



## **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

### **Seventh special session and first meeting of the Africa Environment**

#### **Partnership Platform**

Nairobi, 17 – 21 September 2018

## **Information note on the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the first meeting of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform**

### **Introduction**

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) meetings provides guidance with respect to key regional policies and initiatives related to the environment. Pursuant to this, the seventh special session of AMCEN will be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 21 September 2018. It will consist of a meeting of the expert group to be held from 17 to 18 September 2018, a ministerial segment to be held on 19 September 2018.

The special session is jointly organized with the NEPAD Agency and will be held back to back with the first meeting of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform which will take place on 20 and 21 September 2018 at the same venue. The aim of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform is to promote sustainable environmental management in Africa through enhanced partnership, coordination and harmonization of activities.

The AMCEN special session will consider key issues to be discussed at the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) and Africa's common approach for engagement in the Assembly, scheduled to take place from 11-15 March 2019. The theme of UNEA-4 is "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production". The theme Innovative solutions, covering policies, financing, technologies, partnerships and multi-stakeholder processes – are key both to solving many environmental challenges, as well as to accelerating sustainable development more generally. The special session will therefore focus on how environmental challenges can be addressed through innovative solutions and interventions and by promoting sustainable consumption and production. The session will therefore be held under the overall theme of "**Turning Environmental Policies into Action through Innovative Solutions**".

The special session will provide an opportunity for the region to prepare for the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP14) scheduled for 17 to 29 November in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. The conference of the parties will address a wide range of agenda items, including review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Egypt is also planning to organize a high-level event (African Biodiversity Summit) back to back with COP14 as endorsed by AMCEN at its 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. The regional groups, including Africa, are expected to report to the Conference of the Parties on the results of regional preparatory meetings held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The special session will help the region to agree on how to engage and speak with a common voice at the Conference of the Parties.

The seventh special session of AMCEN will also focus on the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP24) to be held in Katowice, Poland later in the year. 2018 will be an important year for international climate diplomacy as nations move forward to implement the Paris Climate Change Agreement – indeed 2018 is when governments are expected to reach some key milestones. These range from finalizing the guidelines for fully operationalizing the agreement, to taking stock of how countries are doing collectively in terms of being on track to realize Paris's aims and ambitions over the coming years and decades. The special session will therefore provide a forum for the African region to agree on its key messages and strategies for negotiations at the Conference of the Parties.

It will be recalled that AMCEN at its 14<sup>th</sup> session held in 2012 adopted a decision to establish an African Environment Partnership Platform spearheaded by the NEPAD Agency. The Platform was officially launched during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22) in Marrakech, Morocco in 2016. Subsequently, the steering committee of the partnership platform agreed to hold the first meeting of the platform in 2018. The focus for this first meeting of the platform will be to review environmental management in Africa under the theme “**50 years of Environmental Governance and Sustainability in Africa**”. It is expected that the platform meeting will conclude with a communique, whose content will form part of the final outcomes of the special session. An awards ceremony is planned for the evening of 19 September 2018 to recognize countries, institutions and individuals who have played key roles and contributed significantly towards the management of Africa’s environmental assets.

The Ministers and experts will adopt a declaration, a set of decisions and key messages reflecting the discussions under the various issues on the agenda.

### **Associated meetings**

The following associated meetings will be held:

- (a) 15 – 16 September: Pre-AMCEN major groups and stakeholders’ forum (civil society) meeting

### **Side events**

Several side events will be held during the special session. Details of these events will be published as soon as they become available.

### **VISITORS TO KENYA**

#### **General Information**

The Republic of Kenya is located on the Eastern coast of Africa and is bisected by the Equator. It is a land of striking landscapes, ranging from snow-capped Mount Kenya to rich farmlands, barren deserts in the north and tropical sandy beaches on the western Indian Ocean coast and the shores of lakes Turkana and Victoria.

