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AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
Eighth session  
Abuja, 3-6 April 2000

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION  
HELD ON 5 AND 6 APRIL 2000

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ministerial part of the eighth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 5 and 6 April 2000.
2. It was attended by ministers from AMCEN member States and representatives of African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of participants appears in annex IV.
3. The opening session was chaired by Mr. George Vilakati, outgoing Vice-President of AMCEN and Minister of Tourism, Environment and Communications of Swaziland, on behalf of the President of AMCEN, Ms. Nadia Makram-Ebeid of Egypt.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### Agenda item 1: Opening of the session

4. The ministerial session was officially opened by Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, on 5 April 2000. After welcoming the participants, he noted that almost 15 years after the establishment of AMCEN and 8 years after the Earth Summit, Africa was still bedevilled by many problems - land degradation, natural and man-made disasters, indiscriminate exploitation and depletion of forests and their resources, degradation of coastal and marine resources and enormous problems with water supply. Many of those problems resulted from the unplanned and unsustainable manner in which the region's natural resources were being exploited. Such difficulties were further aggravated by broader environmental problems of a global nature. Pooling materials and human resources through regional bodies such as AMCEN was of critical importance.
5. He commended the UNEP secretariat on its new policy goals and strategy for Africa. An enhanced and revitalized AMCEN emerging from the present meeting could define the way forward by spearheading regional efforts, which should be buttressed through the strengthening of institutions, manpower training and the acquisition of appropriate and environmentally sound technology, as well as the development of capabilities for environmental impact assessment, disaster prevention and management and emergency preparedness. He said that he would be making contact with fellow African heads of State in order to mobilize support for AMCEN and the AMCEN programme.
6. Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said that each AMCEN session offered an opportunity to take a long-term perspective on the state of the African environment in the light of current conditions. Four trends characteristic of the twenty-first century would form the basis for AMCEN's future work: growing deterioration of the environment in Africa and globally, increasing social and economic inequality, with associated impacts on the environment, accelerating economic globalization and rapid changes in the global economy, the environment,

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technology, consumption patterns and demographics. Those challenges would require changes in the approach, focus and organization of AMCEN, and the proposals before the Conference were designed to help it meet those challenges.

7. Under AMCEN's new programme, the existing legal and other instruments should be critically reviewed and adapted to changing circumstances, and supplemented with new ones where necessary. Such endeavours should be underpinned by strategic partnerships at the national, subregional and regional levels. Future activities should be guided by the need to enrich AMCEN's mission and long-term agenda, a clear focus on regional needs, efforts to build on previous regional experience, sequencing of activities to ensure institutional synergy and maximize coherence, and emphasis on activities that had a high probability of being replicated.

8. In the key area of capacity-building, UNEP had organized consultations for developing countries preceding major environmental forums, and hoped to formalize the arrangement under the Climate Change Convention. In the context of its GEF activities, it had promoted a \$60 million work programme covering all the African subregions, and had launched a major initiative on land and water in Africa.

9. In his opening statement, Mr. George Vilakati, outgoing Vice-President of AMCEN and Minister of Tourism, Environment and Communications of Swaziland, said that previous sessions of AMCEN had highlighted the indissoluble link between Africa's economic and development crisis and its grave environmental problems. The linkage had again been underscored in the succinct documents prepared by the secretariat.

10. The medium-term programme which had been reviewed by the Expert Group was designed to integrate environmental considerations as an indispensable component of economic, social and cultural development activities, building partnerships and promoting participation at national, subregional and regional levels. It was also intended to build strong regional negotiating capacities for use in international negotiations and dialogue on the environment.

11. A statement was also made by the Minister for the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, Mr. Ibrahim Bunu. After welcoming the participants to Abuja, he conveyed his best wishes for a successful meeting.

#### Agenda item 2: Organizational matters

##### (a) Election of the Bureau

12. A representative of the secretariat pointed out that in accordance with the decision taken by the Expert Group to adopt new institutional arrangements for AMCEN, the Bureau would in future comprise the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur elected from the five subregions of Central Africa, Eastern Africa, North Africa, southern Africa and West Africa. The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2000-2001:

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OFFICE	SUBREGION	COUNTRY
President	West Africa	Nigeria
Vice-President	Southern Africa	South Africa
Vice-President	North Africa	Morocco
Vice-President	Eastern Africa	Uganda
Rapporteur	Central Africa	Cameroon

13. The Ministers also elected the following members of the Inter-sessional Committee:

SUBREGION	COUNTRY
Central	Congo
Eastern	United Republic of Tanzania
North	Tunisia
Southern	Malawi
West	Ghana

14. On assuming the presidency of AMCEN, Mr. Hassan Adamu, Minister of Environment of Nigeria, underlined the need for cooperation and partnership between the member countries of AMCEN for the attainment of sustainable development. He expressed the hope that the current session would generate results-oriented reforms that would transform AMCEN into a performing organization.

