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**First extraordinary meeting of the Contracting
Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the
Protection and Development of the Marine and
Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region**
Johannesburg, South Africa, 9–10 June 2008

Report of the first extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention

Introduction

1. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 17 of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention), the Contracting Parties shall hold ordinary meetings once every two years and extraordinary meetings at any other time deemed necessary, upon the request of the Organization or at the request of any Contracting Party, supported by at least three other Contracting Parties.
2. Pursuant to that Article, the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention adopted decision CP 8/8, on revitalizing the Convention, at their eighth meeting, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2007. In paragraph 4 of this decision, the Contracting Parties agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Convention back-to-back with the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, scheduled to take place in Johannesburg from 7 to 12 June 2008, to consider and decide on the recommendations for reactivating the Convention. The extraordinary meeting took place from 9 to 10 June 2008.
3. In addition, the Contracting Parties requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to prepare an action plan for a phased transfer of the Secretariat of the Convention from Nairobi to Côte d'Ivoire, which would ultimately lead to the Contracting Parties' full ownership of the Convention.
4. In response to that request UNEP, in collaboration with the Senegal office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature undertook a study and consultations on the revitalization of the Convention.
5. Between 1 and 3 April 2008, UNEP organized a stakeholders meeting in Dakar to review the findings of the study and to make appropriate recommendations. The two commissions of the large marine ecosystems projects, namely Benguela and Guinea, and other key stakeholders implementing marine and coastal programmes and projects in the Convention area were widely consulted and involved in making the recommendations. Subsequently, the Bureau to the Convention held a meeting in Dakar on 10 May 2008, at which it reviewed the recommendations and prepared draft decisions for consideration at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The draft decisions are focused on:

- (a) Enhancing institutional arrangements and collaboration;
- (b) Promoting ratifications and accessions to the Convention;
- (c) Reviewing the mandate and objectives of the Convention;
- (d) Transferring the Secretariat functions from Nairobi to Abidjan;
- (e) Improving contributions to the Trust Fund and funding for the Convention;
- (f) Preparing an action plan for the revitalization process.

6. The first extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention was held at the International Convention Centre, Sandton, Johannesburg, on 10 June 2008. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Contracting Parties and countries that had not ratified or acceded to the Convention. It was also attended by the African Union, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and other partners. The list of participants is provided in annex I to the present report.

I. Objectives of the first extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties

7. The main objective was to consider decisions on the revitalization of the Convention and to agree upon practical steps and measures that would transform the Convention into a tool for the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources for social and economic growth in the Convention area. The main working document was that containing the draft decisions agreed upon by the Bureau to the Convention.

II. Items of the provisional agenda of the extraordinary experts meeting

Agenda item 1: Opening ceremony

8. The Chair of the Bureau, Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, chaired the extraordinary meeting. The representative of Ghana, Mr. Daniel Amlalo, served as Rapporteur.

9. The Bureau comprised the following members:

Chair:	South Africa
First Vice-Chair:	Gambia
Second Vice-Chair:	Senegal
Rapporteur:	Ghana

10. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director of the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment to make a statement.

11. In his statement, the Executive Director drew the attention to the degradation of the marine resources that had prompted African ministers to meet and establish the Convention so as to have a tailor-made programme to tackle the problem. The Convention was therefore an important legal instrument that could be internalized as a national legal framework for the protection of coastal and marine resources. He emphasized the linkages between international environmental governance and emerging concerns such as food security, climate change and poverty reduction. A major factor in climate-change issues was the implications for marine biodiversity, marine ecology and sea-level rise, which called for international cooperation and heightened levels of internal governance. He called for the judicious use of financial and human resources to meet the obligations of Contracting Parties and reiterated UNEP commitment to supporting the transfer of the Convention Secretariat to Abidjan. The full text of the Executive Director's statement is provided in annex II to the present report.

12. In her opening statement, the Chair welcomed representatives to South Africa and reiterated that food security, rising food and fuel prices, climate change and declining natural resources posed major challenges for Africa. Measures to tackle those challenges therefore called for strengthened regional cooperation and coordination. She drew attention to decision 22/2, taken at the twenty-second session of the UNEP Governing Council, in February 2003, which called upon member States to develop and enhance ownership of their respective regional seas programmes by showing stronger political and

financial commitment to their implementation. She therefore called upon the Contracting Parties to demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the Convention programme and pay their contributions to the Convention's Trust Fund promptly. The full text of the statement is provided in annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda

13. Representatives adopted the provisional agenda and work programme, as set out in document UNEP(DEPI)/WAF/SS.1/WD2 and reproduced in annex IV to the present report.

Agenda item 3: Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the revitalization process

14. Mr. Thiaw highlighted the actions that UNEP had taken to implement the request by the Contracting Parties relating to the revitalization process, which included the conclusion of a collaborative agreement with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the hiring of experts to carry out a study and the organization of a stakeholders meeting to examine the experts' findings. In addition, he highlighted the salient observations and recommendations by stakeholders on the revitalization of the Convention, emphasizing that the outcome of the Bureau meeting was the draft decision that would be presented at the current meeting. Lastly, he underscored the main areas of focus for revitalizing the Convention upon which the draft decisions were based.

