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NINTH EXPERT GROUP MEETING OF THE AFRICAN
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Kampala, 1-3 July 2002

REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING
HELD FROM 1 TO 3 JULY 2002

Introduction

1. The Expert Group Meeting of the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Kampala from 1 to 3 July 2002.
2. It was attended by experts from AMCEN member States, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is contained in annex IX.
3. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Philip Olatunde Bankole, the representative of the President of AMCEN, Mr. Muhammad Kabir Sa'id, Federal Minister of Environment of Nigeria, while Cameroon served as the Rapporteur.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 1 July 2002 by Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Minister of Water, Lands and Environment of Uganda.
5. After welcoming the experts to Uganda, he noted that the Cairo Programme of Action, established by African environment ministers in 1985, had stressed the need for African Governments to bear the primary responsibility of solving the problems of the continent and that the implementation of the continent's programmes demanded the strengthening of existing institutional structures and machinery for intra-African cooperation. He said that it was in the spirit of intra-African cooperation that African countries had agreed to support South Africa to host the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adding that South Africa should be commended for the arrangements it had made to date to ensure the successful hosting of the Summit.
6. He recalled that Africa had entered the twenty-first century facing two major and interrelated problems, namely, rising poverty and deepening environmental degradation. Africa was faced with the challenge of improving environmental conditions in order to contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty eradication. This would ensure that development occurred without causing environmental degradation and was in line with the strategy of AMCEN and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for the eradication of poverty and promotion of social and economic development. He observed that the key environmental problems facing Africa included land degradation, drought and desertification, adverse impacts of climate change and pollution, proliferation of invasive species and problems related to freshwater resources. Referring to the current International Year of Mountains (IYM), he urged the experts to look seriously into the issue of mountains that were very important natural systems in many ways that included serving as water catchment areas and as important habitats for unique human communities and biodiversity. He pointed out that mountains had been found to be prone to global warming and degradation. Accordingly, he called upon the experts to draw up specific actions to address issues affecting mountain ecosystems in all programmes of the region, particularly the AMCEN Action Plan.
7. While appreciating the role played by AMCEN, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners in developing the capacity of Africa to participate effectively in the global environmental dialogue, he observed that the efforts remained grossly inadequate. For example, Africa continued to be disadvantaged at global negotiations. As a result, Africa reaped fewer benefits from the international community. Consequently, there was a need to develop capacity at the national and regional level for the effective participation of African countries in global negotiations so as to realize equity and benefits from the global resources.
8. In his address, Mr. Sékou Touré, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, expressed gratitude to the Government of Uganda for its support during the preparatory process of the session and to the people of Uganda for their hospitality. He said that the large attendance of the session was a clear indication of the

collective sense of urgency and priority of African countries with regard to the issues facing AMCEN. He noted that the session was taking place in an environment of continuing degradation, the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union, the launching of NEPAD with its environment component and the holding of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

9. He said that at the request of the AMCEN Bureau, the ninth session included a provision for the environment ministers to critically analyse AMCEN in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the major developments occurring in the region. In particular, the session would discuss means to interact effectively with the emerging initiatives in Africa, including the African Union and NEPAD. The Conference would evaluate its performance by discussing the implementation of its programme of work, agreeing on a new strategy for AMCEN within the framework of new and emerging initiatives in Africa.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Election of the Bureau

10. Consistent with the draft rules of procedure, the current Bureau of AMCEN served as the Bureau for the meeting.

11. The Chair requested the representatives of Cameroon, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda to form a committee of Friends of the Chair representing the various regions to hold discussions with the experts and to come up with proposals for the composition of the next Bureau of AMCEN. After consultations, the Committee of Friends of the Chair submitted the proposals shown in the table below:

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

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

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

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Consideration of the report of the secretariat:
 - (a) Implementation of decisions taken by AMCEN at its eighth session;
 - (b) The implementation of the 2000-2004 AMCEN programme of work;

- (c) Activities by AMCEN in the intersessional period and their impact;
 - (d) Role of AMCEN in the context of emerging African initiatives;
 - (e) Future of AMCEN within the changing environment.
4. Consideration of progress in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development:
- (a) The 2001 African regional assessment report on the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) The African ministerial statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and highlights;
 - (c) Follow-up activities to the AMCEN special session of 16 October 2001 and its decision 2 on support to South Africa;
 - (d) Preparations for participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
 - (e) Draft decision on the implementation of expected outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process.
5. Strategic vision and role of AMCEN in the context of emerging African initiatives:
- New Partnership for Africa’s Development (new African initiative – priority focus for AMCEN) and draft decision;
 - Revised AMCEN Constitution.
6. The environmental initiative of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development.
7. Implementation of environmental conventions established further to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:
- (a) Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - (b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol;
 - (c) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;
 - (d) Other multilateral environmental agreements:
 - (i) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer including its amendments;
 - (ii) Revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;
 - (iii) Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and related protocols (Nairobi Convention);

