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AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
Ninth session  
Kampala, 4-5 July 2002

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION  
HELD ON 4 AND 5 JULY 2002

## Introduction

1. The ministerial segment of the eighth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Kampala on 4 and 5 July 2002.
2. It was attended by ministers from AMCEN member States and representatives of African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is contained in annex xxx.
3. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Muhammad Kabir Sa'id, outgoing President of AMCEN and Federal Minister of Environment of Nigeria.

### I. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NINTH SESSION INCLUDING THE LAUNCH OF THE AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REPORT

#### A. Opening of the session

4. The ministerial segment was officially opened by Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, on Thursday, 4 July 2002 at 10.35 a.m.
5. In his address, President Museveni welcomed Ministers and other participants to Uganda and congratulated the AMCEN Bureau for the successful organization of the ninth session of AMCEN which allowed discussion of pertinent issues during the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
6. He said that after colonialism, Africa had been facing a new form of aggression from developed countries, namely pollution. People in developed countries generated the greatest percentage of greenhouse gases and Africa was paying the price for their unsustainable lifestyles. He noted that the population of Uganda had increased from 4.5 million people in 1956 to the present 23 million. 500 million hectares of land in Africa had been affected by soil erosion, including 60 per cent of arable land, and this represented a serious threat to food security on the continent. Population growth had stretched natural resources while trade and methods of harnessing the resources had not improved much. More than 39 per cent of the total area of Africa had been affected by desertification, inadequate sanitation and sewage treatment facilities and lack of access to safe drinking water continued to impede progress.
7. He pointed out that 96 per cent of Ugandans did not have access to electricity and this led to, inter alia, unsustainable use of fuelwood by peasants. He emphasized the importance of energy from clean sources, such as hydropower from dams on the Nile, for the continent of Africa. He requested African ministers of environment to take a strong position on power for the continent and to deliver that message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
8. He said that the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) had the potential to help Africa to address issues of combating poverty and promoting sustainable socio-economic development and addressing the region's environmental challenges. NEPAD would bring Africa together to resolve the major challenges to the continent.
9. He commended the production of the first Africa Environment Outlook report.
10. At the opening ceremony, statements were also made by Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment of Uganda, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, (UNEP), Mr. Muhammad Kabir Sa'id, Federal Minister of Environment of Nigeria and Mr. Borge Brende, Minister of Environment of Norway.

11. Mr. Rugunda welcomed ministers and other participants to the meeting. Outlining the history of AMCEN, he said that one of the main objectives of the session was to provide a platform for ministers to chart the way forward for the Conference in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and major developments in Africa such as the development of NEPAD.
12. Mr. Brende said that the ninth session was taking place at a crucial moment for international environmental cooperation. He noted that the last decade had been characterized by the signing of important environmental conventions. During the decade, the international community had agreed on several issues that included the prioritization of poverty eradication, ensuring that globalization became a positive force for all and reversing negative environmental trends such as deforestation and desertification. He noted, however, that fighting poverty would be impossible if countries failed to fulfill their environmental commitments and that well managed and well functioning ecosystems formed the basis of society in terms of production, consumption, health and welfare. He observed that poor countries were the most vulnerable to climate change, loss of biodiversity and air, soil and water pollution.
13. He pointed out that after a decade of words, time had come to transform words into action and emphasized that the next decade must be the decade of implementation. There was a need to find effective ways of following up the Millennium Development Goals on freshwater and sustainable energy and to launch ambitious action programmes in those areas, which were of fundamental importance for the African continent. Referring to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, he noted that AMCEN would make a crucial contribution to the success of the Summit. He commended AMCEN for having understood that building African capacity in the field of environmental management was also crucial for economic development. He also commended African countries for their political leadership in developing the environmental component of NEPAD. He recognized that the implementation of NEPAD was a great responsibility for African countries and gave the assurance that the Nordic countries would do their best to support the effort of African countries.
14. In his statement, Mr. Töpfer expressed appreciation for the support the Government of Uganda had given to promote the work of UNEP, including the hosting of the ninth session, and to the people of Uganda for their hospitality. He observed that the ninth session was taking place at an opportune time during which Africa was undergoing many changes which included the forthcoming transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union. At the same time, African Heads of State had recently launched NEPAD with the aim of putting the African continent on the path to sustainable development. The Heads of State, mindful of the importance of the environment, had included an environment component in NEPAD. He noted that the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development was expected to propose action-oriented measures to make the implementation of Agenda 21 more supportive of sustainable development, particularly cross-cutting issues such as the environment.
15. He pointed out that the most serious challenge facing African countries was striking a balance between economic development and sustainable management of the environment. He called upon the ministers to look into their role during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in terms of ensuring that the environment was given its rightful consideration within the broader context of sustainable development. He urged the Ministers to bear in mind that Africa still faced a wide range of environmental challenges. The state of the African environment had continued to decline and the region had been losing natural resources at relatively high rates in comparison to other regions of the world. The region had experienced persistent poverty which had accelerated the degradation of natural resources and intensified desertification. Inadequate and unsafe water supplies continued to affect an increasing number of people in the region, thus aggravating problems of ill health and food insecurity among the poor. The expansion of agriculture into marginal areas and clearance of natural habitats such as forests and wetlands had been a major cause of land degradation. The loss of biological resources translated into loss of economic potential and options for the earth's economic and social development in the future.

16. He said that donor countries, including Norway, Belgium, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had provided additional financial resources to support Africa and that the Government of Ireland had recently created a trust fund with Euro 900,000 to support Africa. Those countries had confirmed their desire to increase their contribution in the future.

17. Mr. Sa'id expressed his gratitude to the President and the people of Uganda for hosting the ninth session and also the Executive Director of UNEP. Outlining the mandate of AMCEN, he noted that much progress had been realized in the face of many challenges, including the ground-breaking agreements forged at the eighth session of AMCEN from 3 to 6 April 2000 in Abuja.

18. He pointed out that the present session was relevant in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other emerging initiatives such as the African Union and NEPAD. He expressed satisfaction with the first Africa Environment Outlook report and looked forward to the establishment of a regular framework for such environmental reporting. Noting that he was reaching the end of his presidency of AMCEN, he said that the new AMCEN strategic vision was a key foundation for the future.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. Election of the bureau

19. The following countries were elected to serve on the bureau of AMCEN for the period 2002-2003:

SUBREGION	COUNTRY
Central	Cameroon
Eastern	Uganda
North	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Southern	Mauritius
West	Côte d'Ivoire

20. Uganda was elected President of AMCEN while the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was elected as Rapporteur.

