

**Long Statement of the UNEP Major Groups & Stakeholders, Africa and Other African Civil Society Organisations on the Occasion of the 2025 Regional Consultative, Africa (2025 RCM Africa) Held in Nairobi on July 10-13 at the World Agroforestry Centre and at the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) Ahead of the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AMCEN (AMCENat40)**

## Table of Contents

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Preamble.....</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Four Decades of AMCEN and Beyond .....</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>10</b> |
| On Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability.....                                                                                                                                                            | 10        |
| On Biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches.....                                                                                                                                                               | 10        |
| On Climate Change and Just Transitions .....                                                                                                                                                                      | 11        |
| On Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution .....                                                                                                                                                                          | 11        |
| On Data, Science, and Technology.....                                                                                                                                                                             | 11        |
| On Youth, Stakeholders, and Inclusive Governance .....                                                                                                                                                            | 12        |
| On MEAs and Global Environmental Governance .....                                                                                                                                                                 | 12        |
| <b>Climate Change and COP30 .....</b>                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>13</b> |
| On African leadership in climate diplomacy .....                                                                                                                                                                  | 13        |
| On Domesticating climate change decisions .....                                                                                                                                                                   | 13        |
| On biodiversity-desertification-climate change nexus.....                                                                                                                                                         | 14        |
| On strengthening climate governance .....                                                                                                                                                                         | 16        |
| On effectiveness of climate action at the frontline .....                                                                                                                                                         | 16        |
| On Urban resilience.....                                                                                                                                                                                          | 18        |
| On Climate Financing .....                                                                                                                                                                                        | 18        |
| On protecting rights, lives and livelihoods of communities at the front lines.....                                                                                                                                | 19        |
| <b>Biodiversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) .....</b> | <b>20</b> |
| On CITES .....                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 20        |
| On CBD.....                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 20        |
| On the Ramsar Convention.....                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21        |
| <b>Continuation of Negotiations at INC5.2 and the Key African Positions .....</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>22</b> |
| On scope.....                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 22        |
| On chemicals .....                                                                                                                                                                                                | 22        |
| On plastics products and design .....                                                                                                                                                                             | 22        |
| On leakages.....                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 23        |
| On Just Transition.....                                                                                                                                                                                           | 23        |
| On finance and means of implementation .....                                                                                                                                                                      | 23        |
| Communication, education, and public awareness.....                                                                                                                                                               | 24        |
| <b>Mercury Pollution and Minamata Convention .....</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Seventh Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) .....</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>26</b> |
| On Advancing the Global Hydrological Cycles .....                                                                                                                                                                 | 26        |
| On nutrient pollution and soil degradation.....                                                                                                                                                                   | 26        |
| On critical energy and digital transition metals .....                                                                                                                                                            | 26        |
| On deploying and scaling environmentally friendly Artificial Intelligence (AI) ....                                                                                                                               | 27        |

## **Preamble**

We, the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa and representatives from other African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) comprising over 270 delegates and more than 105 organisations, having met in a hybrid manner in Nairobi, Kenya on the occasion of the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its commemoration of the four decades of AMCEN (AMCENat40),

*Recalling* the establishment of AMCEN in Cairo in 1985 as a permanent forum to foster environmental cooperation among African States and to guide the continent's response to environmental challenges in the context of sustainable development,

*Acknowledging* AMCEN's foundational role in shaping Africa's common positions on environmental issues, notably through the Cairo Declaration (1985) and subsequent ministerial declarations and action plans,

*Recognizing* the considerable progress made through key AMCEN decisions, including the Nairobi Declaration (AMCEN-12, 2008), which laid the groundwork for a unified African voice in climate negotiations,

*Welcoming* the Bamako Declaration (AMCEN-15, and its emphasis on environmental law, implementation of the Rio Conventions, and improved environmental financing,

*Taking note* of AMCEN Decision 17/5 on chemicals and waste, and the importance of a sound chemicals management framework for the continent's health and ecosystems,

*Recalling* Decision 18/3, which marked a turning point in prioritizing ocean governance and supporting African States in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement,

*Commending* the outcomes of the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, and welcoming the second summit to be held in Ethiopia as a crucial step towards African-led green growth and climate finance,

*Appreciating* AMCEN's consistent recognition of capacity development, technology transfer, and data sharing, especially through platforms like the African Environment Information Network (AEIN),

*Emphasizing* AMCEN's unique role in creating synergies across MEAs related to biodiversity, climate, terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems,

*Recalling* AMCEN Decision 19/2, which provided a mandate to the AGN on Plastic Pollution to negotiate an ambitious international legally binding global plastic treaty that covers full lifecycle of plastics from polymer production until disposal,

*Reaffirming* the importance of regional instruments such as the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD-AUDA (New Partnership for Africa's Development-African Union Development Agency) and the African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP), in addressing the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,

*Recognizing* the importance of the commemoration of 40 years of AMCEN as a milestone to reflect, reimagine, and recommit to the implementation of decisions in alignment with Agenda 2063, the Agenda 2030, and multilateral environmental agreements,

*Reiterating* the commitment of Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa and other African Civil Society Organisations to contribute meaningfully to AMCEN processes and to support transformative environmental action across Africa,

*Expressing* concern over persistent implementation gaps, weak accountability mechanisms, and inadequate support from developed countries towards Africa's priorities in multilateral environmental frameworks,

*Recognizing* that language diversity and accessible communication are fundamental to participatory environmental governance and regional unity, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and further reaffirming the importance of inclusive communication as highlighted in the UNEP Disability Inclusion Strategy, to ensure that no stakeholder is left behind in AMCEN deliberations,

*Acknowledging* the Tripoli Declaration on Environmental Action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future,

*Commending* African Member States and Africa Ministers of Environment for continued leadership and efforts in biodiversity action,

*Recalling* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at COP15 and the key decisions of COP16, including the operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and the establishment of the Cali Fund for benefit-sharing from Digital Sequence Information (DSI),

