate environment and climate action for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

Noting that the fifty-fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Dakar from 11 to 17 May 2022, called for accelerated action and strengthened partnerships,

Decide:

1. That a joint session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should be convened to forge innovative policy directions and actions to accelerate socioeconomic and environmental development, green investments and the mobilization of climate finance on the continent.

2. To engage with the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development with a view to accelerating sustainable, long-term formal collaboration that will ensure impactful and innovative socioeconomic and environmental transformation in Africa.

3. To request the President to hold meetings with the Bureau of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

4. To request the secretariat to engage with the secretariat of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission on collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

5. To urge Member States to develop incentives and innovative financing mechanisms for the environment and sustainable development to increase domestic fiscal and non-fiscal resource mobilization capacity for green investments.

6. To urge the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to develop a common African framework on sustainable budgeting to support the mobilization of resources to facilitate coherent implementation of the priorities of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the African Green Stimulus Programme, nationally determined contributions, and national adaptation plans.

Decision 18/1(e): Enhancing the role of environment protection agencies in Africa

Recognizing that environment protection agencies (that is, government authorities, institutions or entities entrusted with environmental management, protection, enforcement and compliance) play a critical role in enhancing, protecting, and promoting the environment,

Recalling the decision of the seventeenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to convene the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Maputo Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

Recognizing that achieving long-term sustainable development in Africa will depend on effective implementation of environmental programmes,

decisions and resolutions that have been agreed upon at national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing that implementation of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decisions requires enhancing partnerships at national, regional and global levels, including with local authorities, development partners, the private sector, foundations and philanthropic institutions,

Acknowledging that environment protection agencies are a major custodian of scientific data and information that is necessary for policy and decision-making as well as for development planning, and

Determined to support the work of environment protection agencies in implementing regional and global decisions and resolutions as well as in ensuring compliance and enforcement,

Decide:

1. To establish a forum that brings together heads of environment protection agencies in Africa to share experiences, knowledge and best practices, advance science to policy interface, mobilize partnerships, and find solutions on technical and operational challenges.

2. To urge Member States to support environment protection agencies in the implementation of decisions and resolutions adopted at regional and global levels, such as by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, the United Nations Environment Assembly, and the various multilateral environmental agreements to which African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Member States are parties.

3. To urge Member States to support environment protection agencies to ensure monitoring, enforcement, and compliance with national, regional, and global environmental commitments, as appropriate.

4. To urge Member States to support environment protection agencies to promote the utilization of appropriate and innovative methods for integrating, manipulating, and interpreting scientific data and information to enable sound policy and decision-making as well as for development planning.

5. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations agencies, the African Union, and development partners to support the forum of heads of environment protection agencies.

6. To request the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency, United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, to convene the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Maputo Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to, inter alia, consider providing additional support to the environment protection agencies forum and its programme of work.

Decision 18/1(f): Review of the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Recalling the first session of the Conference in 1985 where the rules of procedure were adopted and the seventh session in 1997 where the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was adopted,

Recognizing the crucial role that the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is playing in leading and advocating for Africa's positions and interests in the areas of the environment and sustainable development at all levels, including its active involvement in global negotiations on multilateral environment agreements,

Acknowledging that, in accordance with article 35 of the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the depository of the Constitution is the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the African Union Executive Council and Assembly of Heads of States and Governments decisions regarding the realignment of the African Union institutions,

Taking note of the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in providing support in terms of technical assistance, financial resources, mobilization, networking and enhancing the visibility of the Conference,

Recalling previous sessions of the Conference, that is, the eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth sessions, where decisions were adopted to revise the Constitution to forge cooperative links between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union structures and to harmonize the relations with the United Nations Environment Programme,

Aware that the Constitution and rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment have not been reviewed since their adoption yet there have been several changes in the policy, legal and institutional arrangements of the environment sector at national, continental, and global levels,

Decide:

1. That the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment should be reviewed to identify areas that require revision in line with the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

2. To request the secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau, and in consultation with Member States, to review the rules of procedure and make recommendations to the next ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for consideration.

Decision 18/1(g): Provisional agenda, date and venue of the nineteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Recalling the first ordinary session of the Conference, which decided to institutionalize the Conference and agreed to meet once every two years,

Further recalling decision 2/1 of the Conference, which provided that future sessions of the Conference could be held outside Nairobi if an appropriate offer were made by an African Government,

Recognizing the importance of continued actions in delivering innovative environmental solutions to emerging challenges and the important role that the Conference plays in delivering the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the region,

Emphasizing that strengthening implementation of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decisions requires deliberate steps and actions,

Noting that the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will be held in February 2024 and the need for the Conference to provide policy guidance and decide on Africa's common position,

Decide:

1. To hold the nineteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at a date and time to be determined by the Bureau in consultation with the host country.
2. To request the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to decide on the format and agenda of the nineteenth ordinary session.
3. To welcome the offer by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to host the nineteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Decision 18/2: Decision on Africa’s participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the outcomes of the seventeenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Durban from 11 to 15 November 2019, where Member States committed to support a global action to address plastic pollution, including through a new global agreement that would, among other things, take a comprehensive approach,

Further recalling the outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held from 13 to 16 September 2021, which affirmed the decision by Africa to work towards having a new global agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution that takes a comprehensive approach to address the full lifecycle of plastics,

Noting the ninth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held from 15 to 17 March 2022, that noted that Africa must work towards having a new global approach to address plastic pollution, in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of national circumstances,

