African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Annotations to the provisional agenda

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 1 of article 9 of its constitution, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. An offer by the Government of Egypt to host the fifteenth session was accepted by the Conference at its fourteenth session, held in Arusha from 10 to 14 September 2012.

2. Pursuant to that offer, it was agreed that the fifteenth session would be held in Cairo from 2 to 6 March 2015. The session will consist of an expert group segment, to be held from 2 to 4 March, and a ministerial segment, to be held from 5 to 6 March. The opening ceremony for the ministerial segment will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 4 March 2015.

3. In this regard, the Bureau of the Conference considered and adopted a provisional agenda for the ministerial segment of the fifteenth session, which is set out in document AMCEN/15/I/Rev.1. The Bureau also chose “Managing Africa’s natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication” as the theme for the session.

4. The secretariat has distributed an information note on the fifteenth session (AMCEN/15/INF/1). A complete list of the documents prepared for the session is provided in annex I to the present document.

II. Objectives and overview of the fifteenth session

5. The main objective of the fifteenth session is to provide a platform for African ministers of the environment to deliberate on how to harness Africa’s natural capital – in essence its natural resources, including its vast biodiversity and diverse ecosystems – and how this could help the region in achieving sustainable development, creating jobs for the increasing number of young people and contributing to the eradication of poverty.

6. The fifteenth session will offer an opportunity to deliberate on substantive follow-up actions related to the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which took place in June 2014, the outcomes of African Union summits and other major international and regional environmental meetings. In particular, deliberations will take place on the issues of the illegal trade in wildlife and the post-2015 development agenda, including the proposed sustainable development goals.

7. The ministers participating in the session will review and analyse the outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima in December 2014. A critical stage has been reached in the ongoing climate change negotiations towards a new legal agreement to be adopted in 2015 and the fifteenth session of the Conference will be an opportune platform to review the issues at stake for Africa and agree on a road map in preparation for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Paris later in 2015.
8. The ministers will also consider issues related to the Conference, including the development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes; a review of the environmental action plan for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; the operationalization of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and the implications for the Conference; and the draft work programme of the Conference. The ministers will also deliberate on the status and use of the general trust fund of the Conference. The latest records show that member States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of the activities of the Conference.

9. The expert group will bring a number of other issues to the attention of ministers for their consideration, such as the proposed Africa group of negotiators on biodiversity; the outcomes and analysis of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in South Korea in October 2014; the draft guidelines drawn up by the African Union for the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the draft African climate change strategy of the African Union; the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa; enhancing the implementation and effectiveness of environmental law in Africa; and issues related to coastal and marine ecosystems.

10. The ministers are expected to adopt a declaration, decisions and key messages reflecting their discussions under the various items of the agenda.

III. Items of the provisional agenda

Item 1
Opening of the meeting

11. The representative of the President of the Conference, the Minister of Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania, will chair the expert group segment of the session, while the representative of the Vice-President of the Conference (Egypt) will serve as Rapporteur. In the absence of either of those Bureau members, a Bureau meeting will be convened on the eve of the opening of the fifteenth session to take stock of the management of the Conference and decide which Bureau members present will be assigned responsibilities during the fifteenth session, in accordance with the constitution of the Conference.

12. The Bureau of the Conference currently comprises the following members:
   (a) President: United Republic of Tanzania;
   (b) Vice-Presidents: Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone;
   (c) Vice-President and Rapporteur: Egypt.

13. Representatives of United Nations entities, the African Union, the secretariat of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the subregional economic communities of Africa, the African Development Bank and other bilateral and multilateral partners are expected to attend the session.

14. The representative of the Vice-President of the Conference from Egypt will deliver a welcoming statement. Representatives of the secretariat and the African Union Commission will also make opening statements, followed by the representative of the President of the Conference who will deliver opening remarks.

Item 2
Organizational matters

15. The expert group will have before it the provisional agenda (AMCEN/15/EGM/1/Rev.1) to consider for adoption. The work programme for the meeting is contained in annex II to the present document.