21. On assuming the presidency of AMCEN, Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment of Uganda, said that he was fully aware that the mandate of AMCEN included the promotion of the harmonization and coordination of Africa's environmental policies and that the mandate included the facilitation of consensus building and development of common positions on environment and development in Africa. He noted that his main challenge as the President of AMCEN was to ensure that AMCEN's capacity was strengthened to enable it to fulfil its mandate and vision.

22. He observed that there was a need to put in place a mechanism for resource mobilization and other aspects of capacity-building. In order to fulfil the mandate of AMCEN, it was necessary for African countries to maximize their strengths while minimizing their weaknesses. Ways of achieving that included addressing the issue of technological gaps and efficient utilization of the available expertise and resources, enhancement of information exchange within and without the African region.

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

23. The ministers adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/AMCEN/9/1):

1. Official opening of the ninth session including the launch of the Africa Environment Outlook report.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Report and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting:
  - (a) Recommendations:
    - The World Summit on Sustainable development;
    - African Environment Information Network and Africa Environmental Outlook report;
    - AMCEN Constitution;
    - Nairobi declaration on Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions and its recommendations for actions, prepared during the African High Summit on Mountains in Nairobi, May 6-10, 2002;
  - (b) Revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention);
    - Framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD);
    - Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes;
    - Kampala Declaration.
4. AMCEN contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development:
  - (a) New developments from the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (outcomes of the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee);
  - (b) Africa's environmental agenda for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
  - (c) AMCEN support to South Africa;
  - (d) Activities and side events at the World Summit on Sustainable Development:

- (i) Signing ceremony of the revised 1968 Algiers Convention;
  - (ii) Promotion of the environmental initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
  - (iii) Africa Environment Outlook report and related products.
5. Strategic direction and role of AMCEN in the context of emerging initiatives in Africa:
- (a) Institutional linkages between AMCEN and the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, subregional and regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, United Nations agencies and other partners;
  - (b) International and regional environmental governance;
  - (c) Strategic direction in view of new developments, including the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
6. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- (d) NEPAD;
  - (e) Environment initiative of NEPAD
7. Status of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN.
8. Venue of the tenth session of AMCEN.
9. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment decisions and the Kampala Declaration.
10. Closure of the session.

### III. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING

24. The Chair of the Expert Group Meeting held from 1 to 3 July 2002 presented the report of the group contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/L.1.
25. The minister of Tunisia, reiterating the importance of the initiative of the President of Tunisia to create an international solidarity fund at the World Summit, noted that this proposal had not been adopted at the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit in Bali. Describing the proposal as a key mechanism for assisting Africa's recovery, she proposed that it be submitted to the World Summit.
26. One minister said that AMCEN's role was particularly critical in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. She said AMCEN would have to be assertive in establishing its mandate among the emerging initiatives in Africa. This would require strengthening the AMCEN secretariat and reviewing the AMCEN constitution. She stressed the need for Africa to speak with one voice at the World Summit. AMCEN needed to consolidate its position on institutional structures for sustainable development, finance and trade, technology transfer, climate change, and access to and benefit-sharing from genetic resources. She emphasized the importance of promoting NEPAD and, in particular, its environmental component at the World Summit. She called for the highest possible attendance of ministers at the Summit, adding that AMCEN should emerge as a catalyst for implementing and monitoring the targets of both Agenda 21 and the Summit.

27. Mr. Imeh. T. Okopido, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, in his capacity as chairman of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GEF) medium-sized project on the Development and Implementation of the Environmental Component of NEPAD, presented a draft Framework of an Action Plan. He explained that this had been agreed on after one year's intensive preparation, at an AMCEN Bureau meeting in Algiers on 8 September 2001. President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal had presented it at the G8 meeting in Canada in June 2002. He outlined the Framework which included four sections describing the status of the African environment, challenges, and the Environment Action Plan for the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century. He explained that the final meeting of the Steering Committee would be held in May and June 2003. He presented the draft Decision on the Framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development for consideration and approval by the ninth session.

28. An amendment to the text was proposed to include the issue of forests.

29. The decision was adopted by acclamation subject to the incorporation of the amendments.

30. The draft decisions recommended by the Expert Group meeting on the following were adopted:

(a) The World Summit on Sustainable development;

(b) African Environment Information Network and Africa Environment Outlook Report;

(c) AMCEN Constitution;

(d) Nairobi Declaration on Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions and its recommendations for actions, prepared during the African High Summit on Mountains in Nairobi, May 6-10, 2002;

(e) Revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention);

(f) Framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD);

(g) Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes;

31. A Kampala Declaration was also adopted and is contained in annex I.

32. The decisions are contained in annex II.

#### IV. AMCEN CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

33. Mr. Mohamed Valli Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Republic of South Africa, gave an overview of the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

34. He said there had been general agreement regarding the draft implementation plan that emphasis should be put on the three pillars of sustainable development, poverty eradication should be the central theme of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decisions of the Earth Summit and Agenda 21 did not need re-negotiation but rather implementation. The main focus of the World Summit on Sustainable Development was seen as implementation and action, particularly in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, agriculture and food security, land development, biodiversity and education. There was

also agreement that there should be a special focus on Africa with NEPAD as the vehicle for implementation. National, regional, subregional and global partnerships were increasingly important.

35. Areas of non-agreement had included the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, means of implementation and finances as well as international financial architecture such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Trade issues were a further area of disagreement, including environmentally harmful trade barriers such as agricultural subsidies. He stressed that trade was a prerequisite for economic growth without which sustainable development was impossible. The argument that this was an area exclusive to the World Trade Organization and thus should not be discussed at the World Summit was challenged by the Group of 77 and China who were of the view that the World Summit could not be silent on a matter as important as this towards economic growth and poverty reduction.

36. He called on ministers to step up the preparatory process at different levels, saying that the holding of the Summit in Africa gave them a responsibility to communicate with the citizens of their respective countries about the Summit. He requested ministers to pay special attention to involving other ministers in the preparation and the negotiations of the Summit, including ministers of finance, trade, energy, health and agriculture. He urged the highest level of participation in the Summit which promised to be a historic occasion and a turning point for Africa.