15. Representatives took note of the report.

Agenda item 4: Presentation and adoption of the draft decisions on the revitalization process

16. Mr. Momodou Cham (Gambia) presented the draft decisions on the revitalization of the Convention.

17. The preamble and decisions MOP.1/1/2008, MoP.1/2/2008 and MOP.1/3/2008 were adopted without amendment.

18. With regard to decision MOP.1/4/2008, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire reaffirmed his country's commitment to hosting the Convention's Secretariat and to following the necessary procedures to ensure that the facilities required were made available to the Secretariat in Abidjan. He also read the letter of offer to host the Secretariat in Abidjan to the participants. The letter of offer has been reproduced in annex V to the present report. The representative of Togo expressed his satisfaction with the offer made by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire. The decision was adopted without amendment.

19. In response to a request for clarification from the representative of Benin on the implementation of decision MOP.1/5/2008.2, considering that some countries, including Benin, were no longer in arrears, the representative of UNEP said that countries that had made payments, including Benin, Ghana and South Africa, should submit transfer records indicating that funds had been transferred from their bank accounts to the Secretariat's bank account. The decision was adopted without amendment.

20. The representatives of Togo and Nigeria questioned the need to include decision 1/6/2008(b), noting that sovereign States were at liberty to nominate the focal points that they deemed qualified to represent their countries. The representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia and Senegal explained that the spirit behind the decision was to ensure that focal points were in a position to make firm commitments that would enhance the implementation of the Convention and also accelerate the revitalization process. The decision was adopted with amendment.

21. Decision MoP.1/7/2008 was adopted without amendment.

22. The texts of the decisions adopted can be found in annex VI to the present report.

Agenda item 5: Other matters

23. Several representatives expressed their appreciation to the Government of South Africa for the warm welcome and excellent facilities provided. They further affirmed their commitment to supporting the Convention and the revitalization process.

24. The representatives of Angola, Ghana, Senegal and Togo welcomed the offer by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to host the Convention's Secretariat.

25. The representative of Angola said that the country's accession process was at an advanced stage and that it would accede to the Convention by the end of 2008, also stating that Angola would contribute to the Trust Fund.

26. The representative of Ghana noted with satisfaction the process made in revitalizing the Convention and expressed the hope that momentum would be maintained. He congratulated the Executive Director and his staff for the excellent work in supporting the revitalization process and called upon countries to accelerate their accession processes. He welcomed the amendment to the title of the Convention to include South Africa.

27. The representative of the African Union said that the Convention was an important platform through which the marine and coastal resources could be conserved. The African Union already had a programme with the World Bank on large marine ecosystems that directly related to the Convention's work programme.

Agenda item 6: Closure of the meeting

28. In his closing remarks, the Executive Director reiterated the importance of the Convention, emphasizing that it served as an instrument through which marine and coastal initiatives could be connected. He expressed his team's full commitment to making the revitalization process a reality.

29. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

Annex I

List of participants¹

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1 The list of participants has not been formally edited.

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Annex II

Statement by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Excellencies, Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to address this extraordinary meeting of the Contacting Parties to the Abidjan Convention.

Thank you too, to the Government of South Africa and its people for their hospitality and excellent arrangements as hosts.

Thanks also to the Chairperson of Bureau of the Abidjan Convention for her guidance and leadership. The Bureau has in the last seven months provided very good guidance to the Secretariat and I thank them for their support.

Ladies and gentlemen, we met here in Johannesburg seven months ago on 7 November 2007 for the Joint Conference of Contracting Parties of the Abidjan Convention (COP 8) and Nairobi Convention (COP5). During the COP 8, the Contracting Parties of the Abidjan Convention, decided to set up a working group composed of the members of the Bureau to oversee the process of preparing an action plan to transform the regional coordinating unit based in Côte d'Ivoire into a fully fledged and functional secretariat of the Convention.

In the last four months, the Secretariat has reviewed the original mandate and objectives of the Abidjan Convention with an aim of providing options for suitable institutional arrangements for regional and subregional coordination of the Convention, and prepared detailed timetable and action plan for transferring the functions of the Secretariat from Nairobi to the regional coordination unit based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The findings of the review were adopted by the Bureau of the Abidjan Convention in April 2008. These findings form the basis for our discussions today.

I must note that, in a very short period of time, the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention have demonstrated their commitment to the Convention. The Bureau has coordinated a review process and has finalized a revitalization strategy that will not only strengthen the regional coordinating unit in Côte d'Ivoire, but also enhance the financial sustainability of the convention through a decisive commitment by all the Contracting Parties to contribute to the Convention's Trust Fund. A strong convention will invariably develop partnerships with existing regional institutions and frameworks to implement national strategies as well as programmes and projects for the protection, management and development of marine and coastal environment in the Western African region.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for offering to host the regional coordinating unit of the Abidjan Convention. The actions taken by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to host and to provide the necessary infrastructure for an effective coordinating unit to manage and revitalize the Abidjan Convention underlines not only the commitment by Côte d'Ivoire but also the commitment by your Governments to the Convention and also commitment to mainstream environmental management into the national poverty eradication, wealth creation strategies and development plans in your countries.