(a) Election of officers

16. In accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the Conference and its rules of procedure, the expert group segment will be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the fourteenth session. Accordingly, the United Republic of Tanzania will serve as Chair, while Egypt will act as Rapporteur. Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone will provide the Vice-Chairs.
17. Subregional consultations will be encouraged for the election of the office-bearers for the biennium 2015–2016 to fill the posts of Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur representing West, Central, East and Southern Africa on the Bureau of the Conference. A breakdown of the office bearers since 1985 will be circulated for use during consideration of this sub-item.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

18. The experts may wish to adopt their agenda and organization of work on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/15/EGM/1/Rev.1) and the programme of work contained in annex II to the present document.

19. The expert group may wish to establish such working groups as it may deem necessary. The Chair will invite experts to join any such groups and to make their choices known to the secretariat by close of business on the first day of the meeting.

Item 3
Consideration of the report of the secretariat

20. A representative of the secretariat will introduce a report on the activities of the Conference during the intersessional period (AMCEN/15/EGM/3).

Item 4
Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process

(a) Draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

21. The draft work programme of the Conference for the biennium 2015–2016 (AMCEN/15/EGM/4) will be introduced by a representative of the secretariat for the consideration of the experts. It is worth noting that the regional flagship programmes adopted by the Conference during its fourteenth session to support African countries in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) are under development and will form the basis of the work programme, together with the decisions of the fifteenth session of the Conference.

(b) Trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

22. The general trust fund of the Conference was established to provide full or partial financial support to the functioning of the organs of the Conference and the implementation of its activities. However, the most recent records show that member States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of the activities of the Conference. There is a pressing need therefore for ministers to make a critical assessment and provide further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be increased. A representative of the secretariat will introduce a report on the general trust fund (AMCEN/15/EGM/5/Rev.1).

(c) Development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes

23. At its fourteenth session, the Conference agreed to develop and implement regional flagship programmes as a means to contribute to the effective implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20 in Africa. The decision was subsequently endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at the twentieth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in January 2013. At subsequent working sessions, convened by the African Union and the Conference, draft concept notes were prepared for the respective flagship programmes and these were endorsed by the Conference during its fifth special session, held in Gaborone in October 2013 (AMCEN/15/REF/1).

24. At its fifth special session, the Conference also adopted a decision calling for the establishment of a steering committee within the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to guide the overall development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes. The steering committee, on the other hand, was requested to establish such programme coordination committees and working groups or other relevant bodies as might be necessary to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the regional flagship programmes. A representative of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency will provide an update on the progress made in the development of the regional flagship programmes and the proposed next steps.

25. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Union Commission and the Conference, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have been involved in a process to review and revise the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD.
The review concluded that its implementation was characterized by notable achievements and some glaring challenges.

26. It was recognized that the regional flagship programmes adopted by the Conference would be viable channels to overcome some of the challenges to the implementation of the action plan, as they provide a framework to accelerate that implementation. The revised action plan has captured the salient elements of the flagship programmes and illustrates how the flagship programmes feed into the action plan, while contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20. The revised action plan will be submitted to the Conference at its fifteenth session for consideration.

(d) Operationalization of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and its implications for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

27. Both the 1991 African Economic Community Treaty (Abuja Treaty) of the Organization of African Unity and the 2000 Constitutive Act of the African Union provide for the establishment of specialized technical committees as one of the organs of the African Union. By its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII), adopted in Malabo in 2011, the African Union Assembly requested that the committees be made operational from January 2013 and that all the sectoral ministerial conferences be abolished thereafter. At its fourteenth session, the Conference adopted a decision inviting the Assembly of the African Union to reconsider the decision to abolish the sectoral ministerial conferences, including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to allow for further consultations and to request the establishment of a specialized technical committee on the environment, given the increasing importance of the environmental dimension in sustainable development in Africa and the world.

28. By its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.526 (XXIII), adopted in Malabo in June 2014, the African Union Assembly agreed that, given the importance of the ongoing global consultations on the issue of the environment and taking into account the need to defend the interests of Africa, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment be allowed to pursue negotiations with concerned partners until they are concluded (AMCEN/15/REF/2). However, the long-term status of the Conference needs to be clarified (see AMCEN/15/EGM/6). A brief presentation will be made by the secretariat on this sub-item.

