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**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**  
Tenth session  
Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 29 and 30 June 2004

**Report of the ministerial segment held on 29 and 30 June 2004**

**Introduction**

1. The ministerial segment of the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004.
2. It was attended by ministers from AMCEN member States and representatives of African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is contained in annex III.

**I. Opening of the tenth session**

3. The ministerial segment was officially opened by Mr. Omar Mohamed Ihmaida Sudani, Minister of Environment of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, at 10.45 a.m. on Tuesday, 29 June 2004.
4. In his address, the Minister conveyed greetings and good wishes from the Government and people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and expressed his hope that, in their arrangements to host the meeting, the Libyan organizers would be able to live up to the expectations of all participants. He wished ministers every success in their deliberations.
5. Mr. Kahinda Otafiire, the President of AMCEN, expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for hosting the tenth session and also to the Executive Director of UNEP. Outlining achievements since the ninth session, he noted that, notwithstanding a great number of challenges, significant gains had been made, including the development of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), under the auspices of AMCEN, and its adoption by the African Union at its summit held in Maputo in July 2003. He also noted with satisfaction the successful outcome of the Partners Conference on the environment initiative of NEPAD held in Algiers in December 2003.
6. At the opening ceremony, statements were also made by Mr. Arcado Ntagazwa, Minister of Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP.

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7. Speaking on behalf of the UNEP Governing Council and on his own behalf, Mr. Ntagazwa thanked the meeting's Libyan hosts for their hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided for the tenth session of AMCEN. Noting the key role played by AMCEN in implementing the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), he acknowledged the contribution to that endeavour made by Africa's development partners, some of whom were also attending the session. He also paid tribute to the commitment manifested by UNEP to development of the NEPAD environmental action plan and concluded by hoping that the session would be able to endorse the Conference's programme of work for 2005–2006.

8. Mr. Töpfer noted that UNEP considered itself privileged to be able to serve as secretariat for AMCEN and was proud to be associated with its efforts. In that context, he noted the significance of the venue of the current session – Sirte – which had also been the birthplace of the African Union. Highlighting major issues on the agenda of the current session, he drew attention to the emphasis placed on multilateral environment agreements, in particular the Convention on Wetlands of International Significance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, and the clean fuel initiative. He reviewed the Conference's recent activities and noted, among other things, the publication of the African Environment Outlook report and the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD – the first such continent-wide initiative in the world, which he encouraged other regions to emulate. He was also pleased to announce the launch of a project on cooperation in capacity-building between UNEP and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Finally he stressed the need for the Conference to draw synergies from its association with UNEP, focusing on areas where UNEP had a comparative advantage and looked forward to certain cooperation with the Conference, through its incoming President.

9. Following those opening statements, Ms. Angele Gnonsoa, Minister of Environment of Côte d'Ivoire and outgoing Vice-President of AMCEN, expressed thanks on behalf of the Bureau and the Conference to the outgoing President of AMCEN and welcomed the incoming President, pledging support to him in the performance of his duties, and also conveyed gratitude to the Libyan Government and people for organizing and hosting the meeting and to UNEP and the AMCEN secretariat for their unfailing support.

## II. Organizational matters

### A. Election of officers

10. The following countries were elected to serve on the bureau of AMCEN for the period 2004–2006:

Subregion	Country	Position
North Africa	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	President
Central Africa	Central African Republic	Vice-President
West Africa	Mali	Vice-President
Southern Africa	Namibia	Vice-President
East Africa	Sudan	Rapporteur

11. On assuming the presidency, Mr. Sudani welcomed participants on behalf of the Government and people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and pledged his country's full support for the Conference. Noting that Africa should take responsibility for its own destiny, he assured participants of the deep commitment of the Libyan President, Mr. Muammar Qaddafi, to environmental causes, particularly in combating environmental degradation in Africa, manifested by his personal initiative in setting up the Environment General Authority. In conclusion, he expressed appreciation to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for its support and for that provided by a number of member States of AMCEN.

