



**REPORT FOR THE PRE-AMCEN MAJOR
GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM/
ROAD TO PARIS CIVIL SOCIETY
CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP HELD AT
DUSIT THANI LAKEVIEW HOTEL, CAIRO-
EGYPT ON 1ST MARCH,
2015**



Participants for the Pre-AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders' Forum/ Road to Paris Civil Society Consultative Workshop

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP2.8	-	The Eighth part of the Second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
AF	-	Adaptation Fund
AGN	-	Africa Group of Negotiators
AMCEN	-	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AWEPON	-	African Women Economic Policy Network
CAHOSCC	-	Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change
COP 20	-	Twentieth Session of the Conference of Parties
COP 21	-	Twenty-First Session of the Conference of Parties
CMP10	-	Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
GCF	-	Green Climate Fund
iNDCs	-	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
INGO	-	International Non-Governmental Organization
IWT	-	Illegal Wildlife Trade
KP	-	Kyoto Protocol
MGSF	-	Major Groups and Stakeholders' Forum
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECP	-	Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives
PACJA	-	Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance
READ	-	Arab Network for Environment and Development
ROA	-	Regional Office for Africa
SBI	-	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	-	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
UNEA	-	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Convention on Climate Change
WSPA	-	World Society for the Protection of Animals

1.0 INTRODUCTION

PACJA in collaboration with UNEP Regional Office for Africa organized a ‘Pre-AMCEN Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum’ and ‘Road to Paris Civil Society Consultative’ workshop held at DusitDhani Lakeview Hotel, Cairo, Egypt on 1st March 2015. The workshop brought 65 CSOs representative from 23 African countries. The workshop was graced by Hon. Dr. Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdel Aal, Minister for Environment, Republic of Egypt and Hon. Dr. Laila Iskandar, Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, Republic of Egypt;

Held ahead of the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, the workshop provided an opportunity for African civil society and stakeholders to join other actors from Africa in broad-based conversations aimed at taking stock of all climate change dialogue processes and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Framework/Agenda as well as charting a common Civil Society position in the approaching UNFCCC COP21.

Specifically, the workshop aimed at:-

- ❖ Developing a common assessment and analysis of international climate change dialogue processes, outcomes and consultations, and emerging trends and issues, and forging common positions and strategies for the way forward;
- ❖ Providing holistic analysis of the latest Open Working Group on SDGs’ Environmental Sustainability Goal, and explore whether a stand-alone (or integrated) goal on climate change would be the best option for Africa in the ongoing debate on Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- ❖ Developing assessment and analysis on Africa’s effort to address illegal wildlife and biodiversity trade as a way of natural resource conservation and management; and
- ❖ Strengthening common platform and campaign plans for African CSOs unified actions

2.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Opening Remarks and Introduction

The workshop Moderator, Samson Malesi, welcomed all the participants to the workshop followed by introductions. The moderator then welcomed Josephine Kamel (coordinator of the Local Organizing Committee) and Mithika Mwenda (PACJA Secretary General) to give their welcome remarks.

2.1.1 Welcome Remarks – By Josephine Kamel, AWEAPON

She started her welcome remarks by highlighting that the workshop was attended by about 65 CSO representatives from all African regions. She continued to express her concerns about the climate change effects impacting on the livelihoods of the African people yet it is not of their making.

She further acknowledged PACJA of the achievement so far in bringing African CSOs together and ensuring their involvement in environment and climate change issues not only in Africa but globally. She made a call to all CSOs to use the available space in influencing decisions aimed at the continent's sustainable development. She then welcomed Mithika Mwenda, Secretary General, PACJA to give his welcome remarks.

2.1.2 Welcome Remarks - By Mithika Mwenda Secretary General, PACJA

In his opening remarks, he started by recognizing the achievement made by African government tracing the establishment of AMCEN 30 years ago in Egypt. He further noted that 30 years ago climate change was not seen as a major challenge for most African countries but it has become one of the major challenges for Africa development. He reiterated CSOs commitment to use the available spaces to assist in addressing the challenge.

He stated that the selection of the 15th AMCEN Session's theme; "***Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication***" resonated with the year's spirit, where two most important global agreements which will determine the future resource governance, will be concluded

Since Egypt was taking over the chair of AMCEN and CAHOSOCC he was confident that Egypt will take lead on environment and climate change issues in Africa and promised the support from the African Civil society. After his welcome remarks, he welcomed the UNEP ROA Director and Regional Representative to provide his remarks.

2.1.3 Welcome Remarks – By Moukalia Goundamandakoye (Director and Regional Representative, UNEP - ROA)

He first expressed his delight to continue consulting with the Civil Society prior to AMCEN in ensuring that civil society recommendations feed into the AMCEN process. He then acknowledged the role played by Egypt in facilitating the creation of AMCEN 30 years ago. He highlighted Africa's huge resource potential which include biodiversity, 60% arable land available globally and large renewable energy potential in Africa. He further outlined four major issues aligned with the AMCEN agenda.

On managing natural capital he said that, despite Africa's great potential on natural capital, it has not managed to exploit them sustainably for development of the continent. On the Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs he noted that Africa and rest of the world cannot continue with business as usual, as there is a need for effective sustainable pathways for development. On Illegal wildlife trade, he outlined major challenges and called for immediate actions on illegal wildlife especially on the increasing poaching of rhino and elephants. He gave example of South Africa where there has been increased poaching of rhino between the years 2007-2020. On Climate Change, he highlighted its effects including the increasing temperature rise and raising costs of adaptation for Africa. He acknowledged the fact that Africa has a common position on climate change and this will play a pivotal role in positioning the continent towards UNFCCC COP21 in Paris. He concluded by thanking African Civil Society groups for their continued collaboration and support.

