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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

Special session on climate change  
Expert group segment  
Nairobi, 25 and 26 May 2009

## **Provisional agenda**

### **Addendum**

## **Annotated provisional agenda of the expert group segment**

### **Introduction**

1. According to articles 9 and 10 of the constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Conference shall hold its special sessions between ordinary sessions. Accordingly, at its twelfth session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 12 June 2008, the Conference decided to hold a special session on climate change (third special session) with a view to ensuring that Africa had a shared vision to combat the adverse effects of climate change and a common voice at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. At its twenty-third meeting, held in Nairobi on 15 February 2009, the Bureau of AMCEN agreed to hold the third special session in Nairobi.
2. Accordingly, the third special session will be held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 May 2009. The session will consist of an expert group segment (meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change) to be held on 25 and 26 May 2009 and a ministerial segment to be held on 29 May 2009. The intervening period will be marked by side events and technical briefings to ministers and to the African diplomatic corps on 27 May and 28 May 2009, respectively.
3. At its twenty-third meeting, the Bureau considered and adopted the provisional agenda for the ministerial segment of the third special session as contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/1.
4. It is intended that the third special session will be a landmark event building on the outcomes of a number of key meetings held since 2006. A meeting of African negotiators on climate change held in September 2006 in Naivasha, Kenya, was organized by AMCEN and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with financial support from South Africa and other African partners. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was a reference document for the African group of negotiators entitled "Draft African position paper for COP12 and COP/MOP2". The outcomes of the meeting were adopted by AMCEN at its extraordinary session held in Nairobi in November 2006 (UNEP/AMCEN/Prep.Mtg-CC/1). A similar consultative meeting of the African group of negotiators, facilitated by UNEP, was held in Abuja in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007.

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5. A consultative meeting of the African group of negotiators, held in Algiers in November 2008, marked a milestone. At the meeting, the African group of negotiators produced a document entitled "African Climate Platform to Copenhagen (Algiers Platform)", which contained a synthesis of the positions adopted previously by the African group of negotiators as agreed upon in Naivasha, Kenya; Abuja; Dakar; Bonn, Germany; Johannesburg, South Africa (twelfth session of AMCEN); Accra; and Algiers. The Algiers Platform set out Africa's common position on matters that fell within the purview of the following:

- (a) Ad hoc working group on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol;
- (b) Ad hoc working group on long-term cooperative action under the Convention – Bali Action Plan;
- (c) Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

6. The Algiers Platform served specifically as the reference document for the African group of negotiators at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Poznań, Poland, in December 2008; the meetings of the subsidiary bodies (twenty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and twenty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation); and the sessions of the ad hoc working group on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the ad hoc working group on long-term cooperative action under the Convention. It is expected that the Algiers Platform document will be significantly updated during the third special session of AMCEN.

7. A number of ministerial meetings have been held since the twelfth session of AMCEN and their outcomes will be taken into account during the third special session:

- (a) Bangui declaration on the preparation of negotiations of the new climate regime post-Kyoto 2012 (Central African Republic, 11 September 2008);
- (b) Cotonou declaration on climate change (Benin, 22 October 2008);
- (c) Nairobi declaration on climate change, arising out of the meeting of ministers of agriculture and environment belonging to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Kenya, 7 November 2008);
- (d) Algiers declaration on climate change (Algeria, 19 November 2008).

8. In addition, all the relevant climate change declarations and decisions of the African Union and other ministerial forums listed in the report of the ministerial segment of the twelfth session of AMCEN (UNEP/AMCEN/12/9) will be taken into account.

9. The expert group will also consider the outcomes of a number of climate change-related workshops and conferences that have been held in Africa over the period, including a workshop on climate change and water adaptation: building resilience through partnerships held in Mombasa, Kenya, in April 2009; and a regional conference for climate change negotiators from Eastern and Southern Africa held in Gaborone in February 2009.

10. A few weeks before the opening of the third special session, the secretariat will distribute an information note (AMCEN/SS/III/INF/1). A complete list of the documents prepared for the third special session is provided in annex I to the present document.

## **I. Objectives and outcomes of the ministerial segment**

11. The main objective of the third special session is to provide a forum for African ministers of the environment to deliberate and attain the following:

- (a) Common African negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012
- (b) Draft concept for a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

(c) Shared vision for Africa to combat climate change with a view to achieving sustainable development on the continent

(d) Common approach to engaging with the international community in developing solutions to tackle the challenges posed by climate change

(e) Agreement on the modalities for submitting the outcomes of the special session to the African Union at its summit to be held in July 2009 and thereafter to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fifteenth session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its fifth meeting, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

12. The expected outcomes of the third special session of AMCEN include:

(a) United African voice to advance the continent's interests in negotiations for the climate regime beyond 2012

(b) Common African position in climate change negotiations

(c) Strong political support from African heads of State and Government for a shared vision on efforts to combat climate change in Africa and Africa's common negotiating position

(d) Enhanced capacity of the African group of negotiators in selected thematic areas

(e) Harmonized climate change programmes on the continent to ensure coherence and building of synergies

(f) Effective engagement with the international community in developing solutions to tackle the challenges posed by climate change

(g) Initiation of a consultative and participatory process for the development of an African policy on climate change.

