

## Annex II

### Decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its twelfth session

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

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Decide:*

- (a) To request the Commission of the African Union:
  - (i) To provide high-level political support to the successful implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
  - (ii) To strengthen its environment section and those of the relevant technical units of the regional economic communities to enable them to carry out their responsibilities of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (b) To urge development partners to assist in providing required resources for the implementation of subregional environmental action plans by the regional economic communities;
- (c) To call on development partners to provide financial support for the implementation of the projects and programmes of the action plan at the subregional and national levels;
- (d) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the implementation of the subregional action plans for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (e) To urge countries to implement the projects of the action plan in conformity with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (f) To request the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its facilitation of United Nations agency consultations, coordination and cooperation in respect of the thematic cluster concerned with the environment, population and urbanization, together with sub-clusters concerned with water, energy, biotechnology, biosafety and post-conflict environmental reconstruction and other relevant sub-clusters;
- (g) To request development partners to provide support to the United Nations Environment Programme for the reactivation of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa;
- (h) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to benefit from the experiences within African countries in the field of environmental law institutions;
- (i) 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 commissions;

(j) To enhance the ratification and implementation of the revised Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant conventions for the effective management of natural resources.

## **Decision 2: Climate change**

### **I. Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012**

*We, the African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Noting* that the thirteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 mandated the negotiation, by 2009, of an international climate change agreement for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012,

*Further noting* that progress on negotiations on the new agreement will be reviewed at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008, with a view to completing these negotiations by the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009,

*Stressing* Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and noting the urgent need for all countries to take further actions, 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 participate actively and strategically in the negotiations to ensure that its needs, interests and requirements are met,

*Decide:*

(a) To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat of its New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, to organize a series of preparatory meetings for Africa's climate change negotiators and to provide the negotiators with substantive technical and policy analysis support to strengthen their preparations for the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth and fifth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(b) To urge African countries to participate actively in international climate change negotiations, in particular, the Accra and Poznan meetings in August and December 2008, respectively;

(c) To recommend that the African Union, at its thirteenth summit in June and July 2009, consider, with a view to its final adoption, a common African position on the comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012, which is to be finalized in December 2009;

(d) To mandate the President and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to initiate discussions with the Chair of the Commission of the African Union regarding the necessary procedures for Africa's climate change negotiators to prepare a common African position for adoption at a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and to submit that common African position for consideration at the summit of the African Union in June and July 2009, with a view to its adoption.

## II. Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Expressing* concern regarding 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 most vulnerable continent to the impacts of climate change and has the least capacity to adapt,

*Recognizing* the need to integrate Africa's existing climate change initiatives and programmes under a consolidated framework to ensure coordination and coherence in the implementation and review of climate change initiatives and sustainable development plans in Africa at all levels,

*Welcoming* the recent decisions by the African Union and related African intergovernmental bodies establishing initiatives to meet the challenge of climate change, as outlined in annex I to the present decision,

*Recognizing* that, since progress in responding to the challenge of climate change in Africa is far from sufficient, it is essential to develop further and supplement these initiatives through a comprehensive framework of programmes to meet the challenges of climate change in Africa,

*Recognizing* the adoption by the African Union of the Tunis Declaration and action plan and the decision to determine the rationale and modalities for establishing an African panel on climate change, and in particular the Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa,<sup>2</sup> in which the heads of State and Government requested the Commission of the African Union to consult the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to establishing the necessary mechanisms to follow up on the implementation of the Declaration,

*Decide:*

(a) To create, in view of the need for synergies in implementation, a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, bringing together existing and new intergovernmental decisions and initiatives and programmes in a consolidated manner, to be implemented at the regional, subregional, national and local levels;

(b) To adopt and develop further a conceptual outline, as set out in annex II to the present decision, to serve as the basis for identifying and filling gaps in the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(c) To establish, under the direction of the President and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, an ad hoc working group to assist the President and the Bureau in the implementation of the present decision. The working group may invite contributions from relevant organizations as required;

(d) To submit for adoption the consolidated comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the margins of the summit of the African Union in June and July 2009, and to request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to support the Bureau in organizing that special session;

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2 Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII).