### B. Adoption of the agenda

12. The ministers adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/AMCEN/10/1):

1. Opening of the tenth session.

2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (c) Organization of work.
3. Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting.
4. Status of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
6. Amendments to the constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
7. Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
8. International meeting for small island developing States.
9. Venue for the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
10. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment.
11. Other business.
12. Closure of the session.

### **III. Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting**

13. The ministers took up the item at their 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. The Chair of the expert group meeting held from 26 to 29 June 2004 presented the report of the group, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/10/2, drawing attention to salient points in the group's deliberations and introducing the draft declaration and decisions prepared by the experts and submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the ministers.

14. In the ensuing discussion a number of ministers commended the host Government on the excellent facilities provided and arrangements made for the expert group meeting. A number of them also praised the experts for their work over the previous three days and commended the secretariat on the quality of the report.

15. With reference to the text of the draft declaration, several ministers remarked on the need for it to refer to the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention), while another suggested that it should contain a reference to the World Solidarity Fund established by a decision of the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, in accordance with the recommendation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

16. With reference to the draft decision on Africa's submission to the High level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, one minister expressed his regret that the decision made scant mention of technology support and gave insufficient prominence to the role of AMCEN in capacity-building for Africa, and felt that it should also mention linkages with multilateral environmental agreements and partnerships.

17. With reference to the draft decision on the revised constitution, one representative regretted that it still had not proved possible to adopt the revised constitution, so as to bring the Conference into line with such important new developments at the continental level as NEPAD and the African Union.

18. A number of ministers proposed amendments to the text of the decisions and the declaration and, with those oral amendments, at the 3rd plenary meeting of the ministerial segment, on the morning of Wednesday, 30 June 2004, the ministers adopted the Sirte Declaration on the Environment and Development, as contained in annex I to the present report, and the decisions, as contained in annex II.

#### **IV. Status of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

19. The ministers took up the item at their 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. In considering the item, they had before them document UNEP/AMCEN/10/2 on the status of the NEPAD environment initiative.

20. In the ensuing discussion, ministers drew attention to, among other matters, the importance of training and capacity-building for implementation of the action plan. In particular, the minister from Morocco pledged that his country would support other countries and subregions by sharing its experience in environmental matters, such as water management and pollution and, to that end, was organizing a number of workshops to build capacity for implementation of the three Rio conventions.

21. Ministers called for effective measures to address the plethora of environmental problems afflicting the continent, including its coastal regions and small island developing States and cautioned that, in implementing the action plan, there was a need to remain focused and to work within available resources.

22. Several ministers made reference to the Algiers Convention, urging other members to take steps to sign and ratify that important instrument. In that context, the minister from Senegal informed ministers of a partners' conference to be held in Dakar in December 2004, to discuss, among other issues, funding for the action plan. The representative of NEPAD reported on progress in implementation of the environmental initiative of the action plan of NEPAD, highlighting major events in that endeavour over the previous two years and the challenges which it faced. She drew attention to the draft decision on the draft Africa strategy for disaster risk reduction, which was before the ministers for their consideration and possible adoption, and noted, among the challenges to implementation of the initiative, its over-reliance on donor support. In that context, she relayed President Obasanjo's call that less time and resources be spent on studies and more on implementation and that each country should identify at least one project, implement it and report on progress. The representative of GEF reaffirmed the Facility's commitment to implementation of the NEPAD environmental action plan and to capacity-building efforts to that end, reviewing a number of such capacity-building measures which were already under way.

#### **V. Role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

23. The ministers took up the item at their 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. In considering the item, they had before them document UNEP/AMCEN/10/3 on the role of AMCEN in the implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative.

24. A number of ministers spoke about links between AMCEN and other environmental initiatives: there was agreement that the relationship between NEPAD and AMCEN should be clarified. The minister from the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking in his capacity as President of the UNEP Governing Council, explained the difference between the two, the one being a conference and the other a programme, and assured the meeting that their respective mandates and functions were entirely distinct and that there should therefore be no confusion between them.

## **VI. Amendments to the constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

25. The ministers took up the item at their 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. In considering the item, they had before them document UNEP/AMCEN/10/4 on the draft revised constitution of AMCEN.

