



AMCEN



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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

**Tenth special session**

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 3–6 September 2024

**Decision AMCEN/SS.X/2: Omnibus decision on advancing Africa's common position at conferences of the parties and other meetings**

*We, African ministers for the environment,*

*Having met* in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 5 and 6 September 2024 at the tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Welcoming and appreciating* the participation of the ministers and their representatives in the ministerial meeting of the tenth special session,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the nineteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 18 August 2023,

*Aware* of the forthcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, which will be held in Riyadh from 2 to 13 December 2024,

*Aware also* of the forthcoming twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Baku from 11 to 22 November 2024,

*Aware further* of the forthcoming sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024,

*Aware* of the forthcoming fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 25 November to 1 December 2024,

*Recalling* the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union decision on the report of the Heads of State and Government Committee on Climate Change adopted by the Assembly at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 February 2014,

*Acknowledging* the work of the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity, as mandated by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in leading the region in the negotiations of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Decision 14/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex.

*Acknowledging also* the efforts of the African Group of Negotiators for plastic pollution in articulating Africa's priorities in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Determined* to continue having a unified voice and common African positions to address common challenges and priorities at upcoming sessions of conferences of the parties and the intergovernmental negotiating committee process,

*Decide:*

1. To commend the African Group of Negotiators for plastic pollution for articulating Africa's priorities during the third and fourth sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which were held from 13 to 17 November 2023 in Nairobi and 23 to 29 April 2024 in Ottawa, respectively;
2. To urge African Member States to prepare for and actively participate in the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 25 November to 1 December 2024, so as to advance Africa's common position, interests and priorities, taking into account the interests of all African States;
3. To urge the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to continue advancing Africa's common position, interests and priorities at the forthcoming sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and at the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol that will be held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, as well as in relevant intersessional processes;
4. To request the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to advance, in global negotiations, synergies between biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration to build resilience against climate change, drought and desertification and to promote sustainable land management practices and land-degradation neutrality;
5. To urge member States to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and its goals and targets, and urge member States that have not yet done so to expedite the revision and submission of their national targets in the standardized format by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and further develop national indicators, taking into consideration the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
6. To mandate the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to continue developing a common position to reiterate Africa's interests on the priority issues of digital sequence information on genetic resources, resource mobilization and financing mechanisms, the global review, the mainstreaming of national biodiversity strategies and action plan priorities within and across sectors, biodiversity and climate change, marine and coastal biodiversity, and addressing the needs for capacity-building and development and technology transfer in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to ensure that these priorities are taken into consideration in the negotiations at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the Conferences of the Parties serving as the meetings of the parties to the Protocols;
7. To also mandate the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to reiterate, in the global negotiations, Africa's position on the establishment of the dedicated Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the authority and guidance of, and accountable to, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its sixteenth meeting, informed by the criteria enshrined in article 20, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>2</sup> to meet the level of ambition in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
8. To call on the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish a robust, legally binding international framework that ensures fair and equitable sharing of monetary benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including the operationalization of the global multilateral benefit-sharing fund, and to define clear processes for the sharing of non-monetary benefits;

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, no. 30619.

9. To request the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to convene a briefing session for African ministers at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to enable the ministers to provide concerted guidance and direction on the proposed common position to the experts, and more involvement of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union Commission in those briefing sessions at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and for this purpose encourage the ministers to attend the meeting a day before, in preparation for the high-level ministerial segment of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
10. To request the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, civil society organizations, the private sector and other partners to support African countries in mobilizing domestic and international resources, as well as innovative or other sources of financing, to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
11. To endorse the outcomes of the regional consultations of the African Group of Negotiators for Biodiversity that were held online on 29 August 2024 and the key messages therefrom, contained in the annex to the present decision;
12. To take note of the outcomes of the twelfth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, held in Abidjan from 30 August to 2 September 2024, and renew support for the Climate for Development in Africa initiative;
13. To urge the African Group of Negotiators for climate change to continue advancing Africa's common position, interests and priorities at the forthcoming twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Baku from 11 to 22 November 2024;
14. To urge member States and regional economic communities to incorporate the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032) into legislation, policies, strategies and plans at the national and subregional levels to accelerate climate action, and promote the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme as a reflection of the continent's commitment to effective climate action ahead of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## **Annex to decision AMCEN/SS.X/2**

### **African position for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

*We, African ministers for the environment,*

*Having met* in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 5 and 6 September 2024, during the tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with a focus on raising ambitions for accelerating action on drought resilience and combating land degradation and desertification,

