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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Twentieth Session

Ministerial Segment
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2025

Tripoli Declaration on environmental action in Africa: Reflecting on the past and imagining the future

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Nairobi, Kenya from 16 to 17 July 2025 at the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment under the auspices of the State of Libya.

Celebrating four decades of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's continental leadership in shaping environmental policy, fostering multilateral cooperation and advancing Africa's voice in global environmental governance,

Reaffirming our commitment to strengthen the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the principal forum for collective action on the continent's most pressing environmental challenges,

Recalling the Addis Ababa Declaration on Seizing Opportunities and Enhancing Collaboration to Address Environmental Challenges in Africa, adopted at the nineteenth session of the Conference in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, which underscored the critical need for strengthened partnerships, institutional coherence and innovative financing to accelerate climate action, biodiversity conservation, desertification, land degradation and drought, and pollution control across the continent,

Recalling the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment adopted in 2008 to jointly address health and environmental issues in Africa, and the third inter ministerial conference on health and environment in 2018 which endorsed the strategic action plan to scale up environment and health interventions (2019-2029),

Concerned by the growing threat posed by antimicrobial resistance in the African region and globally,

Recognising the escalating impacts of drought on livelihoods, biodiversity, and ecological stability across Africa, and reaffirming the importance of conservation and restoration as a strategic response,

Reaffirming our commitment to the Africa Union Agenda 2063 -the Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which together underpin the continent's strategic blueprint for inclusive growth, sustainable development and an integrated Africa,

Guided by the African Union's strategic frameworks including the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan, African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032), African Union

Biodiversity Strategy 2023–2030, Africa Union Blue Economy Strategy (2019), African Union Green Minerals Strategy (2024), Africa Mining Vision (2009), African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020–2030 and global commitments including the Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals, African Union circular economy action plan,

Stressing the importance of strengthening the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda and promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system.

Concerned that Africa faces severe and interconnected environmental challenges including escalating climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, desertification land, degradation, and drought, water scarcity, pollution of air, land and water and unsustainable resource extraction that undermine human health, food security and resilient livelihoods,

Recognising the urgency of the global plastic pollution crisis and the critical need for Africa to engage in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

Affirming our commitment to safeguard our continent's biodiversity and ensuring effectively regulated sustainable wildlife trade and equitable benefit-sharing,

Recognising that wetlands are indispensable for Africa's water security, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation; and underscoring the imperative of speaking with one coordinated African voice to elevate wetland protection and restoration as provided for under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,

Recalling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023–2030), and emphasising the urgent need for Africa to review and implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, fully finance conservation actions to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030,

Reaffirming the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa as the continent's foundational legal instrument for prohibiting importation of hazardous waste, and aware of the need to broaden the scope of the Convention to be in synergy with other multilateral environment agreements,

Welcoming the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions decision requesting the Executive Secretary to initiate communications with the secretariats of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa with the view to ensuring the facilitation of cooperation, synergies and partnerships with the Bamako Convention,

Welcoming the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution in 2025, which aims to provide an inclusive, multidisciplinary forum to generate, science-based guidance and catalyse coordinated global action toward a pollution-free future,

Noting the urgent need to bolster regional cooperation to halt illegal mercury trade, thus protecting both public health and the climate under the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Recognising that digital transformation and technologies may offer transformative tools to inform adaptive natural resource management and bolster Africa's resilience to environmental risks while acknowledging that such technologies may come with environmental risks,

Recognising that limited availability, and accessibility of African countries to reliable data and information on environmental issues continue to hamper efforts to put in place robust early warning systems for responding to risks

and impacts associated with environmental pollution; biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification; and climate change,

Mindful that South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency furnishes Africa with a historic platform to champion the continent's environmental priorities and secure high-level commitments from the world's foremost economic leading nations,

Recognising that the critical mineral wealth of Africa presents an opportunity for the continent to enhance environmental sustainability while promoting a just transition to clean and renewable energy and respecting the right of each country to its own sustainable development pathways, and also recognizing the need for a more equitable international environmental order,

Recalling resolution 2023/6 of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to strengthen collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, to joint meetings of the two ministerial bodies,

Acknowledging the need to strengthen Africa's Ocean governance so as to secure the continent's marine and freshwater resources for healthy oceans that are indispensable for Africa's economic prosperity, food security and climate resilience,