2.1.4 Keynote Address – By Dr. Laila Iskandar, Egyptian Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

In her address Dr. Laila Iskandar, the Egyptian Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements focused on urbanization and development. She highlighted the existing situation and

challenges on urbanization and development including the large number of population living in informal settlements (40%).

She further emphasized on the importance of linking urbanization and development with the improvement of settlement and creation of green jobs as this will have both socio-economic and environmental benefits and such initiatives will include use of renewable energy and sustainable waste management. She finally called CSOs to work with the communities towards a green economy.

Launch of the Youth Publication: After her keynote address, Hon. Dr. Iskandar, was joined by Guest of Honour, the Egypt Minister for Environment and UNEP Director and Regional Representative in launching a youth publication titled, “*Accelerating Youth Action towards Africa’s Greener Future*” which discusses and lays a roadmap for African youth actions towards a greener future. The book provides current situation and projection of future situation of the youth as well as proposing strategies for accelerating youth action. These strategies have been anchored on green economy under three approaches, namely: - Activate, Train and Equip. To access full book, please click [here](#).

2.1.5 Official Opening Remarks - Hon. Dr. Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdel Aal, Minister for Environment, Republic of Egypt

In his official opening remarks, Hon Dr. Khaled joined others in highlighting the challenges of climate change in Africa. He assured Egypt’s commitment in continuing the efforts made by Tanzania as the preceding chair of AMCEN and CAHOSOC in working with CSOs tracing his experience working with NGO’s for seven years. He further emphasized on the need of African countries to be strong with clear red lines effectively influence climate change negotiations. In concluding his remarks, he reiterated his commitment to work with the civil society and challenged them to walk together in the bumpy road towards Paris.

2.2 THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

2.2.1 Presentations on the United Nation Environment Assembly(UNEA)

2.2.1.1 Outcome of UNEA and UNEP Stakeholders Engagement Policy – Presented by Robert Wabunoha, Regional Programme Team Leader on Environmental Governance, and Sub-regional Coordinator (Eastern Africa) UNEP

The presentation focused on three main issues, the objective, outcomes of UNEA-1, its implication to Africa, and UNEP stakeholders' engagement policy. He mentioned that 48 African countries attended the first UNEA which was held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014. He added that, the Assembly adopted the Ministerial Outcome Document with 17 resolutions and 2 decisions on governance, programmatic and budgetary matters. Also, during the Assembly there were Ministerial dialogues on Post-2015 development agenda and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). He then outlined major issues from each area of discussion:-

The Ministerial Outcome Document called for:-

- ❖ Full integration of environmental dimension in sustainable development agenda;
- ❖ Taking action to prevent, combat and eradicate illegal trade in wildlife;
- ❖ Ensuring full implementation of MEAs and other international and regional environmental commitments in an effective and coordinated manner while promoting synergies among them
- ❖ Reinforce efforts to halt biodiversity loss and combat desertification, drought and land degradation;

The Dialogue on Illegal Wildlife Trade focused on:

- ❖ National and international action on need for unified efforts by international community, national governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society, and private sectors to address problem.;
- ❖ Coherent and coordinated response from UN system
- ❖ Mainstreaming momentum on how to tackle IWT from UNEA-1, with a focus on mainstreaming political momentum and meaningful actions and implementation at national level.

After outlining the major issues from the Ministerial Outcome Document and Dialogues, he took participants through the preparations for UNEA 2 which will be held from 23rd-27th May, 2016 with Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) meeting on February 15-19, 2016. He also called on Major groups and Civil Society groups to actively engage in regional environmental forums.

His final part of presentation focused on Stakeholders Engagement Policy where he shared both informal and formal processes. It was noted that the Informal processes will include Bilateral Consultations of UNEA President with Member States, Experts and Major Group and Stakeholders (March 2015); Expert consultations (April/May 2015); and Sharing results with Member States (June-October 2015). Formal process will include OECPR (February 2015) and UNEA-2 (May 2015).

2.2.1.2 Implementing Principle 10 and the Bali Guidelines in Africa – Presented by Lucy Mungai from UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders branch, UNEP

The presentation focused on six issues which include:- Introduction to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration; Putting Principle 10 into action: the UNEP Bali Guidelines; Main elements of the Bali Guidelines; UNEP's efforts to advance Principle 10; Implementation of the Bali guidelines: National experiences; and Challenges and opportunities.

She started by introducing Principle 10 with its three fundamental rights which are Access to information, Access to public participation, and Access to justice. She went on to explain about the Bali Guidelines which were adopted to guide the development of national legislations for the three fundamental rights. She went further to unpack the three fundamental rights with their guidelines for different States.

She also outlined a number of efforts made by UNEP to advance Principle 10 and these include Bali Guideline implementation Guide; Regional Workshops and Legal Practitioners Training Course; and National Capacity Building projects.

