

Compilation of decisions – 13th session of AMCEN held in Bamako, Mali in June 2010

Decision 13/1: Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing that the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development covers the first decade of the twenty-first century and has been under implementation since July 2004,

Welcoming the achievement and efforts made by the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Union and all partners,

Decide:

- (a) To request the African Union Commission:
 - (i) To continue to provide support for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
 - (ii) To strengthen the Department of Agriculture, Rural Economy and Environment and to provide support to the regional economic communities to enable them to carry out their responsibilities under the action plan;
- (b) To request the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the implementation of their subregional action plans under the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including those on climate change;
- (c) To request the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in close cooperation with all relevant partners, to provide coordinating support, to review the implementation of the action plan and to ensure the establishment of a platform for the reinvigorated implementation of the action plan;
- (d) To urge development partners to provide the required resources for the implementation, in particular by the regional economic communities, of aspects of the action plan pertaining to climate change, biodiversity, desertification and wetlands;
- (e) To maintain effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union, including the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities;
- (f) To promote the ratification and implementation of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant regional conventions for the effective management of natural resources.

Decision 13/2: Further implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the outcomes of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Nairobi in May 2009, including the adoption of a common negotiating position in the climate change negotiations aiming at strengthening the international climate change regime, in addition to a conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes,

Recalling also the outcomes of the second extraordinary meeting on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, including

the adoption of the outcomes of the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009,

Reaffirming all African Union decisions and declarations, including the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change of 19 November 2008 and the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process on Combating Climate Change of 29 May 2009,

Reinforcing the role played by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as a specialized technical committee of the African Union in providing leadership for environmental management and advocacy in Africa,

Expressing increasing concern at the scientific conclusions contained in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, particularly as they relate to the social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change in Africa, and noting that, while Africa has contributed the least to the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, it is the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and has the least capacity to adapt,

Reaffirming that Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programmes and projects to attain development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular to alleviate poverty with emphasis on achieving food security, especially for the most vulnerable groups,

Reaffirming also that adaptation is the priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate support for Africa's implementation of adaptation measures,

Expressing our appreciation for the efforts of African experts, including the chair of the African group of negotiators, together with those of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, working with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional economic communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, in the development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and of a common African position in the climate change negotiations aiming at strengthening the international climate change regime,

Emphasizing Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and noting the urgent need for all countries to take further action, including more stringent and binding emissions reductions by all developed countries, and underscoring the importance of a successful outcome of these negotiations and the essential need for Africa to continue to participate actively and strategically in the negotiations to ensure that its needs, interests and requirements are met,

Decide:

(a) To reaffirm that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in November and December 2010, should have a two-track outcome in line with the Bali Action Plan, regarding the long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention, and article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex I countries for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under the Kyoto Protocol;

(b) Also to reaffirm that a firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments of developed-country parties that are legally binding in nature, and appropriate mitigation voluntary actions by developing countries;

(c) Further to reaffirm that the measuring and verification process shall be applied only to mitigation commitments of developed countries and to the means of support provided by developed countries;

(d) To reiterate Africa's position that developed-country parties should provide financial support based on an assessed scale of contributions that constitute at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of developed countries effectively to tackle the adverse effects of climate change, noting that public finance should be the main source of funding to ensure the sustainability, predictability and adequacy of funding, bearing in mind that private and market finance can play a complementary role;

(e) To call upon countries to prepare national adaptation plans and strategies to cover immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term needs, taking into consideration coordination and cooperation actions for adaptation that have a cross-border effect;