15. He pointed out that AMCEN needed to consider and adopt appropriate strategies for achieving the desired results at the policy, institutional and programme levels. Such strategies should include close cooperation between the AMCEN organs, the acquisition of financial and technical capabilities by African countries and the establishment of new and sustainable partnerships.

16. He also announced a contribution of \$200,000 from the Nigerian Government to the AMCEN Trust Fund.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

17. The ministers adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda drawn up by the secretariat:

1. Opening of the session.

Statements by:

(a) Arc. Ibrahim Bunu, Honourable Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(b) Mr. Lansana Kouyate, ECOWAS Executive Secretary;

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- (c) Honourable Dr. (Mrs.) Nadia Makram Ebeid, President of AMCEN and Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of Egypt;
  - (d) Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
  - (e) President Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- 2. Organizational matters:
    - (a) Election of the Bureau;
    - (b) Adoption of the provisional agenda and programme of work.
  - 3. AMCEN's role in sustaining Africa's future:
    - (a) Proposals for policy and institutional change;
    - (b) Proposals for a medium-term programme (2000-2004);
    - (c) Suggested actions.
  - 4. Consideration and adoption of the Abuja Agreement on AMCEN.
  - 5. Country presentations by ministers.
  - 6. Consideration and adoption of the report of the session.
  - 7. Closing of the session.
18. It was agreed to consider all the agenda items in plenary.

### III. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Agenda item 3: AMCEN's role in sustaining Africa's future

19. A representative of the secretariat introduced three papers containing suggestions for action by the ministers, which had been prepared by the secretariat and reviewed and amended by the Expert Group: "Proposals for policy and institutional change", "Proposals for a medium-term programme (2000-2004)" and "Suggested decisions". The third paper contained decisions on the action needed to ensure the successful implementation of the proposals in the other two.

20. In the ensuing discussion, the ministers commended the secretariat for preparing the papers and for its commitment to finding solutions to African environmental problems. It was unanimously agreed that if implemented, the proposed actions would go a long way in revitalizing AMCEN as a continental organization capable of guiding African countries in their search for solutions to environmental problems. The ministers were in particular confident that the

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restructuring of the institutional machinery of AMCEN through the creation of an Inter-sessional Committee and an Inter-agency Technical Committee would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the organization. Although the suggestions were practical and useful, their implementation might be hindered by lack of funds. For that reason, AMCEN should look for sustainable sources of funding. Given the prevailing poor state of African economies, it was advisable to consider approaching developed countries for financial and technical assistance.

21. The ministers commended UNEP for promoting the protection of the environment in Africa. However, they lamented the fact that, for lack of funds, Africa was often represented by only a handful of ministers at international environmental negotiations while all the environment ministers of the developed countries attended such negotiations and had the advantage of being able to come up with a common position. Accordingly, it was suggested that AMCEN should establish a fund to enable African environment ministers to attend environmental meetings and participate more effectively. Such a fund would also enable senior environmental experts and technical advisers to accompany the ministers.

22. It was pointed out that AMCEN should give priority to the environmental problems facing not only the Sahel but all countries. The most formidable problem in those countries was desertification. The extreme poverty of the population had exacerbated the desertification problem because people relied totally on wood fuel other sources of energy being beyond their reach. Peasants who still had a few trees on their land were forced to cut them down in order to sell firewood to obtain money for subsistence. The desertification problem could therefore be solved only after poverty had been alleviated.

23. A number of ministers observed that in general, African countries lacked the capacity to deal with environmental problems and that it was therefore necessary to seek assistance from developed countries, particularly in the areas of education and training. However, some ministers, while agreeing that lack of capacity was a widespread problem, expressed the view that African countries should on the contrary cease to rely on developed countries and learn to rely on their own resources and assist one another in capacity-building.

