



AMCEN



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Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to AMCEN

Note by the secretariat

Report on the Review of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's Rules of Procedure

I. Background

1. At its resumed eighteenth session, that was held from 12-16 September 2022, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), in Decision 18/1(f) on the "Review of the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment", decided

"Operative paragraph 1: That the rules of procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment should be reviewed to identify areas that require revision in line with the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment"

*"Operative paragraph 2: To request the secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau, and in consultation with Member States, to review the rules of procedure and make recommendations to the next ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for consideration."*¹

2. The decision was based on a Note by the AMCEN Secretariat dated 3 August 2022, which observed that "[s]ince AMCEN adopted its constitution and rules of procedure, there have been many changes in environmental governance and in the related institutions at the national, regional and global levels".² The Note also recognized AMCEN as "now [being] part of the African Union specialized technical committee

¹ AMCEN/18(II)/15, Annex II, Decision 18/1(f), para. 2.

² AMCEN/18(II)/14, paragraph 3.

pertaining to agriculture, rural development, water and environment”, as well as the increased use of electronic means to conduct meetings.³

3. More specifically, in paragraph 7 of that Note, the Secretariat had identified six items in the rules of procedure,⁴ in need of amendment:

Item 1, paragraph 7(a): “The current geographical scope of AMCEN and the requirements for membership need to be updated; in certain cases, country names have changed;”

Item 2, paragraph 7 (b): “A review is needed to determine whether the requirement of United Nations membership should continue to apply, as per rule 2 of the rules of procedure. One option would be to use membership and rules of procedure of the African Union. A determination as to which rules of procedure to apply is of particular importance now that AMCEN is part of the African Union specialized technical committee pertaining to agriculture, rural development, water and environment, given that the United Nations rules of procedure are not in tandem with those of the African Union;”

Item 3, paragraph 7 (c): “The election system set out in the rules of procedure appears to place greater focus on voting, yet the general practice of AMCEN is to prioritize consensus-building over voting. A review is thus needed, with a view to supporting consensus-building among member States on contentious issues prior to using a voting process as a last resort;”

Item 4, paragraph 7 (d): “A review of the election and voting system as set out in parts VI and X is also required. As they currently stand, the election provisions apply only to the election of AMCEN office holders. Over time, environmental matters have become not only more important, but also more contentious, requiring the intervention of AMCEN, including in building common positions. There is therefore a need to provide for the election of representatives of Africa in other intergovernmental environmental bodies and institutions, outside AMCEN’s internal structures;”

Item 5, paragraph 7 (e): “Under the current provisions of part XIV, on participation of States that are not members of AMCEN, any State member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency may participate in the deliberations of AMCEN. Those provisions expose the deliberations of AMCEN to other stakeholders. There is thus a need to review the rules of procedure to provide for controlled admission of organizations or non-member States of the African Union;”

Item 6, paragraph 7 (f): “The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has changed the modus operandi of meetings and introduced a new dimension of online meetings and negotiations. The current rules of procedure do not envisage such a scenario, nor do they provide for rules of engagement in such circumstances. The hybrid nature of current international meetings also needs to be recognized, as the recent

³ Ibid., paragraph 4.

⁴ AMCEN/BUR.9/3.

practices of the United Nations and other bodies have shown that hybrid and online meetings have great value, and AMCEN may wish to consider holding sessions online on an exceptional basis and when required to advance its work.”

4. In 2023, at its nineteenth session, the Secretariat informed AMCEN that it had initiated the process to engage a consultant to review the rules of procedure and identify areas requiring revision.⁵ At the same session, AMCEN adopted the *Addis Ababa declaration on seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa* through which it, *inter alia*, urged the Secretariat to expedite the process of review of the rules of procedure and to report on progress at the twentieth session.⁶
5. The present analysis addresses each of these items and advises on the procedural aspects applicable to amendments to the rules of procedure.

II. Legal analysis

A. On Items 1 and 2

Applicable provisions

Rule 2.1 of the rules of procedure: “The Geographical scope of the Conference’s work shall be the whole continent of Africa, Madagascar and the other African islands”;

Rule 2.2 of the rules of procedure: “The membership of the Conference shall be open to: all African States and any other State in the Area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations”;

Article 1 of the constitution: “The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, herein referred to as AMCEN, is hereby constituted as an African Permanent Intergovernmental Institution”.

