



AMCEN



AU



Distr.: General
30 June 2025

Original: English
English and French

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Twentieth Session**

Nairobi, Kenya 14 - 15 July 2025

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the report of the secretariat of the
African Ministerial Conference on the Environment****Report on progress in the implementation of decisions of the African Ministerial
Conference on the Environment****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The present note highlights progress and status on the implementation of AMCEN decisions adopted by the conference at its resumed eighteenth ordinary session, nineteenth ordinary session, and tenth special session held in 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively, for consideration by the conference and for the members to share any reflections on the implementation of the decisions.
2. The report provides a summary of several key activities related to the Conference and their associated outcomes and should in no way be considered exhaustive in terms of the activities that may have been undertaken during the reporting period
3. The progress in implementation of the AMCEN decisions includes actions where decisions have been translated into activities, reports, meetings, uptake and shifts in behaviour or institutional practices. These reflect both direct follow-up and broader alignment with AMCEN's strategic priorities.

**II. Status of implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference at its resumed
eighteenth session**

4. The eighteenth ordinary session agreed to, among other issues, foster sustainable soil governance in Africa; reduce the open burning and dumping of waste; identify and implement environmental solutions to antimicrobial resistance in Africa; strengthen collaboration with the African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning; enhance the role of environment protection agencies in Africa; identify areas in the AMCEN rules of procedure that require revision to align with the AMCEN Constitution.

a. Fostering sustainable soil governance in Africa

5. Concerning fostering sustainable soil governance in Africa, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and, Stellenbosch University, has conducted a study on soil governance in Africa. The study provides an essential resource for understanding both the strengths and gaps in national soil governance frameworks across Africa, as well as the African Union's approach to soil policy. It also provides the necessary background for engaging with a forthcoming "*Model Law for Sustainable Soil Governance in Africa*". A link to a copy of the study is provided in the annex to this note.

6. A final proposal for the model law, along with explanatory notes, will be published as a subsequent publication of this study on or before December 2025.

b. Towards phasing out open burning of waste in Africa

7. A Multi-Stakeholder Partnership to eliminate open waste burning was launched at the twenty seventh Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This initiative has since driven a wide range of activities, from community-level behavioral change to technical interventions in waste reduction and recycling. Pilot projects have also been successfully implemented in Malawi, Senegal, Benin, Uganda, Nigeria, and regionally through ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Africa, with support from Engineering X, generating valuable insights for broader replication.

8. In response to the decision on open burning and dumping of waste, the Secretariat in collaboration with UNEP's Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Engineering X, and other partners have developed and implemented a project on 'Transformational action to end open burning of waste' that has led to the development of a regional roadmap for Africa. Over 250 stakeholders engaged in the development of the regional roadmap for Africa through regional consultations and webinars. The roadmap outlines key steps for stakeholders to eliminate open burning. It also promotes a holistic approach to eliminating open burning of waste. A link to a copy of the roadmap is provided in the annex to this note.

9. Meanwhile, Kisumu city in Kenya has piloted a local transformation plan that translates the roadmap into specific, actionable interventions. Developed by a multi-stakeholder technical committee, the plan outlines no-cost, low-cost, and investment-level actions, with early implementation already underway. This pilot serves as a model for how cities can localize and implement the regional vision effectively.

10. Moreover, Open waste burning in Africa has been brought into focus in major global and continental platforms including climate weeks, COPs for climate change, and the World Congress of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA-2024) thereby laying the basis for increased global partnership for supporting Transformational action on waste in Africa.

c. Environmental solutions to antimicrobial resistance in Africa

11. In 2024, the General Assembly adopted a Political Declaration on antimicrobial resistance, where Member States commit to a clear set of targets and actions. The Declaration recognizes the need for global, regional and national efforts to address AMR through a One Health approach and recognizes the fundamental role of the Quadripartite organizations - UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health. UNEP continues to lead the work on the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance. In the region, UNEP has supported efforts in adopting a One-Health approach towards addressing antimicrobial resistance in African countries developing an analysis on the integration of environmental dimensions of AMR in the African National Action Plans, and in enhancing environmental governance, planning and regulatory frameworks to strengthen intersectoral coherence in combating antimicrobial resistance in Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia. Moreover, within the Quadripartite partnership with and the African Union have actively been working on raising awareness, particularly during the World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW), every year from 18 to 24 November, and they developed the Africa Antimicrobial Resistance Communications and Advocacy Strategy. A link to a copy of the strategy is provided in the annex to this note.

