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Expert segment

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Progress on the development of the regional flagship programmes for the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes***I. Draft Concept note of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework for the implementation of Rio+20 Outcomes in Africa****A. Context**

1. The African Consensus Statement, adopted by the Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and subsequently approved as Africa's Common Position for Rio+20 by the eighteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, noted with a strong sense of optimism, the modest gains that the region had achieved in environmental sustainability and called for enhanced commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development to further consolidate progress made. It noted that Africa's progress towards sustainable development is being severely compromised by new and emerging challenges, including the impact of climate change but it also recognized that some of these new and emerging challenges also provide opportunities such as spurring the transition to a green economy as a means of poverty reduction and social inclusion, taking into account the human resource potential and the vast and largely untapped natural resources that are being discovered in many African countries.
2. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.
3. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFPs) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of Rio +20 outcome. In this context, the 14th session of AMCEN identified ten areas that need to be considered for the development of the flagship programmes.
4. Subsequent working sessions convened by the African Union Commission and AMCEN Bureau defined the areas of poverty eradication and sustainable livelihood as an overall objective that has to guide all flagship programmes while capacity building, technology transfer and skills

* The present document has not been formally edited.

development is to be addressed as a cross cutting theme across the flagship programmes. The working sessions also further consolidated the eight remaining priority areas into the following five Regional Flagship Programmes that will enable African countries to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable development:

- (a) African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP);
- (b) Sustainable Land Management, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (LDBE);
- (c) Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa (PSCP-Africa);
- (d) African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development (APSED);
- (f) Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development (AIEASD).

5. Five workings groups coordinated by self-committed partner agencies worked on the development of the Draft Concept notes for the above five Flagship Programmes and these were presented and reviewed by an AMCEN Expert Meeting that was convened from 10-12 April 2013 in Dar es Salam, Tanzania.

6. The Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) for the Twentieth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20), held in November 2012 adopted its Outcome Document, which constitutes Africa's collective input to CSD-20 and other post-Rio+20 follow-up processes. The Outcome Document called for an Action Plan on the Rio+20 outcomes on the basis of the Outcome Document, to be prepared and implemented jointly by AUC, ECA and AfDB in collaboration with all stakeholders and other partners at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels. The Sixth Joint Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa underlined that the Regional action plan should include strategies for the integration of the Rio+20 outcomes into national development policies, strategies and plans, taking into account the need for balancing economic, social and environmental development imperatives. The Regional Flagship Programmes for the implementation of Rio+20 will constitute part of the action plan at the Regional level.

7. This concept note is prepared building upon the outcomes of the above process and the inputs received during the AMCEN Expert Meeting to serve as an overall Regional Framework for the further development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes.

B. Objectives

8. The overall objective of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework is to facilitate the effective implementation of Rio+20 outcome by providing a coherent framework that respond to the need and priorities of African countries and provide a platform for a more coordinated engagement and support of development partners to the region. The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Support the development and implementation of strategic regional programmes that contribute to the broader objective of sustainable development and poverty eradication in Africa;
- (b) Facilitate the development of the capacity of African countries to identify and address the specific capacity building needs of the region;
- (c) Provide a coherent regional framework that promotes synergies and coordination between different regional programmes that are addressing different dimensions of sustainable development;
- (d) Serve as a regional platform for further strengthening Africa's partnership on mainstreaming environmental sustainability in the Region's development agenda in accordance with the NEPAD environmental action plan.

C. Expected Outcomes

9. The following are the key expected outcomes from the effective implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes through a coherent Framework:

- (a) Domestication and integration of strategies, plans and strategies at regional, sub-regional and national level, to implement Rio+20 priorities identified by AMCEN.
- (b) Better alignment of support provided by partners with the strategic priorities and needs of countries in the region within the context of the Rio+20 Outcome.