There is a clear recognition that the environment and more so, the marine and coastal environment, that Abidjan Convention seeks to protect, is part of our life-support system.

The coastal ecosystems within the Abidjan Convention area include lagoons, deltas, wetlands, mangroves and seagrass meadows, that provides important natural resources that supports various socio-economic systems in the region. The resources exploited within the coastal-marine environment such as fisheries, oil and gas, minerals including sand, limestone and diamonds, all contribute significantly to the GDP of all the countries in the Abidjan Convention area. Coastal tourism is an important foreign exchange earner for many countries. For example, in South Africa, tourism generates more than \$1.2 billion annually.

Activities such as fishing, aquaculture, oil drilling, mineral extraction, port dredging and waste disposal are increasing in magnitude in many countries in the region and the impacts to the coastal and marine environment are spreading beyond national boundaries. As a consequence of these activities, coupled with the impacts of climate change, the security of coastal communities is already threatened due to the increasing intensity of resources use (with increasing coastal population growth and demand for more settlement space) and sea-level rise.

We already have witnessed increased intensity and frequency of tropical storms, floods on one hand and increasing scarcity of freshwater on the other due to increased severity of droughts in the region.

The 2007 fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly demonstrated that climate change is a reality. Through the consensus reached on climate change issues, the world must now unite around the mantra of environment for development to address the impact that unsustainable activities are having on the Earth's economically central life-support systems, including the marine environment.

The likely impacts, from the melting away of glaciers and the threats to perhaps up to a third of Africa's coastal infrastructure, have been brought into sharp focus by the fourth IPCC report, of 2007. In Africa, the increased stress from the impacts of climate change will compound the already existing problems associated with rapid urbanization, and natural resource exploitation pressure.

By 2020, a decrease in agricultural areas, and a reduced growing season will impact crop yield by up to 50 per cent. By 2080, the proportion of arid and semi arid land will increase by 5 to 8 per cent resulting in decreased crop revenues by up to 90 per cent in 2100.

By 2020, between 75 to 250 million people will face increased water stress, and by 2100, the sea-level rise is projected to affect low lying coastal areas, further degrading key coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs. The cost of adaptation to sea level rise is projected at 5 to 10 per cent of GDP.

These impacts of climate change are likely, not in some far distant future but in the life time of many in this room, the disappearing ice caps on Mount Kilimanjaro and further shrinking of Lake Chad with the attendant loss of biodiversity is a clear indication of what the future could portend for Africa.

The IPCC report has also provided us with another reality – namely that the costs of combating climate change will be lower if we act now than if we wait – and that those “early action” costs are perhaps as little as 0.1 per cent of global GDP over 30 years. The ecological and physical mitigation strategies that will be undertaken to contain the costs of coastal disasters e.g., siting of new infrastructure or enhanced construction standards are also the same practices required to ensure coastal community's resilience in the face of climate change.

The Abidjan Convention is a platform for international cooperation, through which the contracting parties can mainstream adaptation actions across all sectors, including implementation of the Bali Strategic Action Plan which includes capacity-building and technology transfer.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This extraordinary meeting of the Parties is so crucial – we need to reaffirm the importance of the Abidjan Convention as an important instrument for sustainable development in Africa and to give the Convention all the necessary scientific, political and financial backing so that the Abidjan Convention can realize its extraordinary potential.

Some of that potential has been realized already;

In 1998 in Cape Town Governments endorsed the Cape Town Declaration which led to the African Process to strengthen the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions.

In the last eight years, 2000–2008, UNEP, in partnership with UNDP and UNIDO, and often with Global Environment Facility-funding, assisted in establishing the following:

(a) The ongoing Guinea Current, Canary Current and Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem projects in the Abidjan Convention area with a total budget of over \$80 million in both in-kind and cash contribution;

(b) A partnership with the Regional Programme for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zones of West Africa (PRCM). The PRCM is a partnership between IUCN, WWF and Wetlands International. Increasingly, these partnerships are being linked to the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) projects and the newly established interim Benguela and Guinea Current commissions;

(c) A new protocol on land-based activities and sources of pollution with support from GEF and the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA), that the Abidjan Convention has developed. This protocol has been developed in partnership with UNIDO and UNDP through GCLME project;

(d) UNEP has also moved forward to strengthen the regional coordination mechanisms of the Abidjan Convention. UNEP has appointed a full-time senior staff member to support the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. The Secretariat has also taken steps to strengthen the role of national focal points in the implementation of the work programmes of both the conventions for 2008–2012;

(e) UNEP has supported 18 countries to help the national focal points to initiate compilation of national status reports on the coastal and marine environment. These reports will lay the basis for an effective and continuous reporting mechanism for the Conventions to support the prioritization process and implementation of the Conventions, and will assist Contracting Parties to meet their reporting obligations.