*Recognizing* that biodiversity is fundamental to human health, livelihoods, food security, and cultural identity, and expressing deep concern over the continued loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation across Africa and globally,

*Acknowledging* Africa's critical role in halting biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, and promoting the equitable and sustainable use of natural resources in line with the GBF, Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Emphasizing* the importance of timely revision and alignment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the GBF, and the integration of comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plans, as well as biodiversity mainstreaming across all sectors of the economy and development planning processes,

*Stressing* the urgent need for adequate, predictable, and accessible biodiversity finance, and welcoming the progress made at COP16, while urging African countries to strengthen national legislative and institutional frameworks for effective fund access, management, and accountability,

*Reaffirming* the value of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women, youth, and persons with disabilities in governance of biodiversity and critical habitats, including the importance of securing land tenure rights, access to genetic resources, and application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in benefit-sharing arrangements,

*Welcoming* section C paragraph O of the GBF and COP16 Decision 16/10 on Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA), and affirming the critical role of education in promoting behaviour change and nature-inclusive knowledge systems,

*Further acknowledging* the urgency of aligning national biodiversity education programmes with the GBF, and supporting the development of a Global Plan of Action for Education on Biodiversity as a foundation for curriculum reform, lifelong learning, and public awareness,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen national data systems and monitoring and reporting frameworks, and the application of harmonized indicators to support the GBF global review and stocktake processes planned for 2026 and 2029,

*Concerned* by the escalating threats to coastal and marine biodiversity from plastic pollution, and highlighting the need for enhanced protection and restoration of wetlands, mangroves, estuaries, and other vulnerable ecosystems through nature-based solutions,

*Reaffirming* the need to strengthen synergy and coordination across all relevant biodiversity and climate-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and to integrate biodiversity across all levels of government and sectors of economy,

*Recalling* AMCEN Decision 18/3 on establishing the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on wildlife,

*Also recalling* Resolution 17.5 of CITES CoP18 that focuses on youth engagement in the Convention's activities,

*Applauding* the establishment of the CITES Global Youth Network,

*Recalling* the objectives of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and associated resolutions on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA), including Resolution XIV.8, which sets out a renewed vision for CEPA as a strategic, cross-cutting tool to mobilize action for the sustainable use and restoration of wetlands,

*Noting* the intersection of UNEA Resolutions 4/14 and 5/2 on sustainable nitrogen (N) management with Ramsar Convention's goals on wetland sustainability,

*Concerned* about the ecological threats posed by agricultural runoff of fertilizers and pesticides, untreated sewage, and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) releases degrading wetlands and endangering species,

*Recognizing* the critical threats posed by invasive species to wetland biodiversity and ecological balance,

*Acknowledging* the accelerating degradation of urban and peri-urban wetlands due to unsustainable development pressures across Africa,

*Emphasizing* wetlands as nature-based solutions (NbS), their roles in carbon storage, flood mitigation, climate adaptation and support of other ecosystem products and services,

*Recalling* the Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.18 on gender and wetlands,

*Affirming* the critical need for global coordination, cooperation, governance and support through binding measures to tackle the growing harms caused by plastic pollution on human health and ecosystems,

*Expressing* sincere gratitude for the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on Plastic Pollution's visible and audible promotion and request for observer access to both the main INC sessions and the intersessional work that has taken place, and their efforts to ensure the process can be as transparent as possible in spite of the opposition and lack of sufficient support from other member states,

*Recalling* the foundational AMCEN Decision 19/2, which set a clear ambitious mandate and key policy messages that have continued to drive the treaty towards covering the full life cycle of plastics,

*Recognizing* the Africa Youth Statement on Waste to Energy in the Global Plastic Treaty,<sup>1</sup>

*Stressing* the crucial importance of having a plastic treaty that is centred on human rights, just transition and readiness for implementation, and builds on previous experiences from inefficient Multilateral Environmental Agreement processes,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Final-Africa-Youth-Statement-on-WTE-in-the-Global-Plastics-Treaty.pdf>

*Recalling* AMCEN-19's call to recognize biodiversity as essential to climate resilience and to align Africa's response with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/300 recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment,

*Underscoring* the principle of intergenerational equity as an imperative to ensure today's environmental decisions do not compromise the health, well-being and development of future generations,

*Emphasizing* that mercury is a toxic heavy metal with long-lasting impacts on human health, biodiversity, air and water quality, and that exposure is particularly harmful to pregnant women, children, and workers in informal and artisanal sectors,

*Recalling* the World Health Organization classification of mercury as one of the top 10 chemicals of major public health concern and emphasizing the urgency of phasing out mercury-added products,

*Noting with concern* that many African countries face significant challenges in managing mercury throughout its life cycle, including limited infrastructure for sound waste management, lack of data on health and environmental impacts, and insufficient policy enforcement capacity,

*Acknowledging* that mercury pollution disproportionately affects vulnerable communities in the African region, including those living near artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sites, waste dumps, and industrial facilities,

*Acknowledging* the important role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in fostering regional coordination, policy coherence, and a unified African voice in addressing environmental challenges, including mercury pollution, through collaborative action and shared commitments,

*Affirming* the essential role of science, data, and evidence in informing effective mercury pollution reduction policies, and emphasizing the importance that mercury is meaningfully addressed within the scope and priorities of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution (ISP-CWP),

*Calling* for the Africa region to strengthen the role of the Bamako Convention in addressing mercury waste management, in support of broader efforts to reduce mercury pollution,

*Recognizing* the Minamata Convention on Mercury and its objective to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury,

*Recognizing* existing international initiatives to address mercury pollution, including the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, which fosters multi-stakeholder collaboration to reduce mercury use and emissions across key sectors,

*Welcoming* decisions MC-4/4 adopted at COP-4 and MC-5/1 at COP-5 of the Minamata Convention, which calls on parties to engage Indigenous Peoples, local communities,

and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Minamata Convention and development and implementation of national action plans pertaining to Article 7,