Recalling Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.496(XXII) of the African Union Assembly declaring 2015–2025 as the Africa Decade of Seas and Oceans, and recognizing that despite the substantial progress made marine pollution, unsustainable resource use, climate change impacts, loss of marine biodiversity, and limited capacity for effective governance of Africa's Ocean and coastal resources remain significantly challenged,

Appreciating the work of the Africa Group of Negotiators in forging common African positions on environmental, climate and sustainable development issues, which has strengthened continental solidarity, amplified Africa's influence in multilateral fora and ensured that our collective priorities shape global policy outcomes,

Recalling decision AMCEN 19/5 calling for a global mechanism for non-use agreement on the geo-engineering solar radiation management or modification,

Acknowledging, with appreciation, the support of the global financing institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to African countries in addressing their environmental priorities over more than three decades, while stressing the need to strengthen processes to become more equitable.

Acknowledging the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children, women and youth.
We hereby declare our resolve:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the effective implementation of the decisions and outcomes adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and call upon member States and partners to strengthen their action to implement these commitments.
2. To urge member States to prioritize, harmonise and implement national and regional action plans and policies to combat desertification, land degradation and drought; ensure that these plans and policies are aligned with national development objectives and integrate climate resilience considerations related to agriculture, forestry, health, air quality and water management; and align these considerations with broader sustainable development goals and call for a legally binding protocol on drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
3. To urge member States to prioritise, harmonise and implement national and regional action plans and policies to combat desertification, land degradation and drought; ensure that these plans and policies are aligned with national development objectives and integrate climate resilience considerations related to

agriculture, forestry, health, air quality and water management; and align these considerations with broader sustainable development goals; and call for a legally binding protocol on drought under United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

4. To support the development or the strengthening of regionally coordinated restoration frameworks that priorities drought-prone landscapes, integrating indigenous knowledge systems and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.
5. To prioritise soil and land health and commit to elevating soil protection and sustainable land management as continental priorities, including through integrated soil governance frameworks and nature-positive agricultural practices.
6. To recognise the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change.
7. To work collaboratively with the ministers of finance, planning, and economic development to unlock new green investments and green finance and facilitate targeted work on key environment and development priorities for Africa.
8. To convene the twenty-first ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment serving as a joint session with the fifty eighth session of the Conference of African ministers of finance, planning, and economic development.
9. To welcome the adoption and encourage the advancement and implementation of the Africa Ocean Governance Strategy and its Implementation Plan as a unified continental framework for sustainable blue growth and encourage African countries to prepare their National Blue Economy Strategies and Action Plan.
10. To welcome the establishment of an African Group of Negotiators on Oceans to coordinate common African positions and represent our interests in all international ocean-related fora.
11. To collaborate with the African Union Commission and African Union Development Agency-NEPAD to organise regular African Ocean governance conferences to strengthen capacities for the sustainable governance of Africa's oceans, and to mobilise the necessary political commitment, technical support and financial resources.
12. To encourage all member States to ratify or accede to the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and to integrate its provisions into national ocean governance frameworks.
13. To call for the extension of the Africa Decade of Seas and Oceans for an additional ten years from 2026 to 2035, and to commemorate the Africa Decade of Seas and Oceans every 25th July of the year.
14. To call upon the African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, United Nations Environment Programme and development partners to mobilise technical and financial assistance for capacity building, scientific research and regional cooperation needed to operationalise the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and the Africa Ocean Governance Strategy to safeguard Africa's marine heritage.