- (iv) Draft decision on multilateral environmental agreements.
8. Consideration of the revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) and regional conventions.
 9. Africa Environment Outlook report:
 - (a) Report on the preparatory process from December 2000 to June 2002;
 - (b) Report on the second meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee relating to the Africa Environment Outlook report;
 - (c) Framework for the establishment of an African environment information network;
 - (d) Draft decision on the future process for regular reporting through the Africa Environment Outlook series.
 10. State of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN.
 11. Adoption of the report of the Expert Group Meeting.
 12. Any other business.
 13. Closure of the meeting.
13. Six open-ended drafting groups were set up to propose recommendations on the following areas:
- (a) The draft Kampala Declaration – headed by Egypt;
 - (b) Resource mobilization and the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN – headed by Ghana;
 - (c) Outstanding issues for African countries with regard to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Africa Environment Outlook report – headed by Zimbabwe;
 - (d) The revised AMCEN Constitution – headed by the United Republic of Tanzania;
 - (e) The strategy and vision of AMCEN in the context of emerging African initiatives such as the environmental initiative of NEPAD - headed by Senegal;
 - (f) The revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) and regional conventions – headed by Burkina Faso.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

14. A representative of the secretariat presented the report of the secretariat (document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/2). The experts noted the report with satisfaction and in the ensuing discussion highlighted some concerns. One expert wondered whether the budget for the implementation of the AMCEN programme up to 2004 was sufficient. Responding to this query, a representative of the secretariat said that the budget represented costs based on estimates and that it was therefore not possible to state whether or not it would be sufficient. With regard to the establishment of partnerships, it was suggested that AMCEN should target high-profile partnerships in the public and private sectors and in civil society. There was general agreement that member States should be encouraged to pay their contributions to the General Trust Fund for AMCEN to ensure that the AMCEN programme was implemented in a satisfactory manner.

Noting that the environment was an important part of sustainable development, one expert suggested that an awareness-creation campaign on the World Summit on Sustainable Development be carried out in all African countries. It was felt that a decision should be made at the ministerial level on how UNEP looked at issues relating to other institutions, for example, how UNEP was orienting AMCEN to work in collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) with regard to water issues.

15. Some experts suggested that the report of the secretariat should bring out the status of the implementation of the decisions of AMCEN by member States. In addition, it was suggested that the secretariat should make efforts to look for other partnerships and new sources of funding. In this perspective, funds from the secretariats of environmental conventions should be exploited.

16. The issue of global environmental negotiations was discussed at length. It was suggested that AMCEN should develop a comprehensive strategy relating to the inherent problems of global negotiations. It was noted that pre-global negotiation meetings did not address the problem of negotiations in a comprehensive manner and, consequently, could not come up with a comprehensive solution. In this connection, it would be useful for AMCEN to come up with a set of guidelines on negotiations so that a critical mass of negotiators could be developed in every African country. One major problem relating to global negotiations in Africa was lack of translation and interpretation services for non-English speaking countries who could not participate effectively at negotiation-related meetings conducted in English. It was necessary to establish linkages between AMCEN and AMCOW in order to avoid duplication of efforts. It was emphasized that African countries should put less emphasis on sourcing of funds to support global negotiations from bilateral sources and look for ways in which the funds could be mobilized from African sources.

17. It was pointed out that mountain ecosystems were important and unique features that supported many livelihoods and included significant watersheds and biological diversity. In many regions, particularly in Africa, these ecosystems were fragile and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, land degradation and forest fires. Consequently, they needed specific protection. He called for support for communities depending on mountain ecosystems to change to livelihoods that were compatible with conservation and sustainable use of mountain resources.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18. Discussion of this agenda item took into consideration the following documents: UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/3 (African Preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development); UNEP/(ROA)/WSSD/1/4 (Report prepared by the Expanded Joint Secretariat for the preparation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development); UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/INF1 (Draft plan of implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development); UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/INF2 (African Ministerial Statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development); UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/INF4 (African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development); UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/INF5 (Report of the AMCEN Inter-sessional Meeting held in New York, 18 March 2001); AMCEN/SS/2001/12 (The special session of AMCEN, 16 October 2001).

19. A representative of the secretariat pointed out that the important issue in the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development was to establish how AMCEN could play a significant role in the Summit and how to ensure that the environment, one of the three pillars of sustainable development, was well integrated into the Summit in order that the concerns of Africa were appropriately reflected in the outcomes of the Summit. It was also important to determine how AMCEN should position itself for implementation of the outcomes of the Summit.

20. An expert from the South African delegation gave an overview of the progress made in logistical and substantive preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. She outlined accredited events, the social and cultural programme and the status of logistics. She outlined side and parallel events.

She pointed out that a technical committee from the United Nations had visited South Africa a week earlier to check on the preparations and that their response had been very favourable. The expected outcomes of the Summit were described, including a review of the preparatory process, further work required prior to the Summit, and the role of AMCEN both before and after the Summit. There would be a global forum from 17 August 2002 to 7 September 2002.

21. An expert from South Africa clarified that invitations had been sent out to organizations to exhibit. The NEPAD secretariat responded to this invitation. AMCEN could consider exhibiting within the NEPAD stand or elsewhere.