26. A minister from an Arabic-speaking country requested that a translation of the constitution into Arabic be provided.

## **VII. Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

27. The ministers took up the item at their 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. In considering the item, they had before them document UNEP/AMCEN/10/5 on the status of the AMCEN General Trust Fund.

28. The minister from Mali was pleased to announce that, as a concrete manifestation of its support for AMCEN, his country was making a substantial contribution to the general trust fund.

## **VIII. International meeting for small island developing States**

29. The ministers took up the item at their 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. In considering the item, they had before them the annotated provisional agenda for the segment (UNEP/AMCEN/10/1/Add.1).

30. Several ministers called for support to be given to Mauritius, which would be hosting the forthcoming conference on small island developing States to be held in January 2005, particularly in view of the hardship suffered by that country in consequence of recent torrential rains in that region.

## **IX. Venue for the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

31. The ministers took up the item at their 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 June 2004. In considering the item, they had before them document UNEP/AMCEN/10/2 on the status of the NEPAD environment initiative.

32. The minister from Cameroon informed the meeting that, following consultations among the central African States, he had been mandated to convey the offer of the Congo to host the eleventh session of the Conference, in 2006, in Brazzaville. The representative of Rwanda conveyed the willingness of his Government, likewise, to host the meeting in Kigali and sought the support of other members for that offer, which had been submitted in April 2004. Finally, the minister from the United Republic of Tanzania informed the meeting of his Government's desire to host the eleventh session of AMCEN in 2006.

## **X. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment**

33. At its 3rd plenary session, on the morning of Wednesday, 30 June 2004, the ministers adopted the report of the ministerial segment on the basis of the draft report which had been circulated in the meeting (UNEP/AMCEN/10/L.1) on the understanding that finalization of the report would be entrusted to the secretariat, working in conjunction with the Rapporteur.

## **XI. Closure of the session**

34. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the ministerial segment and the session closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 30 June 2004.

## Annex I

### **Sirte Declaration on the Environment and Development**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Noting with satisfaction* the contribution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in providing political guidance and leadership for environmental advocacy in Africa,

*Concerned* that many African countries may not be able to achieve the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goals on extreme poverty and hunger,

*Also concerned* about increasing environmental threats facing Africa and the continent's vulnerability to global environmental change, including climate change and desertification, which in turn compromise the efforts of the continent to promote sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the adverse effect of conflict on the environment and particularly the threat that conflict poses to the peace and security that constitute the basis for the sound management of the environment and sustainable development,

*Further recognizing* the urgent need to strengthen the capacity of African countries to cope with the adverse effects of environmental change and to manage emergencies and disasters,

*Recognizing* the adverse effects of conflicts on sustainable development in Africa,

*Also recognizing* that Africa has the highest rate of urbanization in the world,

*Emphasizing* the need for global peace and security, as the basis for stability and sound environmental management;

*Welcoming* the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as Africa's common vision for achieving sustainable development and its acceptance by the United Nations General Assembly as the framework for international support for Africa, and in this regard, further welcoming the endorsement by the African Union of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Noting* the roles of regional, subregional and national bodies in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Noting also* the role of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and financial development institutions in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Noting further* the role played by the Global Environment Facility in funding the implementation of environmental programmes and projects,

*Noting with satisfaction* the establishment by the Global Environment Facility of a pilot programme for the adaptation and operationalization of the Special Climate Change Fund, in which funding for adaptation will be a priority,

*Noting* the need to revise the existing Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to revitalizing the Conference,

*Acknowledging* the usefulness of the first report in the Africa Environment Outlook series as the first regional comprehensive report on the state of Africa's environment and its contribution to the understanding of environmental challenges facing the continent and, in this regard, looking forward to the preparation of the second Africa Environment Outlook report to be launched in July 2006,

*Recognizing* the weak capacities of African States to implement the programmes and projects identified in the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000, in which the international community recognized the special challenges of Africa and committed itself to supporting Africa in achieving sustainable development,