Welcoming the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention that called for a new legally binding global agreement to combat plastic pollution, covering the full life cycle of plastics, with a view to reducing both the quantity and the harmful qualities of plastic wastes, highlighting the elimination of the trade, production and use of single-use plastics and the substitution and re-design of such products, while emphasizing the importance of technology research and transfer, and the need for adequate financing to enable African countries to prevent plastic pollution,

Welcoming United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument”, resolutions 1/6, on marine plastic debris and microplastics, 2/11, on marine plastic litter and microplastics, 3/7, on marine litter and microplastics, 4/6, on marine plastic litter and microplastics, 4/7, on environmentally sound management of waste, and 4/9, on addressing single-use plastic products pollution,

Affirming the urgent need to strengthen global coordination, cooperation, and governance to take immediate action towards the long-term elimination of plastic pollution in marine and other environments, and to avoid detriment from plastic pollution to ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them,

Recognizing that plastic pollution and associated chemicals are a threat to Africa's population, climate, and biodiversity,

Recognizing that the proper collection and treatment of plastic waste can contribute positively to strengthening the economies of African countries and should enable the transition to a circular economy,

Recognizing the right of African countries to development, and gaps between developing and developed countries in terms of historical responsibility, scientific knowledge, capacity, technological advances, and technical and financial support in the fight against plastic pollution,

Recognizing the need to include harmonized, legally binding global measures across the full life cycle of plastics in the global instrument, including measures to:

- (a) Eliminate plastic materials and products that can be avoided and/or substituted with environmentally-sound alternatives;
- (b) Ensure circularity standards and requirements for plastic materials and products that cannot be eliminated or substituted; and
- (c) Safely collect, manage and treat plastic materials and products that cannot be eliminated, substituted, or circulated,

Reaffirming the importance of including mechanisms in the global instrument to ensure the necessary means of implementation, including financial and technical support, technology transfer and capacity-building,

Recognizing the need for a harmonized structure for monitoring and reporting on progress to be included in the global instrument, including through the development and implementation of national and regional action plans on plastic pollution,

Commending initiatives taken by Member States in eliminating plastic pollution, including eliminating the production and distribution of single use plastics and the adoption of a total ban policy on the production and use of plastic bags; providing economic incentives to discourage the use of plastics in production; and establishing extended producer responsibility schemes, all of which are geared towards a plastic free environment,

Noting that the context of extreme climate emergencies and the consequences in terms of biodiversity loss require a revision of the implementation framework in order to accelerate the effective implementation of decisions taken by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the leading role of local authorities in anchoring and effectively implementing decisions on the ground regarding sustainable waste management and plastic waste management,

Determined to have a unified African voice and a common African position in the intergovernmental negotiation committee processes to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution,

Decide:

1. To protect the Africa region from the health, climate and biodiversity threats posed by plastic pollution.
2. To urge Member States to upscale measures to address plastic pollution, including microplastics, that address the full life cycle of plastic to achieve sustainable production and consumption of plastics.
3. To promote national and international cooperative measures to reduce the health and environmental impacts of plastic pollution, including existing plastic pollution, and develop, implement, and update national action

plans, reflecting country-driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the proposed legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

4. To encourage Member States to carry out policy reforms that lead to legislative, policy and regulatory actions that protect human health and the environment by addressing plastics design, and to eliminate or minimize waste, taking into consideration national capacities and priorities, while ensuring coherence and coordination of activities undertaken within the context of existing regional and international instruments.

5. To encourage Member States to promote the adoption of policy frameworks which will stimulate the involvement of the private sector in eliminating plastic pollution by encouraging investment in circular approaches in the plastics value chain.

6. To encourage action by all stakeholders, including integrating the informal sector, civil society and the private sector, to promote cooperation and investments at the local, national, regional and global levels on the prevention, elimination and reduction of plastic pollution.

7. To urge Member States to prepare and actively participate in the intergovernmental negotiation committee processes to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, so as to advance Africa's interests in the negotiations, and, in that regard, to make the key policy messages contained in the annex to this decision.

8. To establish the African Group of Negotiators on plastic pollution with a view to coordinating Africa's interests in the intergovernmental negotiation committee processes to develop an international legally binding instrument towards ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

9. To mandate the African Group of Negotiators on plastic pollution to develop a coordination mechanism and operational modalities, strengthen the capacity of negotiators and regularly update the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on key African common positions and understanding in the intergovernmental negotiation committee negotiation process.

10. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support the Africa region in the intergovernmental negotiation committee.

11. To establish mechanisms for strengthening commitments, targets and controls over time, implement monitoring and reporting at each stage through the lifecycle of plastics, and facilitate effective technical and financial assistance and scientific and socioeconomic assessments.

12. To prioritize the ban on the illegal trafficking and shipment of plastic waste into Africa, in accordance with the Bamako Convention.

13. To encourage adoption by Member States of an integrated finance system comprised of public and private sector engagement and dedicated international finance to provide for the means of implementation of the upcoming plastics treaty.

14. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit and convey these decisions to the African Union structures.

Annex

Africa region key policy messages on the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

1. The toxic impacts of plastics during production, design, consumption, and waste management must be addressed in the treaty negotiations.

2. Transparency: As plastics enter Africa through products and in waste, full knowledge of the ingredients included in plastic materials is key to protect human health and the environment, and the transition to a clean and safe circular economy.

3. Finance: funding for Africa to implement various international instruments (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention) is limited, and there is a need for new, additional, sustainable and adequate funding for the implementation of the treaty and for the chemical and petrochemical industry to contribute to financing the prevention and remediation of the pollution their materials cause.