22. It was noted that it was important that decisions taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development were reflected at the national and regional levels; Agenda 21 should not be rewritten. It was necessary, however, to decide how to implement it.

23. One expert outlined several issues that had not been concluded at the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Bali. He requested that these be examined and agreed upon. He said that AMCEN should take the lead on environmental issues at the World Summit, spearheading the common position of African countries. It should ensure adequate participation at the Summit through the mobilization of resources. He supported the strengthening of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN and requested other partners, including OAU, to donate to the Fund. He dwelt on the need for common legal standards on genetic resources and clarification of the relationship of AMCEN with the private and energy sectors as an outcome of the present meeting. He requested a special session of AMCEN after the World Summit on Sustainable Development and after the establishment of the African Union. Such a session would examine regional implementation of the outcomes of the Summit.

24. A number of experts requested that a group be formed to scrutinize the text of the draft implementation plan of action to ensure that African countries spoke with one voice and with renewed commitment to sustainable development. There was consensus that the participation of ministers of finance, trade and industry was crucial to negotiations.

25. It was noted that although the continent of Africa was the poorest, one of the key recommendations for facing that challenge, namely, the World Solidarity Fund, had not been agreed upon in Bali.

26. One expert noted that the success of the Summit being held in Africa would depend on the efforts of all African countries. The process should be driven by Africa. There had not been sufficient time for African countries to consult intensely to bring the continent's interests to the fore. The Summit negotiations were crucial to the very survival of Africa and the future of sustainable development. He emphasized the need for AMCEN to be made more effective and organized so that it could tackle the environmental outcomes of the Summit which should then be implemented at the national, subregional and regional levels as well as at the international level. He saw the role of AMCEN as that of political guide and policy setter. It was agreed that AMCEN should contribute to proposals to be included in the political declaration which would be an outcome of the Summit.

27. Experts agreed that ministers of finance should be involved in the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and apprised of the significance of the linkages between environment and development.

28. The recommendations and draft decision of the drafting group on the World Summit on Sustainable Development are contained in annex III.

V. STRATEGIC VISION AND ROLE OF AMCEN IN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING AFRICAN INITIATIVES

29. A representative of the secretariat presented this item of the agenda (document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/4). It was agreed that AMCEN should remain the authority responsible for environmental matters in Africa. Consequently, it should become a member of a subcommittee of the Executive Council of the African Union as well as part of other related specialized technical committees of the African Union and NEPAD.
30. It was noted that there was a need for Africa to have a common position on environmental issues coordinated by AMCEN. Several experts called for the strengthening of the financial and human resources of AMCEN so that it could play its role in the African Union more effectively.
31. A representative of the NEPAD secretariat made a presentation on the NEPAD initiative. She explained the background to the initiative up to approval by the Organization of African Unity Summit in July 2001 and finalization of the new name, the founding document and management structures in Abuja in October 2001. She further clarified the principles, priority areas for implementation of projects and the relationships with other regional and subregional structures and development institutions. One expert said that the steering committee of the environmental component of NEPAD had recommended that the issue of the institutional set-up of the environmental component of NEPAD be postponed until the institutional set-up for the whole of NEPAD had been finalized.
32. It was suggested that the various organizations should not have different sets of environmental initiatives but rather have one set for the whole of Africa. It was generally agreed that AMCEN had the experience, technical support and capacity to assess the major areas of environmental concern within a specific time frame. One expert called for AMCEN to come up with an environmental action plan for NEPAD with realistic targets and outputs. A representative of the secretariat noted that the AMCEN secretariat had been very involved in the environmental initiative of NEPAD. It was concluded that AMCEN, as the authority for environmental matters in Africa, should be strengthened to respond to the environmental challenges posed by NEPAD.
33. With regard to paragraph 14 (c) of the document on the linkage between AMCEN and NEPAD, a representative of the secretariat pointed out that there was a need to define functional roles in greater detail. Reacting to this, an expert reiterated that this seemed to be covered in the AMCEN Constitution but others noted that constitutions provided only a broad base with general rules that needed to be updated and operationalized. Several experts requested that an institutional study be carried out in this regard. Another expert suggested that while it was acknowledged that the AMCEN secretariat had only made limited progress in forging links with other organizations, the reasons for this should be explored. This was particularly important given the fact that the development of linkages had been one of the objectives of AMCEN from its inception in 1985.
34. It was suggested that the inclusion, under paragraph 16 (b), of sectors such as health and agriculture appeared random, particularly in the absence of supporting background information.
35. The representative of the African Development Bank informed the meeting about the latest orientation in the bank. He explained that the bank was governed by a group of directors and a governing body made up of representatives of African countries and donors who included non-Africans. Any activity requiring financial resources had to be approved by member countries. There was a need for enhancement of relationships between the representatives of the respective countries within the bank and ministries of environment. Any activity with financial implications in which the bank involved itself had to be a bankable project. He noted that the relationship between AMCEN and the bank must be activity-based with the endorsement of the respective countries.
36. It was agreed that the AMCEN Constitution should be revised taking into account the central role of AMCEN with regard to the environmental action and work plans of the African Union and NEPAD.

