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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Meeting of the expert group
Tenth session
Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 26–29 June 2004

Report of the expert group meeting held from 26 to 29 June 2004

Introduction

1. The expert group meeting of the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 26 to 29 June 2004.
2. It was attended by experts from AMCEN member States, 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 IV to the present report.
3. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Henry Aryamanya-Mugisha, Executive Director, National Environment Management Authority of Uganda, the representative of the President of AMCEN, Mr. Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment of Uganda, while Mr. Tanyi Mbianyor Clarkson Oben (Cameroon) served as rapporteur.

I. Opening of the meeting

4. Following welcoming remarks by Mr. Salah Azharoug, Deputy Secretary of the People's Committee for the Sha'biyya of Sirte, Mr. Isa Atbegara, General Secretary of the People's Committee for the Sha'biyya of Sirte, Mr. Mohamed Amer, Libyan Environmental General Authority, and Mr. Sekou Toure, Director, Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the meeting was opened at 10.15 a.m. on Saturday, 26 June 2004, by Mr. Aryamanya-Mugisha.
5. In his welcoming statement, Mr. Azharoug drew attention to the common history and destiny that bound together the peoples of Africa and their shared aspiration for a clean and healthy environment. Deploring the negative impact on the environment by such forces as pollution, poverty and climate change, as well as by such human malpractices as the dumping of hazardous wastes in Africa, he called for efforts by Africans to end such abuses and to combat the resulting dangers, thereby ensuring a healthy environment for future generations. With those words, he wished the experts a successful meeting.
6. Mr. Atbegara welcomed participants to Sirte, the birthplace of the African Union, and noted that the current meeting was itself an outcome of the Union. Noting that humankind could have no future without a healthy environment, he stressed the consequent heavy responsibility that was borne by the

current meeting and called for efforts to strengthen the capacity of AMCEN and other environmental institutions. The Libyan people would be looking forward with concern to the outcome of the present meeting, to its decisions and resolutions, in their desire to build a healthy environment that would help bring prosperity to the people of Africa and the world. With those sentiments, he wished all participants fruitful deliberations in their forthcoming meeting.

7. Mr. Amer commended the secretariat and the environment ministers on their work in preparing the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and for other environmental undertakings and, in that context, called for more resources to be invested in environmental efforts, so as to minimize the adverse effects of development, in particular, industrial expansion. He too stressed the need to safeguard the environment for future generations of humankind and expressed his wishes to the experts for the successful outcome of their meeting.

8. Mr. Toure conveyed greetings and best wishes to the experts on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and reiterated the commitment of UNEP to assisting AMCEN in fulfilling its mandate. He also expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the warm reception accorded to participants, the excellent facilities provided for their meeting and their generosity in meeting the local costs of the session. He expressed his appreciation to the Ugandan incumbents of the presidency of AMCEN, Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda and Mr. Kahinda Otafiire, for their accomplishments during their successive terms of office at the helm of the Conference. Reviewing the agenda before experts at their current meeting, he drew attention, in particular, to the status of implementation of the decisions taken by AMCEN at its ninth session and of the AMCEN medium-term programme of work for the period July 2000–June 2004 and to challenges facing AMCEN at its tenth session, notably the follow-up to the decisions adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session, in Jeju, and the international environmental governance process, with its capacity-building component. In conclusion, he urged African Governments to strengthen still further their cooperation with UNEP.

9. Mr. Aryamanya-Mugisha, speaking on behalf of the President of AMCEN and the Government of Uganda, thanked the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its hospitality and for the excellent conference facilities provided for the session. He also thanked all the vice-presidents of AMCEN for their contributions and support and extended equal thanks to UNEP and the AMCEN secretariat for their support. Noting that the current session was being held after the Partners Conference in Algiers, which had launched the action plan for the AMCEN environment initiative, he urged participants to come up with well informed conclusions for consideration by their ministers in the high-level segment and, urging them to work diligently for the success of the session, declared the expert group meeting open.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

10. In accordance with the draft rules of procedure, the current Bureau of AMCEN served as the Bureau for the meeting of the expert group.

