



AMCEN AU

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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**Sixth special session**

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, 16 - 19 April 2016

Information note on the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Introduction

1. 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, and in response to the kind offer by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the sixth special session of AMCEN will be held at the **Dusit Thani Lakeview hotel** from 16 to 19 April 2016 in Cairo, Egypt.
2. The special session will be held under the theme: "**Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement: From policy to implementation in Africa**" and will consist of a meeting of the expert group to be held from 16 to 17 April 2016, and a ministerial segment to be held on 18 and 19 April 2016.
3. On 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the declaration on Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will guide global, regional and national decisions over the next 15 years. The special session will provide an opportunity for ministers and experts to deliberate on how to move forward with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa.
4. The sixth special session of AMCEN will also focus on assessing the implications for Africa of the Paris agreement on climate change, and especially the way forward for a swift implementation of the two African initiatives on Renewable Energy and Adaptation. The 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP21) held in Paris in December 2015 concluded with the adoption of the Paris Agreement that aims to strengthen the global response to climate change. The agreement is a framework for action, and the special session will provide an opportunity for governments to discuss how to translate what has been agreed in Paris into climate action which will make a decisive difference to the African region and its people.
5. During the session participants will also prepare towards Africa's common approach for engagement in the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) of UNEP scheduled to take place in Nairobi from 23-27 May 2016. UNEA-2 will be held under the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". UNEA, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will culminate in resolutions and a global call to action to address the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.
6. The Ministers and experts will deliberate on other priority issues and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development in the continent. In particular, deliberations will take place on the implementation of the African common strategy on combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal trade in wild Fauna and Flora and its action plan, the implementation of the regional flagship programmes, as well as considering the relationship between AMCEN and the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, rural development, water and environment of the African Union Commission. Finally, ministers will adopt a declaration, a set of decisions and key messages reflecting the discussions under the various issues on the agenda.

Associated meetings

7. The following associated meetings will be held:
- (a) 15 April 2016: Pre-AMCEN major groups and stakeholders' forum (civil society) meeting;

Side events

8. A number of side events will be held during the session. Details of these events will be published as soon as they become available.

Venue

9. The sixth special session of AMCEN will be held at the Dusit Thani Lakeview Hotel in Cairo city, Arab Republic of Egypt. Ministers, heads of delegations and high level guests are strongly encouraged to stay at this hotel.

10. Dusit Thani Lakeview Cairo is a lush oasis of greenery and lakes in the heart of New Cairo, a newly developed satellite city in the Egyptian capital. This 5-star hotel is strategically located in New Cairo's Fifth Settlement, only 20 minutes from Cairo International Airport and in close proximity to the main roads that lead to Cairo's major attractions, including the Pyramids and the Egyptian Museum.

Services to delegates

11. Dusit Thani Lakeview Hotel Cairo has a range of meeting rooms with state-of-the-art audio / visual facilities. The hotel also offers currency exchange, Doctor on call, a professionally staffed Business Centre, airport limousine and shuttle bus service. Major credit cards are accepted.

Registration

12. All participants are requested to register on arrival at Dusit Thani Lakeview Hotel Cairo. Participants will be able to register on Friday, 15 April 2016, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, 16 April 2016, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., and on Sunday, 17 April 2016, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.,
13. Badges will be issued to participants upon registration. For identification and security reasons, participants are reminded that they should wear their name badges at all times during the meeting.

Documents

14. The main pre-session documents for the meeting will be dispatched to AMCEN national focal points in advance of the meeting. The documents will also be available on the AMCEN website: <http://web.unep.org/regions/roa/amcen/6specialsession/home>. Delegates are kindly reminded to bring the pre-session documents with them to the meeting, as the documents will be available in Cairo in limited quantities only as we are striving to reduce the carbon footprint of the meeting.

Greening the sixth special session

15. Paper Smart meeting: 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. Ideally, the sixth special session of AMCEN will endeavour to service delegates with the varied methods of accessing documentation including all unrestricted, official documents and statements, while making efficient use of its resources by avoiding waste. The information and documentation will be made available in digital platforms and formats. In addition to the distribution of information and background documents on the AMCEN website, in-session documents and statements will be shared by email. Limited on-demand hard copy of official documents will be made available only upon request in meeting rooms.