4. We recognize the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss that humanity currently faces, and the contributing role of plastic to each, and commit ourselves to developing an ambitious and effective international legally binding instrument with the dual objectives of ending plastic pollution in all environments and creating a non-toxic and transparent circular economy for plastics.

5. We recognize that ending plastic pollution will require a comprehensive approach with provisions addressing each stage of the lifecycle of plastic, from polymer production and product design to waste prevention and management, accompanied by national reporting and action plans.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12 and commit ourselves to achieving the sustainable production and consumption of plastic and eliminating problematic and hazardous polymers.

7. We call for the availability of adequate means of implementation for African States to meet their obligations and commitments under the new instrument, with additional and predictable financial and technical assistance provided via a dedicated multilateral fund established for that purpose and provisions to ensure technology transfer, development, and deployment as well as capacity-building.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 3 and commit ourselves to promoting sustainable product design through global sustainability criteria and standards and eliminating harmful chemicals in plastic, ensuring transparency across the value chain.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 11 and commit ourselves to promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, in line with the waste hierarchy whereby priority is given to prevention and reuse followed by recycling before recovery and disposal.

10. We commit ourselves to securing adequate means of implementation through additional and predictable financial assistance provided through a dedicated multilateral fund established for that purpose, as well as capacity-building and technical assistance, including technology transfer and deployment.

11. We recognize that ending plastic pollution is a generational undertaking requiring dedicated workstreams for different sources of plastic pollution to compel actions across the value chain and commit ourselves to establishing an adaptive framework with mechanisms to strengthen commitments and controls over time.

12. We commit to developing harmonized, legally binding global measures across the full life cycle of plastics in the global instrument, including measures to eliminate problematic plastics, through global bans, restrictions, product design criteria and standards, and ensuring transparency for material and chemical composition along the plastics value chain.

13. We invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Union Commission and other intergovernmental organizations, and the Global Environment Facility and other financial partners, including donor countries, to mobilize adequate and efficient financial resources to sustain the participation of African countries during the intergovernmental negotiating committee process on plastics and the implementation of activities for ratification and implementation.

14. We call for a global instrument that focuses on the most problematic, harmful and high-risk plastic categories, including single-use plastic items and packaging, microplastics and ghost fishing gear.

15. We recognize that Africa has a significant responsibility in designing the global governance framework for plastic pollution that will be relied upon by current and future generations of Africans and will strive to ensure all essential elements are included to meet our objectives and promote mechanisms to allow for a strengthening of commitments, obligations and controls over time.

16. We emphasize the strong need to develop an ambitious international legally binding instrument that ends plastic pollution in all environments and achieves a circular economy for plastics protective of human health and the climate system.

17. We resolve to support a comprehensive approach toward plastic pollution with measures and interventions across the full lifecycle of plastic, from production and consumption to product design and use to waste prevention and management, while also promoting remediation of existing plastic pollution.

18. We emphasize the need for sustainable production and consumption of plastic, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goal 12, by promoting measures to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastics and otherwise reduce production to sustainable levels.

19. We call for enhanced commitment towards sustainable product design and use, in line with the principles of a circular economy and resource efficiency, and to promote transparency of and restrictions on harmful additives and chemicals.

20. We call for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, in line with the waste hierarchy, by prioritizing prevention and reuse before recycling, recovery and disposal, and extending producer responsibility to waste management and supporting the development of provisions to facilitate the participation of workers in informal and cooperative settings to ensure a Just Transition.

21. We stress the importance of national reporting covering each stage of the lifecycle of plastics to inform policies and priorities and facilitate the assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of the instrument, as well

as its role in supporting the monitoring of plastic pollution in the environment and its evolution.

22. We stress the need to ensure adequate means of implementation for African States to meet their obligations and commitments under the new instrument, with additional and predictable financial and technical assistance provided via a dedicated multilateral fund established for that purpose, and provisions to ensure technology transfer, development and deployment as well as capacity-building, in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

23. We emphasize the importance of establishing dedicated programmes of work tailored to the nature of specific sources of plastic pollution and their value chains, including packaging, fishing gear and agricultural plastics.

24. We call for the hosting of the final diplomatic conference of the plenipotentiaries to be held on the African continent.

25. We reiterate that UNEP hosts the secretariat at its headquarters in Nairobi.

Decision 18/3: Biodiversity, wildlife and desertification

We, African ministers of the environment

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling Decision CL/761 (XXII) of the twenty-second session of the African Union Executive Council, establishing the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity to articulate African perspectives, priorities, and common positions during all negotiations of the Open-ended Working Group of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and welcoming the progressive work achieved by the Group,

Further recalling decision 17/2(3) of the Conference endorsing the establishment of a core group to facilitate coordination of the African Group of Negotiators in developing a common regional position to strengthen Africa's voice and the mandate for the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity,

Recalling that based on this mandate, the African Group of Negotiators has effectively coordinated and participated in the negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework during its four meetings, and has held internal consultation meetings in Gaborone (19 to 21 May 2022) and in Libreville (1 to 4 September 2022),

Welcoming the progress made by the African Group of Negotiators to develop a common African position on key biodiversity issues and promote the views and needs of the continent in the ongoing negotiations,

Taking cognizance of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed the negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Further taking cognizance of the conclusions of the first part of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which took place virtually, from 11 to 15 October 2021, under the presidency of China,

Realizing the relevance to Africa of the key outcomes of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Taking note of the outcome of the first African Protected Areas Congress, held from 18 to 23 July 2022 in Kigali,

Welcoming the convening of the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, to be jointly hosted by the Governments of Canada and China in Montreal, Canada from 7 to 19 December 2022,

Aware that the second part of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will negotiate for adoption a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will define the global strategy to securing the world's biodiversity and therefore contribute to the attainment of ecosystem and human well-being,

Recalling decision 17/1 of the Conference, in which the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to develop a regional cooperation framework on advancing the biodiversity economy, and *welcoming* the progress made to develop the framework,

Recalling further resolution 4/16 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands,

Decide:

1. To urge Member States to provide the needed political leadership and direction for the adoption and implementation of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to raise the visibility of biodiversity and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, including through effective participation in the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties high-level segment, scheduled to take place from 15 to 17 December 2022, and to champion the position of Africa in the global biodiversity framework negotiations.

