



Distr.: General  
24 May 2010

Original: English

*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

**Thirteenth session**  
Bamako, 21–25 June 2010

## **Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **Introduction**

1. According to 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 Mali to host the thirteenth session was accepted by AMCEN at its twelfth session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 12 June 2008.
2. Pursuant to that offer, it was agreed that the thirteenth session would be held in Mali from 21 to 25 June 2010. The session would consist of an expert group segment from 21 to 23 June 2010 and a ministerial segment from 23 to 25 June 2010.
3. In that connection, the Bureau considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session, which is set out in document UNEP/AMCEN/13/1. The Bureau also chose “Enhancing the interrelationship between climate change, biodiversity and desertification for sustainable development” as the theme for the session.
4. A few weeks before the opening of the session, the secretariat will distribute an information note under the symbol UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/1. A complete list of the documents prepared for the session is provided in annex I to the present document.

### **I. Objectives and overview of the ministerial segment**

5. The main objective of the session is to provide a platform for environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa that must be tackled in the context of desertification, continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity. The ministers participating in the session will consider the AMCEN work programme for 2011–2012. They will also review progress made towards:
  - (a) Africa’s preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;
  - (b) Development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
  - (c) Africa’s preparations for developing a common negotiating position on an international regime on access to and the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, with a view to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010;
  - (d) Africa’s approach to continent-wide measures to combat desertification.
6. 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

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need for ministers to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.

7. The ministers will reconsider the revised draft AMCEN constitution, which was amended pursuant to the recommendations of ministers at the eighth session, endorsed at the ninth session and referred for further consideration at the tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions, with a view to adopting the revised constitution.

8. The ministers will also consider the relatively new status of AMCEN as part of the Specialized Technical Committee of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union and related matters.

9. The expert group will bring emerging issues, such as chemicals, to the attention of ministers for their consideration. The group will also highlight a review of work being undertaken on the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

10. The ministers will adopt decisions reflecting their discussions under the various items on the agenda.

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

### **A. Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

11. The outgoing President, the Minister of Environment of South Africa, will preside over the official opening ceremony and the Minister of Environment of Burkina Faso will serve as rapporteur.

12. The outgoing President will introduce the Bureau members and the opening speakers, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

13. The outgoing President will invite a dignitary from Mali officially to open the ministerial segment.

14. A vote of thanks to the representative of Mali, the Executive Director and other dignitaries will be offered by one of the outgoing vice-presidents.

### **B. Item 2: Organizational matters**

#### **1. Election of officers**

15. The outgoing President will present the outcome of the subregional consultations on filling vacant seats on the Bureau in the manner prescribed by the AMCEN constitution and will make her final remarks as President.

16. The outgoing President will invite the new President to assume his place on the podium and make his maiden speech. At that point, there will be an official handover of the AMCEN presidency from South Africa to Mali.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

17. The President will introduce the provisional agenda (UNEP/AMCEN/13/1).

#### **3. Organization of work**

18. The President will introduce the draft programme of work set forth in annex II to the present document and draw attention to the list of documents for the ministerial segment set forth in annex I.

### **C. Item 3: Consideration of the report on the implementation of the decisions of the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

19. The President will invite the AMCEN Secretary to make a brief presentation on the implementation of the decisions taken by AMCEN at its twelfth session.

20. A report on the status of implementation of those decisions will be before the ministers (UNEP/AMCEN/13/4).

#### **D. Item 4: Consideration of the report of the expert group segment**

21. The Chair of the expert group will present the report of the expert group segment, which will include a summary of the proceedings and the recommendations and draft decisions developed, relating in particular to topical environmental issues of particular importance to Africa (UNEP/AMCEN/13/3). AMCEN may wish to take note of the report and consider the draft decisions under the appropriate agenda items.

#### **E. Item 5: Ministerial policy dialogue on aspects of the implementation of the Rio conventions**

22. The ministerial policy dialogue will be divided into three sessions. The first will focus on climate change; the second, biodiversity; and the third, desertification.