The presentation also shared national experience and challenges for implementation of Bali Guidelines. On national experience, she highlighted areas of progress such as Freedom of information acts; Environmental legislation that ensures public participation; EIA; Enhanced court access, environmental remedies and jurisprudence; Better institutions. The main challenges

as outlines in her presentation included:- Lack of national legislative and policy tools in some countries; Lack of adequate capacity on the part of government, Civil Society and citizens;Corruption; Institutional weakness; Lack of experts to represent the public; and Lack of adequate, accessible, affordable court facilities and processes.

Finally, she emphasized thatCivil Society have a big role to play on Bali Guidelines and said,“*Lets meet at the half way*”.

2.2.1.3 Update on the Regional Representatives participation in UNEP/UNEA – Presented by Essam Nada, Arab Network for Environment and Development (READ)

As one of the UNEP MGSF African Regional Representatives, Essam Nada made a presentation on the updates of Regional Representatives participation in UNEP and UNEA for the last two years.His presentation highlighted the challenges faced during their engagement and also provided recommendations.

On *participation*, he outlined a number of engagements including being officially contacted by UNEP to express their expectations as Regional Representatives. During preparations for the first MGSF the regional representatives worked on soliciting comments from Africa MGSON draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy and send these comments to the UNEP Major Groups Branch.Moreover, during the period a number of online conferences were held with other Regional Representatives and UNEP, and major issuesdiscussed revolved around Open-Ended Conference of Permanent Representatives and the role of Major Groups in next UNEA.

He further went on to explain about their engagement in first MGSF, African Group Meeting, Contact Group (in preparations for UNEA), Shaping One Global Agenda beyond 2015, and UNEA-1.

He added on the *challenges* they faced during their two years mission as Regional Representatives and were mainly falling under communications. These include incomprehensive database of MGS, lack of feedback culture from members and creative communication tools and also the need for comprehensive introduction to the newly elected Regional Representatives.

His presentation provided a number of *recommendations* for improvement and these include: Early preparations for Africa MGS in order to prepare the major group’s position; improving

communication at all levels; Mapping all MGS regions’; and ensure all MGS are represented through a clear established criterion.

2.2.2 Presentations on the 15th AMCEN Session Key Areas

2.2.2.1 Africa’s engagement in the two international processes: The Post-2015 Negotiation process and Climate Change: Progress, Gaps and Entry points – Presented by Mwangi Waituru, Africa Policy and Advocacy Advisor (Post-2015) & Beyond 2015 Kenya National Lead

In his presentation, Mwangi started by recognizing year 2015 as a key decision year with Unveiling of post-2015 development framework during United Nations General Assembly, Expected 2015 global climate agreement during COP21 in Paris and Third International Conference for Sustainable Development in Addis.

He further explained how African governments and CSOs have been organized to participate in the post-2015 process. He also noted that Government negotiations are mainly done through groups/blocks including Africa Group, G77 and China and LDCs. He added that the AU has a High Level Committee (HLC) and the Technical Group (Africa Group of Negotiators [AGN]) on post-2015 which constitutes a Bureau of five Permanent Representatives from each region. His presentation stressed on CSOs contribution to the Post-2015 Ad Hoc Working Group (AWG), lead national agencies or organizations, MGS representative and volunteering organizations. On the same he challenged PACJA to take up CSO engagement at the national level through national platforms especially in influencing climate change and Environmental Sustainability issues in the Post 2015 process. In concluding his presentation gave key highlights for AMCEN which included Participation, Indicators and Gender empowerment.

2.2.2.2 Addressing Growing Threat to African Wildlife: Gaps, Opportunities and Solutions – Presented by Stephen Chacha, WSPA

In his presentation Stephen provided a background, current situation, gaps, and opportunities and also proposed solutions for addressing growing threat to African wildlife. He highlighted the current shocking situation on African wildlife especially to elephants and rhino which include:-

- ❖ An African elephant is killed in every 15 minutes whereby a total number of elephants killed in Africa ranges from 20,000-25,000 with estimate of 62% decline of forest elephants from the period of 2002-2011.
- ❖ Rhino poaching has increased from 50 in 2007 to over 1,000 in 2013 with 94% of this poaching taking place in South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- ❖ Others include extinction of tropical forest wildlife species by 25% in 2020; about 18,000-22,000 of apes taken from the wild from 2005-2011; illegal trade of pangolins between 40,000-60,000 in 2011 alone

He further outlined the existing gaps and challenges which are mainly on poor/ineffective governance, coordination, policy and regulations as well as corruption. Although these challenges exist, there are also available opportunities and solutions to address them. These include the existence of various related conventions, laws and resolutions at global and regional levels. At the national level, there is existence of different legal and policy frameworks, programs, institutions and CSOs.

He stated that with the proposed solutions, countries should ratify related conventions; create/strengthen laws and policies; effectively implementation of policies; and improve national, regional and global coordination in addressing the challenge.

He concluded by briefly explaining about the *African common strategy on combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna* which was part of the 23rd African Union (AU) Summit decisions. The decision was on African wild flora and fauna conservation and illegal trade in wildlife which called for the development of an African common strategy on combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna. The main goal of the strategy is to provide a common framework to prevent, combat and eradicate illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products in Africa.

2.2.2.3 How can natural capital contribute to financing sustainable development? – Presented by Frank Turyatunga, UNEP

This presentation focused on building a common understanding of what is meant by natural capital; sharing some examples of natural capital's contribution to the region's economy; and stimulating discussion on how natural capital can contribute in financing sustainable development in Africa.