Article 4.1 of the constitution: “The Conference shall be open to all African States”.

i. Geographical scope

6. Pursuant to rule 2.1, the geographical scope of the Conference “shall be the whole continent of Africa, Madagascar and other African islands”. This provision aligns with article 1 of the AMCEN constitution,⁷ which defines the Conference as an “African Permanent Intergovernmental Institution”, as well as with article 4.1, which states that “The Conference shall be open to all African States”.
7. Rule 2.2 opens membership to the Conference to 54 African States listed therein and to “any other State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United

⁵ AMCEN/19/EGM/2, paragraph 29.

⁶ AMCEN/19/6, Annex I, paragraph 38.

⁷ AMCEN/BUR.9/2.

Nations” [emphasis added]. The use of “in the area” confirms a clear intent to confine the geographical scope of the Conference to the African continent, including African islands.

8. The Legal Advisor considers that, absent a decision of the Conference to expand its scope beyond the geographical area identified in both its constitution and rules of procedure (i.e. the African continent and African islands), the framing of rule 2.1 appears sufficient to incorporate addition to the membership of additional States that fall within the category identified, and does not necessitate updating or amending.
9. However, should the Conference desire to broaden its current geographical scope, Member States should contemplate amending rule 2.1 by delineating the additional geographical area(s) that they wish to include. This modification may also necessitate amendments to provisions in the constitution, including but not limited to article 1 and article 4.1.

ii. Membership

10. Currently, AMCEN comprises 54 Member States. Although some of the States listed in rule 2.2 have changed their names since the adoption of the rules of procedure, it is well-established that a State’s legal personality persists despite changes in territory, population, political regime and *a fortiori*, change of name.⁸ Accordingly, there is no legal necessity to update the names of States in the list, insofar as they correctly reflect the States’ designations at the time of signing.
11. This position is confirmed, *inter alia*, by consistent practice within the United Nations system vis-à-vis States that have changed their official names. Swaziland’s change of name to Eswatini in 2018, the renaming of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to the Republic of North Macedonia in 2019, and Turkey’s request to be referred to as Türkiye in 2022,⁹ were all implemented without requiring the revision of existing legal instruments. In each instance, the continuity of the State’s international legal personality was preserved, and prior references remained valid despite the change in designation.
12. Rule 2.2 opens membership to the Conference to a list of 54 African countries and to “any other State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations” [emphasis added]. The use of “hereafter” implies that membership is in no way strictly limited to the countries indicated in the list but remains open to future accession by other States in the area, provided that they are also Members of the United Nations (see para. II.A.iii. below).

⁸ See: Marek, K. (1954). *Identity and continuity of states in international law*. Droz, Geneva, pp. 127-128; Kelsen, H. (1959). *Principles Of International Law*. Rinehart and Company. Inc., New York, p. 261; Stern, B. (1996). *La succession d’États* (Volume 262). In *The Hague Academy Collected Courses Online / Recueil des cours de l’Académie de La Haye en ligne*. Brill Nijhoff, pp. 74. See also: Zaikos, N. (2010). *The onomastics of states in international law: The case of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Macedonian identities through time. Interdisciplinary approaches*, Thessaloniki, Epikentro, p. 342.

⁹ See: <https://turkiye.un.org/en/184798-turkeys-name-changed-t%C3%BCrkiye>. The recent change of name concerning “Türkiye” became effective upon formal notification from the Turkish authorities to the United Nations Secretary General.

13. This interpretation is supported by the fact that at least one such State, South Sudan, has joined the Conference, subsequent to the adoption of the of the rules of procedure.
14. In light of the above, the Legal Advisor considers that, absent any decision of the Conference to revise the existing requirements for membership, rule 2.2 is adequate to give effect to the geographical scope set out in rule 2.1 and, accordingly, does not require any amendment.

iii. Membership of the United Nations

15. Concerning the question whether the requirement of United Nations membership, as provided for in rule 2.2, should continue to apply, the Legal Advisor maintains that this is fundamentally a political decision which falls to be made by the Conference. From a legal perspective, there is nothing to suggest that rule 2 (or any other rule) would have to be amended.
16. As a result, the Legal Advisor considers that, absent a decision of the Conference to explicitly adopt African Union membership rules, rule 2 does not need any update or amendment.
17. However, the Legal Advisor notes that questions of membership are typically codified in constitutive instruments rather than the rules of procedure, of intergovernmental bodies. As such, should the Conference still wish to amend its requirements with respect to membership, an amendment of article 4.1 of the constitution may be pursued, which would therefore suppress and override rule 2.

On Item 3

Applicable provision

Rule 51 of the rules of procedure: “All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Conference”.

