



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

Distr.: General
2 June 2006

Original: English



African Union



**African Ministerial Conference
on the Environment**

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Eleventh session
Brazzaville, 22–26 May 2006

Report of the Expert Group segment held from 22 to 24 May 2006

Introduction

1. The Expert Group segment of the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Brazzaville, Congo, from 22 to 24 May 2006.
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 III to the present report.
3. The Expert Group segment was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Hamouda, Technical Adviser of the Environment General Authority of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and representative of the President of AMCEN, Mr. Abdul-Hakim Rajab Elwaer, Minister of the Environment of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Mr. Saadeldin Izzeldin (Sudan) served as rapporteur.

I. Opening of the Expert Group segment of the eleventh session

4. Following opening remarks by Mr. Sekou Toure, Director of the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Foday Bojang, Head of the Division of Environment and Natural Resources of the Commission of the African Union, speaking on behalf of Mr. Babagana Ahmadou, Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the Commission of the African Union, and Mr. Hamouda, the meeting was officially opened by Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and the Environment of Congo, at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, 22 May 2006.
5. In his opening statement, Mr Toure recalled that the role of AMCEN from its inception had been to promote dialogue on environmental sustainability in Africa. The goals of the Expert Group segment, he said, were to review and guide the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); to discuss the financing of

environmental programmes in Africa, particularly through the AMCEN Trust Fund; to consider issues related to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; and to prepare the final draft of the revised constitution of AMCEN for adoption by African environment ministers. He reaffirmed the support of UNEP for the current and future work of AMCEN and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Congo for hosting the session.

6. In his opening statement, Mr. Bojang drew attention to the close working relationship that had developed between AMCEN and the Commission of the African Union, citing, for example, the request made by the African Union at its extraordinary summit on agriculture and water in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in February 2004, to the chair of the Commission of the African Union to adapt the mandates, structures and activities of the African Ministers' Council on Water, AMCEN and the African Ministerial Conference on Agriculture, in order to integrate them into the activities of the Commission of the African Union and its specialized technical committees. Noting that collaboration between the two organizations offered potential for the streamlining of activities related to environmental issues in Africa, he said that the Commission would take forward the outcomes of the eleventh session of AMCEN to the African Union summit in Banjul, the Gambia, in July 2006.

7. Mr. Hamouda welcomed participants and, noting that the African environment provided many opportunities for human and economic development, stressed the importance of curbing environmental degradation in Africa in order to achieve the targets of NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals. The current session provided African environment ministers with the opportunity to review and guide the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD and to address emerging environmental issues. After outlining some of those issues, he called on those present to cooperate in order to establish a basis for the ensuing policy dialogue between ministers.

8. Mr. Djombo welcomed participants on behalf of the President of Congo and expressed his thanks to the many institutions that had contributed to the organization of the meeting. He underscored the importance of preserving the environment in developing countries, particularly in Africa, which were faced with the challenge of balancing sustainable development with meeting the vital needs of impoverished populations. Welcoming the commitment of AMCEN to the environment, which had been reaffirmed by ministers at the second special session of the Conference, held in Maputo, Mozambique, in June 2003 with the adoption of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD, he said that Congo remained committed to its work towards environmental progress and human development.

9. Turning to the issues to be addressed at the current session, he said that, given the delays in implementing programmes for the environment, there was an urgent need to focus attention on financing mechanisms for the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD. The status of AMCEN with respect to the African Union and its future role also required clarification.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

10. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Expert Group segment was conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of the tenth session of AMCEN. Therefore, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya served as Chair and representatives of Mali and Namibia served as Vice-Chairs.

11. The representative of the Sudan served as rapporteur for the Expert Group segment.

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

12. The experts adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/11/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and 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 tenth session;

- (b) Overview of implementation of the 2004–2006 programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (c) Activities of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the intersessional period.
4. Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
 5. Consideration of the draft indicative work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the biennium 2007–2008.
 6. Consideration of some environmental issues of particular importance to Africa.
 7. Consideration of the second 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. Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.
 10. Second Africa Environment Outlook report.
 11. Consideration of the report of the Expert Group segment.
 12. Other matters.
 13. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

13. The Expert Group agreed to establish four working groups to prepare draft decisions and a draft declaration to be forwarded to the ministerial segment for consideration and possible adoption. The first working group would be chaired by the representative of Egypt and would consider policy, advocacy and institutional arrangements. The second working group would be divided into two subgroups: the first, chaired by the representative of Zambia, would focus mainly on the work programme of AMCEN for the 2007–2008 biennium; and the second, to be chaired by the representative of Uganda, would focus on financial matters. The third working group would be chaired by the representative of South Africa and would consider issues relating to regional and multilateral environmental agreements and the fourth would be chaired by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire and would consider the Africa Environment Outlook process and the issue of disaster risk reduction.

III. Consideration of the report of the secretariat: implementation of decisions taken by AMCEN at its tenth session; implementation of the AMCEN 2004–2006 programme of work; and activities of AMCEN in the intersessional period

14. Introducing the report on the item contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/11/3, the representative of the secretariat described the status of implementation of the eight decisions taken by AMCEN at its tenth session and reported on other activities included in the AMCEN programme of work for the period from July 2004 to May 2006, acknowledging the role played by the partners of AMCEN in carrying out those activities and drawing particular attention to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

15. He noted that AMCEN had been involved in a widening range of activities, guiding key political events related to multilateral environmental agreements and leading the development of the action plan for the environmental initiative of NEPAD. He described the activities undertaken within six primary focus areas. Concluding the presentation, he drew attention to the challenges faced by the session, including the continued deterioration of the environment, unsustainable exploitation of the natural resource base, the vicious cycle of poverty and the threats posed by disease. He envisaged that the eleventh session would see the emergence of a better endowed AMCEN, more able to mobilize resources to take the necessary measures to ensure sound management of the environment in Africa.

16. In the ensuing discussion, the experts commended the secretariat on the quality of its report and on its excellent work in the intersessional period.

IV. Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

17. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/AMCEN/11/3/Add.1, which described the status of implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD. Since the tenth session of AMCEN, the momentum of implementation had increased considerably, he said, although some programme areas had seen more rapid progress than others.

18. Following discussion of the issue, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by working groups, which would report back to the plenary on the outcomes of their deliberations.

19. The chairs of the two working groups concerned with the agenda item reported back to the plenary on their deliberations and introduced draft decisions on the issue. The experts agreed to forward those draft texts for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment. The texts of those draft decisions are contained in annex II to the present report.

