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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Fourteenth session

Meeting of the expert group Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 10 and 11 September 2012 Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Presentations on matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) process: draft indicative work programme of AMCEN, including priority regional programmes

Draft work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the biennium 2013–2014

Note by the secretariat

I. Proposals for the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014

A. Introduction

- 1. The main objective of the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is to provide a platform for African environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa as a follow-up to the key outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, recently held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition, at its just concluded nineteenth ordinary session, the African Union Assembly requested the Conference to analyse the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development and provide guidance on the way forward. The meeting will therefore focus on the implications of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development for Africa and is expected to cover the following: analysis of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, their implications for Africa and follow-up, including operationalization of the green economy at the regional and national levels, a framework of actions and preparation for the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- 2. The ministers participating in the session will also review progress made towards:
- (a) Africa's preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in November and December 2012 in Doha;
- (b) Africa's preparations for the sixth 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 and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012.

^{*} AMCEN/14/EGM/1.

- (c) The ministers will consider the status of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union and related issues. The ministers will also deliberate on the status and use of the Conference trust fund. The available records show that member States continue to contribute to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of the decisions and work programme of the Conference. There is, therefore, a pressing need for ministers to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.
- 3. The expert group will also bring to the attention of the ministers for their consideration other issues such as the proposed coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity; the Africa Environment Outlook process; the review, by the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; commemoration of Africa Environment Day and ratification of the Revised African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; and the potential for strengthening the African Regional Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the African Eco-labelling Mechanism.
- 4. The preparation of the work programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment has in recent years taken into account the commitments made by heads of State and others in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; the African Union Assembly; in the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; in the Millennium Development Goals; and in the aims and and decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its sessions.
- 5. It is therefore noteworthy that the current draft work programme for 2013–2014 has taken into consideration the key outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, the just concluded nineteenth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly and other pertinent issues and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development in Africa. The work programme will be fine-tuned to take into consideration the outcomes and decisions of the current session.

II. Clusters in the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014

6. The draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014 is organized in clusters of priority regional programmes, processes involving environmental conventions and related awareness and capacity-building activities to be implemented in the biennium. A description of these clusters follows.

A. Regional priority programmes

- 7. The outcome document from the Conference on Sustainable Development underlines the political commitment of the Conference participants to the promotion of sustainable development and calls upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their effort on effectively integrating the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development in their policies and strategies. It further highlights some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels in response to key economic, environmental and social challenges.
- 8. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues discussed in the outcome document may vary from country to country, there are some common measures that could be taken by countries by way of implementing certain programmes.
- 9. It is therefore suggested that the 2013–2014 work programme include the establishment of a number of key regional flagship programmes to support African countries in the implementation of the key substantive outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Such programmes could include:
 - (a) An African green economy partnership (AGEP);
 - (b) An ecosystem-based adaptation programme for Africa (EBAPA);
 - (c) An African programme on sustainable energy development (APSED);
 - (d) A partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa (PSCPA);
 - (e) An integrated waste management programme for Africa (IWMPA);

- (f) An integrated environmental assessment for sustainable development planning;
- (g) A programme of Africa-Brazil-China cooperation for Africa's sustainable Development (ABC-CASD).

B. Environmental conventions

- 10. The key components of the environmental conventions cluster include:
 - (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
 - (c) Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - (d) Chemicals-related conventions;
- (e) Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention) and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention);
- (f) Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention);
- (g) Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.

C. Capacity-building activities (others)

- 11. The key components of the capacity-building (others) cluster include:
- (a) The Africa Environment Outlook process and the African Environment Information Network;
 - (b) Environmental education and technology-supported learning;
 - (c) Commemoration of Africa Environment Day (Wangari Maathai day).
- 12. Further details on the draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014 can be found in the annex to the present document. The matrix set out in the annex outlines the main objectives and key components of the work programme, along with specific activities to be undertaken and possible collaborators.

III. Conclusion

- 13. As shown in the report of the secretariat for the biennium July 2010–August 2012 (AMCEN/14/EGM/3) apart from the implementation of some activities in some programme areas, efforts to scale up the level of activities have generally been unsuccessful due to the perennial financial constraints facing the Conference. It is hoped that the current session will result in progress on alleviating this major constraint that is hampering the enhanced implementation of the work programmes and decisions of the Conference.
- 14. The regional priority programmes proposed above for inclusion in the 2013–2014 work programme offer an opportunity to scale up the activities of the Conference. They also offer a good opportunity for resource mobilization and for their successful implementation. The successful implementation of activities related to climate change during the past two bienniums is a good indicator of how this might work.