*Acknowledging* the value of Africa's rich biodiversity and ecosystems and the critical opportunity that they offer in contributing to the sustainable development of the continent and the well-being of the people,

*Recalling* the Addis Ababa Declaration on seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its nineteenth session, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 August 2023, and the commitment therein to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling also* paragraph 8 of the Addis Ababa Declaration on seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address environmental challenges in Africa, on taking appropriate measures to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through updating or revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans or national targets and through joint advocacy

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<sup>3</sup> Decision 14/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex.

efforts to ensure that the biodiversity finance gap is closed in full and that international financial flows to developing countries are increased,

*Recalling further* the request contained in part (c) of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 19/1 of 18 August 2023 for the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to continue engaging in the intersessional work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to develop Africa's common position on clearly defined priority areas,

*Recalling* African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 17/1, part V, of 15 November 2019, in which the Conference endorsed the establishment of a core group to facilitate the coordination of the African Group of Negotiators in developing a common regional position to strengthen Africa's voice and mandated the African Group of Negotiators for biodiversity to articulate African perspectives, priorities and common positions during all the negotiations of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Kunming, China, in October 2020,

*Recalling also* the annex to African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 18/3, in which the Conference reaffirmed the importance of means of implementation as an integral part of the global biodiversity framework and stressed the need for the adequate provision of financial resources and access to technology and capacity-building, including through the establishment of a dedicated biodiversity fund to support effective implementation of the global biodiversity framework,

*Recalling further* African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 19/1 (c), in which the Conference noted that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had established a mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among parties to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>4</sup> and its protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the thirty-seventh African Union summit, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 February 2024, of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and taking note of the draft resource mobilization and financing plan for the national biodiversity strategic action plans,

*Welcoming also* the nomination of five African organizations (the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (Cameroon), the Ecological Monitoring Centre (Senegal), the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (Kenya), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (Tunisia) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (South Africa)) to host subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres as part of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting,

*Emphasizing* the importance of conducting a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation to determine the effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, relevance and coherence of the Framework towards achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the goals thereof,

*Reminding* member States of the importance of global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets to assess the contribution towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Taking note of and welcoming* the coordination effort of the African Group of Negotiators in preparing Africa's common position and ensuring the consideration of Africa's voice and priorities in the negotiations of the intersessional work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, notably the ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, the Resource Mobilization Advisory Committee and the ad hoc technical expert group on indicators, and noting the participation of the African Group in the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, held in Nairobi from 13 to 18 May 2024 and 21 to 29 May 2024, respectively, with key draft recommendations for submission to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting, and the relevant outcomes for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the continent,

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, no. 30619.

*Welcoming* the convening of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, alongside the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, to be hosted by the Government of Colombia in Cali from 21 October to 1 November 2024, and the fifth meeting of the subsidiary body on implementation, to be held in Cali from 16 to 18 October 2024,

## **Key messages**

### **I. Updating and revising national biodiversity strategic action plans**

1. Recognize that less than 50 per cent of African member States have revised or updated their national biodiversity strategic action plans or national targets on biodiversity in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and made submissions within the defined timeline to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, while the majority of member States are yet to finalize this process;
2. Urge parties that have not yet done so to expedite the revisions and submissions of their national targets before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and urge parties that have so far only developed national targets to finalize the revision or updating of their national biodiversity strategic action plans;
3. Note that the finalized Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework indicators provide a framework to guide the monitoring of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and call on parties to develop, following the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, their national indicators to ensure monitoring and assessing performance on national biodiversity strategic action plans and reporting;
4. Call on member States to develop national finance plans in order to determine the funding required for priority projects of the national biodiversity strategic action plans and to support the adequate and timely mobilization of international and domestic and public and private financial resources for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
5. Also call on member States to ensure the inclusion of key sectors in the planning and monitoring of national biodiversity strategic action plans as a key entry point for mainstreaming the defined national biodiversity priorities within and across sectors and in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
6. Take note of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, endorsed by the thirty-seventh African Union summit in 2023 as a high policy continental commitment to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and endorse the ongoing efforts to develop an African Union resource mobilization strategy and support mechanisms for the implementation of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
7. Also take note of the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa guideline for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting relevant to the Commission, and encourage other regional organizations to strengthen regional approaches and effective coordination in implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
8. Urge member States and regional organizations to align with the guidance of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and to engage local authorities and non-State actors in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reviewing of their national biodiversity strategic action plans or regional strategies to ensure effective whole-of-society engagement in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