13. The expert group will draw ministers' attention to a number of issues for their deliberation. Ministers will be invited to reach agreement on the issues brought before them in the context of the set objective and the expected outcomes of the third special session. They will be invited to consider Africa's possible key messages for Copenhagen 2009 and elements of a draft climate change policy for Africa. In addition, they will be invited to consider progress made in the implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa (implementation of decision 2 on climate change of the twelfth session of AMCEN) and to discuss the follow-up to the third special session.

14. In considering follow-up processes, ministers will be invited to assess the progress made since the twelfth session of AMCEN. A report on the status of implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa since the twelfth session is contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/3. In the light of their assessment, they will deliberate on the resources required to enhance the secretariat's work to ensure the effective implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa until the Copenhagen 2009 climate change negotiations and beyond.

15. Ministers will consider and adopt decisions and recommendations under the various items on the agenda.

## **II. Items of the provisional agenda**

### **A. Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

16. The representative of the President of AMCEN, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, will chair the expert group segment of the special session, while the representative of the Vice-President of the AMCEN Bureau from Burkina Faso will serve as Rapporteur. In the absence of either of these Bureau members, however, a Bureau meeting shall be convened on the eve of the opening of the third special session, on 24 May 2009, to take stock of the management of the third special session and to decide which of the Bureau members present will be assigned responsibilities during the special session in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

17. The AMCEN Bureau currently comprises the following members:

- (a) President: South Africa;
- (b) Vice-presidents: Eritrea, Gabon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
- (c) Rapporteur: Burkina Faso.

18. The third special session is being held under the auspices of the African Union. Representatives of United Nations agencies, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the subregional economic communities of Africa, the African Development Bank, and other bilateral and multilateral partners, representatives of civil society organizations and international organizations are expected to attend the session.

19. The representative of the President of AMCEN will make opening remarks.

## **B. Item 2: Organizational matters**

20. The expert group segment will have before it a provisional agenda (AMCEN/SS/III/EG/1) to consider for adoption. A work programme for the meeting is contained in annex II to the present document.

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

21. The expert group may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda as contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/EG/1 and annex II to the present document.

### **2. Organization of work**

22. The Secretariat will list the various working groups and drafting groups and the chair will invite experts to consider joining one or other of the groups. Members of the expert group will make their choices known to the secretariat by the close of the morning session of the first day.

23. It is anticipated that three working groups will be formed to deliberate on policy; a common negotiating position; programmatic aspects of the African process for combating climate change, respectively. Details are contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/INF/1. The working groups on matters related to policy (working group 1) and programmatic aspects of the deliberations (working group 3) will report to plenary for further discussions on the outcomes of their work. The working group on matters related to Africa's common negotiating position (working group 2) will only present to plenary the key technical messages that they are recommending for consideration at the ministerial segment of the third special session.

## **C. Item 3: Introduction and objectives of the meeting**

24. The AMCEN secretariat will present the introduction, objectives and the break-out sessions of the meeting as contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/INF/1.

## **D. Item 4: Presentations**

### **1. Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation**

25. A brief presentation on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation will be made with a view to introducing the topic for a more in-depth discussion during break-out sessions and side events of the third special session.

### **2. Agriculture, forestry and other land uses**

26. A brief presentation on agriculture, forestry and other land uses will be made with a view to introducing the topic for a more in-depth discussion during break-out sessions and side events of the third special session.

### **3. Outcomes of the third African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development**

27. The Government of Rwanda is hosting the third African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development on 21 and 22 May 2009. The theme of the conference is "Climate change: financing opportunities and challenges to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa". Participants expected to focus on the identification of additional investments and financial flows to tackle climate

change mitigation and adaptation challenges on the continent. A representative of the Government of Rwanda will present the outcomes of the meeting to the expert group.

## **E. Item 5: Road to Copenhagen 2009**

### **1. Overview of key elements in the negotiations**

28. As stated above, since 2006 the African group of negotiators has met in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Germany, South Africa, Ghana and Algeria. The first meeting of the group, held in 2006, led to the production of the first framework document on Africa's common negotiating position. At subsequent meetings, the group has systematically updated the Naivasha African position paper for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the second Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and, at the Algiers meeting, the document was transformed into the African Climate Platform to Copenhagen (Algiers Platform). As previously mentioned, the Algiers Platform has been the main reference document for the African group of negotiators since November 2008, including for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and subsequent meetings of the ad hoc working group on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the ad hoc working group on long-term cooperative action under the Convention meetings.