11. The Chair requested the representatives of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritius to form a committee of friends of the Chair representing the various regions to confer with the experts and to come up with proposals for the composition of the next Bureau of AMCEN. The representative of Uganda would liaise with other countries in the eastern African region and present a proposal on the country to represent that region. In due course, following consultations, the committee of friends of the Chair submitted the proposals listed below:

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
Eastern Africa	Rapporteur	Sudan

B. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work

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

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work
3. Consideration of the report of the secretariat:
 - (a) Implementation of decisions taken by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its ninth session;
 - (b) Implementation of the 2000–2004 programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (c) Activities by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the intersessional period and their impact.
4. Environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Consideration of the work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the action plan and the outcome of the Partnership Conference.
6. 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.
7. Consideration of the draft revised constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
8. Status of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
9. Intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building.
10. Africa Environment Outlook II report:
 - (a) Report on the preparatory process;
 - (b) Report on the meeting of the inter-agency technical committee relating to the Africa Environment Outlook report;
 - (c) African environmental information network.
11. Adoption of the report of the expert group meeting.
12. Other matters.
13. Closure of the meeting.

C. Participation

13. Experts from the following countries attended the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire,

Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

14. In addition, representatives of the following United Nations agencies, secretariats of environmental conventions, regional and subregional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting as observers: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Industrial Development Programme (UNIDO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), United Nations for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in the Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Commission, Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF), League of Arab States, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA), World Conservation Union (IUCN) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

15. The full list of participants is contained in annex IV to the present report.

III. Consideration of the report of the secretariat: implementation of decisions taken by AMCEN at its ninth session; implementation of the AMCEN 2000–2004 programme of work; and activities by AMCEN in the intersessional period and their impact

16. The experts took up the item at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. Introducing the report on the item contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/10/6, the representative of the secretariat reviewed the status of implementation of the eight decisions taken by the Conference during its last meeting and reported on other activities included in the AMCEN programme of work from July 2002 to June 2004. He concluded his presentation by presenting the challenges facing the Conference at its tenth session.

17. In the ensuing debate, while commending the secretariat on the quality of its report, experts drew attention to certain omissions, such as some activities under the Basel and other conventions and those relating to small island developing States. In addition, concern was expressed about problems with the circulation of documents to missions outside Africa, and the late submission of some documents and translations. In response, the representative of the secretariat clarified that electronic versions of the pre-session documents had been sent by e-mail to Governments, relevant convention secretariats and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and posted on the secretariat's web site. In addition, the English language versions of the pre-session documents had been sent by courier service to African capitals, one month in advance of the current meeting. One expert sought to know what precise difficulties had been encountered by the secretariat relating to implementation. In response the secretariat stated that financial constraints represented the main problem encountered by the secretariat relating to implementation. Other experts stressed the need for potential synergies to be explored with other bodies and initiatives, such as the Group of 77 and the Millennium Development Goals.

IV. Environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

18. The experts took up the item at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat reported on progress since the adoption of the action plan by AMCEN at its second special session and on the Partnership Conference on the

Environment Initiative of NEPAD. The UNEP report was complemented by another from the interim secretariat of the NEPAD Environment Component, based in Dakar, Senegal.

19. In the ensuing discussion, experts noted their interest in the NEPAD Environment Component report and requested that it be made available to participants. In addition, several experts suggested that institutional arrangements be set in place to facilitate the functioning of the NEPAD Environment Component and to overcome what some perceived as a lack of communication to key stakeholders regarding its activities. Another wished to know what budget had been allocated to projects under the NEPAD Environment Component.

20. Several experts also highlighted the links between environmental degradation, environmental security and poverty and called for actions to tackle that problem and also that of invasive species. One requested a briefing on the post-conflict assessment working groups that had been set up during the eighth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, while another stressed that the issue of unleaded gasoline should be addressed by UNEP.

21. Following that debate, the experts agreed to set up a working group, under the chairmanship of Senegal, to consider the matter further, including the issue of the strategic approach to international chemicals management and preparations for the Dakar meeting on the review of the implementation of the action plan, and to report back to plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

22. At the 4th plenary session, on the morning of Monday, 28 June 2004, the chair of the working group reported back to the experts on the group's deliberations and introduced the outcome of its work, namely, a draft decision on the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and other chemical management issues, a draft decision on implementation of the Action plan of the NEPAD environment initiative and a draft decision on the phase-out of leaded gasoline from sub-Saharan Africa; and its views on the draft Sirte declaration. Following further discussion, the experts agreed to forward the three draft decisions for consideration and possible adoption by ministers. The text of the draft decisions is contained in annex I to the present report.

