

Annex I

Brazzaville Declaration on the Environment for Development

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Noting with satisfaction the contribution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in providing political guidance and leadership for environmental advocacy in Africa,

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

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

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

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

Recognizing the weak capacities of African States to implement the programmes and projects identified in the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

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

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

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

Recalling chapter 3 of Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which calls for the engagement and participation of major groups in the intergovernmental processes considering sustainable development issues,

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

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

Recognizing the urgent need to strengthen the capacity of African countries to cope with the adverse effects of environmental change and to manage emergencies and disasters,

Recognizing also the roles of regional, subregional and national bodies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and financial development institutions in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

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

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

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

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

Further welcoming the offer by the Government of Kenya to host the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the second Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to that Convention, to be held from 6 to 17 November 2006, as well as the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, to be held from 27 November to 1 December 2006,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting with appreciation the work of the Government of South Africa, as presented at the eleventh session of the Conference, regarding elephant management in southern Africa,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To continue to implement fully the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in particular its capacity development programme, and to finalize and adopt the subregional action plans;
2. To urge Governments to take necessary action in support of the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions as the framework for implementation of the marine and coastal component of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and invite them to support the implementation of projects on large marine ecosystems;
3. To promote the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, in particular the priority areas identified by the Conference, and reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of thematic centres of excellence in support of capacity-building in Africa;
4. To urge Governments to take necessary action to ensure that the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished during the intersessional period;
5. To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to ensure the establishment of the African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank;
6. To call on the Global Environment Facility to continue to give high priority to African countries in allocating financial resources for the successful implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to urge African members of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to advocate within the Council support for the implementation of the action plan at country and subregional levels;
7. To call on the Global Environment Facility to continue to support at significant levels the goals and efforts expressed by African countries and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the context of the action plan for the environment initiative and TerrAfrica;
8. To urge the Global Environment Facility to allocate resources in a transparent and equitable manner, based on the needs and priorities of countries and regions and to request the Facility to streamline and simplify its procedures and review the system of co-financing, so as to create greater opportunities for African countries to access the resources of the Global Environment Facility;

9. To request the Global Environment Facility to review and reform its current governance system to provide for greater transparency and equity and increased representation, in order to ensure the participation of all African countries in its structures and decision making processes, in line with the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

10. To request the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to include in the high-level segment of its third meeting, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, a political debate on the issues of equity, access to the resources of the Facility and the challenges and opportunities that the Facility presents as a financing mechanism to support Africa;

11. To urge the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to create a platform during its third meeting to enable Africa to showcase the progress and challenges experienced in implementing the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to meet and work with the secretariats of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in this regard;

12. To urge development partners to support Africa in meeting Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability and, in particular, to provide adequate resources to the special climate change fund established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

13. To call upon countries that have not ratified the three conventions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, namely, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and their related protocols, to do so, and to urge Africa's development partners to assist and support African countries in the implementation of such conventions;

14. To commit ourselves to further strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, thereby contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and ensuring the achievement of relevant Millennium Development Goals;

15. To support the International Year of Deserts and Desertification in Africa 2006 and to urge Governments and civil society to promote and implement related activities, with the aim of enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

16. To urge all African countries to take steps to sign, ratify and implement the revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, adopted by the African Union at its second summit, in Maputo, on 11 July 2003;

17. To welcome the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop issue-based tools to facilitate coherent implementation of the three Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions and to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to complete the development of these tools and mobilize the necessary resources to ensure their implementation in all African countries;

18. To call on the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to sustain efforts to forge cooperative links with the relevant structures of the African Union, with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements and strengthening the relationship of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with the United Nations Environment Programme;

19. To call upon the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to forge and strengthen linkages with other relevant ministerial bodies, with a view to harmonizing policies and programmes;

20. To reaffirm our commitment to make every effort to mainstream environment into national development agendas in Africa;

21. To encourage the sustainable use of chemicals and commit ourselves to the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, in order to realize the goals of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

22. To encourage the use of the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal as centres of excellence for capacity-building in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements relevant to chemicals and hazardous wastes;

23. To commit ourselves to the issues highlighted at the eleventh session of the Conference, namely: resource mobilization for implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; regional and multilateral environmental agreements in Africa; environmental law; poverty and environment; environment and health; environmental assessment; capacity-building; disaster risk reduction; sustainable consumption and production in Africa; the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in Africa; environmental assessment; post-conflict environmental assessment; health and environment; disaster risk management; the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative; and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

24. To request the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting to endorse the establishment of a sustainable funding stream for the implementation of the Basel Convention in Africa;

25. To reaffirm our endorsement of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environmental management and to provide a framework for national, subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting and to note with appreciation the implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network at the national, subregional and regional levels to strengthen access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa;

26. To request African countries to use the comprehensive national Landsat data sets distributed by the United Nations Environment Programme and to request the United Nations Environment Programme to support the effective use of those data sets for environmental management;

27. To support the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and to urge the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to work together to support African countries in their efforts to achieve the goals of the Decade, aimed at contributing to the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles and environmental sustainability;

28. To urge the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure the expansion of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Laws and Institutions in Africa and its integration into the regular programme of the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental law;

29. To support the implementation of the convergence plan of the Central Africa Forests Commission on the sustainable management, use and conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in Central Africa;

30. To establish a coherent policy and programme of support for small island developing States in the light of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, in January 2005;

31. To continue to promote capacity-building in the use of environmental assessment in development activities in Africa;

32. To invite Governments to engage in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, in particular by participating actively in its second inter-governmental review, so that the priorities of Africa are reflected in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

33. To form mutually advantageous partnerships with African environmental non-governmental organizations and initiatives in order to secure Africa's environmental sustainability within a framework of sustainable development;

34. To encourage African countries to participate fully in the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the second Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, as well as in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, with a view to giving prominence to issues of importance to Africa;

35. To acknowledge our shared responsibility for a sustainable approach to elephant management that will protect and enhance biodiversity and support affected African countries;

36. To give effect to the decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eleventh session, held in Brazzaville, on 26 May 2006;

37. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the eleventh session of the Conference, including the Brazzaville Declaration and its other annexes, to the Executive Council of the African Union;

38. To pay tribute to the President of the Congo and the Congolese people for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to participants, the excellent facilities made available and the generous support given by the Government and people of the Congo to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eleventh session, which vastly contributed to the success of the session.