- (c) Improved quality of support provided to African countries through better coordination of programme activities and efficient use of resources between development partners.
- (d) Consolidated capacity building, technology transfer and skills development for African countries to implement Rio+20 outcomes on Green Economy, contributing to poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- (e) Improved management of natural resources and ecosystems services that could serve as the ecological foundation for the Region's sustainable development.
- (f) Enhanced implementation of the African 10 Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production as part of the Global 10 Year Framework of Programmes.
- (g) Continued progress towards achieving sustainable energy mix that includes increased proportion of renewable energy, expanding energy access and increased energy efficiency as part of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative.
- (h) Enhanced capacity of African countries to effectively use Integrated Environmental Assessment tools in their national development planning processes.

D. Key Actions

10. The following are identified as the key actions that need to be undertaken by AMCEN Member countries, with the support of regional and sub-regional institutions, UN agencies, development partners and CSOs under the Regional Flagship Programme Framework in support of the activities that are to be implemented under each of the regional Flagship Programmes:

- (a) Organize a functional coordination and support structure that facilitates the development and implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes building upon existing structures and coordination mechanisms.
- (b) Conduct a detailed assessment on existing programmes and initiatives under the five Regional Flagship Programmes and identify current needs and gaps, including capacity gaps, which need to be addressed at the regional and sub-regional level.
- (c) Develop sub-regional programmes that encompass the Regional Flagship Programmes with a focus on capacity building and technology support that facilitate the coherent implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes through active involvement of Regional Economic Communities.
- (d) Promote the substantive link between the Regional Flagship Programme Framework and existing strategic partnership programmes with development partners.
- (e) Establish a mechanism for mobilizing the required resource both from within and outside the region for the implementation of the framework programme.
- (f) Monitor the progress on implementation and organize regional review meetings that would propose ways for improving its implementation, bearing in mind the developments on the institutional framework for sustainable development as a follow up to Rio+20, in particular the High Level Political Forum and its regional chapter.

E. Modality of Implementation

11. The following constitute the proposed key modality of implementation proposed for the Regional Flagship Programme Framework:

- (a) Policy Guidance: The African Union Commission through the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment shall provide the overall policy guidance for the development and implementation of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework;
- (b) Framework Coordination: a Regional Steering Committee co-chaired by the African Union Commission and AMCEN, with two representatives from each of the Programme Coordination Committee of the Regional Flagship programmes shall be responsible for the overall coordination of the Regional Framework Programme;
- (c) Programme Coordination: a Programme Coordination Committee co-chaired by a representative of an African Country (AMCEN Bureau) and a development agency shall be responsible for the development and implementation of the individual flagship programmes;
- (d) Secretariat: The Bureau of AMCEN in consultation with the African Union Commission shall designate an existing agency who could serve as the Secretariat for the overall coordination of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework. Partner agencies shall volunteer to

serve as secretariat for the coordination of the implementation of the five Regional flagship programmes;

(e) Technical Committees: time-bounded technical committees could be formed at the framework or programme level as required.

F. Resource mobilization

12. One of the core functions of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework will be facilitating effective and efficient utilization of existing resources through the promotion of synergies and cooperation between complementary initiatives and partner institutions. In addition to this, the following modality will be used to facilitate targeted resource mobilization for the implementation of the Regional Framework Programme.

(a) Framework resource mobilization: this is the core resource that is required for the overall coordination of the regional framework programme that supports the development and implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes. The Bureau of AMCEN shall take the lead on mobilization. This will include:

- (i) Funding through the key strategic partnership programmes with Africa;
- (ii) Contributions from African countries to be made through AMCEN Trust Fund; and
- (iii) Contribution and in kind support to be provided by UN Agencies and other partner organizations.

(b) Programme Resource mobilization: This constitutes the bulk of the Resource that will be required to implement the five Regional Flagship Programmes. The agencies that are taking the lead responsibility for the coordination of the respective Regional Flagship Programmes and the partner agencies involved shall be responsible for the mobilization of this resource. This will be achieved through:

- (i) Programme synergy: pooling of resources that are to be allocated by the partner agencies to the respective programme areas through provision of more coordinated support to African countries.
- (ii) Joint Programming: development of Joint regional programmes that could be implemented with the involvement of the relevant agencies through a joint resource mobilization efforts.