37. A minister from a Central African country urged African countries to adopt a common position on forests at the World Summit. He noted that the forest countries of central Africa were in agreement that forests played an essential role in the protection of biodiversity as well as an economic and social role. The protection of forests was thus linked to the struggle against poverty.

38. A statement was circulated from Mr. David Anderson, President of the UNEP Governing Council. Mr. Anderson paid tribute to Uganda's role in the Governing Council. He reported that when the G8 environment ministers had met in April 2002, they had noted the challenge of integrating the environment into economic and social development, as well as the development targets in the Millennium Declaration. The ministers had welcomed the innovative NEPAD. He also reported that G8 leaders, at their meeting in Canada the previous week, had welcomed NEPAD. In approving their African Action Plan, they had recognized that the Plan was an important step towards poverty eradication and sustainable development, with its concentration on water resource management, economic progress and environmental protection.

39. He expressed his sincere hope that AMCEN, UNEP, GEF and other partners would continue their collaboration to pursue common objectives at the World Summit and looked forward to the next meeting of the UNEP Governing Council which would further the vision that the Global Ministerial Environment Forum had agreed to at their meeting in Colombia in February 2002.

40. The representative of the World Bank, Mr. Richard Scobey, expressing the World Bank's full support for the strategic vision of AMCEN and the environmental initiative of NEPAD, explained the new environmental strategy for Africa which had been launched by the Bank. This was designed to integrate the environment into poverty reduction at the national level in line with the Millennium Development Goals. The bank's efforts were focused in three critical areas, enhancing the quality of life, growth, and the regional and global commons. The bank would be using various tools to support the implementation of these priorities: several means of financing, including International Development Aid, Global Environment Facility financing, and a number of analytical and advisory activities nationally to ensure that environment was integrated into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. In addition, the Bank was launching several new programmes targeted at Africa. These included the Africa Stockpiles Programme and the Bio-Carbon Fund and Community Development Carbon Fund.

41. The resident representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Daouda Touré, recognizing that Africa was the only continent where poverty was still increasing, was nonetheless heartened to see the enthusiasm following the launch of NEPAD. He pointed to the World Summit as an opportunity to renew the commitment to integrate environment and development, citing the need for clearly defined action plans to enhance national capacity for economic growth. He said UNDP encouraged the

establishment of institutional mechanisms at all levels to mainstream environment into policy making and budgeting. He expressed UNDP's full support for AMCEN's strategy to implement the programme coming from the World Summit. Referring to UNDP's programme, he announced that UNDP had launched Capacity 2015 to assist countries in capacity-building to meet the Millennium Development Goals. He announced that UNDP would commit itself at the World Summit to providing support in four key areas of the environment for poverty eradication: water, energy, dry land management, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

42. The Director-General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Mr. Claude Martin, expressed WWF's perspectives on the environmental component of NEPAD. Echoing the contribution of a number of ministers, WWF was convinced of the need to incorporate the establishment of viable protected areas of forests in Africa into the environmental component of NEPAD. He said that marine protected areas, which played an important role in economies, should also be included as priority areas. Addressing the threat Africa faced from toxic chemicals, he pointed to the relatively low total cost for clearing Africa of its stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and proposed the adoption of a stockpiles programme within NEPAD which would deal comprehensively with the issue.

43. The civil society representative from the Advocates' Coalition for Development and Environment, recognizing the proximity of the AMCEN meeting to the World Summit, urged ministers to ensure that the Johannesburg Plan of Action would contain specific and time-bound commitments. He pressed for the AMCEN ministerial declaration to committing civil society representatives on national delegations, and to instruct the AMCEN secretariat to convene an African conference of civil society organizations to contribute to the environment initiative of NEPAD.

#### **V. STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND ROLE OF AMCEN IN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING INITIATIVES IN AFRICA**

44. The main focus of the brainstorming session was the role of AMCEN during the World Summit on Sustainable Development including the outcomes of the Summit and the environmental component of NEPAD.

45. The incoming vice-president of the AMCEN Bureau, the environment minister of Mauritius, said that the forthcoming Heads of State summit in Durban, which would transform OAU into the African Union, was of critical importance for Africa. AMCEN had been and would remain the authority responsible for the environment in Africa although the way in which it would interact with NEPAD had yet to be decided upon. AMCEN had a considerable task in ensuring that the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development were correctly implemented. The Summit would deal with the future of the continent and AMCEN must be more effective and organized in order to ensure that Africa spoke with one voice.

46. It was noted that, with regard to the negotiations at the Summit, Africa did not take an independent position as it negotiated within the context of the Group of 77 and China. He stressed the need, therefore, for Africa to participate in the Group of 77 and China meetings in order to ensure that Africa's position was captured by the Group of 77 and China.

47. The minister of Côte d'Ivoire noted that it was imperative to develop and to strengthen the environmental management structures under AMCEN. AMCEN's resources needed bolstering to support its heavy responsibility as the policy making environmental authority for Africa. There was a need for AMCEN to report on its activities in the areas of policy implementation and environmental management to all AMCEN sessions and to strengthen the follow-up structures of environmental management. He felt that priority should be given to the management and conservation of forests, particularly equatorial forests that were threatened with desertification. He said that his country intended to organize a meeting on forests with the support of the World Wide Fund for Nature. He noted that there was a need for a resource mobilization mechanism for AMCEN and that reports on the status of payments to AMCEN should be made available to the Conference. He urged all States to ratify international legal instruments, including the Convention for

Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention), and called upon countries to pay their contributions toward this.