15. To encourage member States to prioritise initiatives on the Africa Union clean cooking declaration and mission 300 declaration, Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa and Africa green industrialisation initiative so as to advance Africa's climate and development goals.
16. To encourage member States with the support of the Africa Union Commission, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, United Nations Environment Programme, and World Health Organization to accelerate implementation of the environment and health intervention endorsed by the 3rd interministerial conference on health and environment in 2018.
17. To call for the convening of the fourth conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import to Africa and the Control of Transboundary. Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa by the end of 2025, and to encourage member states, who have not done so, to accede, ratify and domesticate the Convention for effective implementation to reduce transboundary movement of hazardous waste in Africa.
18. To reaffirm our commitment to the continent's long-term vision for sound chemicals and waste management to finalise the Pan-African Strategy and Action Plan for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes (2025–2035), that is science-based to serve an input to the continent's unified framework for chemicals and waste management.
19. To request the Africa Union Commission and the secretariat to explore the establishment of a regional multi-stakeholder forum on chemicals and waste management in Africa, bringing together key African institutions and stakeholders, including the Africa Development Bank, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, civil society organisations, the private sector, and academia to foster policy coherence, coordinate regional action, and mobilise resources and to report back to the next ordinary session of the Conference.
20. To strengthen and scale up circular economy approaches across Africa by integrating resource efficiency, waste reduction and reuse into national and regional policies, fostering green job creation, and empowering where applicable subregional and national institutions to govern and monitor sustainable resource management.
21. To welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution where all voices will shape a pollution free future.
22. To support the hosting of the permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution within the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in line with paragraph 88 sub-paragraph 'k' of the Future we Want outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which decided to progressively consolidate United Nations Environment Programme headquarter functions in Nairobi.
23. To emphasise that the decision to locate the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters will reduce further fragmentation of the international environmental governance, promote policy and institutional coherence as well as cost-effectiveness and strengthen the role and visibility of Africa in global chemicals and waste management and pollution prevention efforts.
24. To stress our collective resolve to protect health and the environment from mercury, including by implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury including phasing out all mercury-added products within stipulated timelines and rejecting new exports of mercury to African countries.

25. To express our appreciation to the African Group of Negotiators on Chemical and Waste for effectively representing Africa at the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28 April to 9 May 2025.
26. To appreciate the work of the Africa Group of negotiators on climate change and request the group to continue strengthening African common position for the thirtieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled to take place in Belem, Brazil from 10-21 November 2025.
27. To express our appreciation to the African group of negotiators on plastic pollution for effectively representing Africa in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and to reaffirm our commitment to actively participating in the resumed fifth session in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 14 August 2025, so as to advance African interests and priorities.
28. To mandate the African Group of Negotiators on Wildlife to advocate Africa's unified position at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 24 November to 5 December 2025, emphasising sustainable wildlife trade, equitable benefit-sharing, and robust non-detriment and legal-acquisition findings, so as to advance African interests and priorities.
29. To encourage member States to actively participate in the fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, to be held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 23 to 31 July 2025 and articulate Africa's priorities on wetland protection and restoration.
30. To agree to effectively support Zimbabwe's presidency of the Convention on Wetlands Standing Committee for the period 2025 to 2028, and to ensure it advances the wise use of wetlands globally, while also strengthening Africa's wetlands management and restoration efforts and amplifying its voice in global wetland policy discussions.
31. To welcome the establishment of an African Group of Negotiators on Wetlands to coordinate our engagement under the Convention and related environmental agreements.
32. To call for a strengthened presence of United Nations Environment Programmes regional and subregional offices and encourage the enhancement of this to ensure national and region-specific environmental priorities are effectively addressed.
33. To express our appreciation to the African group in Nairobi for its work in all negotiations during the intersessional period and during the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as guided by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
34. To mandate the African group in Nairobi to actively participate in all relevant preparatory processes for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and other intergovernmental and expert-level fora, with the aim of safeguarding and promoting Africa's interests
35. To take note of the key priorities at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly presented by the United Nations Environment Programme and to reaffirm our unequivocal rejection of stratospheric aerosol injection and other forms of solar geoengineering as unacceptable climate solutions, given their significant environmental, ethical and geopolitical risks.

