TERMS OF REFERENCE

Analysis & evaluation of the status of implementation of the recommendation of the previous AMCEN by the African governments

As co-host of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum with UNEP, PACJA is instrumental in ensuring civil society views make it to the decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). Last year, the two organisations hosted a major group stakeholders forum in Durban, South Africa. The consultations aimed to engage civil society organizations and other stakeholders to contribute effectively in the AMCEN Conference based on:

- The need to reinforce the visibility and impact of the UN Environment Assembly in the context of the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global and regional levels, including the High-Level Political Forum and the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development convened by the UN Regional Commissions;
- The need to harmonize the regional environmental agenda through the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), with the global agenda through UN Environment Assembly (UNEA);
- The need to include Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) and non-state actors in decision-making processes and the implementation of AMCEN and UNEA decisions;
- The mandate set out in the Rio + 20 Conference in 2012, where governments highlighted that the engagement of civil society in the UN Environment Assembly and its decision making process is an important factor that will ensure relevance and success of the global environmental Assembly.

The African CSOs expressed concerns on lack of implementation of AMCEN resolutions by African government which has reduced AMCEN to a mere talk show. In their submissions to the AMCEN 2019, the African CSOs made presented the following recommendations:

- The NDCs and other long-term climate change strategies should be aligned with and integrated within national and sub-national development policies and strategies. African environment ministers should closely work with other sector ministers to facilitate the process. Also, the Africa regional development communities and initiatives should be harmonized and linked with respective African countries’ NDCs so as to support its subsequent implementation. Further call upon our African governments to compel developed countries to use the obligation of reviewing the NDCs in 2020 to ambitiously enhance their mitigation commitments to reach the temperature goal as the current NDCs are taking the globe to over 3°C pathway. The NDCs should include all elements and not just be mitigation-centric, and should have five years’ time frame that takes into account the global stocktake.
• The African governments should commit to a global policy framework on plastic and plastic pollution to address life cycle impacts including: eliminating single-use plastics production and marine litter, control of plastic waste trade, and prevention of false solutions. Furthermore, circularity needs to prevent or minimize hazardous chemicals in material cycles.

• African governments should enforce the ‘polluter pays’ principle through extended producer responsibility, financing circular economy solutions, as well as incentivizing sustainable business practices and design of consumer goods.

• On agriculture, industrial animal agriculture and monoculture production systems are input-heavy and have multiple detrimental environmental impacts. Thus African Ministers should recommit to agro-ecological solutions, which are regenerative by nature.

• In order to promote biodiversity economy, there should be an ambitious post 2020 framework, underpinned by transformative change to address biodiversity decline, with strategic goals that address all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with smart targets that address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, predictable financing and transparent reporting and monitoring.

• Strategies for the ocean must recognize the ocean as a resource for African people’s livelihoods and an important natural resource that can fundamentally improve the lives of all African people. The strategies should emphasize on inclusive, equitable and ecologically sustainable approaches to use the ocean resources and safeguard against commercialization of natural resources, which can lead to exploitation of ocean and coastal resources to the detriment of local livelihoods and food security, the coastal and ocean ecosystems and African economies at large. It should also ensure adequate investment in local communities to enhance their capacity to secure their livelihoods in a socially and ecologically sound manner.

The option PACJA and UNEP will have in the context of COVID-19 will be a digital convergence to evaluate the status of implementation of the recommendation of the previous AMCEN by the African government. A thorough analysis of the the same will be presented through email to the AMCEN secretariat after which we will seek for digital consultations with the AMCEN to deliberate on the required governments efforts in remaining focused on implementation the AMCEN resolutions post Covid 19. The outcomes of these deliberations will be shared during the conference on the nexus between climate justice and Covid-19.

In this regard, PACJA is looking for a qualified resource person to undertake a study on the status of the implementation of the AMCEN decision by the African government;

Main aim

To analyse the status of implementation of AMCEN decisions by African countries and provide recommendations on the best approaches to enhance implementation

Main deliverables

1. A thorough analysis of all decisions of the previous AMCEN
2. An account of the caps in implementation of the decisions
3. An outline of the role of civil societies under the Major Groups stakeholders forum in influencing implementation of AMCEN decisions
4. Recommendations on the best approaches for enhancement of implementation of the decisions
Methodology of the study

This study will largely be undertaken as a desktop review but the resource person will also administer questionnaires to a diversity of stakeholders who may include but not limited to; CSOs under major groups stakeholders forum, official from UNEP, AMCEN and African governments

Timeframe

PACJA expects this study to be delivered in 30 days

Application

Interested resource persons should send their technical and financial proposal to info@pacja.org copying kobia@pacja.org and Charles@pacja.org before 30th/09/2020.