Item 5

Outcomes of the first United Nations Environment Assembly and the engagement of Africa in the Assembly

29. The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014. The overarching theme of the session was “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production.” In addition, the issue of the illegal trade in wildlife was extensively discussed.

(a) Illegal trade in wildlife and its implications for Africa

30. One of the key issues discussed during the high-level segment was the illegal trade in wildlife, focusing on the escalation in poaching and the surge in related environmental crime. In its resolution 1/1, the Environment Assembly adopted a ministerial outcome document calling for action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, which has major economic, social and environmental impacts, contributes to damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, undermines good governance and the rule of law and threatens national security.

31. At its twenty-fifth ordinary session, held in Malabo from 20 to 24 June 2014, the Executive Council of the African Union considered the issue of the illegal wildlife trade and adopted a decision calling on the African Union Commission, with the support of the Conference and other relevant partners, to prepare an African common strategy on combating the illegal trade in wild flora and fauna to be reported upon to the Executive Council at its ordinary session to be held in June 2015. The decision also welcomed the offer by the Republic of the Congo to host an international conference on the illegal trade and exploitation of wild flora and fauna in Africa.

32. A short presentation will be made by a representative of the Congo on this sub-item. The secretariat has made available a number of documents for information and reference purposes (AMCEN/15/INF/2, AMCEN/15/REF/3, AMCEN/15/REF/4, AMCEN/15/REF/5, AMCEN/15/REF/6 and AMCEN/15/REF/7).
(b) Post-2015 activities, including sustainable development goals

33. The Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want”, inter alia, set out a mandate for the establishment of an open working group to develop a set of sustainable development goals. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has concluded its work and proposed 17 specific goals with 169 associated targets. In its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, the General Assembly formally adopted the proposal of the Open Working Group as the main basis for integrating the final sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda. The environmental dimension is articulated across the whole sustainable development agenda.

34. In December 2014, the Secretary-General issued his synthesis report on the post-2015 agenda, which brings together the various elements needed for a successful agenda and provides a key contribution to the ongoing intergovernmental negotiation processes in the run-up to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda to be held in New York in September 2015.

35. The post-2015 sustainable development agenda and the sustainable development goals will be formally adopted by the General Assembly at the summit in September 2015. Discussions will continue in the coming months when Member States are expected to negotiate the final parameters. It is envisaged that some technical proofing of the proposed targets will be required. There is also a need to ensure synergies between the negotiations and the financing for development process and technology facilitation. The third International Conference on Financing for Development due to be held in July 2015 in Addis Ababa is part of the effort to ensure synergies.

36. The continued engagement and active participation of African countries is therefore crucial to ensuring that African priorities and aspirations are taken on board in the lead-up to the summit in September 2015.

37. A brief presentation will be made by the secretariat on the sub-item. The secretariat has made available a number of documents for information and reference purposes (AMCEN/15/INF/3, AMCEN/15/INF/5, AM/CMEN/15/REF/8 and AMCEN/15/REF/9).

(c) Engagement of Africa in the United Nations Environment Assembly

38. It will be recalled that at its fifth special session, the Conference adopted a decision mandating the African group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, in collaboration with African permanent missions in Addis Ababa, Geneva and New York, to prepare and advance a common strategy for Africa’s engagement with the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be considered by the Conference at its fifteenth session. A representative of the African group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP will make a short presentation in this regard (AMCEN/15/REF/13).

39. At its first session, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare two separate but intrinsically connected strategic documents for its second session in May 2016. Those documents are a medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021, to describe the key challenges and issues in the global environment, how UNEP will coordinate actions and resources to build on its strengths, respond to lessons learned and through a business model, use pivot points to multiply the effectiveness of effort; and a programme of work and a budget for 2018–2019, to build on the medium-term strategy, setting out subprogrammes with associated operational strategies, key outputs, budgets and targets.

40. UNEP regional offices are expected to identify regional and national priorities and, where possible, hold consultations through existing regional forums. A representative of the secretariat will make a short presentation on this issue with a view to getting some initial reactions from the Conference.