37. The discussion on the need for further institutional arrangements within AMCEN to meet the existing challenges was introduced by a representative of the secretariat who gave a brief history on the changes to the constitution agreed in Abuja and contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/2/Add.1. He explained that some changes were not workable and that they needed to be reviewed. Several experts were of the view that a process should be established for the evolution of AMCEN in light of new developments and emerging initiatives. One expert requested the experts to consider the issue of whether AMCEN should be detached from UNEP. He strongly supported the establishment of a process for the review of AMCEN and its role. A number of experts requested an in-depth assessment for presentation to experts and then to ministers at a later date. A representative of the secretariat noted that although the eighth session of AMCEN had agreed on changes to the constitution, no mechanism had been put in place to reflect them. He wondered whether the amendments agreed upon in Abuja should be ignored. In response, the Chair noted that the views of the eighth session should be respected. However, he requested that the review of the constitution be postponed owing to the need to take on board new and emerging issues in Africa on a more comprehensive basis.

38. The discussions and conclusions of the drafting group on AMCEN's vision and the environmental component of NEPAD echoed the plenary discussion. The recommendations of the drafting group are contained in annex V of the present report.

39. The findings of the drafting group on the revised AMCEN Constitution are contained in annex IV.

VI. THE ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

40. Presenting this item on the basis of document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/4/Add.1, a representative of the secretariat pointed out that the AMCEN Bureau had been part of the Steering Committee of NEPAD. He expressed gratitude to partners who included the African Development Bank, the Organization of African Unity and the NEPAD secretariat.

41. The experts generally commended the environmental initiative of NEPAD. However, several concerns were expressed. One expert observed that while the NEPAD Action Plan was comprehensive, it was too ambitious. He noted further that cross-cutting issues were not covered comprehensively. It was pointed out that NEPAD should give priority to the implementation of the programme. A number of experts felt that the initiative should treat forests as a separate and specific issue instead of putting it together with biodiversity and genetic resources. The coverage of the programme should be expanded to include issues such as fisheries in the chapter on marine and coastal resources. It was suggested that NEPAD should be encouraged to set specific and achievable targets and time frames in the programme of work and that the programme of work should go beyond international conservation treaties to include decisions from regional processes and national priorities. It was recommended that NEPAD should support existing environmental programmes.

42. A representative of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) described NEPAD as a very visionary initiative and expressed the hope that all African countries would take up the challenge to translate the vision into practical reality and concrete actions on the ground. She urged AMCEN to define and adopt specific and measurable targets in the further development of the initiative as that would serve as a basis for measuring and monitoring performance and delivery.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTIONS ESTABLISHED FURTHER TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (EARTH SUMMIT)

43. A representative of the secretariat informed the experts that, in accordance with normal practice during ordinary sessions of AMCEN, convention secretariats had made submissions on the status of implementation of their conventions in the region as contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/4/Add.2. The representative of the convention secretariat represented at the present meeting, namely the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, was invited to speak.

44. The representative pointed out that the Convention to Combat Desertification represented one of the primordial interests of Africa. Desertification had major impacts on development and other sectors and the Convention was an important tool for Africa's development. He gave a brief history of the Convention that was adopted in June 1994 and ratified to date by 180 countries. Its universal dimension went well beyond the sole concerns of Africa but Africa was its priority. He said that the present session was particularly important in light of the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as the new and unique NEPAD initiative. He assured participants that the Convention to Combat Desertification was totally committed to the environmental initiative of NEPAD of which desertification was a sizeable component. He informed the meeting that there would be a meeting of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Namibia from 15 to 19 July 2002 which would examine implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels. Some 27 African countries had validated their action plans nationally. He described implementation of the Convention within the region and the methods of work, including coordination by six institutional focal points in Africa. He also described a recent meeting held in March 2002 in Caracas, Venezuela, when national focal points from the African region had met with their counterparts from Latin America and the Caribbean and had been able to review shared priority activities.

45. Several experts noted that despite the adoption of the Convention and preparation of national action plans, implementation continued to be hampered by lack of funds and capacity. They called for the attention of the international community to be drawn to this issue. Out of 27 national action plans completed, only two were being implemented. Another expert noted that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) had improved its operating procedure but countries still had difficulty accessing funds. There was a call for countries, including developed countries, to assist in the implementation of environmental conventions, and for GEF to further simplify its procedures for accessing funds. Experts requested ministers to urge partners at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to continue funding multilateral environmental agreements and experts were requested to develop concrete agreements on resource needs.

46. One expert noted that the three conventions, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, provided the fundamental basis for sustainable development on the continent. The economies of African countries depended on the exploitation of their natural resources and multilateral environmental agreements recognized and attempted to address their degradation.