2. To reiterate that the global biodiversity framework, must include a solution for sharing the benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and further reiterate that this is a non-negotiable precondition for Africa supporting adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and, in this regard, support the African proposal that the best way to achieve this is to create a global multilateral benefit sharing mechanism under the Convention.

3. To support an ambitious target on protected areas within the context of Africa's priorities and the need for the continent to sustainably utilize its natural resources for its developmental agenda and that for Africa the ambitious target on protected areas should cover all ecosystems, that is, terrestrial, marine, coastal and inland waters, and be supported by adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, and respect for the rights and priorities of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and young people.

4. To further reiterate the call of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to recognize that financing and the mobilization of resources is indispensable for the effective achievement of the goals and targets to be set for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and that this requires adequate, additional and predictable financing and a strategy for resource mobilization, supported by a strong mechanism for capacity development and technology transfer, and further call for the establishment of a dedicated global biodiversity fund and the adoption of a global strategy for resource mobilization alongside the global biodiversity framework.

5. To support an ambitious target in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on ecosystem restoration, in line with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to protect and restore ecosystems for the benefit of nature and people.

6. To call on Member States to continue providing support to the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity to assure their readiness for the second part of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to work with other nations at regional and global levels, through the African Group of Negotiators and bilaterally, to raise the level of consensus and cooperation needed to secure a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework that takes into account the interests of the Africa region.

7. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and other partners, to continue supporting the development of the regional cooperation framework on advancing the biodiversity economy and to report on the progress made during the next ordinary session of the Conference.

8. To invite partners to support the development of the biodiversity economy cooperation framework through technical and financial assistance to enable the effective participation of African Governments and a wide cross section of stakeholders in the consultative process.

9. To establish an African group of negotiators on wildlife to assist Member States in developing common positions on matters related to the conservation, sustainable management and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora.

10. To request the African Union Commission, in collaboration with relevant partners, to support the process of developing the modalities for the proposed African group of negotiators on wildlife and to provide secretariat services to the group.

11. To call upon African Member States to participate in the upcoming nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

12. To urge Member States to support implementation of the Abidjan Legacy Programme, to take urgent action to address drought, and to foster partnerships and collaboration, such as the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth, in addressing land degradation, drought and desertification in Africa.

13. To call upon regional economic commissions, in collaboration with partners, to continue supporting Member States in mobilizing resources to implement regional and national initiatives that support sustainable land management and land degradation neutrality in Africa, including on issues related to gender, land tenure and forced migration.

14. To request the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies under the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to accelerate the development and implementation of strategic programmes to support Member States to address the issues of sand and dust storms as well as sand dunes.

15. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners, to carry out awareness-raising and policy advocacy campaigns with a view to catalysing action to address land degradation, drought and desertification in Africa in the

framework of the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

16. To intensify regional and international collaboration among landowners, the private sector and all other relevant actors in the conservation and sustainable management of Congo Basin peatlands.

17. To endorse the key policy messages contained in the annex to this Decision.

Annex

Key policy messages on Africa's participation in the negotiation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

1. Biodiversity and nature's contributions in Africa are economically, socially and culturally important assets, are essential in providing the continent's food, water, energy, health, and livelihoods, and ensure the foundation for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the integration of Agenda 2063 goals and Sustainable Development Goals into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is crucial to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, which are necessary to secure human well-being and development outcomes in Africa.
2. However, the world is in a state of planetary emergency – the interdependent crises of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate change require urgent and unified global action to prevent significant damage to national and global economic, social and political stability.
3. Already, African communities face unprecedented pressure from extreme weather events, desertification, land degradation and deforestation, which threaten the health and well-being of millions of people.
4. At the same time, the African continent stands at the forefront of the global conservation movement, safeguarding incomparable biodiversity and natural capital, and has a lot to lose if we do not take strong measures now to safeguard our biodiversity resources.
5. We are of the view that a holistic approach to the conservation and sustainable management of all land and water using participatory ecosystem-based approaches is crucial to ensure conservation, restoration, coherence, and the sustainable use of biodiversity for the benefit of all towards an ecologically, socially and economically just and sustainable world by 2050.
6. We reaffirm the importance of means of implementation as an integral part of the global biodiversity framework and stress the need for the adequate provision of financial resources and access to technology and capacity-building, including through the establishment of a dedicated biodiversity fund to support effective implementation of the global biodiversity framework.
7. We recognize the responsibility of all countries to act domestically to help close the financial gap, as per article 20.1 of the Convention, and for developed countries to support developing countries to ensure implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in line with article 20.4 of the Convention.
8. We note that mainstreaming is an essential tool for unlocking the necessary scale of investment in biodiversity in Africa; therefore, we need to increase our collective focus on mainstreaming and enhancing the capacity available for making the case for biodiversity.
9. We also recognize that the realization of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework depends on actions taken on the ground and will require strong national biodiversity strategies and action plans and coordinated national biodiversity finance plans or similar mechanisms to plan and implement national actions for managing and supporting biodiversity.
10. We reaffirm that the utilization of Africa's natural assets, including genetic and biological resources and related digital sequence information and traditional knowledge, must result in sufficient sharing of monetary and non-

monetary benefits to make sustainable use of biodiversity more attractive than unsustainable extraction, ensuring good conservation outcomes, and therefore the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must contain a solution for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of digital sequence information, which can also be one way to contribute to long-term resource mobilization.