- (f) To request developed countries and partners to provide full support for the implementation of adaptation strategies in Africa, in particular the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action prepared by least developed countries in Africa;
- (g) To call for the establishment of effective and accountable institutions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in relation to adaptation, finance and technology transfer in accordance with proposals advanced by the group of African countries and the Group of 77 and China;
- (h) To stress that the extent to which developing-country parties, including African countries, will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed-country parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and technology transfer, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, including in relation to article 4, paragraphs 1, 5 and 7, of the Convention;
- (i) To carry out the recommendations made in the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to ensure coordination and coherence in the implementation and review of climate change initiatives and sustainable development plans in Africa at the national, subregional and regional levels;
- (j) To take note of the Ouagadougou Declaration of the seventh World Forum on Sustainable Development of October 2009 and to call upon the international community to explore the possibility of establishing an international climate insurance agency in the context of article 4, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (k) To call upon Africa's development partners to support, with financial and technical assistance through multilateral North-South and South-South cooperation, the implementation of the agreed decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with regard to climate change in Africa and to request multilateral financial institutions and other relevant donors to support the implementation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (l) To emphasize that Africa requires substantially scaled-up finance, technology and capacity-building for adaptation and risk management;
- (m) To restate the invitation to the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other partners to pursue their cooperation to give effective political, financial and technical support to all member States and regional economic communities in the implementation of measures to combat climate change;
- (n) To continue to keep under review the implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa;
- (o) To call upon African Governments, international organizations and regional economic communities to expedite the implementation of existing programmes and initiatives on climate change in Africa at all levels and to strengthen and mobilize the capacities of existing relevant institutions in Africa to meet the pressing climate change challenges in the region;
- (p) To urge multilateral financial institutions and other development partners to take into account the special needs of Africa in the decision-making processes under international financing schemes, including adaptation funds, World Bank climate funds, African Development Bank funds and United Nations initiatives, and to streamline their procedures to improve access to finance;
- (q) To reaffirm our support for the establishment of an Africa climate policy centre at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, emphasizing its role in supporting the integration of climate change into economic development and planning processes in Africa, and to call upon the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and other relevant institutions to play an active role in this initiative.

Decision 13/3: Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware of the mandate conferred upon the Conference by ministers at the eighth session of the Conference, held in Abuja from 3 to 6 April 2000, as contained in paragraph 31 of the ministerial report of the session,¹

Aware also of the mandate conferred upon the Conference by ministers at the ninth session of the Conference, held in Kampala on 4 and 5 July 2002, as contained in decision 4 of that session,

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

Mindful also of the request made to the secretariat by ministers at the eleventh session of the Conference, held in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 May 2006, as contained in decision 3 of that session,

Taking cognizance of the request made to the secretariat by ministers at the twelfth session of the Conference, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, contained in decision 3 of that session,

Noting that the evolution of other relevant initiatives under the African Union referred to in the above-mentioned decisions has been completed through further intergovernmental consultations within the African Union,

Recognizing that the Conference is a specialized technical committee of the African Union,

Decide:

(a) To request the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to continue the revision of the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, taking into account the institutional evolution of the African Union, and to submit the revised text to the Conference at its fourteenth session;

(b) To request the African Union Commission and the Conference Bureau to propose the most appropriate modalities for the location of the secretariat and report back to the Conference at its fourteenth session.

Decision 13/4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decisions on financial resources adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its special session in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 and at its eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions,

Taking cognizance of the fact that enhanced secretariat functions and the implementation of the Conference's programmes, in particular its work on climate change in Africa, will require additional human and financial resources,

Expressing appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and to the United Nations Environment Programme and partners for their support,

Recognizing the need for the Conference to finance its core activities,

Recognizing also the inefficiency of the voluntary contribution system and the need to establish a new and efficient modality to mobilize resources,

Decide:

(a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their contributions to the general trust fund;

1 UNEP/AMCEN/8/5.

- (b) Also to urge Governments to make a compulsory yearly minimum contribution of ten thousand United States dollars to the general trust fund to enable the Conference to carry out its activities;
- (c) To urge those Governments that can pay more than the yearly minimum contribution to the general trust fund to do so to enable the Conference to scale up its activities;
- (d) To agree to invest 2 million United States dollars of the principal of the general trust fund as an absolute minimum investment;
- (e) To request the Bureau to establish a working group to review new and more efficient methods and modalities to mobilize resources;
- (f) To request the President of the Conference to send regular reminders to member States to make their contributions;
- (g) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested to carry out Conference activities, cover the costs of Bureau meetings and meet the costs of regular sessions of the Conference and to request the secretariat to make proposals on such use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation;
- (h) To agree that the general trust fund should continue to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as long as the secretariat of the Conference remains with that organization;
- (i) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at sessions of the Conference;
- (j) To extend our appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the Conference.

