



Distr.: General
24 August 2012

Original: English

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Fourteenth session
 Ministerial segment
 Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 12–14 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 21 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 the 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.

Objectives and overview of the fourteenth session

5. The main objective of the fourteenth session of AMCEN 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 analyse 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 address the following issues: 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 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 records available 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 Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and the potential for strengthening the African Regional Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, 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 on the agenda.

II. Items of the provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

11. The outgoing President, the Minister of Environment of Mali, will preside over the official opening ceremony and the Minister of the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania 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 and the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

13. The outgoing President will invite a dignitary from the United Republic of Tanzania to officially open the ministerial segment.

14. After the official opening of the meeting, there will be a short coffee break to allow the dignitary from the United Republic of Tanzania to depart. The meeting will be reconvened and other speakers will be given an opportunity to make remarks.

15. A vote of thanks to the dignitary of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Executive Director, the African Union and other delegates will be offered by one of the outgoing Vice-Presidents.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Election of officers

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

17. The outgoing President will invite the new President to assume her place on the podium and make her maiden speech. At that point, there will be an official handover of the AMCEN presidency from Mali to the United Republic of Tanzania.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

18. The President will introduce the provisional agenda (AMCEN/14/1).

(c) Organization of work

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

(d) Launch of the Summary for Policymakers for the third Africa Environment Outlook report

20. The Summary for Policymakers for the third Africa Environment Outlook report will be launched at the session. The report's underlying theme is "Health and environment interlinkages". The meeting will then be adjourned until the following day.

Item 3

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, including the proposed priority regional programmes of importance to Africa (see AMCEN/14/6). AMCEN may wish to take note of the report and consider the draft decisions under the appropriate agenda items.

Item 4

Ministerial policy dialogue

22. The ministerial policy dialogue will be divided into two sessions: the first will focus on the outcomes of Rio+20 and the second on preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Discussions will also be held on issues related to biodiversity.

African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

23. The Rio+20 outcome document provides a useful basis for addressing some of the major implementation challenges in the promotion of sustainable development at the global level. It created some useful mechanisms that could help developing countries to make progress in their efforts to address their economic, environmental and social goals in an integrated and efficient way.

24. Under agenda item 4, some of the key outcomes of Rio+20, which are of particular relevance to African countries and can assist African countries in developing a coherent strategy of engagement in the key follow-up activities, will be emphasized. Discussions will focus on highlighting the key relevant outcomes of Rio+20, with particular focus on a green economy for poverty eradication and sustainable development, an international framework for sustainable development, including international environmental governance and emerging issues. Specific follow-up processes that are of importance to Africa will also be highlighted, 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 key substantive outcomes of Rio+20 have been proposed in this regard.

25. Under agenda item 4, the Conference will also deliberate on preparations for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, considering that the outcomes of that session will be critical in determining the progress made in subsequent years on the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes.

Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

26. It is worth noting that the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Durban, South Africa, realized a number of important outcomes under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. These included agreement on a second commitment period under 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 in Doha, a number of challenges remain in relation to each of the mandated negotiations. It will be important to address these issues during 2012 in preparation for the Doha Conference.

27. Further reflection on the nature and quality of the second commitment period as defined by Durban 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 going forward, including the Kyoto Protocol.

28. Building on the outcomes of the Durban Conference, success in Doha can 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.

29. Africa must redouble its efforts both within and outside the negotiation process if global warming is to be held to levels that are consistent with the continued wellbeing of Africa. The role of African leaders and ministers and of the African Group of Negotiators has never been more important.

30. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will make some remarks, while the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators will brief ministers on the status of preparations and of negotiations before the ministers engage in the dialogue.

31. The fourteenth session of AMCEN will be taking place a few weeks before 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. The objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, which are of critical and strategic importance for Africa and have direct bearing on livelihoods and socio-economic development for the region. Therefore, the fourteenth session will provide a unique opportunity to deliberate upon key issues at stake for Africa on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 5

Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

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

32. 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 specialised technical committees as one of the organs of AMCEN. AMCEN should deliberate on the way forward in view of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII) adopted in Malabo in 2011, in which the African Union Assembly directed that the committees be made operational by January 2013, after which all sectoral ministerial conferences are to be abolished.

33. A presentation will be made by the consultant contracted by the AMCEN secretariat, focusing on institutional options and recommendations on how AMCEN can retrofit itself into the institutional structures of the African Union.

(b) African Ministerial Conference on the Environment trust fund

34. 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 records available 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, at its fourteenth session, the Conference will need to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.

35. 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. A report on the status of the trust fund is set out in document AMCEN/14/EGM/5.

Item 6

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

36. The President of AMCEN will introduce the agreed draft priority regional programmes, a declaration, decisions and key messages.

Item 7

Venue for the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

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

Item 8

Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

38. The rapporteur will introduce the draft report of the ministerial segment

Item 9**Other matters**

39. Major issues of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed.
40. 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 a need for a decision to be taken, a draft text should also be available in English.

Item 10**Closure of the session**

41. The President will bring the session to a formal close.

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 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

Symbol	Document
AMCEN/14/REF/4	African programme to reduce chemical risks to health and the environment
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 ministerial segment, 12 to 14 September 2012**

Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Time	Description
Opening session	
3 p.m.–4 p.m.	Opening ceremony
4 p.m.–4.15 p.m.	Coffee break
4.15 p.m.–5 p.m.	Other invited speakers
5 p.m.–5.15 p.m.	Adoption of the agenda
5.15 p.m.–5.30 p.m.	Organization of work
5.30 p.m.–6 p.m.	Launch of the Summary for Policymakers for the Third Africa Environment Outlook report
6 p.m.	Adjournment

Thursday, 13 September 2012

Time	Description
9 a.m.–10a.m.	Item 3 Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group by the chair of expert group
10 a.m.–10.15 a.m.	Coffee break
Ministerial dialogue	
10.15 a.m.–12 noon	Item 4 (a) African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
12 noon–1 p.m.	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
1 p.m.–2.30 p.m.	Lunch break
Ministerial dialogue (continued)	
2.30 p.m.– 4 p.m.	Item 4 (b) Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4 p.m.–4.15 p.m.	Coffee break
4.15 p.m.–6 p.m.	Item 5 (closed session) Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment: (a) AMCEN in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union (b) AMCEN trust fund

Friday, 14 September 2012

Closed session	
9 a.m.–9.30 a.m.	Presentation of President's Summary on the ministerial dialogue
9.30 a.m.–11.45 a.m.	Item 6 Consideration of priority regional programmes, declaration, decisions and key messages
11.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.	Coffee break
Closing session (open)	
12.15 p.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 7 Venue for the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
12.30 p.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 8 Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment
12.45 p.m.–1.15 p.m.	Item 9 Other matters
1.15 p.m.–1.45 p.m.	Invited brief statements
1.45 p.m.–2 p.m.	Item 10 Closure of the meeting