*Recalling also* recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings, as well as the summit meetings of the Group of Eight and the third Tokyo International Conference for Africa's Development, held in October 2003,

*Emphasizing* the inextricable linkages between environmental management, poverty eradication and sustainable development,

*Emphasizing also* that policy, legal and institutional frameworks at all levels are essential for achieving sustainable development,

*Recalling* the commitments made at the Partnership Conference on the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development held in Algiers in December, 2003,

*Noting* the declaration made in Paris on 26 January 2004 by ministers of environment of six African countries on the promotion of the use of biosphere reserves as operational sites for sustainable development in combating poverty,

*Noting with satisfaction* the establishment of the African round-table on sustainable consumption and production and the Casablanca Statement on Sustainable Consumption and Production adopted in Casablanca, Morocco, in May 2004,

*Hereby declare our resolve:*

1. To implement fully the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
2. To stress the urgent need to promote the integration of the environmental dimension into poverty reduction strategies;
3. In particular, to implement fully the capacity development programme of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; as well as the 81 priority projects, including those selected as part of the African process, presented to the Partners' Conference in Algiers in December 2003;
4. To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to develop a mechanism for consensus building, through transboundary projects, for the management of natural and shared resources in order to minimize and strive to eliminate the risk of internal conflict;
5. To develop subregional action plans as part of capacity building for the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
6. To commit ourselves to the promotion of thematic centres of excellence in support of capacity-building, data collection and analyses, and identification of information gaps and needs in Africa;
7. To forward the capacity development component of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as Africa's input to the work of the High-Level Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, and Africa's specific request for support in capacity-building;

8. To urge Governments to take necessary action to ensure that the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished within the intersessional period;
9. To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to mobilize additional financial resources from bilateral and multilateral institutions, including the Global Environment Facility;
10. To call upon the Global Environment Facility to continue giving high priority to African countries in allocating financial resources for the successful implementation of the action plan to combat desertification;
11. Further to call upon the donor community to provide adequate resources to the special climate change fund;
12. To urge African members of the Global Environmental Facility Council to advocate, in the Council, support for the implementation of the capacity development programme in full within the context of the implementation of environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
13. To welcome the adoption of the revised Algiers Convention by the African Union at its second ordinary summit and to urge all African countries to take steps to sign and ratify that Convention;
14. To urge our development partners to implement the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish a world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty by providing the necessary resources to this fund;
15. To await the decision of the Global Environment Facility to provide partial financing for the implementation of the capacity development programme within the context of the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
16. To call upon the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in collaboration with the Minister responsible for the environment in Senegal to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Conference in December 2004 to review the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
17. To call upon the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to forge cooperative links with the relevant structures of the African Union, its secretariat and its appropriate commissions, as well as with the secretariat of the New Partnership of Africa's Development, with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements, taking into account the new structures of the African Union;
18. To commit ourselves to make every effort to integrate the environmental dimension into national sustainable development in Africa and to recognize the peculiar needs of the poor and marginalized communities;
19. To commit ourselves further to prioritizing and drawing synergies from the issues of chemical management, the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM) process, environmental impact assessment, the phasing out of leaded gasoline, sustainable human settlements; post-conflict environmental assessment, health and environment and disaster risk management highlighted during the tenth session of the Conference;
20. To strengthen further cooperation with all regional and subregional bodies, including external partners, in the pursuit of sustainable development;
21. To reaffirm our endorsement of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environment management and to provide a framework for national, subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting, as well as strengthening the role of African universities in environmental assessment and reporting;

22. To note with appreciation the implementation of the Africa environmental information network at the national, subregional and regional levels to strengthen access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa;
23. To welcome with appreciation the distribution by the United Nations Environment Programme of comprehensive Landsat data of each country and to request the United Nations Environment Programme to support the effective use of these datasets;
24. To urge African Governments to support and attend the international meeting for small island developing States scheduled to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;
25. To urge African Governments to support and attend the tenth summit of the Francophonie, with the theme sustainable development, scheduled to be held in Burkina Faso in November 2004;
26. To welcome the courageous decision of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to abandon all programmes which might lead to the production of weapons of mass destruction;
27. To give effect to the decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth session, in Sirte, on 30 June 2004;
28. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the tenth session of the Conference, including the Sirte Declaration and its annexes, to the Assembly of the African Union;
29. To pay tribute to the leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, his Government and the Libyan people for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to participants, the excellent facilities made available and the generous support given by the Government and people of Libya to the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which vastly contributed to its success.