*Acknowledging* the importance of enhanced cooperation among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to address the cross-cutting impacts of mercury pollution, and noting COP-5 Decision MC-5/2 to strengthen coordination with relevant secretariats in support of Article 3 implementation, while also highlighting the relevance of frameworks such as the Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam Conventions, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 7, 12, and 16,

*Alarmed by* the fact that African countries are losing between 5 – 15 percent of their GDP to climate change and extreme weather events, which disproportionately affect the vulnerable communities of Africa and their livelihoods despite their minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions,

*Troubled by* the shifting geopolitical dynamics and national priorities in developed countries that sideline urgent climate action in Africa and other vulnerable regions - a growing trend around the globe that has many countries prioritizing their own interests,

*Affirming* the principles of sustainability, equity, and justice, including just transition in addressing these contextual challenges, recognizing that climate change is a shared concern that transcends borders,

*Reflecting on* the historical responsibilities and systemic financial inequities in global climate finance, where Africa faces structural barriers to accessing funds, with a disproportionate reliance on loans rather than grants, further exacerbating existing debt burdens and limiting the capacity of nations to respond effectively to climate crises,

*Recognizing* that the Paris Agreement, specifically Article 9.1 is clear on the responsibility of developed countries in providing financial resources to developing countries for climate action,

*Deeply concerned* that COP29 failed to deliver an ambitious New Collective and Quantified Goal (NCQG) with standalone sub-goals on adaptation and loss and damage,

*Affirming that* locally led approaches are central in enhancing the programming nexus across mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage response,

*Emphasizing* the need for stand-alone national climate change laws, policies, and action plans, as tools that give force to our commitments, ensuring accountability, transparency, inclusivity and charting clear paths and frameworks for climate resilience and low-carbon development,

*Highlighting* the vital role of faith-based groups, as strategic partners in driving climate solutions, acknowledging their role in building trust, reach, and social capital required for transformative change,

*Recognizing* the interconnectedness of desertification, land degradation and the climate, pollution and biodiversity crises,

*Recalling* Decision AMCEN/SS.X/3 (Abidjan 2024) on advancing the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation,

*Recalling* Decision 17/2 of the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of AMCEN, which emphasized the importance of inclusive approaches in addressing climate change,

*Recalling* the call for grant-based, non-debt-inducing climate finance at AMCEN 19,

*Acknowledging* the significant strides made by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in addressing global environmental challenges,

*Reaffirming* our commitment to collaborative action and sustainable development,

*Acknowledging that*, as the African region, we continue to face unique environmental challenges,

*Underscoring* the importance of international cooperation, political goodwill and capacity building to support our efforts towards a more sustainable environmental future,

*Noting* with gratitude the role of Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa who remain committed to the active meaningful participation and engagement in the implementation of UNEA resolutions and decisions,

*Applauding* the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Secretariat, and the Bureau of the Seventh Session of UNEA (UNEA-7) for the preparations towards UNEA-7 including ensuring the implementation of the Roadmap to UNEA-7,

*Concerned about* transboundary hazardous chemicals and their effect on human health, biodiversity, food, and water systems,

*Acknowledging* the inadequacy of funding, technical partnerships, capacity building tailored for the African AI space and a multi-stakeholder approach toward global AI protocols,

*Welcoming* ongoing consultations on the five priority areas of UNEA-7, as stipulated by the UNEP Executive Director in her report to Member States recommending priority areas for resolutions, namely advancing the global hydrological cycles, nutrient pollution and soil degradation, critical energy and digital transitional metals, and deploying and scaling environmentally responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI),

*Noting* with concern the challenges faced in advancing global hydrological cycles, including a lack of political goodwill, mismanagement of funds, and inadequate oversight, such as monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools,

*Noting with concern* inequitable mineral sharing, environmental degradation, and lack of transparency from governments and mining stakeholders in Africa,

Hereby adopt the following statement and we;

#### **Four Decades of AMCEN and Beyond**

***On Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability***, develop a comprehensive implementation and accountability mechanism to track progress on AMCEN decisions and declarations, with clear timelines, indicators, and periodic reporting by Member States.

*Enhance* AMCEN's institutional framework by establishing a dedicated support unit within the Secretariat responsible for follow-up, technical assistance, and coordination with the African Union Commission and UNEP.

*Prepare* a Strategic Vision 2035 for AMCEN, outlining institutional priorities, mechanisms for financial sustainability (e.g., trust funds, AU budget integration, public-private partnerships), and defining AMCEN's contribution to Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

***On Biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches***, elaborate a regional roadmap for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, aligned with national targets and regional priorities, and supported by capacity-building and access to biodiversity finance and benefit-sharing.

*Take a firm stance* against wildlife crime, especially concerning migratory species, and support the implementation of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and AMCEN-15 commitments.

*Promote* nature-positive food systems by eliminating the use of harmful fertilizers and hazardous pesticides, recognising their negative impacts on soil, air, water, biodiversity, and human health

***On Ocean Governance and Wetlands***, implement on the AMCEN Roadmap for Ocean Governance, as called for in AMCEN Decision 18/3, to support the ratification and implementation of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement and the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

*Recommend* the enhancement of cooperation among African states into the conservation of African wetlands in line with Ramsar updated 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, especially due to the particular nature of wetlands as carbon sinks and biodiversity habitats with particular climatic and ecosystem service significance;

***On Climate Change and Just Transitions***, support the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in promoting Africa's position on climate action, including just transition, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, and ensuring meaningful African strategic leadership in the UNFCCC COP processes.

*Position* Africa as a bridge between the continent and the global community, enhancing cooperation, solidarity, and leadership in international environmental governance.

*Reaffirm* Member States' commitment to the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and facilitate the adoption of sustainable, affordable and energy-efficient cooling solutions, in line with UNEA-5 Resolution 8.

*Support* the Africa Methane Community of Practice (AMCoP) in developing African solutions to methane emissions, addressing both pollution and climate impacts.