Item 6

Managing the natural capital of Africa for sustainable development and poverty eradication

41. Africa is blessed with abundant natural capital, which is a critical economic asset. Key natural capital assets continue to be used in an unsustainable manner, however, meaning that the stream of economic and social benefits generated from those resources is being reduced over time. This state of affairs threatens the achievement of priority development goals, including poverty reduction, food security, improved health and job creation.
42. A key challenge is to turn this recognition into national actions that bring about a more sustainable and pro-poor use of natural capital. There is an urgent need to move the value of natural capital from the periphery to the centre of development planning. Participants will be expected to deliberate on some of the key steps needed to achieve a more sustainable use of natural capital, looking at policies and strategies to support Africa’s economic transformation and growth. A representative of the secretariat will give a brief presentation on the sub-item. The secretariat has also prepared a discussion paper on the subject (AMCEN/15/3).

**Item 7**

**Presentations on other issues related to sustainable development in Africa**

43. Brief presentations will be given on other issues related to sustainable development in Africa such as the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa; the African Union African climate change strategy; enhancing the implementation of environmental law in Africa; issues related to coastal and marine ecosystems; and the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the African Union draft guidelines for the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The presentations are intended to introduce the topics enabling a more detailed discussion during the working group sessions.

(a) **Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa**

44. In 2012, heads of State and Government from 10 African countries, in collaboration with some public and private sector partners, participated in a two-day summit on sustainability in Africa. The outcome of the summit was the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (AMCEN/15/REF/10), in which participants at the summit reaffirmed their commitment to implementing all the conventions and declarations that promote sustainable development. The Declaration is a set of concrete principles and development goals that firmly move the value of natural capital from the periphery to the centre of development planning in Africa.

45. The present sub-item, which is linked to the main theme of the fifteenth session of the Conference, is intended to leverage the Declaration as a road map for Africa and an example of what can be accomplished when African nations unify and work together in the pursuit of sustainable development. A representative of the Government of Botswana, as the interim secretariat of the Gaborone Declaration, will introduce the sub-item.

(b) **African climate change strategy**

46. The African Union Commission has been developing an African climate change strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for integrated and coordinated mechanisms designed to give strategic direction to member States and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change on the continent.

47. In its decision SS.IV/1 on climate change, the Conference decided, among other things:

   (a) To welcome the report of the African Union Commission on the development of the African strategy on climate change and call upon the Commission to continue this work and reflect the input made at the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the strategy;

   (b) To request the African Union Commission to circulate the final draft of the African strategy on climate change to member States for comments and further input, upon which the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was urged to convene a meeting of the Bureau to consider input from member States and endorse the strategy.

48. A representative of the African Union Commission will introduce this sub-item. The secretariat has made available the draft African strategy on climate change (AMCEN/15/REF/11).

(c) **Enhancing implementation of environmental law in Africa**

49. African Governments have time and again raised the issue of the need to enhance their capacity to develop, implement and enforce their environmental laws. This need has been reflected in countless outcomes of global and regional summits and other intergovernmental forums, as well as in bilateral requests submitted by individual countries to United Nations entities. The institutional capacity gaps highlighted by countries relate to the need for increased knowledge and skills for government officials regarding the mechanisms available for the development, enforcement and implementation of
environmental law. African countries are also calling for laws to contribute to sustainable development.

50. A representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature will introduce this sub-item with a presentation on recent developments and efforts related to strengthening the effectiveness of the implementation of environmental law in Africa, with a view to seeking input on the types of actions that should be taken by African countries in this regard. A brief presentation will be made by the secretariat on this sub-item. The secretariat has prepared a discussion paper on the matter (AMCEN/15/EGM/7).

(d) Coastal and marine issues

51. The use of marine resources in our oceans has increased over time; as such, there is increasing pressure from tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, coastal mining, oil and gas exploration and development, with the attendant infrastructure. Consequently some hotspots are clearly degraded. Despite the increasing pressure in some hotspots, there remains significant potential for unlocking economic development opportunities for many African nations. The conference will deliberate as to how the continent can foster increased wealth creation from its oceans and seas in an environmentally sustainable manner.

52. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States took place from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia. It focused the world’s attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. A representative of one of the African small island developing countries will give a short briefing, with a view to discussions being held on how to strengthen cooperation among the African small island developing countries.

(e) Outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and related matters

53. At its fifteenth session, the Conference will also consider the outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in October 2014. A representative of the secretariat will introduce the sub-item.

54. It will be recalled that at its fourteenth session, the Conference adopted decision 14/8 on the management of biodiversity in Africa, in which it decided to establish a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity. In addition, it encouraged the African Union Commission to continue its work on the preparation of guidelines to support the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biodiversity in Africa (AMCEN/15/REF/12). A representative of the African Union Commission will introduce the sub-item.

Item 8

Outcomes and analysis of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

55. In its fifth assessment report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal and that since the 1950s many of the observed changes have been unprecedented over decades to millenniums. The atmosphere and the oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea levels have risen and concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased. This gloomy picture necessitates more serious and urgent global and national efforts to address climate change.
56. The global climate change negotiations have reached a critical phase in discussions on the agreement of a new legal instrument under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change expected to be adopted this year. It is crucial that the developmental priorities of Africa are considered in that instrument. The Conference will review and analyse the outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima in December 2014. The Conference will consider the issues at stake for the continent and agree on a road map in preparation for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Paris in December 2015.

57. The above state of affairs requires adequate preparation by Africa, in order to enable the continent to effectively engage in the negotiations. The role of African leaders, ministers and the African group of negotiators will be crucial in this regard.

58. The Chair of the African group of negotiators, Nagmeldin Goutbi Elhassan, is expected to provide an overview of and update on the continuing climate negotiations. The secretariat will give a presentation on the findings of the second Africa’s Adaptation Gap report. The report provides an overview of the current and future needs for adaptation and options to meet those needs using different policy measures at the international, continental and national levels.

**Item 9**

**Breakout sessions**

59. The expert group is expected to establish three working groups. The experts will be invited to join any such groups and make their choices known to the secretariat by close of business on Monday, 2 March 2015.

60. It is expected that the first working group will deliberate on sustainable development matters, including managing the natural capital of Africa for sustainable development and poverty eradication; the illegal trade in wildlife and its implications for Africa; post-2015 activities, including the sustainable development goals; the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa; enhancing the implementation of environmental law in Africa; coastal and marine issues, including issues related to small island developing States; outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and related matters, including the draft guidelines for the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention. The working group is also expected to work on the relevant decisions and elements of the proposed Cairo declaration.

61. It is expected that the second working group will be mainly composed of the African group of negotiators and that it will work on updating the African common negotiation position and platform on climate change. The group will focus on an analysis of the outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Lima in December 2014; the status of the negotiations and emerging issues and preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December 2015. The group will also look at the draft African Union strategy on climate change and the High-level Framework Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa, adopted by the African Union Summit. The working group is also expected to work on relevant decisions, key messages for the Conference and elements of the proposed Cairo declaration.

62. It is expected that the third working group will consider matters related to the Conference, including, follow-up to previous decisions of the Conference, the draft work programme for the biennium 2015–2016; the general trust fund of the Conference; development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes; operationalization of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and its implications for the Conference; the engagement of Africa in the United Nations Environment Assembly; the UNEP medium-term strategy; and the review of the revised environment action plan of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency. The group will also work on relevant decisions and elements of the proposed Cairo declaration.

63. The working groups will report to the plenary on their outcomes.

**Item 10**

**Consideration of draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages**

64. The Rapporteur will present an overview of the draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages and will request that they be considered for amendment and adoption under the guidance of the Chair of the expert group segment.
Item 11
Adoption of the report of the meeting of the expert group

65. The Rapporteur will present an overview of the report of the expert group segment and will request that the report be considered for amendment and adoption under the guidance of the Chair of the expert group segment.

66. The Chair will invite experts to make comments, paragraph by paragraph. Only comments of substance will be considered and these must be submitted to the Rapporteur in writing.

67. The Chair will request that the report be adopted in principle on the understanding that comments by experts will be integrated by the secretariat into the final report, which will be produced in English and French.

