

Concept Note

AMCEN Welcome Reception Dinner (in the margins of the 20th Ordinary Session of AMCEN)

Date & Time:

16 July 2025 | 18:00 – 21:00

Venue: United Nations Office in Nairobi¹

Background

The twentieth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) is being held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 18 July 2025, under the presidency of Libya. This milestone session commemorates **40 years since the establishment of AMCEN in 1985**, marking four decades of advancing Africa's environmental agenda.

Convened under the theme **"Four Decades of Environmental Action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future,"** AMCEN@40 provides an important opportunity for the continent to celebrate its environmental achievements, assess progress, and renew its commitment to transformative action. The session includes a technical segment (14–15 July), a ministerial segment (16–17 July), and a high-level special session on 18 July dedicated to commemorating AMCEN's legacy and future direction.

The welcome reception dinner brings together ministers, senior officials, partners, and stakeholders in a spirit of unity and celebration. It provides a platform to recognize collective efforts, foster informal exchanges, and set the tone for productive dialogue. As AMCEN enters its fifth decade, the dinner also serves as a moment to honour its enduring role in shaping Africa's environmental policy landscape and in championing sustainable development on the continent and globally.

Objectives

This event aims to:

- Create space for informal dialogue and exchange among ministers, delegates, and partners.
- Inspire continued engagement, solidarity, and shared ambition for Africa's environmental future.
- Reflect on Africa's progress in climate action and environmental governance.
- Celebrate four decades of Africa's environmental journey under AMCEN.
- Explore opportunities for enhanced policy coherence and synergies among the three Rio Conventions—CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC

Expected Outcomes

- Informal exchanges and relationship-building among ministers, development partners, and key stakeholders are supported to foster trust and collaboration.
- Reaffirmed political will and unity around Africa's environmental priorities.
- Deepened partnerships and regional solidarity on climate and environmental action.

¹ in the margins of the 20th Ordinary Session of AMCEN

- Strengthened alignment on a common vision and strategic priorities for Africa's environmental future
- An enhanced shared understanding and political commitment to strengthen coordination and integrated implementation of the three Rio Conventions.

Event Format

The event will feature high-level remarks and a dynamic dialogue, providing an informal networking space to foster exchanges among ministers, development partners, and key stakeholders; reaffirm political will; deepen regional partnerships; and align on Africa's environmental priorities and shared vision.

18.00 – 18.30: Welcome Reception and Networking

18.30 – 18.35: Introduction of the session by the Event Moderator **Keishamaza Rukikaire**, Global Head of News and Media, UNEP

High level Remarks

- **18.35 – 18.40: Introductory Remarks:** H.E Dr. Deborah M. Barasa, Cabinet Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forestry for Kenya
- **18.40 – 18.45: Welcome Remarks:** H.E. Mr. Ibrahim A. Munir, Minister of Environment of Libya
- **18.45 – 18.50: Opening Remarks:** H.E. Mr. Moses Vilakati, African Union Commissioner in charge of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) department.
- **18.50 – 18.55: Special address:** Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Dialogue: Enhancing Synergies and Policy Coherence across the three Rio Conventions

Moderator: **Patricia Kameri-Mbote**, Director, Law Division, UNEP

19.00 – 19.05: Introduction of the dialogue by the session moderator

19.05 – 19.30: Interventions from the panellists:

- **Ibrahim Thiaw**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **Simon Stiell**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- **Astrid Schomaker**, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

19.30 – 19.50: Audience intervention, Q&A.

Networking Session

19.50 – 21.00: Networking session (continues)