***On Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution***, advance a coordinated African negotiation position on a legally binding global treaty on plastic pollution, in line with AMCEN Decision 19/2, grounded in circular economy principles, equity, and science-based approaches.

*Call* for the establishment of a dedicated fund within the plastics treaty to support knowledge-sharing, scientific and technological cooperation, and capacity-building for African countries, and explore similar dedicated funds under other multilateral processes.

*Address* all processes involving mercury use by integrating mercury pollution elimination into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and relevant conventions, and promoting circular economy approaches in line with UNEA decisions.

*Implement* UNEA Resolution 5/12 on sustainable waste management, calling for alternative methods and processes of waste disposal to reduce the generation of short-lived climate pollutants.

***On Data, Science, and Technology***, strengthen the African Environment Information Network (AEIN) as a platform for harmonised research, innovation, data collection and knowledge-sharing, and reporting on biodiversity, climate, and pollution and integrate it with global digital monitoring initiatives.

*Elevate* the scientific, technological and technical capabilities and sovereignty of Africa by investing in education, science and technology, innovation, local, indigenous and traditional knowledge systems and solutions tailored to African contexts, and governance.

*Support* inclusive engagement of African educational, research and scientific institutions, relevant knowledge systems and citizen science, communities, youth, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa, civil society, and all relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing the Africa Clean Air Programme (ACAP) under the African Union Agenda 2063.

*Promote* the development of integrated multi-hazard and people-centred early warning systems for environmental threats complementing the UN Secretary-General's "Early Warning for All" Initiative to reduce vulnerability and build resilience.

***On Youth, Stakeholders, and Inclusive Governance***, *institutionalise* stakeholder engagement within AMCEN, ensuring the formal participation of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), scientists, and civil society in both preparatory and decision-making processes.

*Build* on the momentum of the first 2025 Regional Consultative Meeting (RCM) Youth Day and develop a Youth Charter for consideration at the next AMCEN session, aligned with the AU Youth Charter, to promote intergenerational equity and institutionalise youth participation including in national delegations.

*Develop and adopt* a comprehensive communication and outreach strategies to enhance knowledge and visibility of AMCEN decisions, including regional dialogues, Pavilions of African states and organisations/institutions at Conferences of Parties (COPs) and sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and digital storytelling on African environmental leadership.

*Promote* linguistic and communication inclusivity across AMCEN processes by encouraging the use of Africa's working languages (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Swahili), and African sign languages, and by providing interpretation and accessible materials to ensure full participation of persons with disabilities, including those with hearing, visual, and cognitive impairments.

***On MEAs and Global Environmental Governance***, *promote* integrated environmental governance, and accountability by strengthening synergies across Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and align AMCEN's work more closely with processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and UNEA.

*Encourage* the ratification of regional and global environmental agreements and their domestication into national legal frameworks.

*Operationalise* the Arusha Declaration and implement AMCEN Decision 19/2 and UNEA Resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution by placing responsibility and accountability on producers and promoting education, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, technology transfer and skills development.

## Climate Change and COP30

*Call* upon AMCEN to leverage its strong leadership to drive African and global solidarity to foster the required political goodwill and momentum to elevate adaptation at COP30 as a lifeline for Africa's development and a global risk buffer.

*Urge*, as a matter of urgency, the AGN on Climate Change to invite developed countries to deliver promptly on their existing obligations and commit to a new target for provision of a public adaptation fund that builds on and significantly enhances the Glasgow doubling pledge.

*Request* African Ministers to leverage high-level platforms, including AMCEN-20 and the African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2), and invite South Africa's G20 Presidency to secure strong political and technical expert outcomes on adaptation at COP30, with particular emphasis on scaling up quality adaptation finance and advancing the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

*Impress upon* African Member States to expedite the finalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) focusing on African priorities and Africa-specific indicators with greater commitment on the means of implementation, monitoring and reporting.

*Request* African governments to prioritize adaptation, mitigation, just transition and loss and damage in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), recognizing that finance must support implementation of national actions in NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other climate plans.

*Demand that* developed countries to enhance their emission reduction ambitions to comply with the 1.5-degree warming target.

***On African leadership in climate diplomacy***, *urge* African ministers to strengthen their engagement in forging a unified approach to amplifying Africa's needs and priorities and to ensure sustained engagement in multilateral negotiations at COP 30 and other climate policy processes to the conclusion.

***On Domesticating climate change decisions***, *urge* all African governments to develop enforceable stand-alone climate change legal frameworks to enforce national and global commitments to institutionalize climate action and response.<sup>2</sup>

*Encourage* Member States to integrate multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral and intersectional inclusion in climate governance, ensuring participation and equitable access to climate policies, finance, capacity building and programs across gender, age, ethnicity, rural-urban divides, and diverse landscapes.

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<sup>2</sup> Decision AMCEN 17/2

*Call* on African Member States to integrate Indigenous knowledge systems into climate adaptation and mitigation frameworks, and to mainstream community-based awareness and climate education into formal curricula at all levels.

*Appeal to* African Member States to institutionalize youth participation across climate governance, including instituting youth focal points in relevant ministries and national climate institutions, supporting youth-led climate adaptation and green-sector innovation.

*Request* the promotion of youth access to livelihoods' opportunities in the form of green jobs and entrepreneurship in national and local programmes, with a view to leveraging Africa's demographic dividend as a driver of resilience, competitiveness, and African-centred climate solutions.

*Call on* African Member States to recognize and protect Indigenous Peoples' land tenure rights as a critical component of climate resilience, climate justice and sustainable natural resource management, and to ensure their effective participation in national climate policy processes, with a view to promoting self-determination, equity, and inclusive climate action across Africa.

*Urge* African parties to enhance capacity to address gender-related and human rights aspects of climate change in relation to accessing climate finance, and implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and actions.

*Call* for the implementation of gender action plan and social protection measures with meaningful engagement of major groups and stakeholders and other vulnerable groups in climate planning, budgeting and implementation.