24. It was decided that the AMCEN President should attend the summits of the Organization of African Unity and make a presentation on the AMCEN programme. It was also decided that the AMCEN President should address other African ministerial conferences, such as conferences of ministers of finance, planning and economic development, and industry.

25. With respect to the mobilization of resources, the ministers agreed on a target of \$10,625,000 to be constituted as an endowment, the interest from which would be used in financing the implementation of AMCEN activities. That sum would be accumulated as follows: contributions from AMCEN member States, \$3,250,000; contributions to be sought from donor countries, \$3,375,000; contributions to be sought from the private sector, \$4,000,000. A table giving further details of the manner in which the funds should be raised appears in annex III. The ministers further agreed that it would be the role of the AMCEN Bureau to undertake the necessary fund-raising activities vis-à-vis donor countries and the private sector, with the assistance of the AMCEN secretariat.

26. A number of delegations emphasized that the problem of waste and waste

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management was growing in many of the cities in the region. It was therefore recommended that waste management activities should be included in the medium-term programme. The issue of hazardous waste, its transboundary movement and its serious environmental implications was also discussed. The ministers recommended that AMCEN should encourage African countries to ratify or accede to the Basel Convention and its Protocol on Liability and Compensation, as well as the Bamako Convention, and ensure effective compliance with the obligations under them.

27. In view of the important role played by women in the conservation and protection of the environment, as well as their vulnerability to adverse environmental impacts, emphasis was placed on the need for them to be included in all policy-making and decision-making processes.

28. With respect to the recent natural disaster in all the countries of the region affected by floods or other types of disaster, and the slow response of the international community in providing assistance, it was recommended that the international community should be approached with a view to establishing a rapid response fund which could be used to help African countries faced with natural disasters. The importance of contingency planning was also emphasized.

29. The ministers agreed to support the candidatures of Morocco and South Africa to host the forthcoming seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and the second Earth Summit respectively.

30. At the end of the discussion of item 3, the ministers adopted the proposals for policy and institutional change and the medium-term programme with some amendments. <sup>1/</sup> The ministers also adopted a number of decisions forwarded to them by the Expert Group. These decisions may be found in annex II of this report.

31. In line with the new policy and institutional change and the medium-term programme, the ministers recommended that the AMCEN constitution should be reviewed to accommodate the new functions of the conference and its organs.

32. The following pledges to the AMCEN trust fund were announced: Lesotho \$16,000, Mauritania \$72,000 and Mozambique \$57,000.

Agenda item 4: Consideration and adoption of the Abuja Agreement on AMCEN

33. The ministers had before them an "Abuja ministerial declaration" which had been approved by the Expert Group for presentation to the ministerial session (UNEP/AMCEN/8/4, annex I). After considerable discussion, they decided to adopt a revised version under the title "Abuja Declaration on AMCEN 2000", which may be found in annex I to this report.

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<sup>1/</sup> These decisions are to be issued separately.

Agenda item 5: Country presentations

34. A number of ministers made presentations on the environmental situation in their countries. All the speakers congratulated the newly elected President of AMCEN, Mr. Hassan Adamu, Minister of Environment of Nigeria, and the other members of the Bureau on their election and wished them success in their duties over the next two years. They thanked the outgoing members of the Bureau for their work. They also expressed appreciation to the Federal Government and people of Nigeria for having hosted the eighth session of AMCEN, and commended UNEP for its continued support to AMCEN and for having organized the session.

35. It was generally felt that there was an urgent need to strengthen the AMCEN Trust Fund to support the medium-term programme which had just been adopted, calling for greater investment in capacity-building, and especially the enhanced implementation of international conventions. Countries were therefore urged to update their contributions to the Fund, and most of the ministers pledged their commitment to its revitalization. It was pointed out that the transfer of safe and environmentally friendly technology was another important strategy for enhanced capacity-building.

36. All African countries were affected by environmental degradation, and there was now a general tendency to create a separate ministry of the environment so as to be able to tackle the problem more effectively. The ministers emphasized the need to enhance public awareness of environmental issues and to raise the profile of the environment on the national agenda. Efforts were also being made to strengthen institutional capacities in order to guarantee participatory and sustainable management of natural resources.

