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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Special session on climate change
Ministerial segment
Nairobi, 29 May 2009

Provisional agenda

Addendum

Annotated provisional agenda of the ministerial 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 of AMCEN on climate change (third special session) with the 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 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 of AMCEN will be a landmark event building on the outcomes of a number of key meetings held since 2006. A meeting of African negotiations on climate change held in Naivasha, Kenya, in September 2006, 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 2007 in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the

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third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007.

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 contains 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 covered Africa's common position on matters that fell under the purview of the following:

- (a) Ad hoc working group on further commitments for Annex 1 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 meeting 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.

7. A number of ministerial meetings have been held since the twelfth session of AMCEN and the outcomes of those 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 the 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, 20 November 2008).

8. 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.

9. 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 that have been prepared for the third special session is provided in annex I to the present document.

I. Objectives and outcomes of the ministerial segment

10. 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.

11. The expected outcomes of the third special session 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 Africa's policy on climate change.

12. 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 draft elements of a 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 of the twelfth session of AMCEN) and to discuss the follow-up to the third special session.

13. 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 work of the secretariat to ensure the effective implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa until the Copenhagen 2009 climate change negotiations and beyond.

14. The Conference will consider and adopt decisions and recommendations under the various items on the agenda for the third special session.

II. Items of the provisional agenda

A. Item 1: Opening of the meeting

15. The President of AMCEN will preside over the official opening ceremony and the Minister of Environment of Burkina Faso will serve as Rapporteur. The President will introduce the Bureau members and the opening speakers, including the Executive Director of UNEP.

16. The President of AMCEN will open the ministerial segment of the third special session. A vote of thanks will be offered by one of the vice-presidents of AMCEN.

17. The President of AMCEN will invite a dignitary from Africa to deliver a keynote address on a topic relevant to the objective of the meeting. The President will thereafter adjourn the opening session.

B. Item 2: Organizational matters**1. Adoption of the agenda**

18. The President of AMCEN will introduce the provisional agenda (AMCEN/SS/III/1) and invite comments prior to its adoption.

2. Organization of work

19. The President of AMCEN will introduce the draft programme of work set forth in annex II to the present document and draw attention to the list of documents for the ministerial segment set forth in annex I.

C. Item 3: Consideration of the report of the expert group segment

20. The chair of the expert group will present the report of the expert group segment, which will include a summary of the proceedings and the recommendations and draft decisions that it developed. The report is contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/4. The report of the African group of negotiators will be prepared separately and its circulation will be restricted.

21. The President of AMCEN will invite an African legal expert to provide a brief account of the legal aspects of the continuing climate negotiations. The President will subsequently invite the Chair of the African group of negotiators to present the products of their meeting, which will include a summary of Africa's common negotiating position and draft key technical messages.

22. The Conference may wish to take note of the reports and consider the draft decisions and recommendations under the appropriate agenda items.

23. The products that the expert group will bring to the attention of the ministerial segment will include: a draft ministerial declaration on the African process for combating climate change; draft decisions; Africa's common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; a draft conceptual framework for African climate change programmes; draft key messages for Copenhagen 2009; and draft elements for a climate change policy for Africa.

D. Item 4: Consideration of the draft Nairobi declaration on the African process for combating climate change

24. The President of AMCEN will invite the Conference to deliberate on the draft Nairobi declaration on the African process for combating climate change. The ministerial declaration will take into account 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). Due cognizance will also be taken of the ministerial declarations made after the twelfth session; namely, the Bangui, Libreville, Cotonou, Nairobi, and Algiers declarations.

E. Item 5: Consideration and adoption of decisions and recommendations submitted by the expert group

25. The President will invite the Conference to consider the following: draft ministerial declaration on climate change; draft decision on the African process for combating climate change; alternative draft decision on the African process for combating climate changes submitted by the African Union; Africa's common negotiating position; conceptual framework of African climate change programmes; key messages of the special session for 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; and elements of a draft climate change policy for Africa.

F. Item 6: Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

26. The Rapporteur will introduce the draft report of the ministerial segment. The agreed draft decisions will be introduced by the President. The President will invite the Conference to comment on the report for adoption.

27. The President will introduce brief presentations from invited speakers.

G. Item 7: Other matters

28. The President will invite discussion on relevant major issues not included in the agenda
29. 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 such a text must be made available.

H. Item 9: Closure of the meeting

30. The President will invite the Executive Director of UNEP and the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission to make concluding remarks before formally declaring the meeting closed after an exchange of courtesies.

Annex I

List of documents

AMCEN/SS/III/1	Provisional agenda of the ministerial segment
AMCEN/SS/III/1/Add.1	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
Information document	
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
Reference documents	
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 ministerial segment, 29 May 2009

Time	Description
<i>Opening session</i>	
Noon–2. p.m.	Opening ceremony
2–2.20 p.m.	Keynote address
2.20–2.40 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
<i>Closed session</i>	
2.40–2.50 p.m.	Adoption of the agenda
2.50– 3 p.m.	Introduction of the African high-level expert panel on climate change
3–3.15 p.m.	Presentation and adoption of the report of the meeting of the expert group segment – Chair (President of AMCEN representative)
3.15–3.45 p.m.	Presentation of Africa’s common negotiating position - Chair of the African group of negotiators
3.45–4.15 p.m.	Consideration of AMCEN draft Nairobi Declaration on the African process for combating climate change
4.15–4.45 p.m.	Consideration of decisions and recommendations submitted by the expert group segment
4.45–4.55 p.m.	Consideration and adoption of the report of the third special session
<i>Open session</i>	
5–5.10 p.m.	Presentation of the AMCEN Nairobi Declaration on the African process for combating climate change
5.10–5.50 p.m.	Invited brief statements
5.50–6 p.m.	Closure of the meeting