*Support* the integration of climate linked social protection initiatives including cash transfer, livelihood grants and adaptive infrastructure developed in partnership with grassroot women groups, youth networks, NGOs and local communities, tailored to regional and local context.

***On biodiversity-desertification-climate change nexus***, *urge* African Member States to integrate biodiversity considerations into national adaptation strategies, drawing on the Framework to guide ecosystem-based solutions for climate change noting that healthy, effectively conserved and restored ecosystems and protection of biodiversity can deliver over one-third of cost-effective the needed climate mitigation and adaptation solutions.

*Call* for enhanced synergies between the Rio Conventions.

*Call upon* African member states to create seamless frameworks and plans to leverage the implementation of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs),

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), The Framework and the UNCCD to accelerate climate action at national, subnational, and local levels.<sup>3</sup>

AMCEN should foster greater synergy across conventions, promote integrated policy frameworks that link climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, and land restoration; align national implementation mechanisms to reduce duplication, optimize resources, and enhance impact; and push for coherence in reporting, financing, and monitoring across all three conventions.

*Call* on African Member States to place nature-based solutions at the heart of all local, national and regional climate and environmental policies, legislations, strategies, and plans.<sup>4</sup>

*Encourage* African Member States to govern critical minerals with transparency, sustainability, and equity by adopting EITI standards, aligning with the Africa Mining Vision and the AU Critical Minerals Strategy, and to link mineral development to local industrialization, green job creation, community benefit-sharing, and a just climate-resilient transition.

African Member States must enforce responsible, rights-based critical mineral extraction, ensuring respect for human rights, environmental safeguards, and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected local communities.

*Request* the African Union, in coordination with AMCEN, to develop a continental framework for ethical mining that embeds climate, labour, gender, economic and ecological safeguards.

*Strongly recommend* to AMCEN to formulate a framework that provides a meaningful Development Value to Africa's Natural Capital hence promoting Communities Interests and Countries GDP.

African governments must end exploitative Minerals-for-Infrastructure Deals and resist coercive agreements that trade Africa's mineral wealth for infrastructure built by external powers under opaque conditions and reject geopolitical manipulation that undermines national sovereignty and long-term development prospects.

African governments must align Critical Minerals Governance with Just Transition plans and ensure national just transition strategies include resource planning, industrial policy, and equitable benefit-sharing and safeguard mineral revenue for

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<sup>3</sup> AMCEN-19 Declaration (2023, Addis Ababa)

<sup>4</sup> AMCEN-19's endorsement of nature-based and ecosystem-based solutions for climate, biodiversity, and land restoration

reinvestment in public services, community infrastructure, and renewable energy access.

***On strengthening climate governance,*** encourage African Member States to institutionalize community scorecards and public participation platforms within adaptation finance monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure transparency and local accountability.

*Urge* African Member States to strengthen African leadership in global climate governance by championing continental priorities and shaping high-level political and geostrategic outcomes.

*Call* on African Member States and educational, scientific and research institutions to promote longitudinal studies on climate impacts, mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage to inform evidence-based policy and interventions.

*Urge* African Member States to collect and publicly report disaggregated data on vulnerable groups to ensure equitable access to adaptation finance and uphold the principle of leaving no one behind.

*Call* on African Member States to accelerate the implementation of NDCs and ensure their integration with NBSAPs to deliver cohesive biodiversity–climate strategies.

*Exhort* African Member States to expedite the establishment of a Joint Work Programme on climate, biodiversity, and desertification in line with CBD/COP/DEC/16/22.

*Encourage* African Member States to dedicate a defined proportion of locally-mobilized revenues toward community-level climate action.

*Call on* African Member States to integrate justice-based frameworks, including procedural, distributive, and restorative justice into national climate strategies.

*Encourage* African Member States to include Major Groups and Stakeholders, civil society organisations, and IPLCs in climate monitoring, reporting, and verification processes.

*Urge* AMCEN to enhance inclusive dialogue platforms at regional and continental levels to co-create climate solutions with all stakeholders.

*Call on* African Member States and partners to counter disinformation that undermines indigenous and community-led climate action by ensuring African indigenous voices are central in shaping climate narratives, with their leadership and solutions accurately represented and amplified across all levels.

***On effectiveness of climate action at the frontline,*** *Urge* African ministers to support and promote African climate narratives by leveraging African-centred media

and communications channels that consider marginalized communities climate realities and African solutions to the climate crisis.

*Urge* African Member States to embed the Paris Agreement, The Framework, Kampala Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa, the Sendai Framework, and Agenda 2063 into national climate, agriculture, and development plans.

*Call* on African Member States to promote cooperative development and transfer of indigenous and endogenous technologies for climate adaptation.

*Encourage* African Member States to recognize faith-based organizations as key partners in climate policymaking and implementation, leveraging their platforms for inclusive action.

*Call* for prioritization and substantial increase of investment in digital infrastructure, education, technology transfer, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and skills' enhancement that enable Africa's youth, women, and communities to drive green, innovative jobs, facilitating evidence-based decision-making and catalysing their implementation.

*Call* on AMCEN and African Member States to establish a regionally coordinated digital platform supported by national and continental climate strategies to facilitate real-time monitoring, digital documentation, and automated reporting tools.

*Urge* AMCEN to champion cross-border technology transfer and collaboration, advancing a vision of a borderless Africa where countries share innovations, data, and climate solutions.

*Invite* African Member States to involve regional expertise, including research centers, civil society, and academia, in assessing loss and damage at the community level.

*Encourage* African Member States to harness digital transformation to accelerate climate resilience and enable youth-led climate finance initiatives across Africa.

*Encourage* African Member States to bridge the digital divide and deploy Afro-centric digital early-warning systems, risk assessment tools and accessible local-language data tools for climate resilience risk reduction and informed decision-making.

*Urge* African Member States to embed locally-led climate initiatives by frontline communities, including women, youth, and IPLCs, into the design and prioritization of climate action, and to strengthen their capacity to lead community-based risk assessments that enhance preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and long-term resilience.

