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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Twentieth ordinary session

Ministerial meeting

Nairobi, 16 and 17 July 2025

Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda**

I. Introduction

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) holds ordinary sessions every two years. The twentieth ordinary session will be hosted by the Government of Libya in Nairobi, from 14 to 18 July 2025. The session will also mark the 40th anniversary of AMCEN.
2. The Bureau of the Conference considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial meeting of the twentieth ordinary session, which is set out in document AMCEN/20/1.
3. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the twentieth ordinary session (document AMCEN/20/INF/1). A list of documents for the session is provided in Annex I to the present document, and the programme of work is set out in Annex II

II. Objectives and overview of the twentieth ordinary session

4. The twentieth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-20) will focus on the theme “Four Decades of Environmental Action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future.”
5. The session will be an opportunity for ministers to provide policy guidance for Africa’s participation in upcoming global environmental conferences and meetings, including the Ramsar COP 15 to be held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe; the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland; Minamata Convention COP 6 to be held in Geneva, Switzerland; UNFCCC COP 30 to be held in Belem, Brazil; CITES COP 20 to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan and; UNEA-7 to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.
6. The session will also identify environmental priorities for Africa for the period 2025 to 2027.
7. In addition, the session will highlight AMCEN’s achievements over the last 40 years and policy recommendations on the future of AMCEN.
8. The expert group will bring to the attention of ministers several matters for their consideration. Ministers will be invited to exchange views on those matters and to reach an agreement thereon.
9. The session will adopt a declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various agenda items

* AMCEN/20/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

III. Items of the provisional agenda**Item 1: Official opening of the meeting**

10. The AMCEN President will preside over the official opening ceremony and will introduce opening speakers, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the President of the African Development Bank and the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.
11. The President will invite a dignitary from Libya to deliver an official opening address.
12. A detailed programme for the opening session will be developed in consultation with the host country and circulated before the opening of the ministerial meeting.

Item 2: Organizational matters**(a) Election of officers**

13. The outgoing President will present the outcome of the subregional consultations on filling vacant seats on the Bureau in the manner prescribed by the constitution of the Conference and will make his final remarks as President.
14. The outgoing President will invite the new President to assume his place on the podium and make his inaugural speech, after which the official handover of the presidency of the Conference from Ethiopia to Libya will take place.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

15. The President will introduce the provisional agenda, document AMCEN/20/1.
16. The President will introduce the draft programme of work as set out in annex II to the present document and draw attention to the list of documents for the ministerial segment, set out in annex I.

Item 3: Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group

17. The Chair of the expert group will present the report on the meeting of the expert group, which will include a summary of the proceedings, and the recommendations developed.
18. Ministers will then have a brief interaction with the experts on the report of the experts meeting.
19. Ministers will take note of the report and consider the draft declaration, decisions, and key messages under the appropriate agenda item.

Item 4: Outcomes of Africa's engagement in recent Key Global Meetings

20. The Secretariat will present a report of Africa's engagement in the following meetings;
 - (a) The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - (b) The twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - (c) The first part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
 - (d) The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
 - (e) Meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions in 2025.
21. Ministers will take note of the report and provide any reflections regarding Africa's engagements in these meetings.

Item 5: Consideration of Africa's common positions and participation in upcoming international environmental meetings and conferences

- (a) **Preparations for the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;**
22. Zimbabwe, the host of the 15th meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, will provide an update on arrangements for the meeting.
23. A representative of the Africa Group to the 15th meeting of the contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands will then highlight matters of interest to Africa at the 15th Ramsar COP and present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers in the preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- (b) **Preparations for the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland**
24. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Plastic Pollution will give an overview, analysis and progress report on the negotiations and preparations to date, highlighting matters of interest to Africa, and will present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers in the preparations for the INC 5.2
- (c) **Preparations for the 6th Minamata Convention COP to be held in Geneva, Switzerland;**
25. A representative of the Africa Group to the 6th conference of the parties to the Minamata Convention will then highlight matters of interest to Africa at the 6th Minamata COP and present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers in the preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- (d) **Preparations for the 30th Session of the Climate Change Conference to be held in Belem, Brazil;**
26. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change will give an overview, analysis and progress report on the climate change negotiations and preparations to date, highlighting the negotiation matters of interest to Africa, and will present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers in the preparations for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.
- (e) **Preparations for the 20th Session of the CITES COP to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan**
27. The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on wildlife will highlight matters of interest to Africa at the 20th CITES COP and present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers in the preparations for the 20th CITES COP.
- (f) **UNEA-7 to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.**
28. The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme will be held from 8 to 12 December 2025, at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.
29. The theme of the Assembly's seventh session is "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet."
30. The Chair of the Africa Group in Nairobi will highlight matters of interest to Africa at the 7th United Nations Environment Assembly and present a set of key messages for consideration by the ministers in preparations for UNEA-7.

Item 6: Progress on Implementation of AMCEN Decisions

31. The Secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of AMCEN decisions. The Secretariat has prepared a background note on the subject in document AMCEN/20/2
32. The ministers will take note of the progress made in the implementation of the decisions and share any reflections.

33.