V. Consideration of the draft indicative work programme of AMCEN for the biennium 2007–2008

20. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat outlined the contents of document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/11/4 on the AMCEN draft indicative work programme for the biennium 2007–2008.

21. In the ensuing discussion, several experts made observations about the past and future work of AMCEN. Two stressed the importance of action to protect wetlands and one proposed the use of pilot projects to showcase sustainable approaches to management of such ecosystems. Others expressed concern about current approaches to handling hazardous wastes, which focused heavily on chemicals; it was necessary instead, they said, to address all types of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes.

22. In response to a proposal by the representative of the World Meteorological Organization that the African Union should become more involved in projects using new satellite techniques to monitor the environment, the representative of the secretariat said that such proposals could be embedded in the draft programme of work for the biennium 2007–2008 that was to be discussed during the ministerial segment. In response to calls to promote implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention), the representative of the African Union explained that, following many delays, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention was due to take place in November 2006. He further explained that, although the revised Algiers Convention had not yet been ratified by a sufficient number of countries for it to enter into force, an earlier version of the agreement would remain legally binding until enough States had ratified its successor.

23. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

24. Reporting back on the working group's deliberations, the chair of the group outlined the elements that experts hoped to see included in the programme of work for 2007–2008. Specific attention was drawn to the issue of promoting capacity-building, through both NEPAD and UNEP. The experts agreed to request ministers to give further consideration to the issue during the ministerial segment.

VI. Consideration of some environmental issues of particular importance to Africa

A. Introduction

25. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/11/5 on some environmental issues of relevance to Africa.

B. Disaster risk reduction

26. The representative of the African Union made a presentation on the African Union's regional strategy for disaster risk reduction, noting its necessity given the increasing threat of disasters in Africa and the diversion of resources from development aid to disaster relief. The strategy focused on improving public understanding of regional disaster risk reduction and management and on capacity-building. After summarizing efforts made at the regional, subregional and national levels, he said that the African Union anticipated that, by working in partnership with NEPAD, the African Development Bank and United Nations bodies, it would be possible, by 2010, to improve disaster risk reduction policies and create a reservoir of skills to manage and reduce disaster risks in Africa.

27. In the ensuing discussion, many experts commented on the need for greater involvement of local communities and civil society in the formulation of disaster risk reduction strategies; many agreed that a grassroots perspective was not well articulated in the African Union's existing strategy. Other issues raised in the discussion included: the need for a cost-benefit analysis and relative risk approach to the allocation of resources to disaster risk reduction; the need for financing mechanisms to be broadened to include large, private foundations; and the importance of multisectoral approaches to disaster risk reduction, involving specialized agencies of the United Nations and other bodies along with national Governments. There was widespread consensus among experts on the need for capacity-building in disaster risk reduction and management. Concerns were voiced, however, regarding the diversion of development resources towards emergency relief and the follow-up to the commitment of the African Union to the Brussels Plan of Action adopted at the third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

28. In response, the representative of the African Union pointed out that discussions were under way within the secretariat of the African Union regarding the cost-benefit analysis of disaster risk reduction programmes; further studies were being planned, he said, to assess disaster risks in Africa. Noting that civil society perspectives had already been incorporated into the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction of the African Union and the guidelines for mainstreaming disaster management in development by the African Development Bank, he said that further activity at the grassroots level was outside the ambit of the African Union, which relied on its member States to work closely with local communities on disaster risk reduction and other programmatic issues. In that regard, he said that the assessment of local perspectives came under the mandate of national Governments rather than that of the African Union, which could engage in activities across, but not specifically within, member States.

29. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

30. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the working group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision on the issue. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

C. Multilateral and regional environmental agreements

1. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

31. The representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification made a presentation in which she reviewed the implementation of the Convention, noting that about 65 percent of the population of Africa was affected by land degradation and that the negative economic and social impacts of such degradation had far-reaching implications, especially with regard to the Millennium Development Goal on poverty eradication.

32. Within Africa, she said, 33 national action programmes had already been prepared and 15 more were in the pipeline, with the support of various bilateral and international partners. At its third meeting, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention had considered the third series of national reports of certain African countries and had noted that, although an enabling environment existed in many cases, there was still a need for national action programmes to be articulated more clearly and to take into account poverty reduction and investment strategies. The Committee had reiterated the need for the wider dissemination of success stories, for closer cooperation between the Convention and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and for additional internal and external funding, taking into account recent opportunities for such funding under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the new TerrAfrica initiative. Finally, she outlined the key outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi in October 2005, and the activities being undertaken during the current International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

33. In the ensuing discussion, in response to a question on cross-border projects, she noted that such projects would be dealt with further in the context of the subregional action programmes. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted the close collaboration between the organization and the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and drew attention to an upcoming scientific conference in Tunisia in June 2006 on the future of drylands.

2. Bamako Convention

34. The representative of the African Union summarized the plans for holding the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention, recalling that the meeting should have taken place within one year of the date in 1998 when the agreement had entered into force. The transformations in the African Union since that time had, however, occasioned delays to the process. Interagency and national organizing committees were nevertheless preparing to hold the meeting in Bamako in November 2006.

35. He said that, at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties was expected to formulate its rules of procedure and its financial rules, noting that the latter would be likely to match those of other subsidiary bodies under the Commission of the African Union. The Conference would also consider technical documents, which would largely involve the adaptation to the African context of documents drafted pursuant to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. In addition, the Conference would need to establish the frequency of its future meetings.

3. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

36. The representative of Nigeria, the African Regional Focal Point for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), introduced the sub-item by outlining the development of SAICM. Consultations undertaken in the African region had, she said, contributed significantly to the success of the drafting process, culminating in the adoption of the Strategic Approach by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006. She introduced the core components of the Strategic Approach and the mechanisms for its implementation, noting that the first regional SAICM meeting was to take place in Cairo in September 2006, demonstrating that Africa was leading the way in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. She concluded by urging the Conference to adopt a decision on the implementation of SAICM at its present session. Such a move would facilitate access by African countries to the SAICM Quick Start Programme trust fund, aimed at giving financial support to implement national action plans.

37. In response to concerns raised in the ensuing discussion, she assured the experts that non-governmental organizations and meteorological institutions would continue to play an important role in the development of action plans and implementation of the Strategic Approach at the regional and national levels.

