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مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة لتغير المناخ



## **Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) for Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders prior to the Sixteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)**

**10-11 June 2017, Libreville, Gabon**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation between African Governments in economic, technical and scientific activities with the prime objective of halting and reversing the degradation of the African environment. The work of AMCEN has contributed significantly to the coordinated policy responses of African Governments and the international community to Africa's environment and sustainable development opportunities and challenges.
2. The sixteenth session of AMCEN will be held from 12 to 16 June 2017 in Libreville, Gabon. The session will consist of a meeting of the expert group from 12 to 14 June, and a ministerial segment, on 15 and 16 June. The Pre-AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders (civil society) meeting will be held from 10 to 11 June.
3. The sixteenth session of AMCEN will focus on addressing key challenges facing Africa in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063. The session is an opportunity to prepare for the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD-COP13) in September in China, as well as the 23rd session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP23) to be held in Bonn, Germany later in the year. The implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) will be discussed as well as the process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
4. African Major Groups and Stakeholders play a direct role in contributing to policy formation and in strengthening the inter-governmental decision making process, either as researchers, think-tanks, watchdogs or through advocacy work. They bring environmental matters and new perspectives into policy-making, including the perspectives of those being affected by decisions. Consequently their contribution is paramount to environmental governance in Africa.
5. African Major Groups and Stakeholders have contributed to the stakeholders' consultations in the AMCEN processes and sessions in the past years. In collaboration with UN Environment, the African Major Groups and Stakeholders with its partners organize the Pre-AMCEN African Major Groups and Stakeholders consultative meetings.
6. Decisions by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) will have stronger and broader recognition, legitimacy and support by the public if African governments take Major Groups and Stakeholders' views and inputs on board, in policy-making and decision-making processes.
7. The Pre-AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders consultation will accord an opportunity to the African civil society representatives and other actors– women, youth, and indigenous peoples, smallholder

farmers – to discuss emerging global perspectives and actions on climate change and the implications of the Paris Agreement for Africa as well as the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

8. African Major Groups and Stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute to key issues to be discussed at the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), that will take place in December 2017 in Nairobi under the theme “*Towards a Pollution Free Planet*”. It is envisaged that the Major Groups and Stakeholders will develop and coordinate their input, leading to a good representation of African civil society views at the Assembly.

9. Pertinent issues related to sustainable development in Africa will be discussed. These include: climate change, desertification, ocean governance, illegal trade in wildlife, migration and environmental security, sustainable energy, environment and youth engagement.

10. Consultations at the Pre-AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders meeting will provide participants with: (i) sufficient understanding of the implications on Africa of the Paris Agreement on climate change, Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 and its implementation (ii) better understanding of innovative environmental solutions to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa (iii) sufficient understanding of the nexus between the science and social and economic impacts of pollution on Africa (iv) enhanced understanding of and effective participation in the 2017 UN Environment Assembly process and the role of Major Groups and Stakeholders in this regard.

11. Outcomes of the Pre-AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders consultation meeting will include a statement and report of Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders to the sixteenth session of AMCEN and to the 2017 UN Environment Assembly.