We are also happy to note that Liberia and Sierra Leone ratified the Abidjan Convention in 2005, bringing the total to 14. One way of strengthening the agreement will be ratification by the eight countries that are yet to ratify the Convention.

Ladies and gentlemen, what is the future?

If we are to truly rise to the challenge of sustainably managing the planet's natural capital, we need to strive even harder to put the environment in the centre of government policy – policy that cuts across all ministries.

In respect to the Abidjan Convention, through the Regional Seas Programs, UNEP is keen to promote the use of tools that have been developed by the global oceans community to manage and adapt to changing marine and coastal environmental conditions. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) management approach are arguably the best management tools that ocean and coasts managers have for the adaptation to climate change and ensuring environmental security.

A strong and vibrant Abidjan Convention will promote the use of these approaches to, first, ensure that they are embraced at all levels of policy formulation in governments, and secondly, encourage managers to focus on structures, processes, resilience, functions and interactions among ecosystems; respond to the complex shifting interactions and alter management schemes in light of the new information and enhanced understanding of ecosystem processes.

The issue of financial sustainability is central to the revitalization process. Your Governments must take a decisive commitment to contribute to the Convention's Trust Fund.

Your commitment and participation will provide both additional funding for catalytic activities and a practical demonstration of commitment to the work of the Abidjan Convention. In turn, this will encourage our partners to increase their collaboration with the Contracting Parties.

An important step forward will also be to increase cooperation between UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and also other important players including local authorities; the financial markets, civil society and citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The oceans provide a number of valuable services to humankind, including physical coastal protection, recreational and economic opportunities in the form of renewable living marine resources as a source of nutrition and as national revenue from exports. The oceans are also potential sources for biomedical resources. The abundant nature-based and natural resources from our oceans will increasingly be the engine that will lift Africa into a more equitable and prosperous future.

From bioprospecting, to the world's biggest industry – tourism – Africa's land and coastal areas represent a blueprint for dynamic economic growth that is beginning to attract international and cross-border investment and entrepreneurs on a scale perhaps never witnessed before.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Vibrant, cooperative and strengthened regional agreements like the Abidjan Conventions represent part of that insurance policy – part of that essential policy response – upon which this development can be managed in a sustainable way for current and future generations.

Annex III

Opening statement by Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa

Programme Director, Excellencies, UNEP Executive Director, distinguished delegates

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the special extraordinary meeting here in Sandton, Johannesburg. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at WSSD (2002) urges countries to coordinate and cooperate at a regional level in ensuring sustainable development and protection of the marine environment.

In November 2007, we gathered again in Johannesburg during the eighth meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Abidjan Convention, and committed ourselves to revitalize the Abidjan Convention for effective implementation of its work programme.

Our presence at this special extraordinary meeting today coinciding with the AMCEN should be viewed as commitment by the Contracting Parties in working towards realization of the African Development agenda.

Programme Director, South Africa like any other sister states in Africa cannot continue to face the kinds of riots we have seen recently and in West Africa as a result of increased demand and the escalating prices of the commodities and lack of enough resources for our communities, especially in food prices.

Some of the challenges faced by Africa include climate change, conflicts and food security. The Work Programme of the Abidjan Convention should demonstrate to be improving coastal livelihoods and contributing towards poverty alleviation, creating jobs while empowering the coastal communities, especially women and ensuring marine and coastal environmental sustainability.

Programme Director, our institutions, particularly in Africa, has been seen to be collapsing and failing to deliver on their mandates, the reasons for all these may range from lack of capacity, lack of financial resources, lack of adequate technology, but the most important of all these, is lack of leadership and effective management of such institutions.

It is important that we have to start making an impact to the visionary leadership required to improve the performance of such institutions and, projects and programmes. South Africa would like to encourage all the Western African States to acknowledge and commit in supporting the efforts by the Abidjan Secretariat in strengthening the Convention to be able to realize its mandate and objectives.

In order to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are met, the coastal government States of the Western African region should earnestly commit to the vision of the Abidjan Convention work programme.

The Abidjan Convention is situated in one of the most important hubs of socio-economic activities, and rich of fisheries, oil, gas and other mineral resources. The coastal cities are experiencing fastest growth and demand in human settlement, transport, industrial and commercial activities. All these activities are creating stress to our marine environment as a result of pollution from the industrial effluent and agricultural activities including oil spillages.

Programme Director, in all our endeavours, we should be reminded of the support given by the large marine ecosystems projects for the sustainable management and improvements of the marine and coastal environment in sub-Saharan Africa. It is our duty as Governments to also support those projects under these organs such as the Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem, Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

I urge all of us to rally behind the Secretariat in playing a significant role in the implementation of the recommendations of the experts meeting which were further discussed by the Bureau meeting held in Dakar on 10 May 2008.

