



## *African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

### **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

#### **Sixteenth session**

Meeting of the expert group

Libreville, 12–14 June 2017

## **Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with paragraph 1 of article 9 of its constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. An offer by the Government of Gabon to host the sixteenth session was accepted by the Conference at its fifteenth session, held in Cairo from 2 to 6 March 2015.
2. Pursuant to that offer, it was agreed that the sixteenth session would be held in Libreville from 12 to 16 June 2017. The session will consist of an expert group segment, to be held from 12 to 14 June, and a ministerial segment, to be held on 15 and 16 June.
3. The Bureau of the Conference considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the expert segment of the sixteenth session, which is set out in document AMCEN/16/EGM/1. The Bureau also endorsed “Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa” as the theme for the session.
4. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the sixteenth session (AMCEN/16/INF/1). A complete list of the documents prepared for the session is provided in annex I to the present document.

### **II. Objectives and overview of the sixteenth session**

5. The main objective of the sixteenth session is to provide a platform for African ministers of the environment to deliberate on the strategies, plans and investments required for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa’s Agenda 2063.
6. The session will provide an opportunity for the African region to prepare for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017, and the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017. It will also be an opportunity for participants to be updated on the implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Africa Adaptation Initiative.
7. In addition, the experts will consider key issues to be discussed at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to be held in Nairobi in December 2017 under the theme “Towards a pollution-free planet”, with a view to reaching an agreement on Africa’s common approach for engagement in the Assembly.
8. The experts will also consider issues related to the Conference, such as the implementation of the regional flagship programmes; the specialized technical committees of the African Union and the status of the Conference; and the status and use of the general trust fund of the Conference.
9. The session will offer an opportunity to discuss other pertinent issues, initiatives and processes related to the environment and sustainable development in the continent, including oceans governance; implementation of the action plan on illegal wildlife trade; migration and environmental security; energy; preparation for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on

Biological Diversity; review of the outcomes of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; and environment and youth engagement.

10. The expert group will bring the above issues to the attention of ministers for their consideration. The ministers are expected to adopt a declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting discussions under the various items of the agenda.

### **III. Items of the provisional agenda**

#### **Item 1**

##### **Opening of the session**

11. The representative of the President of the Conference, the Minister of Environment of Egypt, will chair the expert group segment, while the representative of the Vice-President of the Conference (Gabon) will serve as Rapporteur. In the absence of either of those Bureau members, a Bureau meeting will be convened on the eve of the opening of the sixteenth session to take stock of the management of the Conference and decide which Bureau members present will be assigned responsibilities during the sixteenth session, in accordance with the constitution of the Conference.

12. The Bureau of the Conference currently comprises the following members:

- (a) President: Egypt;
- (b) Vice-Presidents: Namibia, Niger and Uganda;
- (c) Vice-President and Rapporteur: Gabon.

13. Representatives of United Nations entities, the African Union, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency, the subregional economic communities of Africa, the African Development Bank and other bilateral and multilateral partners are expected to attend the session.

14. The representative of the Vice-President of the Conference from Gabon will deliver a welcoming statement. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme, as secretariat of the Conference, and the African Union Commission will also make opening statements, followed by the representative of the President of the Conference who will deliver opening remarks.

#### **Item 2**

##### **Organizational matters**

15. The expert group will have before it the provisional agenda (AMCEN/16/EGM/1) to consider for adoption. The work programme for the expert group is contained in annex II to the present document.

##### **(a) Election of officers**

16. In accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the Conference and its rules of procedure, the expert group segment will be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the fifteenth session. Accordingly, Egypt will serve as Chair, while Gabon will act as Rapporteur.

17. Subregional consultations will be encouraged for the election of the office-bearers for the biennium 2017–2018 to fill the posts of Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur representing West, North, East and Southern Africa on the Bureau of the Conference. A breakdown of the office bearers since 1985 will be circulated for use during consideration of this sub-item.

##### **(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

18. The experts may wish to adopt their agenda and organization of work on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/16/EGM/1) and the programme of work contained in annex II to the present document.

19. The expert group may wish to establish such working groups as it may deem necessary. The Chair will invite experts to join any such groups and to make their choices known to the secretariat by close of business on the first day of the meeting.

