

History of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

1985 – 2005



African Ministerial
Conference on the
Environment
(AMCEN)

HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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AMCEN Secretariat

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEIN	Africa Environment Information Network
AEO	Africa Environment Outlook
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
CAMRE	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPF	Indicative Planning Figures
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

GLOSSARY

Abidjan Convention: see “Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region”

Abuja Treaty: see “Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community”

African Common Position on Environment and Development: adopted in 1991 by representatives of African Governments and presented at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This position paper emphasized that developmental and environmental concerns were inextricably linked in Africa and that development strategies in the future should emphasize economic growth through poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention): adopted at Algiers in September 1968 and entered into force in June 1969. In 1980, Nigeria and Cameroon urged the Organization of African Unity, as the depositary of the Convention, to launch a process to revise the Algiers Convention and bring it in line with other treaties in the field. Between 1980 and 1986 work was done to revise and update the Algiers Convention but this could not be completed at the time. At its ninth session AMCEN decided to request the African Union to conclude the process. The Algiers Convention has since been revised and adopted by the African Union.

African Union: on 9 September 1999, the heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity issued a declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an African Union, with a view, among other things, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems, compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalization.

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