After providing the definition of natural capital¹, he highlighted some recognition at regional level including the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainable Development in Africa (adopted in May 2012), Arusha Declaration on Africa's Post Rio+20 Strategy for Sustainable Development (adopted September 2012), and the Eighth African Development Forum in 2014.

He went on to provide some example which include:- Africa being the second largest continent with huge world percentage on natural resources such as about 30 % of the world's mineral reserves; 8%of the world's natural gas reserves; 12 % of oil reserves;40 % of gold;80–90 % ofchromium and platinum; 65 % of world's arable land; 10 % of internal of world's renewable fresh water sources; andhome to second largest tropical forest in the world and some of the highest annual rainfall in the Congo basin.

He further explained about contribution of such resources to Africa growth whereby natural capital constitutes around 36% of total wealth of low-income countries and in 2012, natural resources accounted for 77%of total exports and 42% of Government revenue. Also, over 70% of people living in sub-Saharan Africa depend on forests and woodlands for their livelihoods. He then outlined examples from some sectors which were oil and gas, fisheries, forestry and tourism.

Major challenges and opportunities highlighted include illicit financial flows and illegal trade in natural resources which pose threat to the stability and security of institutions and democracy, and jeopardize sustainable development and the rule of law. He stated that these haveled to loss of more than \$1-1.3trillion between 1980 and 2009 which is equivalent to all Official Development Assistance for the same period.He added that, if these were stemmed and redirected, Africa would be able to finance the achievement of its Sustainable Development Goals, meet the costs of adaptation to climate change, and tackle its conflicts.

He concluded by providing the following questions for discussion:-

- ❖ How can Africa generate internal financial resources from natural capital to achieve sustainable development on the continent?
- ❖ Can Africa strategically harness Overseas Development Assistance to ensure financial resilience, sustainability and wealth creation using its natural capital?

¹ The collection of natural resources of a region together with its ecosystem services, viewed broadly in terms of overall economic value. (Takes into account the economic costs of pollution, waste, depletion, and environmental degradation).

- ❖ What strategies can Africa adopt to stem and reverse the financial flows arising out of illicit exploitation of its natural capital?

PLENARY DISCUSSION

After the six presentations (three for each theme), floor was opened for plenary to ask questions and discuss on the issues. Most of participants emphasized on importance of information sharing to communities and stakeholders. Also, they called for more involvement of Civil Society in planning and decision making process. Specifically, other issues were:

- Challenges of implementation of Bali Guidelines to most African countries which increase citizens' vulnerability and suffering. Giving example of a disaster in Malawi, Heather Maseko mentioned that a lot of citizens are vulnerable to extreme events and injustice because of lack of access to information and poverty whereby they can not afford means for survival. This was also agreed by the presenter, Lucy Mungai, who called on Civil Society to play a major role in assisting such communities.
- On threat to wildlife; most of the contributors expressed their concern about the shocking statistics on killings and loss of wildlife. They called for strong measures by the African governments to address such issues by completing making wildlife trade illegal. Also, China as a country was frequently mentioned as a big market for such illegal multi-million trade. Therefore, participants called for African government to compel with Chinese government to come out strongly against such trade.
- On natural capital; more elaboration was needed on its meaning and the presenter explained that natural capital is the "collection of natural resources of a region together with its ecosystem services, viewed broadly in terms of overall economic value. Takes into account the economic costs of pollution, waste, depletion, and environmental degradation".

Concerns were expressed on the abundant amount of natural resources exploited and funds embezzled which have led to loss of trillions of money which could have completely supported development initiatives in Africa.

- Also, a concern was raised on activeness and involvement of the then Africa Regional Representatives for Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS). In response, Mr. Nada explained that he acknowledges the challenge of communication as he highlighted on

his updates' presentation. Therefore, he called for comprehensive mapping of region's MGS and improvement on communication at all levels.

2.2.3 Analysis of COP20 Outcomes and the Road to Paris

2.2.3.1 Key Highlights on UNFCCC- COP 20 Lima Climate Talks – Presented by Samson Ogallah, PACJA

This presentation highlighted key deliberations in COP20 including the 2015 Global Climate Agreement, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (iNDCs) and Pre-2020 Ambition.

On *2015 Global Climate Agreement*, Parties adopted the 'Lima Call for Climate Action' provides that all elements (mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of action and support) which will be addressed in a balanced manner. Though Loss and Damage was not included, Finance was not clearly linked and some new non-Conventional language was introduced.

On *iNDCs*, guidelines on what and how to communicate the INDCs were outlined on the 'Lima Call for Climate Action' and Parties who are 'ready to do so' were further invited to communicate to the UNFCCC Secretariat their INDCs by the first quarter of 2015. However the guidelines are 'mitigation-centric' despite call to balance of all Bali Action Plan pillars. In addition, there was no clear reference to Finance and other Means of Implementation while Adaptation rather seemed to be an option to consider for all Parties. The principle of CBDR-RC was not respected on preparation and communication of INDCs

On *Pre-2020 Ambition*:

- ❖ *On Mitigation*, All Parties to the Kyoto Protocol were '**encouraged**' to ratify and implement Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (Second Commitment period). Failure to agree on specific plans to cut emission and assessing progress made during pre-2020 makes it extremely difficult to meet the IPCC recommended 2°C global temperature increase pathway.
- ❖ *On Finance and Adaptation*, pledges were made to Green Climate Fund (GCF) by Norway (\$ 258), Australia (\$ 165), Belgium (\$ 62m), Peru, Colombia and Austria. This scaled-up total pledges for GCF to \$10.2 billion. Further pledges of €55 million were

made by German to the Adaptation Fund (AF) which provides a boost for adaptation and also promotion of direct access mechanism under AF.