d. Strengthening collaboration with the African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning

12. In response to the decision on strengthening collaboration with the African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning, the AMCEN Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development have begun engagements aimed at strengthening collaboration between the two conferences.

13. In March 2025, in the margins of the 57th Conference of the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Secretariats of both conferences met to explore the possibility of convening a joint session of both conferences in 2027. In light of these discussions, the Secretariat will, at the 20th Ordinary Session of AMCEN propose that the 21st AMCEN Session and the 59th Conference of the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development be jointly held at a venue and dates to be agreed by the Bureau of both conferences.

e. Revising AMCEN rules of procedure to align with AMCEN Constitution

14. In response to the decision on identifying areas in the AMCEN rules of procedure that require revision to align with the AMCEN Constitution, the Secretariat has prepared a report identifying areas

in the rules of procedure that may require revision. A link to a copy of the report is provided in the annex to this note.

f. Operationalization of the African Group of Negotiators on Wildlife

15. Decision AMCEN 18/3, established the African Group of Negotiators on Wildlife. To operationalize this decision, a preparatory meeting was held in April 2025 in Johannesburg by the African Union Commission, in collaboration with United Nations Environmental Programme and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, where key operational issues were addressed, including draft Terms of Reference, interim leadership, and confirmation that all African countries are members with national representatives serving as liaisons.

16. A common Africa position for the upcoming twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in Samarkand, Uzbekistan was developed.

17. The African Group of Negotiators while acknowledging the support of the African Union Commission, United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Secretariat, the European Union (via ACP-MEA III), and other partners, called for continued resource mobilization

g. Establishment of the Africa Clean Air Programme for Integrated Action on Air Pollution

18. Decision 18/4 on the establishment of the Africa Clean Air Programme (ACAP) was adopted to operationalize the findings of the Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa, conducted in response to AMCEN decision 17/2. It called for continent-wide implementation of the 37 recommended measures to reduce air pollution and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), coordinated through strong country-led actions and regional integration via the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

19. Since the adoption of Decision 18/4, momentum for ACAP has continued to grow. At the 5th African Union Commission Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, held in November 2023, Member States urged the African Union Commission (AUC) to lead collaboration with the RECs and AU Member States to mobilize financial and technical resources for the development and implementation of the 37 ACAP measures. The STC also recommended that the Executive Council adopt these proposals, reinforcing ACAP's status as a continental priority.

20. The STC further encouraged collaboration between the AUC and technical partners, including the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and the Stockholm Environment Institute, to expand capacity-building for national planning and integrated modelling to support air pollution and climate mitigation with development co-benefits.

21. An inception meeting for ACAP was held in August 2024, on the margins of the 12th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA), convened by the AUC. The meeting articulated ACAP's core pillars and highlighted the need for a detailed roadmap to support country-level implementation. Since then, ACAP has garnered ministerial support at national, regional, continental, and global levels.

22. In September 2024, the CCAC Ministerial approved an initial contribution of USD 1 million to catalyze country-led implementation of ACAP. Five Champion Countries—Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, and South Africa—were announced at the Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health in March 2025. These countries are leading implementation efforts, piloting innovative approaches, and fostering peer-to-peer learning across the continent. At the same conference, the United Kingdom pledged an additional £700,000 to strengthen institutional capacities in support of ACAP.