48. One minister stressed that one of the most important functions of AMCEN was to ensure that Africa spoke with one voice on all international environmental matters. He noted that Africa had no voice and no visibility at some international negotiations as it was not present to engage with counterparts from other areas of the world. AMCEN's role, therefore, was also to give a voice to Africa. This required a firm commitment from AMCEN to ensure that there was a team to represent the continent of Africa at all international negotiations pertaining to the environment. He pointed out that full support should be given to those countries with equatorial forests because the preservation of equatorial forests and their sustainable development for social and economic progress was a concern to the whole of Africa. He requested the minister of Cote d'Ivoire to extend the invitation to the meeting on forests to the members of AMCEN. He agreed that the issue of forests should be incorporated into the Summit implementation plan and into NEPAD. He noted that there would be a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) in 2002 in Santiago, Chile. He emphasized the need for Africa to speak with one voice at that meeting. He stressed the need for AMCEN to be strengthened and noted that the linkages between AMCEN and the African Union would be clarified at the OAU Summit in Durban the following week. He requested that ministers of environment find an opportunity to meet informally amongst themselves to discuss environmental policies on the continent at the political level prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

49. Another minister stressed the need for AMCEN to have its own secretariat for permanent contact with each State. It was very important to mention the particularity of each region, for example, the problem of desertification in countries situated in the Horn of Africa. He noted that the greatest obstacle to development in Africa was lack of resources and cited the problems that some States experienced in the implementation of environmental conventions.

50. It was stressed that AMCEN was the technical and political instrument that would lead Africa towards sustainable development and AMCEN must be strengthened, with particular emphasis on its implementation mechanism.

## VI. THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) AND ITS ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

51. Under this agenda item, the President of Senegal and Coordinator of the Environment Component of NEPAD, Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, gave a presentation on the environment component of NEPAD. He observed that the ninth session of AMCEN was taking place at a time when the African continent had decided to take its destiny in its own hands. This meant that Africa had decided to effectively assume responsibility of development issues, with concrete programmes and projects, according to an integrated, participatory and dynamic approach in order to ensure the sustainability of development actions through the improvement of the living conditions of the people. He noted that the Africa Environment Outlook developed by UNEP reported that the conditions of natural habitats and fragile ecosystems had deteriorated, leading to the reduction of biodiversity. There were high levels of exploitation of resources such as freshwater, forests and coastal and marine resources that continued to be used at rates that exceeded their viable replenishment rate. The degradation of soils and natural or man-made environmental disasters as well as invasive species continued to pose serious problems in Africa. On the whole, environmental degradation compromised the prospects of combating poverty, economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. Measures aimed at boosting the region's economies and at eradicating poverty should therefore promote environmental sustainability.

52. NEPAD had recommended the putting in place and adoption of an environmental initiative in order to face up to the environmental challenges of the region while fighting against poverty at the same time. The environmental action plan for the first decade of the twenty-first century had been established to respond to the call for such an initiative. The plan had been developed according to a consultative and participatory process under the aegis of AMCEN, with the collaboration of the coordinator of the environment component of NEPAD. It dealt with common sustainable development issues and concerns in Africa. It contained a set of collective actions and responsibilities that African countries had to adopt and to implement to protect the environment and to ensure the utilization of their natural resources in partnership with the international community, in accordance with the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

53. The overall objectives of the Action Plan were to complement the ongoing African processes in order to improve environmental conditions in Africa so as to contribute to the realization of economic growth and poverty eradication, develop Africa's capacity to efficiently implement international and regional environmental agreements and to effectively face up to environmental challenges within the overall context of the implementation of NEPAD. The priority areas of intervention and activity programmes were the control of degradation of soils, drought and desertification, the conservation of wetlands in Africa, the prevention and control of invasive species, the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, the fight against the negative impacts of climate change in Africa and the conservation and management of transboundary natural resources – freshwater, biodiversity, forests and plant genetic resources.

54. The Environmental Action Plan was a living document whose implementation required a long-term approach. It would be implemented in harmony with the other components of NEPAD, relying on the achievements and programme of work of AMCEN and other African initiatives. It required an appropriate implementation mechanism and adequate financial resources. For this reason, on the basis of the commitments agreed by the international community in the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus on development financing, additional financial resources were required. To this end, a meeting of donors, with the participation of bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), would be called immediately after the adoption of the Action Plan during the special session of AMCEN in 2003 to mobilize the additional financial resources required to implement the Action Plan.

55. After Mr. Wade's presentation, a representative of the business community noted that it was globally accepted that the private sector was an engine of development and that it should be directly involved in a practical way in development matters through its representation at meetings and on development committees. He said that donor funding from the private sector and civil society should no longer be channelled through the Government as this led to the donors' complaints about corruption and made the funds difficult to access.

56. Mr. Wade acknowledged the very important role that the private sector played in development and called for the private sector to be involved in development negotiations and initiatives. He felt that funds from the private sector and civil society were no longer sent through governments and noted that this was an outdated practice.

57. One minister noted with satisfaction the fact that NEPAD was a home-grown initiative to extricate Africa from her perennial problems. She sought to know what the cost implications were for the implementation of NEPAD and how much African Governments were willing to donate for projects planned under NEPAD.

58. Mr. Wade noted that NEPAD was a partnership founded on confidence with countries who had an interest in the continent's ability to participate in global activities. He noted that G8 countries were unwilling to give aid to countries that were not practising good governance. He proposed that there should be an African conference on the selection of projects under the environment component of NEPAD and said that he would be willing to host this in Dakar.

## VII. STATUS OF THE GENERAL TRUST FUND FOR AMCEN

59. The Chair ruled that since this item had been discussed exhaustively during the consideration of the report of the Expert Group, there was no need to discuss it further. One minister, however, suggested that a committee of the Bureau be set up to follow up on commitments made by countries.

## VIII. VENUE OF THE TENTH SESSION OF AMCEN

60. The Chair noted that as both the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Côte d'Ivoire had indicated their willingness to host the tenth session of AMCEN, the final decision on the venue for the next session would be forwarded to ministers after further discussion.

## IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF AMCEN, INCLUDING DECISIONS AND THE KAMPALA DECLARATION

61. The ministers adopted, with amendments, the report of the ministerial segment of the ninth session of AMCEN as contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/9/L.3, including decisions and the Kampala Declaration.

## X. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

62. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the session closed at 6.15 p.m. on Friday, 5 July 2002.