V. Consideration of the work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the action plan and the outcome of the Partnership Conference

23. On the proposal of the Chair, the experts agreed to take the item up in conjunction with item 8, status of the general trust fund for AMCEN. Accordingly, they took up the two items at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documentation under the items, namely, the draft indicative work programme of AMCEN, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/10/7, and the report on the status and potential use of the general trust fund of AMCEN, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/10/5.

24. With regard to the draft indicative work programme, he observed that some of the fields in the detailed tables in the annex to the document were still blank and explained that they would be filled in during the course of the year in the light of future clarification. On the issue of the status of the AMCEN general trust fund, he noted with concern the low level of contributions by member States to that fund, pointing out that 60 per cent had made no contribution at all since its inception, a situation which rendered implementation of activities very difficult. In addition, drawing attention to the growing number of environmental initiatives in the continent, he stressed the need for further capacity in the AMCEN secretariat to help coordinate those initiatives and, in that context, drew attention to the draft recommendations contained in the document prepared by the secretariat.

25. In the ensuing debate, experts expressed concern about the lack of funding and a number of ideas were put forward as to how AMCEN should endeavour to remedy the situation. It was suggested that the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements might be approached for assistance and that the current meeting should come up with a strong statement calling on member States to honour their commitments. One expert stated the view that, to be effective, action to secure financial contributions was required at the level of heads of State; another suggested that those countries which had failed to honour their pledges should be named. One expert wondered whether development partners were now retreating from earlier commitments to support implementation of the NEPAD

environmental initiative and whether there were still resources for the holding of meetings under the initiative. It was pointed out that the widespread calls for environmental commitments by developing countries had to be backed up by financial support, capacity-building and technology transfer: in addition, given the efforts by some African countries to diversify their economies and boost their trade, measures were needed to combat the adverse impacts on the environment of such progress and assistance was needed by countries for that purpose.

26. A number of experts pointed out that, before any discussion could be held of the work programme, it was necessary to ascertain precisely what funds were available for its various elements and asked whether there was a budget for that purpose. One expert stressed the need for AMCEN not to undertake an over-ambitious programme, particularly in view of its limited resources. In particular, before considering the secretariat proposal that AMCEN might draw on the interest from its investments, it was careful to ensure that any activities launched were sustainable: it would be undesirable to launch activities that had to be discontinued after a few years because the money had run out. Another expert felt that it was essential to determine the precise mission of AMCEN before considering its work programme in any detail. In response the Chair stated that AMCEN already had a stated mission.

27. In addition, the representative of Senegal briefed experts on a ministerial meeting held in Paris on 26 January 2004, on the role of biosphere reserves in the operational field of NEPAD. At that meeting, the ministers had adopted a declaration in which, among other matters, they had requested Senegal, as coordinator of the NEPAD environment initiative, to convey to AMCEN their recommendation that the African network of biosphere reserves (AfrimAB) should be taken into account as operational sites for sustainable development in the implementation of the NEPAD environmental action plan.

28. In response to those and other observations, in particular regarding the apparent omission of certain areas from the work programme, such as wetlands and afforestation, the representative of the secretariat clarified that such specific activities were included in the more general implementation of the action plan for the NEPAD environment initiative. He further clarified that the primary concern facing AMCEN was to ensure that the action plan of the NEPAD environmental initiative was fully implemented: while that would not be achieved in the next biennium, it was a goal towards which the Conference must aspire. He also affirmed the importance of the capacity-building programme approved in Algiers, with its four components, and expressed his hope that it would receive the necessary support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the other donors who had been approached.