4. Further consideration

38. Following those discussions, the experts agreed that the issues should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

39. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group, relating to the Strategic Approach. He noted that the draft decision conformed to previous decision made by AMCEN at its tenth session and contained conventional language regarding the Strategic Approach, while also incorporating a regional perspective appropriate for the African context. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

D. Green Wall for the Sahara initiative

40. The representative of the African Union introduced the proposed Green Wall for the Sahara initiative, noting that the idea was not wholly novel; smaller schemes already operated in a number of North African countries. The Green Wall for the Sahara initiative would, however, operate on a far larger scale than those, encompassing some 20 countries. Reference was also made to the new greenbelt initiative launched by the African Union in the framework of NEPAD. The scope of the proposed initiative would necessitate extensive transboundary collaboration, multisectoral approaches at the national and regional levels and the devotion of considerable financial resources. In addition, it would be important to learn from past experience in implementing similar programmes and to provide support to local populations. The initiative would help to limit the land degradation that destroyed livelihoods and thereby help bring about poverty reduction and sustainable development. He concluded by describing the institutional structures that were being established to guide the initiative's work, including steering and technical committees and national committees.

41. Responding to concerns raised in the ensuing discussion about the initiative, in particular with regard to the approach that would be taken, the representative of the African Union explained that the proposed initiative would complement existing programmes in the region, rather than duplicate their work. He agreed with one expert that it would be vital to take advantage of the expertise that had already been developed by existing programmes and supported suggestions that implementation of the initiative should commence with pilot projects. Furthermore, he said, the scale and cost of the initiative would make coordination across borders crucial. In response to a suggestion that AMCEN should take responsibility for running the initiative's steering committee, he observed that some States had expressed a preference for choosing alternative representatives in view of the multisectoral character of the work. He also noted that the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative would be implemented in the context of the United Nations Framework to Combat Desertification. Several experts asked for the recent work of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory to be taken into account in that regard. Finally, he welcomed the proposal by the representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification that the African Union should present the initiative to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its next meeting.

42. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

43. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision on the issue. It was noted that the draft decision reflected discussions regarding past experiences in controlling desertification and current initiatives related to the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative. The representative of Morocco expressed concern about the initiative and the related decision, in particular with regard to the composition of the specialized technical committee. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

E. African Environment Facility

44. The representative of the African Development Bank provided an overview of progress made towards creating the African Environment Facility, noting that the notion of establishing such a fund had initially been conceived in 2003, with the launch of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD. The African Union, he said, had endorsed the idea and UNEP had provided the funding for a feasibility study, which was almost complete. The results of the study to date were circulated to experts.

45. One expert said that, while he supported the establishment of the African Environment Facility, the criteria established for accessing funds should be broader than those used in the context of the Global Environment Facility, given that the Global Environment Facility financed only the incremental costs of projects. The African Environment Facility should provide counterpart funds for national and subregional projects financed by the Global Environment Facility and finance projects that were not eligible for funding under the Global Environment Facility or other mechanisms.

46. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

47. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. In the discussions regarding the creation of an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank, one representative observed that ministers of the environment were not represented on the governing board of the African Development Bank, reducing the priority given to environmental matters in that body. Other representatives expressed concern that the establishment of an African Environment Facility might jeopardize the chances of African countries accessing funds from the Global Environment Facility. In response, another representative noted that the establishment of environmental funding mechanisms was advocated by several international conventions and would be complementary to, rather than in conflict with, the Global Environment Facility. The representative of the African Development Bank said that the draft decision, if approved by the ministerial segment, should be brought to the attention of the president of the African Development Bank for presentation to the Bank's board of directors. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

F. Resource mobilization

48. The representative of the African Development Bank introduced the issue of mobilizing resources for the implementation of environmental projects and programmes at national, subregional and regional levels. It was observed that, despite earlier commitments made at the first and second Partners' Conferences on the establishment of the environment initiative of NEPAD, funding for environmental activities at all levels remained inadequate.

49. Following a discussion on the issue, the experts agreed that the topic of resource mobilization should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

50. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. In relation to financing of environmental initiatives, the group had noted several specific needs, including: the need to conduct long-term cost-benefit analyses of Government programmes so as to promote cost-effective allocations of scarce resource; the need to identify and exploit the synergies between various levels and programmes and projects at the country level; and the need to harmonize funding for environmental activities at the country level. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

G. Draft Brazzaville declaration

51. The text of the draft Brazzaville declaration on the environment and development, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of contributions by AMCEN member States, was presented in plenary and further considered by two working groups. After deliberations, the chairs of the working groups reported back to plenary and presented a draft text of the declaration. They said that the working groups had sought to introduce a strategic approach into the document, emphasizing a call for further financial resources to be allocated to environmental issues in Africa.

52. In the ensuing discussion, the question of financing was further considered, with several representatives calling for the Global Environment Facility to be more transparent in its funding allocations and to develop funding priorities more appropriate to the needs of the African continent, for example by considering the criterion of vulnerability.

53. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft declaration, a copy of which is contained in annex I to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

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

54. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat provided an update of the progress made in the development of the draft revised constitution. He said that legal advisors had suggested that further discussion of the item should be deferred until there was further clarity on the status of AMCEN. The representative of the Commission of the African Union said that a study had been conducted on how AMCEN might be accommodated as a specialized technical committee of the Commission and said that the report of the study was currently being considered. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the former AMCEN president or his or her representatives should attend meetings of the current Bureau, in order to ensure continuity of the programme of work of AMCEN. The expert from Morocco expressed concern about the consequences of AMCEN becoming a separate and distinct specialized technical committee of the Commission of the African Union, noting that such a goal had never been articulated in any of its previous decisions and that AMCEN should be given more time to stabilize its current status and structure before becoming integrated into a framework which had not initially been designed for AMCEN activities.

55. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

56. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. The ensuing debate was focussed heavily on a perceived lack of clarity in the draft decision regarding the future relationship between AMCEN and the African Union, specifically whether AMCEN was to become a specialized technical committee of the Commission of the African Union or to remain an independent body. One participant noted that the draft constitution itself did not explicitly define that relationship, nor did it state whether AMCEN was fundamentally a political authority or a technical group. Other participants observed that that relationship was to be determined by the African heads of State. After extensive discussion, the experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

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

57. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/AMCEN/11/5/Add.1 on the status of the general trust fund of AMCEN. He noted that, while there had been some improvement in the levels of contributions and that some countries were paying more than they had pledged, over half were making no contribution. In order to overcome that difficulty, a number of options, including the possible application of the United Nations indicative scale of contributions, had been considered.

58. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

59. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

IX. Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

60. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that, as the question of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building had been taken up under agenda item 3 and would also be considered in the working group discussions, and given the limited time available, the item would not be considered separately in the plenary session of the Expert Group.

61. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

62. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

X. Second Africa Environment Outlook report

63. The representative of UNEP, introducing the item, recalled that the first Africa Environment Outlook report had been launched at the ninth session of AMCEN in Kampala in July 2002. In view of its usefulness, AMCEN had requested a follow-up publication, which UNEP had prepared in collaboration with a wide range of partners, including substantial subregional input within Africa. The launch of the second Africa Environment Outlook at the current session highlighted the value of the environmental assets of the continent and improved the ability to leverage funding for the protection and sustainable use of those assets.

64. During the ensuing discussion, several experts commended UNEP for the quality and usefulness of the second Africa Environment Outlook report. The representative of UNEP agreed that there was a need to harmonize environmental indicators across Africa and highlighted the work already under way through the Africa Environment Information Network to achieve that goal. He also agreed with the suggestion that the report needed to target all levels of society, noting that the new African Environment Outlook for Youth report aimed to make the findings accessible to a broader audience. The development of a network of youth groups across Africa also helped to achieve that goal. Work was under way to establish an evaluation process prior to the publication of the next edition, expected in 2010, to assess the report's effect. He concluded by welcoming proposals by experts for increased collaboration with other organizations and academic institutions in future work.

65. Following the discussions, the experts agreed that the item should be considered further by a working group, which would report back to the plenary on the outcome of its deliberations.

66. The chair of the working group reported back to the plenary on the group's deliberations and introduced a draft decision prepared by the working group on the issue. The experts agreed to forward the text of the draft decision, which is contained in annex II to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption at the ministerial segment.

XI. Other matters

A. TerrAfrica initiative

67. A presentation was made on the TerrAfrica initiative, a multiparty platform seeking to scale up sustainable land management approaches through the articulation of three activity lines related to coalition building, knowledge management and investments. The representative of TerrAfrica said that current trends in land degradation were leading to significant losses in production and income, and severely destabilizing land and human resources. A number of barriers and bottlenecks in crucial areas – institutional and sectoral, knowledge and technology dissemination, policy, implementation and financing – constrained attempts to solve those problems. TerrAfrica offered a means by which those barriers might be addressed.

68. The TerrAfrica Leveraging Fund was being established to facilitate implementation of its objectives, and the Strategic Investment Program for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa would allow beneficiaries to access Global Environment Facility resources on a programmatic basis. TerrAfrica had been set up at a framing workshop in Paris in 2004 and was now moving towards the early stages of implementation, working with a wide range of partners to mobilize financial resources to improve land management.

69. In response to the comments raised in the ensuing discussion, the representative of the African Development Bank provided more information on the process by which TerrAfrica had been formed, noting that the initiative had been created to serve as a platform for attracting donor support and would complement, rather than duplicate, the work of other regional organizations. While acknowledging that awareness of TerrAfrica was limited in some countries, she said that visits to individual countries would help overcome that. Civil society groups would play an important role in TerrAfrica's work and a stakeholder involvement plan was being drafted. Linkages were being established with other financial organizations, such as the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank; the representative of the Bank agreed with the suggestion by one expert that TerrAfrica should seek to exploit synergies with the

proposed Green Wall for the Sahara initiative. AMCEN members seeking funding for appropriate projects should present their proposals to TerrAfrica.

B. Sustainable financing

70. The representative of UNEP gave a presentation on sustainable financing, noting that national environmental authorities frequently paid insufficient attention to the financial sustainability of their work. Various mechanisms, which had been deployed mainly in Latin America and Asia, could be used to overcome that weakness. Environment funds were a particularly valuable tool, since they could serve as a magnet for attracting support from different sources. The Global Environment Facility was expected to become a less important contributor to such funds in the future; debt-for-nature swaps, however, would continue to constitute a key source for the initial capitalization of environmental funds, while payment for ecosystem services could serve as a means to replenish them. Past experience demonstrated that the potential value of ecosystem services was huge, but realizing that value could be technically very complex. None of the mechanisms could be implemented successfully without political commitment. Yet, once implemented, the resources that they could generate could significantly strengthen the position of environment ministries in negotiations with other areas of national Governments.

71. During the ensuing discussion, some experts expressed interest in the use of sustainable financing instruments to fund environmental projects and sought further information on the use of debt swaps, carbon credit trading and payment for ecosystem services. Several called on UNEP to provide additional support to countries in establishing such mechanisms. In view of the time limits, the representative of UNEP cited documents which provided information on the issues. He also said that UNEP was keen to support its members in establishing sustainable financing mechanisms and urged AMCEN members to approach UNEP if they wished to receive training.

C. Africa Environment Outlook report for youth

72. The representative of UNEP presented the Africa Environment Outlook for Youth report, noting that the publication represented over three years of work by young people throughout Africa. The report, he said, demonstrated the dynamism and potential of the young people by and for whom it had been written and had led to the establishment of over forty youth environmental networks on the continent.

73. The representative of the African Union announced the launch of the report, which had been commissioned by AMCEN and produced by UNEP and presented a youth perspective on the environment. With their demographic dominance and tremendous creativity, young people were key stakeholders in the environment; the report enabled them to strengthen their actions in support of the environment.

XII. Consideration of the report

74. On the afternoon of 24 May 2006, the experts adopted their report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated, as orally amended in the meeting and on the understanding that the secretariat would be entrusted with its finalization.

XIII. Closure of the meeting

75. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the Expert Group segment closed at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 24 May 2006.

