



AMCEN



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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

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Twentieth session

Nairobi, Kenya 14–18 July 2025

Concept Note

A. Introduction

1. The 20th Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-20) will be hosted by the Government of the State of Libya in Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 18 July 2025. The 20th session also marks the 40th year since the establishment of AMCEN in Cairo in 1985.
2. The session will focus on the theme “*Four Decades of Environmental Action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future.*”

B. Organization of the 20th Ordinary Session

3. In line with the above theme, the Session will focus on (a) AMCEN's achievements and challenges since 1985 when it was established, and (b) strengthening AMCEN to address Africa's environmental challenges.
4. The Session will comprise a technical segment, a ministerial segment to adopt a declaration, decisions, and provide policy guidance on Africa's common positions on upcoming global environmental meetings and conferences,¹ and a high-level special session to celebrate AMCEN's achievements over the last 40 years (AMCEN@40).

(a) Technical segment of AMCEN -20

5. The technical segment of AMCEN-20 will be held on 14 and 15 July 2025.
6. The technical segment will prepare a draft declaration, decisions, and key messages reflecting discussions under the various agenda items for consideration and adoption by the ministerial segment of the conference.

(b) Ministerial segment of AMCEN-20

7. The ministerial segment will be held on 16 and 17 July 2025.
8. During the ministerial segment, members will deliver their statements. They will also adopt the AMCEN-20 declaration, decisions and key messages.
9. In addition, the ministerial segment will involve ministerial dialogues on key accelerators for achieving the Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063. In this regard, the proposed dialogues include;

¹ Including Ramsar COP 15 to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe; Minamata Convention COP 6 to be held in Geneva, Switzerland; UNFCCC COP 30 to be held in Belem, Brazil; CITES COP 20 to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan and; UNEA-7 to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

- (a) Sustainable and climate-resilient financing and budgeting as a pathway to addressing climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation in Africa
- (b) Leveraging Africa's presidency and membership in G20 to address its environmental challenges
- (c) Nexus approach to addressing Africa's sustainability challenges
 - (i) Climate and food security nexus – the role of sustainable and smart cooling practices to address Africa's extreme heat and food security challenges
 - (ii) Biodiversity loss, pollution, land degradation, drought and poverty Nexus
 - (iii) Sustainable digital technologies and early warning and assessments accelerators for environmental sustainability in Africa
- (d) Critical minerals and energy transition

10. The outcomes of the ministerial dialogues will be included in the declaration.

(c) High-level Special Session on AMCEN@40

- 11. The high-level special session to celebrate AMCEN@40 will be held on 18 July 2025.
- 12. The high-level special session will bring together high-level dignitaries from Africa and around the world who will deliver statements and participate in dialogues on environmental sustainability in Africa.
- 13. The statements and dialogues will focus on showcasing AMCEN's achievements in providing policy guidance on environmental matters in the continent for the last 40 years. It will also consider measures for strengthening AMCEN's policy guidance on environmental sustainability and associated challenges in Africa to fast-track progress towards the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and realization of Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want.
- 14. The special session will culminate in a high-level statement² on AMCEN's achievements over the last 40 years and policy recommendations on the "*AMCEN we want*" to address Africa's environmental challenges into the future.

C. Expected Outcomes of the Session

- 15. The following are the expected outcomes of the 20th Ordinary Session;
 - (a) A political declaration, decisions, and key policy messages on African common positions for upcoming global environmental meetings and conferences,
 - (b) Environmental priorities for AMCEN for the period 2025 to 2027,
 - (c) High-level statement on AMCEN's achievements over the last 40 years and policy recommendations on the future of AMCEN

D. AMCEN Associated and Partner Events

- 16. AMCEN-20 will be preceded by a series of associated and partner events.
- 17. The associated and partner events will include regional consultative meetings to prepare for upcoming global environmental meetings and conferences; a Subnational/local government forum on temperature overshoot and its impact on African cities; the Africa Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Consultative Meeting and; other events in line with the theme of the session. Details of the associated and partner events will be provided on the AMCEN-20 website.
- 18. Outcomes of the associated and partner events will contribute to the work and outcomes of AMCEN-20

² A proposed title of the statement is "*High-level Statement on environmental action achievements in Africa in the last 40 years and the AMCEN we want.*"