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**UN Environment (Ecosystems  
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**Twelfth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for Cooperation in the Protection,  
Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal  
Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central  
and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention)**

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 27 to 31 March 2017

## **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**A. EXPERT SEGMENT**

**MONDAY, 27 MARCH, 2017**

**08:30 – 13:00 Plenary Session**

1. Opening of the experts segment
  - a) Statement by the Representative of UN Environment
  - b) Statement by the Chair of the Bureau
  - c) Statement by the Representative of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire
  
2. Organizational matters
  - (a) Admission of observers
  - (b) Appointment of Credentials Committee
  - (c) Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting
  - (d) Adoption of the agenda of the meeting
  
3. Workshop on Integrated Ocean Management Policies in Africa
  - 3.1 Mr Abou Bamba, Executive Secretary of the Abidjan Convention: Introduction of the theme of COP 12: "Integrated Ocean Management Policies in Africa",
  
  - 3.2. Expert presentations
    - (a) Mr. Tibor Vegh, Policy Associate, Environmental Economics Program, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University, USA
    - (b) Mr. Lawrence P. Hildebrand, Head, Ocean Sustainability Department, Specialist in Governance & Management, World Maritime University, Sweden.
    - (c) Mr. Justin Ahanhanzo, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Head of the Marine Policy Section and Regional Coordinator.
    - (d) Mr. Pierre Failler, Reader in Economics, University of Portsmouth, UK: "Assessment of the Value of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems of the Atlantic Seaboard of Africa: ecological, economic and political issues.
    - (e) M. Sheck Abdul Sherif, Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia : "Ocean acidification in Africa and networking within Regional Seas Conventions".

**13:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**15:00 – 18:00 Plenary Session**

3. Workshop on Integrated Ocean Management Policies in Africa (*Cont'd*)
  - (f) Mr. André Share, Head; Oceans Economy Secretariat, Operation Phakisa. South Africa.
  - (g) Mr. Louis-Léandre Ebobola Tsibah, Director General of Environmental Affairs, Gabon.
  - (h) Ms. Hazel Thornton, Assistant Programme Officer, Marine Programme, UNEP-WCMC, UK.
  - (i) Mr. Cisse Yacouba, International Law Commission – United Nations, Abidjan.
  - (j) Mr. Jeff Andrews, Environment Security Program, US-AFRICOM.
  
- 3.3. Workshop conclusions and recommendations
- 3.4. Review and consideration of the Abidjan Declaration on Integrated Ocean Management Policies in Africa
- 3.5. Closure of the workshop

**TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2017**

**EXPERTS SEGMENT**

***DISCUSSIONS ON KEY ISSUES, REVIEW OF DRAFT DECISIONS AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS***

**9:00 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION**

4. Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) on progress made in the implementation of the decisions of COP 11.
5. Report of the Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Science and Technology
6. Consideration by the Parties of the COP 12 draft decisions.
  - a) Draft decision on the Programme of Work 2017-2020
  - b) Draft decision on financial matters
  - c) Draft amendments of the text of the Abidjan Convention
  - d) Draft protocol on integrated coastal zones management

**13:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**15:00 – 18:00 PLENARY SESSION**

6. Consideration by the Parties of the COP 12 draft decisions (*Cont'd*)
  - e) Draft protocol on sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems
  - f) Draft protocol on environmental norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation
  - g) Regional policy on integrated coastal zone and marine management (South Africa, Gabon, GRID Arendal & ABC Secretariat)
  - h) Creation of the Guinea Current Commission through a protocol of the Abidjan Convention
  - i) Revitalization of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region

**WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2017**

**10:00 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION**

6. Consideration by the Parties of the COP 12 draft decisions (*Con'd*)
  - j) Coastal erosion and climate change
  - k) Marine ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSA)
  - l) Conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdictions
  - m) Combatting invasive marine and coastal species;
  - n) Illegal trade, illicit trafficking, consumption and other uses of endangered, threatened and/or protected coastal and marine species
  - o) Sustainable management of lagoons
  - p) Marine litter
  - q) Coastal urban planning
  - r) Ocean energy
  - s) Establishment of a network of parliamentarians and local government officials in support of the Abidjan Convention
  - t) Trans-Atlantic environmental cooperation
  - u) African forum on oceans

**13:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**15:00 – 18:00 PLENARY SESSION**

7. Consideration by the Parties of the COP 12 draft decisions (*Con'd*)
  - v) Draft decision on thanking the Government of Cote d'Ivoire

8. Discussion and finalization of the Abidjan Declaration
9. Adoption of the report and recommendations of the experts segment
10. Any other business
11. Closing of the expert segment.

**B. MINISTERIAL/HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT**

**THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 2017**

**09:00 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION**

12. Opening of the meeting
  - (a) Statement by the representative of UN Environment
  - (b) Statement by the Guest of Honour
  - (c) Statement by the Chair of the Bureau
  - (d) Statement by the Minister of the Environment of Cote d'Ivoire
  - (e) Opening address by the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire
13. Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment
14. Report of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

**13:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**15:00 – 18:00 PLENARY SESSION**

14. Consideration of draft decisions
15. Report on credentials and full powers

**FRIDAY, 31 MARCH 2017**

**10:00 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION**

16. Adoption of decisions
17. Date and venue of the next ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties
18. Any other business

**13:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**15:00 – 18:00 PLENARY SESSION**

19. Adoption of the Abidjan Declaration
20. Adoption of the report of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention.
21. Closing of the Meeting.
  - a. Address of the Chair of the Bureau
  - b. Address of the Representative of Côte d'Ivoire.