- ❖ *On Loss and Damage*, Parties approved initial two-year work plan and agreed to establish a new Executive Committee to guide implementation of Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage functions. This will have equal representation from developed and developing countries.

2.2.3.2 Panel Discussion on the COP 20 outcome and the Road to Paris – Panelists John Bideri (Mitigation), Ms. Ruth Mitei, (Adaptation, Loss and Damage), Robert Bakiika (Climate Finance & NDCs), Cecilia Kibe, (Gender) Sena Alouka, (Youth), Mithika Mwenda, (ADP 2.8)

- *Climate Finance (Robert Bakiika)*: started by outlining decisions on finance which included extension of SBSTA mandate to one year on methodologies for the reporting of financial information; Endorsing workplan for SCF for 2015; Agreement to initiate the 6th review of the financial mechanism at COP22 in 2016; and Requests to GCF Board on acceleration of operationalization of the adaptation and mitigation windows, implementation of its work programme on readiness and preparatory support, and operationalization of the private sector facility.

Other decisions include Recognition of positive assessment of the performance of the GEF in the 5th review; Taking note of challenges experienced by LDCs and SIDs in accessing GEF resources; Calling developed country Parties to channel a substantial share of public climate funds to adaptation activities; and Welcoming the mobilization of USD 10.2 billion for GCF.

Then, he provided his short evaluation on the decisions on finance and expressed his disappointment because “Parties were far below on direction, predictability and actual materialization of the fund”.

- *Adaptation, Loss and Damage (Ruth Mitei)*: provided a good summary on Adaptation, Loss and Damage from both UNFCCC COP20 and Geneva Session. On COP20, she highlighted that adaptation continued to be a priority for Africa and other developing countries though not much advanced during the conference especially on financing adaptation. She added that, during Geneva session Parties also expanded text on adaptation while Loss and Damage was brought as an option for a separate chapter.

She went on to call Civil Societies to follow, engage more and improve their understanding on the issue contents. Also, she added that, efforts should start at national level and not just concentrating at international level which makes it difficult to influence and achieve required results.

- **Gender (Cecilia Kibe):** She explained about some progress made on negotiations on gender as currently is part of the formal agenda for COPs. She added that women have been much affected by impacts of climate change especially in developing countries; but they are still behind and not involved much in the negotiations process. She called for improvement of capacity and involvement of women from national, regional to global level.
- **Youth (Sena Alouka):** he started by mentioning that he would be happy if some other younger representative would have made the presentation as he feels that more youth need opportunities to be involved. He went on to explain that despite youth lack of involvement, they have always been active in the process and provided valuable inputs.
- **ADP 2.8** - On the updates from Geneva Session, PACJA Secretary General who attended the session, highlighted some progress made during the session in Geneva. He explained that Parties worked on the elements agreed in Lima under the 'Lima Call for Action' in order to come up with a negotiating text. Parties proposed additions to the elements and agreed on a 86-page text which will be basis for negotiation during SBSTA/SBI meetings in June, Bonn-Germany.

The panelists provided progress made on each area, expressed concerns about lack of major progress and also called for urgent actions and involvement of all stakeholders with emphasize on CSOs, women and youth.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Participants expressed their concerns about lack of major progress in the negotiations despite urgency needed. They even questioned the necessity of still having these negotiations as for 20 years they have not brought major outcomes towards addressing the challenge.

Therefore, they called for African unity and urgent actions to be taken by government especially developed countries. Also, they called for more involvement of all stakeholders with emphasize on CSOs, women and youth.

3.0 DRAFTING OF KEY MESSAGES TO THE AMCEN

After panel discussion on the COP20 Outcomes and the Road to Paris; participants broke out into groups under six thematic areas: - Managing Natural capital, Principle 10, Illegal wildlife trade, Climate Change, SDGs, and Gender and Youth. The main aim of the group discussions was to prepare key messages for each assigned thematic area to the AMCEN.

Below were the messages derived from every group:-

(i) Illegal Wild Life Trade Group

- ❖ We commend the decision EX.CL/Dec.832 (XXV) of the 23rd African Union Summit in Malabo to develop African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna. We urge that the development and implementation of this strategy should be open and based on inclusive participation of Member States, African Union, UNEP, UNECA, AfDB, CSOs and Private Sector; and with clear structures of governance and management.
- ❖ We urge the national governments to ensure domestication and enforcement of international and regional conventions, treaties and agreements in national legislation, and foster inter cooperation of different government institutions and agencies (i.e Judiciary, Wildlife Services, Forest Services, Police, Corruption Bureaus, Private Sector and CSOs) in effective implementation of Wild Flora and Fauna legislation in Africa.
- ❖ We urge AMCEN to establish and implement an effective and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation system of the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna. The system should recognize and facilitate the role of CSOs and other stakeholders at national, regional, and continental levels and including giving recommendations, inline with principle 10.

(ii) Climate Change Group

❖ Mitigation

- ✓ Urge African governments to ratify KP2 to make it operational, taking note that Africa has the requisite numbers to do this.