#### **Item 3**

##### **Consideration of the report of the secretariat**

20. The secretariat will introduce a report on the activities of the Conference for the period from 15 March 2015 to 31 May 2017 (AMCEN/16/EGM/3).

## **Item 4**

### **Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

#### **(a) Trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

21. The general trust fund of the Conference was established to provide full or partial financial support to the functioning of the organs of the Conference and the implementation of its activities. There has, however, been limited success in ensuring that all member States make their contributions to the trust fund and do so in a timely manner. Many member States have yet to contribute to the fund, despite appeals by the Conference and reminders by the President of the Conference and the secretariat.

22. Contributions to the trust fund, and the interest that is generated, are in decline, rendering the situation unsustainable to the extent that it may be difficult to convene future sessions of the Conference if the current trend continues. The sixteenth session will need to come up with a commitment from member States that they will honour their obligations and ensure that they make their contributions to the trust fund and do so in a timely manner. A representative of the secretariat will introduce a report on the general trust fund (AMCEN/16/4).

#### **(b) Regional flagship programmes**

23. At its fourteenth session, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 10 to 14 September 2012, the Conference agreed to develop and implement regional flagship programmes as a means to contribute to the effective implementation in Africa of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

24. At its fifth special session, the Conference also adopted a decision calling for the establishment of a steering committee within the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to guide the overall development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes. The steering committee was requested to establish such programme coordination committees and working groups or other relevant bodies as might be necessary to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the regional flagship programmes.

25. Some progress has been reported with regard to the implementation of the flagship programmes. At the sixth special session of the Conference, reconsideration of the architecture for the implementation of the regional flagship programmes had been proposed, both at the overall coordination level and at the national level, to assess whether the arrangements proposed at the fourteenth session were functioning as envisaged. The experts will be expected to review the relevance and implementation of these flagship programmes. A representative of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency will provide an update on the progress made in the implementation of the regional flagship programmes.

#### **(c) Specialized technical committees of the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

26. At its sixth special session, the Conference emphasized that in the current phase of implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – particularly its environmental dimension – and other important international commitments, AMCEN continues to have a critical role to play in promoting and protecting Africa's interests. The Conference agreed to request that the Assembly of the African Union review its decision to abolish AMCEN as a regional ministerial body.

27. The secretariat was requested to prepare a brief report highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of retaining AMCEN, which has been made available (AMCEN/16/7). A brief presentation will be made by the secretariat on this sub-item.

## **Item 5**

### **Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa**

28. In 2015, the African ministers of the environment, through AMCEN, affirmed that natural capital provided a gateway to actualize inclusive sustainable development in Africa. This was captured in the Cairo Declaration on Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, adopted at the fifteenth session.

29. This paradigm was further endorsed during the sixth special session of the Conference in April 2016. Faced with the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on

climate change and Africa's Agenda 2063, and in the face of astronomical costs, member States secured a space for the environment as a solution by pitching how natural capital can contribute financially, economically, socially and environmentally towards implementation of these frameworks.

30. In 2017, almost two years after the adoption of the above frameworks, a number of countries have developed strategies and plans to help to implement the above frameworks. However, the continent needs to explore practical, innovative environmental solutions to directly accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 aspirations.

31. The Conference at its sixteenth session is expected to explore how to practically unlock domestic and international innovative financing solutions for the environment and catalytic sectors to ensure the environment innovatively contributes to financing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. A short presentation will be made by the secretariat on the agenda item. The secretariat has also prepared a discussion paper on the subject (AMCEN/16/3).

## **Item 6**

### **Towards a pollution-free planet: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

32. The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, is scheduled to be held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017 under the overarching theme "Towards a pollution-free planet".

33. Universal membership in the United Nations Environment Assembly calls for the effective engagement of all African countries in order to help shape the environmental agenda and influence the areas of focus and priorities of UNEP in support to Africa. The sixteenth session will provide an opportunity for Africa to agree on a common approach for effective engagement in the work of the Assembly. Africa's strategic and active engagement in the work of the Assembly will ensure that the priorities of the region are addressed and prioritized in terms of follow-up and implementation.

34. A brief presentation will be made by a representative of the African Diplomatic Corps technical team based in Nairobi on the progress made in relation to the preparation for the third session, including proposed resolutions and key priority areas for Africa, while a representative of the secretariat will make a presentation on the theme of the session "Towards a pollution-free planet". Elements related to this agenda item are set out in document AMCEN/16/6.