11. We welcome the inclusion of a specific biosafety target under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and further acknowledge the relevance of the Biosafety Protocol and its implementation plan and capacity-building action plan to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

12. We reaffirm that ecosystem restoration is very important to Africa, will work to raise the inclusion and profile of restoration in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and will mainstream land and ecosystem restoration in relevant sectoral policies, plans, programmes, and actions to achieve agreed ecosystem restoration commitments and targets, communicating the results and benefits to people.

13. We acknowledge the role of indigenous people, local communities, women and young people in the use, management and conservation of biodiversity in Africa, and that their inclusion in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is essential in achieving both sustainability objectives and advancing equal rights.

14. We recall the important role of technology development and transfer to support implementation of the global biodiversity framework and urge that it includes updating technology needs assessments, the provision of support for the implementation of the outcomes of technology needs assessments, and the identification of technologies that are ready for transfer and the enhancement of enabling environments to address barriers and meet the specific needs and concerns of Africa, including the development aspirations contained in Agenda 2063.

15. We consider the following elements currently under negotiation in the global biodiversity framework as a package deal for Africa to adopt the framework:

(a) On protected areas

Recalling paragraph 4 of AMCEN 18.1/1 and noting the progress made by the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity towards articulating a common African position on the proposal to protect 30 per cent of land and sea areas by 2030, we note that there is consensus on the conditions that will be integrated into the target, namely that:

- (i) The target must be clearly indicated as a global target
- (ii) The national priorities and capabilities of countries need to be taken into consideration in their contribution towards the target
- (iii) The qualitative elements of the target, including the effective and equitable management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures¹ are critical in adopting the target
- (iv) Other effective area-based conservation measures should be considered in the scope of protection for the target, but with caution, given there is still a lack of clarity regarding their diverse governance regimes and thus their effectiveness and long-term viability

¹ While all parties agree on the last condition, parties do not agree as to whether or not reference should be made to this condition in the target itself.

(v) Indigenous peoples and local communities, their land rights and community livelihoods and well-being are to be respected in the implementation of the target

(vi) Finances and resources for the implementation of this target will need to be commensurate with the level of ambition of the target.

(b) On ecosystem restoration

We reaffirm that ecosystem restoration is very important to Africa and support an ambitious target for restoration that addresses all ecosystem types. Africa shall work to raise the inclusion and profile of restoration in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking existing restoration strategies and initiatives into account in adopting the target, mainstreaming land and ecosystem restoration in relevant sectoral policies, plans, programmes and actions, including but not limited to reforestation and the combat against desertification, to achieve agreed ecosystem restoration commitments and targets, and communicating the results and benefits to people in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

(c) On ecological connectivity

We reaffirm that ecological connectivity is critical for biodiversity spatial planning, establishing protected area networks and the integrity of ecosystems, and thus stress that maintaining, restoring, or enhancing ecological connectivity using a landscape and seascape approach is key to securing Africa's biodiversity.

(d) On digital sequence information

We emphasize the need to integrate digital sequence information into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to fit its purpose, considering the use of digital sequence information as the utilization of genetic and biological resources, and that digital sequence information benefit sharing under a global multilateral benefit sharing mechanism to be established under the Convention will contribute to conservation, the sustainable use of biodiversity and long-term biodiversity resource mobilization.

(e) On synergies

We recognize that climate change and desertification are serious threats to biodiversity and therefore commit to take the measures necessary to strengthen biodiversity resilience to climate change, desertification and land degradation through ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions, in line with the United Nations Environment Assembly definition.²

(f) On resource mobilization

(i) We reiterate the need for a balance in the global biodiversity framework by closing the current gap in financing biodiversity through the provision of new and adequate additional resources from developed countries to developing countries dedicated to biodiversity in compliance with the obligations set out in article 20.2 of the Convention;

(ii) We re-emphasize the previous decision of the Conference calling for the establishment of a dedicated global biodiversity fund, and therefore call on the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish this fund and to adopt alongside the global biodiversity framework a strategy for resource mobilization;

² United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 defines nature-based solutions as "actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits".