Hotel reservations, airport transfers and transport for delegates

16. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations. In addition to Dusit Thani Lakeview Hotel, a list of other recommended hotels and their contact details can be found on the AMCEN website: <http://web.unep.org/regions/roa/amcen/6specialsession/home>.
17. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will set up a desk at the arrivals section of Cairo International Airport. Transfers from Cairo International Airport to hotels might be at a cost. However, transport from the recommended hotels to the meeting venue and back to the hotels will be

provided by the Government. Please note that there will be no transport to the meeting venue for participants who opt to stay outside the recommended hotels.

18. With regard to logistical arrangements, participants should send information on flights, dates of arrival and departure and the name of the hotel where they intend to stay to Ms. Esther Njenga (tel: +254 20 762 4287; e-mail: esther.njenga@unep.org or amcensec@unep.org; with a copy to Ms. Teresa Khasakhala (tel: +254 20 762 4282; e-mail: teresa.khasakhala@unep.org) and Mr. David Ombisi (tel: +254 20 762 4221; e-mail: david.ombisi@unep.org).

General information on the Arab Republic of Egypt

Visas

Participants from countries that are not exempted from visas to the Arab Republic of Egypt must acquire valid visas before leaving their home countries. Participants are requested to take special care to check which category their country falls under. Visas can be obtained at the airport of the Arab Republic of Egypt at a cost of \$25, but prior clearance from security agencies is always required. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of intended entry into Egypt.

Details on all visa requirements, are available at the following website: <http://www.mfa.gov.eg/english/ConsularServices/Pages/ConsularServiceDetails.aspx?ID=Visa%20Application>

Health

19. A Yellow fever certificate is required if the journey starts or entails passing through the designated yellow fever belt. Yellow fever vaccination is required for all persons arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission.

Some facts and figures

20. The Arab Republic of Egypt is located in Northern Africa. It is bordered on the west by Libya and on the south by Sudan. On the east is the Red Sea and Israel. The Arab Republic of Egypt, home of the world famous Pyramids, has a surface area of 1.002 million square kilometres. It has a population of about 82 million people (United Nations, 2011). The official language is Arabic, although English is widely used. The major cities are Cairo (capital city) and others include Alexandria, Giza, Port Saeed, Luxour and Aswan.

Cairo city

21. Cairo is the capital of Egypt. Cairo is associated with Ancient Egypt as it is close to the ancient cities of Memphis, Giza and Fustat which are near the Great Sphinx and the pyramids of Giza. Cairo has the oldest and largest film and music industries in the Arab world, as well as the world's second-oldest institution of higher learning, al-Azhar University. Many international media, businesses, and organizations have regional headquarters in the city.

22. Cairo has an arid, desert climate which means that the day time temperatures are always warm and the nights are cool. There are two distinct seasons, a long hot summer from May until October and a mild winter from November to April. However there is very little differences in the weather between the seasons save for a change in the day time temperature and a directional change in the prevailing winds. During March and April there are periods of time when the hot 'khamsin' wind blows and brings dust and sandstorms to the city.

Currency

23. The currency is the Egyptian Pound (EGP) (US\$1 is worth approximately EGP 7.15). The United States dollar is widely accepted. 5,000 Egyptian pounds is the maximum amount of local currency one is allowed to bring in or take out of Egypt. There is a limit to the amount of hard currency that one may bring in and should not exceed US\$ 10,000.

Electricity

24. The voltage in the Arab Republic of Egypt is 220 volts and plugs are two prong rounded, European style. Travellers are advised that adapters are needed for three-pin square plugs.

Contacts and further information

25. For further information on the sixth special session of AMCEN, please do not hesitate to contact the AMCEN secretariat (tel: +254 20 762 4287/4279; e-mail: amcensec@unep.org, with a copy to esther.njenga@unep.org and david.ombisi@unep.org).

For further information on the Arab Republic of Egypt, please contact the secretariat at Ambassador (Mr) Nehad Abdel Latif, e-mail: nehad.amcen@gmail.com and Ms. Heba ElKady, e-mail: elkadyheba@gmail.com