Annex I

## KAMPALA DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Deeply concerned that Africa is the only continent in the world where poverty is projected to rise during the twenty-first century with far-reaching implications for its environment and African people due to the vulnerability of the continent, in particular the least developed countries, to global environmental changes including climate change and desertification,

Deeply concerned also about the increasing environmental threats facing the African continent and their adverse social, cultural and economic impacts,

Noting with concern the increasing number and frequency of emergency and crisis situations in African countries, particularly in countries which continue to be devastated by natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions and extreme weather phenomena such as floods and droughts, threatening economic and food security and political stability,

Welcoming the establishment of the African Union,

Welcoming the adoption in 2001 of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a common African vision and agreed platform to address the challenges facing Africa with a view to achieving sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations,

Noting with satisfaction the significant progress that the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment has achieved since its inception in 1985 as the political body for environmental advocacy and leadership in the region,

Acknowledging the contribution towards addressing African environmental challenges of the first Africa Environment Outlook report launched on 4 July 2002,

Noting also with satisfaction the positive role played by regional, subregional and national bodies in promoting sustainable development in Africa, particularly during the consultative process in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Further noting the role played by international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and financial development institutions in promoting sustainable development in Africa,

Bearing in mind the fact that success in achieving global sustainable development will ultimately depend upon development and implementation of sound and cost-effective national response policies and measures, good environmental governance, effective participation by civil society and collection and exchange of quality data and information on the environment for use by national decision makers,

Noting with concern that there are limited financial resources to implement fully the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for 2000-2004,

Noting also the lack of adequate capacity for the African countries to implement multilateral environmental agreements relevant to Africa particularly the African annex of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 18 September 2000 in which the international community committed itself to supporting Africa in achieving sustainable development and environmental protection,

Recalling also the commitments made by the international community in Doha, in December 2001, and at the United Nations Conference on Finance and Development held in Monterrey in March 2002,

Recalling also the commitments made at the G8 summit held in Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002, aimed at supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held in Africa, providing a unique opportunity to forge a new partnership between Africa and its partners, based on Chapter 8 of the Johannesburg Plan of Action on New Partnership for Africa's Development as well as the shared vision to make the World Summit on Sustainable Development a summit of implementation and concrete action, particularly in the areas of water and sanitation; energy; agriculture and food security; land development; biodiversity and education,

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

Emphasizing also that an integrated, democratic institutional framework at the local, national, regional and international level is essential for achieving sustainable development,

We, the African Ministers of Environment, having met in Kampala on 4 and 5 July 2002, at the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, guided by:

(a) The strategic vision of Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, on the environmental challenges facing Africa and, in particular, on issues related to poverty eradication and its relation to trade, energy and water presented on 4 July 2002 at the opening of the meeting;

(b) The vision of Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, as outlined in his address to the meeting on 5 July 2002 on the contribution of the environment to the achievement of the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, submitted in his capacity as the designated Head of State coordinating the environment component of NEPAD

Hereby decide:

1. To fully implement the outstanding activities contained in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment programme of work, 2000 –2004;

2. To urge Governments to take the action necessary to ensure that the General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished within the intersessional period and request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to mobilize additional financial resources from bilateral and multilateral institutions including the Global Environment Facility;

3. To welcome the expected decision of the second Global Environment Facility Assembly to designate land degradation and desertification as separate focal areas and calls upon the Global Environment Facility to give high priority to African countries in allocating financial resources for successful implementation of the action plan to combat desertification;

4. To call upon the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in close consultation with all the relevant ministries to convene an urgent regional meeting of the Conference with the participation of the business sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the international community with a view to forging strategic partnerships for preparation and implementation of policies and programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

5. To call upon the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as a matter of urgency, to forge cooperative links with the secretariat of the future African Union and its relevant commissions as well as the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements taking into account the outcome of the African Union summit held in Durban in July 2002;
6. To commit our governments to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the harmonization of policies and institutional arrangements in accordance with the outcome of the intergovernmental environmental governance process, as adopted at the special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Cartagena in February 2002;
7. To commit ourselves to make every effort to integrate environmental concerns into national pursuits of economic development in Africa, while not neglecting the priorities of the continent for sustainable social, economic and human development, particularly for the benefit of poor and marginalized communities;
8. To strengthen cooperation with all regional and subregional bodies, including external partners, in the pursuit of sustainable human, social and economic development in harmony with the environment;
9. To transmit to the African Union the decision taken by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its ninth session on the revised Algiers Convention as contained in decision 5 of Annex I to the declaration;
10. To endorse the Framework of the Action Plan for the Environmental Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development including its annex on capacity-building and the related decision as contained in annex I to the declaration;
11. To request that the action plan of the environmental initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development define forest ecosystems as one of the major areas of intervention and to include an operational framework for harnessing data, information and knowledge for sustainable development as a basis of national, subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting;
12. To endorse the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environmental management and to provide a framework for national and subregional integrated environmental assessment and reporting;
13. To endorse the proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive environmental information network to promote access and harmonization of data in the African region and act as a basis for tracking environmental changes using quantitative indicators focusing on national needs;
14. To endorse also the common African position on the World Summit on Sustainable Development as adopted by the ministerial preparatory conference held in October 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya;
15. To endorse also the common African position on the World Summit on Sustainable Development including its appendix on elements to guide negotiations at the World Summit on Sustainable Development as contained in decision 1 of the attached annex I of the declaration;
16. To mandate the African representative of the Friends of the Chair of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, under the leadership of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to further elaborate the common African position on the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to make recommendations on the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Action of relevance to Africa, to the next meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment through its bureau;
17. To urge all our Governments to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the level of Heads of State;

18. To encourage African partners to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the level of Heads of States;

19. To commit our Governments to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its ninth session;

20. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the Kampala Declaration and its annexes to the summit of the African Union to be held in Durban in July 2002;

21. To express our gratitude to Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, the President of the Republic of Senegal, for attending the ninth meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as well as his offer to host an African conference on the selection of environmental projects under the environmental component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and take note of the proposal to establish a secretariat for the implementation of the projects;

22. To pay tribute to the President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, his Government and the People of Uganda for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to participants of the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment which greatly contributed to its success.