(iii) We recognize the differentiated responsibilities of all countries in relation to the provision of finance for biodiversity, as highlighted in article 20 of the Convention, which calls for the mobilization of 1 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) to help close the financial gap for biodiversity;

(iv) We note the recent increase in funding for biodiversity by the Global Environment Facility-8 replenishment but realize that the allocated amount is insufficient as a contribution to closing the current financing gap and thus call for a complete structural and procedural transformation of the Global Environment Facility to diversify its sources and increase the robustness and efficiency of the Facility and other multilateral and bilateral financial mechanisms to support developing countries for the effective implementation of the global biodiversity framework;

(g) On capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

(i) We recall preambular paragraph 16 of the Convention, which acknowledges that special provision is required to meet the needs of developing countries, including the provision of appropriate access to relevant technologies and new and additional financial resources;

(ii) We reaffirm that capacity-building and development is necessary to achieve the goals of the Convention and facilitate the implementation of the global biodiversity framework, and thus call on the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to adopt alongside the global biodiversity framework a capacity-building mechanism that includes a strategy and an action plan, taking into account the needs of developing countries, the important role of women, girls and young people and the interests of indigenous people and local communities;

(iii) We recognize that technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer are fundamental to the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the global biodiversity framework, but that efforts in this regard have so far been inadequate, and call for renewed and enhanced efforts in this regard, including through the designation or establishment of global and regional centres of excellence;

(h) On integration of biodiversity in economic development sectors

(i) We emphasize the importance of integrating biodiversity into economic development sectors for the mobilization of financial resources and the implementation of activities for the restoration, protection and conservation of biological diversity;

(ii) We recognize the importance of discussions and deliberations in building consensus in the negotiation process of the global biodiversity framework;

(iii) We commit to continue providing support to the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity to assure their readiness for the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, assisting our national teams in their preparations, and encouraging online and in-person discussions and exchanges of technical information among Parties;

(iv) We engage ourselves in the political process needed to support adoption of an ambitious, balanced, and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework, working at the national level to promote awareness and uptake of the future agreement and fostering a whole of -government approach to its implementation;

(v) We continue to work with other nations at regional and global levels, through the African Group of Negotiators and bilaterally, to raise the level of consensus and cooperation needed to secure a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework that takes into account the interests of the Africa region;

(vi) We further recognize the important role of stakeholders in this process and call on non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, the media and all other stakeholders to effectively participate for an inclusive process in developing the post 2020 global biodiversity framework, and to further provide support in widely communicating the common position of Africa and promoting awareness of the future agreement in order to secure the engagement of all in support of Africa's efforts in the implementation of the global biodiversity framework including at community levels.

(i) Land, drought, and desertification

(i) We welcome the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, which established the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought to evaluate all options including, inter alia, a global policy framework and policy instrument to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management;

(ii) Noting that land degradation, desertification and drought are priorities in Africa, we support the establishment of the global alliance on drought resilience, to be launched at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Decision 18/4: Climate change

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Highlighting the importance of the forthcoming twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to focus on the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement,

Having considered substantive and other matters affecting the environment on the continent that required in-depth deliberation at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the Conference,

Decide:

1. To welcome the progress made in implementation of the outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth ordinary session of the Conference, which took place virtually from 13 to 16 September 2021.

2. To congratulate the Arab Republic of Egypt as the incoming President of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and pledge our full support for a successful Conference.

3. To appreciate the work of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change, who have continued to advocate for the interests of Africa, and agree to the Africa common position and key policy messages of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as contained in annex 1 to this decision.

4. To express our full support and commitment to the Arab Republic of Egypt in hosting the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and request all African institutions to provide any needed support.

5. To welcome the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan as the overarching framework to foster coherence in addressing climate change on the continent.

6. To call on the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to enhance action on adaptation by making substantive progress on the global goal on adaptation and scaling up action and support in meeting the needs of developing countries, as communicated through their adaptation plans and strategies. In addition, the Conference of the Parties should agree on the institutional arrangements to catalyse technical assistance and make progress on funding arrangements for loss and damage, including through new and additional resources.

7. To emphasize that the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation must consider equity and historical responsibility. Developed countries should not renege on their ambition in the light of new energy challenges, nor push developing countries into accelerating their emissions reductions and shifting the burden. Developed countries should honour their commitments, and respect and enable the Just Transition pathways of developing countries. We call on the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to secure meaningful financial commitments and investments for renewable energy and low carbon programmes and projects at scale for Africa to enhance energy access and support the social and equity dimensions of Just Transition pathways.

Annex

Key policy messages on climate change

We, African ministers of the environment, having met in Dakar, Senegal on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, express appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its achievements as President of the Conference in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa in pursuit of its priority interest in combating climate change, in the context of sustainable development, Just Transitions, the right to development, the eradication of poverty and leaving no one behind.

Expressing our appreciation to the African Group of Negotiators on climate change for their outstanding efforts in representing the region in climate negotiations and currently in the preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022.

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV) of the thirty-fifth ordinary session of Assembly of the African Union, held in February 2022, on the report of the Committee of Heads of States and Government on Climate Change, we:

1. Emphasize that the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place on African soil, needs to deliver substantive progress on the priority issues for Africa and other developing countries, specifically adaptation, loss and damage and finance, which is currently trapped in open-ended process-related discussions. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties needs to be a watershed moment for implementation, by securing the means of implementation, in the form of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for African and other developing countries.

2. Welcome the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shows that Africa has historically contributed least and has the lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions of all regions. Yet Africa has already experienced widespread impacts from climate change, including a 34 per cent decrease in agricultural productivity growth, the largest reduction of any region, in addition to biodiversity loss, water shortages, reduced economic output and growth, and ongoing loss and damage. Every fraction of a degree of global warming increases risks.

3. Note that, as one of the lowest contributors and the most adversely affected region, which is facing an increasing number of devastating extreme weather and slow-onset events, Africa recognizes that a global crisis of this magnitude can only be addressed by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders working together. We therefore uphold the centrality of multilateralism and stress Africa's firm commitment to the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. This commitment is demonstrated by African countries' highly ambitious nationally determined contributions, which will enable African countries to deliver their climate change commitments in a broader and more comprehensive manner.

