

*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment***African Ministerial Conference on the Environment****Sixteenth session**

Ministerial segment

Libreville, 15 and 16 June 2017

**Report of the ministerial segment****I. Introduction**

1. The ministerial segment of the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017.
2. It was attended by the representatives of States members of AMCEN, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies and the secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
3. The opening of the segment was chaired by the President of AMCEN, Mr. Khaled Fahmy, Minister for the Environment of Egypt.

**II. Opening of the ministerial segment**

4. The segment began at 9.50 a.m. on Thursday, 15 June 2017, with opening remarks delivered by Mr. Fahmy; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; and Mr. Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet, Prime Minister of Gabon, who officially opened the segment.
5. At the second meeting of the ministerial segment, on the afternoon of 15 June 2017, further statements were delivered by Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Ms. Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director, Programme and Policy Unit, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Mr. Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank; Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director-General for Development Cooperation, European Union; and, on behalf of civil society, Ms. Tracy Sonny, Botswana Climate Change Network and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance.

**III. Organizational matters****A. Election of officers**

6. At the first meeting of the ministerial segment, on the morning of 15 June 2017, the following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau for the period 2017–2018:

<b>Subregion</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Position</b>
Central Africa	Gabon	President
Eastern Africa	Ethiopia	Vice-President
North Africa	Morocco	Vice-President
Southern Africa	South Africa	Vice-President and Rapporteur
West Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	Vice-President

7. Also at the first meeting, Ms. Estelle Ondo, Minister for Forest Economy, Fisheries and Environment of Gabon, assumed the presidency of AMCEN.

8. Ms. Ondo presented Mr. Fahmy with a gift in recognition of his leadership of AMCEN over the previous two years.

## **B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

9. The Conference adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/16/1):

1. Opening of the ministerial segment.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Consideration of the report of the expert segment.
4. Ministerial policy dialogue:
  - (a) Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa;
  - (b) Towards a pollution-free planet: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
  - (c) Africa's contribution to combating climate change.
5. Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment:
  - (a) Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
  - (b) Specialized technical committees of the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
6. Consideration of the draft declaration and the draft decisions and key messages.
7. Venue and date of the seventeenth meeting.
8. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment.
9. Other matters.
10. Closure of the session.

10. The Conference agreed to follow the programme of work set out in annex II to the annotations to the provisional agenda (AMCEN/16/1/Add.1).

## **IV. Consideration of the report of the expert segment**

11. At the second meeting of the ministerial segment, the Chair of the expert segment of the sixteenth session of AMCEN, Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Development and External Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Egypt, reported on the work and outcomes of the expert segment. The Conference took note of the report.

## **V. Ministerial policy dialogue**

12. Also at the second meeting of the ministerial segment, the President introduced the ministerial policy dialogue on the themes of investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa; towards a pollution-free planet: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly; and Africa's contribution to combating climate change.

### **A. Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa**

13. Mr. Richard Munang, Regional Climate Change Coordinator, UNEP, Africa Office, gave a presentation on the theme. Comments were made by the representatives of Ethiopia and South Africa.

**B. Towards a pollution-free planet: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

14. A presentation on the theme was delivered by Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP, while Mr. Kelebert Nkomani, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Kenya and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi, reported on the preparations for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

**C. Africa's contribution to combating climate change**

15. Presentations on the theme were delivered by Mr. Munang; Mr. Seyni Nafou, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change; and Mr. Seth Osafo, Legal Adviser to the African Group of Negotiators.

**VI. Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

**A. Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

16. Mr. Stephen Ndeti, Financial Management Officer, UNEP, Africa Office, presented a report on the general trust fund of AMCEN (AMCEN/16/4). The Conference took note of the report.

**B. Specialized technical committees of the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

17. At the third meeting of the ministerial segment, on the morning of 16 June 2017, the representative of the secretariat provided an update on the subject of the sub-item and comments were made by the representative of Egypt.

**VII. Consideration of the draft declaration and the draft decisions and key messages**

18. The ministers considered the draft declaration, draft decisions and key messages submitted by the expert group. The ministers adopted the following decisions, as orally amended: decision 16/1, on investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa; decision 16/2, an omnibus decision on environment in Africa, containing parts on governance mechanisms for ocean- ecosystem-based management in Africa; managing pollution in Africa; desertification, land degradation and drought; wildlife: management and illegal trade; hosting of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Egypt; and sustainable renewable energy; decision 16/3, on Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP; and decision 16/4, on climate change. The decisions are set out in annex II to the present report.