23. Alongside the development of the ACAP roadmap, a draft benchmarking report on Air Quality Management (AQM) in Africa was shared in May 2025 with AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and focal points from the Global Air Quality Cooperation Network. Initial feedback was collected during a virtual consultative meeting on 23 May 2025, which brought together 73 participants from across the continent. This was followed by an in-person technical meeting in Accra, Ghana, on 27–28 May 2025, hosted by Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation. The Accra meeting convened representatives from four RECs and over 50 participants from several African countries. These consultations helped align the benchmarking findings with Member State and REC priorities, providing critical input for shaping the ACAP implementation roadmap.

24. Drawing on successful experiences from regional coordination on clean fuel standards, RECs will play a central role in supporting the implementation of ACAP by facilitating knowledge-

sharing, harmonization of policies, and sustained regional cooperation. In parallel, regional centres of excellence will be established to provide technical support and advance clean air implementation at national, subregional, and regional levels.

III. Status of implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference at its nineteenth ordinary session and the tenth special session

25. The nineteenth ordinary session sought to enhance collaboration and seize opportunities to address Africa's environmental challenges, with a focus on inclusive wealth creation, sustainable development, and socio-economic well-being. It also reviewed progress on environmental challenges and opportunities in Africa. The session adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration and five decisions on seizing opportunities and enhancing collaboration to address Africa's environmental challenges.

26. The tenth special session focused on Africa's urgent need to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought through increased ambition and coordinated action. It reviewed ongoing regional and global initiatives and emphasized the need for greater financial resources, partnerships, and integrated policies

27. The tenth special session adopted the Abidjan Declaration and three decisions on raising ambition to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought

28. Progress on the implementation of the decisions is provided below.

a. The African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies

29. Decision AMCEN 19.1(a) on the African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies called for the adoption of a common operational framework and the development of a digital platform to strengthen the Forum's role in addressing environmental challenges in Africa.

30. The second meeting of the African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies was held in Cairo from 3–5 December 2024, co-hosted by United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Africa and the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe. The meeting, that brought together seventy-four delegates from twenty-seven member states and eleven Africa Group in Nairobi diplomats, launched the digital platform known as Monitoring and Analytical Tool for African Transformational Upgrading (MATATU). MATATU aims at enhancing real-time environmental data sharing, with node for the African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies, United Nations Country Teams, African negotiators, and diplomats. This will assist member states to improve evidence-based decision making, enhance compliance and reporting, as well as strengthen regional cooperation.

31. The African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies action plan was updated to include measures aimed at operationalizing a digital platform, enhancing compliance, building capacity, fostering partnerships, and tracking impact. Morocco was elected as the Bureau member representing North Africa subregion. completing the Bureau composition alongside Rwanda as Chairperson, Gabon as Deputy Chairperson, Zambia as Rapporteur, Niger and Morocco as members.

32. The meeting agreed on the next steps which include operationalising the roadmap and expanding strategic partnerships to sustain African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies' momentum. The Gambia expressed interest in hosting the next meeting of the Forum, which will provide an opportunity to take stock of progress made in implementing the updated African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies Action Plan (2023–2027).

b. Environmental aspects of critical minerals in Africa in the clean energy transition

33. Decision AMCEN 19.1 (b) Environmental aspects of critical minerals in Africa geared towards advancing a multilateral approach that promotes circularity across value chains.

34. A regional stakeholder's consultative workshop on critical energy transition minerals was held on 7 November 2024 in Nairobi to advance a multilateral approach to promote circularity across mineral value chains and enhance environmental sustainability in extraction and processing activities. The meeting was attended by representatives from member States, United Nations Environmental Programme, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Minerals Development Centre, and civil society actors.

35. The meeting emphasized the integration of circular economy principles, ecosystem restoration, pollution reduction, and climate change mitigation into the African Green Minerals Strategy and the African Mining Vision. The meeting advocated for ensuring local community participation, enhancing

transparency and social inclusivity, and strengthening environmental governance frameworks under the African Minerals Governance Framework.