29. It is expected that the Algiers Platform will be further transformed by the Conference at its third special session to incorporate new ideas and knowledge. The chair of the African group of negotiators will provide a brief overview of key elements in the current climate negotiations.

### **2. Legal perspectives**

30. A legal expert will make a brief presentation on the legal perspectives of the current climate negotiations.

## **F. Item 6: Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration, decisions and recommendations of the meeting**

31. In line with the provisions set out in paragraph 28, the chairs of the working groups or their nominees will submit to the plenary for further discussion: a draft ministerial declaration on the African process for combating climate change; two draft decisions; a draft conceptual framework of African climate change programmes or elements of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes; draft key messages for Copenhagen 2009; and elements of a draft climate change policy for Africa.

## **G. Item 7: Adoption of the report of the meeting of the expert group**

32. The Rapporteur will present an overview of the report of the meeting, including the draft ministerial declaration, draft decisions and recommendations, and request that the report be considered for amendment and adoption under the guidance of the chair of the expert group segment.

33. The chair will invite participants to comment, paragraph by paragraph. Only comments of substance will be considered and those must, of necessity, be submitted to the Rapporteur in writing.

34. The chair will request that the report be adopted in principle on the understanding that the comments from the floor will be integrated by the Secretariat into the final report, which will be produced in English and French.

## **H. Item 8: Other matters**

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

36. It is proposed that any Government that introduces any other matter should be in a position to provide the secretariat with a copy of a background document for circulation during the session. An English version of the text must be made available. Should there be need for a decision to be taken, a draft text would also be made available, in English only.

**I. Item 9: Closure of the meeting**

37. The Chair will invite the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the representative of the Commissioner responsible for Environment at the African Union Commission to make their concluding remarks before declaring the meeting closed.

## Annex I

## List of documents

AMCEN/SS/III/1	Provisional agenda of the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS/III/1/Add1	Annotated provisional agenda of the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS/III/3	Progress made in the implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa
UNEP/AMCEN/12/9	Report of the ministerial segment of the twelfth session of AMCEN held from 10 to 12 June 2008
AMCEN/SS/III/4	Report of the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS/III/5	Draft AMCEN Nairobi Declaration on the African process for combating climate change
AMCEN/SS/III/6	Report of the third special session of AMCEN
AMCEN/SS/III/EG/1	Provisional agenda of the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS/III/EG/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda of the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS/III/EG/2	Set of negotiators' reference documents – restricted distribution
<b>Information document</b>	
AMCEN/SS/III/INF/1	Information note on the special session of AMCEN on climate change
UNEP/AMCEN/Prep.Mtg-CC/1	Report of the preparatory meeting for the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention
<b>Reference documents</b>	
Reference document No.1	Relevant ministerial declarations - post twelfth session of AMCEN (Libreville, Bangui, Cotonou, Nairobi, Algiers)
Reference document No.2	Financing climate change to support mitigation and adaptation actions in Africa
Reference document No.3	Building climate resilience in Africa: Turning political commitment into action
Reference document No.4	Climate change adaptation in Africa
Reference document No.5	Executive Summary (Bali Road Map)
Reference document No.6	Financing climate change mitigation with special focus on Africa
Reference document No.7	Cost of adaptation in coastal zones of Africa
Reference document:- UNFCCC doc	Assembly doc: FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16/Rev.1*

## Annex II

### Programme of work for the expert group segment, 25 and 26 May 2009

Time	Description
<b>25 May 2009</b>	
9–9.30 a.m.	Opening
9.30–9.45 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda
9.45–10 a.m.	Introduction and objectives of the meeting
10–10.30 a.m.	Presentations on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and on agriculture, forestry, and other land uses
10.30–11.00 a.m.	Presentation on the outcomes of the third African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development
11–11.20 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.20 a.m.–noon	Road to Copenhagen 2009: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of key elements in the negotiations</li> <li>• Legal perspectives</li> </ul>
Noon–12.20 p.m.	Formation of break-out groups
12.20–1 p.m.	Break-out sessions
1–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2–6 p.m.	Break-out sessions
<b>26 May 2009</b>	
9 a.m.–noon	Break-out sessions
11–11.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Break-out sessions
12.30–1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30–2 p.m.	Break-out sessions
2 p.m.–3.30 p.m.	Consideration of draft ministerial declaration, draft decisions and recommendations
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
3.45–5.30 p.m.	Adoption of the report
5.30–5.45 p.m.	Other matters
5.45–6. p.m.	Closure of the meeting