4. Are deeply concerned at the backtracking on commitments by developed countries and the failure of some countries to honour their commitments on emission reductions and the provision of support to developing countries. We call upon developed countries to show leadership by

undertaking ambitious mitigation actions and provide scaled up support in this critical decade, consistent with science.

5. Reaffirm our multilateral commitment to addressing climate change and implementing actions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement to be guided by prescribed principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

6. Urge Parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special needs and special circumstances of Africa, in line with the Convention, previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and the best available science, and request the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to intensify consultations with a view to reaching a decision in this regard by the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

7. Stress the importance of grant-based resources for African countries, particularly for adaptation, and emphasize that climate action must not lead to an increase in the already unsustainable levels of debt of African countries.

8. Underscore the need for developed country Parties to honour their commitment, made recently in Glasgow, to double their adaptation finance from the current very low base line and to demonstrate further progression of effort to support African and other developing countries in the context of the finding by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that Africa needs up to \$86 billion annually by 2030 for adaptation.

9. Call upon the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to expedite the implementation of the two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation. We envisage clear and substantive outcomes on enhancing ambition by scaling up actions and support, meeting the needs of developing countries as communicated, and achieving adequate adaptation responses in the context of the temperature goal referred to in article 2 of the Paris Agreement. The work programme on the global goal on adaptation should provide guidance to inform the global assessment of progress on mandates contained in article 7.14 of the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CMA.1.

10. Further underscore, with regard to developed countries' Glasgow adaptation finance doubling commitment, the need for developed countries to undertake the following: (a) an annual progress report with the objectives of increasing (i) accountability (report individually and collectively: all developed countries) (ii) transparency (amount, instruments, channels, regions, etc.) (iii) country-ownership (responding to urgent needs and priorities as articulated by developing countries) and (iv) leadership (extent to which developing countries' institutions, initiatives and capacities are mobilized and strengthened); (b) to provide clear expected and projected adaptation finance support on a mid- and long-term basis in order to secure predictability and better adaptation planning and activity implementation, based on ex-ante information and taking into account ex-post adaptation needs by all developing country Parties to the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in particular to achieve the global goal on adaptation.

11. Further welcome the commitment by developed countries to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025. We urge the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to have a standing agenda item on adaptation finance on this matter, and urge developed countries to present a delivery plan clarifying: (a) the burden sharing arrangements among developed countries; (b) contribution time frames, and (c) the support to be received by

operating entities and specialized funds in accordance with previous Conference decisions. We further note that the adaptation finance undertaking to double adaptation is not part of the \$100 billion mobilization goal.

12. Furthermore call on future presidencies, starting with the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, to organize: (a) biannual consultation sessions on the ex-ante and ex-post information provided by developed countries on the delivery of their Glasgow adaptation finance doubling commitment, with the objective of increasing clarity and understanding by developing countries and all stakeholders; and (b) a high level ministerial dialogue at the Conference of the Parties to reflect on both qualitative and quantitative elements of the delivery of their Glasgow adaptation finance doubling commitment, to allow for high level political guidance and recommendations from developing countries, and to enhance the overall quality of the support provided.

13. Further emphasize that the adaptation work programme should provide a key set of adaptation finance goals as part of the global goal on adaptation, focusing on core adaptation support in a range of sectors, and also as part of the deliberations on a new collective quantified goal on finance. It should also present a clear roadmap to deliver on the Glasgow decision to double adaptation finance by 2025. The roadmap should include projected annual contributions, the timing of such contributions, and the multilateral institutions that will channel these resources to developing countries.

14. Recognize the fundamental priority of the agriculture sector to food security (ending hunger), poverty eradication and rural development on the continent. Considering the extreme vulnerability of the agricultural sector in Africa, as described in the recent scientific findings of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we urge the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, to establish an implementing mechanism with a committee to facilitate the implementation of concrete actions with a focus on adaptation and adaptation co-benefits of climate actions in the agriculture sector.

15. Note with grave concern the projected loss and damage costs associated with climate change in Africa, which range between \$289 billion and \$440 billion between 2020 and 2030. In this regard, we call upon the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to finalize agreement on the governance of loss and damage under the Convention, including within the context of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage. We further call for constructive discussions on financial arrangements for loss and damage. The twenty-seventh session should agree on the scale of support, as well as programming options and ex-post direct budget support to governments. As the quantum of loss and damage support is so high, we envisage that this type of support must come from developed countries' public finances, multilateral development banks and bilateral partnerships. Access to such finance is via direct budget support to governments, and bilateral budget support must also be encouraged.

16. Encourage the twenty-seventh session to expedite the mitigation work programme that was established at Glasgow, with particular focus on equity and enhancing implementation. We further agree that the mitigation work programme should focus on the necessary enabling elements, including the climate finance and technology transfer required for the implementation of the nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties.

17. Welcome the recognition of multiple forms and stages of Just Transitions in the Glasgow Climate Pact and related decisions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties and the sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. We highlight that African countries also require significant support

for Just Transitions to low emissions and climate-resilient development. It is thus imperative that the mitigation work programme includes consideration of ways to finance the transitions of all African countries. It should further present long-term sustainable finance solutions that will support efforts by developing countries to make Just Transitions.

18. Recognize the importance of technology in climate action and, in particular, the role of the technology framework and the technology mechanism in accelerating our low carbon climate resilient development and facilitating enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. We call for enhanced joint innovation and international cooperation on climate-related technology in enhancing global actions and further call for technical support for the implementation of climate action.