29. On the issue of the use of available funds, he pointed out that, to date, only very little of the accrued interest from the trust fund had been used – such as a small amount approved in 2001 by AMCEN at its eighth session, in Abuja – and pointed out that use of the interest would relieve current pressure on the secretariat to raise funds for its operating expenses. Another representative of the secretariat noted that, while gratitude was owed to the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its support in bearing all the local costs of the current meeting, the bottom line was that the secretariat could not continue without a more secure and sustainable source of funding, both for the holding of meetings and for the full range of secretariat functions, including translation of documents.

30. Following that debate, the experts agreed to set up a working group, under the chairmanship of Côte d'Ivoire, to consider the matter further and to report back to plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

31. At the 4th plenary session, on the morning of Monday, 28 June 2004, the chair of the working group reported back to the experts on the group's deliberations and introduced the outcome of its work, namely, a revised text of the draft indicative work programme contained in annex I to document UNEP/AMCEN/10/7, presenting the draft AMCEN work programme for the period 2005–2006, and a draft decision on the trust fund, under agenda item 8, which had also been assigned to the working group, as well its views on the draft Sirte declaration. Following further discussion, the experts agreed to forward the revised draft indicative work programme and the draft decision on the trust fund for consideration and possible adoption by ministers. The text of the draft decision is contained in annex II and the revised work programme in annex III to the present report.

VI. 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

32. The experts took up the item at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. Introducing the report on the item contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/10/3, the representative of the secretariat stressed the need for consideration to be given to linkages and potential synergies between AMCEN and other comparable processes in the region, such as the technical committee under the African Union, the Union's planned parliament and the NEPAD process. He pointed out that, when preparing sessions of AMCEN, the president wrote to the various convention secretariats with a view to establishing the necessary linkages and ensuring that potential synergies were harnessed. He also noted that the regional and subregional economic commissions would serve as the vehicles of implementation of the action plan and suggested that there was no need to revisit that working arrangement.

33. In the ensuing discussion, experts drew attention to the important role to be played by AMCEN, given the cross-cutting nature of environmental issues. In that context, it was particularly important to distinguish clearly between the respective functions and responsibilities of AMCEN and such bodies as the technical committee under the African Union, and to redefine the role of AMCEN, so as to ensure that it did not compete with other bodies for support from donors. As a means of securing contributions from member States, it was suggested that they could form part of the contributions made by States to the African Union and would be automatically deducted from those payments.

34. Another expert pointed out that the issue of linkages and division of responsibilities between AMCEN, NEPAD, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other comparable bodies – which, he agreed, needed clarification – could not be resolved unilaterally and had to be addressed in consultation with the various bodies concerned. He cautioned, therefore, that the issue should not be rushed and could not be dispatched in the course of the current meeting. The representative of the secretariat concurred with the importance of the issue and noted that, while it could not be concluded over the next few days, it was important at least to take the first steps in that direction.

35. Following that debate, the experts agreed to set up a working group, under the chairmanship of Mauritius, to consider the matter further and also to discuss the draft revised constitution of AMCEN, under agenda item 7, and to report back to plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

36. At the 5th plenary session, on the afternoon of Monday, 28 June 2004, the chair of the working group on the item reported back to the experts on the group's deliberations on the item and on the draft Sirte declaration, and introduced the draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue, the text of which is contained in annex II to the present report.

VII. Consideration of the draft revised constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

37. The experts took up the item at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. Noting that only very few comments by countries had been incorporated in the background document on the issue, one expert suggested accordingly that the text of the draft constitution should be discussed in plenary.

38. On the proposal of the Chair, it was agreed to entrust further consideration of the matter to the working group set up under item 6, on the role of AMCEN in the context of implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative, under the chairmanship of Mauritius, which would report back to plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

39. At the 5th plenary session, on the afternoon of Monday, 28 June 2004, the chair of the working group set up under item 6, the role of AMCEN in the context of implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative, reported back to the experts on the group's deliberations on the draft revised constitution of AMCEN and noted the group's recommendation, given the complexity of the issue and the fact that only very few countries had thus far submitted comments on the revised draft, that work

continue on the text, which should be circulated to all African countries for their review and comments. Accordingly, he introduced the draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue, the text of which is contained in annex II to the present report.