Item 7: AMCEN Priorities for the period 2025 to 2027

34. The Secretariat will provide a brief presentation on the matter, including the recommendations discussed by the expert segment. The secretariat has also prepared a background note on the subject, document AMCEN/20/4

Item 8: Ministerial Policy Dialogues

35. Four ministerial policy dialogues on key accelerators for achieving the Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063 will be held. The dialogues include: -
- (a) Sustainable and climate-resilient financing and budgeting as a pathway to addressing climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation in Africa;
 - (b) Leveraging the G20 to address Africa's environmental challenges;
 - (c) The role of sustainable digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and early warning and assessments for environmental sustainability in Africa;
 - (d) Critical minerals and energy transition in Africa
36. Outcomes of the ministerial dialogues will be included in the declaration

Item 9: Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

37. The secretariat will report on the status of the general trust fund.
38. The ministers are expected to make a critical assessment and provide further guidance on how to ensure that member States meet their obligations.

Item 10: Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions, and key messages of the session

39. The President of the Conference will introduce the draft declaration, decisions and key messages during a closed session open only to African member States, key partners and regional institutions.
40. A representative of the secretariat will take ministers through the draft declaration, decisions and key messages for their consideration, input and subsequent adoption.

Item 11: Venue and dates of the twenty-first ordinary session

41. At the eighteenth resumed session of AMCEN¹, it was decided that a joint session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development should be convened to forge innovative policy directions and actions to accelerate socioeconomic and environmental development, green investments, and the mobilization of climate finance on the continent.
42. At the fifty-fifth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development², the Conference of Ministers committed to collaborating with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in forging collective efforts and actions to accelerate socioeconomic and environmental development and green investments in Africa, and the mobilization of climate finance
43. In line with these two decisions, the Secretariat will propose that the twenty-first ordinary session of AMCEN be jointly held with the fifty-ninth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at a venue and on dates in the year 2027 to be agreed with the Presidents and Bureaus of both conferences

Item 12: Adoption of the report of the ministerial meeting

44. The Secretariat will introduce the draft report of the ministerial meeting for adoption by the Conference, on the understanding that the Secretariat will finalize the report after the meeting.

Item 13: Other matters

45. Ethiopia will brief the meeting on a proposal to convene a ministerial meeting on ecosystem

¹ Refer to AMCEN decision 18/1(d)

² Resolution 2023/6 titled Climate finance mobilization to accelerate a green recovery

restoration in the margins of the Africa Climate Summit scheduled for September 2025

46. Other key matters of interest not included in the agenda may be discussed. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session.

Item 14: Closure of the meeting

47. The President will bring the session to a formal close after the customary exchange of courtesies.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Document</i>
Working documents	
AMCEN/20/EGM/1	Provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/20/EGM/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the expert group segment
AMCEN/20/1	Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS.10/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the ministerial segment
AMCEN/20/2	Secretariat note on the implementation of AMCEN decisions
AMCEN/20/3	Secretariat note on Ocean Governance
AMCEN/20/4	Secretariat note on AMCEN priorities for 2025 to 2027
AMCEN/20/5	Secretariat note on the AMCEN Trust Fund
Information documents	
AMCEN/20/INF/1	Information note for participants attending the twentieth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/20/INF/2	AMCEN Bureaus 1985 - 2023
Reference documents	
AMCEN/BUR.9/2	Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN/BUR.9/3	Rules of Procedure of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Annex II

Programme of work for the ministerial meeting on 16 and 17 July 2025**Wednesday, 16 July 2025**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
10.00 am - 10.30 am	Item 1: Official opening of the twentieth session
10.30 am – 10.45 am	Item 2: Organizational matters: Election of officers, Adoption of the agenda, and organization of work
10.45 am – 11.45 am	Item 3: Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group
11.45 am – 12.00 pm	Item 4: Outcomes of Africa's engagement in recent key global meetings
12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	Item 5: Consideration of Africa's common positions and participation in upcoming international environmental meetings and conferences
12.30 pm – 12.45 pm	Item 6: Progress on Implementation of AMCEN Decisions
12.45 pm – 1.00 pm	Item 7: AMCEN priorities for the period 2025 to 2027
1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
3.00 p.m.–4.30 p.m.	Item 8: Ministerial Policy Dialogues Ministerial dialogue 1: Sustainable and climate-resilient financing and budgeting as a pathway to addressing climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation in Africa
4.30 p.m.–6.00 p.m.	Ministerial dialogue 2 – Leveraging the G20 to address Africa's environmental challenges
6.00 p.m.	Official welcome reception

Thursday, 17 July 2025

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
10.00 a.m.–11.30 a.m.	Item 8: Ministerial policy dialogues Ministerial dialogue 3: The role of sustainable digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and early warning and assessments for environmental sustainability in Africa
11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Ministerial dialogue 4: Critical minerals and energy transition in Africa
1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
3.00 pm – 3.15 pm	Item 9: Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

3.15 pm – 4.00 pm	Item 10: Consideration of the draft declaration, decisions, and key messages of the session
4.00 pm – 4.15 pm	Item 11: Venue and dates of the twenty-first ordinary session
4.15 pm – 4.30 pm	Item 12: Adoption of the report of the meeting
4.30 pm to 4.45 pm	Item 13: Other matters
4.45 pm – 6.00 pm	Item 14: Closure of the meeting