*Call on* African Member States to mobilize finance, technology, capacity-building, and resilience planning to align with and implement the UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework<sup>5</sup> through updated NDCs and NAPs.

*Encourage* African Member States to integrate conflict-sensitive approaches within climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, integrate mechanisms that address climate-induced resource competition among land users, and to promote locally-rooted governance systems that support peaceful coexistence, resilience and loss and damage.

***On Urban resilience,*** *urge* African Member States to prioritize the protection of vulnerable populations, including particularly those in the informal sector, women, elderly, youth, and persons with disabilities, by strengthening inclusive climate-responsive public health, clean water access, and safe social infrastructure, and by ensuring their voices and needs are reflected in climate planning and service delivery.

***On Climate Financing,*** *call on* African Member States to strengthen regional coordination among governments, civil society, and international partners to develop climate finance strategies, establish climate finance tagging at national and subnational levels to ensure transparent, accountable, and inclusive climate finance tracking and delivery.<sup>6</sup>

*Call for* urgent and equitable access to climate finance and capacity building for communities facing displacement, cultural loss, and irreversible climate impacts, as a cornerstone of achieving climate justice in Africa.

*Call for* the urgent operationalization and full capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund by COP 30, ensuring direct access for both IPLCs and frontline communities.

*Urge* African Member States to demand an ambitious adaptation finance goal to succeed the current doubling adaptation finance commitment.

*Emphasize* the urgency to reform the international financial architecture and urge the phasing out of commercial loans for adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage.

*Call for* transparency and accountability in financial instruments, ensuring clear separation of streams for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. All mechanisms, including carbon markets, must respect the rights of marginalized groups and avoid perpetuating inequality or financial burden.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/climate-and-energy/uae-framework-for-global-climate-resilience/>

<sup>6</sup> Abidjan 2024, SS.X/3

<sup>7</sup> AMCEN 18/2 and Dakar Declaration

*Encourage* African Member States to actively engage the private sector to complement concessional public climate finance, ensuring all engagements align with principles of equity, transparency, and safeguards against conditionalities, unsustainable debt and exploitation.

*Call for* transparent and direct climate financing that supports locally -led and nature-based solutions, with priority for women, youth, IPLCs and marginalized groups.

Encourage African Member States to invest in African-owned financing mechanisms, mobilize domestic resources, and foster regional partnerships to strengthen climate sovereignty and frontline implementation capacity.

***On protecting rights, lives and livelihoods of communities at the front lines,*** *call on* African Member States to integrate social protection mechanisms into Loss and Damage financing and to ensure streamlined, inclusive access for women, children, refugees, youth, IPLCs, persons with disabilities, and communities affected by conflict.

*Demand* governments to guarantee secure land tenure for IPLCs, ensure Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and safeguard environmental defenders as environmental and climate action must uplift people and protect rights.

*Condemn* disinformation that undermines indigenous knowledge systems, community-led climate initiatives, and the work of environmental defenders

*Urge* African Member States to promote accurate, inclusive, and respectful representation of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, experiences, narrative sovereignty, and nature-based solutions in national, regional, and global climate discourse.

*Call for* support from the African Member States to strengthen and develop climate communication strategies that uphold human rights, transparency, and environmental and climate justice.

**Biodiversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

***On CITES***, call upon the African Union Commission (AUC) to further support the African Group on Negotiators (AGN) on Wildlife to ensure a unified African voice and coordinated position ahead of CITES COP20 and other relevant international processes.

*Urge* African Member States to support the CITES Global Youth Network as an official mechanism for youth engagement in CITES process.

*Urge* African Member States to promote the diversification of sustainable livelihood options that contribute to reducing incentives for illegal wildlife trade.

*Urge* African Member States to strengthen and harmonize national, transboundary, and regional legislation to effectively combat wildlife crime, and to enhance cross-border collaboration and real-time information sharing through regional enforcement networks and mechanisms.

*Recommend* the establishment of a dedicated and sustainable financing mechanism to support the implementation of CITES mandates, including capacity-building, technology adoption, enforcement, and national reporting.

*Call* for the development and adoption of a dedicated resolution addressing the financial dimensions of wildlife crimes, with a focus on tracking and disrupting illicit financial flows, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and building the investigative and prosecutorial capacity of relevant institutions.

***On CBD***, call for stronger political will, enhanced regional coordination and South-South cooperation, and more inclusive engagement, including through collaboration between the civil society, Member States and African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in CBD preparatory processes.

*Urge* African Member States to expedite the revision, submission and implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in full alignment with the GBF, COP16 decisions, Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*Urge* African Member States to develop and implement comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plans in alignment with their revised NBSAPs.

*Urge* African Member States to strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks to access and effectively manage funds from the Cali Fund with transparency and accountability.

*Request* development partners, multilateral institutions, and the private sector to increase financial and technical support for the implementation of GBF targets in Africa.

*Urge* African Member States to ensure meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women, youth, and persons with disabilities in biodiversity and climate related planning, implementation, and benefit-sharing.

*Call* for the recognition, protection, and promotion of Indigenous and local knowledge systems in national biodiversity strategies, monitoring frameworks, and education systems.

*Urge* African Member States to accelerate action in implementing the UNEA 5.2 resolution on Animal Welfare, people and sustainable development noting its holistic approach in tackling biodiversity loss.

*Urge* the development of a Global Plan of Action for Education on Biodiversity with the alignment of national Communication, Education, and Public and Awareness (CEPA) programmes.

*Urge* African Member States to create an enabling environment for African research and academic institutions to lead biodiversity science, innovation, and knowledge production;

*Urge* African Member States to work closely with regional technical and scientific support centres to define and address national capacity needs in monitoring and reporting.

*Call* for the accelerated identification, recognition, and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) across Africa fully recognizing and supporting the role of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) as crucial contributors towards achieving GBF Target 3.

*Urge* African Member States to enhance synergy and coordination in the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs and mainstream biodiversity into all levels of government and sectors of economy.