36. An action plan focusing on capacity building and environmental safeguards to guide future implementation and alignment with global and regional sustainability goals was developed.

c. Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in Africa and preparations for sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

37. Decision 19.1(c) of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in Africa has been translated into concrete action. Between 2023 and May 2025, UNEP supported 43 countries at various stages of revising or updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including aligning their national targets with the Framework's global targets. A global assessment by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity found that more than 44 African Parties, approximately 75 percent, had submitted updated national targets in accordance with the Framework.

38. At the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia (21 October–1 November 2024), the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity convened a Ministerial Debrief on 20 October 2024. There, Environment Ministers reaffirmed the common Africa position endorsed at the tenth special session and the nineteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. They provided high-level guidance across four thematic dialogues, Urgent Action; Financing; Synergies; and Peace & Nature, which directly shaped decisions on national target setting adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

39. A reconvened part-two session of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in February 2025 (Rome) underscored the critical need for Africa to maintain a unified voice, particularly after non-consensus on establishing and empowering a dedicated Biodiversity Fund led to the session's adjournment. Key outcomes from the full and reconvened sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity include:

- **National targets and NBSAPs:** Parties called for finalizing target setting and completing NBSAP revisions by the end of 2025 to guide implementation through 2030.
- **Global Resource Mobilization Strategy:** Adoption of the 2025–2030 strategy under Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity established permanent financial arrangements, mandating the African Union and UNEP to assist Member States in developing National Biodiversity Finance Plans.
- **Digital Sequence Information:** Operationalization of the “Cali Fund” for multilateral benefit-sharing, with 50 percent of revenues allocated to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and a requirement that countries designate national entities or funds to manage Digital Sequence Information revenue distribution.
- **Synergies and capacity:** Decision 16/3 approved five African Technical Support Centres under the Convention's global network of 18 such centres; Member States were urged to submit capacity-needs assessments to inform each centre's workplan.

40. A link to a copy of the report is provided in the annex to this note.

d. Participation of Africa in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

41. Decision AMCEN 19/2 on the participation of Africa in the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment mandated the African Group of Negotiators on Plastics Pollution to prepare and actively participate in the regional consultations and the forthcoming sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee so as to advance the interests and priorities of Africa.

42. Further, the same decision mandated the African Group of Negotiators to develop a coordination mechanism, operational modalities and to regularly update the Conference on key African common positions and understanding in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process.

43. As part of preparations for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, a physical in-person regional consultation meeting of the African Group of Negotiators was held in November 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. This meeting provided an opportunity for the African Group of Negotiators to further strategize and coordinate their efforts, enhancing their effectiveness and unity in influencing the outcomes of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. At the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, the Africa common position, as endorsed by the tenth special session of the Conference, strongly shaped the continent's engagement. Africa's submissions on key issues, including the establishment of a dedicated financial mechanism to support developing countries, the transfer of technology, and the adoption of binding measures across the full plastics lifecycle was advanced. Africa also emphasized the need to limit plastic production, phase out single-use plastics, and safeguard vulnerable communities. Africa's priorities of environmental justice and equity were prominently reflected in the negotiations.

e. Preparations by Africa for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

44. Decision AMCEN 19/3 on preparations by Africa for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management established the African Group of Negotiators on Chemicals and Waste, with a view to coordinating African interests in the beyond 2020 framework. The decision mandated the African Group of Negotiators on Chemicals and Waste to develop a coordination mechanism and operational modalities, strengthen the capacity of negotiators and regularly update the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on key African common positions and understanding in the negotiation processes.

45. The African Group of Negotiators on Chemicals and Waste strongly influenced the outcomes of the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management marked in September 2023 in Bonn with the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

46. The Global Framework on Chemicals, adopted in Bonn in September 2023, presents five strategic objectives and 28 targets to guide the full lifecycle management of chemicals and waste; it complements the Sustainable Development Goals, aims to halt biodiversity loss and curb plastic pollution, and sets out a comprehensive plan for a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

47. Many African countries have aligned their chemical management efforts with the Global Framework on Chemicals' strategic goals, focusing on strengthening national legislative and institutional frameworks. Through the Japan Supplementary Budget managed by the UN Environment Programme, African countries, namely, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and South Sudan have advanced circular plastic economy solutions as a critical entry point for sound chemicals and waste management.