VIII. Status of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

40. On the proposal of the Chair, the meeting agreed to take the item up in conjunction with item 5, consideration of the AMCEN work programme in the context of the action plan and the outcome of the Partnership Conference. Accordingly, the meeting took up the two items at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004 and the discussion of the item is reflected in paragraphs 23–31 above, under agenda item 5.

IX. Intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building

41. The experts took up the item at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled the decision by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session, in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2004, that regional consultations should be held on the issue, to ensure that each region could contribute its own thinking to the process, suggesting ways in which capacity could be built and technology support provided. A series of three meetings would discuss the issue: the first of those had already been held, in New York on 25 June, but AMCEN would be able to contribute to the second and third meetings, to be held in Nairobi and Kuala Lumpur, respectively.

42. Following that debate, the experts agreed to set up a small working group, under the chairmanship of Cameroon, to consider the matter further and to report back to plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

43. At the 5th plenary session, on the afternoon of Monday, 28 June 2004, the chair of the working group on the item reported back to the experts on the group's deliberations and on the draft Sirte declaration, and introduced the draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. The decision was further developed by the experts and its text is contained in annex II to the present report.

X. Africa Environment Outlook II report: preparatory process; meeting of the inter-agency technical committee relating to the Africa Environment Outlook report; and the African environmental information network

44. The experts took up the item at their 2nd plenary session, on the morning of Sunday, 27 June 2004. Introducing the progress report on the Africa Environment Outlook process prepared by the secretariat, the representative of the secretariat reviewed the technical meetings held as part of the preparation of the second report in the Africa Environment Outlook series and updated experts on the activities of the African environmental information network.

XI. Other matters

A. Candidature for presidency of the World Conservation Union

45. At the 5th plenary session, on the afternoon of Monday, 28 June 2004, on a proposal by the representative of Lesotho, the experts agreed to recommend to the ministers that they endorse the candidature of Mr. Mohamed Valli Moosa (South Africa) for the position of president of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

B. Venue of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Significance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

46. At the 5th plenary session, on the afternoon of Monday, 28 June 2004, on a proposal by the representative of Kenya, the experts agreed to recommend to the ministers that they give every support to Uganda in hosting the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Significance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, particularly in view of the relevance of that convention to Africa.

C. Climate change

47. The representatives of the African Climate Change Negotiating Group briefed the experts on climate change issues, noting the finding of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its third assessment report that Africa was particularly vulnerable to the predicted impacts of climate change and the expectation that, at its forthcoming meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would give prominence to Africa and urge the international community to provide ample resources to meet the continent's needs. In addition, the Group had identified primary needs facing Africa in tackling climate change, which included the need for vulnerability assessments at national and regional levels and for funding support, including from GEF and the Special Climate Change Fund, and stressed the urgent need for the Kyoto Protocol to enter into effect.

D. Activities of the NEPAD secretariat

48. The representative of NEPAD reported on the Partnership's work, together with other agencies, including the African Development Bank, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), on a continental strategy for risk management. On her proposal, the meeting agreed to recommend to the ministers that they endorse the draft strategy prior to its submission to NEPAD. A draft decision to that effect is contained in annex II to the present report.

49. Reviewing activities conducted under NEPAD, she highlighted, in particular, the preparation of an African position for the forthcoming international forum on disaster risk reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, early in 2005, and its work on such areas as capacity-building, environmental assessment and wetlands. Chief among problems impeding implementation of NEPAD activities were its over-reliance on donor funding and lack of capacity amongst member States and regional economic communities. She reported on progress in the integration of NEPAD into the African Union, stressing that such integration should not undermine countries' ownership of the Partnership or stifle their enthusiasm.

XII. Adoption of the report of the expert group meeting

50. At the 6th plenary session, in the night of 28–29 June 2004, the experts adopted their report, based on the draft report that had been circulated in documents UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/10/L.1 and Add.1, and as orally amended in the meeting.

XIII. Closure of the meeting

51. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3 a.m. on Tuesday, 29 June 2004.