Kenya borders Somalia to the North East, Ethiopia and South Sudan to the North, Uganda to the West, Tanzania to the South, and the Indian Ocean to the East. Kenya's capital city is Nairobi with a population of about 4 million people. Other major cities are Mombasa, the main seaport on the Indian Ocean, and Kisumu on the Lake Victoria front. Kenya is one of the world’s most popular tourism destinations attracting millions of tourists over the past years. The country is endowed with attractive tourist sites, rich culture, biological diversity, striking geographical diversity and landscapes ranging from beautiful beaches, to wildlife reserves and archaeological sites.

#### ***Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi***

The Airport is located 15 kilometres from Nairobi's central business district and 25 kilometres from the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri.

#### ***Time Zone***

Kenya is GMT + 0300 hours

#### ***Visas***

It is the responsibility of each participant to obtain a visa for Kenya. The information provided herein acts only as guidance. A valid passport, not expiring for at least six months from date of arrival is required for entry into Kenya.

A valid entry visa is also required for most countries and may be obtained in advance from the Kenyan Embassy/High Commission in your country of residence. In the absence of either, the British Embassy will generally represent Kenya in the issuance of visas. For more information. Please visit: <http://www.immigration.go.ke/Information.html>. Participants requiring visas are encouraged to apply for a visa online on this link: <http://evisa.go.ke>

If needed, but under exceptional circumstances, it is still possible to obtain visas upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. The fee is USD 50 for a one-time (single) entry. Please note that visas are not required for citizens of: Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, South Africa (for less than 30 days stay), Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Please see Category 1: <http://www.immigration.go.ke/Information.html>

#### ***Health***

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required only if you are arriving in Kenya from a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. For advice on other vaccinations recommended for visitors to Kenya, please contact your doctor or the UNON Joint Medical Service. Useful information can be obtained from the WHO website <http://www.who.int/ith/en/>

Medical costs incurred in Kenya will be responsibility of the meeting participant directly; it is therefore strongly recommended that you arrange own travel health insurance prior to arrival. The UNON Joint Medical Service will be available in cases of emergency during the special session and its associated meetings. The clinic is in Block F ground floor, Tel. +254 (0)20 762 2267. The emergency contact line is: +254 (0)20 762 5999 or +254 724255378.

### ***Security***

The United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and the Kenyan Authorities are working closely together to ensure that all precautionary measures are taken for delegate's safety and security. However, participants are personally responsible for their movements. If you intend to stay in a hotel, you are advised to choose accommodation from the recommended list of hotels available at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment>

### ***Weather***

The average temperature in Nairobi in September is very mild at 17 °C. Afternoons can be fairly hot with average high temperatures reaching 24 °C. Overnight temperatures are generally quite mild with an average low of 10 °C. The average daily temperature range/ variation in September is 14 °C.

Current weather conditions in the area can be found at:

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/ke/nairobi/224758/september-weather/224758>

### ***Electricity***

The electrical currents in Kenya are 220 - 240 Volts, 50 Hertz. Kindly, note that Kenya uses the 13A 3 [square] wall switch socket outlet.

### ***Official Languages***

The official language of the Republic of Kenya is English and the national language is Swahili.

### ***Money and Banking***

#### *Currency and exchange rates*

The official currency of the Republic of Kenya is the Kenya Shilling (KES). The current exchange rates are approximately: 1 US Dollar = KES 100.50     1 EUR = KES 118. For more information; <https://www.centralbank.go.ke/rates/forex-exchange-rates>

Foreign currency can be changed at JKIA, which has 24hr service, banks and foreign currency exchange bureaux. Banks with ATM services in major centres across the city are open from 09:00 to 16:00hrs Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 12:00hrs on Saturdays. There are some malls that have banks that operate on Sunday and public holidays. However, ATM services are more widely available at designated booth locations in the various malls, selected convenience stores at gas/petrol stations.

The following places are available near the UNON compound in Nairobi for currency exchange:

- Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) is located on the ground floor in the UNON complex, next to the Delegates Lounge.
- Standard Chartered Bank is also available in the complex, located opposite KCB Bank

#### *ATMs*

ATMs are available country wide with 24-hour access. Within the UNON complex there are four ATMs on the lower concourse; two next to the Kenya Commercial Bank, one is near the UNFCU (United Nations Federal Credit Union) and the last one is next to Standard Chartered Bank. There are also two ATMs (KCB and UNFCU) at the UN Commissary on the northern end of the UN Gigiri Complex.

