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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Fourteenth session

Meeting of the expert group

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 10–12 September 2012

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 the United Republic of Tanzania to host the fourteenth session was accepted by AMCEN at its thirteenth session, held in Bamako from 20 to 25 June 2010.
2. Pursuant to that offer, it was agreed that the fourteenth session would be held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 10 to 14 September 2012. The session will consist of an expert group segment, to be held from 10 to 12 September, and a ministerial segment, to be held from 12 to 14 September. The opening ceremony for the ministerial segment will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 12 September 2012.
3. In this regard, the AMCEN Bureau considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial segment of the fourteenth session, which is set out in document AMCEN/14/1. The Bureau also chose “Africa’s post-Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development” as the theme for the session.
4. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the fourteenth session (AMCEN/14/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 fourteenth session

5. The main objective of the fourteenth AMCEN session is to provide a platform for African environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa as a follow-up to the key outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In addition, the recently concluded nineteenth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly requested AMCEN to analyze the outcomes of Rio+20 and provide guidance on the way forward. The meeting will therefore focus on the implications of the outcomes of Rio+20 on Africa and is expected to cover the following: analysis of Rio+20 outcomes; implications for Africa and follow-up, including the operationalization of the green economy at the regional and national levels; and the action framework and preparations for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
6. The ministers participating in the session will consider the AMCEN work programme for 2013–2014. They will also review the progress made towards:
 - (a) Africa’s preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012;
 - (b) Africa’s preparations for the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012.

7. The ministers will consider the status of AMCEN in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and related issues.
8. The ministers will also deliberate on the status and use of the AMCEN trust fund. The available records show that member States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of AMCEN decisions and its work programme. There is therefore a pressing need for ministers to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.
9. The expert group will bring a number of other issues to the attention of ministers for consideration, including the proposed coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, the Africa Environment Outlook process, the review of the Environment Action Plan of the Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the celebration of Africa Environment Day, the ratification of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and the potential for strengthening the African Regional Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and the African Eco-labelling Mechanism.
10. The ministers will adopt priority regional programmes, a declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various items of the agenda.

III. Items of the provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

11. The representative of the President of AMCEN, the Minister of the Environment of Mali, will chair the expert group segment of the session, while the representative of the Vice-President of AMCEN (United Republic of Tanzania) 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 fourteenth session to take stock of the management of the Conference and decide which Bureau members present will be assigned responsibilities during the fourteenth session, in accordance with the AMCEN constitution.
12. The AMCEN Bureau currently comprises the following members:
 - (a) President: Mali;
 - (b) Vice-Presidents: Algeria, Chad and Malawi;
 - (c) Vice-President and Rapporteur: United Republic of Tanzania.
13. Representatives of United Nations agencies, the African Union, the NPCA secretariat, 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 AMCEN (United Republic of Tanzania) will make a welcoming statement. Representatives of the AMCEN secretariat and the African Union Commission will also speak, followed by the representative of the President of AMCEN who will make opening remarks.

Item 2

Organizational matters

15. The expert group will have before it the provisional agenda (AMCEN/EGM/14/1) to consider for adoption. The work programme for the meeting is contained in annex II to the present document.
 - (a) **Election of officers**
16. Consistent with the provisions of the AMCEN constitution and the rules of procedure, the expert group segment will be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the thirteenth session. Accordingly, Mali will serve as Chair, while the United Republic of Tanzania will act as Rapporteur. The Vice-Chairs will be Algeria, Chad and Malawi.
17. Regional consultations will be encouraged for the election of office-bearers for the next biennium 2012–2014 to fill the posts of President and Rapporteur. A Vice-President will be elected from each remaining region. 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 the programme of work

18. The experts may wish to adopt their agenda and organization of work on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document AMCEN/EGM/14/1 and the programme of work contained in annex II to the present document.

19. The secretariat will list the various working groups and the Chair will invite experts to join one of the groups. The experts will have to make their choices known to the secretariat by lunchtime on the first day of the meeting.

Item 3**Consideration of the report of the secretariat**

20. The representative of the AMCEN secretariat will present a report on AMCEN activities during the inter-sessional period (AMCEN/14/EGM/3).

Item 4**Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process****(a) Draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, including priority regional programmes**

21. The draft AMCEN work programme for the biennium 2013–2014 (AMCEN/14/EGM/4) will be presented by a representative of the secretariat for consideration. It is worth noting that key regional flagship programmes that could support African countries in the implementation of the main substantive outcomes from Rio+20 have been proposed in this regard. The representative of the AMCEN secretariat will make a presentation on the sub-item.