The effectiveness of the Secretariat will never be realized unless we strengthen collaboration with other relevant stakeholders such as Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other matter, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfall Habitat and the GPA coordination office.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the eighth meeting of the Contracting Parties, we took a decision in reiterating the importance of the Abidjan Convention and its action plan as instruments for sustainable development and platform for the implementation of the marine and coastal programmes of NEPAD, AMCEN and other interregional processes.

I am reminded that as the Chairperson of the Convention's Work Programme 2008–2011, one of my tasks will be to encourage and remind my colleagues as heads of the environmental and fisheries ministries, to expedite their actions towards the ratification of the Abidjan Convention and its protocols, especially to those that have not done so.

On that note Programme Director, as I have already alluded to the fact that some of the challenges faced by the Convention include lack of funds, I would like to indicate that we ourselves, as the Contracting Parties are not fulfilling our financial obligations to the Convention's Trust Fund, and these may reflect lack of commitment towards implementation of the convention work programmes. I would like to encourage ourselves in making meaningful financial contributions towards the Convention so that we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals as set out during the WSSD. I thank you.

Annex IV

Provisional agenda of the extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention

	Agenda item 1: Opening ceremony
8.30–8.55 a.m.	(i) Opening statement by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
8.55–9.20 a.m.	(ii) Opening statement by Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa and Chair of the Bureau to the Abidjan Convention
9.20–9.30 a.m.	Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda
9.30–9.45 a.m.	Agenda item 3: Report of the Executive Director on the revitalization process
9.45–10 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10 a.m.– 12.15 p.m.	Agenda item 4: Presentation and adoption of the draft decisions on the revitalization process
12.15–12.20 p.m.	Agenda item 5: Any other business
12.20–12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 6: Closure of the meeting

Annex V

Letter of offer to host the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire

MINISTÈRE
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES



RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Union - Discipline - Travail

LE MINISTRE

N° 176 /MAE/CAB-1/NG

Abidjan, le 15 MAI 2008

Objet : Transfert du Secrétariat de la Convention
d'Abidjan de Nairobi (Kenya) à Abidjan

Monsieur le Directeur Exécutif,

Par la présente, nous, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, venons exprimer auprès de l'Institution que vous dirigez, le désir d'abriter le Secrétariat de la Convention d'Abidjan.

Déjà, cette volonté avait été exprimée par la signature de l'Accord de siège de l'Unité de Coordination Régionale entre le PNUE et le Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire le 7 Février 1996.

L'Etat de Côte d'Ivoire s'engage à prendre toutes les dispositions utiles pour rendre opérationnel le Secrétariat de ladite Convention.

Outre, les avantages liés à l'Accord de siège, la Côte d'Ivoire offre : un bâtiment à 15 bureaux avec une salle de Conférence, une salle d'attente et une salle pour la bibliothèque ; les mobiliers tels que les bureaux, les fauteuils et chaises, les classeurs ; les services notamment l'électricité, l'eau et les services municipaux ; les matériels électroniques tels que les ordinateurs, les imprimantes, les photocopieurs ; le fonctionnement du bureau notamment le téléphone, les consommables ainsi que le personnel d'appui.

Par ailleurs, la Côte d'Ivoire se rend disponible à toutes discussions relatives au transfert effectif du Secrétariat de la Convention d'Abidjan.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Directeur Exécutif, les assurances de ma considération distinguée.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR EXECUTIF
DU PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT (PNUE)

KENYA

NAIROBI



Youssouf BAKAYOKO

Annex VI

Decisions on the revitalization of the Abidjan Convention

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment in the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention),

Recalling their decision CP.8/8 on revitalizing the Abidjan Convention,

Recalling also the joint declaration on the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment adopted on 8 November 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa,

Recalling further decision CP.7/2 on strengthening the regional coordination unit and the implementation committee as instruments for the coordination and implementation of the programme of work and the general mandate of the Abidjan Convention,

Acknowledging and welcoming the recommendations made by stakeholders on the revitalization of the Abidjan Convention at their meeting in Dakar in April 2008,

Aware that the current institutional arrangements for the coordination of the Abidjan Convention have achieved limited success, particularly in coordinating and implementing the work programme with the major regional initiatives such as the large marine ecosystems and other regional programmes,

Aware also that the large area of the Abidjan Convention requires sharing of up-to-date data and information between the Contracting Parties so as to promote a better understanding of the range of issues relating to protection and development of the coastal and marine environment including climate change, ecosystem goods and services,

Acknowledging that the expansion of the geographical coverage of the Convention area to include South Africa therefore requires the renaming of the Convention and necessitates the expansion of its scope and objectives so as to accommodate current and emerging coastal and marine environmental issues,

Noting with appreciation that a number of countries that are yet to accede to or ratify the Convention are in various stages of their national processes for accession or ratification,

Noting also with appreciation the offer by the Secretariat of the Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme for West Africa to undertake joint advocacy missions with the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention with a view to encouraging ratification or accession and contributions to the Trust Fund of the Abidjan Convention and to promote the implementation of the work programme,

Appreciating the kind offer by Côte d'Ivoire to host and support the regional coordination unit for the Abidjan Convention, while noting that other Contracting Parties are also willing to host and support it,

Appreciating also the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme as the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and its continued support in the revitalization process.