Major international cards are accepted.

**UNON COMPLEX*****About the UNON Gigiri Complex***

The Gigiri complex accommodates approximately 3,500 staff members inclusive of the service coordinators. However, during major conferences, the population at the Gigiri complex can exceed 5,000 people.

The 140-acre UN Gigiri complex is a peaceful place, adjacent to the famous Karura Forest. The UN Gigiri Complex has a variety of unique natural habitats and thematic artefacts to see on an organized tour. It also boasts of an ecologically balanced environment, with a set of constructed wetlands with reed-beds and artificial water features, to support its primary wastewater treatment. A designated biodiversity arboretum with an assemblage of indigenous tree species is situated on the southern end of the Complex with interpreted nature trails.

While at the UN Complex in Gigiri, please refrain from feeding the Sykes' monkeys. They are wild animals and should not be fed with any left over foods meant for human consumption. This is bad for their digestive systems and their teeth, apart from getting them acquire food snatching habits and conflicts with humans.

A physical tour of the UNON complex may be arranged through the UNON Visitors Centre: <http://visitors.unon.org/>. You may also wish to take a virtual tour at: [http://visitors.unon.org/sites/default/files/untours/index.html#/scene\\_01\\_karibu](http://visitors.unon.org/sites/default/files/untours/index.html#/scene_01_karibu). More information can be found at: <http://visitors.unon.org>.

***Access to the complex***

Access to the UN Gigiri Complex is via the UN Avenue. The main pedestrian access is through the Pavilion, north of the main vehicle access gates opposite the United States Embassy. Vehicles can drop off their passengers at a drive-in space in front of the gate.

All participants need to be registered prior to the meeting to be allowed access. Registered participants will be screened and are advised not to bring weapons, ammunition, flammable items or sharp objects. Participants accessing the UNON complex will be requested to present a valid Government issued photo ID or passport. Participants will thereafter be issued with a conference badge and are advised to wear the badge always during their visit.

The main vehicle access gate is located opposite the US Embassy. Only vehicles with an official UN decal or UN Environment Assembly Decal (which shall be provided to VIPS only) will be allowed into the complex and are subject to screening. These vehicle decals will be issued by the Secretariat during registration.

***Pre - registration to the AMCEN special session***

A registration page has been designed to accommodate your registration request at <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment> to the AMCEN special session as well as its associated events

Once pre-registered online and written confirmation to the Secretariat, delegates will be able to finalize their registration on-site and collect their badges at the UNID Office located at the Pavilion on days designated prior to the session and the session itself.

Paper smart - AMCEN is the main regional environmental decision making body in Africa and will therefore lead by example in all its activities/interventions, by reducing its carbon footprint. Participants and delegates are encouraged to bring laptops or iPads, as most documents will be made available online at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment> and <http://www.nepad.org/aepp>. Limited on-demand hard copy of official documents will be made available only upon request in meeting rooms.

Free of plastic cups - To combat pollution, the UNON compound now uses glass water bottles instead of plastic containers. All participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable bottles, as water dispensers will be available at the event, situated in suitable and accessible locations. These steps will reduce the special session's pollution footprint by minimizing waste and its dangerous impacts on the environment and human health.

***Other Information***

*Vehicles and fire - arms*

Vehicles with pre-existing UNON Decals will be allowed access. Vehicles ferrying Ministers/Head of delegation will be issued with specific Decal for access. For vehicles which will need to enter the complex please email Inspector Andrew Bakhoya <andrew.bakhoya@unon.org> or <bakhoya@un.org> or Ms. Janet Okal <janet.okal@unon.org> or <okal@un.org> 48 hours in advance with the following information:

- Expected arrival date
- Vehicle registration number
- Vehicle type
- Driver name and ID number
- Names and ID number of any accompanying entourage
- Names and ID number of any close protection officers including the name and serial numbers of their weapons.

Please note car decals and armed badges for close protection police officers must be collected at the UNID Office at the Pavilion. All delivery requests must be sent through the various focal points at AMCEN Secretariat /UNON who will share the cleared list with details to UNON Security.