(b) African Ministerial Conference on the Environment trust fund

22. The AMCEN trust fund was established to provide full or partial financial support to the functioning of AMCEN organs and the implementation of its activities. However, the available records show that member States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of AMCEN decisions and its work programme. Therefore, critical assessments need to be made at the fourteenth session and further guidance must be provided on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced. The representative of the AMCEN secretariat will present a report on the trust fund (AMCEN/14/EGM/5).

(c) African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union

23. Both the 1991 African Economic Community Treaty (Abuja Treaty) of the Organization of African Unity and the 2000 Constitutive Act of the African Union provide for the establishment of specialized technical committees as one of the organs of AMCEN. By its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII), adopted in Malabo in 2011, the African Union Assembly directed that the committees be made operational by January 2013, after which all sectoral ministerial conferences would be abolished. A working paper has been prepared, focusing on institutional options and recommendations, on how AMCEN can retrofit itself into the institutional structures of the African Union (AMCEN/14/5). A presentation will be made by the consultant contracted by the AMCEN secretariat.

(d) Third Africa Environment Outlook report

24. The AMCEN secretariat is working with the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Early Warning and Assessment and the Regional Office for Africa to develop modalities for communicating, tracking and reporting on the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa Environment Outlook process by AMCEN. There are ongoing activities to achieve this by strengthening the Africa Environmental Information Network, which includes strengthening national networks, building their capacity to increase their relevance in national and regional processes, working with African centres of excellence (or topic centres), aligning, monitoring and assessing products for national reporting and development needs, and improving the capacity of countries to collect, analyse, package, communicate and report on the use of environmental information in influencing policy decisions. The Summary for Policymakers for the third Africa Environment Outlook report will be launched at the fourteenth session of AMCEN. The report's underlying theme is "Health and environment interlinkages".

25. In addition, a detailed presentation on the Global Environment Outlook process will be presented to the delegates to raise awareness. A representative of the AMCEN secretariat will give the presentations.

Item 5

Presentation on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and implications for Africa

26. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development outcome document provides a useful basis to address some of the major implementation challenges in the promotion of sustainable development at the global level. It also created some useful mechanisms that could help developing countries make progress in their effort to achieve economic, environmental and social goals in an integrated and efficient way.

27. This agenda item seeks to highlight some of the key outcomes that came out of the Conference, which are of particular relevance to African countries and could assist African countries in developing a coherent strategy of engagement in key follow-up activities. Discussions will focus on highlighting the main relevant outcomes of the Conference with particular focus on a green economy for poverty eradication and sustainable development and an international framework for sustainable development, including international environmental governance and emerging issues. They will also highlight specific follow-up processes that are of importance to Africa, including follow-up actions that could be taken at the national and regional levels. Key regional flagship programmes that could support African countries in the implementation of the main substantive outcomes from the Conference have been proposed in this regard.

28. This agenda item also covers preparations for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, considering that its outcomes will be extremely critical in determining the progress that could be made in subsequent years with regard to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document. A representative of the Republic of the Congo will give a presentation.

Item 6

Presentation on preparations for the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

29. It is worth noting that the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Durban, South Africa, realized a number of important outcomes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. These include agreement on a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the extension of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund and the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to negotiate a new protocol, and the development of a legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention. In preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Doha, a number of challenges remain in relation to each of the mandated negotiations. Addressing these issues during 2012 will be important in preparation for Doha.

30. Further reflection on the nature and quality of the second commitment period as defined at South Africa and its relation to other mitigation negotiations is required to ensure that a science- and equity-based approach to the negotiation of annex I parties mitigation commitments is retained under all tracks, including the Kyoto Protocol.

31. Building on the outcomes of the Durban Conference, success in Doha could deliver ambitious outcomes that advance Africa's key demands. Currently, the international climate change negotiations remain well off track to avert irreversible and catastrophic damage to human societies and the planet. Africa, as a world leader on climate change, can and must continue to demand ambitious outcomes and work seriously with all partners who are interested in preserving and strengthening the global climate architecture that the international community has built over the past two decades.

32. Africa must redouble its efforts both within and outside the negotiations if global warming is to be held at levels consistent with the continued well-being of Africa. The role of African leaders, ministers and the African Group of Negotiators has never been more important.

33. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators is expected to give an overview of the negotiation process. Mr. Seth Osafo, the legal adviser, will make a presentation on the Durban outcomes and what to expect in Doha; Mr. Richard Muyungi, chair, Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), will give a presentation on issues of concern to Africa under SBSTA, including agriculture; and Ms. Madeleine Diouf, chair, Ad Hoc Working Group on Further

Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), will give a presentation on issues of concern to Africa under the Kyoto Protocol.