37. It was noted that most African countries had ratified various environmental conventions such as the Climate Change Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, or were about to do so. They had done so in response to the accelerating degradation of ecosystems, the harmful consequences of environmental pollution which seriously undermined the development of African societies. Some of the most serious environmental problems facing African countries were: (a) land degradation caused by a variety of factors such as agriculture, mining, overgrazing, recurrent bush fires and population pressure; (b) deforestation due to increasing population and the consequent demand for agricultural land and urban demand for forest products; (c) loss of biological diversity due to deforestation, firewood harvesting, slash-and-burn agriculture, mining activities and bush fires and overexploitation of marine resources; and (d) pollution of freshwater resources due to mining and urban waste.

38. It was pointed out that population pressure had resulted in a shortage of agricultural land and employment opportunities in the rural areas, which had led to increased rural-urban migration. That had resulted in overcrowding in urban centres, which in turn had caused the rapid spread of diseases such as malaria and typhoid. Urban overcrowding, which led to unplanned expansion in a situation of financial crisis, was also responsible for rising environmental degradation.

39. There was a consensus that African environment ministers had an obligation to give a new impetus to AMCEN by improving its structures and working rules and making it an effective forum for communication on environmental strategies.

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Ministers had a responsibility to ensure that the environment was sustainably managed and utilized. To that end, there was a need for partnership and cooperation in the management of the natural resources of the continent, because environmental problems did not recognize international boundaries.

40. The Angolan minister, speaking in French, pointed out that Portuguese-speaking delegations were at a disadvantage because of the absence of Portuguese language facilities at the session. They particularly found it difficult to discuss scientific issues in foreign languages. She appealed to the organizers to arrange for Portuguese translation and interpretation at future sessions. The Chair agreed that the situation was regrettable, but indicated that the provision of such services was currently beyond the scope of the Bureau and UNEP.

41. The Mozambican minister said that the recent disastrous floods in southern Africa made it imperative to establish a mechanism for subregional, regional and international cooperation for the prevention and management of natural disasters. He appealed to those who were financially better endowed to assist in expanding into southern Africa mechanisms that already existed within the United Nations system, in particular the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). He observed that as a result of climate change, phenomena such as the recent flooding might become the rule rather than the exception.

#### Venue of the ninth session of the Conference

42. The Environment Minister of Uganda conveyed to the Conference his Government's offer to host the ninth session of the Conference, scheduled to take place in 2002, in Kampala, Uganda. The ministers accepted the offer with appreciation.

#### Agenda item 6: Adoption of the report

43. The ministers had before them a draft report of the session prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/AMCEN/8/L.2). After discussing and amending it, they adopted the present report on 6 April 2000.

#### Agenda item 7: Closure of the session

44. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the session closed at 10.20 p.m. on 6 April 2000.

Annex I

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)  
Abuja, Nigeria, 5 and 6 April 2000

ABUJA DECLARATION ON AMCEN 2000

We, Ministers responsible for the environment,

Having met in Abuja during the eighth session of AMCEN, on 5 and 6 April 2000,

Noting recent state-of-the-environment reports, such as the Global Environment Outlook report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the escalating and emerging environmental problems in our continent,

Concerned that Africa is the only continent in which poverty is expected to rise during the twenty-first century,

Also concerned about the increasing number of emerging and crisis situations in Africa as a result of global environmental changes with adverse social, cultural and economic effects,

Further concerned at the exacerbation of the phenomenon of desertification in Africa and the effects it produces on the life of the people,

Expressing our concern at the persistence of domestic armed conflicts in Africa and the consequent deterioration in the quality of life of the people and the environment,

Recalling the efforts which have been made since the inception of AMCEN in 1985,

Recognizing the role played by regional, subregional, national and international bodies and non-governmental organizations in promoting sustainable development in Africa,

Bearing in mind the fact that success in achieving sustainable development will ultimately depend upon good policies, effective leadership, participatory citizenry, accurate information and informed national decision-making,

Extending our solidarity and sympathy to Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and other countries which have been affected by the recent floods in the southern African subregion, and acknowledging the international response in providing assistance to them,

Extending concern and sympathy to Ethiopia on the famine situation and land degradation and to the Sahelian countries on drought and the encroachment of the desert, and calling for an urgent international response in those countries to prevent further disaster and loss of life,

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Noting with appreciation the efforts made to address environmental concerns at the recent Africa-Europe summit held in Cairo under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity and the European Union,

Hereby declare our resolve:

To commit ourselves to the implementation of the renewed AMCEN policy and programmes;

To keep under constant review policy actions that will enable us to address environmental challenges, especially new and emerging issues;

To build capacities in order to deal effectively with major environmental concerns;