Annex I

Draft Brazzaville declaration on the environment for development

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh 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,

Recalling the outcome of recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings, in particular the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000, in which the international community recognized the special challenges facing Africa and committed itself to supporting Africa in achieving sustainable development,

Concerned about the increasing number of environmental threats facing Africa and the continent's vulnerability to global environmental change, which in turn compromise the efforts of the continent to promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goals on extreme poverty and hunger,

Recalling the commitments made at the two Partners' Conferences on the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development held in Algiers, in December 2003, and in Dakar, in March 2005,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the early stages of the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

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,

Noting also the progress made in the implementation of the coastal and marine component of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development within the framework of the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region,

Noting further the progress made in the development and early stages of implementation of the TerrAfrica initiative since its launch in Nairobi in October 2005, including the preparation of the Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management of the Global Environment Facility,

Emphasizing the importance and relevance of the TerrAfrica initiative as a means to broaden sustainable land management projects in sub-Saharan Africa and thereby support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling chapter III of Agenda 21, as adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, which calls for the engagement and participation of major groups in the intergovernmental processes considering sustainable development issues,

Recalling also the preamble to the African Union Constitutive Act, in which member States made a commitment to build partnerships between Governments and all segments of civil society, in particular women, young people and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among peoples,

Noting the adverse effect of conflicts on the environment and the need for peace and security in Africa, as the basis for stability, sound environmental management and sustainable development,

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 roles of regional, subregional and national bodies, 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,

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

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

Noting with concern the changes made to the Global Environment Facility in respect of its fourth replenishment, in particular the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to adopt the resource allocation framework and gravely concerned that the resource allocation framework will limit resources available to Africa,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of South Africa to host the third meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility and associated meetings in Cape Town, from 27 August to 1 September 2006,

Noting the need to adopt the revised Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to linking the Conference to the organs of the African Union,

Acknowledging the usefulness of the second Africa Environment Outlook report as the second comprehensive report on the state of Africa's environment and its contribution to the understanding of the benefits to be derived from the environment in Africa,

Recalling the Durban Declaration on Environmental Impact Assessment, adopted by the Conference in 1995, and recognizing the role of the pan-African Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa network, as a tool to increase the awareness and capacity of African professionals with respect to environmental assessment and management, as needed for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Acknowledging the role of the Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa project in promoting efforts to build the capacity of selected African States in the development and implementation of environmental laws and institutions,

Welcoming the launch of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging with appreciation resolution 58/211 of the United Nations General Assembly, which declared 2006 to be the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Welcoming the completion and adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its first session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006, and its subsequent endorsement by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision SS.IX/1 on 9 February 2006,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To continue to implement fully the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in particular its capacity development programme, and to finalize and adopt the subregional action plans;
2. To urge Governments to take necessary action in support of the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions as the framework for implementation of the marine and coastal component of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. To promote the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, in particular the priority areas identified by the Conference and recommit ourselves to the promotion of thematic centres of excellence in support of capacity-building in Africa;
4. To urge Governments to take necessary action to ensure that the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished during the intersessional period;
5. To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to ensure the establishment of the African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank;
6. To call on the Global Environment Facility to continue to give high priority to African countries in allocating financial resources for the successful implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to urge African members of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to advocate support for the implementation of the action plan at country and subregional levels within the Council ;
7. To call on the Global Environment Facility to continue to support at significant levels the goals and efforts expressed by African countries and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the context of the action plan for the environment initiative and TerrAfrica;
8. To urge the Global Environment Facility to allocate resources in a transparent and equitable manner, based on the needs and priorities of countries and regions and to request the Facility to streamline and simplify its procedures and review the system of co-financing, so as to create greater opportunities for African countries to access the resources of the Global Environment Facility;
9. To request the Global Environment Facility to review and reform its current governance system to provide for greater transparency and equity and increased representation, in order to ensure the participation of all African countries in its structures and decision making processes, in line with the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
10. To request the Global Environment Facility to include in the high-level segment of its third Assembly, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, a political debate on the issues of equity, access to the resources of the Facility and the challenges and opportunities that the Facility presents as a financing mechanism to support Africa;
11. To urge the Global Environment Facility to create a platform during its third Assembly to enable Africa to showcase the progress and challenges experienced in implementing the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to meet and work with the secretariats of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in this regard;
12. To urge development partners to support Africa in meeting Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability and, in particular, to provide adequate resources to the special climate change fund;
13. To call upon countries that have not ratified the three conventions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, namely, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and their related protocols, to do so, and to urge Africa's development partners to assist and support African countries in the implementation of such conventions;
14. To commit ourselves to further strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, thereby contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and ensuring that relevant Millennium Development Goals are met;

15. To support the International Year of Deserts and Desertification in Africa and to urge Governments and civil society to promote and implement related activities, with the aim of enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
16. To urge all African countries to take steps to sign, ratify and implement the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, adopted by the African Union, at its second Summit, in Maputo, on 11 July 2003;
17. To welcome the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop issue-based tools to facilitate coherent implementation of the three Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions and to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to complete the development of these tools and mobilize the necessary resources to ensure their implementation in all African countries;
18. To call on the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to sustain efforts to forge cooperative links with the relevant structures of the African Union, with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements and strengthening the relationship of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with the United Nations Environment Programme;
19. To call upon the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to forge and strengthen linkages with other relevant ministerial bodies, with a view to harmonizing policies and programmes;
20. To recommit ourselves to make every effort to mainstream environment into national development agendas in Africa;
21. To encourage the sustainable use of chemicals and commit ourselves to the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, in order to realize the goals of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
22. To encourage the use of the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal as centres of excellence for capacity-building in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements relevant to chemicals and hazardous wastes;
23. To commit ourselves to the issues highlighted at the eleventh session of the Conference, namely: resource mobilization for implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; regional and multilateral environmental agreements in Africa; environmental law; poverty and environment; environment and health; environmental assessment; capacity-building; disaster risk reduction; sustainable consumption and production in Africa; the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in Africa; environmental assessment; post-conflict environmental assessment; health and environment; disaster risk management; the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative; the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
24. To request the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting to endorse the establishment of a sustainable funding stream for the implementation of the Basel Convention in Africa;
25. To reaffirm our endorsement of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environmental management and to provide a framework for national, subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting and to note with appreciation the implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network at the national, subregional and regional levels to strengthen access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa;
26. To request African countries to use the comprehensive national Landsat data sets distributed by the United Nations Environment Programme and to request the United Nations Environment Programme to support the effective use of those data sets for environmental management;

27. To support the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and to urge the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to work together to support African countries in their efforts to achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development, aimed at contributing to the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles and environmental sustainability;
28. To urge the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure the expansion of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Laws and Institutions in Africa and its integration into the regular programme of the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental law;
29. To support the implementation of the comprehensive plan of the Central Africa Forests Commission, on the sustainable management, use and conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in Central Africa;
30. To establish a coherent policy and programme of support for small island developing States in the light of the Mauritius Strategy of the United Nations, agreed in January 2005;
31. To continue to promote capacity-building in the use of environmental assessment in development activities in Africa;
32. To invite Governments to engage in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, in particular by participating actively in its second Inter-governmental Review, so that the priorities of Africa are reflected in the implementation of the Programme of Action;
33. To form mutually advantageous partnerships with African environmental non-governmental organizations and initiatives, in order to secure Africa's environmental sustainability within a framework of sustainable development;
34. To give effect to the decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eleventh session, in Brazzaville, on 26 May 2006;
35. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the eleventh session of the Conference, including the Brazzaville Declaration and its annexes, to the Executive Council of the African Union;
36. To pay tribute to the President of the Congo and the Congolese 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 the Congo to the eleventh 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