Annex IIDECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT AT ITS NINTH SESSION

We, the African Ministers of the Environment gathered in Kampala, Uganda from 3 to 5 July 2002 under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its ninth session have adopted the following decisions:

Decision 1: The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Considering the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in promoting the environment agenda of Africa,

Noting with appreciation the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in facilitating preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in the assessment of the status of implementation of Agenda 21,

Re-affirming the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the authoritative body in the environment sector in Africa,

Considering that the environment, as one of the three pillars of sustainable development, with social and economic issues, will constitute a substantial part of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Noting with appreciation that the implementation plan would contain a chapter on sustainable development for Africa,

Considering that finance and trade are critical tools of implementation of sustainable development programmes,

Noting with satisfaction the work done in the African process on the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment, directly relevant to the plan of action for the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions,

Participation and the African contribution at the World Summit on Sustainable DevelopmentDecide:

1. To encourage Governments to participate in the Summit and the partnership conference on the coastal and marine environment at the highest level;
2. To develop a common African position on outstanding issues in the draft implementation plan of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and elements for inclusion in the political declaration;
3. To present a common African position at the Summit, and in this respect hold regular meetings of the Group with interpretation facilities to ensure effective communication;
4. To showcase the vision, products and services of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

5. To develop partnerships for the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes;

6. To note with appreciation the recommendation by the Global Environment Facility Council that the Global Environment Facility designates land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as one of its focal areas, and call for an adequately financed third Global Environment Facility replenishment;

Also decide to reinforce the African position by:

1. Re-emphasizing the importance of focusing the agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on poverty as the primary obstacle to sustainable development;

2. Re-emphasizing the implementation of Agenda 21, and avoiding its re-negotiation;

3. Seeking an outcome that balances trade-offs between the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environment);

4. Re-emphasizing the need for an action-oriented text that contains time-bound targets, providing the basis for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and Agenda 21;

5. Seeking an economic platform that supports development and delivery of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and that addresses market access, subsidies, debt relief, foreign direct investment, official development assistance and technology;

6. Emphasizing the inextricable linkages between environmental management, poverty eradication and development;

7. Urging our Governments to promote the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a framework for sustainable development in Africa, and a model for implementation of sustainable development in other regions;

8. Advancing a balanced approach to governance at international, regional, national and local levels, and in particular, call for a fundamental restructuring and strengthening of the international institutional arrangements for implementation of sustainable development, with emphasis on integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;

9. Preparing a detailed African position on unresolved issues in the draft implementation plan, including: institutional arrangements for sustainable development, trade and finance issues, unresolved issues in chapter 8 of the draft implementation plan on Africa, environmental issues and initiatives pertaining to climate change, renewable energy, biodiversity (access and benefit sharing) and living marine resources, and elements on linkages between type 1 and type 2 outcomes;

10. Adopting principles and guidelines set out in annex 1, providing a baseline for negotiations on the processes and outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

Further decide to advance the following proposed elements to be included in the political declaration:

- That the political declaration should re-affirm and endorse the content of the draft plan of implementation. It should be concise, focused and action oriented, reiterating basic principles, reaffirming commitments and strengthening multilateral cooperation for implementation of sustainable development. Elements of the political declaration should include:

(i) A strong and clear commitment to poverty eradication;

- (ii) Adherence to the Rio Principles including the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”;
- (iii) Commitment at national, regional and international levels on the implementation of Agenda 21 and other multilateral environmental agreements;
- (iv) Commitment to implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions of the General Assembly;
- (v) Commitment to implementation of Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development including targets and actions outlined in the plan of implementation.
- (vi) Mobilization of necessary financial resources, including increased overseas development aid, and other means of implementation, with cognisance of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus;
- (vii) Commitment to coherent and effective institutional structures and arrangements at all levels for implementation of sustainable development;
- (viii) Commitment to partnerships as an important vehicle for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and emphasis on linkages between type I and type II outcomes.

The role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment after the  
World Summit on Sustainable Development

Decide:

1. That a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment should be held within three months of the conclusion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development:
  - (a) To prioritize areas of implementation for the short, medium and long-term;
  - (b) To prepare an action plan for each of the identified sectors of relevance;
  - (c) To review medium-term programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment/New Partnership for Africa’s development in light of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
2. That the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment should be strengthened to facilitate and coordinate implementation of the relevant outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the national, subregional and regional levels by:
  - (a) Acting as a catalyst in mobilizing resources for the above programmes and projects;
  - (b) Promoting partnerships where feasible;
  - (c) Using mechanisms, such as the environmental information network for dissemination of information, and capacity development for sustainable development in Africa;
  - (d) Making use of the African Environment Outlook as a reporting mechanism for achievements in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Appendix

ELEMENTS TO GUIDE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE  
WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Three pillars of sustainable development

Countries agree that achieving sustainable development will require:

- A balance between society's demands on natural resources with the earth's capacity to renew those resources;
- The establishment of sustainable systems of production and consumption within a stable, balanced and equitable global economic system;
- A just social order based on the eradication of poverty as a fundamental obstacle to sustainable development.

2. Poverty eradication

Countries agree that poverty eradication is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development, and requires mobilization of public and private resources.

3. Rio Principles

Countries commit to the application and operationalization of the Rio Principles.

4. Action orientation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Countries agree that the World Summit on Sustainable Development must focus on implementation, and hence the establishment of concrete actions at all levels to achieve sustainable development, including regional initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

5. Agenda 21

Countries commit themselves to fully implement Agenda 21, and to establish and give effect to an implementation plan in this regard at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, backed with the necessary resources.

6. Millennium Development Goals

Countries commit themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing concrete programs of action backed with the necessary resources to achieve them. Countries agree that additional targets and time frames could be considered only on a limited basis and on merit, in areas such as sanitation, energy, biodiversity, production and consumption.

7. Institutional framework for sustainable development

Countries agree that a sound, integrated, democratic institutional framework at local, national, regional and international levels is essential for sustainable development.

8. Peace and security

Countries agree that peace and security are an essential prerequisite for sustainable development.

9. Partnerships and participation

Countries agree that the implementation plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development will require the participation of all major groups, and commit themselves to establishing concrete partnerships to achieve this.