48. The launch of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund has provided a key financing mechanism for Global Framework for Chemicals implementation, especially for developing countries. Many African stakeholders have participated in calls for project proposals and capacity-building targeting priority sectors like healthcare, textiles, and electronics. A link to a copy of the Framework is provided in the annex to this note.

49. The first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Global Framework on Chemicals will be held from 24–27 June 2025 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Punta del Este, Uruguay. It will consider resolutions on implementation programmes, the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, the Chemicals Fund and the Gender Action Plan; address emerging policy issues, capacity building and sectoral integration (textiles, agriculture, finance, etc.); and initiate preparations for the International Conference scheduled for late 2026.

50. African stakeholders are encouraged to fully participate in OEWG-1, leverage planned GFC programmes and begin preparations for the first session of the International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals in 2026.

51. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, held in Lusaka from 18–20 March 2025, brought together member States to align regional priorities on sound chemicals and waste management ahead of the 2025 Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conference of Parties in Geneva.

52. The meeting developed common areas of focus on strengthening national implementation and compliance, with emphasis on managing hazardous chemicals, plastic and electronic waste, and unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants. It also highlighted the need for technical support, technology transfer, and enhanced regional coordination. A unified African position was adopted to reinforce the continent's role in global chemical governance.

53. The Secretariat of the Conference is consulting with the African Group of Negotiators on chemicals and waste on the development of the operational modalities of the Group.

f. Decision 19/4: Engagement of Africa at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

54. Decision AMCEN 19/4 on engagement of Africa region at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the African Group in Nairobi to prepare for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly by formulating draft resolutions and contributing to the ministerial declaration. The decision also called on the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme to continue supporting environmental diplomacy efforts to enhance the coherence and influence of the permanent missions from Africa region in global environmental negotiations.

55. The United Nations Environment Programme, through its regional office, supported the Africa Group in Nairobi to advance the Africa-sponsored resolutions, including technical backstopping during the Committee of Permanent Representatives meetings and support in drafting technical notes on the resolutions.

56. On 13 February 2024, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa held a briefing session for the Africa Group in Nairobi ahead of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to provide detailed technical support on select resolutions and an update on its activities during the past three months.

57. At the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024, African countries played a pivotal role in advancing and co-sponsoring several resolutions that aligned closely with the continent's sustainable development priorities. These included Resolution UNEA 6/1 on promoting circularity in the sugar cane agro-industry, Resolution UNEA 6/3 on strengthening regional forums for multilateral cooperation, and Resolution UNEA 6/5, on addressing the environmental aspects of minerals and metals.

58. In addition, African delegations championed two further resolutions: UNEA 6/10, which endorsed regional collaboration on air-quality management through the launch of the Africa Clean Air Programme; and UNEA 6/13, which set out measures to strengthen water-policy frameworks for sustainable development. Together, these resolutions underscore Africa's leadership in fostering circular-economy initiatives, sustainable resource management, cleaner air, and integrated water governance.

59. Similarly, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa three quarterly briefing meetings for the Africa Group in Nairobi to assess progress on key priorities, ensuring accountability and maintaining momentum in advancing Africa's environmental diplomacy.

g. Decision 19/5 on Climate change and Decision AMCEN/SS.X/3: Climate change

60. Recalling Decision 17/3, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) urged African countries to ratify and implement the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol—one of the 37 priority measures recommended in the Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa. Significant progress has since been made, with over 50 African countries having ratified the Amendment. With support from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), regional efforts have also intensified to tackle the environmental dumping of high-global warming potential (GWP) and inefficient cooling appliances, reinforcing the continent's commitment to climate-friendly and energy-efficient cooling solutions.

61. Through development of policy tools, technical workshops, and strengthened partnerships, African countries are advancing the adoption of minimum energy performance standards and the local manufacture of high-efficiency cooling technologies. These achievements directly contribute to the goals of just transitions, greenhouse gas mitigation, and integration of clean energy solutions into national climate strategies.