Draft 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 Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Decide:

- (a) To request the Commission of the African Union:
 - (i) To lend high-level political support to the successful implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
 - (ii) To strengthen its environment section and those of the relevant technical units of the regional economic communities;
 - (iii) To develop appropriate communication mechanisms between countries and the regional economic communities;
- (b) To urge development partners to assist in providing required resources for developing the capacities of the regional economic communities, to enable them to discharge their responsibilities;
- (c) To call on the Global Environment Facility and other development partners to provide financial support for the implementation of the projects and programmes of the action plan at country and subregional levels;
- (d) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the finalization of the subregional action plans of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (e) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to maintain and develop further its issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of environmental agreements to cover agreements for all African States and to include other relevant topics;
- (f) To request further the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Conservation Union and development partners to provide financial support to African countries to develop and maintain the issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of environmental agreements;
- (g) To request the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its facilitation of United Nations agency consultations, coordination and collaboration with respect to the thematic cluster of United Nations bodies and the New Partnership for Africa's Development that is concerned with the environment, population and urbanization, as well as sub-clusters concerned with water, energy, biotechnology and post-conflict environmental reconstruction and other relevant sub-clusters;

(h) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize support for the successful expansion of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa and its necessary integration into the regular programme of the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental law in order to benefit a greater number of African States in terms of providing advisory services and technical assistance activities at regional, subregional and national levels;

(i) To request the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization to strengthen its technical support to African countries to implement the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, particularly the management of transboundary ecosystems;

(j) To request countries to implement the projects of the action plan in conformity with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

(k) To maintain effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union and the regional economic communities.

Draft decision 2: Institutional linkages and harmonization of activities in the context of the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with appreciation the adoption of the action plan for 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 for 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 for 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 secretariats of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and development partners of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Welcoming the offers made by African countries and development partners during the Partners' Conferences 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, and Dakar, on 15 and 16 March 2005,

Recognizing the commitment of the heads of State and Government of the African Union on the linkages between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union, in paragraph 9 of the Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Water in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its second extraordinary session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 27 February 2004,

Decide:

- (a) To pursue the goal of the Conference to become a separate and distinct specialized technical committee of the Commission of the African Union*;
- (b) To ensure that the integration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment into the African Union does not jeopardize the activities of the Conference but rather strengthens and expands its work and the strong relationships that already exist between the Conference and the United Nations Environment Programme and other existing partners;
- (c) To advocate further linkages between the Conference and other relevant organs of the African Union;
- (d) To provide overall guidance on the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (e) To follow-up with the regional economic communities on the implementation of the action plan;
- (f) To cooperate with the relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and civil society on strategic issues related to the implementation of the action plan;
- (g) To cooperate and establish linkages with the other relevant institutions such as the African Ministers' Council on Water on strategic issues related to the implementation of the action plan;
- (h) To continue to mobilize political support for the successful implementation of the action plan;
- (i) 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 and the Commission of the African Union to secure sustainable financing to sustain the Conference's collaboration with the regional economic communities in undertaking the activities of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the implementation of the action plan;
- (j) To review periodically progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and make recommendations;
- (k) To advocate the harmonization of any existing and new environmental initiatives, within the framework of the implementation of the action plan.

Draft decision 3: Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh 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,¹

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

* A specialized technical committee of the Commission of the African Union is a ministerial body that provides policy advice and guidance to the summit of the African Union, through the Executive Council, on issues falling within its particular portfolio.

¹ UNEP/AMCEN/8/7.

Mindful of the request made to the secretariat by ministers at the tenth session of the Conference, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, as contained in decision 3 of the tenth session,

Noting that the process of further intergovernmental consultations is under way, thus necessitating the close monitoring of the evolution of other initiatives under the African Union,

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 the potential implications that the evolving structures of the African Union have on the Conference;

(c) To request the secretariat to defer the process of revising the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment pending the complete establishment of the institutional structures of the African Union and to report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its twelfth session on any progress made in this regard;

(d) To include the immediate past President or at least one member of the immediate past Bureau in the meetings of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for one term to ensure continuity and advancement of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Draft 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 Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh 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 its decision 4 on the status and use of the General Trust Fund, adopted at its tenth session, in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 30 June 2004,

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,

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 core activities,

Mindful of the evolving linkages between the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the implications for funding the activities of the Conference,

Decide:

- (a) To urge Governments to 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, also in consultation with the Bureau, should make proposals for sponsorship of some activities of the Conference, including meetings of the Bureau;
- (c) That the secretariat, also in consultation with the Bureau and the Commission of the African Union, should make proposals for sponsorship of the regular and extraordinary sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (d) 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;
- (e) That the interest generated by the General Trust Fund could be used and that 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;
- (f) 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;
- (g) 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.

Draft decision 5: Implementation of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and other chemical and hazardous waste management issues

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville, Congo, on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the initiation of the development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002 and the endorsement of that decision by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in its decision 5 adopted at its tenth regular session on 30 June 2004,

Recalling also the commitment to the development of the Strategic Approach expressed by Heads of State and Government in the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002 and in the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the General Assembly at the high-level plenary meeting of its sixtieth session in New York on 16 September 2005,

Noting the important contribution made to the development of the Strategic Approach by the holding of regional consultations, including those for the African region in Abuja, Nigeria, from 24 to 26 May 2004 and in Saly, Senegal, from 15 to 18 March 2005,

Welcoming the completion and adoption of the Strategic Approach by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006 and the subsequent endorsement of the approach by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006,

Applauding the establishment of a “Quick Start” Programme to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities for the Strategic Approach in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Government of South Africa and other donors to the Quick Start Programme trust fund,

Recalling decision 23/9, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on 25 February 2005, which requested the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for fulfilment of the organization’s responsibilities under the Strategic Approach and to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Acknowledging the initial work done to develop an African regional action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Approach,

Decide:

