

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS
TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)**

19 September 2018 | Nairobi, Kenya

Thank you Madam Vice President for giving me the floor,

Excellences Members of the High table, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished delegates, Representatives of United Nations, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning.

I have the honour stand in front of you and read this statement on behalf of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders who met for two days, on 15th and 16th September, prior to the start of this Seventh Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

My name is Fazal Issa from FORUMCC Tanzania and I read this statement as the Regional Facilitator for Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders.

Madam Vice President,

We the African Major Groups and Stakeholders,

Recognise our role and importance in engagement to the processes of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment and implementation of its subsequent decisions,

Take note of the declarations and decisions adopted during the Sixteenth and previous sessions of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment while *Concerned* about the lack of adequate actions and implementation of the decisions,

Also noting the need to consistently speak with one voice.

We therefore Madam Vice President kindly share the following;

On the Convention on Biological Diversity and Africa Biodiversity Summit

We *call upon* our African governments to honour their pledges to the Convention on Biological Diversity Trust Fund and ensure the increased participation of African Negotiators in its related processes,

Encourage our African governments and African Union Commission to strengthen work with the United Nations Environment Programme, New Partnership for Africa's Development, Regional Economic Communities and other relevant partners to support implementation of programmes to combat land degradation and enhance ecosystem restoration in Africa,

Also Encourage our African governments to utilize the reports of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Global Land Degradation Assessment, and take action on recommendations contained in the reports,

Further encourage our African governments to undertake national ecosystem assessments so as to ascertain the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services and contribution of nature-based services to socio-economic development,

Call upon our African ministers of environment to make a deliberate and continuous effort in involving ministers from other sectors in the identification and implementation of priorities for mainstreaming of biodiversity into key sectors in the Convention on Biological Diversity, Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals processes.

Madam Vice President,

On Innovative Solutions to Food Security

We call upon our African governments to implement existing innovative solutions including best practices and case studies that address existing social and environmental problems, provide co-benefits and have proved to be working as best environment-friendly but are not adequately implemented,

Urge our African governments to offer financial incentives including improved access to banking and financial institutions through low interest loans, village savings and start-up capital to encourage investment in transformative technologies including ICT,

Further call upon our African governments to link and strengthen agriculture policies to land tenure systems, land use planning, farmer cooperatives, farmer extension and advisory services, and adopt policies that allow small-scale farmers to get easy access to farm land. Also, integrating policies for national food security such policies on export, energy, water, seed, post-harvest wastage, health of soils and organic methods,

Urge African governments to develop standards of crops and animal welfare and systems to support market policies for the appropriate transportation of animals and crops produce,

Encourage government to promote and invest in action research, conservation of forest resources for supporting rain-fed agriculture, direct food supply and improve access of non-timber forest products as alternative sources of food to feed the growing African population,

Reaffirm that to achieve food security and sustainability, there must be a move away from industrial agriculture and monocultures towards agro-ecology and support for small scale farmers,

Madam Vice President,

On Innovative Solutions to Resource Efficiency and Waste Management

We call upon our African governments to integrate environmentally-sound waste management practices in school curricula and education policies to promote and encourage change of public attitude right from the lower level,

As net-importers of chemicals, materials, and articles, we *further call upon* our African ministers of environment to work on the global regulations and restrictions of chemicals with the most serious properties of concern as a cost-efficient way of protecting the continent from chemical hazards in the imported goods so that they are phased-out of the material streams,

We acknowledge that the banning of single-use plastic bags is a big step but *express our concern* on lack of enforcement of most of these bans in some of our countries. *We call upon* our African ministers of the environment to ensure integration of informal sector into formal policies and laws, monitor and promote the principles of extended producer responsibility, and encourage take-back schemes combined with financial incentives to encourage recycling programs at national level and maximise the prevention of waste across the value chain,

We *urge* our African ministers of environment to support the establishment of a new global legal framework for plastic pollution and nominate African experts to the ad hoc expert working group on marine litter and micro-plastics which was mandated by Third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to develop recommendations for addressing plastic pollution at the Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Madam Vice President,

On Paris Agreement and Implementation of SDGs in Africa

We urge our African ministers of environment to work with our developed country counterparts to facilitate a balanced outcome of the twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to ensure fulfilment of pre-2020 commitments and provide operational guidance to all elements of the Paris Agreement in its work programme,

Further urge our African ministers of environment to work with our developed country counterparts to initiate the process to consider a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year by 2023 in line with the global stocktake at the twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Call upon our African environment ministers to facilitate and ensure active participation of the African Major Groups Stakeholders in Talanoa Dialogue consultation process,

Call on our African governments to support the implementation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Gender Action Plan and Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change Gender and Youth Action Plan through capacity building of women and youth negotiators,

Encourage our African governments that have not conducted national reviews on progress of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to do so at the same time involving Major Groups and Stakeholders through the whole process.

Madam Vice President, to achieve the target on our National Determined Contributions, Sustainable Development Goals and our Agenda 2063,

We call upon our African governments to:

- Innovatively mobilize domestic resources and ensure its efficient use to support implementation,
- Establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to follow-up and assess the implementation progress,
- Promote and scaling-up local and indigenous innovations and technologies, facilitate access to compatible and environmental-friendly technologies and *Ensure* a just energy transition,
- Promote good governance and protect the human rights of environmental defenders, adopt integrated approaches and facilitate multi-stakeholders' engagement.

Madam Vice President,

As I conclude the statement, the Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders would like *express appreciation* to United Nations Environment Programme and its Regional Office for Africa, Africa Group of Negotiators and Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, for their continued support including participation and contributing at this Seventh Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

I would like to conclude the statement by echoing a quote and I quote “*We have not inherited the Earth from our Ancestors but Borrow it from our Children*”. Therefore, our distinguished African environment ministers, experts, Major Groups representatives and all stakeholders in this room, let us fulfil our mandates to the very best of our capacities, not only because history will remember us for that but importantly for the survival of our people and mother earth to which we call it Home.

I thank you Madam Vice President, Shukran.