19. The ministers also adopted the Libreville Declaration on Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions, as orally amended, which is set out in annex I to the present report.

**VIII. Venue and date of the seventeenth session**

20. At the fifth meeting of the ministerial segment, on the evening of 16 June, it was agreed that the seventeenth session of AMCEN would be held in a country in Southern Africa, at a date to be decided by the Bureau, in conjunction with the secretariat and in consultation with member States.

**IX. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment**

21. The report of the ministerial segment, as orally amended, was adopted.

**X. Other matters**

**A. Presentation of the *Atlas of Africa Energy Resources***

22. At the end of the second meeting of the ministerial segment, an event took place to celebrate the launch of the *Atlas of Africa Energy Resources*, produced by the African Development Bank, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and UNEP, during which Mr. Nyong presented a copy to the President of AMCEN.

**B. Invited statements**

23. At the third meeting of the segment, brief statements were delivered by Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, on the priority focus for the Facility in the coming years; Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Niger, on the newly established Climate Commission for the Sahel Region; and Ms. Rosalie Matondo, Minister for Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and the Environment of the Congo, on the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin.

**XI. Closure of the session**

24. The President declared the sixteenth session of AMCEN closed at 9.15 p.m. on Friday, 16 June 2017.

## Annex I

### Libreville Declaration on Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions

*We, African ministers of the environment,*

*Having met* in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017 at the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the fifteenth session and the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Cairo from 2 to 6 March 2015 and from 16 to 19 April 2016, respectively,

*Welcoming* the outcomes, including the key messages, of the third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 May 2017 in preparation for the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* that achieving long-term sustainable development in Africa will depend on capacity-building of human capital and sustainable management of our countries' natural capital and requires investing in and promoting innovative environmental solutions,

*Aware* of the need to place issues related to ocean, marine and coastal environments, including the benefits, threats and opportunities, on Africa's regional agenda,

*Acknowledging* the efforts made to implement the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, and to enhance support from partners,

*Welcoming* the Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa, adopted at the high-level meeting of the first African Drought Conference, held in Windhoek from 15 to 19 August 2016,

*Recognizing* the critical role of women entrepreneurs as agents of change in empowering families, communities and nations to increase the use of sustainable energy in Africa,

*Aware* that environmental pollution is an increasing problem in Africa and that the major forms of pollution in Africa include indoor and outdoor air pollution, water pollution, land pollution and chemical and hazardous waste pollution affecting both urban and rural areas, and also aware that there can be no sustainable development without commitments and actions to manage pollution while respecting national policy space for sustained and inclusive socioeconomic development,

*Aware also* that sustainable development cannot be achieved without adequate, predictable and sustainable access to means of implementation, which include capacity-building, technology transfer and development, and financial support, while recalling the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and equity,

*Noting* that green business development in Africa may contribute to increased incomes, job and wealth creation, resource efficiency, increased productivity and improved health and competitiveness, while bringing social benefits and addressing environmental concerns,

*Aware* that young people in Africa are the future decision makers and that their energy, motivation, innovation and creativity are essential assets for achieving sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted in Kigali on 15 October 2016 at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which included a commitment to reducing the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years in order to reduce greenhouse gases,

*Welcoming also* the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016 under the theme "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

*Welcoming further* the outcomes of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous

Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and calling for adequate and additional financial resources, technical assistance and technology transfer to effectively implement the conventions in the region,

*Appreciating* the Global Environment Facility's support for, and partnership with, African countries in meeting their environmental obligations, including with regard to the impact of programmes on combating the illegal wildlife trade, on fostering sustainability and resilience for food security and on sustainable cities,

*Recalling* the need for energy diversification and to reduce the negative impacts linked to the utilization of fossil fuels,

*Welcoming* the information contained in the *Atlas of Africa Energy Resources* and recognizing its role in stimulating decision makers, planners, investors, energy experts, businesses and the public in taking action to achieve sustainable, modern and affordable energy for all in Africa,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to adopt and implement a gender strategy and policy for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in order to address the particular needs of the most vulnerable, including women and children,

*Determined* to implement the Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development and the Declaration of the First Africa Action Summit for Continental Co-Emergence, adopted in Marrakech, Morocco, on 16 November 2016,

*Recalling* decision SS.VI/6, on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment,

*Determined* to strengthen our efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063,