- ✓ We call for African Governments to demand that Developed countries should communicate their commitment to ambitious emission reduction in their iNDCs, commensurate to keeping global average temperature rise at below 1.5°C

❖ **Climate Finance**

- ✓ We encourage our African ministers to push for innovative and uninterrupted means for financing Climate Change actions in developing Countries, particularly for Adaptation, Loss and Damage, and for strengthening Institutional capacity for planning and implementation of Climate Change actions.

❖ **Renewable Energy**

- ✓ We call on African governments to develop effective renewable energy systems to ensure sustainable access to energy in rural areas by 2030 (To include solar, wind, mini hydro, geothermal and biogas)
- ✓ We urge for the African Ministers towards Paris, to deliberately work towards developing merged positions amongst African group, LDCs and AOSIS to the extent that no substance gets lost , and also explore informal alliances with EU and AILAC for an ambitious treaty (noting that the US and China will work for a weaker deal in mitigation)
- ✓ Urge African ministers to join other developing countries in calling for the anchorage on loss and damage in the Paris agreement as a section separate from Adaptation.

(iii) Sustainable Development Group

- ❖ *Human Rights Approach* – We urge the Ministers to support a rights based language in the SDG declaration that particularly calls for the right to live in a clean and healthy environment for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods
- ❖ *Open Working Group Document* – We call on Ministers to put their political weight behind the OWG Document, as the basis of incorporating SDG's into the Post 2015 Agenda, and should oppose any clustering of the goals and targets
- ❖ *Intergenerational Equity* – We call for Strong language and compliance mechanism on inter- generational and gender equity particularly on environmental and natural resource

management and governance. Further, in line with the Lima ministerial declaration on education and awareness raising, we urge African governments to support youth innovation, entrepreneurship and green jobs through formal integration of environmental and climate education in school curriculum and while showing our appreciation for the just-released new book 'Accelerating Youth Action towards Africa's greener future we urge AMCEN to institutionalize and provide financial support to relevant youth organizations and initiatives in Africa

- ❖ *Participation in Country Negotiation Delegations* –We Call on the Ministers To Proactively Create spaces, for the participation of environment and climate change experts and African Civil Society from the Environment sector, in defining the indicators as well the Country based implementation framework
- ❖ *Means of Implementing the SDG's, reporting and Reviewing*-Critical for AMCEN to emphasize that success will depend on the efforts of millions of citizen volunteers working towards the realization of a broadly shared vision. There is a need to mobilize and focus citizen participation on a scale without precedent.

(iv) Management of Natural Capital

- ❖ Africa's is dependent on its natural capital. We therefore urge Government to ensure that the utilisation of natural capital is by Africans for Africa, in a sustainable and equitable manner. Threats and key drivers of degradation such as land grab and extractive industry activities should be managed and addressed. Environmental governance should be strengthened and should involve communities and civil society in determining how the natural capitals are used so as to create jobs and benefits for current and future generations. Public institutions should be strengthened in order to avoid pilferage and corruption.

(v) Principle 10

- ❖ AMCEN should adopt an (African convention (similar to the Aarhus Convention) on the principle 10 so that it can be applied at the national level). (Chart of environmental right as 3st generation of humanity). (National legislation on principle 10)
- ❖ AMCEN should ensure a large sensitization and public awareness on Principle 10 for all the member countries

- ❖ AMCEN should produce implementation mechanisms and safeguard of good governance of it to emphasizes environmental justice through special environmental code systems

(vi) Gender and Youth Group

- ❖ **Gender equality key messages:**

- ✓ The African governments through the relevant state machineries should ensure equal representation and participation of men and women among negotiators and their capacity should be built to enable them analyze, understand and articulate environment and climate change issues during negotiations.

- ❖ **Agriculture and environment**

- ✓ 80% of small scale food producers in Africa are women who depend on natural resources therefore, women should be involved in the agriculture and environment policy formulation, programs and projects design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at all levels with measurable indicators.

- ❖ **Youth key message:**

- ✓ AMCEN should support youth innovations, entrepreneurship, and green jobs through dedicated policy, funding and integration of formal climate and environmental education in education institutions at all levels.

Then, all groups presented their three key messages for each thematic area and provided platform for other participants to contribute on the proposed messages. The final messages were further refined, by a selected drafting team, and formed a statement to be submitted to the AMCEN and presented during opening ceremony of the Ministerial Segment. *See Annex 1 for the African CSOs statement to AMCEN.*

4.0 ELECTION OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE UNEP MAJOR GROUPS

The two years tenure for the major Groups representatives had ended and therefore election for the succeeding UNEP Major Group's representatives was due. As it has been the tradition. Election of major groups has been rotational across different regions across Africa and the succeeding representatives were supposed to be elected from East and Southern Africa countries. Three people from East Africa were nominated for the elections and these were Florence Kasule (Uganda), Yonas Gebru (Ethiopia) and Fazal Issa (Tanzania). For Southern Africa, Ms. Tracy Sonny (Botswana) was nominated unopposed therefore elected automatically as one of the MGS representatives, while for the alternates for Southern Africa were nominated as Nicholas Pythagoras (Zimbabwe) and Heather Maseko (Malawi).

