

Concept note for AMCEN Side Event on
Transformative action on open dumping and burning of waste in Africa

13 July 2025, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm, UN Gigiri

Background

The unchecked open burning of waste in Africa is harming health, causing premature deaths and accelerating climate change. In 2022, the United Nations High Level Champions on Climate Change and Engineering X¹ produced the report titled ‘Open Waste Burning in Africa: challenges and opportunities’². The report underlined the importance of addressing the systemic deficiencies in waste management in Africa and the potential to achieve multiple economic, social and environmental benefits through the promotion of waste to resource conversion. Based on this, the 18th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) held in Dakar, Senegal in September 2022 passed a resolution on eliminating open waste burning from Africa. A Multistakeholder Partnership was launched at COP 27 on climate change in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022 to support the implementation of this resolution.

One of the supporting activities carried out under this partnership is the development of a ‘Regional Roadmap for Transformative action on open dumping and burning of waste in Africa’. The Regional Roadmap has been developed by Engineering X in partnership with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)³ and Practical Action⁴ based on wide stakeholder consultation and piloting at a city level. The Regional Roadmap is submitted for endorsement by the 18th Session of AMCEN as a guiding tool for the goals set by AMCEN resolution on eliminating open waste burning from Africa.

Organizers

The side event is organized by AMCEN Secretariat, Engineering X, UNEP-Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and Practical Action.

Expected Outcomes: the following are the main outcomes expected from this side event.

- Improved appreciation about the need for transformational action on open dumping and burning of waste to effectively implement AMCEN resolution.
- Better clarity on the foundational and operational pillars of the transformational actions that need to be taken by African countries and cities.
- Practical insights and lessons shared from the pilot action plan developed for Kisumu city with a focus on no cost, low-cost and investment actions that need to be taken by cities.

Target audiences

The main target audiences of the side event are participants of the Major Groups meeting, AMCEN focal points and development partners.

¹ <https://engineeringx.raeng.org.uk/>

² https://engineeringx.raeng.org.uk/media/u4mnsto5/open-burning-final-report_1.pdf

³ <https://www.ccacoalition.org/>

⁴ <https://practicalaction.org/>

Proposed program

The session will be conducted as per the following program.

	Time	Session	Contributors
1.	1:15 – 1:25 pm	Opening remarks	• AMCEN representative • Engineering X representative
2.	1:25 – 1:50 pm	Presentations on • The Regional Roadmap • Lessons from Kisumu city	➤ Engineering X ➤ Practical Action
3.	1:50 – 2:20	Panel discussion	➤ Representative of National Government ➤ Representative of Kisumu City ➤ Representative of Financing Institution ➤ Representative of Waste Pickers Association
4.	2:20 -2:40 pm	Open discussion	➤ Participants
5.	2:40 – 2:45 pm	Closing remark	➤ CCAC representative

For further information, please contact:

Professor Desta Mebratu at dmebratu57@gmail.com, or

Ms. Charlie Fenn at Charlie.Fenn@raeng.org.uk.