(e) 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 facilities and institutions in Africa to meet the pressing climate change challenges in this region;

(f) To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to present the progress in the development of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes at the joint annual meeting of the African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to take place in March and April 2009, to ensure adequate financing of the programmes and activities under the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(g) 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 on climate change in Africa and to request multilateral financial institutions and other relevant donors to support the implementation of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(h) To invite 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, among others, adaptation funds, World Bank climate funds, African Development Bank funds and United Nations initiatives, and to streamline their procedures to improve access to finance;

(i) To support the process of developing the Climate Information for Development in Africa programme (ClimDevAfrica) and to request the Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to accelerate the finalization of the programme document and the dissemination of this information to ensure the participation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the Climate for Development in Africa programme;

(j) To endorse the decision of Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in December 2007 on the African panel on climate change and to request the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work further with the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in defining the modalities of establishing an African panel on climate change;

(k) To welcome and support the establishment of the 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.

## **Annex I**

### **Indicative list of Africa's climate change decisions**

Decision on Climate Change and Development (Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII)), adopted at the eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union

Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII)), adopted at the eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union

Jinja Declaration adopted by the African Ministers' Council on Water at the African Ministerial Roundtable on Climate Change

Tunis Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the International Conference on International Solidarity for the Protection of Africa and the Mediterranean Region from Climate Change

Decision CP 5/3 on assessment and monitoring activities adopted at the fifth session of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region

Joint Declaration of the Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention

Joint Africa-European Union Strategy and Action Plan on Energy and Environment, including the Africa-European Union Partnership on Climate Change, adopted at the second Africa-Europe Summit

Decision on climate change and the continental shelf (Assembly/AU/Dec.179 (X)) adopted by the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union

Decision on the outcomes of the third ordinary session of the [African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology](#) (EX.CL/Dec.387 (XII)) adopted at the twelfth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union

Resolution L.2 on climate change and development in Africa adopted by the First Joint African Union-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 26–29 March 2008; the resolution expressed appreciation to the African Union, ECA and the African Development Bank for the Climate Information for Development in Africa programme and welcomed and endorsed the establishment of the Africa Climate Policy Centre by ECA

Decision on disaster risk reduction (EX.CL/Dec.250 (VIII)), adopted at the eighth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union

## **Annex II**

### **Indicative conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes**

The discussions of the expert segment of the twelfth session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment resulted in the development of an indicative conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to be implemented at all levels.

Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programmes in such a way as to achieve sustainable development, in particular to alleviate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

Given that Africa is the most vulnerable region with the least adaptive capacity, adaptation is the most immediate priority.

There is a need, however, for global mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions as a primary mechanism to prevent long-term climate change impacts on this region. In addition, effective implementation of mitigation measures offers opportunities for Africa to increase its economic competitiveness along a sustainable path of low-carbon development.

The following indicative outline covers the two implementation areas of adaptation and mitigation supported and enabled by finance, capacity-building and technology.

The successful implementation of the adaptation and mitigation areas of work will require the full participation of all stakeholders, including the full involvement and empowerment of, and partnership with, civil society.

## Adaptation

Three broad areas of work were identified:

- (a) Disaster reduction and risk management: including early warning, preparedness, emergency response and post-disaster recovery;
- (b) Sectoral planning and implementation: adaptation in key sectors including water, agriculture, coastal zones, health, infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystems, forests, energy, urban management and tourism, taking into account the cross-sectoral implications;
- (c) Building economic and social resilience through the diversification of economies to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, including through the use of indigenous knowledge and practices and the strengthening of community organizations.

Steps for effectively implementing work in the above three areas include:

- (a) Understanding climate and climate change processes, vulnerability and risks, including, but not limited to, through monitoring and observation systems;
- (b) Understanding the economics of adaptation;
- (c) Understanding the social and cultural dimensions of adaptation;
- (d) Policy setting and planning, including climate-proofing of future development;
- (e) Piloting and demonstrating;
- (e) Full-scale implementation.

## Mitigation

In order to implement sustainable development policies and mitigation measures in Africa, with special emphasis on the development of indigenous and local communities, women and children in Africa, the following key areas of mitigation work were identified:

- (a) **Energy sector:** Including scaling up investment to provide access to affordable cleaner energy, especially for rural communities; development of appropriate alternative energy sources; policies and measures to increase energy efficiency; precautionary approach to the development of biofuels for mitigation and energy security;
- (b) **Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD):** Including the development of market-based mechanisms to reward or provide incentives for forest conservation or the avoidance of deforestation and sustainable forest management practices;
- (c) **Land-use, land-use change and forestry:** As the primary source of emissions in Africa, this represents one of the key areas for mitigation work in the continent, which includes best practices to enhance carbon sequestration and reduced emissions;
- (d) **Using and maximizing opportunities from the international carbon market:** Africa to call for binding ambitious targets for developed countries to secure the price of carbon. Key areas of work for Africa include reforming the rules of market mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism to increase accessibility by African countries, the full implementation of the Nairobi Framework and building capacity in Africa to gain access to the available financial mechanisms (the Clean Development Mechanism, Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, among others).