## Annex II

### Decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth session

#### Decision 1: Implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Decide:*

To invite the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in collaboration with relevant regional institutions:

- (i) To identify the appropriate funding mechanisms for the implementation of the projects included in the action plan;
- (ii) To develop appropriate communication mechanisms between countries and the regional economic communities;
  - (a) To invite development partners to assist in providing resources for developing the capacities of the regional economic commissions, to enable them to discharge their responsibilities;
  - (b) To call upon the Global Environment Facility and other development partners to provide financial support for the implementation of the capacity-building programme in its entirety;
  - (c) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the development of the subregional action plans of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
  - (d) To invite countries to make financial contributions to the implementation of the projects of the action plan in conformity with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
  - (e) To call upon the African Union and the regional economic communities to strengthen the environment section of their relevant technical units;
  - (f) To establish effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union and the regional economic communities for that purpose:
    - (i) To hold the next meeting of the Bureau of the Conference at the headquarters of the African Union;
    - (ii) To request the president of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work with the Chair of the Commission of the African Union in pursuit of that goal.

## **Decision 2: Role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Noting with appreciation* the adoption of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the African Union at its summit meeting in Maputo in July 2003,

*Reaffirming* that the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is a coherent, strategic and long-term programme of action aimed at promoting Africa's sustainable development,

*Further reaffirming* our commitment to the effective implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Recognizing* that the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development will contribute to building Africa's capacity to implement regional and international environmental agreements and effectively to address African environmental challenges,

*Acknowledging* the support provided by African countries, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and secretariats and development partners of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Welcoming* the offers made by African countries and development partners during the Partners' Conference on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, held in Algiers, on 15 and 16 December 2003,

*Decide:*

- (a) To provide overall guidance on the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (b) To follow-up with the subregional economic communities on the implementation of the action plan;
- (c) To cooperate with the relevant international and regional organizations and bodies on strategic issues related to the implementation of the action plan;
- (d) To mobilize high level political support for the successful implementation of the action plan;
- (e) To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the support of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to secure sustainable financing to support the Conference's collaboration with the subregional economic communities in undertaking its activities in the context of the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,
- (f) To follow up on the fulfilment of pledges by donors and international organizations;
- (g) Periodically to review progress achieved in the implementation of the action plan and make recommendations.

### **Decision 3: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment constitution**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Aware* of the mandate conferred upon the Conference by ministers at the eighth session of the Conference, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 3 to 6 April 2000, as contained in paragraph 31 of the ministerial report of the session<sup>1</sup>,

*Further aware* of the mandate conferred upon the Conference by ministers at the ninth session of the Conference, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 4 and 5 July 2002, as contained in decision 4 of the ninth session,

*Noting* that a new process of further intergovernmental consultations has been initiated, thus meeting the need closely to monitor the evolution of other initiatives under the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Decide:*

(a) To note with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to facilitate the completion of the document on the revised Constitution;

(b) To note also that only a few countries have submitted comments on the draft revised Constitution;

(c) To request the secretariat to circulate the draft revised Constitution, both in English and in French, immediately to all African countries for their review and comments;

(d) Further to request the secretariat to incorporate the review comments of member States into the draft revised constitution and submit it for consideration by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eleventh session.

### **Decision 4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* the Conference's decision 5 on financial resources adopted at its eighth session, in Abuja, Nigeria, on 6 April, 2000,

*Further recalling* its decision 4 on resource mobilization, taken at its special session in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 October 2001,

*Noting* its decision 8 on resource mobilization and the status of the general trust fund, of 7 July 2002, adopted at its ninth session, in Kampala, Uganda, on 5 July 2002,

*Noting further* with concern the continuing low response by member States of the Conference to contribute to the trust fund,

*Recognizing* that Africa is taking measures to address its environmental challenges through major initiatives such as the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Aware* that the implementation of its environmental initiatives, in particular the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, will require additional human and financial resources,

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/AMCEN/8/7.