Decision 2: On the Framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development submitted for consideration and approval at the ninth meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the Abuja Declaration adopted in April 2000 by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eighth session,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 18 September 2000, in which the International Community committed itself to support Africa in achieving sustainable development and environmental protection,

Recalling also chapter 8 on the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted by the African Heads of State meetings in 2001,

Recalling also the successful outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Medium-Sized Project on the Development and protection of the coastal and marine environment particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (African Process),

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

Concerned also about the increasing environmental threats facing the African continent as a result of global environmental changes with adverse social, cultural and economic effects,

Expressing its deep gratitude to the Global Environment Facility and in particular its Chief Executive Officer and Chair for its prompt and timely financial support for the preparation of the framework of an action plan for the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Expressing also its deep gratitude to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for his support for the preparation of the framework of an action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Welcoming the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted in Bali on 7 June 2002,

Decide to:

1. To take note with appreciation of the report of the steering committee of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility medium-sized project on the development and implementation of the environment component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
2. To endorse the Framework of an Action Plan for the Environmental Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's development including its annex on a strategic plan to build Africa's capacity to implement global and regional environmental conventions;
3. To invite the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in consultation with the President of Senegal to submit the Framework of an Action Plan to the Summit of the African Heads of State to be held in Durban, South Africa in July 2002;

4. To invite also the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in consultation with the President of the African Union and the President of the Republic of Senegal, to submit the Framework of an Action Plan to the high-level segment of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 2 to 5 September 2002;
5. To invite also the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the Framework of an Action Plan to the relevant ministerial meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the meeting of the African Development Bank;
6. To mandate the steering committee of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility medium-sized project to further elaborate the Framework with a view to submitting a detailed action plan to a meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to be held no later than July 2003;
7. To invite bilateral and multilateral donors as well as the private sector to support the implementation of the action plan upon its finalization and in this regard welcome the offer of Algeria to host a donor meeting no later than the end of 2003;
8. To consider at its 2003 meeting, the detailed action plan to be submitted by the steering committee of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility medium-sized project.

Decision 3: The Africa Environment Outlook report and the Environmental Information Network:

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with satisfaction the support rendered by the United Nations Environment Programme in responding to the decisions and medium-term programme of work 2000-2004 adopted at the eighth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 3 to 6 April 2000, with respect to the preparation and production of a comprehensive report on the state of the African environment in advance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Also noting the decision taken by the special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eighth session held in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 urging the Conference to endorse Africa Environment Outlook as an umbrella process for regular integrated assessment and reporting for African Ministerial Conference on the Environment member countries,

Recognizing with satisfaction the support rendered by the United Nations Environment Programme including through its collaborating centres, African eminent persons and experts in the preparation of the Africa Environment Outlook report,

Noting with satisfaction that human and institutional capabilities were significantly enhanced through the implementation of capacity-building programmes under the Africa Environment Outlook project, demonstrating sustainability of the proposed Africa Environment Outlook process,

Further recognizing the critical importance and benefits of the Africa Environment Outlook report academia, the private and public sectors including African negotiators in multilateral environmental agreements as they develop common positions and policies towards sustainable development,

Welcoming the support rendered by donor countries towards the production of the report,

Further welcoming the support by the Government of Uganda for facilitating the launch of the Africa Environment Outlook report and providing the facilities to showcase the report including its associated products during the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Kampala, Uganda, from 1 to 5 July 2002,

Decide:

1. To express appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing and securing the necessary resources for the production of the first Africa Environment Outlook reports;
2. To express also the satisfaction of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to the Collaborating Centres, African eminent persons and experts for their contribution in the production of the Africa Environment Outlook report within the prescribed time frame;
3. To endorse the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) meeting of 14 to 16 January 2002, held in Pretoria, to adopt the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environmental management and to provide a framework for national and subregional integrated environmental assessment and reporting;
4. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to secure sustainable financing to support regional efforts towards the production of regular reports on the state of the environment in Africa;

5. To request also the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare a framework for harnessing data, information and knowledge for sustainable development, including mobilization of adequate resources for managing relevant data as a basis for national, subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting;
6. To further request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist in the preparation of guidelines and time-frames for regular reporting for implementation by members;
7. To urge the President of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to enlist the support of the regional and subregional organizations including economic groupings, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations for effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Africa Environment Outlook report towards sustainable development;
8. To endorse the proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive environmental information network to promote access and harmonization of data in Africa, and act as a basis for tracking environmental changes using quantitative indicators focusing on national needs.

Decision 4: The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Constitution

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware of the mandate given to the Conference by the eighth session in Abuja, Nigeria, from 3 to 6 April 2000 as contained in paragraph 31 of the ministerial report of the session,

Also aware that the structure and functions of the restructured the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment must be duly reflected in the provisions of the revised Constitution,

Further aware that the revised Constitution is a rolling framework which will require regular revisions consonant with the new and emerging challenges that AMCEN will continue to face,

Noting that the New Strategy and Vision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment needs to be harmonized with the revised Constitution,

Decide that the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment:

1. Recruit a consultant(s) to complete the document being guided by these initial inputs or comments;
2. Initiate a process for further intergovernmental consultations taking into account the need to closely follow up the evolution of other initiatives under African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
3. Solicit funds for the process mentioned in the latter two paragraphs above;
4. Inform members regularly on the progress and any required additional guidance in order to complete the Constitution as soon as possible.

Decision 5: Revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention)

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources adopted at Algiers, Algeria on 15 September 1968 and entered into force on 16 June 1969,

Noting that 30 Governments have to date ratified or acceded to the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

Recognizing that since the adoption of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, over 30 years ago, there have been several developments in the field of environment and treaty law,

Recognizing further that during that period, several international and regional environmental agreements in the field of environment on issues, such as, biological diversity, biosafety and chemicals have been adopted,

Noting the importance and the need for the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to be revised and updated to take into consideration all the developments in the field of environment since its adoption,

Recalling the initiative undertaken by Nigeria and Cameroon in 1980 urging the Organization of African Unity, as the depository of the Convention, to undertake the process to revise the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and bring it in line with other treaties in the field,

Recalling further the work done between 1980 and 1986 to revise and update the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources but which could not be completed at the time,

Recalling further the role played by Burkina Faso to rekindle the process of the revision of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources by urging Organization of African Unity to re-launch the process stalled since 1986,

Appreciating the specific and collaborative role played by the World Conservation Union, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Environment Programme in providing technical support to the Parties to the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to revise and update it taking into account developments in environmental treaty law over the past three decades including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Conservation Union, the Organization of African Unity and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in support of the review and updating process of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

Considering that the revised and updated text of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has been reviewed and commented upon by some Governments after submission to all,

Taking into account the revised draft text of the Convention presented by the secretariat,

1. Decides to request the African Union to conclude the process of intergovernmental negotiations, to take place as soon as possible, in order to enable adoption of the Convention;

2. Urge all Parties who have not given comments to do so, in order to enrich and expedite the negotiation process;
3. Call the State Parties to sign and ratify or accede to the revised Convention and to commit resources for its implementation;
4. Request the African Union to report on the steps being taken to update the Convention at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg;
5. Request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the African Union and other organizations to assist and support the Parties in the implementation of the revised Convention once adopted;
6. Call upon members of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to develop and strengthen national legal policy and other measures necessary to implement the revised Convention once adopted;
7. Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit a report at the next session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the progress made regarding the adoption, as well as steps being taken to further assist Parties to implement the Convention.