To mobilize support from the international community for the establishment of a rapid response fund which will serve as a source of assistance to countries faced with natural disasters;

To draw the attention of the international community to the need for it to become more involved in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, in order to restore the productive capital in the countries affected by desertification;

To forge strategic partnerships with the public and private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the international community in preparing and implementing AMCEN policies and programmes;

To recognize the important role played by women in society and their vulnerability to adverse environmental impacts, and the need for them to be included in all policy-making and decision-making processes and environment programmes;

To commit ourselves to coordinated implementation of environmental treaties in accordance with the environmental and developmental priorities of the continent;

To encourage African countries to ratify the "Rio generation" conventions, and in particular those relating to control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes;

To ensure adequate preparation for and effective participation in relevant global environmental initiatives in order to address Africa's concerns; in this regard we make reference to the first Global Environment Forum to be held in Malmö, Sweden;

To support the candidatures of Morocco and South Africa to host the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and the second Earth Summit, respectively, and to cooperate with relevant regional and subregional bodies in the preparation of a common African position for the second Earth Summit and in the implementation of its outcome;

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To support the AMCEN secretariat in the mobilization of financial resources to ensure sustainable implementation of AMCEN programmes, and in this regard to commit ourselves to mandatory contributions to the AMCEN Trust Fund in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed in Abuja;

To commit ourselves to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the eighth session of AMCEN.

Abuja, Nigeria, 6 April 2000

Annex II

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE AMCEN AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

1. Main preamble

We, the African Ministers of Environment gathered in the city of Abuja, Nigeria, under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the resolutions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment adopted in December 1985 and at other sessions of the Conference,

Aware of the evolution of global and regional environmental thinking and shifts in emphasis since the institutionalization of the Conference,

Recognizing the many initiatives taken by African countries in response to the changing environmental conditions,

Also Aware that accelerated growth is needed as a top priority in all our countries, but that economic growth is not sustainable without reducing the widespread poverty of our people and protecting the resource base needed for our future development, while improving the health, income and living conditions of the majority of our people is imperative for ensuring the political and social stability needed for economic and environmental sustainability,

Noting with concern the increase in the number of emergency and crisis situations in our countries as a result of global environmental changes with adverse effects on Africa, external factors being to a large degree the causes of these disasters, whereas the impacts on our region are increasing in adversity, frequency and scale,

Further aware of the important role of economic performance on the state of the environment and appreciative of the existence of African subregional and regional economic groupings, particularly the treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Convinced that development which is not sustainable should no longer be called development,

2. Decisions

Decision 1: Programme Priorities

Having examined the new proposals for policy and institutional change and the medium-term programme for 2000-2004 and noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the decisions of our seventh session with the very limited financial resources available,

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Recognizing the important role that the new organs of the AMCEN - the Bureau, Inter-sessional Committee and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, will play in promoting the implementation of the medium-term programme,

Decide:

- (a) To adopt:
  - (i) The proposals for policy and institutional change;
  - (ii) The proposals for a medium-term programme;
- (b) To request the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to meet and prepare a biennial programme budget to be submitted to the Inter-sessional Committee;
- (c) To urge member States of the Conference to integrate the actions agreed in the medium-term programme in their national programmes;
- (d) To urge African regional and subregional organizations to take into account the actions agreed in the medium-term programme in their regional and subregional programmes;
- (e) To invite the Executive Director of the UNEP to ensure that the actions agreed in the medium-term programme are fully integrated in the programmes and activities of the UNEP.

Decision 2: Global negotiations on the environment

Considering the importance of global negotiations and dialogue on the environment and the need for the Africa region to promote its environmental agenda in such negotiations and dialogue,

Recognizing the limited negotiating capacities in the Africa region as well as the difficulties encountered by representatives of the region in global environmental negotiations,

Recognizing also the need for the Africa region to approach global negotiation on the environment with clarity of purpose and common consensus, positions and perspectives,

Recognizing further the seriousness and magnitude of land degradation in the region resulting from desertification process,

Recognizing also the continuing loss of biological diversity,

Recognizing also that the adverse impacts of climate change pose serious threats to the development of African countries and that it is therefore necessary for Africa to play a key and active role at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for November 2000,

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Decide:

- (a) To express appreciation to the Executive Director of the UNEP for organizing within the framework of the AMCEN various regional consultations on specific environmental issues prior to global negotiations, and to urge the UNEP to continue to support such consultations;
- (b) To develop common positions and perspectives within the framework of processes relating to global agreements, conventions and international dialogue on the environment;
- (c) To urge the President of the AMCEN to coordinate the positions of the African Group at all global environmental negotiations;
- (d) To urge all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in particular annex I parties, who are responsible for the largest share of historical and current emissions of greenhouse gases, to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in order to facilitate its early entry into force;
- (e) To invite international financial institutions, the African Development Bank and donor countries to support African countries in their efforts at capacity building to enhance the effective implementation of the conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification;
- (f) To work towards formulating common positions regarding the implementation of the Climate Change Convention's Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and the development of such mechanisms as the Clean Development Mechanism, Activities Implemented Jointly, transfers of technology and capacity-building;
- (g) To request the UNEP to assist African countries by convening a regional meeting of scientific/technical, policy and legal experts to prepare position documents on key issues on the agenda of the forthcoming meetings of the conventions on biological diversity, desertification and climate change.

Decision 3: Building strategic partnerships

Recognizing the important role that development partners, particularly in the UN system, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, women's groups and community-based organizations, the private sector and international donor countries can play in the implementation of the medium - term programme,

Recognizing also the need to maintain the five geographical subregions (Eastern, West, North, southern and Central Africa), and the important role that African regional and subregional organizations can play in the implementation of the medium-term programme,

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Recognizing further the important role that line ministries can play at the national level in the implementation of the decisions of the Conference;

Decide:

- (a) To build, through consultations and joint programming, partnerships with the UN system, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, women's groups and community-based organizations, the private sector, donor countries and multilateral donor organizations;
- (b) To organize consultation with heads of African regional and subregional organizations with a view to ensuring that the priorities of the AMCEN are integrated in their programmes;
- (c) To develop partnerships with the major African ministerial conferences in order to strengthen understanding of the priorities of the AMCEN and ensure their incorporation in national development plans.

Decision 4: New and emerging environmental matters

Recognizing the implications for the Africa region of the planned Earth Summit (2002),

Recognizing also the importance of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum which will be convened in Malmö, Sweden,

Aware of the serious and adverse impacts of natural disasters that are on the increase in the region,

Aware also of the serious and adverse impacts of civil conflicts on the environment as well as problems of refugees arising therefrom,

Decide:

- (a) To commend the UNEP for taking the necessary measures for convening the Global Ministerial Environment Forum which will bring together in Malmö, Sweden, from 29 to 31 May 2000, Environment Ministers from all over the world, and to applaud the Government of Sweden for hosting the Forum, considering that since the issues to be discussed at the forum are of crucial importance to Africa, it is important that Africa should be represented in full force in order to effectively bring to bear on the discussions Africa's perspectives on the agenda items;
- (b) To join hands with the OAU, the ECA, the ADB and the UNEP in carrying out necessary preparations for the development of a regional African common position in 2001 to be submitted to Earth Summit II (2002);
- (c) To establish a mechanism within the framework of the AMCEN which will serve as a vehicle for mobilizing actions for the purpose of comprehensive assessment of the impacts of disasters and civil conflicts on the environment, as well as environmental restoration measures.

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Decision 5: Financial Resources

Recognizing the importance of having predictable and regular financial resources for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference as well as the medium-term programme,

Recognizing also the need for contributions to the Trust Fund of the Conference,

Recognizing further the financial support that the UNEP continues to provide to the Conference as well as the contributions made by some of the member States of the Conference,

Recognizing also the need to look at the possibilities of other forms of resource assistance,

Expressing our appreciation to the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which have cumulatively contributed, in the last four years, \$ 835,700 to the Trust Fund established in 1985,

Expressing especially our thanks to Egypt for contributing \$ 689,800 of that amount,

Decide:

- (a) To express our appreciation to the UNEP for having borne the necessary costs for secretarial services, programme activities and personnel since the inception of the Conference in December 1985, and urge it to continue to do so;
- (b) To urge our countries to increase their current contributions to the Trust Fund to a total of \$ 3 million by December 2001 on the basis of the new system of contributions agreed upon at this session, and to emulate the commendable actions by the above-mentioned countries by making immediate initial contributions to the Trust Fund;
- (c) To request the secretariat to take the necessary measures to mobilize additional financial resources for the Conference on the basis of the proposal it presented at this eighth session of the Conference;
- (d) To mandate the UNEP to invoice member States of the Conference for their contributions to the Trust Fund in furtherance of this goal, on the basis of the good will enshrined in the decisions taken on the Trust Fund, as well as the pledges which have been made by member States at this session;
- (e) To request further the secretariat to submit a report on the use of the earned interest of the Trust Fund to the ninth session of the Conference;

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- (f) To mandate the UNEP accordingly to utilize the interest earned in the Trust Fund as at 31 March 2000 for the implementation of the activities in the budgeted biennial programme prepared by the Inter-Agency Technical Committee.