*Further aware* that African Governments are experiencing competing demands on their limited resources to meet the basic needs of their populations,

*Aware also* of the immense pressure faced by African Governments in meeting their obligations to a number of trust funds established under certain multilateral environmental agreements,

*Expressing our appreciation* to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and, in that regard, also expressing our appreciation to the development partners for their support.

*Appreciating* the financial and technical support that the United Nations Environment Programme provides to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recognizing* the need for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to finance its own activities;

*Decide:*

(a) That Governments should make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(b) That the secretariat, in consultation with member States, should develop criteria for contributions by member States;

(c) That the secretariat, also in consultation with the Bureau, should make proposals for sponsorship of some activities of the Conference, including meetings of the Bureau and the regular sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(d) That the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment should take necessary measures to strengthen the secretariat in Nairobi;

(e) That the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, should complete the action-oriented work-plan for the use of the Conference's general trust fund;

(f) That the Conference should extend its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and urge the Executive Director to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(g) That the interest generated by the general trust fund could be used and that detailed proposals on the use of the interest earned on the general trust fund will be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for approval prior to implementation;

(h) That the general trust fund should continue to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme for as long as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment remains with that organization;

(i) That, given the global nature of environmental benefits and challenges, development partners, the private sector and international organizations should be encouraged to contribute to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(j) That the secretariat should continue to report on the status and use of the general trust fund at meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

## **Decision 5: Development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and other chemical and hazardous waste management issues**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* decisions SS.VII/3 and 22/4 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of 15 February 2002 and 7 February 2003, respectively, in which the Governing Council initiated the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management through a multi-sector consultative process,

*Recalling also* the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002, which set a goal that, by 2020, chemicals would be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment and endorsed the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

*Recalling* that the Plan of Implementation also called for initiatives to assist African countries in elaborating national chemical profiles and regional and national frameworks and strategies for chemical management and establishing chemical focal points,

*Recalling also* decision 6 of the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, adopted on 5 July 2002, in which the Conference endorsed the Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes,

*Recalling further* the resolution on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its fourth session, held in Bangkok from 1 to 7 November 2003,

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade on 24 February 2004 and of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on 17 May 2004, and urging African Governments which have not yet done so to become parties to the two conventions as soon as possible,

*Welcoming* also the timely and important Africa Stockpiles Programme, the objective of which is to clean up and safely dispose of all obsolete pesticide stocks from Africa and establish preventive measures to avoid future accumulation, and underlining the need for additional donor funding to support the programme,

*Noting* the successful launch of consultations on a strategic approach to international chemicals management at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held in Bangkok from 9 to 13 November 2003, as continued during the African regional meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 24 to 26 May 2004,

*Further noting* the link between poverty and vulnerability to toxic chemicals, the impact of toxic chemicals on biodiversity, including natural resources depended upon by the poor, and the significance of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the context of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Declaring* our interest in and commitment to implementing fully and quickly relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other integrated chemicals management mechanisms such as the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by 2008, as agreed by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its third session, held in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, from 15 to 20 October 2000, and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and as reinforced by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its fourth session, with the understanding that, in many cases, such implementation will require substantial international technical and financial support,

*Expressing* appreciation for international support for chemical safety initiatives in Africa,

*Decide:*

- (a) To endorse and encourage the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management;
- (b) To emphasize the need for African Governments to prioritize sound chemicals management in national, subregional and regional planning;
- (c) To urge stakeholders to elaborate a comprehensive plan for enhanced capacity-building for developing countries in the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management;
- (d) To encourage multi-stakeholder participation in the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management, particularly with respect to sectors such as agriculture, environment, justice, health, industry, labour and customs, including civil society;
- (e) To invite the African Union, subregional organizations such as the Arab Maghreb Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development