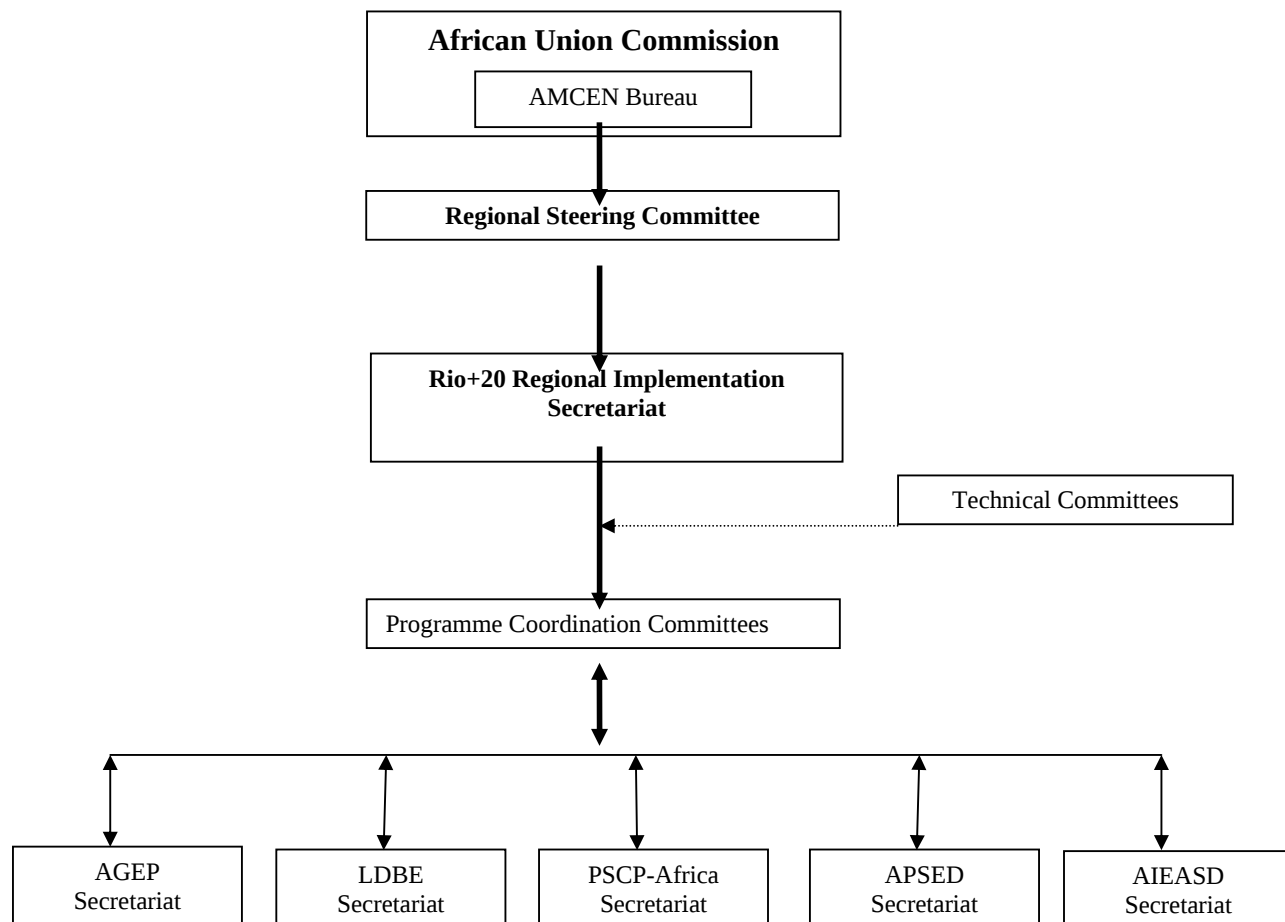
G. Indicative core budget

13. The following is an indicative budget required for the first two years of coordinating the Regional Framework Programme and undertaking the core activities that are outlined under the section on key actions.