19. Highlight the importance of capacity-building in developing countries in strengthening their capacity to coherently develop and implement their national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions and long-term low emission development strategies, and call for the provision of adequate support to build both institutional and individual capacity. We further call on developed countries to provide support to Action for Climate Empowerment national focal points as well as to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.

20. Urge developed countries to provide continuous resources to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency as well as to the Consultative Group of Experts, and further urge developed country Parties to provide additional, continuous and adequate support to developing countries to help them enhance their capabilities to report under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.

21. Emphasize the importance of delivering the \$100 billion per annum goal at the twenty-seventh session to implement climate action, and of building trust in the multilateral process to address climate change. We note the inadequacy of the \$100 billion and that the latest Standing Committee on Finance report on the needs of developing countries highlights that the scale of needs for the implementation of nationally determined contributions is \$5.6 trillion up to 2030.

22. Welcome the pledges made at the twenty-sixth session by developed countries to the Adaptation Fund of \$350 million. We urge developed countries to urgently honour their commitments to double adaptation funding.

23. Express concerns that pledges made at the twenty-sixth session to the Adaptation Fund are inadequate and yet to be fulfilled, thus significantly impacting the programming capacity of the Adaptation Fund to support concrete adaptation actions in developing countries, particularly via the Fund's Direct Access modality. We call on developed country Parties to pledge new and additional financial resources to the Adaptation Fund at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties.

24. Express grave concerns about the post-COVID debt crisis of developing countries, particularly in Africa, and highlight that nationally determined contributions cannot be effectively implemented by taking on additional sovereign debt. It is imperative that other creative solutions are found.

25. Welcome the launch of the programme to establish a new finance goal, which must be based on the actual needs of developing countries in implementing the goals agreed in the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and must be accompanied by a climate focused review of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, to meet the enormous challenges of mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.

26. Emphasize the need to avoid unplanned and abrupt divestment from fossil fuels, which will threaten Africa's development, and underline the need for a Just Transitions financing framework to ensure that Africa's shift from fossil fuel use to renewable energy is measured, avoids negative consequences for workers, communities and national economies, and enhances Africa's energy access and development. We call upon developed countries to provide significant financial commitments and investments in renewable energy at scale and support social and equity dimensions of Just Transitions pathways.

27. Urge the consideration of article 6 of the Paris Agreement in terms of raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation actions and helping to meet the cost of adaptation for developing countries, and emphasize the need for market and non-market-based approaches to ensure environmental integrity, avoid duplication and double counting, and support fair regional distribution and inclusiveness.

28. Reaffirm our support for the promotion of gender equality and responsiveness in developing and implementing climate policies. We also encourage the enhancement of the participation of women in the negotiations under the Convention and of their representation in bodies established pursuant to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

29. Further highlight the importance of ensuring strengthened participation of young people, as appropriate, in the design and implementation of climate actions, and emphasize the importance of the views of young people.

30. Emphasize the importance of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform in engaging diverse knowledge, best practices, experience and perspectives to inform climate-related decisions and actions at the national and international levels.

31. Recognize the importance of REDD+ in African countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. We further welcome the successful role of the Green Climate Fund in a pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments, noting the need for adequate and predictable support for the implementation of all REDD+ activities and strategies. We call upon the Green Climate Fund to extend that REDD+ financing equally to African countries.

32. Welcome the convening of the technical phase of the first Global Stocktake and call upon African countries and stakeholders to contribute African perspectives to the Stocktake, covering all aspects of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. We emphasize that the Stocktake should be informed by the best available science and be conducted in a comprehensive, equitable, facilitative and balanced manner in its assessment of the collective efforts of Parties in terms of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, and its recommendations on the way forward.

33. Note with concern the adverse impacts of climate change response measures on African countries and assert that Africa will not bear the costs or assume the responsibilities of other regions for climate actions, such as through unfair and discriminatory carbon border taxes.

34. Express grave concern regarding the proposal for introducing trade barriers, such as unilateral carbon border adjustments, that are discriminatory and against the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We emphasize that measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral measures, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, particularly on African exports.

35. Express appreciation to the coordinators of African climate commissions and initiatives, including the African Island States Climate Commission, the Congo Basin Climate Commission, the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region, the Africa Adaptation Initiative, the African Renewable Energy Initiative, and the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change, for their committed leadership in expediting the operationalization and scaling-up of those initiatives.

36. Welcome the ongoing preparations by the Arab Republic of Egypt to fully operationalize the Africa Adaptation Initiative technical support unit ahead of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties and call on development partners to support its full implementation. We also welcome the initial members of the African Adaptation Initiative Steering Committee (Republic of Gabon as Africa Adaptation Initiative Chair, Arab Republic of Egypt as host of the technical support unit, the African Union Commission, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance) and invite the Africa Adaptation Initiative Chair to ensure full African regional representation in the composition of the Steering Committee in time for the first Steering Committee meeting to be held during the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties.

37. Note the initial findings of the Africa Adaptation Initiative State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2021, which reiterates findings set out in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, namely that Africa has warmed faster than the rest of the world. We further note with concern that while domestic expenditure on adaptation already accounts for approximately 10 per cent of African countries' GDP, current progress in the implementation of adaptation is not sufficient for African countries to stay ahead of the projected climate change risks and address the adaptation gap. We call for the urgent scaling up of adaptation finance to support African countries' efforts in the implementation of adaptation action.

38. Note the findings of the report on the Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa, drafted in response to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 17/2, which urges countries to support the development and implementation of 37 recommended measures as a continent-wide Africa clean air programme, coordinated with strong country-led initiatives, cascaded to the regional economic communities and higher levels of policy setting.