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Decision AMCEN/20/Dec.10: Strengthening Africa's implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

We, the African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Nairobi from 16 to 17 July 2025 at the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling Decision AMCEN/19/1(c) which underscored the importance of enhancing Africa's coordinated engagement in multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols, and established the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity as the key mechanism to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice,

Recognising with appreciation the effective engagement of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including high-level thematic dialogues on urgent action, finance, synergies, peace and nature, and the adoption of the 2025–2030 Global Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Strategy,

Appreciating the steps taken towards the reforms of the United Nations biodiversity financing architecture, including the establishment of a permanent financial mechanism under Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the adoption of the 2025–2030 Global Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Strategy,

Welcoming the consensus on a multilateral mechanism to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, including the Cali Fund,

Welcoming the designation of five subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres in Africa under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Welcoming the outcomes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly those relating to Africa's priorities and their implications in accelerating national progress toward full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the aligned African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan by 2030,

Taking into consideration the scheduled seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Armenia for 2026,

Acknowledging that the interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and desertification, drought, ocean and inland water degradation, pollution and increasing risks to human health, food and nutritional security and armed conflict, pose an existential threat to humanity and our planet,

Decide:

1. To reaffirm Africa's commitment, as articulated in the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and to recognise the urgency underscored at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to enhance implementation over a 5 years' period, through the revision, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategy and action plans.
2. To further call upon member States that have not yet done so, to expedite the revision and submission of their national targets on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and request those member States that have developed national targets to submit their revised and updated national biodiversity strategic action plans in a timely manner ahead of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. To commit to increase resource mobilisation from all sources including global and domestic public and private sector finances for biodiversity.
4. To urge member States to develop national financial plans aligned with the priorities of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, grounded in comprehensive assessments of national biodiversity expenditure and financing needs, to ensure that African Parties benefit from existing financing mechanisms and processes.
5. To request member States, where relevant, to develop or reform national legislation with clarity on access and benefit sharing of genetic resource schemes.
6. To encourage member States desiring to have direct allocations from the Fund, to designate a National Entity for Digital Sequence Information or establish a national biodiversity fund to receive and distribute funds.
7. To encourage member States to nominate dedicated, technically competent negotiators to the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity, and to request the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Environmental Programme to support the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity to organise regional training for new negotiators, thereby strengthening Africa's negotiating capacity.
8. To urge the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity to engage actively in the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and in the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, including in dialogues on the global financing arrangement and modalities for the "Cali Fund", to ensure continued coherence and representation of African common positions, including the key policy messages annexed to this decision.
9. To encourage member States to strengthen coherence and policy alignment among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other international policy setting bodies, and to integrate biodiversity, science, technology and innovation; particularly in relation to appropriate governance mechanisms for emerging technologies, including modern biotechnology and synthetic biology, to ensure informed, inclusive, and science-based approaches to their development and deployment on the African continent.
10. To request the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Environment Programme, to develop and publish technical papers on urgent action for implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; financial system reform and the global responsibility to biodiversity; synergies between biodiversity and climate change; and on peace and nature for Africa.
11. To request the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for

Africa's Development, and the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with regional economic communities and partners, to strengthen and expand technical backstopping, knowledge generation, capacity building and regular coordination platforms for the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity; and to foster cooperation among African national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification Particular in Africa and other multilateral environmental agreements.

12. To further request the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme to provide guidance for cooperation and coherence within the United Nations common country analysis and the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework processes, in order to integrate and support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans priorities and the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and to mobilise additional resources from development finance.

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ANNEX: KEY POLICY MESSAGES

A. National Targets and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

We acknowledge Africa's leadership in developing national biodiversity targets, as highlighted by the global assessment, and reaffirm our commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We emphasize the urgency of finalizing and submitting national targets, revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and associated indicators by 2025. Member States that have not yet done so are urged to accelerate their efforts to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity deadline and to provide clear national roadmaps for biodiversity integration and implementation over the next five years in alignment with the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

B. Resource Mobilisation, Including from Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources

We applaud the reform of the United Nations biodiversity financing architecture—particularly the establishment of the permanent financial mechanism under Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity—and the adoption of the 2025–2030 Global Biodiversity Resource Mobilization Strategy. To ensure Africa fully benefits:

- i. **National Financial Plans**
Member States should develop National Financial Plans aligned with their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, based on comprehensive assessments of national biodiversity expenditures and financing needs.
- ii. **Mainstreaming Global Strategy**
The African Union Commission is urged to integrate the Global Biodiversity Resource Mobilization Strategy into the resource mobilization component of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and to issue guidance on financing both continental and national biodiversity priorities, including innovative domestic and international funding sources.
- iii. **United Nations Common Country Analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Alignment**
The African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme should provide guidance to align the United Nations Common Country Analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, to mobilize additional development finance.
- iv. **Sharing of Benefits from the use of Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources**
We welcome the “Cali Fund” as the mechanism for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. To maximize benefits for Africa, Member States should:
 - Develop or reform national legislation clarifying access and benefit-sharing schemes for the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.
 - Designate a national entity or establish a national biodiversity fund to receive allocations from the Cali Fund.
 - Recognize the critical role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in accessing these funds; urgently enact policy reforms to protect their rights; and designate national focal points for Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

C. Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation

We recognize the interlinkages among biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. member States

are invited to build awareness and commitment across these sectors. Specifically:

- i. Strengthen coherence among National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Land Degradation Neutrality Designations under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification by aligning goals, targets and indicators.
- ii. Develop joint work programmes and projects that address these interconnections.
- iii. The African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme should coordinate support for national focal points of the three Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related agreements.

D. Marine and Coastal Environment

We welcome the global consensus on identifying and describing Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas as crucial steps toward the 30×30 ocean conservation target. As priorities:

- i. Coastal States and Small Island Developing States should engage actively in the process for identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, submitting comments and safeguarding national sovereignty in site proposals, and participate in the Informal Advisory Group to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ii. All Member States are encouraged to ratify the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and to prepare for its early entry into force by establishing appropriate institutional frameworks.

E. Capacity Building and Technical-Scientific Cooperation

We welcome the designation of five African Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Secretariat's role as the global coordination entity. To leverage these structures:

- i. Member States should conduct national capacity needs assessments via the designated portal and develop costed action plans.
- ii. The Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres must prioritize support based on Member State needs.
- iii. Regional partners and the African Union Commission should engage with these Centres in alignment with the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

F. Strengthening Intersessional Activities of the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity

With the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity scheduled for 2026 in Armenia, we mandate the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity, supported by the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency- New Partnership for Africa's Development and other partners to:

- i. Coordinate Africa's participation in the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
- ii. Engage in intersessional dialogues on global biodiversity financing arrangements, allocation procedures for the Cali Fund, and other working groups established by sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- iii. Facilitate coordination and knowledge exchange with related processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

- iv. Organize regional trainings and debriefings for new negotiators and maintain regular online communication on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation progress.

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