*Call for* enhanced collaboration among stakeholders to ensure Africa presents a unified, inclusive, and evidence-informed position in CBD processes.

***On the Ramsar Convention***, call upon the African member states to prioritize the integration of the ecological value of Africa's wetlands, including urban and peri-urban wetlands, into national land use and spatial planning processes to halt their degradation and enhance sustainable conservation.

*Urge* African member states to leverage on the Ramsar COP15 in Zimbabwe to mobilize financing and improve access to nature finance mechanisms to support long-term protection and restoration efforts of Africa's Wetlands.

*Call on* African ministers to support research collaborations among scientists, academia, and local communities to conduct national baseline assessments, identifying key nitrogen polluting sectors/industries and generate datasets that guide sustainable nitrogen management in wetlands in alignment with UNEA Resolutions 4/14 and 5/2.

*Call on* African ministers to support research collaborations among scientists, academia, and local communities to conduct national baseline assessments in identifying and addressing key polluters.

### **Continuation of Negotiations at INC5.2 and the Key African Positions**

***On scope***, the treaty must have binding, measurable, and ambitious provisions based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics from production to disposal in line with UNEA 5/14 Resolution and AMCEN Decision 19/2.

The Africa Region must recognize that the lifecycle of plastics starts with the extraction of fossil fuels and the production of polymers, which are a significant source of Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, fueling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

The Bamako Convention should be an example of limiting waste trade and strengthening the Basel Convention. This treaty should strengthen the Basel Convention by limiting the trade of plastic waste. Furthermore, the treaty must acknowledge the immense contribution of plastic pollution to biodiversity loss and climate change, complementing the efforts of the Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and any other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The treaty must address the feedstock used to produce plastics, chemicals, and additives. A mandatory reporting with a global reduction target is required to ensure sustainable production and consumption, in line with AMCEN Decision 19/2. We suggest an initial global target fixed at a 12-17% reduction a year from the year 2024 as a baseline based on current scientific evidence.

***On chemicals***, the treaty must phase out plastic products containing hazardous chemicals. A hazard-based group-based approach is recommended to tackle problematic plastic products and chemicals of concern to avoid substitution and loopholes. There are potentially over 16,000 chemicals used and present in plastics, and many remain untested and may be toxic to human health. At least 4,200 (or 26%) of these are highly hazardous to human and environmental health.

***On plastics products and design***, we call for a mandatory phase out on manufacturing and trade of plastic product groups that are unnecessary, can be

avoided, and that are challenging to reuse, refill or safely recycle or manage. Single-use plastics should be a priority for phase-out. The treaty must ensure manufacturers improve product design by removing hazardous chemicals, reducing the release of microplastics, intentionally added or not, and meeting the safety standards to promote a safe circular economy.

**On leakages,** formulation of standardized approaches is essential for identifying and monitoring plastic releases and leakages across the lifecycle of plastics in order to fully address the transboundary nature of plastic pollution.

Waste management articles must cover waste generated in the region and prevent waste trade from other regions and within the region. The Zero Waste Hierarchy should be the core structure and flow of the waste management provisions in the treaty, starting with prevention, which initiates at a rethinking and redesigning level, followed by reduction, reuse, repair and safe recycling, and only then moving to disposal.

Furthermore, the Major groups and stakeholders, Africa and other African civil society organizations call on the Africa region to avoid dangerous technologies. These methods require continued overproduction of plastics, release toxic emissions and truly undermine efforts for systematic solutions. Toxic recycling, chemical recycling, plastic-to-fuel, incineration, co-processing and open burning, must all be considered unacceptable options. Energy Recovery is a threat to our continental and national climate goals.

In addition, we call for a mandatory, rigorous Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanism to ensure polluters are accountable to the countries where they operate.

**On Just Transition,** the Africa region should champion a strong global plastic treaty that prioritizes an equitable transition for waste pickers and other workers across the life cycle of plastics and the health of the most affected communities in a fair and inclusive manner, creating decent work opportunities. Informal waste pickers and other workers need to be included in data collection and analysis to provide accurate statistics on plastic use, management, and disposal. In addition, the treaty must embrace an intergenerational equity approach, ensuring that all generations can enjoy their right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

**On finance and means of implementation,** MGS Africa and other African CSOs commend the AGN on Plastic Pollution on their continued leadership on means of implementation negotiations, particularly for the financial mechanism, where they developed a Conference Room Paper (CRP) which has received support from more than 150 countries. This CRP should continue to drive the Africa position. Furthermore, we remind our leaders that the current financial mechanisms for MEAs have not served the continent and have been far too slow in addressing key environmental issues. It is crucial that this treaty has a binding, dedicated, multilateral fund that ensures mandatory contributions from developed countries and provides sustainable, adequate, accessible, and predictable money to support treaty implementation, compliance, and ensure a just transition.

The inclusion of a Remediation Fund for plastic pollution is paramount, and should be under the authority of the Conference of the Parties (COP). It should be structured around the polluter-pays principle and include contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, including a polymer fee. However, this must not be an entry point for plastic credits and other problematic and false financial solutions that have historically contributed to the worsening of the problem rather than tackling it.

The AGN on Plastic Pollution's position on promoting scientific and technological cooperation, rather than relying solely on technology transfer, reflects a more equitable and sustainable approach to international cooperation. Technology transfer often reinforces dependency by limiting access to underlying knowledge and innovation systems, while scientific cooperation fosters mutual capacity-building, co-development, and long-term sovereignty over solutions. Language on cooperation is key to ensure that Africa is not provided with technologies that do not fit African reality.

Drawing on the lessons of other MEAs that have struggled to deliver the intended outcomes, particularly under consensus-only decision-making, we stress the importance of embedding a clear voting mechanism within the INC process and the future COPs. The Africa region remains a net importer of plastics and bears a disproportionate burden of plastic pollution. Without a procedural safeguard that allows decisions to move forward when consensus cannot be reached, we risk enabling a small minority to stall global progress. A structured voting mechanism, when carefully designed, can serve not as a replacement for consensus, but as a necessary incentive to achieve it, ensuring that multilateralism remains effective, responsive, and fair.