Item 12
Other matters

68. Major issues of interest not included in the agenda will be discussed.

69. 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. An English version of any such text must be made available. Any draft decisions submitted by Governments should also be made available in English.

Item 13
Closure of the meeting

70. The Chair will invite the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the Director of the Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission to make their concluding remarks before declaring the meeting closed.
# Annex I

## List of documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Working documents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/EGM/1/Rev.1</td>
<td>Provisional agenda for the expert group segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/EGM/1/Rev.1/Add.1</td>
<td>Annotations to the provisional agenda for the expert group segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/EGM/5</td>
<td>Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/EGM/6</td>
<td>Operationalization of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and its implication for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/EGM/7</td>
<td>Enhancing the implementation and effectiveness of environmental law in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/1/Rev.1</td>
<td>Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/1/Rev.1/Add.1</td>
<td>Annotations to the provisional agenda for the ministerial segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/3</td>
<td>Managing Africa’s natural capital for sustainable development and poverty reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information documents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/INF/1</td>
<td>Information note on the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/INF/2</td>
<td>Information note by UNEP on the illegal trade in wildlife: the environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/INF/3</td>
<td>Information note by UNEP on environmental sustainability for human well-being in the post-2015 development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/INF/4</td>
<td>Regional African road map for the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/INF/5</td>
<td>Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/INF/6</td>
<td>Progress report on implementation of the regional flagship programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/14/6</td>
<td>Report of the ministerial segment of the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/SS/V/2</td>
<td>Report of the ministerial segment of the fifth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference documents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/1</td>
<td>Concept notes of the regional flagship programmes for the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/2</td>
<td>African Union decision on the report of the Commission on the operationalization of Specialized Technical Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/3</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on illegal trade in wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/4</td>
<td>African Union decision on illegal trade in wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/5</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Assembly summary of ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/6</td>
<td>The Marrakech Declaration: A 10-Point Action Plan to Combat Illicit Wildlife Trafficking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/7</td>
<td>Declaration of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbol</td>
<td>Document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/8</td>
<td>Approved proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/9</td>
<td>Common African position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/10</td>
<td>Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/11</td>
<td>African Union strategy on climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/12</td>
<td>Draft African Union access and benefit sharing guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCEN/15/REF/13</td>
<td>Draft framework for the coordination mechanism of the chapters of the African diplomatic corps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex II

**Programme of work for the expert group segment, 2–4 March 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, 2 March 2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–9.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Item 1 Opening of the meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9.30–9.45 a.m.   | Item 2 Organizational matters:  
(a) Election of officers  
(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work                                                                                                  |
| 9.45–10.15 a.m.  | Item 3 Consideration of the report of the secretariat                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10.15 a.m.–12 p.m.| Item 4 Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process:  
(a) Draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment  
(b) Trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment  
(c) Development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes  
(d) Operationalization of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and its implications for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment |
| 12 noon–1 p.m.   | Item 5 Outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the engagement of Africa in the Assembly:  
(a) Illegal trade in wildlife and its implications for Africa  
(b) Post-2015 activities, including Sustainable Development Goals  
(c) Engagement of Africa in the United Nations Environment Assembly |
| 1–3. 00 p.m.     | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3. 00 –3.45 p.m. | Item 6 Managing the natural capital of Africa for sustainable development and poverty eradication                                                                                                             |
| 3.45–5 p.m.      | Item 7 Presentations on other issues related to sustainable development in Africa:  
(a) Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa  
(b) African climate change strategy  
(c) Enhancing implementation of environmental law in Africa  
(d) Coastal and marine issues  
(e) Outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and related matters |
<p>| 5–5.45 p.m.      | Item 8 Outcomes and analysis of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, 3 March 2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10.45 a.m.</td>
<td>Meeting of working groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–12.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Meeting of working groups (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Meeting of working groups (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–6 p.m.</td>
<td>Outcomes of the working group sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 4 March 2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–11.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Item 10 Consideration of draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 a.m.–12 noon</td>
<td>Item 11 Adoption of the report of the meeting of the expert group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 noon–12.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Item 12 Other matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30–1 p.m.</td>
<td>Item 13 Closure of the meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>