47. Several experts requested that AMCEN include further conventions in its consideration of multilateral environmental agreements such as the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (1991) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISED AFRICAN CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ALGIERS CONVENTION) AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

48. A representative of UNEP who had participated in the revision of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) on behalf of OAU, presented document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/4/Add.3. A number of experts felt that the revised version of the Algiers Convention was quite acceptable and that its submission for signature at the World Summit on Sustainable Development would be a major contribution of Africa. Several experts, however, considered that the process had not been carried out at a sufficiently senior governmental level. Responding to this concern, a representative of the secretariat pointed out that OAU and the President of AMCEN had circulated the text of the revised convention to all countries at the end of January 2002 and had specified the deadline for submitting their reactions as 31 May 2002. He said that a number of countries had submitted their comments, which had been taken into account in the finalization of the text (the submissions of the countries that responded were circulated). He noted that the endorsement of AMCEN requested by the OAU should be seen as an opportunity to strengthen AMCEN's link with the continental body.

49. One expert pointed out that the issue of mobilization of financial resources for the Algiers Convention should be critically examined. The implementation of all the regional conventions would result in additional pressures on member States in terms of financial, technical and human resources. The determination of synergies and other cross-cutting issues between the three United Nations conventions was critical for Africa as it would help to avoid the duplication of effort and financial resources especially during the process of implementation of these conventions and related regional conventions.

50. Among the problems that hindered the implementation of the conventions were lack of capacity and the unpredictable flow of funds despite the fact that GEF had improved its operational procedures.

51. The representative of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) said that IUCN had a special interest in the Algiers Convention not only because it had participated in the drafting of the Convention but also because of its conviction that once signed, the revised convention would become one of the most important instruments for the conservation and management of Africa's natural resources.

52. The representative of WWF informed the experts that WWF invested \$35 million per year in environmental protection and conservation work in Africa. This underlined the fact that WWF was a significant player in the environment and natural resource conservation scene in Africa. She said that WWF was willing to offer its support in furthering the implementation of AMCEN's agenda.

53. AMCEN expressed its commitment to the continuation of the revision process.

54. The draft decision on the Algiers Convention is contained in annex VI.

IX. AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REPORT

55. The session considered document UNEP/AMCEN/IATC/2/2 entitled "Report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee on the Africa Environment Outlook report (AEO)" and document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/5. The eighth session of AMCEN had requested the production of this report as part of the AMCEN medium-term programme for presentation to AMCEN at its ninth session. The production of the report had been funded by UNEP and the Governments of Belgium, Denmark and Luxembourg.

56. An overview of the Africa Environment Outlook report and its related products was presented by a representative of the secretariat. The overview covered the report's mandate, the process of compilation of the report with the support of UNEP collaborating centres in Africa and the input of experts from member States. Products included the report in English and French, a condensed version of the report entitled "Synthesis, a summary of policy recommendations booklet", an Internet version of the report, CD ROMs, press kits, promotional videos and posters. Other possible products included themes extracted from the report, policy briefs, vulnerability case-studies and an Africa Environment Outlook report for the youth.

57. In response to the outcomes of the Africa Environment Outlook report, a framework for the establishment of an Africa Environment Information Network, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/5/Add.1, was presented by a representative of the secretariat.

58. The framework for the establishment of an Africa Environmental Information Network had been initiated by AMCEN with the support of UNEP. The objectives of the network would be to enable countries to enhance the effective exchange of environmental data and information, to facilitate access to data and to strengthen capacity at the national level for the management and utilization of information on Africa's environmental assets. In addition, the network would promote good governance and public participation in decision-making, facilitate the implementation of NEPAD and AMCEN's decisions and medium-term programme of work, generate products and highlight critical information needs. The representative of the secretariat described the concept, building-blocks and outputs, including networking, training, capacity-building, information products and services.

59. The Chair declared the report to be comprehensive and proposed that its recommendations be considered by the drafting group.

X. STATE OF THE GENERAL TRUST FUND FOR AMCEN

60. A representative of the secretariat presented document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/6 on the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN. He noted that donors were reluctant to give money to trust funds although they were willing to fund specific activities. He noted further that an assessment of countries' contributions and activities could be carried out. He observed that although member States were keen to have AMCEN strengthened in terms of performance, there were very serious problems regarding availability of financial resources.

61. One expert sought clarification on the follow-up of decisions of the special session of AMCEN held in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 which had highlighted the unsatisfactory level of contribution of member States to the Fund. The secretariat had been requested to prepare project proposals for the medium-term and to have them reviewed by the Inter-Agency Technical Committee before submitting them to the Conference for approval. A representative of the secretariat said that the president of AMCEN had written twice to countries regarding their contributions and three countries had sent in their contributions as a result. A number of fund-raising efforts had been made by the secretariat; the present meeting was financed through fund-raising. Contributions included \$300,000 from the Government of Norway and \$100,000 from the Government of Belgium. As noted earlier, the Government of Luxembourg had contributed funds for the production of the Africa Environment Outlook report. It was generally felt that more guidance was needed on the strategy for mobilization of resources for the effective implementation of the AMCEN programme of work. More information was required on the cause of failure by member States to contribute to the General Trust Fund of AMCEN. It was felt that information should be provided on the implications of failure to contribute to the General Trust Fund, including strengthening of the AMCEN secretariat.