62. Decision AMCEN/SS.X/3 on climate change, called for adoption of an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal of no less than USD 1.3 trillion annually and underscores the need for reform of international financial institutions to better respond to Africa's development priorities. African countries have strengthened coordination mechanisms to mobilize climate finance and enhance institutional collaboration. Efforts such as the launch of the Africa Clean Air Programme Champion Countries Programme and stakeholder-validated roadmaps are helping translate Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans into implementable actions. These initiatives, supported by the African Union Commission, United Nations Environment Programme, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, aim to improve access to concessional finance, reduce debt burdens, and channel

resources to adaptation and loss and damage—responding directly to the decision to align financial architecture with Africa’s climate and development goals.

63. Decision 19/5 and Decision AMCEN/SS.X/3 on climate change appreciated the work of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change, who have continued to advocate for the interests of the region and agreed to the Africa common position and key policy messages of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These decisions and key messages endorsed at the nineteenth session and tenth special session were used as a basis for advancing Africa’s negotiating position during the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth session of the Conference of Parties in Dubai and Baku, respectively. These common positions included adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, and Africa’s special needs and circumstances.

64. A Ministerial Consultation was organized by the secretariat of the Conference in Dubai and Baku before the high-level segment of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change where the ministers were briefed on the negotiations.

65. The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change met in Zanzibar from 28–30 April 2025 to reaffirm Africa’s unified position ahead of thirtieth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Convened with support from the Tanzanian government and the African Union Commission, the meeting emphasized the urgency of the remaining five-year window to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 goals.

66. The meeting agreed to operationalize the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change February 2025 decision to host the African Group of Negotiators Secretariat within the Africa Union Commission to strengthen Africa’s unified and consistent engagement in climate negotiations. A task force with subregional representation will support this process.

h. Decision AMCEN/SS.X/1: Opportunities to raise ambition to combat desertification and land degradation and enhance drought resilience in Africa

67. Decision AMCEN/SS.X/1 on opportunities to raise ambition to combat desertification and land degradation and enhance drought resilience in Africa was used as a basis for Africa’s common negotiating position during the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties in Riyadh.

68. As part of preparations for the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, a physical in person regional consultation of the Africa Group of Negotiators was held in September 2024 in Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire.

69. The common African position also called for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding protocol on drought, building on the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought for consideration and adoption at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

70. African countries have significantly advanced their drought resilience by enhancing early warning systems through improved meteorological technologies and data-sharing platforms. These systems are now embedded within national disaster risk management frameworks, enabling earlier detection of droughts and coordinated response efforts. Regional cooperation, supported by partners such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, has led to more efficient cross-border data exchange and community preparedness, helping to reduce the socio-economic impacts of droughts.

71. The African Union’s Pan-African Action Agenda has catalyzed political and financial momentum for ecosystem restoration, leading to the expansion of initiatives such as the Great Green Wall. Member States are integrating restoration goals into national policies, tracking progress through established monitoring systems, and replicating successful models through technical collaboration. These efforts have contributed to biodiversity recovery, climate mitigation, and livelihood improvements in many countries across the continent.

72. The Global Environment Facility has significantly contributed to Africa’s land restoration efforts by funding projects that combat degradation and promote sustainable land use. The Global Environment Facility -supported initiatives have led to widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture, soil rehabilitation, and strengthened natural resource governance. These interventions have restored millions of hectares, enhanced food security, and supported countries in meeting their land degradation neutrality and climate resilience goals.

73. There is growing recognition of the value of indigenous knowledge in sustainable land management across Africa. Countries are increasingly involving local communities in restoration planning and implementation, drawing on time-tested practices such as agroforestry and rotational grazing. Initiatives supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization have facilitated capacity building and the integration of indigenous perspectives into policy. These efforts have enhanced the effectiveness of land restoration while preserving cultural heritage and empowering communities.

IV. Validation of an African strategy for ocean governance

74. In 2015, through the Cairo Declaration, African environment ministers committed to developing a governance strategy for the effective management of shared maritime resources. This was followed in 2018 by the Nairobi Declaration, where ministers urged African States to promote sustainable blue economy growth and mainstream aquatic biodiversity across productive sectors.”.

