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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

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**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**  
Special Session on Climate Change  
Nairobi, 25 – 29 May 2009

**Information note on the special session of AMCEN on climate change**

**Introduction**

1. The present note will be distributed by the secretariat a few weeks before the opening of the special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on climate change.
2. The twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), held in Johannesburg in June 2008 focused its attention on climate change. A ministerial policy dialogue underscored the importance of the decision and outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, in particular the agreement on the Bali Action Plan, which set 2009 as the end date for negotiations on strengthening the climate regime beyond 2012. Representatives also noted that Africa had a shared vision on adaptation and mitigation, using sustainable development policies and measures approach, supported and enabled by finance, technology and capacity-building. It was agreed that Africa must speak with one voice in advancing the continent's interests in negotiations for the climate regime beyond 2012.
3. AMCEN also agreed, at its twelfth session that Africa's priorities were, among others, to implement climate change programmes in such a way as to achieve sustainable development, in particular to alleviate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals. Given that Africa is the most vulnerable region with the least adaptive capacity, adaptation is the most immediate priority. The Ministerial Conference also agreed that effective implementation of mitigation measures would offer opportunities for Africa to increase its economic competitiveness along a sustainable path of low-carbon development. AMCEN also decided (Decision 2 of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN) to work towards achieving the following: (i) Africa's preparations towards the development of a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; and (ii) the preparation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes. The recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN were endorsed by the twelfth African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2009.
4. In view of the above-mentioned, a series of activities (*AMCEN's work on climate change / Africa's Process on Combating Climate Change*) with agreed outcomes and outputs is being undertaken. In accordance with the decision of AMCEN at its twelfth session the outcomes of its initiative will be submitted to a Special Session of AMCEN on climate change (3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of AMCEN), scheduled to be held in Nairobi in May 2009, for consideration and adoption. It is worth noting that the ministerial session of the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Special Session of AMCEN will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 29 May 2009 while the experts level segment (meeting of African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change) will be held from 25 to 26 May 2009. It is also noteworthy that the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of AMCEN will in turn be submitted to the thirteenth Summit of the African Union (13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly of the African Union) for consideration and endorsement.

5. A special technical briefing of African Ministers of Environment and experts on some topical climate change issues pertinent to Africa's preparations towards the fifteenth 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 (COP15/MOP5) to the Kyoto Protocol in Copenhagen in December 2009 will also be held in Nairobi on 28 May 2009. It is also worth noting that the experts group meeting scheduled to be held on 25 and 26 May 2006 will be a mix of plenary and break-out sessions. The latter will consist of three working groups and the topics to be covered by each of the groups can be found in Annex 2.

6. A mini-exhibition on climate related matters with special reference to Africa will be mounted from 27 to 29 May 2009 as part of the Special Session of AMCEN on climate change.

7. Details on the special session of AMCEN on climate change can be found at AMCEN's website at the following address:  
[http://www.unep.org/roa/Amcen/Amcen\\_Events/3rd\\_ss/](http://www.unep.org/roa/Amcen/Amcen_Events/3rd_ss/)

8. The schedule of meetings for the special session of AMCEN on climate change is shown in annex 1 of the present document.

9. The **objective** of the Special Session of AMCEN on climate change (3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of AMCEN) is to provide a forum for African Ministers of the Environment to deliberate and attain the following:

- Common African negotiating position on a comprehensive international Climate Change regime beyond 2012;
- draft concept for a comprehensive framework of African Climate Change Programmes;
- Shared vision for Africa to combat climate change with A view to achieving sustainable development on the continent;
- Common approach to engaging with the international community in developing solutions to tackle the challenges posed by climate change; and
- 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 fifteenth 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 (COP15/CMP5) scheduled to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009.

10. The **expected outcomes** of the third Special Session of AMCEN include:

- A single African voice to advance the continent's interests in negotiations for the climate regime beyond 2012 achieved.
- Common African position in climate change negotiations.
- 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.

