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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
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Meeting of the expert group
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Item 7. (f) of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.

I. Background

1. The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention) is a treaty of African nations prohibiting the import into Africa of any hazardous (including radioactive) waste. The Convention was adopted in 1991 and came into force in 1998 with the aim of protecting human and environmental health. To date the convention has 29 Parties. The Bamako Convention prohibits the import into Africa and the dumping or incineration into ocean and inland water of hazardous wastes, including radioactive waste; establishes the precautionary principle; and provides for the sound management of wastes and chemicals within the continent. The Convention considers any waste with a listed hazardous characteristic or a listed constituent as a hazardous waste, and also covers national definitions of hazardous waste. Other products also covered under the Convention as waste include that have been severely restricted or have been subject of prohibitions.

2. At its second Conference of the Parties (COP2) that was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in February 2018, Parties adopted decision 2/3 and decided that, pursuant to rules 2, 3, 5 and 6 of its rules of procedure, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention (COP3) would be held in Brazzaville (Congo) in February 2020.

3. The Government of the Republic of Congo, through the Minister for Tourism and Environment has officially confirmed to host COP3 in Brazzaville from 12 to 14 February 2020.

II. Objectives and expected outcomes

4. The theme of the Conference is “From Decisions to Action: Working for Africa with a Safe Chemicals and Waste Future”.

5. The Conference will review and deliberate on matters related to the implementation of the Convention:

- (a) Strategic issues;
 1. Status of ratification and/or accession of the Convention since the second Conference of the Parties;
 2. Physical transfer of the of Secretariat of the Bamako Convention to Mali pursuant to Decision 2/9 of the Second Conference of the Parties;
 3. Identifying opportunities for enhancing the cooperation, collaboration and synergies with the Basel and other relevant conventions and frameworks such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
 - (b) Scientific and technical matters;
 1. New list of hazardous substances to be considered hazardous waste pursuant to Decision 2/8 of the Second Conference of the Parties;
 2. National reporting;
 3. Technical assistance and Capacity building activities.
 - (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters.
 - (d) Financial resources.
 1. Measures to redress the financial situation of the Secretariat;
 1. Consideration of a new scale of assessment for Parties contributions to the Convention pursuant to Decision 2/7 of the Second Conference of the Parties;
 - (e) Programme of work and budget.
6. The Conference is expected to contribute to:
- (f) Achieving an effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
 - (g) Garnering the appropriate political momentum prior for the sound management of hazardous waste and chemicals, including plastics, in Africa.

III. Participation

7. The Conference will gather all the 29 Parties to the Bamako convention to review the status of implementation of the Convention, deliberate and adopt measures to ensure reaching its objectives.
8. The meetings will be open for participation as Observers by delegates from:
- (a) Signatories to the Bamako Convention;
 - (b) Non-signatories to the Bamako Convention;
 - (c) United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental organizations;
 - (d) National or international, governmental or non-governmental organizations or agencies, private sector entities qualified in fields relating to hazardous wastes which has informed the Secretariat, have been recommended by the Bureau and approved by the Conference;
 - (e) Representatives of the media accredited by UN Environment Programme and the Government of the Republic of Congo.

IV. Logistic arrangements

9. Discussions are still underway with the host country with regard to logistic issues such as venue of conference, accommodation and transport of the participants, etc;
10. Financial support will be provided for the travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of two delegates per Party to the Convention (one minister and one expert per country).
11. States Parties might want to decide whether to invite additional delegates to participate in the meeting at their own expenses.
12. Delegates from countries signatories, non-signatories, specialized agencies, other observers and representative of the media are not eligible for financial support and, therefore, can participate in the meeting at their own expenses.