Hereby decide:

MoP. 1/1/2008 Enhancing institutional arrangements and collaboration for the Abidjan Convention

1. *To agree* to accord the commissions of the large marine ecosystems special status as advisors to the Secretariat of the Convention in its work;

2. *To request* the Secretariat to consult the commissions of the large marine ecosystems and other appropriate national and regional institutions that have coastal and marine environment programmes and projects in the convention area with a view to entering into cooperative frameworks to strengthen working relationships, joint programming, resource mobilization and coordination;

3. *To urge* the commissions of the large marine ecosystems and other appropriate national and regional institutions in the Convention area to use the Convention and its protocols as the regional platform and legal framework for their work on the coastal and marine environment;

MoP. 1/2/2008 Strategies for ratification of and accession to the Convention

1. *To request* the Secretariat to field joint advocacy missions together with partners such as the Secretariat of the Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme in West Africa and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to countries that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention with a view to encouraging ratification or accession and promoting the implementation of the work programme;

2. *To urge* countries that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so and to request the national focal points of those countries to provide information to the Secretariat on the status of the accession or ratification process;

3. *To request* the Secretariat:

(a) To provide updated information to the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders on the status of ratification or accession, including information on those countries in the process of ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

(b) To transmit letters of encouragement and support to countries that have not begun or are in various stages of ratification of, accession to or implementation of the Convention by 31 December 2008;

MoP. 1/3/2008 Review of the title, mandate and objectives of the Convention

1. *To agree* to amend the text of the Convention to take into account the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international conventions;

2. *To request* the Secretariat to submit the revised text of the Convention to the Contracting Parties at their next meeting;

3. *To agree* to amend the paragraph on “geographical coverage” of article 1 of the Convention as follows: “This Convention shall cover the marine environment, coastal zones and related inland waters falling within the jurisdictions of the States of the West, Central and Southern African region, from Mauritania to South Africa, which have become contracting parties to this convention under conditions set forth in Article 27 and paragraph 1 of Article 28 (hereinafter referred to as the convention area).”;

4. *To agree also* to amend the title of the convention to the following: “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 Africa Region and Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency”;

MoP. 1/4/2008 Transfer the Functions of the Regional Coordination Unit from Nairobi to Abidjan

1. *To agree* to mobilize resources to transfer the functions of the regional coordination unit from Nairobi to Abidjan;

2. *To request* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To transfer the functions of the Secretariat to the regional coordination unit in Abidjan as provided in the Convention and the various decisions of the Conference of the Parties for effective implementation of the Convention activities;

(b) To continue to administer the Trust Fund and provide policy and administrative support including in the implementation of the action plan;

(c) To negotiate and conclude a host country agreement with the Government of Côte d’Ivoire and to begin the process of transferring the functions of the Secretariat from Nairobi to Abidjan;

(d) To recruit, on a full-time basis, a coordinator and other personnel to lead the regional coordination unit and provide guidance to the revitalization process subject to availability of funds;

MoP. 1/5/2008 Strategies for improving contributions to the Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region and funding of the Convention

1. *To agree* to make prompt payments to the Trust Fund upon receiving invoices from the Secretariat;

2. *To agree also* to pay at least 10 per cent of the total accumulated arrears and to waive the remaining arrears as at November 2007 in addition to the countries making prompt payments of their contribution for 2008 provided that countries that have paid their assessed contribution or part thereof shall pay less the amount already paid as contained in annex 1 to the decisions;

3. *To agree further* to continue using the assessed proportional scale of contributions from States identified in Article 1 of the Convention in calculating contributions to the Trust Fund as contained in Annex 2 to the decisions;

4. *To agree* that full revitalization of the Convention shall depend on availability of funds and contribution by the Contracting Parties;

5. *To request* the Secretariat to assist in project development and resource mobilization and to encourage in kind contributions for national level projects to broaden the financial resource base of the Convention.

MoP. 1/6 /2008 Strengthening the roles of national focal points

To request the Contracting Parties, where practicable;

(a) To form multisectoral national committees involving other relevant stakeholders to coordinate the activities of the Convention and large marine ecosystems and to provide support to the national focal points for the implementation of the Convention at the local and national levels;

(b) To appoint sufficiently senior level officials as national focal points by 31 December 2008 to serve for both the commissions of the large marine ecosystems and the Convention to avoid duplication, to reduce costs and to harmonize programmes, as appropriate;

MoP. 1/7/2008 Action plan for the revitalization of the Abidjan Convention

1. *To endorse* the recommendations contained in the report of the stakeholders workshop on the revitalization of the Abidjan Convention held in Dakar in April 2008;²

2. *To request* the Bureau to field a high-level delegation to the Contracting Parties and to those that have not acceded to or ratified the Convention by 31 December 2008, with a view to encouraging them to honour their financial obligations and ratify or accede to the Convention respectively;

3. *To request* the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to develop partnerships with key stakeholders in the marine and coastal sectors, such as fisheries, ports and industries, with a view to mobilizing technical and financial resources for enhancing the implementation of the Convention.