Voting for the representative and alternate from East Africa and alternate from Southern Africa was carried out and below were the results:-

Eastern Africa

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|----------|
| 1. Fazal Issa | (Tanzania) | - | 24 votes |
| 2. Florence Kasule | (Uganda) | - | 4 votes |
| 3. Yonas Gebru | (Ethiopia) | - | 3 votes |

Southern Africa

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Tracy Sonny | (Botswana) | - | Unopposed |
|----------------|------------|---|-----------|

Alternates

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|---|----------|
| 1. Nicholas Pythagoras | (Zimbabwe) | - | 20 votes |
| 2. Heather Maseko | (Malawi) | - | 9 votes |

From the election results, Fazal Issa (Tanzania) became the Eastern Africa Regional Representative with Florence Kasule being the Alternate. While in Southern Africa, Tracy Sonny (Botswana) was unopposed and therefore became Regional Representative with Nicholas Pythagoras (Zimbabwe) elected as the Alternate.

ANNEX I: AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY AND MAJOR GROUPS STATEMENT AND KEY MESSAGES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Your Excellency Hon. Dr. Binilith S. Mahenge, Minister of State Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania and AMCEN President;

Your Excellency Dr. Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdel Ael, Minister, Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt;

Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director, UNEP;

The Director & Regional Representative, UNEP- ROA, Mr. MounkailaGoumandakoye;

Excellency Ministers of Environment from various countries across the African continent;

Representatives of Regional Economic Integration Bodies;

Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocols observed;

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to stand before you, on behalf of African civil society, to articulate our perspectives on the agenda of this 15th Session of AMCEN, which we have no doubt will provide direction for the African continent as we head towards the new Sustainable Development Goal in New York and the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris all taking place this year.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, inspired by the consultative spirit of AMCEN, the African Civil Society under the auspices of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, bringing together diverse groups from the youth, Indigenous Peoples, farmers, faiths, NGOs and networks, met and came up with a collective key message which we are already sharing with delegates. We hope that our views will be considered when making final decisions for this session.

We sincerely appreciate the space you have accorded civil society in this important process, and particularly thank UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the African Union, COMESA and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting, participating and sharing with us during the pre-AMCEN Consultative Workshop and Major Groups Forum held on 1st of March 2015.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we meet here again, an exercise which has become a routine, to review the progress on international climate change and Post-2015 SDGs dialogue processes and Africa's involvement, our gains and losses.

During our workshop, we wondered whether it is worth participating any longer in the UNFCCC processes which have come and gone without delivering any concrete outcomes as the growing impacts of climate change continue to stand in the way of our development aspirations. The last two decades have been characterized by unfulfilled promises and commitments by developed countries but still we feel that the multilateral process under UNFCCC is the only sure way to deliver fairness and justice for poor countries and communities.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen; in the Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha, Warsaw and Lima climate conferences, the rallying call for Africa has been that the outcome of the negotiations must be, at a minimum, to keep Africa safe, ensure food security and agree a fair sharing of the atmospheric space between North and South.

We should not hold back from putting pressure on rich countries to change excessive production and consumption systems while protecting and compensating communities affected by their historical actions. Discussions around the new climate change agreement should be preceded by the rich countries honoring the promise they have already made as a signal of good faith. This may not be the case as the Lima Climate Talk has demonstrated the shifting of goal post by the developed countries on many fronts. Despite the establishment of the Green Climate Fund, we are worried that it may not be properly financed as the experience with other funds such as Adaptation Fund shows.

1. On the Road to Paris: The new climate agreement: The African civil society call upon African governments/ministers to urge developed countries to communicate emission reduction targets as iNDCs that commensurate to keeping global average temperature well below 1.5°C and against principles of equity -historical responsibility, capacity, the right to sustainable development. African should also ensure the transfer of finance and technology via strengthened institutions like the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, and the Adaptation Committee is part of its demands in Paris UNFCCC-COP21.

We call on DCPs to mobilize at least USD 1 trillion and monetize/materialize pledges to the financial entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention so as to meaningfully implement adaptation intervention and low carbon development strategies.

We further call for full operationalizing the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage and its full inclusion in the 2015 agreement. Also focusing on provisions to address the rights and needs of climate displaced people and for managing risk.

2. On the Post 2015-SDGs and processes that will conclude in New York, we call on AMCEN to engage and proactively create spaces, for the participation of environment and climate change experts and African Civil Society from the Environment sector. It is critical for AMCEN to emphasize that success will depend on the efforts of millions of citizen volunteers working towards the realisation of a broadly shared vision. There is a need to mobilise and focus citizen participation on a scale without precedent.

3. On the Management of Africa Natural Capital: Africa's is dependent on its natural capital. We therefore urge Government to ensure that the utilization of natural capital is by Africans for Africa, in a sustainable and equitable manner. Threats and key drivers of degradation such as extractive industry activities and land grab should be managed and addressed. Environmental governance should be strengthened and should involve communities and Civil society in determining how the natural capital are used so as to create jobs and benefits for current and

future generations. Public institutions should be strengthened in order to avoid pilferage and corruption.

4. On Illegal Trade in Wildlife: We commend the decision EX.CL/Dec.832 (XXV) of the 23rd African Union Summit in Malabo to develop African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna. We urge AMCEN to fast track the development of this strategy, in an open and inclusive process that involves Member States, African Union Commission, UNEP, UNECA, AfDB, CSOs and Private Sector.