## Supporting and enabling measures

Three categories of supporting and enabling measures have been identified to support Africa's efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. These should form an integrated package of support tailored to each climate change intervention.

### 1. Capacity-building

- To enable human resource development through focused training, mentoring and learning-by-doing approaches, among other measures
- To empower relevant institutions at various levels
- To enhance observation, research and knowledge management
- To strengthen communication, education and awareness-raising at all levels, especially at the local and community levels
- To strengthen and use the regional networks of information and knowledge-sharing
- To develop tools, methods and technologies and support their application
- To encourage and strengthen participatory and integrated approaches in planning and decision-making, including the meaningful participation of civil society
- To share experiences, information and best practices of African countries
- To assess, strengthen and mobilize the capacities of existing relevant facilities and institutions in Africa

### 2. Finance

Scaling up sources of financing, including:

- National or domestic investment
- Multilateral funding: grant, loan and concessional
- Bilateral investment and donor funding
- Insurance and other risk management instruments
- Private sector instruments
- Market-based instruments, e.g., carbon finance

Improving access to financing through:

- Rationalizing the ever-growing number of funds (including eliminating duplications and harmonizing the governance of these funds, among other things to reduce conditionalities to disbursement of the funds)
- Streamlining bureaucratic procedures
- Reducing transaction costs

The need:

- For equity in the allocation of funds based on need and, including the use of vulnerability criteria in resource allocation decision-making
- To develop effective systems to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds mobilized for climate change
- For funding to be new, additional to existing development funds and reliable in the long-term

### 3. Technology development and transfer

The development and transfer of technology are critical to the achievement of both adaptation and mitigation programmes in Africa. Key areas of work in the field of technology include:

- Enhancing technology development and transfer, including hard technologies (e.g., drip irrigation, water harvesting, drought-resistant crop varieties, renewable energy technologies, building technologies, etc.) and soft technologies (e.g., knowledge, systems, procedures, best practices)
- Addressing technology transfer barriers, including rules of trade tariffs, intellectual property right-barriers and technical trade barriers (standards, ecolabelling)

- Enhancing and supporting the research and development capacity in African countries to foster the development and local manufacture of cleaner mitigation and adaptation technologies
- Enhancing technology cooperation between African countries and others, particularly the Africa-European Union joint strategy, Africa-China, Africa-India, Africa-South America and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development cooperation programme with Japan, including through encouraging member States to develop specific programme proposals and submit proposals for consideration

### **Decision 3: Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth 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, Nigeria, from 3 to 6 April 2000, as contained in paragraph 31 of the ministerial report of the session,

*Also aware* of the mandate conferred upon the Conference by ministers at the ninth session of the Conference, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 4 and 5 July 2002, as contained in decision 4 of the ninth 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 the tenth session,

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

*Noting* that the process of further intergovernmental consultations continues to be under way, thus necessitating the close monitoring of the evolution of other initiatives under the African Union,

*Decide:*

(a) To note with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to facilitate the completion of the document on the revised Constitution;

(b) To note also the potential implications that the evolving structures of the African Union have on the Conference;

(c) To request the secretariat to defer the process of revising the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment pending the complete establishment of the institutional structures of the African Union and to report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session on any progress made in this regard.

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

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* the Conference's decisions on financial resources adopted at its special session in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 and at the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions,

*Taking cognizance* of the fact that enhanced secretariat functions and the implementation of its programmes, in particular the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, will require additional human and financial resources,

*Expressing appreciation* to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and, in the same regard, also expressing appreciation to the development partners for their support,

*Expressing appreciation* for the financial and technical support that the United Nations Environment Programme provides to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recognizing* the need for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to finance its core activities,

*Decide:*

(a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(b) To urge those Governments that have not contributed to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to endeavour to contribute to the fund to enable the Conference to scale up its activities;

(c) To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work with Governments that have not fulfilled their commitments to pay their contributions to the trust funds (arrears of four years and above) on an arrangement to fulfil such commitments;

(d) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and to request the secretariat to make proposals on its use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation;