- Enhanced capacity of the African Group of negotiators in selected thematic areas.
- Harmonized climate change programmes in the continent to ensure coherence and building of synergies.
- Effective engagement with the international community in developing solutions to tackle the challenges posed by climate change.
- Initiation of a consultative and participatory process for the development of Africa's policy on climate change.

11. The third Special Session of AMCEN will take cognizance of the fact that climate change will have wide-ranging adverse effects on the environment, and on socio-economic and related sectors, including water resources, agriculture and food security, energy resources, human health, terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity and coastal zones.

**Brief background information (2006 to Date)**

12. The third Special Session of AMCEN will be a landmark event building up on the outcomes of a number of key meetings held since 2006. It will be recalled that AMCEN and UNEP- with financial support from South Africa and some African Partners – organized a meeting of African negotiators on climate Change in Naivasha, Kenya in September 2006. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was a draft *African position paper for COP12 and COP/MOP2* – a reference document for African Group of negotiators. The outcomes of the negotiators meeting were adopted by AMCEN at its extraordinary session held in Nairobi in November 2006 (See UNEP/AMCEN/Prep. Mtg-CC/1). A similar consultative meeting of the African Group of negotiators, facilitated by UNEP, was held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2007 ahead of the climate change meeting in Bali (COP13/CMP3) that was held in December 2007.

13. A consultative meeting of African Group of negotiators held in Algiers in November, 2008 marked a milestone. This meeting produced the document entitled *African Climate Platform to Copenhagen* which contained a synthesis of all the previous adopted positions by the African Group of negotiators agreed upon in Naivasha-Kenya; Abuja-Nigeria; Dakar-Senegal; Bonn-Germany; Johannesburg- South Africa (an aspect of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN); Accra-Ghana; and Algiers-Algeria.

14. The *Algiers Platform* specifically served as the reference document for the African Group of negotiators at the fourteenth 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 (COP14/CMP4) held in Poznan, Poland in December 2008; the meeting of the subsidiary bodies (SBSTA29 and SBI 29); and the sessions of the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA. It is expected that the Algiers Platform document will be significantly updated during the third Special Session of AMCEN.

15. A number of under listed ministerial meetings, among others, have also been held since the twelfth session of AMCEN and the outcomes of those will be taken into account during the third Special Session of AMCEN; namely

- (i) Bangui Declaration on the preparation of negotiations of the new climate regime post-Kyoto 2012 (Central African Republic, 11 Sept. 2008);
- (ii) Declaration of Cotonou on climate change (Benin, 22 Oct. 2008);
- (iii) Nairobi Declaration on climate change of the meeting of the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture and Environment ( Kenya, 7 Nov.2008);
- (iv) Algiers Declaration on Climate Change; (Algeria, 20 Nov.2008);

16. Furthermore all the relevant climate change declarations and decisions of the African Union, other ministerial forums listed in the report of the twelfth session of AMCEN contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/12/9 will be taken into account.

17. The Expert Group will also take into account a number of climate change related workshops and or conferences which have been held in Africa over the period, including workshop on climate change and water adaptation: building resilience through partnerships (Mombasa – Kenya, April 2009); and regional conference for climate change negotiators from Eastern and Southern Africa held in Gaborone, Botswana in February 2009.

18. A complete list of the documents which have been prepared for the third Special Session of AMCEN is provided in annex I to the present document.

### **Organization of the meeting**

#### **A. General Information**

19. Participants from countries that are not exempted from visas to Kenya must acquire valid visas before leaving their home countries even though Kenya issues visas upon arrival at the ports of entry for many countries. Please take special care to cross-check which category your country falls under. Nevertheless it is advisable to obtain a valid visa before leaving your home country. In addition, yellow fever certificates are required if the journey starts or entails passing through designated yellow fever belt. A recommended list of hotels and their contact details will be posted on AMCEN's website as soon as possible.

#### **B. Venue**

20. The meeting will be held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri, Kenya.

#### **C. Registration**

21. Registration for the Special Session of AMCEN on Climate Change will be at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and will commence on Sunday 24 May 2009, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will continue on Monday 25 May 2009 from 8 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. Badges will be issued to participants upon registration. For security reasons, participants are reminded that they should wear their name badges at all times during the meeting.