5. On Principle 10: Sustainable development can only be guaranteed if citizens have access to information, participate effectively in the decision making and have access to justice when such rights are denied or tempered. We call on AMCEN to start and accelerate to adoption of an African Regional Convention on Principle 10. AMCEN should sensitize their populations on Principle 10. This could be done by assessing the application of rights to information, public participation and access to justice at national level, and produce implementation mechanisms and safeguard good governance of Principle 10 to emphasize environmental justice through special environmental codes systems.

6. On broad participation in UNEA: As the strengthened and upgraded UNEP is poised to play an effective role as a follow-up to Rio+20 in integrating three dimensions of sustainable development, we recommend that the Committee of Permanent Representatives allows full participation of Major Groups. Major Groups already accredited under UN ECOSOC should be recognized by UNEA, while elected MGSF Regional Representatives should be accorded speaking rights at the Committee of Permanent Representatives and UNEA. Broader partnerships between UNEP and other organizations as a means to fulfill its mandate should always be promoted, with UNEP not limiting itself to policy formulation but also implementation.

7. Inclusive participation in regional processes:

Gender: 80% of small scale food producers in Africa are women who depend on natural resources therefore, women should be involved in the agriculture and environment policy formulation, programs and projects design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at all levels with measurable indicators. African government through its relevant organs like AUC, AfDB, ACPC,

RECs and other agencies like UNEP, UNECA, and NEPAD etc should support and strengthened the work of African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change.

In furtherance to the Assembly/AU/Dec.538(XXIII) on climate change, particularly on developing a CAHOSCC Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change (CWGPCC) to engage women and gender in climate change related actions, we request AMCEN to work with Member States and other partners to put in place relevant mechanisms to implement the decision

ahead of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP21) to be held in Paris, France at the end of the year

Youth: In line with the *Lima ministerial declaration on education and awareness raising*, we urge African government to support youth innovation, entrepreneurship and green jobs through formal integration of environmental and climate education in school curriculum and while showing our appreciation for the just-released new book '*Accelerating Youth Action towards Africa's greener future*' we urge AMCEN to institutionalize and provide financial support to relevant youth organizations and initiatives in Africa.

I thank you all.

MithikaMwenda

PACJA Secretary General, on behalf of the African Civil Society and Major Groups

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ANNEX III: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY/TOPIC	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
DAY 1: 28TH FEBRUARY, 2015		
17.00 – 21.00	Arrivals, Registration and Dinner	
DAY 2: 1ST MARCH, 2015		
OPENING SESSION: SESSION MODERATOR; Augustine Njamshi		
08:30 – 09.30	Welcome remarks	Josephine Kamel, AWEAPON, Local Organising Committee, Egypt
		Mithika Mwenda, Secretary General, PACJA
	Remarks from UNEP Regional Office for Africa	Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Director & Regional Representative, UNEP- ROA
	Official opening and Launch of the AMCEN-UNEP publication on “Accelerating Youth Action towards Africa’s Greener Future”	Hon. Minister for Environment – Egypt
	Keynote address	Hon. Minister, Ministry of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements (MURIS) – Egypt
	Photo session	
09.30 – 09.45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA)		
09:45—10.30	(i) Outcomes of UNEA, Malabo AU Summit and role of AMCEN in the new realignments, Principle 10, Stakeholder engagement	Robert Wabunoha Lucy Mungai
	(ii) Update on the Regional Representatives participation in UNEP/UNEA	ChembessiChedrak, B3CP, Essam Nada, Arab Network for Environment and Development ‘READ’
10.30 – 11.00	Africa’s engagement in the two international processes: The Post-2015 Negotiation process and Climate Change: Progress, Gaps and Entry points	Mwangi Waituru, Africa Policy and Advocacy Advisor (Post-2015) & Beyond 2015 Kenya National Lead

11.00 – 11.15	Addressing growing threat to African wildlife: Gaps, Opportunities and solutions	Stephen Chacha, WSPA
11:15—11.45	How can natural capital contribute to financing sustainable development	UNEP- Frank Turyatunga
11.45 – 12.30	Plenary session/discussions	Session Moderator
12.30 – 13.30	LUNCH BREAK	
ANALYSIS OF UNFCCC-COP 20 OUTCOME AND THE ROAD TO PARIS		
13.30 – 13.50	Key Highlights on UNFCCC- COP 20 Lima Climate Talks	Samson, Samuel Ogallah, PACJA
13.50 – 14.35	Panel Discussion on the COP 20 outcome and the Road to Paris	John Bideri (Mitigation), Ms. Ruth Mitei, (Adaptation, Loss and Damage), Robert Bakiika (Climate Finance & iNDCs), Gender and youth,(Maria Phiri ,Cecilia Kibe&SenaAlouka), MithikaMwenda, Augustine Njamshi –ADP 2.8
14.35 – 15.15	Plenary Discussion	Session Moderator
15:15—15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
Session Moderator: Samson Samuel Ogallah		
15.30 – 16.15	Group Work/Key Messages Drafting	Group Leaders
16.15—16.45	Presentation of the key messages to AMCEN	Mwanahamisi S. Singano (Ms), Oxfam
16.45 – 17.45	- Update on the role Regional Representatives in the new UNEA by UNEP/MGSB - Election of Major Groups Stakeholders Forum	Lucy Mungai
17.45 – 18.15	Adoption of Statements/Key messages and closing remarks	