(e) To agree that the general trust fund continues to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as long as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment remains with that organization;

(f) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(g) To extend its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

## **Decision 5: Chemicals and hazardous waste management**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recognizing* the direct adverse effects of chemicals on public health and the environment, including loss of productivity and income owing to ill health,

*Recalling* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which countries agreed on a common objective to "achieve by 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment",

*Noting* that the chemical-related conventions are key to the successful attainment of the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

*Noting* the initial capacity-building activities for implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management through the Quick Start Programme,

*Noting also* the active engagement and involvement of African countries in the implementation of the Strategic Approach through the nomination of national focal points, the development of an African regional plan of action and submission of project funding requests under the Quick Start Programme and other related activities,

*Recalling* the importance of the regional centres under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for capacity-building and technology transfer,

*Recognizing* that financial and technical support is essential to developing countries to deliver their commitments under existing policies and instruments for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste,

*Noting* the existence of a financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention but not for the Basel Convention or for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

*Decide:*

- (a) To prioritize sound chemical management in regional, subregional and national environmental planning, sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies;
- (b) To provide high-level political support to the development and implementation of the national implementation plans for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and chemicals-related conventions;
- (c) To develop effective chemicals management infrastructures, using the assistance mechanisms available under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme and chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements;
- (d) To call upon Governments to promote at the national level an integrated approach to the implementation of these three conventions as a set of tools to assist countries in taking a holistic or life cycle approach to the sound management of chemicals by:
  - (i) Preventing unwanted trade in hazardous chemicals that cannot be managed safely at the national level;
  - (ii) Access to information on banned or severely restricted chemicals;
  - (iii) Promoting coordination and links with public health structures;
  - (iv) Identifying persistent organic pollutants and other toxic and hazardous chemicals in use or as wastes for sound management;
  - (v) Calling upon Governments to promote at the national level the establishment of an institutional framework and strengthening of national capacity within an integrated programme for the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
- (e) To invite subregional and regional economic communities and regional economic integration organizations to cooperate with convention secretariats and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management secretariat for successful regional delivery;
- (f) To invite donor countries, the Global Environment Facility and other donors to support the work of national civil-society organizations in raising awareness of populations of the effects of chemicals;

(g) To invite the Global Environment Facility and other donors to make available new and additional resources for expanding the chemical management portfolio of the Global Environment Facility beyond persistent organic pollutants;

(h) To invite countries that have not done so to ratify the conventions and to nominate Strategic Approach national focal points;

(i) To request the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, with the support of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to make funds available to support least developed countries in reaching the capacity necessary to initiate implementation of the Stockholm Convention and other chemical management instruments and programmes;

(j) To invite donor countries to provide bilateral and multilateral aid funding to facilitate the effective implementation of national obligations and commitments under the chemical-related instruments including the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

(k) To invite the Global Environment Facility and other donors to support the work of regional centres as centres of excellence for regional capacity-building and technology transfer;

(l) To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in conjunction with the conventions secretariats and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to review periodically the progress of integration of sound chemical management into national planning strategies and programmes and implementation of the conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in African countries and to report back to the Conference;

(m) To invite the International Conference on Chemicals Management to consider at its second session the adoption of a sustainable financial mechanism for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in attaining the 2020 chemicals safety goals;

(n) To urge African Governments and other stakeholders to promote synergies among the various initiatives for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste;

(o) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation and exchange of experiences and to make use of regional centres to define projects of regional scope;

(p) To invite African Governments to participate in the African Stockpiles Programme and to recognize it as the continental programme for the safe disposal of obsolete pesticides;

(q) To invite the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support countries' efforts to participate effectively in international meetings and activities relating to the sound management of chemicals through:

(i) Strengthening their access to scientific and technical information;

(ii) Consolidating and expanding the chemicals information exchange network programme;

(r) To invite countries to report jointly on the progress of implementation of the present decision;

(s) To invite the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to transmit the present decision to the joint conference of Health and Environment Ministers in Africa and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, for their consideration and further action.