Decision 13/5: Environmental education and technology-supported learning

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware of the commitment by the New Partnership for Africa's Development to the enhancement of Africa's human resources through the provision of more and better education and training, especially in information and communications technology and other skills central to a globalizing world,

Mindful of the request pertaining to environmental education and technology-supported learning made by ministers at the twelfth session of the Conference, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, as contained in decision 6 of that session,

Welcoming the report of the secretariat on the implementation of decision 6² and the summary made by the chair of the second meeting of the Open-ended Steering Committee of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network, held in Lusaka on 26 May 2010,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of decision 6,

Decide:

- (a) To request African countries to participate actively in the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network and also to foster collaboration between the environment and education sectors by establishing a national committee on e-learning programmes for the environment comprising all relevant stakeholders;
- (b) Also to request African countries to assist in mobilizing resources for the future development of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network;
- (c) To request the subregional network hubs to carry out agreed activities, such as developing the subregional components of the network in accordance with the agreed terms of reference for the hubs, assisting the national centres with the development of e-learning strategies and action plans and encouraging partnerships with existing networks in the region;

(e) To request the African Union, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support measures to carry out programmes and projects under the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network;

(f) To request African countries to develop national e-learning strategies for the environment through a consultative process engaging all relevant sectors.

Decision 13/6: African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware of the significance of Earth observation data in shaping member States' national planning and development efforts,

Aware also of the important role being played by the African Union Commission in coordinating the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development programme,

Recognizing the need for member States to strengthen policy and decision-making frameworks that would ensure their active and sustainable participation in environmental surveillance initiatives,

Highlighting the need to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences that would improve environmental governance through the extensive use of data, products and services generated by the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development programme,

Understanding the significance of supporting regional mechanisms to enhance the capacity of member States to use Earth observation products and services and integrate those into development processes,

Decide:

(a) To institutionalize and integrate the use of climate-related data and information in building resilience and adaptation to climate change in national, subregional and regional planning and development endeavours;

(b) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to work with the African Union to build an environmental information system and other tools to enhance capacity in environmental monitoring and reporting in the region and to forge synergies in this area.

Decision 13/7: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information network

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 20 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with appreciation the production of the publication *Atlas of Our Changing Environment* in pilot African countries within the framework of the Africa Environment Outlook process and the progress being made by the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare the third Africa Environment Outlook report,

Reaffirming our commitment to the Africa Environment Outlook process as a tool for monitoring sustainable development in Africa and a framework for environmental periodical reporting at the national and subregional levels,

Aware of the implementation of the Africa environment information network and its increasing contribution to building capacity for the implementation of national development programmes, including poverty reduction strategies within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and to introducing state-of-the-art technology, such as remote sensing, to monitor environmental changes in Africa and to support decision-making,

Recognizing the efforts of civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in the production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report,

Decide:

(a) To enhance the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the Africa Environment Outlook process through the inclusion of relevant aspects in the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and others, to support the preparation and production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report;

(c) To encourage all member States to mainstream the findings of that report into national policies, development plans and strategies;

(d) To enhance cooperation and invite civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the development of the third report;

(e) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support to the Africa environment information network to build capacity in environmental monitoring and reporting in the region.

Decision 13/8: African common position on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the call by Governments at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, for the negotiation of an international regime to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Recalling also the decision of the African group during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006, to elect Namibia as the chief negotiator and intersessional coordinator of the African group until the adoption of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010,

Recalling further the pan-African ministerial conference on access and benefit-sharing, held in Windhoek in March 2010 with a view to refining and endorsing the African common position in the continuing negotiations of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing,

Decide:

(a) To commit ourselves to the common position of the African group as adopted and endorsed at the above-mentioned pan-African ministerial conference;

(b) To urge member States to continue to negotiate as a bloc on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing to ensure that the international regime takes into consideration Africa's specific needs;

(c) To urge all member States to participate in the ministerial conference on the subject scheduled to take place in Libreville as an important consultative meeting in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 13/9: Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

We, the African ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Taking note of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity and decision IX/15, of 9 October 2008, of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling decision 25/10 of 20 February 2009 of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, by which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to undertake a further process to support efforts

by Governments and relevant organizations to explore mechanisms to improve and strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development,

Recalling also decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010 of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, by which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Welcoming the outcome of that third and final meeting, which was held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010,

Expressing our gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme for having facilitated the negotiation of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Decide:

1. To endorse the “Busan outcome”,³ in which representatives of Governments agreed that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-fifth session as a mechanism for strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development;
2. To take the necessary action, at the national, subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, to support the establishment of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;
3. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the Busan outcome and the mandate accorded in decision SS.XI/4, to pursue his efforts to facilitate any ensuing process of establishing and implementing the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services until such time that a secretariat is established;
4. To invite Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations and entities, including multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, scientific organizations and the private sector to participate actively in, and to contribute to, the intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services once it is established.

3 UNEP/IPBES/3/3, annex.