62. The expert from Nigeria said that the Government of Nigeria would soon transmit its pledge of \$200,000 to the General Trust Fund of AMCEN. The expert from the Libyan Arab Jamahariya reported that his Government was finalizing arrangements for the transmission of its contribution to the General Trust Fund of AMCEN. Referring to the unpaid contributions of Mauritius indicated in the document, the expert from Mauritius assured the meeting that if that amount was correct, it would be paid at the earliest opportunity.

63. Several experts raised concern that their ministers of finance did not consider the environment to be related to socio-economic development. Consequently, they allocated very limited resources to environmental programmes. It was therefore suggested that ministers of finance should be encouraged to take environmental issues seriously.

64. The Chair felt that the meeting was in general agreement that funds were required. The levels of income, however, remained low at the national level. He observed that donors could no longer be solely relied upon although their contributions were welcome.

65. The drafting group on resource mobilization and the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN made the following recommendations:

- (a) That member States should be encouraged to pay their contributions to the Fund;
- (b) That the secretariat should prepare a detailed document on the use of the Fund;
- (c) That the secretariat should prepare a detailed work plan for the implementation of AMCEN activities;
- (d) That the secretariat should prepare project proposals consistent with decision 4 of the special session of AMCEN.

66. The draft decision on resource mobilization and the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN is contained in annex II.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

67. The Group of Experts considered a draft report prepared by the secretariat as contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/L.3 and adopted it, with amendments, on Wednesday, 3 July 2002.

XII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

67. The Permanent Representative of Morocco to UNEP presented a proposed draft decision for adoption by AMCEN of the Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes. The declaration was adopted on the basis of the draft decision as contained in annex VII of the present report.

XIII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

68. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.40 a.m. on Wednesday, 3 July 2002.

Annex I

DRAFT KAMPALA DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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

Having met in Kampala during the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, on 4 and 5 July 2002,

Noting the key recommendations of the first Africa Environment Outlook report on the deteriorating state of the environment within the continent,

Concerned that Africa is the only region in the world where poverty is projected to rise during the twenty-first century and is, in addition, a region where the potential impacts of climate change are likely to be severe, owing to their limited capacity to adapt, particularly for least developed countries,

Aware that the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 including commitments made in Doha, Monterrey has set a target for reduction of poverty levels globally by 50 per cent by the year 2015, and that national socio-economic development policies should endeavour to address this situation,

Concerned that the increasing number of emerging crisis and conflict situations in Africa, are imposing adverse environmental, social, cultural and economic effects,

Realizing the level and constraints associated with the capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements relevant to Africa, particularly funding for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Aware of the progress that the Ministerial Conference has achieved since its inception in 1985 as the political body for environmental advocacy and leadership in the region,

Noting 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, business sector and development financial 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 Ministerial Conference for 2000-2004,

Welcoming the framework action plan on the environmental component of New Partnership for Africa's Development,

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 Ministerial Conference is replenished within the intersessional period and request the President of the Ministerial Conference 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, 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 action plans to combat desertification;

4. To call upon the President of the Ministerial Conference in close consultation with all the relevant ministries to convene an urgent regional meeting of the Conference 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 Ministerial Conference;

5. To call upon the President of the Ministerial Conference as a matter of urgency, to forge cooperative links with the secretariat of the 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;

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 at the same time not neglecting the priorities of the continent for sustainable social, economic and human development, particularly for the benefit of the poor and marginalized communities;

8. To strengthen cooperation with all regional and subregional bodies, including external partners, in the pursuit of a sustainable human, social and economic development that is in harmony with the environment;

9. To endorse the framework of an action plan for the environmental initiative of the New Partnership for African's Development;

10. To request that during the finalization of the action plan on the environmental component of the New Partnership for Africa's development forest ecosystems be addressed as one of the major areas of intervention and operational framework for harnessing data, information and knowledge for sustainable development be included as a basis of national subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting;

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

Annex II

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND THE STATE OF THE GENERAL TRUST FUND FOR AMCEN

Draft decision 1: Resource mobilization and the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN

The meeting decides that:

- The secretariat, in consultation with member States, develops an action-based work-plan for the use of the Trust Fund money.
- 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.
- Governments should be encouraged to make every effort to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund.
- 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.
- Given the global nature of environmental benefits, development partners and international organization must be encouraged to contribute to the Trust Fund.
- 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.
- The secretariat should report on the use of the trust funds to the AMCEN meetings.

Annex III

OUTSTANDING ISSUES FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REPORT

The drafting group on this agenda item made the following recommendations for inclusion in the political declaration:

- (a) That the political declaration should reaffirm and endorse the content of the draft implementation plan. Elements of the political declaration should include:
- (i) A strong and clear commitment to poverty eradication;
 - (ii) Adherence to the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;
 - (iii) Commitment at the national, regional and international level to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (iv) Commitment to the implementation of outcomes of major conferences, summits and special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly;
 - (v) Commitment to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including targets and actions outlined in the implementation plan;
 - (vi) Mobilization of the necessary financial resources, including increased overseas development assistance taking cognizance of the Doha Ministerial Declaration as well as the Monterrey Consensus;
 - (vii) Commitment to coherent and effective institutional structures and arrangements at all levels for the implementation of sustainable development programmes;
 - (viii) Commitment to partnerships as an important tool for the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit, and emphasis on linkages between Type I and Type II outcomes.
- (b) That a special session of AMCEN should be held within three months of the conclusion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to:
- (i) Prioritize areas of implementation for the short, medium and long-term;
 - (ii) Prepare an action plan for each of the identified sectors;
 - (iii) Review AMCEN/NEPAD medium-term programmes in light of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- (c) That AMCEN be strengthened to facilitate and coordinate implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the national, subregional and regional level.