Annex IIIA. Contributions according to the Adjusted Scale of Assessment

	Country	United Nations Scale of Assessment	Adjustment Scale of Assessment for AMCEN Trust Fund	Assessed Contribution Based on the Adjusted UN Scale of Assessment
	(1)	(2)	(3) (Column 2/1.39%)	(4)
1	Algeria	0.16%	11.51%	\$374,101
2	Angola	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
3	Benin	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
4	Botswana	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
5	Burkina Faso	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
6	Burundi	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
7	Cameroon	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
8	Cape Verde	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
9	Central African Republic.	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
10	Chad	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
11	Comoros	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
12	Congo	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
13	Congo, Dem. Republic	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
14	Cote d'Ivoire	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
15	Djibouti	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
16	Egypt	0.08%	5.76%	\$187,050
17	Equatorial Guinea	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
18	Eritrea	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
19	Ethiopia	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
20	Gabon	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
21	Gambia	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
22	Ghana	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
23	Guinea	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
24	Guinea Bissau	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
25	Kenya	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
26	Lesotho	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
27	Liberia	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
28	Libya	0.20%	14.39%	\$467,626

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	Country	United Nations Scale of Assessment	Adjustment Scale of Assessment for AMCEN Trust Fund	Assessed Contribution Based on the Adjusted UN Scale of Assessment
	(1)	(2)	(3) (Column 2/1.39%)	(4)
29	Madagascar	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
30	Malawi	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
31	Mali	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
32	Mauritania	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
33	Mauritius	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
34	Morocco	0.03%	2.16%	\$70,144
35	Mozambique	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
36	Namibia	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
37	Niger	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
38	Nigeria	0.11%	7.91%	\$257,194
39	Rwanda	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
40	Sao Tome & Principe	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
41	Senegal	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
42	Seychelles	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
43	Sierra Leone	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
44	Somalia	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
45	South Africa	0.32%	23.02%	\$748,201
46	Sudan	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
47	Swaziland	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
48	Tanzania	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
49	Togo	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
50	Tunisia	0.03%	2.16%	\$70,144
51	Uganda	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
52	Zambia	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
53	Zimbabwe	0.01%	0.72%	\$23,381
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$3,250,000</b>

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B. Proposed Fund Raising Plan for the AMCEN Trust Fund

(United States dollars)

SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS	LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION				TOTAL
	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Contributions from AMCEN member States (50 countries)					
Group I (5 countries)	1 000 000				1 000 000
Group II (10 countries)		1 000 000			1 000 000
Group III (15 countries)			750 000		750 000
Group IV (20 countries)				500 000	500 000
Subtotal I	1 000 000	1 000 000	750 000	500 000	3 250 000
Contributions from donor countries (30)					
Group I (10 countries)	2 000 000				2 000 000
Group II (10 countries)		1 000 000			1 000 000
Group III (5 countries)			250 000		250 000

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SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS	LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION				TOTAL
	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Group IV (5 countries)				125 000	125 000
Subtotal II	2 000 000	1 000 000	250 000	125 000	3 375 000
<u>Private sector and others</u>					
Group I (10 firms)	2 000 000				2 000 000
Group II (10 firms)		1 000 000			1 000 000
Group III (10 firms)			500 000		500 000
Group IV (20 firms)				500 000	500 000
Subtotal III	2 000 000	1 000 000	500 000	500 000	4 000 000
GRAND TOTAL	5 000 000	3 000 000	1 500 000	1 125 000	10 625 000

Note: AMCEN member States, donor countries and private sector firms have been classified into four groups on the basis of their assessed ability to pay, subject to a minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$200,000. The following maxima correspond to each of the four groups:

Group I - \$200,000.  
Group II - \$100,000.  
Group III - \$50,000.  
Group IV - \$25,000.

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Annex IVList of Participants

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