

**10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 20 - 24 November 2023, Nairobi**

**Statements by Ethiopia as President of AMCEN – Opening Plenary Session (Monday, 20 November 2023, at 10h00)**

*Mr. Chairperson*

*Mrs. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP,*

*Your Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Ethiopia is honored, in its capacity as new President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), to present to this august assembly the key conclusions of the 19<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the AMCEN held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 August 2023, under the theme ***“Seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa.”***

**Mr. Chairperson**

Ethiopia is now presiding over AMCEN for the next two years and had the privilege of hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of AMCEN. The Conference adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration and several other decisions on environmental aspects of critical minerals in Africa for the clean energy transition; implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in Africa; on the participation and contribution of Africa to the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-3), on the participation of Africa to the development of the beyond 2020 global chemicals and waste management framework ; and on climate change ahead of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Mr Chairperson**

The Addis Ababa Declaration emphasized Ministers’ resolve to continue strengthening the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the principal forum for

advancing collective national and regional environmental policies and actions. Over the years, AMCEN has established several Africa groups of negotiators on various thematic issues which enables to have unified African common positions in crucial global environmental issues. The Declaration also supports the work of the newly established African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies in March 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda. Besides this, the Ministers called upon the United Nations Environment Assembly at its 6<sup>th</sup> session to adopt a resolution on fostering national action to address environmental challenges through increased cooperation and convergence of action with UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements. They also supported the establishment of a legally binding instrument to address drought during the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to be held in December 2024. The Ministers highlighted the importance of implementing the pledge to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 as per the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

### **Mr Chairperson**

Innovative initiatives such as the Great Green Wall and the Ethiopian Prime Minister's Green Legacy initiative are all ambitious nature-based solutions aimed at reducing desertification, reclaiming degraded land and restoring ecosystems that have the potential to increase carbon sequestration, improve biodiversity health and increase economic opportunities.

Minister's noted the immense contribution these projects are making in driving progress towards reducing desertification, soil and land degradation in Africa. Ministers also expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through updating or revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans or national targets. They called for joint advocacy efforts to ensure that the biodiversity finance gap of USD700 billion per year is closed in full, and that international financial flows to developing countries are increased to at least USD20

billion per year by 2025 and ultimately increased to at least USD100 billion per year. Ministers further stressed the urgent need to implement the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

**Mr Chairperson**

On climate change, the ministers stressed the importance of operationalizing the global goal on adaptation and launch of the loss and damage fund at the 28th session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate change, including adopting decisions on global adaptation targets and indicators to facilitate adaptation action and increase the ability of parties to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change. They also took note of the ongoing initiatives to reform the multilateral financial system and highlighted the importance of establishing mechanisms to ensure that Africa receives its fair share of financial resources and flows of investment to deliver just transition pathways. Ministers urged regional financial institutions to support the implementation of the African Green Stimulus Programme and to take it into consideration in their future programming.

To conclude, Ethiopia as President of AMCEN is looking forward to the implementation of the Declaration and Decisions, in collaboration with all member states and partners.

**Thank you for your attention.**