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

Ministerial Segment
Nairobi, Kenya 16 and 17 July
2025

Decision AMCEN/20/Dec.9: Africa's engagement at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

We, African ministers of the environment,

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

Recalling, the Durban Declaration on Taking Action for Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity in Africa, adopted the seventeenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Durban, South Africa, from November 2019, which underscored the Conferences' central role in formulating African positions on all environmental matters, including at the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Further recalling decision AMCEN/19/4 on engagement of Africa at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which urged active African participation in the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and mandated the Africa Group in Nairobi to formulate draft resolutions and contribute to the ministerial declaration, taking into account means of implementation and the Rio Principles, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities,

Taking note of the ongoing process of the preparation of United Nations Environment Programme medium term strategy for 2026-2029 and its associated 2026-2027 programme of work and budget,

Welcoming the outcomes of the tenth special session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting that the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will take place from 8 to 12 December 2025 at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, on the theme "*Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet*",

Recalling resolutions UNEA 2/2 and 6/3 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on the role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environmental authorities, to support and to facilitate convening and strengthening of the existing regional forums of ministers of the environment and environmental authorities,

Reiterating the African Group's concerns with the promotion of technologies, particularly solar radiation management, and its common position on the call for a global governance mechanism for non-use of solar radiation

management in line with paragraph 15 of decision AMCEN on 19/5 on Climate Change,

Acknowledging the preparatory work undertaken by the African Group in Nairobi to coordinate and articulate African positions for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and recognising the strengthened engagement between the United Nations Environment Programme and African States through its regional and subregional offices,

Emphasising the transboundary and cross-border nature of many environmental challenges facing Africa, and commending the United Nations Environment Programme's efforts through regional, and subregional and national programmes,

Decide,

1. To commend the African Group in Nairobi for coordinating and articulating African positions on environmental matters at the previous sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly including at the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.
2. 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.
3. To endorse the key messages annexed to the present decision as the key messages for the African Group's engagement in the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
4. To mandate the African Group in Nairobi to continue engaging in discussions on the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy (2026-2029) and programme of work (2026-2027), ensuring that African priorities and perspectives are fully integrated.
5. To call on the African Group in Nairobi to consider and, in line with agreed priorities and decisions of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to develop draft resolutions to be submitted under the African Group's name and to coordinate positions in negotiating them.
6. To call for the establishment of a solar geoengineering non-use agreement and requests the African Group in Nairobi, in liaison with the African Groups in all multilateral stations and experts from capitals to continue promoting this position in relevant international negotiations and processes and further call for a United Nations General Assembly resolution on the same.
7. To encourage the African Group to put forward an African sponsored resolution on enhancing the responsible and sustainable management of minerals, including critical minerals, for a just and equitable energy transition to ensure that resources are benefiting the communities.
8. To request the African Group in Nairobi, in preparing for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to formulate appropriate resolutions and contribute to the draft ministerial declaration to be negotiated at the session, taking into consideration, among other matters, means of implementation and the Rio Principles, including, in particular, equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.
9. To encourage member States to participate actively in the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives under the auspices of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to discuss and advance issues of common interest to African countries.

10. To urge coordination, collaboration and linkages between the African Group of Negotiators, the African Group in Nairobi and the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment in developing key Africa-sponsored resolutions for the seventh special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
11. To call for strengthening the engagement of the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements in promoting cooperation, coherence and contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.
12. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue the programme on environmental diplomacy to enhance coherence and strengthen engagement of the African Group, through African Permanent Missions in Nairobi and in Addis Ababa, with a view to raising the voice of Africa and strengthening the engagement of African diplomats in regional and global environmental negotiations and policies.

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ANNEX:

Key Messages on the Engagement of Africa at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

We,

- a) Fully support the African Group in Nairobi in coordinating and articulating African positions on environmental matters and contributing to the preparatory work for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- b) Call for a reinvigorated multilateralism grounded in all Rio principles, and in particular the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities as a foundation for equitable international cooperation in response to global environmental challenges
- c) Reiterate the urgent need to ensure that means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, are adequate, accessible, timely and predictable to support African countries in addressing environmental challenges and achieving their sustainable development goals.
- d) Take note of the report presented by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme outlining key priorities to the seventh session to the Environment Assembly, for advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, and which invited member States to consider advancing the resolution proposal within the scope that include, among other, protection of the Earth's shield through stratospheric protection. While we acknowledge the relevance of these emerging areas, we would like to reaffirm our full rejection of any attempt to promote stratospheric aerosol injection or other forms of solar geoengineering technology as a climate change mitigation solution. We reiterate our position, that such technologies pose significant and uncertain environmental, ethical, and geopolitical risks, and must not be considered as viable options within the multilateral environmental agenda.
- e) Remain attentive to persistent environmental challenges such as desertification, land degradation and drought, climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, including waste management. At the same time, we recognize the growing importance of emerging issues, including the environmental implications of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, and the need for sustainable management of minerals, particularly critical minerals essential for a just energy transition. Africa stands ready to engage constructively on these matters and calls on all stakeholders to approach these discussions in a spirit of cooperation, equity, and shared responsibility.
- f) Encourage the promotion of circular economy that is non-toxic, safe and sustainable, for the sustainable use of resources, through the management of waste, including plastic and electronic waste and replicate circular economy and green business development policies and programmes to enable the growth of sustainable entrepreneurship as one of the key drivers of Africa's economic transformation agenda and reiterates the need for United Nations Environment Programme needed support to developing countries, in this regard.
- g) Reaffirm our common understanding that the United Nations Environment Programme work in line with its mandate, in line with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including to coordinate international environmental actions and to support Member States in confronting environmental challenges effectively and equitably and must be driven by the member state needs.