Draft decision 2: The World Summit on Sustainable Development

Considering the role of AMCEN in promoting the environment agenda of Africa,

Noting with appreciation the role of AMCEN in facilitating preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the assessment of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa,

Reaffirming AMCEN's role 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 element of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Taking into consideration that the implementation plan of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and political declaration would contain a component on environmental management 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,

Noting with appreciation the recommendation by the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to designate land degradation as a focal area for the financial mechanism,

Further noting the importance of focusing the agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on poverty as the primary obstacle to sustainable development in Africa,

Recognizing the need to avoid renegotiation of the principles of Agenda 21,

Emphasizing the need for an action-oriented outcome of the Summit that contains definite time-bound measurable targets, providing the basis for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and Agenda 21,

Also emphasizing the need for an economic platform that supports the development and the delivery of the Summit outcomes and addresses access to markets, removal of subsidies, debt relief, foreign direct investment, official development assistance and technology transfer and adaptation,

Aware of the close linkages between environmental management, poverty eradication and development,

Taking full cognizance of the guiding principles for negotiations at the World Summit on Sustainable Development contained in appendix I.

I. Decide:

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 request the President of AMCEN, with the support of the secretariat, to develop partnerships for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

4. To request the Executive Director of UNEP to approach the GEF Council on behalf of AMCEN to secure adequate financing for the third GEF replenishment;

5. Urge our Governments to promote NEPAD as a framework for sustainable development in Africa, and a model for implementation of sustainable development in other regions;

- Using mechanisms, such as the EIM for dissemination of information, and capacity development for sustainable development in Africa
- Making use of the African Environment Outlook as a reporting mechanism for achievements in the implementation of Agenda 21 and WSSD outcomes.

II. Decide in respect of the projects, Africa Environmental Outlook and the Environmental Information Network:

1. 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 sub-regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting;

2. To endorse the proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive environmental information network to promote access and harmonisation of data in the Africa region, and act as a basis for tracking environmental changes using quantitative indicators focusing on national needs.

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 pre-requisite 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 to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and implement concrete programs of action backed with the necessary resources to achieve them. Countries agree that additional targets and timeframes could be considered only on a limited basis and on merit, in areas such as sanitation, energy, biodiversity and 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 World Summit on Sustainable Development implementation plan will require the participation of all major groups, and commit themselves to establish concrete partnerships to achieve this

Annex IV

THE REVISED AMCEN CONSTITUTION

The drafting group on the revised AMCEN Constitution made the following recommendations:

Articles. Initial comments

Articles need to be clear and specific in order to provide room for ease of interpretation.

- Article 3. The principle must allow room for consultations and partnerships. The consistent use of the words “demand of their governments” is confrontational and should be revised to suggest building partnerships and collaborating in addressing environmental issues. In 1. i) and 1. iii) delete the words “exploitation and”
- Article 4. The objectives should also include the elements of implementation. There is need to either amend 2(iii) to add “implementation of” the environmental pillar of sustainable development or create a separate bullet on this issue. Add also in 2. i) “Harmonization of legal aspects of environmental management”.
- Article 5. There is a need to encourage popular participation in the decision making **process** as an important element to advance sustainable development. Too much emphasis on non-governmental organizations (see 2 and 3), broaden the functions of AMCEN in line with the scope and objectives (art. 4).
- On 2. (a) (ii) Instead of strengthening non-governmental organizations, AMCEN can provide linkages through seminars, workshops, etc. On 2 (a) (iv) add the word “process” at the end of the sentence.
- Article 6. The article needs to be rewritten. There is a need to show the clear organizational structure of AMCEN. There is a need to differentiate between bodies and the administrative structures of AMCEN. The Secretariat is not a subsidiary body of AMCEN.
- Article 7. Articles 6 and 7 should be merged. Their content is similar.
- Articles 8 and 9. The two articles should be transposed. The conference elects the President of the Conference. Article 9, para. 4, should be deleted. Secretariat staff should be paid from the secretariat budget.
- Article 10 and 11. Article 11 should be a subset of article 10.
- Article 12. In par. 1: the designation of Environment Ministers representatives, should not be limited to the heads of the highest national institutions. The Minister may decide to be represented by a fellow Minister.
- Article 13. Agriculture is important. The national chambers of agriculture need to be included. Add: other organizations/bodies dealing with environment with a the direct impact on the environment
- Article 14. Be consistent in the use of words. Conference Bureau Art. 6; then Permanent Bureau in article 14. Specify which is to be used.

