



Distr.: General
31 July 2025

Original: English
English and French Only

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Twentieth Session

Ministerial Segment
Nairobi, Kenya 16 and 17 July
2025

Decision AMCEN/20/Dec.3: Strengthening chemicals and waste governance in Africa

We, the African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Nairobi on 16 and 17 July 2025 at the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware that Africa faces significant challenges in managing chemicals and waste that have negative impacts on health, the environment, economies and social equity, and that Africa faces significant challenges in managing chemicals and wastes that have negative impacts on health, the environment, economies and social equity, and that Africa requires an approach in achieving that,

Acknowledging the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions environmentally sustainable and healthy communities across the continent, and emphasising that the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for achieving this vision,

Taking note of resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.9 on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and, preparation of guidelines for waste lead-acid batteries under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,

Taking note of resolution UNEP/EA.6/14 which encouraged all member States and stakeholders to join the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides,

Welcoming the decision adopted at the 2025 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to further enhance cooperation and coordination with the Bamako and the Waigani Conventions, and the call for strengthened engagement in the form of training, skills development and capacity-building, technical assistance in implementing the Bamako Convention Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, national implementation plans and national action plans in synergy with the Bamako Convention,

Recognising the instrumental role played by the African Group of Negotiators on Chemicals and Waste in shaping and securing the adoption of the landmark Global Framework on Chemicals during the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management held in Bonn, Germany from 25 to 29 September 2023, and in forging consensus and driving forward key outcomes at the back-to-back Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2025,

Welcoming the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution where all voices will shape a pollution-free future,

Aware of the need to broaden the scope of Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import to Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa to be in synergy with other multilateral environment agreements and to include all emerging chemicals and waste streams and their lifecycle management, as well as encouraging non-member States to become parties to the Convention,

Recognising the need for strengthened chemicals and waste governance including institutional arrangements, harmonised policy frameworks, increased multi-stakeholder engagement, resource mobilisation, innovative financing and investments to effectively manage the growing hazardous and emerging waste streams across Africa,

Taking note of the progress made in implementing decision AMCEN 18/1(b) on the phase out of open burning of waste in Africa especially the activities by the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership on eliminating open waste burning, and the leadership demonstrated by national and local actors,

Appreciating the preparation of a pan-African strategy and action plan for sound management of chemicals and wastes, whose vision is to have a pollution-free Africa where chemicals and wastes are managed in ways that protect human health, ecosystems, and support sustainable development.

Decide:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import to Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa as Africa's continental legal instrument prohibiting the import of hazardous and radioactive waste and encourage all member States, who have not yet done so, to become parties to the Convention and ensure its effective implementation.
2. To call for, with the support of the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, the convening of the fourth conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import to Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa by 2025, and to use this opportunity to encourage the establishment of a continent-wide toxic dump watch mechanism with dedicated national desk officers in member states.
3. To encourage member States and mandate their negotiators on chemicals and wastes, and any relevant national experts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholder and with the support of the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa, to finalise the Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes (2025–2035), that is science-based, to serve as an input to the continent's unified framework for chemicals and waste management.
4. To request the African Union Commission, through its relevant Specialized Technical Committees, to consider the endorsement of the Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan for Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes (2025–2035), as a key instrument for achieving the goals of Agenda 2063 on environmental sustainability and public health, and to collaborate with African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and other partners in mobilising political, technical and financial support for its effective implementation.
5. To request the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Economic Communities and the secretariats of relevant conventions and other partners, to establish an African task force on chemicals and waste governance, as a high-level coordination mechanism to oversee the implementation of Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan for Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes (2025–2035).
6. To request member States to integrate the Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan for Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes (2025–2035) into national chemicals and waste management strategies.
7. To encourage member States to establish or strengthen national multi-stakeholder committees on chemicals and waste management, that bring together government agencies, private sector, civil society, academia and informal sector actors to coordinate implementation, share best practices and enhance transparency in chemical and waste governance.
8. To encourage member States to support the launch of the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides at the first International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals, scheduled for 2026.

9. To request the African Union Commission and the secretariat to explore the establishment of a regional multi-stakeholder forum on chemicals and waste management in Africa, bringing together key African institutions and stakeholders, including the Africa Development Bank, Africa Union Development Agency-NEPAD, civil society organisations, the private sector, and academia to foster policy coherence, coordinate regional action, and mobilise resources, and to report back to the next ordinary session of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
10. To encourage member States, to establish a multistakeholder initiative to develop standards to the environmental sound management of used lead acid batteries.
11. To encourage member States, to promote private sector investment and circular economy models and innovative financing mechanisms that support integrated chemicals and wastes management systems including small and medium enterprises, community-based organisations, and informal sector actors, waste pickers, waste recyclers, as a means of enhancing inclusive and sustainable waste management solutions.
12. To urge member States, including national and local authorities, to prioritise and implement actions on open dumping and open burning of waste as outlined in the Regional Roadmap for Transformative Action on eliminating Open Waste Burning from Africa developed through the multistakeholder partnership.
13. To call upon member States to provide active leadership for the multi stakeholder partnership that facilitates coordinated actions by national and local governments, private sector, civil society and development partners for the elimination of open waste burning from Africa.
14. To request the member States to enlarge their participation in the global negotiations on chemicals, wastes, and pollution prevention including in the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, and ensure coherent, informed, and unified African engagement in these negotiations.
15. To call for the revitalisation and strengthening of Basel and Stockholm Regional Centres and Basel Coordinating Centre, transforming them into centres of excellence for capacity building, scientific research, policy development, and innovation.
16. To request the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and their relevant regional centres to coordinate capacity-building activities including laboratory accreditation programmes and digital platforms for real-time tracking of transboundary movements and illegal shipments.