	Budget item	USD
1.	Secretariat for the Framework Programme	300,000
2.	Regional Assessment	250,000
3.	Sub-regional Programme development (5 X 100,000)	500,000
4.	Regional capacity building	500,000
5.	Monitoring and Regional Review meeting	250,000
	Total	2,300,000

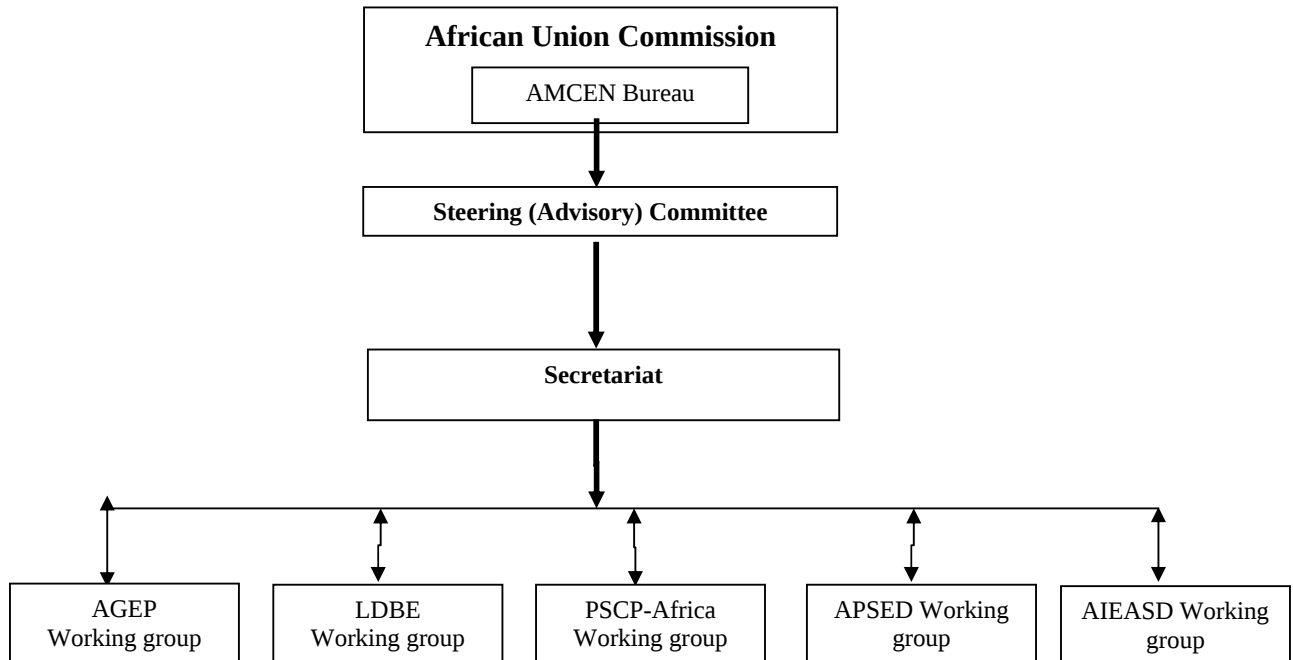
Coordination Structure for Regional Implementation of Rio+20 (the following two options are proposed to be considered by the AMCEN Special Session)

Option one:



Option2:

Coordination Structure for Regional Implementation of Rio+20



Annex I

Draft concept notes of the Regional Flagship Programmes for the implementation of the Rio+20 Outcomes in Africa as revised by the AMCEN Expert Meeting 10-12 April 2013, Dar es Salam, Tanzania

I. Revised Draft Concept Note on African Green Economy¹ Partnership (AGEP)

A. Context

1. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012 (Rio+20) underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.

2. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFPs) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP) is proposed to be one of the Regional flagship programmes to be developed under this regional initiative. AGEP is expected to facilitate synergy and cooperation between national and regional actors and organizations that provide support to African countries.

