

14th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

Arusha, Tanzania, 10 - 14 September 2012

First Announcement

Tanzania is preparing to host the 14th session of AMCEN, pursuant to the decision made by African Ministers of Environment at the 13th regular session in June 2010 in Bamako, Mali. As host, the government of Tanzania is working with the AMCEN Secretariat hosted by UNEP to ensure the success of the meeting.

The 14th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment will come soon after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development-UNCSD (Rio+20) and will therefore be of great significance in providing guidance with respect to the implementation of the key outcomes of Rio+20.

The main objective of the session 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 Rio+20 summit. The 14th session will also offer an opportunity to tackle other emerging issues and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development in Africa.

The Rio +20 Conference aims to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development and assess progress to date as well as the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development. The UNCSD will also address new and emerging challenges. Discussions will focus on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

In order to ensure high quality inputs to the Conference, African countries have collectively articulated their concerns and priorities in a consensus document that builds on the AMCEN Decision SS.IV/2 and the Outcome document on “Strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD): the environment pillar”, which laid the foundation for the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 that was adopted at the Regional Preparatory Conference in October 2011.

The Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 was approved by African Heads of State and Government at the 18th Summit of the African Union in January 2012 in Addis Ababa. The Assembly’s decision on the African Consensus Statement to Rio+20 further urges African Negotiators and Ministers to continue to speak with One Voice in the negotiations leading up to Rio+20.

The Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 is available on:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/325Final%20Africa%20Consensus%20Statement%20to%20Rio20.pdf>

The 14th session of AMCEN, also coming after UNFCCC COP- 17 which adopted the Durban Platform will address Africa’s efforts in achieving a common negotiation position on a legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the UN climate change Convention by 2015. The meeting will therefore also provide an opportunity to the Ministers to refine their strategies on a common approach to engaging with the international community in the climate change negotiation process and in preparation of COP18.