4. *To request* the Contracting Parties to develop national policies and legislation to enhance the implementation of the Convention, including the polluter pays principle.

5. *To request* the Secretariat to establish a database and web-based information sharing system that will provide information to the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders on the value and benefits of the Convention by December 2009.

Pledges for the Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region as at 30 May 2008

10% of unpaid pledges								
<i>Country</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>10 % of unpaid pledges</i>
Benin	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	91 319	9 132
Cameroon	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	111 600	11 160
Côte d'Ivoire	30 800	30 800	30 800	30 800	30 800	30 800	184 800	18 480
Congo	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	111 600	11 160
Gabon	24 700	24 700	24 700	24 700	24 700	24 700	148 200	14 820
Gambia	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	92 876	9 288
Ghana	30 800	30 800	30 800	30 800	30 800	30 800	184 800	18 480
Guinea	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	111 600	11 160
Liberia				18 600	18 600	18 600	55 800	5 580
Nigeria	110 050	110 050	110 050	110 050	110 050	110 050	660 300	66 030
Senegal	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	96 600	9 660
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	18 600	18 600	18 600	55 800	5 580
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	18 600	111 600	11 160
Grand Total	326 550	326 550	326 550	363 750	363 750	363 750	2 016 895	201 690

**Status of pledges and payments for the Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region
(in United States dollars) as at 30 May 2008**

	Year	Pledge		Payment	Total outstanding	10% of total outstanding
Benin	2002	18 600		–		
Benin	2003	18 600				
Benin	2004	18 600		–		
Benin	2005	18 600		–		
Benin	2006	18 600		–		
Benin	2007	18 600		20 281		
					91 319	9 132
	2008	18 600				
Cameroon	2002	18 600		–		
Cameroon	2003	18 600		–		
Cameroon	2004	18 600		–		
Cameroon	2005	18 600		–		
Cameroon	2006	18 600		–		
Cameroon	2007	18 600		–		
					111 600	11 160
	2008	18 600				
Congo	2002	18 600		–		
Congo	2003	18 600		–		
Congo	2004	18 600		–		
Congo	2005	18 600		–		
Congo	2006	18 600		–		
Congo	2007	18 600		–		
					111 600	11 160
	2008	18 600				
Côte d'Ivoire	2002	30 800				
Côte d'Ivoire	2003	30 800				
Côte d'Ivoire	2004	30 800				
Côte d'Ivoire	2005	30 800				
Côte d'Ivoire	2006	30 800		–		
Côte d'Ivoire	2007	30 800		–		
					184 800	18 480
	2008	30 800				
Gabon	2002	24 700				
Gabon	2003	24 700				
Gabon	2004	24 700				
Gabon	2005	24 700				
Gabon	2006	24 700				
Gabon	2007	24 700		–		–
					148 200	14 820
	2008	24 700				

	Year	Pledge		Payment	Total outstanding	10% of total outstanding
Gambia	2002	18 600		–		
Gambia	2003	18 600		–		
Gambia	2004	18 600		–		
Gambia	2005	18 600		–		
Gambia	2006	18 600		–		
Gambia	2007	18 600		18 724		
					92 876	9 288
	2008	18 600				
Ghana	2002	30 800		–		
Ghana	2003	30 800		–		
Ghana	2004	30 800		–		
Ghana	2005	30 800		–		
Ghana	2006	30 800		–		
Ghana	2007	30 800		–		
					184 800	18 480
	2008	30 800				
Guinea	2002	18 600		–		
Guinea	2003	18 600		–		
Guinea	2004	18 600		–		
Guinea	2005	18 600		–		
Guinea	2006	18 600		–		
Guinea	2007	18 600		–		
					111 600	11 160
	2008	18 600				
Liberia	2005	18 600		–		
Liberia	2006	18 600		–		
Liberia	2007	18 600		–		
					55 800	5 580
	2008	18 600				
Nigeria	2002	110 050				
Nigeria	2003	110 050				
Nigeria	2004	110 050				
Nigeria	2005	110 050				
Nigeria	2006	110 050		–		
Nigeria	2007	110 050		–		
					660 300	66 030
	2008	110 050				
Senegal	2002	18 600		–		
Senegal	2003	18 600		15 000		
Senegal	2004	18 600		–		

	Year	Pledge		Payment	Total outstanding	10% of total outstanding
Senegal	2005	18 600		–		
Senegal	2006	18 600		–		
Senegal	2007	18 600		–		
					96 600	9 660
	2008	18 600				
Sierra Leone	2005	18 600		–		
Sierra Leone	2006	18 600		–		
Sierra Leone	2007	18 600		–		
					55 800	5 580
	2008	18 600				
South Africa	2005	37 500		37 500		
South Africa	2006	37 500		–		
South Africa	2007	37 500		75 000		
	2008	37 500				
Togo	2002	18 600		–		
Togo	2003	18 600		–		
Togo	2004	18 600		–		
Togo	2005	18 600		–		
Togo	2006	18 600		–		
Togo	2007	18 600		–		
					111 600	11 160
	2008	18 600				

Summary of financial apportionments between countries for the Trust Fund of the Abidjan Convention

Grouping of countries

Total number of countries: 22. Annual budget \$500,000 as per CP5/3 of 2002.