18. Item 3 refers to “the election system” “plac[ing] greater focus on voting”. The proposition conflates elections with voting. An interpretation of this item in relation of the entire item as presented, is that what is meant here is the (real or perceived) need to determine the necessity to amend the relevant rules of procedure, with a view to including a specific provision reflecting the AMCEN’s current practice of elections by acclamation.
19. While rule 51 explicitly designates secret ballot as the default method for the conduct of elections, it expressly allows for alternative modalities in the phrase “unless otherwise decided by the Conference” – such as by consensus.
20. Rule 51 mirrors the legal framework governing elections by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), whose rules of procedure¹⁰ significantly influenced those of AMCEN. Rule 56 of the UNEA rules of procedure stipulates that “[a]ll elections shall be held by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the United Nations Environment Assembly”. In conformity with rule 63(2) of the UNEA rules of procedure,

¹⁰ UNEP/EA.3/3.

the same rule applies *mutatis mutandis* to UNEA's subsidiary organs, including the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

21. In addition, identical provisions are included in the rules of procedure of several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).¹¹
22. In practice, UNEA and its subsidiary organs hold elections by acclamation.¹² Similarly, the governing bodies of MEAs usually elect officers by acclamation.¹³ Therefore, in United Nations administered governing bodies, elections by consensus remain the practice and elections through secret ballot the exception.¹⁴
23. Whereas UNEP's governing bodies and MEAs rely on similar procedural frameworks, they regularly engage in consensus-based decision-making, including elections. It follows that there is nothing to prevent AMCEN from holding elections by acclamation, based on the current rules of procedure.
24. As regards the remainder ("*a review is thus needed, with a view to supporting consensus-building among member States on contentious issues prior to using a voting process as a last resort*"), consensus-building in governing bodies is predominantly an informal process. Typically, decisions on substantive matters or nominations are handled in informal discussions. Coordination of positions is done in sub-regional or regional groups, caucuses, negotiating groups or groups of like-minded states before or on the sidelines of formal sessions.
25. In addition, taking decisions by consensus often involves protracted negotiations to achieve the desired concurrence of views and to avoid express objections, and an important role is often played by the presiding officer or other members of the Bureau.
26. Many decisions requiring political agreements in plenary sessions, including elections, therefore achieve political agreement in informal settings and then "gavelled through" during formal sessions. As such, consensus-building prior to elections – whether by acclamation or by voting, as the case may be – does not lend itself to codification, let alone standardization in procedural terms.
27. In light of the above, the Legal Advisor considers that no amendments to the rules of procedure are required to reflect the already existing practice of decision-making by consensus.
28. It is recommended to leave the rules of procedure covering the decision-making process unchanged.

B. On Item 4

Applicable provision

¹¹ See, for example, rule 49 of the rules of procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol; rule 49 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; rule 49 of the rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and rule 52 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

¹² See, for example, UNEP/EA.6/14, para. 184; UNEP/EA.5/28*, para. 93; and UNEP/EA.4/2, para. 89.

¹³ See, for example, UNEP/OzL.Pro.36/9, para. 228; and UNEP/CMS/COP14/Report, para. 16.

¹⁴ In this regard, see, for example, CBD/COP/15/17, para. 38.

Article 4.2 of the constitution: “The objectives of the Conference shall be: i) to promote the harmonization and coordination of African environment and sustainable development programme policies in collaboration with the governments and non-governmental organizations, international organizations and private sector, including the business and industrial sectors; ii) to facilitate the harmonization of Africa’s consensus and common position on global environment and development issues of concern to the continent; iii) to enhance Africa’s participation in global dialogue and action for interdependence towards the achievement of mutual environment and sustainable development interests.

29. Over time, AMCEN has established negotiating bodies and has fulfilled the role of a regional group for the nomination of representatives to intergovernmental bodies, including entities belonging to the governing bodies of MEAs.
30. Such processes are informal in nature and the practice of regional groups nominating representatives widely uncoded. In those rare cases where rules on the matter exist, they are usually set out in the legal framework of the governing body for which a delegate is being nominated,¹⁵ rather than in the rules of procedure of an external entity.
31. Conversely, the proposal to review “the election and voting system as set out in parts VI and X” of the rules of procedure is beside the point: part VI deals with “Officers” of AMCEN and is therefore inapplicable to nominations for the election officers in third entities. “Part X” concerns the procedure governing the voting process concerning substantive proposals. While the nominations of representatives to intergovernmental bodies falls within the objectives of the Conference as outlined in article 4.2 of the constitution (ii) and (iii), it would be wholly untypical for AMCEN to adopt formal decisions on the nomination of candidates in the governing bodies of third parties, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 18-28 above.
32. However, if AMCEN is minded to do so, the applicable rules governing “voting” apply.
33. Based on the foregoing, the Legal Advisor considers that, from a legal perspective, no amendments are required to enable AMCEN to nominate representatives for external bodies and institutions. Indeed, nothing prevents AMCEN from including a separate agenda item regarding nominations for positions in governing bodies, to enter deliberations on that matter and, where applicable, to decide on those nominations, within the existing procedural framework.