Item 7

Presentation of the review of the Environment Action Plan of the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development

34. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Union Commission and AMCEN, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have been involved in a process to review the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. The aim was to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and address some emerging environmental issues in Africa.

35. Consultants were hired to review the implementation of the Action Plan and a draft report was produced, which was reviewed by colleagues from the NEPAD Agency, the African Union Commission and UNEP. The draft document was further strengthened to incorporate emerging issues on the environment, such as a green economy and the Rio+20 outcomes. The draft final document from the review exercise was discussed for validation at a stakeholder consultation meeting held in Johannesburg on 3 and 4 September 2012. The representative of the Planning and Coordinating Agency will present a report on this review exercise.

Item 8

Presentations on other issues related to sustainable development in Africa

36. Brief presentations on the proposed coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, Africa Environment Day, the ratification of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and preparations for the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Hyderabad, India in October 2012, will be given to introduce these topics for more detailed discussion during the working group sessions.

(a) Proposed coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity

37. At the sixteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the President of Gabon presented a report on African participation at the International Conference on Biodiversity held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan (Ass/AU15 (XVI)). Among the recommendations of the report was the need for member States to join forces and work together to ensure the adoption of a common African position for future negotiations on biodiversity. To this end, the report recommended the establishment of a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity similar to the one for climate change negotiators. A representative from the African Union Commission will introduce the sub-item.

38. The issue of Africa's preparations for the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012 will also be considered at the fourteenth session of AMCEN. A representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the sub-item. .

(b) Africa Environment Day

39. The African Ministerial Council on Environment, at its twelfth session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008 adopted a decision for member States to host the celebrations of Africa Environment Day on a regional basis. Furthermore, the African Union Assembly also adopted a decision during its eighteenth ordinary session in January 2012 on the celebration of Wangari Maathai Day to coincide with the celebrations of Africa Environment Day. It is necessary to identify the countries that host the event at AMCEN sessions, beginning with the fourteenth session. It is expected that a representative of the African Union Commission will introduce this agenda item.

(c) Ratification of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

40. A study was initiated by the African Union Commission to provide recommendations and strategies on ways to promote the ratification of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as the Maputo Convention) to bring it into force. The recommendations and strategies will also assist with the ratification of future conventions

under the auspices of the African Union Commission. A representative of the African Union Commission will make a presentation on these recommendations.

Item 9

Breakout sessions

41. Three working groups will be established and experts will be invited to join any one of these groups. The experts will have to make their choices known to the secretariat by lunchtime on 10 September 2012.
42. The first working group will deliberate on the implications of the Rio+20 outcomes that relate to Africa and is expected to cover the following: analysis of the Conference outcomes, implications for Africa and follow-up, including the operationalization of a green economy at the regional and national levels, and an action framework and preparations for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The group will also work on the relevant decisions and elements of the Arusha Declaration.
43. The second working group will be mainly composed of the African Group of Negotiators to work on updating the African common negotiation position on climate change. It will be noted that, in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Doha, a number of challenges remain in relation to each of the mandated negotiations. The group will focus on these challenges in the context of updating the common African position. The group will also work on the relevant decision(s), key messages for the Conference and elements of the Arusha Declaration.
44. The third working group will consider AMCEN-related matters. These will include matters such as the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014, including the proposed priority regional programmes; AMCEN in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union; the AMCEN trust fund; the proposed coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity; the Africa Environment Outlook process; the review of the Environment Action Plan of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency; celebration of Africa Environment Day; and the ratification of the Revised African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The group will also work on the relevant decisions and elements of the Arusha Declaration.
45. The working groups will report to plenary on their outcomes.

Item 10

Consideration of priority regional programmes, a draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages

46. The Rapporteur will present an overview of the priority regional programmes, a draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages and will request that they be considered for amendment and adoption under the guidance of the Chair of the expert group segment.

Item 11

Adoption of the report of the expert group

47. The Rapporteur will present an overview of the report of the segment and will request that the report be considered for amendment and adoption under the guidance of the Chair of the expert group segment.
48. The Chair will invite experts to make comments, paragraph by paragraph. Only comments of substance will be considered and these must be submitted to the Rapporteur in writing.
49. The Chair will request that the report be adopted in principle on the understanding that comments from the floor will be integrated by the secretariat into the final report, which will be produced in English and French.

Item 12

Other matters

50. Major issues of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed.
51. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session. An English version of any such text must be made available. Should there be need for a decision to be taken, a draft text should also be available in English.