Group A: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.001-0.002%)

	Country	Previous scale (1982) %	Recommended scales (to maintain the assessment scale agreed upon in 1982 (%) with adjustment to take into account South African contribution)	Relevant annual contribution at $3.3\% * 500000 = 16,500$	Annual contribution (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)	Biennial contributions	Biennial contributions (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)
1	Congo	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
2	Gambia	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
3	Liberia	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
4	Sierra Leone	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
5	Togo	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
6	Benin	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
7	Guinea	3.72	3.3	16 500	28 286	33 000	56 571
	Subtotal		39.60	198 000	198 000	396 000	396 000

Group B: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.003-0.004%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Previous scale (1982) %</i>	<i>Recommendation: Maintain the previous scale of 1982 (%)</i>	<i>Relevant contribution at 4.5%*500000 =22,500</i>	<i>Annual Contribution (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)</i>	<i>Biennial contributions</i>	<i>Biennial contributions (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)</i>
1	Ghana	6.16	4.5	22 500	45 000	45 000	90 000
2	Senegal	3.72	4.5	22 500	45 000	45 000	90 000
					–		–
	Subtotal		18	90 000	90 000	180 000	180 000
	Subtotal for group A and B		57.6	288 000	288 000	576 000	576 000

Group C: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.006-0.009%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Previous scale (1982) %</i>	<i>Recommendation: Maintain the previous scale of 1982 (%)</i>	<i>Relevant contribution at 6.0%*500000=30,000</i>	<i>Annual Contribution (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)</i>	<i>Biennial Contribution</i>	<i>Biennial contributions (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)</i>
1	Cameroon	6.16	6	30 000	40 000	60 000	80 000
2	Gabon	4.94	6	30 000	40 000	60 000	80 000
3	Côte d'Ivoire	6.16	6	30 000	40 000	60 000	80 000
	Subtotal		24	120 000	120 000	240 000	240 000
	Subtotal for group A, B and C		81.6	408 000	408 000	816 000	816 000

Group D: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.045-0.290%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Previous scale (1982) %</i>	<i>Recommendation: Maintain the previous scale of 1982 (%)</i>	<i>Relevant contribution</i>	<i>Annual contribution (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)</i>	<i>Biennial contributions</i>	<i>Biennial contributions (Adjusted scale to take into account the countries that have not ratified or signed the Convention)</i>
1	Nigeria	22	9.2	46 000	46 000	92 000	92 000
**2	South Africa	-	9.2	46 000	46 000	92 000	92 000
	Subtotal		18.4	92 000	92 000	184 000	184 000
	Grand total		100.0	500 000	500 000	1 000 000	1 000 000

Summary of financial apportionments between countries for the Trust Fund of the Abidjan Convention

Grouping of countries.

Total number of countries: 22. Annual budget \$500,000 as per CP5/3 of 2002

Group A: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.001-0.002%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recommended scales (to maintain the assessment scale agreed upon in 1982 (%) with adjustment to take into account South African contribution)</i>	<i>Relevant annual contribution at 3.3%*500000=16,500</i>
1	Congo	3.3	16 500
2	Gambia	3.3	16 500
3	Liberia	3.3	16 500
4	Sierra Leone	3.3	16 500
5	Togo	3.3	16 500
6	Benin	3.3	16 500
7	Guinea	3.3	16 500
	Subtotal	39.60	198 000

Group B: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.003-0.004%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recommendation: maintain the previous scale of 1982 (%)</i>	<i>Relevant contribution at 4.5%*500000=22,500</i>
1	Ghana	4.5	22 500
2	Senegal	4.5	22 500
	Subtotal	18	90 000
	Subtotal for group A and B	57.6	288 000

Group C: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.006-0.009%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recommendation: maintain the previous scale of 1982 (%)</i>	<i>Relevant contribution at 6.0%*500000=30,000</i>
1	Cameroon	6	30 000
2	Gabon	6	30 000
3	Côte d'Ivoire	6	30 000
	Subtotal	24	120 000
	Subtotal for group A, B and C	81.6	408 000

Group D: (Countries with United Nations scale between 0.045-0.290%)

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recommendation: maintain the previous scale of 1982 (%)</i>	
1	Nigeria	9.2	46 000
**2	South Africa	9.2	46 000
	Subtotal	18.4	92 000
	Grand total	100.0	500 000