C. On Item 5

Applicable provisions

Rule 62 of the rules of procedure: “Any State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

¹⁵ See: ECOSOC Res. 2000/22 (reference to “formal consultations with the Bureau and the regional groups through their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations” with regard to the nominations for the ECOCOS Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues).

which is not a member of the Conference, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference. Any State thus participating shall not have the right to vote but may submit proposals which may be put to vote by request of any Member of the Conference. The provisions of this rule shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to participation in a subsidiary organ of the Conference”;

Rule 63.1 of the rules of procedure: “Representatives of specialized agencies, of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and of appropriate United Nations bodies, as well as of the [sic] intergovernmental organizations and other bodies approved by the Conference on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its subsidiary organs, upon the invitation of the President or Chairman, as the case maybe [sic], and subject to the approval of the Conference or of the subsidiary organ concerned such observers [sic] organizations may make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities”.

34. While non-member States and representatives of entities, as referred to in rule 63.1, may participate in the deliberations of AMCEN, such participation is without the right to vote.
35. As mentioned above, strong similarities exist between the provisions of the rules of procedure of AMCEN and those of UNEA. Indeed, rules 62 and 63 mirror the UNEA rules of procedure governing the participation of States not members of UNEA, as well as the participation of specialized agencies, the IAEA, United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations in the proceedings of the Assembly.
36. UNEA provides for the admission of non-member States and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations.¹⁶
37. Typically, the regional conferences of Ministers of the Environment, administered by UNEP, may admit non-members from outside the regions and international organizations to their meetings: The Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific gathers, in addition to its members, intergovernmental organizations, UN organizations, UNEP’s strategic partners, and major group stakeholders.¹⁷ The Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean extends invitations to UN agencies, programmes and commissions, as well as Intergovernmental agencies outside the UN system.¹⁸ While the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference involves ministers and other stakeholders from member states of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, it also welcomes participation from non-member states, and international organizations.¹⁹ AMCEN meetings are regularly attended by African

¹⁶ Cfr. rules 69 and 70 of the UNEA rules of procedure.

¹⁷ See: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/first-forum-ministers-and-environment-authorities-asia-pacific>

¹⁸ Final Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, 14 May 2010.

¹⁹ The 2022 Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference was attended by delegates from 10 non-member States of the United Economic Commission for Europe (ECE): Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. The Conference was also attended by delegates from the State of Palestine.

regional and subregional organizations, UN agencies and the secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.²⁰

38. The admission of non-member States and international organizations to regional meetings of Ministers of the Environment has therefore developed into established practice and is duly reflected in the applicable legal frameworks.²¹
39. In light of the foregoing, the Legal Advisor considers that any proposed amendments to the rules of procedure that would restrict participation by non-member States or international organizations, in the deliberative processes may be approached with caution, as they may diverge from prevailing institutional trends.

D. On Item 6

Applicable provisions

Rule 6 of the rules of procedure: “Ordinary sessions shall be held at the venue chosen by the Conference at a previous session upon invitation by a member State. Failing such invitation the session shall be convened at the location of the Secretariat”;

Rule 7.1 of the rules of procedure: “Extra-Ordinary sessions shall be held pursuant to a decision taken by the Conference at a regular session”;

Rule 7.2 of the rules of procedure: “Extra-Ordinary sessions may also be requested outside of a regular session by: a) Five members of the Conference; b) The President of the Conference with the concurrence of the other members of the Bureau of the Conference”;

Rule 61 of the rules of procedure: “The meetings of the Conference, its committees and working parties and subsidiary organs, if any, shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise”.

40. AMCEN rules of procedure do not explicitly address the possibility of conducting hybrid or online meetings, nor do they provide specific guidelines for engagement in such circumstances.
41. However, while it is evident that the drafters of the rules of procedure originally contemplated in-person meetings only, there are no provisions within the document that preclude the Conference or its subsidiary organs from convening via videoconference or similar means. Pursuant to rule 6, ordinary sessions “shall be held at the venue chosen by the Conference at a previous session upon invitation by a member State” or, absent such invitation, at the location of the Secretariat. Rule 7, which governs extraordinary

²⁰ African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Report of the meeting of the nineteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, AMCEN/19/6, para. 2; African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Sixteenth session, Report of the Ministerial Segment, AMCEN/16/8, para. 2.