## **Item 7**

### **Other issues related to sustainable development in Africa**

35. Brief presentations will be given on other issues related to sustainable development in Africa, such as climate change; desertification; oceans; illegal wildlife trade; migration and environmental security; energy; environment and youth engagement; the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; and preparations for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The presentations are intended to introduce the topics enabling a more detailed discussion during the working group sessions.

#### **(a) Climate Change**

36. With 37 ratifications as of mid-May, representing a ratification rate of some 68 per cent, Africa is among the regions with the highest number of countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement. Such leadership demonstrates that the region has taken cue of the opportunities inherent in the agreement. The secretariat will give a brief presentation focusing on the analysis for catalytically implementing Africa's climate obligations (AMCEN/16/EGM/7).

37. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators will then give an overview and report on the progress made with regard to the operationalization of the Paris Agreement, as well as on outstanding issues in preparation for the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

38. The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative was launched in Paris during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a transformative, Africa-owned and Africa-led inclusive effort to accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent's huge renewable energy potential. A representative of the President of AMCEN will introduce this sub-item with the view to providing an update on the progress made in the implementation of the Initiative.

39. The importance of adaptation has regularly been emphasized as a priority for Africa. To this end, the Africa Adaptation Initiative was launched in Paris during the twenty-first session in order to

galvanize support for the development and implementation of concrete actions on adaptation. A representative of the President of AMCEN will introduce the sub-item and invite participants to discuss how to increase visibility and ensure mobilization of adequate resources for the implementation of the initiative.

40. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held a scoping meeting in Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 May 2017 to draft the outline of its sixth assessment report, which will assess the scientific findings that have been published since the fifth assessment report, completed in 2014. A further scoping meeting is planned to draft the outline of the synthesis report, which will integrate the three working group contributions and the three special reports that are being prepared in this assessment cycle. A representative of the President of AMCEN will introduce the sub-item and invite participants to discuss how the region can actively participate in the process.

41. Finally, a representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre based in Addis Ababa will give a brief overview of its work on climate change and resilience in the region.

**(b) Desertification**

42. Tremendous effort is being made by African countries to address land degradation and desertification. However, many of the challenges associated with land degradation and desertification require sustained integrated efforts over long periods of time, substantial financial investments and technological, institutional and human capacity.

43. The Conference at its sixteenth session may wish to propose a decision on developing a binding protocol on drought risk management for enhancing resilience. The decision could be submitted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in line with the Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa, which calls for the operationalization of the Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa and the implementation of Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa programmes at the national level.

44. The sixteenth session of AMCEN provides an opportunity for the African region to prepare for and to speak with one voice and purpose at the thirteenth session. A representative of Namibia will make a brief presentation on this sub-item. The secretariat has also prepared a note on the subject (AMCEN/16/EGM/6).

**(c) Ocean governance**

45. Africa's marine and coastal environment is endowed with abundant resources. However, poor governance infrastructure and institutional frameworks have led to overexploitation, degradation and depletion of those resources. As a result of weak governance structures, national economies are experiencing revenue leaks and losses leading to poverty among the coastal communities that depend on the marine and coastal resources directly or indirectly. Ocean governance issues have attracted the attention of most coastal States, especially the small island developing States, and regional bodies such as the African Union.

46. Application of appropriate ocean policies, legislation and strengthened governance institutions with the ability to internalize environmental values in business practices, provide for more inclusive employment and meet the production and consumption needs of the coastal States will strengthen national economies and minimize revenue losses, leading to wealth and job creation among the coastal communities. Elements related to this agenda item are set out in document AMCEN/16/EGM/8.

**(d) Illegal trade in wildlife**

47. As a follow-up to the endorsement of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, the African Union Commission has held consultation meetings to develop a coordination structure for the implementation of the Strategy, review the implementation plan and develop indicators to monitor the implementation of the Strategy.

48. A technical advisory committee meeting held in April 2017 provided an opportunity to highlight key decisions and resolutions adopted during the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held in Johannesburg in September 2016. Discussions were also held during the meeting on how the strategy could further support existing mechanisms at the country level, as well as on the tools and services available through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime that could assist countries in implementing their strategies. A representative of the African Union Commission will

introduce this sub-item and invite participants to discuss how to move forward with the implementation of the strategy.