The United Nations office at Nairobi (UNON) remains a weapons-free zone except for authorized UN Security Officers and others who have sought and received prior authorization from the Chief of Security.

*Wi - Fi*

Free Wi-Fi facility will be available in the UNON complex and all meeting rooms. Select the wireless network connection named “VISITORS” or “DELEGATES” to enjoy internet access for information and documentation prepared for the session.

*Canteen Services and Restaurants*

There are four caterers within the UN compound contracted to provide food and beverages for breakfast, lunch as well as snacks during coffee breaks for staff and meeting participants.

*Postal/ Courier Services*

The Post Office is available in the UNON complex, located at the lower concourse next to KCB Bank. Open Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 17:00hrs

DHL courier mail service, lower concourse, next to the Post Office

Open Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 17:00hrs □ Tel: +254 (0)20 7622580, 7622579

*Medical Services*

The UNON Medical Clinic emergency and first aid assistance, including on-call (24hour) ambulance services are available. On-site medical assistance is available during all meetings, conferences and events. The UNON clinic also offers general medical assistance, vaccinations and a broad range of medical services. Location: Block F, Room 117

Contacts Reception lines: +254 (0)20 762 2267, +254 20 762 2267, +254 20 762 2268 Emergency lines: +254 (0)20 7625999, +254 724 20 762 666 Email: Medical@unon.org, Medical.Evacuation@unon.org. Open Monday – Thursday: 10:00 to 12:30hrs and 14:00 to 16:00hrs. Friday 08:30 to 13:30hrs and during meeting hours. No service is available on weekends. For assistance over the weekends please dial the 24-hour UNON control room: +254 (0) 20 762 6666

**OTHER INFORMATION***Accommodation in Nairobi*

Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservation. If you intend to stay in a hotel, you are advised to choose accommodation from the recommended list of hotels available at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment>

*Shuttle and Taxi Services*

Many hotels provide courtesy shuttle services to/from airport and in some cases from the hotel to the UNON complex. Visitors should pre-advise their hotel of their transportation needs. In the absence of a courtesy bus, visitors may use reputable taxi companies. Recommended taxi companies are listed below: Hilltop: +254 (0)20 272 3270; Jaycab Taxis: +254 (0)20 721 0520 or +254 (0)733 750455/ (0)723 239750; Jatco: +254 (0)20 444 8162 or +254 (0)733 701494/ (0)722 648383; Jimcab: +254 (0)20 712 2565 or +254 (0)737 333222/ (0)722 711001; Kenatco: +254 (0)20 250 6790 or +254 (0)705 780011/ (0)705 780016

*Emergency numbers*

UNON Security: +254 (0) 20 762 6666; Kenyan Police: +254 999 or +254 (0) 20 272 4201; Diplomatic Police: +254 (0) 726 283 030 or +254 (0) 735 356 506; Nairobi Hospital: +254 (0) 20 284 5000; Aga Khan Hospital: +254 (0) 20 366 2000; St. John Ambulance Service: +254 (0) 20 221 0000/224 1000

***Airlines and Ticketing***

For participants interested in arranging a sightseeing tour or safaris during their visit to Kenya, the following travel agencies are available to provide assistance:

AT THE UNON COMPLEX

BCD TRAVEL

Tel: + 254 (0)20 7624992

Email: [ummi@bcdtravel.co.ke](mailto:ummi@bcdtravel.co.ke)

You may also contact the different airlines directly for your travel reservations.

***Contacts and further information***

For further information on the seventh special session of AMCEN and the first meeting of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform, please do not hesitate to contact the AMCEN secretariat (tel: +254 20 7621354/7621396; e-mail: [unenvironment-amcen@un.org](mailto:unenvironment-amcen@un.org), with copies to [julie.kaibe@un.org](mailto:julie.kaibe@un.org), [david.ombisi@un.org](mailto:david.ombisi@un.org), [kwamea@nepad.org](mailto:kwamea@nepad.org) and [tendait@nepad.org](mailto:tendait@nepad.org).

