

**Summary Statement of the UNEP Major Groups & Stakeholders,
Africa and Other African Civil Society Organisations to the Twentieth
Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the
Environment (AMCEN) Held in Nairobi on July 14-18 at the UN Office
at Nairobi (UNON) on the Occasion of the Celebration of the 40th
Anniversary of the AMCEN (AMCENat40)**

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

I am Fatou NDIAYE of REFACOF and one of the two Regional Facilitators of the Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa.

I present this summary statement on behalf of the Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa and other African Civil Society Organizations, as an outcome of the 2025 Regional Consultative Meeting.

We congratulate and celebrate forty years AMCEN, register our deepest appreciation to the UNEP and AMCEN Secretariat, and our eight partners for supporting the 2025 RCM Africa – the first to dedicate a youth day. We congratulate the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for an inclusive AMCEN 19 Presidency. Furthermore, we congratulate the Government of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for ascending to AMCEN 20 Presidency at 40 years of AMCEN.

Beyond today, AMCEN must be bold in achieving its environmental targets, strengthening the link between coordination and implementation in Africa.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Halting and reversing biodiversity loss and restoration is urgent. Member States must fast-track implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and advance inclusive, predictable biodiversity finance. Biodiversity should be integrated across all sectors and levels of government, and ensure socioeconomic factors guide decisions such as in the CITES listings. We call for adoption of a robust Convention on Wetlands 5th Strategic plan, the integration of wetlands into all planning processes, and to ensure inclusive governance that protects migratory species.

To end plastic pollution, Africa must deliver a legally binding instrument covering the full life cycle of plastics with mandatory targets for production reduction, a phase-out of products containing hazardous chemicals, a just transition for waste pickers, and a dedicated fund.

We call for adoption of an AMCEN resolution on mercury pollution elimination, with Environmental Ministries leading inclusive public awareness efforts on mercury pollution and actively participating in the new science-policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution.

We urge AMCEN to lead efforts in delivering an ambitious Global Goal on Adaptation with clear indicators and requisite means of implementation and catalyze Africa's responsive transformations in the global climate financing landscape and in the international finance architecture reform.

In preparation for UNEA-7, we encourage African Ministers to support meaningful stakeholder engagement at a national level to ensure policies reflect diverse voices and needs. We must ensure stakeholder inclusion in the implementation of UNEA resolutions.

Finally, MGS Africa remain committed to support the AMCEN in achieving its environmental targets, strengthening the link between coordination and implementation, and becoming a bridge between Africa and the world.

Asante Sana!