### **II. Mobilizing resources and financing biodiversity**

9. Welcome the eighth Global Environment Facility replenishment, which has supported African countries in the updating and revision of their national biodiversity strategic action plans, and also welcome the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and the programming of its first tranche of fund disbursements;
10. Express great concern about the critical and significant gap that persists in the financing of biodiversity and the inadequacy of the efforts to fulfil the commitments to substantially increase biodiversity financing;

11. Take note of the engagement of Africa's representatives in the intersessional work that has been carried out by the Resource Mobilization Advisory Committee in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and recognize with appreciation that the first meeting of the Committee was held in Africa and hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
12. Stress the need for a global biodiversity fund to be established as a dedicated financial mechanism under the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as envisaged under the agreement for the Convention, and call for an ad hoc open-ended working group to be established with the mandate of discussing, as intersessional work, the process and mechanisms for the operationalization of such a fund;

### **III. Digital sequence information**

13. Recognize the sovereign rights of countries over their genetic resources and the need for those rights to be respected and upheld in all international frameworks and practices;
14. Note with great concern the non-consensus outcomes and a wide range of outstanding issues from the intersessional work of the ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources;
15. Emphasize the need to establish a robust, legally binding international framework, including the operationalization of a global multilateral benefit-sharing fund as a viable approach to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of monetary benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information and also comply with the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and also emphasize the need to define clear processes for the sharing of non-monetary benefits, including technology transfer, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and access to research outcomes, considering that these non-monetary benefits are vital for building the capacity of African countries to conserve and sustainably use their biodiversity;
16. Call for a transparent and inclusive governance structure to be designed for the benefit-sharing mechanism that will be established under this framework and clear guidelines to be defined for the monitoring and reporting on the use of digital sequence information, as well as the management and disbursement of funds;
17. Recognize the significant shortcomings in existing public databases and data-sharing practices, particularly in relation to accountability, transparency and inclusive governance, that do not align with international instruments on access and benefit-sharing, which limits the fair and equitable distribution of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and thus emphasize the need for specific steps towards effective data governance, including the establishment of a digital sequence information database, to be managed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ensuring that the sovereign rights of countries over their genetic resources are fully respected;

### **IV. Capacity-building, scientific cooperation and technology transfer for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

18. Acknowledge the critical role of technology transfer in enabling African countries to achieve their biodiversity goals and national commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to halt and reverse biodiversity loss;
19. Concerned about the disparities in technological capacity between developed and developing countries, which hinder the full and effective implementation of biodiversity-related initiatives, and thus stress the importance of South-South cooperation, as well as collaboration with developed countries, in the transfer of appropriate and effective technologies;
20. Recognize the establishment of a dedicated global entity mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity and to support the Secretariat to that Convention in hosting the global coordination entity, supported by an international organization, to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, ensuring that these technologies are appropriate, affordable and adaptable to local conditions;

21. Urge developed countries and relevant international organizations to fulfil their commitments to technology transfer, as stipulated under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant multilateral agreements, by providing financial resources, technical assistance and capacity-building support to African countries;
22. Emphasize the importance of technology transfer in the areas of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, monitoring and reporting, particularly in the implementation of digital tools and systems for data collection, analysis and decision-making;
23. Advocate the integration of technology transfer within the broader framework of capacity-building and development, ensuring that African countries have the necessary skills, knowledge and infrastructure to effectively utilize transferred technologies;
24. Encourage partnerships between African countries, research institutions, the private sector and international organizations to foster innovation and the development of indigenous technologies that are tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the region;
25. Reaffirm the need for continuous monitoring and assessment of technology transfer initiatives to ensure that they are effectively contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as to the overall goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
26. Recall African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 19/1 (c), in which the Conference noted that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had established a mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among parties in support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and encouraged member States to support their entities and organizations that wished to host a regional or subregional support centre;
27. Support the selection of the five regional support centres in Africa to provide technical assistance to countries in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, thereby enhancing regional capacity to achieve biodiversity targets and commitments;

## **V. Participation in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

28. Call on the ministers of African States to participate in the high-level ministerial segment of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
29. Request the African Group of negotiators to convene a briefing session for African ministers at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to provide concerted guidance and direction on the proposed common position by the experts and for this purpose to arrive the high-level ministerial segment of the Conference in time for the briefing session;
30. Urge member States to support the participation of African national experts in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen the technical input into the work of the African Group of Negotiators in developing Africa's common position.