#### **D. Documents**

The main pre-session documents for the meeting will be dispatched to AMCEN national focal points in advance of the meeting. The documents will also be published on the above-mentioned AMCEN website. Delegates are kindly reminded to bring the pre-session documents with them to the meeting, as they will only be available in limited quantities in Nairobi.

#### **E. Services to delegates**

22. The United Nations Office at Nairobi offers a variety of services to delegates. It has the latest state-of-the-art facilities with in-house facilities providing digital subscriber lines and wireless Internet broadband connectivity (Wi-Fi) as well as satellite broadcasting and conferencing facilities.

#### **F. Officers for the meeting**

23. Consistent with the provisions of the AMCEN constitution and rules of procedure, the Expert Group segment will be conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the twelfth session. Therefore, the representative of the Republic of South Africa will chair the technical segment and the representative of Burkina Faso will act as rapporteur. The representatives of Eritrea, Gabon and Libya will serve as vice-chairs.

**G. Organization of work**

24. The programme (organization) of work for the ministerial segment is contained in this document as annex 6 while the programme of work for the expert group segment can be found as annex 2 in this document.

**H. Plenary and break-out sessions**

25. Whereas the ministerial segment will only be at plenary, the expert group segment will be conducted using a mix of plenary and break-out sessions. With the exception of a section of the ministerial session which will be a closed session, as shown in annex 6, all the plenary sessions of the special session of AMCEN on climate change will be open. There will be three working groups as shown in annex 3. Working groups 1 and 3 will be open to delegates and resource persons only. Working group 2 will be open to African Group of negotiators only.

**I. Side events**

26. Side events on adaptation, mitigation, finance and technology, and African forests and climate change will be held. Further information on these can be found in annex 4.

**J. Technical briefing of Ministers and African Diplomatic Corps (ADCs)**

27. A special briefing of ministers and ADCs will be held on 28 May 2009. Details can be found in annex 5.

**K. Special Session of AMCEN on Climate Change**

28. The Special Session of AMCEN on Climate Change will be held on 29 May 2009 as a mix of open and closed sessions which be held at plenary only (see Annex 6). The outcomes/ outputs of the Special Session will be submitted to the African Union Summit for endorsement.

**L. Contacts**

29. For further information on the Special Session please do not hesitate to contact AMCEN Secretariat on Tel (254 – 20) 762 42 87 / 762 4279 or Fax: (254 20) 762 3928 - Email: [amcensec@unep.org](mailto:amcensec@unep.org)

**L. Acknowledgements**

30. AMCEN expresses its appreciation to all those who are supporting its work on climate change in Africa. Special thanks go to the underlisted.

31. AMCEN gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided by Denmark, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) towards the organization of the Special Session of AMCEN on climate change.

32. Special thanks again go to Denmark, UNEP, and UNECA, for the on-going financial support being provided to AMCEN to carry out its work on climate change in Africa. The technical support being provided to AMCEN by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) regarding the development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes is appreciated.

33. The offer of financial support by the African Development Bank (AfDB) towards AMCEN's work on climate change in Africa is gratefully acknowledged. Also the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) offer to carry out the desk-top research for Eastern Africa (in the context of the development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes) is at its own expense is highly appreciated.

**ANNEX 1****SPECIAL SESSION OF AMCEN ON CLIMATE CHANGE– SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

DESCRIPTION	DATE (S)
Africa Group of Negotiators meeting* ( <b>Closed Session</b> )	23-24 May 2009
Special Session of AMCEN on Climate Change – Experts Segment	25 – 26 May 2009
Side Events	27 & 28** May 2009
Technical Briefing of Ministers of Environment	28 May 2009 (afternoon)
Special Session of AMCEN on Climate Change – Ministerial Session	29 May 2009

