

2023 RCM Africa and AMCEN Briefing and Consultations for UNEP MGS, Africa

Meeting notes

28 July 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions: David Munene and Ayman Cherkaoui (Regional Facilitators) and Isaiah Otieno (UNEP Civil Society Unit)
2. Briefing about the AMCEN
3. Briefing about the RCM based on the Concept Note
4. Panel Discussions
5. Next steps and upcoming opportunities for engagement, including boosting working groups
6. Any other matters
7. Closing

Participants

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ayman Cherkaoui | 12. Grantone | 23. Amal El Bekri |
| 2. David N. Munene | Mwandawiro | 24. Francisca Ziniel |
| 3. Isaiah Otieno | 13. Annet Aluora | 25. Ekitoi Emmanuel |
| 4. Anna Odur | 14. Kimbowa Richard | 26. Elizabeth Kamau |
| 5. Frezer Yeheyis | 15. Nerisa | 27. Tracy Sonny |
| 6. Omoyemen Lucia Odigie | 16. Caroline Usikpedo | 28. Jane Otieno |
| 7. Philip Kilonzo | 17. Rebecca Awinja | 29. Nelly Wanjiru |
| 8. Ingrid Coetzee | 18. Chief Masango Sone | 30. Ebosetale Oriabure |
| 9. Simangele Msweli | 19. Thembelihle Mbokazi | 31. Yahya Msangi |
| 10. Linda Masudze | 20. Abiodun Aderibigbe | 32. David Joseph Allieu |
| 11. Lydia Ndinda | 21. Yemi Katerere | 33. Charles Mwangi |
| | 22. Mercy Munene | |

Summary of Minutes

Introductions: David Munene and Ayman Cherkaoui (Regional Facilitators) and Isaiah Otieno (UNEP Civil Society Unit)

- Welcome remarks from David Munene. Recognition and appreciation to Co-facilitator Ayman Cherkaoui and the team. David went through the agenda for the meeting and opened the floor for other MG Facilitators.
- Communication from Isaiah Otieno, UNEP:
 - Regional Consultative Meeting (RCM) is taking place on 12th and 13th August 2023.
 - AU internet was hacked hence there is a change in the venue for the RCM- the meeting will now take place at Capital Hotel in Addis Ababa.
 - The AMCEN president will be there. The Chief of CSU UNEP will also join the meeting on 14th August. The UNEA6 President is unable to attend due to her calendar schedule.

- Preparation is going on well and thank you to David and Ayman the Regional co-facilitators for a job well done.
- He also shared a list of some of the key upcoming meetings (see list under, “Next steps and upcoming opportunities for engagement, including boosting working groups”).

Briefing about the AMCEN

- Everyone should take note of the various changes mentioned.
- For AMCEN, a new meeting location has not been confirmed yet but will be communicated in due course.
- Confirmed that the hotel venue has been changed for the RCM to Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa.
- Preparations for hybrid mode and translations for the meeting are being worked on.
- Great suggestions from the MGS are coming forth. MGS Africa and other actors are coming together to provide input to AMCEN even those who are not accredited to UNEP are able to participate.

Briefing about the RCM based on the Concept Note

- Concept note will be shared again and the themes for the RCM are aligned with that of AMCEN.
- AMCEN has been active over the years and have so far met more than 18 times with the upcoming meeting being hosted by the Government of Ethiopia.
- Kunming Montreal - Global Biodiversity Framework - AMCEN will discuss implementation of this in the region and impact on Africa.
- We will be looking at the issue of plastic p. Conversations on plastics are already ongoing in other processes including the INC and this will inform the discussions at RCM.
- UNEA 6 is coming up and we have a presidency from Africa - Morocco. The RCM will look at resolutions made at UNEA5 including the issue of chemicals and waste with consideration for discussions on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that took place in Ghana in 2022.
- Target participants at the RCM are about 60 people (in-person) and 60 virtually: MGS Africa Co-facilitators and participants from the group, UNEP staff, resource people and other actors.
- Output from the meeting will be summary and long statements, which will form what is submitted to the African leaders, and will be posted on the UNEP website.

Panel Discussions

Comments from Ayman Cherkaoui

- Ayman and David, as regional facilitators, will present the statement to the AMCEN. However, the content should come directly from the UNEP MGS, Africa. People are urged to participate actively in drafting of the statements.
- Therefore, MGS Africa should (1) Engage actively as participants during the meeting by providing feedback, asking questions etc. (2) Be available as drafters to build on the group's statement to AMCEN. The statement should reflect the AMCEN agenda and be inclusive.

Comments from David Munene

- Agenda for the 2023 RCM has been shared and it remains a working document. Agenda items include welcome and introductions; meeting purpose and expected outcomes; remarks from Regional Facilitator; keynote address from the AMCEN Secretariat; implementation of AMCEN decisions, INC and other processes; climate change; and UNEA 6 among others.
- RCM is aligned to the themes of AMCEN.
- Drafts of thematic group work will be consolidated into one statement. Online participants will be part of the process.
- It will be good for the physical participants to stay near the meeting venue of Capital Hotel Addis Ababa.