Community and others to participate actively in the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management as an integral part of efforts by African Governments to achieve the goal of sustainable development and poverty reduction;

(f) To appeal to the governing bodies of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to adopt and to reflect in their programme of work the above decisions to enable African countries to implement fully the strategic approach to international chemicals management;

*Further decide:*

(a) To set as a common goal effective action to deal with all impacts of chemicals and according priority to ratification and implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and to call upon the regional groups such as the Arab Maghreb Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community to take chemical safety as a priority issue and to play a more active role in the negotiation and implementation of conventions and participation at conferences of the parties to conventions;

(b) To urge the development partners to mobilize the funds necessary for the implementation of national action plans related to chemical conventions, through, among other measures, financial cooperation, capacity-building and institutional strengthening mechanisms, for the strengthening of chemicals management in order to facilitate the implementation of the national action plans,

(c) To urge the African Union and the United Nations Environment Programme to revitalize the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, including the establishment of a Convention secretariat and the hosting of the first meeting of the Conference of the parties within the next two years;

(d) To urge the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to adopt a decision on undertaking the tasks assigned to it in ensuring the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products;

(e) To support the efforts to strengthen the capacity of the regional centres of excellence in Africa, including the Basel Convention regional centres in Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, as key regional instruments for the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to call upon interested States and other stakeholders to provide further support to the centres of excellence in Africa.

## **Decision 6: Phase-out of leaded gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* that the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development has called for the phasing out of leaded gasoline worldwide,

*Recalling further* the commitment that has been made by sub-Saharan African countries in the adoption of the Dakar Declaration on the Phasing out of Leaded Gasoline from Sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2005,

*Recognizing* the launching of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the purpose of promoting clean fuels and vehicles for better urban air quality in developing countries and appreciating the leading role played by the United Nations Environment Programme, as the secretariat of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, in the implementation of the Partnership programme,

*Appreciating* the progress that has been made to date in the phase-out of leaded gasoline, which includes the complete phase-out of leaded gasoline from nine countries, the introduction of unleaded

gasoline in another fourteen countries, and the progress made in developing action plans in twenty-one countries,

*Considering* the lead phase-out activity as an important step towards improving urban air quality in African cities and taking note of the importance of considering other key issues for improving the urban air quality in sub-Saharan African countries,

*Acknowledging* the leading role that has been played by the United Nations Environment Programme and support provided by other partners in providing technical, financial and networking support for the phase-out of leaded gasoline,

*Noting* that the United Nations Environment Programme is promoting clean fuels and vehicles for better urban air quality in Africa and, to that end, that it has collaborated with the World Bank in organizing the conference on progress in the phasing out of leaded gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa, which was held from 5 to 7 May 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya,

*Decide* to endorse the following outcomes of the Conference which were accepted by the Ministerial *meeting* that was held on 7 May 2004:

- (a) To call on all sub-Saharan African countries to work for the immediate phase-out of leaded gasoline and to work together in subregions where this issue has transboundary dimensions;
- (b) To reaffirm the commitment of the Governments fully to implement the Dakar Declaration on the Phasing out of Leaded Gasoline in Sub-Saharan Africa before 2006;
- (c) To urge ministers to raise the issue of clean fuels and vehicles for better urban air quality in their countries with the objective of raising awareness on this issue with decision makers, the public and the private sector;
- (d) To encourage countries to adopt an octane level for super petrol at a minimum research octane number of 91 RON, which is sufficiently efficient for the existing infrastructural conditions and the economic needs of the countries in the region;
- (e) To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles to provide the required technical and financial support to sub-Saharan African Governments and their partners to ensure that the goals of the Dakar Declaration are met.