\* UNFCCC/UNEP organized regular meeting for African Group of Negotiators

\*\* Morning of 28 May 2009

**ANNEX 2**  
**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE EXPERT GROUP SEGMENT**  
**25-26 MAY 2009**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>25 May 2009</b>	
09.00 – 09.30	Opening
09.30 – 09.45	Adoption of agenda
09.45 – 10.00	Introduction and objectives of the meeting
10.00 – 10.30	Presentation on REDD and AFOLU
10.30 – 11.00	Presentation on the Outcomes of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Finance for Development Conference
11.00 - 11.20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.20 - 12.00	Road to Copenhagen 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of key elements in the negotiations</li> <li>• Legal Perspectives</li> </ul>
12.00 – 12.20	Formation of Break-out Sessions
12.20 – 13.00	Break-out Sessions
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 18.00	Break-out Sessions
<b>26 May 2009</b>	
09.00 – 12.30	Break-out Sessions
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.15 – 12.30	Break-out Sessions
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30 – 14.00	Break-out Sessions
14.00 – 15.30	Consideration of draft ministerial declaration, draft decisions and recommendations
15.30 – 15.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.45 – 17.30	Adoption of the report
17.30 – 17.45	Other Matters
17.45 – 18.00	Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX 3**  
**BREAK-OUT SESSION GROUPS FOR THE EXPERT LEVEL SEGMENT**  
**25-26 May, 2009**

<b>GROUP NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Declaration - <i>All relevant African ministerial declarations and consultations of experts to be taken into account.</i></li> <li>• Draft climate change policy (elements)</li> <li>• Key messages (focus areas) for Copenhagen 2009 (<i>Policy, Finance and Technology</i>)</li> <li>• Amendments pursuant to Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa's common negotiating position</li> <li>• Formulate key messages for Copenhagen 2009</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptual comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes</li> <li>• Key messages for Copenhagen 2009 (<i>Adaptation, Mitigation, Capacity Building</i>)</li> <li>• Draft decision on Africa's Process on Combating Climate Change</li> <li>• Proposed draft on African Union decision on Africa's Process on Climate Change</li> </ul>

**ANNEX 4**  
**SIDE EVENTS – SPECIAL SESSION OF AMCEN ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>DAY ONE</b> <b>FIRST SIDE EVENT (ADAPTATION) -- 27 MAY 2009</b>	
09.00 – 10.00	Regional Network for Adaptation in Africa
10.00 - 11.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case study on Vulnerability Assessment - <i>Ghana</i></li> <li>• Case study on Insurance – <i>Malawi</i></li> <li>• Denmark’s initiatives on adaptation</li> <li>• Subregional Action Programme to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change in West Africa - <i>ECOWAS</i></li> </ul>
11.20 – 11.40	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>SECOND SIDE EVENT</b>	
11.40 – 12.40	Climate for Development Programme in Africa (CLIMDEV-Africa) and its African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)
12.40 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>THIRD SIDE EVENT (MITIGATION)</b>	
14.00 – 15.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Development Mechanism – <i>UNEP</i></li> <li>• REDD – <i>COMIFAC</i></li> <li>• Financing Climate Change – <i>UNECA &amp; APF</i></li> <li>• Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Uses (AFOLU) - <i>COMESA</i></li> </ul>
15.40 – 16.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16.00 -17.00	Case study on Long – Term Scenarios on Mitigation – <i>South Africa</i>
17.00 – 17.20	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>  Technology Development and Transfer – <i>William Agyeman- Bonsu</i>
17.20 – 18.00	NECTAR: Post-2012 Regime, what are the priorities for Africa - Mrs. Dia Touré
<b>DAY TWO – 28 MAY 2009</b>	
09.00 – 09.45	SADC Forests and Climate Change
09.45 – 10.15	Seal the Deal – Global Outreach Campaign
10.15 – 11.00	Intergovernmental Science policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES)
11.00 – 11.45	Climate Change and African forests and trees
11.45 – 12.10	Agriculture climate change adaptation framework – <i>NEPAD-CAADPt</i>