Annex I

Draft Sirte declaration on the environment for 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,

Noting with concern the weak 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 adaptation and the 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 is 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 develop subregional action plans as part of capacity building for the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
5. To commit themselves 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;
6. 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;
7. 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 intercessional period;
8. 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;

9. 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;
10. Further to call upon the donor community to provide adequate resources to the special climate change fund;
11. 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;
12. 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;
13. 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;
14. 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;
15. 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;
16. 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 environment assessment, health and environment and disaster risk management highlighted during the tenth session of the Conference;
17. To strengthen further cooperation with all regional and subregional bodies, including external partners, in the pursuit of sustainable development;
18. 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 and subregional integrated environmental assessment and reporting, as well as strengthening the role of African universities in environmental assessment;
19. To note with appreciation the implementation of the Africa environmental information network at national, subregional and regional levels, to strengthen access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa;
20. 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;
21. To urge African Governments to support and attend the international meeting for the small island developing States scheduled to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;
22. 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;
23. 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;

24. 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;

25. 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 at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which vastly contributed to its success.

Annex II

Draft decisions for consideration and possible adoption by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

A. Draft decision on 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:

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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;
- (c) 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;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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;
- (f) To call upon the African Union and the regional economic communities to strengthen the environment section of their relevant technical units;
- (g) 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.

B. Draft decision on the 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,

1. *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;

2. *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, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and 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 chemical 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.

C. Draft decision on the 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,

Decides 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 need 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.

D. Draft decision on the revision of the constitution of 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,

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 session¹,

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.

¹ UNEP/AMCEN/8/7.

E. Draft decision on the 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 environmental 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.

F. Draft decision on the 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,

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.

G. Draft decision on the draft Africa strategy for disaster risk reduction

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 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.

H. 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

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 need assessment for training and technology support;

- (b) Need to integrate 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, monitoring and compliance of 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 Environmental 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) Preventing, control and management of invasive alien species;
- (f) Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources;
- (g) Combating climate change;
- (h) Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- (i) Chemical and waste management;
- (j) Pollution and clean production.

Annex III

AMCEN indicative work programme for the 2005–2006 biennium

NB: Specific activities are given only where these have been negotiated by stakeholders.

Programme elements and overall cost estimates	Main objectives/key components	Specific activities
1. Role of AMCEN in the implementation of the action plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the preparedness of AMCEN to oversee the implementation of the action plan • To enhance the existing links between AMCEN, African Union, NEPAD, UNEP • To prepare AMCEN member states for the regular and special sessions of the UNEP Governing Council as well as the meetings of the governing bodies of the African Union 	
2. Capacity-building programme*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance AMCEN support for the implementation of the UNEP/GEF MSP on the preparation of the five subregional NEPAD environmental action plans • To provide further support for the preparation of another GEF support to implement the remaining components of the NEPAD capacity-building initiative submitted to the NEPAD Partnership Conference held in Algiers on 15 and 16 December, 2003. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the preparation of five subregional NEPAD environmental action plans • Support the preparation of another GEF project aimed at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Strengthening African countries to implement MEAs of relevance to the action plan; (b) Undertaking a comprehensive training strategy for the implementation of the action plan; (c) Providing support for selected African institutions within each thematic programmatic area of the action plan; and (d) Supporting African centres of excellence and specialist networks within each thematic programme area of NEPAD
3. Land degradation and desertification	To support and enhance the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, especially its regional implementation annex for Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish strategies and priorities to combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of droughts • Adopt an integrated approach to addressing the physical, biological, social and economic challenges associated with combating desertification • Support the development and implementation of NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs of the Convention to Combat Desertification

* A five year-rolling plan (i.e. 2004–2009).