National Action and Implementation Plans must be an obligatory component of the treaty, serving as the foundation for the allocation and tracking of means of implementation, finance, technology, and capacity-building. These plans should be complemented by readiness funds that enable African countries, and other vulnerable regions, to assess their baselines, set targets, and build institutional mechanisms for implementation.

***Communication, education, and public awareness*** must be integrated as a core pillar of the treaty. Behavioral change, youth engagement, curriculum development, and community-driven action all depend on informed, accessible, and context-sensitive knowledge. The treaty must recognize the importance of traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems, especially those rooted in principles of circularity and zero waste, as valid and valuable sources of innovation.

To guide implementation and evaluate progress, the treaty must also establish a standing intergovernmental science-policy-action panel composed of diverse, intergenerational experts.

### **Mercury Pollution and Minamata Convention**

*Encourage* African Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Minamata Convention.

*Invite* all Parties to enhance the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention by developing, updating, and submitting their National Action Plans (NAPs), National Implementation Plans (NIPs), and fulfilling other relevant obligations, including the establishment of clear timelines, targets, monitoring frameworks, and implementation mechanisms, in accordance with the Convention's articles; and further encourages efforts to strengthen the Convention's compliance mechanism to ensure transparency, accountability, and sustained progress.

*Call* for the development of national strategies for

- Safe storage, handling, and disposal of mercury-containing products and waste;
- Detoxification and remediation of contaminated areas, ensuring inclusion of affected communities in decision-making and restoration efforts,
- Health and safety measures aligned with WHO and Africa CDC guidelines;
- Phaseout of mercury-added products and industrial processes where possible
- Regulation and integration of artisanal and small-scale mining sector

*Support* innovation aimed at progressively eliminating the use of mercury and encourages Parties to invest in education, communication, awareness-raising, and capacity-building initiatives to support sustainable and informed implementation of the Convention, inclusive of youth, women, civil society, and academia.

*Encourage* the development and adoption of responsible gold mining principles that promote mercury-free practices in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), and calls for the integration of these principles into National Policies, capacity-building efforts, and community-level initiatives to ensure environmental sustainability, occupational safety, and socioeconomic benefits.

*Call* upon African Member States to collect and provide relevant data and actively support the integration of mercury-related issues into the work of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution (ISP-CWP).

*Request* African governments to prioritize cross-sectoral collaboration across ministries such as environment, health, mining, energy, education, and finance, and strengthen engagement with trade and labour unions, civil society, children and youth, women, academia, and the private sector.

*Recommend* aligning mercury reduction efforts with commitments under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Bamako Convention, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention, Ramsar Convention, and CBD.

*Call on* African countries to advocate for enhanced financial mobilization to advance mercury pollution reduction, including capacity-building for the formulation and

implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) and National Implementation Plans (NIPs), through existing mechanisms such as the Minamata Convention's Specific and General Trust Funds and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

*Invite* African Member States and other governments to develop National Action and Implementation Plans for conservation and restoration of bird Migratory flyways, emphasizing cross-border and regional cooperation to ensure safe movement;

*Urge* African Member States to ensure energy infrastructure expansion is planned and developed in a way that avoids harm to migratory species, following guidance developed by the CMS Energy Task Force;

*Urge* the African governments to establish, support and expand research on conservation including regular monitoring of important sites for migratory species following standardized protocols of specific migratory species;

*Call upon* African Member States to actively engage with local communities on actions that enhance a safe movement of migratory species and promote human-wildlife coexistence;

### **Seventh Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)**

***On Advancing the Global Hydrological Cycles***, Free and equal access to quality water is still a notable challenge owing to the commoditization of water. We assert the need to appreciate the space for capacity building on water management and amplify local community engagement during the project implementation processes.

*Underscore* the need for an integrated river basin and aquifer river management plan, promoting efficient tools for water accounting, ecosystem flow monitoring and climate resilient hydrological cycles. In this reference, we request AMCEN and UNEP to prepare a global synthesis on hydrological extremes and recommend policy responses tailored to African continental uniqueness, while integrating contextualised knowledge sharing and technological support for hydrological survey and surveillance systems.

***On nutrient pollution and soil degradation***, *recommend* stronger frameworks and policies, such as strengthening export and import laws around agri-inputs and tougher penalties for perpetrators, to address the issue while promoting organic and agroecological farming, which is safer and more sustainable. In addition, we propose a more specific, research-based African regional framework that tackles soil degradation. We note the urgency in raising awareness on the possible effects of organic and inorganic fertilisers, pesticides, and other agri-inputs. We assert the need for more research and transparency in agri-chemicals that go into food production.

***On critical energy and digital transition metals***, *call for* UNEA7 to adopt a resolution on strengthening traceability and environmental standards in mineral

lifecycle, supply chains and sustainable governance for mining. In this reference, we *urge* an expansion of the scope of lead management, while promoting traceability systems for critical minerals such as cobalt and rare earth minerals.

Additionally *call for* the development of a legally binding framework on traceability through the minerals value chain, while also consolidating approaches in tackling toxins in mining, human rights violations and the right to development for Africa.

Lastly, we *urge* intergovernmental support on environmental standards for mining and recycling, while also prioritising capacity-building for youth in artisanal mining regions and youth-led technology and digital transformations for traceability.

***On deploying and scaling environmentally friendly Artificial Intelligence (AI)***, *underscore* the need for environmental AI models to be ethically sourced while raising awareness and civic education on the importance of AI in the modern era, by investing towards advancing AI by governments. We recommend that governments consider reviewing, adjusting and integrating AI models in all forms of educational programmes and systems. While building on existing platforms that are aligned with the proliferation of AI, e.g., extension services, monitoring, evaluating and reporting the impact of AI, we affirm the need for legal frameworks to guide the path of AI.