B. Background

3. The African Consensus Statement, adopted by the Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and subsequently approved as Africa's Common Position for Rio+20 by the eighteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, recognized that 'the transition to a green economy could offer new opportunities for advancing the achievement of Africa's sustainable development objectives through economic growth, employment creation, and the reduction of poverty and inequalities, in accordance with the principles and recommendations of the 1992 Rio Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development' (Source: Paragraph 22 of African Consensus Statement).

4. The Rio+20 Outcome Document underlined that 'Green Economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and that it could provide options for policymaking but should not be a rigid set of rules' (Source: Paragraph 56 of Rio+20 Outcome Document). Rio+20 called upon UN entities and other partners to "support developing countries upon request to achieve sustainable development including through, inter alia, green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular the least developed countries" (Para. 68).

5. The Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) for the Twentieth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20) adopted its Outcome Document and requested ECA, AUC, AfDB, UNEP, UNDP and other regional partners to support Africa's sustainable development efforts, "including through: (i) assessing the challenges and opportunities of pursuing inclusive green growth for their development agenda; (ii) supporting the development of inclusive green growth policies and strategies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; (iii) establishing mechanisms for sharing toolboxes and best practices in applying policies on green

¹ In the context of this flagship programme, the term Green Economy stands for an inclusive and green growth that is low carbon, climate resilient, resource efficient and equitable and contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

economy/green growth, good examples of policies promoting inclusive green growth; and (iv) developing and applying methodologies for assessing policies on inclusive green growth.” (Paragraph 41).

6. A number of African countries have already started taking concrete strategic measures that place Green Economy at the center of their national development strategy. As a result, increasing number of African countries are taking the lead initiative for utilizing these opportunities by developing national Green Economy and Green Growth strategies. Notable examples include Green Growth and Climate Resilient: National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development of Rwanda, Climate Resilient and Green Economy strategy of Ethiopia, the Green Economy Roadmap of Mozambique and New Growth Path of South Africa. African countries need to further consolidate and strengthen this effort at the national/regional level in order to ensure the development of their economies on a sustainable basis.

7. A number of development partners are also supporting different countries in developing national Green Economy Strategies and action plans. The following are some of the key support programmes that can be used as the building blocks of the African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP);

(a) UNEP, through its Green Economy Advisory Services, is working with government and national institutions on green economy assessments to examine the opportunities and challenges to the transition to green economy, looking in particular at the policy options available to shift current investment patterns and catalyze new flows into key sectors for increased income and employment. Such assessments are underway in 7 countries in Africa while it is being initiated in many other African countries;

(b) UNEP, UNDP and UN DESA are implementing a joint programme, “Supporting a Green Economy Transition in Developing Countries and LDCs: Building towards Rio+20 and Beyond,” funded by the Government of the Netherlands, enabling enhanced support to Kenya, Rwanda, and Ghana, with three new countries to be selected for 2013/14 activities;

(c) ILO through its Green Jobs Program has been providing technical assistance and policy support to African countries on employment-led development strategies which have as a prime objective of the creation of green and decent jobs. Such strategies are based on initial national assessments of Green Jobs opportunities at sector and economy-wide levels;

(d) The AfDB has established a cross-departmental Green Growth team, which carries out activities structured along three works-streams: (i) strategic and conceptual framing of Green Growth, (ii) capacity development, and (iii) pilot country activities, which includes support to Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Kenya in mainstreaming green growth in development agendas in cooperation with other international partners.

(e) The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is providing considerable support to several African countries in east, central and southern Africa in developing and implementing Green Economy strategies;

(f) The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) specifically responds to Rio+20’s call to the UN system to support countries interested in pursuing green economy policies. It will deploy the expertise of four UN agencies – ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, and UNITAR – to progressively assist globally a total of 30 countries – including a proportionate number of African countries - in their efforts to embark on green economy pathways. At a global level, the partnership seeks to: i) enable

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