## **Decision 6: Environmental education and technology-supported learning**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Welcoming* the working paper submitted by the secretariat on opportunities and challenges for environmental institutions and universities in Africa in adopting technology-supported learning,

*Welcoming* also the commitment by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, towards 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,

*Noting* the commitment made by the African Ministers of Education in 2006 to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the context of the Second Decade of Education in Africa and, in particular, to support the development of strategies for implementing the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective countries within the framework of the African Union's Second Decade on Education, and to ensure that principles of sustainable development are included in educational development frameworks, programmes and activities at all levels,

*Noting* also the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society, in particular the action line addressing e-learning and e-environment,

*Recalling* the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session in February 2007 to promote and support environmental education programmes as a highly effective tool for building an environmentally sensitive and responsive populace capable of partnering with Governments in achieving established policy goals and targets,

*Recalling further* the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-third session, in February 2005, as an inter-governmentally agreed approach to enhancing the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the implementation plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the Bali Strategic Plan, presented at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Dubai in February 2006,

*Decide:*

(a) To encourage Governments, through their principal environmental authority, to facilitate interministerial cooperation to undertake, among other things, the following key actions in the area of environmental education and technology-supported learning:

- (i) An assessment of existing environmental education strategies, needs and challenges facing Governments in the area of technology-supported learning;
- (ii) The development of a strategic approach to mainstreaming environmental education across all relevant governmental institutions, including the design of programmes suitable for the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors; and fostering cooperation with the non-formal environmental education sector;

- (iii) The development of an action plan for technology-supported learning in conjunction with the Human Resources, Science and Technology Department of the African Union (including e-learning) in follow-up to the strategic approach;
- (b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide strategic guidance and technical advisory services on the implementation of the above-mentioned activities and multilateral development partners to provide financial and technical assistance to build the capacities of African countries in this respect;
- (c) To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other partners concerned to strengthen their cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in order to provide their technical support and expertise to African countries to implement effectively and develop e-learning on environmental education for sustainable development;
- (d) To constitute a small group of members of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to undertake, on a trial basis, the development of 1–2 year pilot action plans for technology-supported learning;
- (e) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to identify partnerships involving international organizations, the donor community, the private sector and centres of excellence that will support the implementation of the pilot set of action plans;
- (f) To request Governments undertaking the pilot action plans to provide an interim report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session and a final report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session on the status of their implementation;
- (g) To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to enhance greater stakeholder involvement including non-governmental organizations, scientific organizations, nature clubs and local communities in the e-learning programme and in dissemination and exchange of information;
- (h) To invite countries to establish an African environmental e-learning network to share expertise, best practices and content and to identify a coordinating hub.

### **Decision 7: Africa Environment Day**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Taking note of* the report on the activities of the Commission of the African Union,

*Recalling* the decision by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity calling upon all member States to celebrate Africa Environment Day on March 3,<sup>3</sup>

*Commending* the efforts by the Commission of the African Union to galvanize member States to implement the decision,

*Renewing* the commitment of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to promoting environmental awareness at all levels of the continent,

*Decide:*

- (a) To agree that every year one country should be requested, on a regional rotation basis, to host the continental celebration of Africa Environment Day;

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3 Decision CM/Dec.686 (LXXVI).

(b) To request the Commission of the African Union and its cooperation partners to work with the hosting State to make adequate preparations for the occasion.

### **Decision 8: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa Environment Information Network**

*We, African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Noting with appreciation* the production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* within the framework of the Africa Environment Outlook process and the progress 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 reporting at the national and subregional levels,

*Noting with appreciation* the implementation of an Africa environment information network and its increasing contribution to building the capacity for the implementation of national development programs, including poverty reduction strategies within the United Nations development assistance frameworks and introducing state of the art technology, such as remote sensing to monitor environmental changes in Africa and to support decision-making,

*Welcoming* the decision by the United Nations Environment Programme and the support of the development partners to enhance the role of the Africa Environment Information Network and integrated environmental assessment in the United Nations country programming processes,

*Decide:*

(a) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to mobilize financial resources to build the capacity of African countries in integrated assessment and reporting, including environmental data and information management;

(b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to support the production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report as requested by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eleventh session;

(c) To call upon Governments to take advantage of earth observation technologies, such as remote sensing, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme to undertake regular national integrated environmental assessments to strengthen the strategic positioning of the national environmental agencies and departments in national development planning processes such as the poverty reduction strategies and United Nations development assistance frameworks.

(d) To urge the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment increasingly to involve the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in integrated environmental assessment and reporting and the related capacity-building activities;

(e) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to support the production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* on a regular basis and to assist countries to develop national atlases;

(f) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to liaise with secretariats of relevant conventions and other international organizations to mobilize resources for the Africa Environment Outlook, Africa Environment Information Network and the atlas processes.