23. The purpose of the policy dialogue on climate change is twofold. The first is to continue the process of discussions and negotiations that will maintain the strong presence and voice of African countries at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that will be held in Cancún, Mexico, in November and December 2010. The salient aspects of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes will also be considered. It is expected that opportunities presented by the responses to the effects of climate change and variability will be explored, in addition to the institutional arrangements in Africa for managing and using the funding being provided by the international community to combat climate change on the continent.

24. The second purpose of the policy dialogue is to deliberate on the outcomes of the meetings of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change held in Addis Ababa on 11 May 2010 and to be held in Bamako on 23 June 2010. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twelfth session approved the establishment of the Conference, comprising representatives of Algeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda, in addition to the chairs of the African Union, the African Union Commission and AMCEN.

25. The rationale for the ministerial dialogue on biodiversity (the variability within and among living organisms and the systems that they inhabit) is to discuss and adopt an African common position and contribution to the final decision-making process on access and benefit-sharing at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is worth noting that consensus was reached on a draft Nagoya protocol on access and benefit-sharing at the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, held in Cali, Colombia, in March 2010. This followed a week of intensive discussions and much preparation.

26. The Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting is expected to assess whether the 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of biodiversity loss has been achieved, to adopt an international regime on access and benefit-sharing and to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

27. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have made commitments to undertake national and international measures aimed at attaining the three objectives of the Convention: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. These commitments notwithstanding, biodiversity loss is increasing at an unprecedented rate and is being exacerbated by the effects of climate change. It is therefore urgent for humanity to tackle the threats being posed by such biodiversity loss.

28. The purpose of the ministerial dialogue on desertification is to bring into sharper focus the inherent links between desertification, land degradation and climate change. Desertification, land degradation and drought continue to pose global environmental challenges that threaten to reverse the modest gains made by African countries in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The adverse effects of desertification and land degradation are being exacerbated by climate change and variability. It is therefore imperative that efforts made to combat climate change in Africa take into account measures aimed at sustainable land and water management, among other things.

29. It will be recalled that the topic “What role for the land in the ongoing negotiations for a new climate change regime at Copenhagen?” was discussed at the high-level segment of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Buenos Aires in September and October 2009. In view of the importance of this topic and the inconclusive nature of the Copenhagen climate change summit in December 2009 it is necessary to revisit this topic, this time with a view to the deliberations to take place in Mexico.

## **F. Item 6: Consideration of matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process**

### **1. Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

30. Contributions to the general trust fund remain low, due in part to a lack of clarity regarding member States’ minimum yearly contributions. The representative of the secretariat will report on the status of the trust fund and ministers may wish to agree on ways to enhance countries’ contributions and the use of the trust fund. A report on the status of the trust fund is set out in document UNEP/AMCEN/13/5.

### **2. Amendments to the draft constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

31. By its decision 4, adopted at its ninth session, AMCEN decided that the secretariat should recruit a consultant or consultants to work further on the revised constitution, guided by the initial comments in the preambular recitals of the decision. The revised constitution prepared pursuant to that decision was circulated at the tenth regular session of AMCEN, in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2004. Upon the request of AMCEN at that session, that document was circulated again to member States for a second round of in-country consultations. At the request of AMCEN at its eleventh and twelfth sessions, discussion on the document was deferred until the thirteenth session. The ministers will be requested to give guidance on the next steps to be taken with a view to the adoption of the revised constitution.

### **3. Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment of the African Union and related matters**

32. AMCEN should deliberate on the way forward in view of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) of February 2009, by which the African Union Assembly decided to reconfigure the specialized technical committees (DOC. EX.CL/496(XIV)). As a result, AMCEN currently belongs to the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union.

33. Deliberations should take place in the context of the recent important developments within the African Union pertaining to climate change. In addition, there have been tentative steps towards establishing synergies between the work on climate change of AMCEN and that of the African Union and African Union Commission. This is especially pertinent in the light of the outcomes of the African Union summit held in Sirte in July 2009 and the establishment of the Conference of African Heads of State on Climate Change, of which the president of AMCEN is a member.

## **G. Item 7: Venue for the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

34. The fourteenth session of AMCEN is to be hosted by a member State from Eastern Africa. In the absence of any offers, the President will propose that the fourteenth session be hosted by UNEP in Nairobi, the seat of the secretariat.