**ANNEX 5**  
**TECHNICAL BRIEFING OF MINISTERS & ADCS – 28 MAY 2009**

TIME	EVENT
<p><b>13.00 – 13.15</b></p> <p><b>13.15 - 13.30</b></p> <p><b>13.30 – 13.45</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome Addresses</b> – <i>Director of ROA and Rep. of AMCEN President</i></p> <p><b>Address</b> – <i>by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP</i></p> <p><b>AMCEN’S Work on climate change</b> – <i>AMCEN Secretariat</i></p>
<p><b>13.45 – 14.40</b></p>	<p><b>Briefings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Negotiators Group’s Perspectives on the Road to Copenhagen 2009 – <i>Chair of African Group of Negotiators</i></li> <li>• Seal the Deal – Global Outreach Campaign</li> <li>• Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) - COMESA</li> <li>• Q &amp; A</li> </ul>
<p><b>14.40 – 15.20</b></p>	<p><b>Adaptation and Mitigation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges and opportunities – <i>Judy Beaumont</i></li> <li>• Conceptual framework of African Climate Change Programmes – <i>Youba Sokona</i></li> <li>• Q &amp; A</li> </ul>
<p><b>15.20 – 15.35</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>15.35 – 17.00</b></p>	<p><b>Financing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing Climate Change – Issues and Options by <i>UNECA</i></li> <li>• Cost of Adaptation in Africa - <i>UNEP</i></li> <li>• Cost of Adaptation in Coastal Zones of Africa – <i>UNESCO</i></li> <li>• Adaptation Fund – <i>Immediate Past Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board</i></li> <li>• Q &amp; A</li> </ul>
<p><b>17.00 – 17.20</b></p>	<p><b>Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) – COMIFAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q &amp; A</li> </ul>
<p><b>17.20 – 18.00</b></p>	<p><b>Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) – AfDB &amp; UNEP(Risoe)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q &amp; A</li> </ul>

**ANNEX 6**  
**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT**  
**29 MAY 2009**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b><i>OPENING SESSION</i></b>	
12.00 –14.00	Opening Ceremony
14.00 - 14.20	Keynote Address
14.20 -14.40	<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>
<b><i>CLOSED SESSION</i></b>	
14.40 - 14.50	Adoption of Agenda
14.50 – 15.00	Introduction of the African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change
15.00 – 15.15	Presentation and adoption of the report of the meeting of the Expert Group Segment – Chair (President of AMCEN’s representative)
15.15 – 15.45	Presentation of Africa’s Negotiating Position - Chair of the African Group of Negotiators
15.45 – 16.15	Consideration of AMCEN’s Nairobi Declaration on Africa’s Process on Combating Climate Change
16.15 – 16.45	Consideration of decisions and recommendations submitted by Experts Group Segment
16.45 – 16.55	Consideration and adoption of the report of the Special Session
<b><i>OPEN SESSION</i></b>	
17.00 – 17.10	Presentation of AMCEN’s Nairobi Declaration on Africa’s Process on Combating Climate Change
17.10 – 17.50	Invited brief statements
17.50 – 18.00	Closure of the meeting

**ANNEX 7**  
**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  (UNEP/AMCEN/12/9)	Progress made in the implementation of AMCEN's work on Climate Change in Africa  Report of the twelfth session of AMCEN held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 7-12 June 2008
AMCEN/SS/III/4	Report of the Expert Group Segment
AMCEN/SS/III/5	Draft Nairobi Declaration on Africa Process on Combating Climate Change
AMCEN/SS/III/6	Report of the Special Session of AMCEN on climate change
AMCEN/SS/III/EG/1	Provisional agenda of the expert group segment
AMCEN/SS/III/EG/1 Add1	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 COP12/CMP2
<b>Reference Documents</b>	
Ref. Doc 1	Relevant Ministerial Declarations - post twelfth session of AMCEN (Libreville, Bangui, Cotonou, Nairobi, Algiers)
Ref. Doc 2	Financing climate change to support mitigation and adaptation actions in Africa
Ref. Doc 3	Building climate resilience in Africa: Turning political commitment into action
Ref. Doc 4	Climate change adaptation in Africa
Ref. Doc 5	Executive Summary (Bali Road Map)
Ref. Doc 6	Financing climate change mitigation with special focus on Africa
Ref. Doc 7	Cost of adaptation in coastal zones of Africa
Ref. Doc :- UNFCCC Doc	Assembly Doc: FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16/Rev. 1*