75. As part of the implementation of the above decisions, significant progress was made toward developing a continental ocean governance strategy and implementation plan. While two earlier consultative meetings were held in 2020 and 2021, in 2025, during Africa’s Oceans Week (1–4 April, Dar es Salaam), the African Union Ocean Governance Strategy was validated. Key elements agreed included a coordination framework within the African Union Commission, integration of cross-cutting sectors, and finalization of an implementation plan and operational matrix.

76. The strategy now awaits endorsement at the twentieth ordinary session before proceeding to AU policy organs for formal adoption.

77. A roadmap has also been adopted to guide Africa’s coordinated preparations for the third United Nations Ocean Conference, and key capacity needs were identified for implementing the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement.

78. Meanwhile, Member States have called for the formation of a formal African Group of Negotiators on ocean governance to enhance Africa’s unified voice in global ocean processes.

V. Other AMCEN-related meetings

a. Meetings of the Bureau of the Conference

79. Two formal meetings of the Bureau of the Conference were held during the reporting period. The thirty- fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Conference took place on 1 March 2024 in Nairobi on the margins of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, while the thirty- six meeting of the Bureau of the Conference took place virtually on 21st February 2025.

80. Outcomes of the key issues discussed at these Bureau meetings were circulated to all member States.

81. The Bureau agreed to include several emerging priorities in AMCEN’s future work. These include the role of artificial intelligence in environmental protection, the need to enhance synergies among the Rio Conventions, the development of innovative strategies for resource mobilization to support climate and environmental action and addressing the environmental impacts of conflicts across the continent.

b. AMCEN Consultative meeting in the margins of UNFCCC COP 29

82. African Ministers of Environment held a consultative meeting on Sunday, 17 November 2024 in Baku, in the margins of the UNFCCC COP 29. The consultative meeting was convened following a decision made at the 10th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in September 2024 in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire

83. A report of the consultative meeting was circulated to all member states and is listed in the Annex to this note.

VI. Challenges in implementing African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decisions

84. Member states have previously committed to making the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment the principal forum for establishing regional environmental policies with effective mechanisms for implementation.

85. The uptake and implementation of the decisions of the Conference by member States and stakeholders continues to be limited. There is urgent need for member States and stakeholders to take concrete actions to implement past and future decisions of the Conference

86. The non-contribution by most member States to the AMCEN general trust fund has continued to affect the ability of the Conference to effectively carry out its activities. Member states should take immediate steps to clear the arrears and sustain their contributions to the trust fund of the Conference which is one of the mechanisms available for financing for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference.

87. Through decisions of the Conference, several African Group of Negotiators have been established, including on climate change, desertification, wildlife, biodiversity, chemicals waste and plastic pollution. These groups require substantial technical and financial support to operate optimally. The Conference should therefore explore mechanisms for providing this support to these groups of negotiators.

ANNEX

- (a) **Study on Soil Governance in Africa** available in the meeting webpage at <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/twentieth-ordinary-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen-20>
- (b) **Africa roadmap to end open burning of waste** available in the meeting webpage at <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/twentieth-ordinary-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen-20>
- (c) **Africa Antimicrobial Resistance Communications and Advocacy Strategy** available at <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2576en>
- (d) **Report identifying areas in the AMCEN rules of procedure that may require revision** available in the meeting webpage at <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/twentieth-ordinary-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen-20>
- (e) **Report of the Consultative Meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in the margins of the UNFCCC COP 29** available in the meeting webpage at <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/twentieth-ordinary-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen-20>
- (f) **Global Framework on Chemicals - For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste** available in English and French on the following website of the GFC <https://www.unep.org/resources/global-framework-chemicals-planet-free-harm-chemicals-and-waste>
- (g) **Key Outcomes of COP 16 CBD and future implications for Africa** available in the meeting webpage at <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/twentieth-ordinary-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen-20>