36. To call upon the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session to consider adopting a resolution on enhancing the responsible and sustainable management of minerals, including critical minerals, to accelerate just and equitable energy transition.
37. To endeavour to harness Africa's critical mineral wealth in a manner that safeguards our environment, respects local community rights and maximises local benefits for a just and sustainable future and to agree to develop continent-wide guidelines for environmentally and socially responsible critical mineral extraction and processing.
38. To commit ourselves to engaging with the relevant national authorities to ensure sustainable financial contributions from member States to the trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Environment Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme.
39. To reiterate our support to the establishment of an independent panel for evidence for action against antimicrobial resistance in response to the seventy-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly declaration on antimicrobial resistance and call for its secretariat to be hosted at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi.
40. To stress that means of implementation including finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and partnerships in multilateral environmental agreements are adequate, accessible, timely and predictable to support African countries in addressing environmental challenges and achieving their sustainable development goals.
41. To reiterate the urgent need for policy integration and collaboration across all levels of government to ensure tangible progress, manage resources and enforce agreements.
42. To reaffirm the principle of multilateralism in addressing environmental challenges and ensuring inclusive, equitable and effective global responses to the interconnectedness of these challenges.
43. To reaffirm the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities as a foundation for equitable international cooperation in response to global environmental challenges and call for its continued application across multilateral environmental agreements and processes.
44. To recognise the transboundary and cross-border nature of many environmental issues and call for scaling-up of United Nations Environment Programme efforts where relevant through regional and subregional programmes and projects that promote integrated, sustainable and cooperative approaches to addressing shared environmental challenges.
45. To call for the establishment of a solar-geoengineering non-use agreement and further call for a United Nations General Assembly resolution on the same.
46. To acknowledge the growing role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in environmental management, and call for the promotion of the ethical, inclusive and sustainable use of artificial intelligence and other digital solutions, including rigorous assessment of their long-term environmental impacts and implications for equity and governance.
47. To promote regional and sub regional coordination among member states for environmental data sharing, harmonisation of monitoring protocols and collaborative analysis to effectively address transboundary environmental challenges.

48. To encourage member states to develop and integrate national strategies and policy frameworks for digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence in environmental management aligned to Africa Union Digital Transformation strategy to ensure the harmonisation and synergises across the continent.
49. To urge developed countries to deliver on their financial commitments in line with mandates and responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement and provide grant based and concessional finance that does not contribute to the debt of African states.
50. To pursue the reform of the international financial architecture to enhance access to climate finance, reduce costs of financing for climate change and development in Africa and enhance the participation of African states in the global financial arrangements.
51. To encourage member States to mobilise and scale up blended finance including public-private partnerships, green bonds and carbon markets to close the climate finance gap and support resilient infrastructure, sector wide solutions and disaster risk reduction.
52. To welcome the decision to organise the second meeting of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Fund in Botswana in October 2025; and to call on developed countries and all countries in a position to do so to contribute to an ambitious replenishment of the Fund and to significantly enhance resource mobilisation for the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Global Biodiversity Fund, in line with the new collective quantified goals on climate finance, target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, and the needs and priorities for Africa countries.
53. To strengthen national budgetary frameworks by integrating environment and climate considerations into medium-term expenditure frameworks, ensuring predictable allocations for adaptation and ecosystem restoration.
54. To encourage South Africa's leadership of the G20 platform to advance Africa's interest including in mobilising means of implementation and support such as finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity-building partnerships in areas such as climate-smart agriculture, marine protected areas, biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable use, clean energy or low carbon energy and climate resilient development, green hydrogen and water security initiatives and sustainable mining.
55. To commend South Africa's leadership in G20 and in this regard welcomes the proposal to establish a USD 12 billion clean cooking transition facility for women in Africa which aligns with both the G20 and Africa Union priorities of mobilizing finance for a just energy transition.
56. To request the African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant development partners to provide leadership in mobilising financial resources and technical expertise, among other needs, for holistically strengthening the capacity of member States to regularly to put in place effective systems for early warning for the environment at regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national, and city levels.
57. To encourage member states to enhance actions on climate resilient infrastructure, services for children in national policies including National Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans and promote investments in youth innovation and entrepreneurship for environmental solution.
58. To agree to hold a high-level meeting of Ministers responsible for the environment on the first day of the second Africa Climate summit to be held from 8-10 September 2025.

59. To express our profound appreciation to Ethiopia for its presidency of the Conference during the period 2023–2025 and welcome the presidency of Libya for the period 2025–2027.
60. To express our profound appreciation to Kenya for its support in facilitating the organisation of the twentieth session of the Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment.
61. To express our profound appreciation to the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and other development partners and institutions for their continued support for the work of the Conference.
62. To extend our appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
63. Mandate the President of the Conference to submit the report of the twentieth session of the Conference, including the present Tripoli declaration on Environmental Action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future and the annexes thereto, to the African Union Commission for further action by the policy organs of the African Union.