*Hereby declare our resolve:*

1. To take appropriate measures to promote and invest in innovative policy and non-policy interventions, including replication, and to sustain and improve the productivity of our countries' natural capital in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063;
2. To promote the allocation of an adequate percentage of national or subnational revenue accruing from natural capital assets for reinvestment in innovative environmental solutions;
3. To invite the United Nations Environment Programme, other relevant United Nations agencies, development partners and the international community to support African countries in undertaking studies and in developing policies, projects and measures that contribute to innovative environmental solutions, by providing adequate, predictable and sustainable means of implementation, including financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building;
4. To commit to the integration of pollution management aspects into our countries' national development agendas and to create awareness at the subnational and local levels among business and local communities of the negative environmental, health and socioeconomic impacts of pollution;
5. To call upon civil society and the private sector in Africa to commit, individually and collectively, to making Africa a pollution-free continent and to play a more proactive role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
6. To request the African Union Commission, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the African Development Bank and other partners to hold a high-level interministerial forum relevant to key ministries, industry, the private sector and civil society in order to raise political awareness and develop common strategies for a future pollution-free Africa;
7. To agree to hold joint meetings of African environment and energy ministers with a view to providing policy and strategic guidance on innovative environment and investment solutions to accelerate the development of clean energies;
8. To also agree to promote circular economy, green economy, blue economy and industrial symbiosis strategies in our countries, given that such models provide opportunities to enhance economic and social prosperity while reducing waste and pollution;

9. To further agree to prepare a strategic document, with the support of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, that supports member States in upscaling and replicating the circular economy and green business development policies and programmes to enable the growth of sustainable entrepreneurship;

10. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, working in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to hold in 2018 a high-level interministerial forum on the circular economy to promote green business development as a key driver of Africa's economic transformation agenda;

11. To welcome the Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa;

12. To call for the active participation of African parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa at the thirteen session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in China in September 2017, and for those parties to speak with a united voice and support the adoption of a decision to develop a binding protocol on drought risk management in order to enhance resilience;

13. To welcome the offer by the African Union Commission to host the Africa regional coordination unit of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

14. To support the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as a strategy to strengthen the resilience of rural communities at the fringes of Sahara and the Sahel to the challenges of climate change;

15. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support the implementation of programmes on land degradation neutrality;

16. To support the submission to the United Nations General Assembly of a draft resolution on designating 2020 as an international year of rangelands and pastoralists;

17. To encourage member States to participate actively in the third Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, to be held in Nairobi from 29 November to 1 December 2017, and in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, with the aim of concluding the work of the high-level segment of the session with an outcome document in the form of a political declaration negotiated by Member States and adopted by consensus, which should be concise, focusing primarily on the theme of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and based on the principles of sustainable development, including common but differentiated responsibilities, and on the need to support African countries in effectively implementing the outcomes of the session;

18. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support the implementation, especially in Africa, of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 2/13, 2/14 and 2/24, on, respectively, the sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication, on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products and on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands, through the provision of adequate financial resources, capacity-building and networking, the development of regional and cross-border programmes, and the provision of technology support;

19. To call for the strengthening of institutions in Africa to effectively address the issues of wildlife poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, and, in this regard, to implement the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa at the national, subregional and regional levels;

20. To welcome the proposed programming and policy directions of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, including programmes aimed at addressing major drivers of environmental degradation;

21. To also welcome the decision to organize the second meeting of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to be held in Addis Ababa in October 2017;

22. To agree to take action and create enabling conditions including by formulating enabling national policies to empower youth in Africa, in order to develop environmental innovations and resilience and to create green jobs and wealth;

23. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other partners, to prepare an environment outlook for youth in Africa to guide the strategic development of youth-responsive actions for sustainable development;

24. To request United Nations agencies to support the integration of the environmental sustainability aspects of youth into the work of the United Nations at the country and regional levels;

25. To commend the member States that have ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and to urge those that have not yet done so to ratify the Amendment as soon as possible so that it may enter into force on 1 January 2019, bearing in mind that universal participation is necessary to ensure the protection of both the ozone layer and the climate;

26. To ratify the Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and to work with other countries to promote universal ratification;

27. To take the necessary action to effectively implement 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 decisions adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties thereto, and to make the necessary preparations for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 16 to 18 October 2017;

28. To commend those member States that have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury and encourage those that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the Convention;

29. To agree to foster the management of persistent organic pollutants in our countries in accordance with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and to request the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting that process;