²¹ The UNEA rules of procedure serve as a guiding framework, *mutatis mutandis*, for the proceedings of the other regional conferences of Ministers of the Environment.

sessions, gives no specific indication as to where such sessions are to be held. Additionally, rule 61 stipulates that the meetings of the Conference, its committees, working groups and subsidiary organs shall normally be held in public but permits concerned bodies to decide otherwise.

42. In consideration of technological advancements and barring any explicit requirement for physical presence in the rules of procedure, it appears that venue requirements can be satisfied through virtual and/or hybrid meetings. This interpretation is supported by the practice across the United Nations system and MEAs, and is in accordance with their rules of procedure.²²
43. In a 2021 study addressing legal questions arising from the holding of virtual meetings of UNEP governing bodies and MEAs, the UNEP Law Division concluded that, “*as the treaty provisions and rules of procedure of United Nations Bodies and MEAs do not address virtual meetings by expressly prohibiting or authorizing them, Member States/Parties have agreed that formal intergovernmental meetings can be convened virtually in accordance with their rules of procedure*”.²³ While the study acknowledged that “[i]t may be necessary to circulate in advance, operating procedures [SOPs] for virtual meetings that have been agreed on by the presiding officer(s) and secretariat”,²⁴ it also reaffirmed that “the intention of operating procedures for virtual meetings should not be to revise the rules of procedure but rather to ensure that they can be applied in the context of a virtual meeting, with supplements to the rules, as appropriate”.²⁵
44. In light of the above, and in accordance with the conclusions of the study,²⁶ the Legal Advisor maintains that, from a legal perspective, no amendment is necessary to allow for virtual meetings. However, the Conference may consider adopting operating procedures for virtual meetings and annex them to the rules of procedure or keep them as a standing parallel document.

E. On the procedure for the adoption of amendments of the AMCEN rules of procedure

Applicable provisions

Rule 65 of the rules of procedure: “Any of these rules may be amended or suspended by the Conference by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting”;

²² Cfr., inter alia, ILO Governing Body, 6 October 2020, “Special arrangements for the 340th Session of the Governing Body of the ILO (October-November 2020)” - GB.340/INS/1 (Rev.1); Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), 22 November 2020, “Operating Procedures for Virtual Meetings. Note by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention” – CC/COP6/DOC5_FINAL. See also “Summary of the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme”, 1 December 2020.

²³ UNEP Law Division (2021), Revised Law Division Study on Virtual Meetings – Prepared in consultation with the Secretariats of the UNEP Governing Bodies and Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UNEP Regional Offices, para. 25.

²⁴ Ibid., para. 12(i)(c).

²⁵ Ibid., para. 12(viii)(ii).

²⁶ Ibid., para. 12(viii)(jj).

Rule 66 of the rules of procedure: “These rules may not be amended except in accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution”;

Article 32.1 of the constitution: “Any member state may propose amendments to this Constitution”;

Article 32.2 of the constitution: “Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted at an Ordinary Session of the Conference. The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated to the member state [sic] by the Secretariat at least twelve months before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption. The Secretariat shall also communicate proposed amendments to the Depository”;

Article 32.3 of the constitution: “The member States shall make every effort to reach agreement on any proposed amendment by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, the amendment shall be adopted only if two third [sic] of the member States representatives at the session so vote with at least two third [sic] member states participating”.

45. Pursuant to rule 65, any rule may be amended or suspended by the Conference by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Under rule 66, rules cannot be amended except “in accordance with Article [32]²⁷ of the Constitution”.
46. Consequently, pursuant to the provisions of article 32.1 of the constitution, the required amendments may be proposed by any Member State of the Conference. The Secretariat shall then communicate the text of any proposed amendment to Member States at least twelve months prior to the meeting at which they will be considered for adoption. Similarly, the Secretariat shall also communicate the proposed amendments to the Depository (article 32.2).
47. At the meeting for adoption, which in accordance with article 32.2 shall necessarily be during an Ordinary Session of the Conference, Member States shall strive to reach consensus on any proposed amendment. If consensus cannot be achieved, the amendment will be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote, with a minimum participation of at least two-thirds of Member States (article 32.3).

III. Consideration by the 20th Ordinary session of Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, at its twentieth session, may wish:
 - a) To take note of the present secretariat report and the advice from the Legal Advisor.
 - b) To provide any further policy directions on its rules of procedure.

²⁷ Noting that article 31 of the constitution pertains to the “Entry into force of the Constitution”, while article 32 concerns “Amendments”, it is apparent that the reference to article 31 in rule 66 is likely a typographical error.