Decision 6: The Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Taking note of the Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes adopted by the Ministers and other heads of delegation from Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and other States on the occasion of the First Continental Conference for Africa on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stockpiles of Hazardous Wastes and their Prevention in January 2001,

Welcoming with appreciation the Programme of Action for Africa on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stockpiles of Hazardous Wastes and their Prevention adopted by the First Continental Conference for Africa on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stockpiles of Hazardous Wastes and their Prevention,

Mindful of the critical importance and urgency to implement the Programme of Action for Africa to protect human health and the environment in Africa,

Convinced that effective partnership between the States in Africa with all concerned stakeholders is necessary to mobilize the resources required to implement the Programme of Action for Africa in an effective and timely manner,

Also convinced that support of the highest political level is necessary to achieve the aims and objectives of the Programme of Action for Africa,

Considering the important role that the Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Transfer of Technology play in the building of capacities in the region,

Decide to:

Endorse the Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes set out in appendix to the present decision.

Appendix

RABAT DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF  
UNWANTED STOCKS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES

We, the ministers and other heads of delegation from the Parties to the Basel Convention in Africa and from other Parties,

Having met in Rabat, Morocco, from 11 to 12 January 2001;

Concerned about the continuing risk of damage to the environment and of harmful effects on human health caused by the unsound management of stocks of hazardous wastes;

Committed to the principles of the Ministerial Basel Declaration on environmentally sound management adopted on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December 1999;

Convinced of the necessity to strengthen old alliances and create new ones to face up to the challenge of eliminating unwanted stocks of hazardous wastes;

Recognizing the determination of the Parties to the Basel Convention to work together for the benefit of all:

Undertake to make all efforts possible, within the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to implement national or regional solutions to prevent accumulation of unwanted stocks of hazardous wastes, in particular of unwanted pesticides, and to manage in an environmentally sound manner existing stocks of such hazardous wastes, including their disposal;

Call on all stakeholders, public or private, to assist Parties and other States in Africa to eliminate stocks of unwanted hazardous wastes and to establish preventive measures;

Recognize that, in order to enable Governments in Africa to put into place measures to prevent accumulation of stocks and hazardous wastes and ensure their environmentally sound management, comprehensive national and regional plans are to be pursued for which financial support should be guaranteed;

Further recognize that the United Nations system is uniquely positioned to provide the appropriate framework or platform for implementing solutions and ensure the concrete involvement of other partners, such as industry; and invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of Basel Convention and intergovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Programme of Action;

Decide that the attached programme of action contains the essential elements required to address this critical and urgent environmental and health problems and build-up long-term solutions to prevent occurrence of these problems;

Recommend that the United Nations Environment Programme takes the lead on the preparation of the programme of action and the coordination of its implementation in close cooperation with all stakeholders.

Decision 7: Adoption of the Nairobi Declaration for Sustainable Development of African Mountain Regions and its recommendations for actions, prepared during the African High Summit on Mountains in Nairobi, May 6-10 2002

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Taking note of the Nairobi Declaration for Sustainable Development of African Mountain Regions and its recommendations for actions, prepared during the African High Summit on Mountains held in Nairobi from 6 to 10 May 2002,

Decide:

1. To endorse the Nairobi Declaration for Sustainable Development of African Mountain Regions and its recommendations for actions;
2. To endorse a broad based partnership of all local and regional stakeholders in Africa such as the African Mountain Association, the African Mountain Forum, the African Highlands Initiative, ECOTRUST, United Nations Environment Programme Mountain Programme and other initiatives to promote and implement action plans for sustainable mountain development in Africa;
3. To agree that the mountain ecosystems be explicitly incorporated in the environmental component of the New Partnership for Africa's development action plan and other emerging initiatives on the African continent;
4. To consider putting in place an African Convention or protocol on the conservation of mountain ecosystems.

Decision 8: Resource mobilisation and the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN

We, the Ministers of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting the agreement reached by AMCEN at its 8<sup>th</sup> Session under Decision 5 – Financial Resources,

Reaffirming Decision 4 on Resource Mobilization, taken at the AMCEN Special Session held in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 October 2001,

Further noting with concern the low response by AMCEN Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund,

Recognizing that the Africa region depends on its natural resource base and that it is vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, and vagaries of extreme weather and climate events with profound consequences on the national economies,

Further aware that African Governments are experiencing ever increasing competing demands on limited resources to meet the basic needs of their populations thus leading to over-exploitation of the natural resources,

Aware of the immense pressure faced by African Governments in meeting national obligations for the increasing number Trust Funds established under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and hence support the efforts to harmonize the management of these MEAs within the framework of the UNEP Governing Council Decision 21/21 on International Environmental Governance,

Expressing our appreciation to those governments that, despite their socio-economic difficulties, have contributed to the Trust Fund,

Also aware that the African region needs to mobilize adequate resources to effectively implement their national action programmes to redress the declining state of the environment and maintain its Secretariat in Nairobi,

Expressing our appreciation to the development Partners for readiness to respond to our requests for support.

Decide that:

1. The secretariat, in consultation with member States, develops an action-based work-plan for the use of the Trust Fund money.
2. The secretariat should also report on actions taken so far in this respect, as directed by the Nairobi meeting and should present the audited accounts to the AMCEN meetings.
3. Governments should be encouraged to make every effort to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund.
4. The AMCEN Trust Fund should be the principal Trust Fund for environmental activities in Africa planned under AMCEN, NEPAD and AU. Further, the Trust Fund should continue to be managed by UNEP for as long as the AMCEN secretariat remains with UNEP.
5. Given the global nature of environmental benefits, development partners and international organization must be encouraged to contribute to the Trust Fund.

6. The secretariat and individual countries should devise innovative mechanisms for fund-raising to support environmental activities, such as:

- establishment of public-private partnerships;
- new incentives for the private sector; and
- establishment of partnerships in the implementation of the work plan.

7. The secretariat should report on the use of the trust funds to the AMCEN meetings.

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