(a) To endorse the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as a policy framework to support achievement of the goal set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that, by 2020, chemicals must be used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

(b) To urge Governments to nominate national Strategic Approach focal points and establish inter-ministerial or inter-institutional arrangements to oversee implementation of the Strategic Approach at the national level;

(c) To emphasize the need for the Strategic Approach to be implemented on an inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral basis, engaging representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector drawn from all relevant sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour;

(d) To urge Governments to commence planning for national action plans for implementation of the Strategic Approach, building on work already undertaken in the context of multilateral environment agreements such as 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, as well as regional environmental agreements such as the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa;

(e) To encourage recognition of the cross-cutting nature of chemical safety and hazardous waste as a sustainable development issue and the inclusion of sound chemicals and hazardous waste management considerations in national planning strategies and programmes, where appropriate;

(f) To encourage the exploration of possible regional approaches to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, where synergies can be identified, including through the holding of regional and subregional consultations and the further development of a regional action plan for Africa;

(g) To request the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and 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, the Basel Convention regional centres and others to participate actively in the implementation of the Strategic Approach as an integral

part of efforts by African Governments to achieve the goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

(h) To urge the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to give priority to the needs of African countries when developing activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach within the work programmes and mandates of those organizations;

(i) To support plans for the holding of a symposium on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the Governments of the Czech Republic and Germany. This symposium should also address the issue of hazardous waste consistent with chapter 19 of Agenda 21;

(j) To request international and regional partners to support efforts to strengthen the ability of the Basel Convention regional centres to undertake capacity-building for chemicals and hazardous waste management in related multilateral environmental agreements in Africa, in line with the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Draft decision 6: Africa Environment Outlook and the Africa Environment Information Network

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with appreciation the production of the second Africa Environment Outlook report, entitled "Our Environment Our Wealth", which was achieved with the continued support of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling our decisions in Kampala in 2002 and Sirte in 2004 and further reaffirming our commitment to the Africa Environment Outlook process as a means to monitor sustainable development in Africa and as a framework for environmental reporting at the national and subregional levels,

Noting with appreciation the implementation of the pilot phase of the Africa Environment Information Network at national, subregional and regional levels, aimed at strengthening access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa,

Recognizing the important role that the Africa Environment Information Network initiative has played in enhancing national capacities to contribute to the Africa Environment Outlook process and to undertake national integrated environmental assessments that provide input into national reporting processes and mainstream the environment in poverty reduction strategy papers,

Welcoming the decision of the United Nations Environment Programme, with the support of development partners, to extend Africa Environment Information Network activities from 12 to 38 countries,

Welcoming with appreciation the distribution by the United Nations Environment Programme of comprehensive Landsat data and its efforts to support the effective use of those data sets and noting the potential synergies available with other initiatives, such as the Preparation for the Use of the Meteosat Second Generation Satellite in Africa and African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development projects,

Decide:

(a) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue mobilizing financial support for capacity-building through the Africa Environment Outlook and the Africa Environment Information Network processes and to support the production of the third

Africa Environment Outlook report as one of the main components of the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(b) To call upon Governments to mainstream the findings and policy options identified by the second Africa Environment Outlook report when formulating and implementing their national environmental programmes;

(c) To endorse the proposal for the extension of the Africa Environment Information Network from 12 to 38 countries in Africa to promote data access, sharing and harmonization in the Africa region;

(d) To call upon the United Nations Environment Programme to extend further the Africa Environment Information Network to cover all countries in Africa;

(d) To call upon Governments to undertake regular national integrated environmental assessments, using Africa Environment Outlook methodologies, to provide input into national reporting processes, making use of the comprehensive Landsat data distributed by the United Nations Environment Programme and data available through other initiatives in Africa, to ensure that the environment is mainstreamed into national plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers.

Draft decision 7: Integration of environmental dimensions into disaster risk reduction programmes in the context of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with concern that Africa continues to experience devastating natural and human-induced disasters with serious economic, social and environmental consequences, particularly for the survival, dignity and livelihoods of its people,

Expressing concern over the short, medium and long term economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters on affected countries,

Welcoming with appreciation the report of the African Union on the outcome of the first meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Noting with satisfaction the recommendation by the Conference that environmental dimensions should be incorporated into disaster risk reduction strategies in order to mitigate the severity of disasters and facilitate post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation,

Noting the information provided by the Commission of the African Union on the outcome of the ministerial meeting on disaster risk reduction and the Executive Council decision approving the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted in January 2006,

Commending the Commission of the African Union for keeping the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment updated on its activities at the continental level in the area of disaster risk reduction and for the efforts it has deployed towards the implementation of the Executive Council decision,

Noting the need for greater participation of African Governments in international and regional forums on risk reduction and management,

Decide:

(a) To urge Governments to integrate disaster risk reduction into development policies and programmes, such as poverty reduction strategy papers and common country assessments of the United

Nations Development Assistance Framework, to support and promote understanding and awareness of the interrelationships between disaster risk reduction and development;

(b) To request Governments to develop and review policies, laws and disaster management plans and programmes to take into account environmental dimensions, particularly those relating to land use, river and lake basins and flood plains;

(c) To request Governments to support and develop capacity-building programmes, including activities to increase institutional capacities, training and environmental emergency management education programmes, covering the issues of prevention, preparedness, response and mitigation for implementation at the national and local levels;

(d) To request Governments to promote increased inter-country cooperation and coordination for environmental emergency prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, assessment, recovery and rehabilitation;

(e) To request development partners across the United Nations system, including the private sector and civil society, to support Governments in promoting integration of environmental dimensions into disaster management;

(f) To request the United Nations and the donor community to support the participation of African Governments in international forums on disaster risk reduction and management with a view to fostering greater linkages and integration of environmental dimensions into humanitarian aspects of natural and human-induced disasters in the continent;

Further decide:

(a) To commit ourselves to the implementation of the decisions of the Executive Council of the African Union at the national level;

(b) To request the partners of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, particularly the inter-agency secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, and other development partners to provide assistance to national Governments with regard to carrying out the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Draft decision 8: Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the outcomes on international environmental governance and the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session, at which ministers from Africa participated, calling for the development of an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building to increase country-level delivery of environmental capacity-building and technology support,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-third session, in February 2005, as an intergovernmentally agreed approach to enhancing the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and the implementation plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the Bali Strategic Plan presented at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Dubai in February 2006,