Programme elements and overall cost estimates	Main objectives/key components	Specific activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build reliable and up-to-date information base on status and trends in land degradation, drought and desertification • To support the development of useful and efficient partnership as well as relevant synergies on the basis of comparative advantage in implementing the UNCCD and other Rio conventions at all levels
4.Coastal and marine ecosystems	The work programme will focus on four main themes: assessment, management, coordination, and legal aspects, and cross-cutting issues such as information dissemination and exchange and emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the project addressing land-based activities in Nairobi Convention areas by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing a new protocol on land-based activities ○ Developing regional monitoring databases ○ Completing and publishing transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) and SAP reports ○ National plans of action for land based sources and activities • Strengthen the implementation of the Abidjan Convention by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing work programme for implementation 2005–2007 ○ Establishing network of focal points ○ Establishing a focal points forum • Strengthen the coordination mechanism and legal review within the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention areas by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening programme coordination structures in the secretariat, the Regional Coordinating Unit and information dissemination and exchange ○ Updating the Nairobi Convention and its two protocols on protected areas and wild fauna and flora and combating marine pollution in cases of emergency • Develop a regional tool kit on the establishment and management of the marine protected areas
5. Managing forest resources	To ensure an effective and coordinated regional approach to the participation of Africa in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)	Support the education on the environment and forestry resources management in and out of school. Conduct sensitization campaigns on environment issues
6. Climate change	To enhance the national capacities to address climate change while at the same time promoting sustainable development objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen national capacities to formulate policies and strategies on climate change • Strengthen national capacities to formulate programmes and projects for funding support • Support the preparation of vulnerability and adaptation assessments and the preparation of the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and their implementation • Support the improvement of negotiating skills and strengthening of negotiating teams in the climate change negotiation process
7. Environmental assessment and early warning, and environmental security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare the second Africa Environment Outlook (2) report • To enhance awareness on the concept and implications of (environmental security) 	Promote dialogue on environmental security to enable Governments to take decisions on environmental issues based on their priorities and needs that facilitate their sustainable development

Programme elements and overall cost estimates	Main objectives/key components	Specific activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEO • AEIN • Capacity-building • Early warning 		
<p>8.Sustainable consumption and production</p> <p>(a) Engineering education for sustainable consumption and production</p> <p>(b) Awareness and preparedness for emergency at the local level (APELL) for mining</p>	<p>To enhance the national capacities of African countries to absorb and use environmentally sound technologies for the fulfilment of their development objectives on the basis of sustainable production and consumption</p> <p>To create the required awareness and capacity at the national and industries level to minimize the risks and consequences of mine related incidents by promoting improved preparedness for mining-related emergency at the local level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate implementation of the Dakar Declaration for the complete phase-out of leaded gasoline before 2006 with the support of UNEP • Raise the awareness of clean fuels and vehicles for better urban air quality • Encourage African countries to adopt an octane level of super petrol of a minimum of 91 RON • etc.
<p>9. Integrated environmental management in river basins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the key initiatives in Africa that have a major river basin component, such as the Nile Basin Initiative, and explore the desirability and practicality of joint work as an active partner • To support the establishment of an enabling environment for sustainable development in the river basin countries • To replicate the experience of the Nile Basin initiative for the Zambezi, Congo and Niger, in order to support effective basin-wide stakeholder cooperation on environmental issues • To increase regional cooperation in environmental and water management fields in the river basin countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Wetlands assessment, planning, management and monitoring • Support and Strengthen information base and opportunities for sharing experiences • Support the develop the development of capacity for restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands valuing • Support the key initiatives promoted in Africa for sustainable management of shared major aquifer systems

Programme elements and overall cost estimates	Main objectives/key components	Specific activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance an effective partnership between different stakeholders to create common understanding and benefit from afforestation and environmental protection activities • To promote the perception of wastewater as a key resource providing benefits to society when processed properly and used for irrigation • To build capacity through replicable pilot projects in different countries, and through development of focused training modules • To establish regional multi-stakeholder forums to exchange experiences and expertise on best practices to use municipal wastewater 	
13. Sound management and sustainable use of chemicals	To reduce exposure of African ecosystems, fish, wildlife and especially humans, to the harmful effects of chemicals through the prevention and reduction of anthropogenic releases in the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen information exchange and networking infrastructure to facilitate chemical information dissemination and contribute to the establishment of new ones • Monitor and surveillance of the phase out of lead in gasoline • Work with national Governments and development partners to establish or strengthen subregional accreditation bodies for analytical laboratories in Africa
Human Settlements Management Programme	To support AMCEN's policies that address management of human settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity for agencies and departments of national governments and local authorities in environmental planning and management • Implement sustainable NEPAD city programmes pursuant to the AMCEN programme
Small island developing States – aspects of sustainable development	TO BE INSERTED	

Annex IV

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) tenth session, Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 26-30 June 2004

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Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

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Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in the Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

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