Comments from Anna Odur

- Open burning of waste, as a key issue at AMCEN - will this be captured under plastics during the RCM.
- Action: Yes it will and this will be further expounded on during the meeting.

Comments from Ayman Cherkaoui

- SDG Summit in September - this will be a great opportunity to bring in our voice as Africa hence we will be engaging some key people to attend RCM. Contact has already been made with UN's Kofi Kankam in New York.
- We have expertise in various fields in the MGS Africa membership. Hence speaking slots have been allocated to various MGS Africa organizations like WWF among others.

Comments from Ingrid Coetzee

- Agenda is good however the issue of financing needs to be brought out clearly as a cross-cutting theme during the consultations. For example, in the biodiversity agenda, finance is an important component especially as it relates to nature-based solutions and the UN decade for ecosystem restoration.
- Additionally health needs to come out clearly during the meeting, as it has links with plastic, biodiversity, including agriculture and climate.
- As a continent we need to have a strong voice on the triple planetary crisis.

Comment from Yahya Msangi

- Our region is seeing wars which are also affecting the environment - climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. As CSOs, shouldn't this be included in our statement.

Comment from Frezer Yeheyis

- Biodiversity and Population (SRH and family planning).

Comment from Simangele Msweli

- AUC started discussion on the African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to facilitate implementation of Kunming-Montreal GBF in Africa. Resulting document, with 14 ministers in attendance, was a draft and this was to be further discussed at AMCEN.
- Can this be followed up and verified?

Comment from Yemi Katerere

- Supports the point on financing by Ingrid and should be explicit in the agenda especially localization of funding. The GBF fund has specifically provided for at least 30% of funding to go directly to IPLCs

Comment from David Munene

- Action: The RCM concept note cannot be exhausted but we will definitely build on it to develop the statement Addis Ababa with submissions from MGS Africa.
- Also, information will be shared on how AMCEN is being organized and how it works.

Comment from Philip Kilonzo

- He attended the last AMCEN and engaged in drafting of the statement.
- All relevant background documents should be consolidated and people should start reading this now.
- Action: Ayman and David to double check with UNEP on these docs and feedback to the group accordingly. Also some of these documents are only available in English and this limits some colleagues within the group.
- Balance of representation of drafters is important.
- On the agenda, the first day after the tea-break looks crowded.
- Action: Consider reviewing that part of the schedule. Interpretation needs to be available during the thematic group discussions to ensure richness of discussion.
- Action: Ayman working on the interpreters issue; the second day of the meeting will be dedicated to drafting of the statement. Also, organizations willing to contribute financially to the meeting are welcome.

Comment from Caroline Usikpedo

- For the interpretation issue, we can internally identify those amongst us who can translate during the meeting.
- Also clarity was needed on the role of MGS Africa in the days after the RCM.

Comment from David Munene

- AMCEN comprises two segments: the Expert Session which is a Member State driven process and the High-level Ministerial segment where we still have input as MGS Africa.
- In the statement we share with the Ministers, we will be given between 3 -5 minutes and hence it is important to extract and bring out the key messages clearly from our document.
- Some of the working sessions may not be open to statements from the MGS, and this is okay. Please follow the rules of procedure during sessions.

Comment from Omoyemen Lucia

- Will we have drafting groups before the RCM? David confirmed that the thematic working groups for the RCM will be instituted during the meeting and these are different from the working groups of MGS Africa that have previously been set up.

Next steps and upcoming opportunities for engagement, including boosting working groups

- Second ad hoc Open Ended Working Group of the Science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution - 11 Dec 2023 - 15 Dec 2023
- Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee - 13 Nov 2023 - 19 Nov 2023
- The Second Regional and Global Consultations on Nature-based Solutions will be a in-person meeting - 9 Oct 2023 - 13 Oct 2023
- Africa Regional Meeting in preparation for the second ad hoc Open Ended Working Group of the Science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution - 14 September 2023
- UNEA 5/12 Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management - Global Intergovernmental Meeting – 7 Sep 2023 - 8 Sep 2023
- Source to Sea Symposium: Blue Ecosystems Connections: deadline 9 September 2023. - 2 Oct 2023 - 4 Oct 2023

Any other matters

N/A

Closing remarks from Ayman

- Thank you David and thank you everyone.
- Power and strength comes from all of us as the Major Groups and Stakeholders.
- Finalization of preparations for the RCM are being done.

Annex

1. Meeting Recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Mn7HZUAVOU8zfZFKHLG43AVcvuuFcbh0kzwZPOO9Pipim6FXsf6zfBmQyzOfsVsa.fkgghD3rxPUMw2EL>

Passcode: xSA@+c0y

2. Screenshots/Photos