**(e) Migration and environmental security**

49. While the precise roles of the environment in peace, conflict, destabilization and human insecurity may differ from situation to situation and as such are still being debated in relation to other security and conflict variables, there are growing indications that it is increasingly an underlying cause of instability, conflict and unrest.

50. Therefore the environmental community has an important role to play in building awareness of the ecological drivers of displacement and migration; strengthening the capacity of communities and countries to withstand shocks and environmental change; and helping to plan the relocation of communities likely to be displaced by unavoidable environmental change. A short presentation will be made by the secretariat on this sub-item with a view to discussing how the environment can be an asset for peacebuilding and livelihoods. Elements related to this sub-item are set out in document AMCEN/16/EGM/5.

**(f) Energy**

51. Africa faces enormous energy challenges due to a significant growth in population and a sustained period of economic growth and transformation. Though there have been improvements and progress made in the past decade in terms of sustainable energy development, the speed on energy access and renewable energy development falls far short of achieving universal energy access for Africa by 2030.

52. A short presentation will be made by the secretariat on this sub-item with a view to stimulating discussion on how to accelerate renewable energy development in Africa. Elements related to this sub-item are set out in document AMCEN/16/EGM/4.

**(g) Environment and youth engagement**

53. Young people constitute a large part of Africa's population. Many, especially young children, are particularly vulnerable to environmental risks associated with, for example, access to clean and safe drinking water. In addition, young people will have to live longer with the consequences of current environmental decisions.

54. Because youth have a stronger awareness of the issues and a greater stake in long-term sustainability, the environment is one area in which they ought to be fully engaged with regard to decision-making. Elements related to this sub-item are set out in document AMCEN/16/EGM/9.

**(h) Briefings on the outcomes of the recent conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

55. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants were held in Geneva from 24 April to 5 May 2017.

56. The main outcome of the conferences of the Parties was the listing of additional chemicals, the establishment of a new partnership on household waste and a mandate for tackling marine plastics. The secretariat has prepared an information note on the subject (AMCEN/16/INF/3).

**(i) Update on preparations for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention**

57. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire had indicated its readiness to host the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa in Abidjan from 18 to 20 October 2017. The meeting will provide an opportunity to review the work of the Convention and implementation of decisions taken at the first Conference of the Parties, held in Bamako in July 2013, and to discuss and adopt means to further strengthen the operationalization of the Convention.

**(j) Update on the preparations for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

58. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, will be held in Egypt in the last quarter of 2018. A representative of the Government of Egypt will provide an update on the preparations for the Conference.

**(k) Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**

59. The global efforts to protect the climate and the ozone layer culminated in the adoption of the Kigali Amendment by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held in Kigali in October 2016. Under the Amendment, all countries will gradually phase down hydrofluorocarbons, a policy move that would avoid up to 0.5°C of global warming by the end of the century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer. The Amendment will enter into force on 1 January 2019, provided that it is ratified by at least 20 parties to the Montreal Protocol. African countries are encouraged to ratify this Amendment. The secretariat has prepared an information note on the subject (AMCEN/16/INF/4).

**Item 8****Breakout sessions**

60. The expert segment is expected to establish four working groups. The experts will be invited to join any such groups and make their choices known to the secretariat by close of business on Monday, 12 June 2017.

**(a) Investing in innovative environmental solutions**

61. The first working group will deliberate on investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa. The group will need to explore practical, innovative environmental solutions to directly accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. The working group is also expected to work on the key messages, relevant decision(s) and elements of the proposed Libreville declaration.

62. The second working group will be mainly composed of the African Group of Negotiators and will work on updating the African common negotiation position and platform on climate change. The group will also deliberate on the operationalization of the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as outstanding issues in preparation for the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The group will also review the implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Africa Adaptation Initiative. The working group is also expected to work on relevant decision(s), key messages for the Conference and elements of the proposed Libreville declaration.

**(b) Third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

63. The third group will deliberate on the preparation for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including proposed resolutions and key priority areas for Africa, including the theme of the session "Towards a pollution-free planet". The group is expected to come up with Africa's common approach for effective engagement in the work of the Assembly. The working group

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_16108](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_16108)