### **Decision 7: Draft Africa strategy for disaster risk reduction**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab *Jamahiriyah*, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Noting* that the number of people affected and economic losses due to the occurrence of disasters triggered by natural hazards is rising in Africa;

*Noting also* that Africa is the only continent where the regional share of reported disasters in the world total has increased over the last decade, where hydrometeorological hazards, such as drought, flood, windstorms, tropical cyclones, landslides and wildfire, occur most pervasively and account for most of the people affected by disasters,

*Concerned* that, for example, in the period 2000–2001, about 35 million people, equivalent to 13 per cent of the total population in Africa, were affected by disasters,

*Also concerned* that, in terms of economic losses, disasters significantly derail development in affected countries,

*Acknowledging* the draft Africa strategy for disaster risk reduction that has been prepared in the context of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Decide:*

- (a) To adopt the draft Africa strategy for disaster risk reduction and to recommend that it be submitted to the Heads of State and Government Implementation *Committee* of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at its next meeting, for approval and subsequent endorsement at the summit meeting of the African Union in July 2004;

- (b) To recommend that the strategy be presented and communicated to other relevant ministerial forums whose portfolios encompass disaster management;
- (c) To recommend that a short- to medium-term programme of work be developed to give effect to the strategy;
- (d) To recommend, through the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, that, at its summit meeting in July 2004, the African Union call for the integration of the strategy into national and local development plans and initiatives and for increased budgetary allocation to disaster management.

### **Decision 8: Africa's submission to the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Decide:*

- (a) To submit the capacity development component of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New *Partnership* for Africa's Development as Africa's input to the work of the High-Level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
- (b) To request that this component be used as the basis of support for capacity-building in Africa.

#### **Principles**

The guiding framework for the strategic plan for technology support and capacity building should be based on the following principles:

- (a) The objective of the plan should be to enhance the capacity of African countries to implement their environmental programmes and to support the transfer, application and use of environmentally sound technology;
- (b) The plan should be demand-driven and based on the needs of African countries;
- (c) The plan should complement and not duplicate existing activities and, in this regard, the United Nations Environment Programme should collaborate with other agencies and programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility as well as multilateral environmental agreements in the development and implementation of the strategic plan;
- (d) The plan should contain targets and time-frames for its implementation;
- (e) The plan should be based on the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (f) The plan should also be based on a continuous review of the capacity-building and technology needs of African countries;
- (g) The plan should also be a long-term strategic vision for capacity-building.

#### **Elements for the strategic plan**

Possible elements for the strategic plan should include the following:

- (a) Enhancement of capacity at national and local levels to undertake capacity needs assessment for training and technology support;
- (b) Integration of the capacity-building initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development into national strategic plans for environmental capacity-building;
- (c) Enhancement of national capacity to mobilize resources for capacity-building programmes;
- (d) Strengthening of national institutions responsible for the implementation of environmental programmes including, through training opportunities;

- (e) Support for the development of policy frameworks for the effective implementation of global and regional environment related conventions;
- (f) Support for national institutions in the collection of data, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;
- (g) Establishment, as appropriate, of thematic centres of excellence using the existing structure and framework of the African environment information network, to support African countries in their environmental capacity-building;
- (h) Measures to facilitate the flow of relevant and targeted information and exchange of best practices, involving African civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;
- (i) Technical assistance for the development, enforcement and monitoring of and compliance with national environmental legislation, including empowering the judiciary;
- (j) Assistance for compliance with and enforcement of global and regional environmental agreements;
- (k) Capacity-building for effective participation by African countries in international environmental negotiations (e.g., the joint programme on trade and environment of the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations Development Programme);
- (l) Support for the increased involvement of African scientists and research institutions in international environmental assessments such as the African Environment Outlook;
- (m) Strengthening of environmental research and scientific institutions in African countries;
- (n) Capacity-building for the integration of environmental considerations in national development strategies;
- (o) Provision of support to regional institutions and processes;
- (p) Enhancement of the capacity for the application and development of new technologies and identifying and disseminating best practices.

### **Priority areas**

The following are priority areas:

- (a) Combating land degradation, drought and desertification;
- (b) Poverty and environment;
- (c) Health and environment;
- (d) Conserving wetlands;
- (e) Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species;
- (f) Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources;
- (g) Combating climate change;
- (h) Biodiversity;
- (i) Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- (j) Chemical and waste management;
- (j) Pollution;
- (k) renewable energy;
- (l) Taxonomy.

## Annex III

### African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) tenth Session, Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 29-30 June 2004

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