

STATEMENT BY AFRICA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO THE OECPR-2

Nairobi | 19.02.2016

We representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders from Africa met in Nairobi at the Second meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-2) to prepare for the Second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2).

We welcome resolutions proposed and agreed by Member States at the OECPR-2 and would like to highlight a few issues arising from the resolutions to our African governments and leaders. These are vital for our continent's sustainable development and livelihood.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

We take note of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We therefore call upon African countries to adopt an integrated approach to implement the SDGs. Furthermore, we stress the need to draw a link between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union. While implementing the SDGs, governments should ensure a reduction in inequalities, especially gender inequalities and respect for human rights.

To ensure ownership and enhance implementation of the SDGs, we call upon African governments to facilitate genuine and active participatory review processes for Major Groups and Stakeholders. Also, importantly, we call upon them to strategically mobilize domestic resources, which can be supplemented by external funds.

Sustainable and Optimal Management of Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

We call for promotion of inclusive and sustainable use of natural capital that delivers benefits for people, including women and youth. This should include awareness raising and harnessing multiple additional values of natural capital stock while continuing to protect the environment. Value addition will create jobs, wealth and improve well-being for African communities.

Climate Change and Effective Implementation of the Paris Agreement

We welcome the adoption of the Paris Agreement with recognition that major effort is required to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. We therefore call upon African governments to urge developed countries to take the necessary executive and legislative action to sign, ratify and implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement as soon as possible. We further call upon African governments to urge developed countries to fulfil their financial commitment for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

We urge Parties of the Montreal Protocol to amend the Protocol this year at the 27th Meeting of the Parties in order to phase down the Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Illegal Trade in Wildlife Flora and Fauna

We support efforts to eradicate illicit exploitation and the illegal trade in wild fauna and flora to this effect:

- a. Note with great concern the lack of progress in reducing and eliminating the evil of the Illegal Wildlife Trade;
- b. Call upon Member States to eradicate the demand for illegal wildlife and their products; and
- c. Further call upon governments to enhance governance, law and enforcement, corruption eradication measures, and the provision of technology and capacity building in Africa to eradicate the Illegal Wildlife Trade;

Renewable Energy

We recognize Africa's huge energy potential including wind, solar and geothermal as the engine for Africa sustainable development. However, we are concerned about the lack of access to energy in Africa.

We therefore call upon African countries to promote the energy mix and invest in renewable energy for sustainable development.

Water, Land and Air Quality

We are concerned about the deterioration of water, land and air quality in Africa. We therefore call upon UNEP and Member States to put a high priority on strengthening water, land and air quality monitoring in Africa.

We reiterate our commitment to the sustainable development of our continent and well-being of its people.

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