Item 13**Closure of the meeting**

52. The Chair will invite the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the Director of the African Union Commission Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture to make their concluding remarks before declaring the meeting closed.

Annex I

List of documents

Symbol	Document
Working documents	
AMCEN/14/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/14/EGM/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/14/EGM/3	Report of the secretariat (2010-2012)
AMCEN/14/EGM/4	Draft work programme of AMCEN (2013-2014)
AMCEN/14/EGM/5	Status of the general trust fund of AMCEN
AMCEN/14/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/14/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/14/3	Analytical paper on the outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa
AMCEN/14/4	Background paper on climate change
AMCEN/14/5	AMCEN in the context of the African Union institutional structure
AMCEN/14/6	Report of the expert group segment
Information documents	
AMCEN/14/INF/1	Information note on the fourteenth session of AMCEN
AMCEN/14/INF/2	Report of the implementation of decision 5 of the thirteenth session of AMCEN
AMCEN/14/INF/3	Call for action on e-waste in Africa: set of priority actions
AMCEN/14/INF/4	The Future WEEE Need - A Call for Action: Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue: Addressing E-waste Challenges and Opportunities through Public-Private Sector Cooperation
AMCEN/14/INF/5	“The future we want”: draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly
UNEP/AMCEN/13/10	Report of the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session of AMCEN
AMCEN/SS/IV/3	Report of the fourth special session of AMCEN
Reference documents	
AMCEN/14/REF/1	Brief on climate change at the Rio+20 summit
AMCEN/14/REF/2	Report of the review of the Environment Action Plan of NEPAD
AMCEN/14/REF/3	Sustainable consumption and production, green economy and eco-labelling
AMCEN/14/REF/4	African programme to reduce chemical risks to health and the environment

Symbol	Document
AMCEN/14/REF/5	Draft proposal on the establishment of a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity
AMCEN/14/REF/6	Report on the implementation of decision 7 on the celebration of Africa Environment Day, adopted by AMCEN at its twelfth session
AMCEN/14/REF/7	Key agenda items at the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
AMCEN/14/REF/8	Maputo Convention report

Annex II**Programme of work for the expert group segment from 10 to 12 September 2012****Monday, 10 September 2012**

Time	Description
9 a.m.–9.30 a.m.	Item 1 Opening of the meeting
9.30 a.m.–9.45 a.m.	Item 2 Organizational matters Item 2 (a): election of officers Item 2 (b): adoption of the agenda and the programme of work
9.45 a.m.–10.15 a.m.	Item 3 Consideration of the report of the secretariat
10.15 a.m.–11.45 a.m.	Item 4 Presentations on matters related to the AMCEN process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, including priority regional programmes • AMCEN trust fund • AMCEN in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union • Third Africa Environment Outlook report • Awareness and outreach session on the fifth edition of the Global Environment Outlook.
11.45 a.m. –12 noon	Coffee break
12 noon –1 p.m.	Item 5 Presentation on the Rio+20 outcomes and their implications for Africa
1 p.m.–3 p.m.	Lunch
3 p.m.–4 p.m.	Item 6 Presentation on preparations for the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4 p.m.–4.30 p.m.	Item 7 Presentation of the review of the Environment Action Plan of the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development
4.30 p.m.–4.45 p.m.	Coffee break
4.45 p.m.–5.45 p.m.	Item 8: Presentations on other issues related to sustainable development in Africa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed coordination mechanism for African group of negotiators on biodiversity • Presentations on the outcomes of the 2010 Nagoya Biodiversity Conference and preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety • Africa Environment Day • Ratification of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Time	Description
5.45 p.m.–6 p.m.	Introduction of working groups
Tuesday, 11 September 2012	
9 a.m.–10.45 a.m.	Meeting of working groups
10.45 a.m.–11 a.m.	Coffee break
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Meeting of working groups (continued)
12.30 p.m.–2.30 p.m.	Lunch
2.30 p.m.–4.15 p.m.	Meeting of working groups (continued)
4.15 p.m.–4.30 p.m.	Coffee break
4.30 p.m.–6 p.m.	Outcomes of the working group sessions
Wednesday, 12 September 2012	
9 a.m.–11 a.m.	Consideration of priority regional programmes, a draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages
11 a.m.– 11.15 a.m.	Coffee break
11.15 a.m.–11.45 a.m.	Adoption of the report of the meeting of the expert group
11.45 a.m. –12.15 p.m.	Other matters
12.15 p.m.–12.30 p.m.	Closure of the meeting