- Article 16 and 17. These articles need to be reworked in line with the structures of AMCEN. Article 16 is the same as article 6 (structures). Merge the two or specify the differences. On no. 3, the secretariat should not chair IATC. This can be chaired by the members of the Bureau or any member State
- Article 18. IATC shall be composed of government representatives. The rest may be observers.
- The cancelled 19 and 20 provide the basis for the composition of IATC rather than what is in 18.
- Article 21. Should not be cancelled. There is a need to have the AMCEN network in line with the suggestions made in the Africa Environment Outlook report.
- Article 22. It is the secretariat, not permanent secretariat
- Article 23. There should be a regional balance in the secretariat
- Article 24. The Executive Secretary needs to perform his duties in accordance with Art. 22
- Add the following:
4. The Executive Secretary shall be endorsed by and responsible to member States
 5. A specific term of three to five years.
- Article 25. Physical address of the secretariat should be mentioned/proposed. It should be in one of the member States of the African Union.
- Article 26 and 27. Merge 26 and 27
- Further clarification is needed on assessed contributions. Annex II is not attached
- There is a need for clarification on how the funds will be used. Emphasis on utilization of funds should be on inquiries related to implementation of environmental programmes. It is not only implementation of AMCEN decisions (4b vi) but also other specific programmes that will be put into place
- Article 28. Should be merged with 26/27
- Article 29. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible and accountable for the management of the Conference's finances
- The financial outputs shall be submitted to the Bureau and the ordinary session of the Conference.
- Article 30. Add "Private sector and relevant civil society organizations".
- Article 33. Add "until the agreement on the headquarters is concluded".
- Article 35. The African Union shall be the depository, NOT UNEP.

The drafting group proposed the following elements for inclusion in the decision on the AMCEN Constitution:

1. The secretariat to hire a consultant(s) to complete the document on the basis of these inputs/comments;
2. The AMCEN secretariat to initiate a process for further intergovernmental consultations taking into account the need to closely follow up the evolution of other initiatives under the African Union and NEPAD;
3. The secretariat to update solicit Funds for the process mentioned in 1 and 2 above;
4. The secretariat to update members States regularly on the progress and any required additional guidance in order to complete the constitution as soon as possible.

Annex VRECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DRAFTING GROUP ON THE STRATEGY AND VISION OF AMCEN IN THE
CONTEXT OF EMERGING AFRICAN INITIATIVES

- (a) That the Bureau of AMCEN establish a committee comprising 10 countries, two from each subregion, on the institutional arrangements of AMCEN, the African Union and its relevant commission dealing with the environment, as well as the secretariat of NEPAD with a view to: streamlining activities; providing advice on implementing institutions or structures; and addressing administrative activities. In implementing its mandate, the committee should consult with the secretariats of the African Union and NEPAD;
- (b) That the above committee meet as early as possible and submit a report to the next meeting of the Bureau of AMCEN;
- (c) That the President of AMCEN, together with the President of Senegal, in his capacity as the Chair of the environment component of NEPAD, present the outcome of the ninth session of AMCEN on this issue to the African Union Summit to be held in Durban in early July 2002. This will serve to initiate dialogue between the African Union, NEPAD and AMCEN.

Annex VI

THE REVISED AFRICAN CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ALGIERS CONVENTION) AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

The drafting group on the revision of the Algiers Convention made the following recommendations:

(a) That the draft revision and the amendments proposed thereto be transmitted to the Committee of Ambassadors of OAU for their consideration taking into account the calendar leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(b) That a public awareness and promotion programme on the Convention be developed before and after its signature in order to facilitate its implementation;

(c) That member States be encouraged to commit themselves to the implementation of the revised Convention.

Draft decision 3: Revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention)

Recalling the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, which was 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 Convention over 30 years ago, there have been several developments in the field of environment and treaty law,

Recognizing also that during the period, a number of international and regional environmental agreements on issues such as biological diversity, biosafety and chemicals have been adopted,

Noting the importance and the need for the Convention 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 Convention and bring it in line with other treaties in the field,

Recalling also the work done between 1980 and 1986 to revise and update the Convention 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 Convention by urging the Organization of African Unity to re-launch the process stalled since 1986,

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

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union in support of the process to review and update the Convention,

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

(a) Decides to request the African Union to further the process of intergovernmental negotiations, to take place as soon as possible, in order to enable adoption of the Convention;

(b) Urges all Parties who have not given comments to do so, in order to enrich and expedite the negotiation process;

(c) Calls the State Parties to sign and ratify or accede to the revised Convention and to Commit resources for its implementation;

(d) Request the African Union to report on the steps being taken to update the Convention at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg;

(e) Requests 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;

(f) Calls 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.

(g) Requests 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.

Annex VII

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

Draft decision 4: The Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of
Hazardous Wastes

The Conference:

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 and other States at 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 effectively and in a 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;

Endorses 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 longterm 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.

Annex VIII

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

Recommendations for inclusion in the decisions by the ninth session of AMCEN:

NOTING:

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;

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, UNEP 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 NEPAD 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.

Annex IXList of participants

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