Annex

Draft work programme for the biennium 2013–2014

Programme area	Objectives	Specific activities	Collaborators (indicative list)	
1. Regional priority programmes				
African green economy partnership (AGEP)	Provide a coordinated and consolidated support structure to African countries during their transition to a green economy	 Integration of green economy and green job principles and approaches in national development policies and planning processes Development of green villages for the implementation of a green economy at the local level Mobilization of financial, technical and technological capacity and resources for the promotion of a green economy Consolidation and replication across the region of key lessons and best practices from within and outside the region Technical assistance and policy support for employment-led green economy development strategies and programmes for the creation of green jobs 	African Union Commission (AUC) and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization, African Development Bank (AfDB), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	
Ecosystem-based adaptation programme for Africa (EBAPA)	Implement adaptation actions that build the resilience of Sub-Saharan African countries' ecosystems and communities and prepare Africa to better utilize existing and emerging opportunities	 Development of targeted small-scale ecosystem-based adaptation pilot projects Integration of ecosystem-based adaptation in national policies and strategies Access to larger-scale funding for ecosystem-based adaptation through technical support for project proposal development Establishment and strengthening of an African adaptation knowledge network 	UNEP, UNDP, African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)	
African programme on sustainable energy development (APSED)	Develop energy sectors on a sustainable basis, with a particular focus on the three main goals of the United Nations Secretary- General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative,	 Development of an African strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative Development of renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar and wind energy Promotion of energy efficiency in 	AUC and its NEPAD Agency, UNEP, AfDB, UNDP, ACPC	

		Collaborators (indicative list)
with the objective of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development	buildings, industries and among the general public through technical support programmes and innovative demand-side management programmes	(marcurve usi)
Develop local and national sustainable consumption and production policies, improve access to sustainable African products in regional and global markets and enhance existing institutional frameworks, including the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the coordination mechanism with regional institutions including the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Ensure strong linkages and synergies between the African and the United Nations ten-year framework programmes on sustainable consumption and production	 Building of the capacities of existing regional networks and processes on sustainable consumption and production and on emerging production and consumption issues Development and implementation of local and national sustainable consumption and production programmes Development of regional initiatives that provide direct support to small and medium-sized industries and community groups engaged in innovative sustainable consumption and production practices Strengthening of existing knowledge platforms and promotion of South-South cooperation on development, dissemination of region-relevant knowledge and the replication of best practices 	UNEP, UNIDO, ECA, African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, German Federal Ministry of Environment
African countries to develop and implement an integrated waste management programme aimed at converting waste into valuable resources and thereby achieving the triple benefit of generating economic value, creating jobs and reducing environmental pollution	urban centres to develop and implement integrated solid waste management programmes • Assistance to African countries in developing and implementing an e-waste management strategy • Provision of technical support to African countries in converting waste agricultural biomass into energy and other useful by-products	UNEP, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNDP, United Nations Centre for Regional Development UNEP, World
	eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development Develop local and national sustainable consumption and production policies, improve access to sustainable African products in regional and global markets and enhance existing institutional frameworks, including the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the coordination mechanism with regional institutions including the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Ensure strong linkages and synergies between the African and the United Nations ten-year framework programmes on sustainable consumption and production Enhance the capacities of African countries to develop and implement an integrated waste management programme aimed at converting waste into valuable resources and thereby achieving the triple benefit of generating economic value, creating jobs and reducing	eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development Develop local and national sustainable consumption and production policies, improve access to sustainable African products in regional and global markets and enhance existing institutional frameworks, including the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the coordination mechanism with regional institutions including the African Cunion and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Ensure strong linkages and synergies between the African and the United Nations ten-year framework programmes on sustainable consumption and production Enhance the capacities of African countries to develop and implement an integrated waste management programmes and thereby achieving the triple benefit of generating economic value, creating jobs and reducing environmental pollution Bovelopment and implementa an integrated waste management programmes and innovative demand-side management programmes and inteworks and production and consumption and production and consumption and metional sustainable consumption and production programmes on sustainable consumption of regional initiatives that provide direct support to small and medium-sized industries and community groups engaged in innovative sustainable consumption and production programmes on sustainable consumption of existing production and consumption and production programmes on sustainable consumption of existing production and consumption suctainable consumption

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