Taking note with appreciation of the incorporation into the Bali Strategic Plan of the inputs from AMCEN and the recognition of African regional environmental strategies and priorities, in particular the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Also taking note of the promotion of south-south cooperation in facilitating technology support and capacity-building in the Bali Strategic Plan and welcoming the steps taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to initiate south-south consultations in Jakarta, Indonesia,

Welcoming the envisaged support to regional ministerial environmental forums to enable them play a role in the implementation and review of the Bali Strategic Plan and in the identification of emerging needs and priorities to be considered by the Governing Council and taken into account by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Further welcoming the invitation by the Bali Strategic Plan for African regional environmental bodies, their subsidiary bodies and other relevant entities to consider the Plan, make policy recommendations and identify priorities on a regular basis, and further recommend strategic approaches to the implementation of the respective components of the Plan in Africa,

Also welcoming the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme for collaboration in the joint implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan at the country level in line with the outcomes on international environmental governance,

Expressing our appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for initiating a pilot project for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in six African countries, and noting the broadening of the review of the environmental aspects of water in four of those countries,

Decide:

- (a) To request Governments, through the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to expedite the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in Africa by reviewing and setting regional technology support and capacity-building priority needs at the next regular session of the Conference and making recommendations regarding policy and strategic approaches for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide additional support to the six countries involved in the pilot project for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in Africa and to replicate the project in other countries in the Africa region, taking into consideration the lessons learned in the pilot project and regional, subregional and national environmental initiatives, priorities and needs; and to enhance the incorporation into these projects of an in-depth review of the environmental aspects of water, as initiated in four of the six pilot project countries;
- (c) Also to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the heads of other United Nations bodies in a position to do so, to provide support and coordination for the realization of south-south cooperation in technology support and capacity-building, especially among and between African countries by, among other things, strengthening the capacity of national, subregional and regional institutions to act as centres of excellence for the further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan at the regional, subregional and country levels;
- (d) To encourage the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to expedite the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme for the expeditious and coordinated implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, and further enhance the active involvement of the United Nations Environment Programme in environmental processes at the national level;
- (e) To request Governments to place priority on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in their own countries, including by setting up relevant and adequate institutional coordination

structures, and to seek means and innovative ways to mobilize domestic resources to complement international resources that may be mobilized through bilateral and multilateral partners;

(f) To request our bilateral and multilateral development partners to promote and use the Bali Strategic Plan, especially by transforming sectoral needs into national strategic priorities, as the enhanced mechanism for coordinating the coherent delivery of technology support and capacity-building assistance to strengthen the capacities of African countries to meet their development needs and priorities and internationally agreed goals.

Draft decision 9: Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting the report of the Commission of the African Union on the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative,

Commending President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Government of Nigeria for the initiative,

Commending further the Commission of the African Union for its efforts to facilitate consultations on the development of a programme of action for the implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative,

Encouraging the Commission of the African Union to continue its efforts for an early conclusion of the development of the programme of action,

Taking note of past experiences and current initiatives, including the Algerian Green Barrier and the Green Belt of North Africa projects, and activities currently being undertaken in the framework of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Decide:

(a) To request the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations agencies and programmes, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Bank and other multilateral regional and bilateral development partners to cooperate with the Commission of the African Union and to report to the next regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on progress made in the facilitation of the implementation of the initiative;

(b) To call on the members of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to follow up at the national level the Commission's invitation to designate appropriate ministers and experts to the steering and technical committees of this initiative.

Draft decision 10: Resource mobilization for implementation of environmental projects and programmes at country, subregional and regional levels

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the Algiers Declaration for a Global Partnership on the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, adopted on 16 December 2003 by African environment ministers at the first Partners' Conference, and the commitments made by African countries and development partners to implement the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also the Dakar Declaration for Enhanced Partnership in the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, adopted on 16 March 2005 by African environment ministers at the second Partners' Conference, which

proposed the creation of an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank, the use of existing financial mechanisms within subregional economic communities and other subregional organizations and the use of inter-State mechanisms for the implementation of joint programmes where appropriate,

Recalling further the resolution requesting the Conference and its partners to develop proposals for other resource mobilization and allocation mechanisms for the funding of priority projects and programmes of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment consultative meeting on debt cancellation, held in Nairobi on 26 October 2005,

Expressing our appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for sponsoring and providing technical support for the consultative meeting,

Decide:

(a) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and heads of other relevant institutions to continue to provide technical support to African countries to develop capacity in sustainable financing for the implementation of cost-effective environmental projects and programmes at national, subregional and regional levels;

(b) To renew our commitment to make resources available for the implementation of priorities in the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at national, subregional and regional levels;

(c) To urge Africa's development partners, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and Governments to enhance their support for the implementation of the action plan at national, subregional and regional levels;

(d) To urge countries to put in place dialogue platforms between ministers of environment and ministers of economy or finance to ensure the integration and mainstreaming of environmental issues into national sustainable development programmes, including research and development and capacity-building;

(e) To urge the Global Environment Facility and other donors to support at significant levels the efforts and goals expressed by African countries and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the context of the action plan for the environment initiative;

(f) To request the Council of the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the TerrAfrica initiative and its Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management as a key element for advancing further the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and to promote endeavours to broaden sustainable land management projects in sub-Saharan Africa;

(g) To request the Global Environment Facility to review the Resource Allocation Framework in line with concerns that have emerged in the consultative meetings organized by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility with the African countries.

Draft decision 11: African Environment Facility

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, at the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 10 of the second Assembly of the African Union held in Maputo in July 2003, on the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling the Algiers Declaration for a Global Partnership on the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, adopted on 16 December 2003 by African Environment ministers at the first Partners' Conference, and the commitments made by African countries and development partners to implement the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also the Dakar Declaration for Enhanced Partnership in the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, adopted on 16 March 2005 by African environment ministers at the second Partners' Conference, which proposed the creation of an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank,

Taking note of the consultative meeting between the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the President of the African Development Bank on this matter, held in 2005,

Also taking note of the preliminary feasibility study undertaken,

Decide:

- (a) To pursue our commitment to establish the African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank, on the basis of the result of the feasibility study, and invite ministers of economy and finance to assume responsibility for the establishment of the Facility;
- (b) To communicate the present request to establish the African Environment Facility to the President of the African Development Bank and to invite him to submit it to the Board of Directors and possibly the Board of Governors of the Bank for their consideration and possible execution;
- (c) To request further the President of the African Development Bank to facilitate the swift establishment of the African Environment Facility.

Annex III

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