Code of Ethics for representatives of the African Group of Negotiators to positions and constituted bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

I. Background and purpose

1. The AGN Chair office has prepared the present Code of Ethics (hereinafter referred to as the Code). For members of the-African Group of Negotiators (AGN) appointed by the group to represent Africa on constituted bodies and positions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

2. The present Code outlines the standards of conduct expected of AGN representatives in the performance of their duties of representing the African Group, including chairing of meetings, participation and facilitating formal and informal meetings, and their relations with other UNFCCC Parties and the secretariat.

II. Applicability

3. The present Code applies to all AGN representatives in the exercise of the duties or functions to which they have been nominated or appointed by the African Group, including in the chairing of meetings, participation in subsidiary and constituted bodies of the UNFCCC or any meetings representing the AGN.

4. An AGN member representing the African Group is under the authority of the AGN common position guided by the AMCEN decision and remain under the guidance of the AGN Chair who appointed them.

5. All AGN representatives are expected to observe, at all times, and from the date of election or appointment, the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of their duties and functions. Such duties and functions shall be performed in accordance with the AGN common position, and in consultations with AGN plenary and AGN Chair.

6. The reference in this Code to the subsidiary bodies include the permanent subsidiary bodies established under articles 9 and 10 of the UNFCCC and any other subsidiary bodies that may be created by the COP in an exercise of article 7.2(i) of the UNFCCC.

7. The references to the constituted bodies include all the bodies which operate under the UNFCCC or its subsidiary bodies and whose members are elected by them. The application of the Code is without prejudice to the terms of reference agreed by the COP in relation to the bodies,
The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) Chair’s Office

III. Representation
8. The nominated or appointed AGN delegate shall represent and safeguard the interest of the African Group in the discharge of the duties and functions to which they have been elected or appointed. They are also expected to ensure that national or personal views and convictions do not compromise or appear to compromise their role and functions as AGN representative.

IV. Ethical behavior
9. All AGN representatives are expected to conduct themselves in the exercise of the duties and functions to which they have been elected or appointed with probity, integrity and professionalism.

10. All AGN representatives are expected to observe the highest standards of probity and accountability and should not abuse their authority or to directly or indirectly accept, offer or provide any gift, advantage or reward that can be perceived as being intended to influence the performance and independence of their functions.

11. AGN delegates are not engage in any form of discrimination or harassment in any form, including sexual harassment.

V. Conflict of interest
12. All AGN representatives are to avoid any conflict of interests as well as situations, which might be perceived as giving rise to a conflict of interest.

13. All AGN representatives are to desist from using their role as nominated or appointed AGN representative as a means to seek personal gain or obtain personal pecuniary advantages or other remuneration.

14. An AGN member shall serve in his or her capacity as AGN representative, as a nominated or appointed by the African Group and AGN chair, rather than the representative of a Party, a group or person, concerning any matter that is under consideration in the exercise of the duties and functions.

15. In the event that an AGN representative considers that a conflict of interest may arise, he or she shall recuse himself or herself from acting as a representative of the AGN.

VI. Responsibility of AGN delegate in case of non-adherence to the code
16. In cases where it is found that the Code is not being adhered to, appropriate and expeditious remedial action may be taken by the AGN Chair, after due consideration and process, including by way of discussions with the AGN representative-concerned, and their national focal point, as appropriate, and if necessary through the nomination or appointment of a replacement delegate. Any such disciplinary action shall be communicated to and endorsed by the AGN Plenary.