## **H. Item 8: Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment**

35. The rapporteur will introduce the draft report of the ministerial segment and the President will introduce the agreed draft decisions.

**I. Item 9: Other matters**

36. Major issues of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed.
37. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should be in a position to 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.

**J. Item 10: Closure of the session**

38. The President will bring the session to a formal close after the customary exchange of courtesies.

**Annex I****List of documents**

<b>Working documents</b>	
UNEP/AMCEN/13/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/13/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/13/3	Report of the expert group segment
UNEP/AMCEN/13/4	Report of the secretariat July 2008–June 2010
UNEP/AMCEN/13/5	Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
UNEP/AMCEN/13/6	Draft revised constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
UNEP/AMCEN/13/7	Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment of the African Union and related matters
UNEP/AMCEN/13/8	Draft comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes
UNEP/AMCEN/13/9	Draft African Ministerial Conference on the Environment climate change communication strategy
UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/13/3	Interim draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the biennium 2011–2012
<b>Information documents</b>	
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/1	Information note on the thirteenth session
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/2	Report on the implementation of decision 6
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/3	Report on the African regional seas programme
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/4	Compilation of recommendations for combating climate change in Africa and the subregions
UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/5	Africa regional implementation meeting policy statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production
AMCEN/SS/III/6	Report of the ministerial segment of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/EX.MTG/II/2	Report of the second extraordinary meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change

AMCEN/SS/III/4	Report of the expert group segment of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/AHLPCC/2/2	Report of the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change
AMCEN/CA/CC/1	Report of Central African subregional meeting on climate change convened by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/EAC/CC/1	Report of the Eastern African subregional meeting on climate change, jointly convened by the East African Community and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/NSA/CC/1	Report of the North and Southern African subregional meeting on climate change
<b>Reference documents</b>	
AMCEN/13/Ref/1	Review and analysis of the negotiating text on long-term cooperative action in the light of the specific circumstances of Africa
UNEP/AMCEN/Ref/2	Climate change, clean technology and green growth opportunities in Africa
UNEP Doc.	State of biodiversity in Africa

## Annex II

## Organization of work, 23–25 June 2010

<b>23 June 2010</b>	
3–5 p.m.	<b>Item 1: Opening of the session</b>
5–5.30 p.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
5.30–6.15 p.m.	<b>Item 2: Organizational matters:</b> <i>Item 2 (a): Election of officers</i> <i>Item 2 (b): Adoption of the agenda</i> <i>Item 2 (c): Organization of work</i>
6.15–6.30 p.m.	<b>Item 3: Consideration of the report on the implementation of the decisions of the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</b>
6.30–6.45 p.m.	<b>Item 4: Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting</b>
<b>24 June 2010</b>	
9–11 a.m.	<b>Item 5: Ministerial policy dialogue I</b> (Climate change – international climate change regime beyond 2012)
11–11.30 a.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
11.30 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	<b>Item 5: Ministerial policy dialogue II</b> (International regime on access and benefit-sharing)
12.45–2.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2.30–4 p.m.	<b>Item 5: Ministerial policy dialogue III</b> (What role for the land in the continuing negotiations for a new climate change regime in Mexico?)
4 p.m.–4.20 p.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
4.20–4.50 p.m.	<b>Item 6 (a): Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</b>
4.50–5.30 p.m.	<b>Item 6 (b): Amendments to the draft constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</b>
5.30–6 p.m.	<b>Item 6 (c): Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment of the African Union and related matters</b>



<b>25 June 2010</b>	
9–10 a.m.	<b>Presentation of President’s summary of the ministerial policy dialogue</b>
10–11 a.m.	<b>Consideration of the Bamako Declaration and decisions of the thirteenth session</b>
11–11.30 a.m.	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
11.30–11.45 a.m.	<b>Item 7: Venue for the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</b>
11.45 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	<b>Invited presentations</b>
12.45–3 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
3–4 p.m.	<b>Item 8: Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment</b>
4 p.m.–4.15 p.m.	<b>Item 9: Other matters</b>
4.15– 4.30 p.m.	<b>Item 10 : Closure of the session</b>