30. To appreciate the support provided by the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa of the African Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing the *Atlas of Africa Energy Resources*, which will inform strategic decisions with regard to achieving the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets on energy;

31. To adopt the policy and strategy of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for gender mainstreaming in the environment sector in Africa in order to guide member States in developing subregional and national action plans on gender and the environment;

32. To note that climate change is a global challenge and that no one should be left behind, as universally affirmed in Paris and Marrakech when the Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force on 4 November 2016 and, finding it regrettable that the United States of America, the largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases and the richest country in the world, has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, we thus urge it to reconsider its decision;

33. To reaffirm the commitment of African countries to the historic Paris Agreement and to its implementation in line with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ensuring parity between mitigation and adaptation, and adequate, predictable and sustainable support for African countries to enhance their efforts to combat climate change;

34. To urge the parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with relevant previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to call on the incoming Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to continue with the consultations with a view to reaching a decision in that regard by the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties;

35. To note the urgent need to tackle the immediate and medium-term adaptation challenges facing African countries and to highlight the importance of considering, as a priority, support for adaptation in Africa to ensure the implementation of the adaptation actions needed to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change by doubling adaptation finance to address the immediate needs of African countries;

36. To call on developed countries to accelerate action to fulfil the goal of providing at least 100 billion United States dollars by 2020 from a variety of sources and to ensure that balance is achieved between finance for adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the need to facilitate the access of African countries to financial resources and to ensure the ambitious replenishment of the



Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the provision of adequate resources for the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, in line with the needs of African countries;

37. To acknowledge the critical importance of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and of regional fisheries bodies in enhancing the application of ecosystem-based approaches, marine spatial planning and ocean governance in Africa, in addition to the need for coastal States to integrate innovation and value-added approaches;

38. To reaffirm Africa's full support to Egypt in hosting the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and to endorse Egypt's proposal to host a high-level African biodiversity event in association with the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide policy and strategic guidance on African biodiversity priorities for inclusion in the future work programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols;

39. To upscale the development and use of clean renewable energy to drive sustainable development on the African continent, and to acknowledge and support the work of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative in that regard;

40. To adopt policies and mechanisms that favour affordable, safe, effective and efficient cooling technologies that will maximize the climate benefits of the Kigali Amendment by catalysing the energy efficiency of refrigerants and appliances;

41. To support regional and national initiatives that add value to the energy potential of African countries, such as wind and solar energy, among others;

42. To develop and strengthen gender-responsive policies to empower women and men to engage in sustainable, affordable and clean energy development, access and utilization, to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and to access finance and markets across the value chain in the energy sector;

43. To mandate the President of the Conference to implement decision SS.VI/6, on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;

44. To agree to continue supporting the work of member State missions led by the African Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi and the Permanent Representatives Committee in Addis Ababa in their efforts to coordinate African common understanding and positions during negotiations and effective engagement in the United Nations Environment Assembly, the African Union and other United Nations processes on sustainable development;

45. To urge member States to pay their contributions to the General Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, including outstanding arrears, in a timely manner, and to encourage those in a position to do so to contribute to the Environment Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

46. To invite the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to ensure an early notification of member States regarding their contributions to the Trust Fund, starting from the beginning of the fiscal year in order to allow sufficient time for internal payment procedures;

47. To express our profound appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the African Development Bank and the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, among others, for the continued support of their organizations to the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

48. To mandate the President of the Conference to convey the priorities and position of Africa contained in this declaration and in the decisions, key messages and report of the sixteenth session of the Conference to all parties, including external partners and organizations, with a view to enlisting their support, and to report to the Conference at its next session;

49. To also mandate the President of the Conference to submit the report of the sixteenth session of the Conference, including the recommendations of the Libreville Declaration and the annexes thereto, to the Commission of the African Union for further action by the African Union policy organs;

50. To pay tribute to the President of Gabon, His Excellency Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, and the Government and people of Gabon for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants, for the excellent facilities made available to them and for their generous support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its sixteenth session, which contributed greatly to its success.

## Annex II

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

#### Decision 16/1: Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa

*We, African ministers of the environment,*

*Having met* in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017 at the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Cairo from 16 to 19 April 2016,

*Recalling also* Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015,

*Recalling further* resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, in which Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that achieving long-term sustainable development in Africa will depend on sustainable management of our natural capital, which requires investment and the promotion of innovative environmental solutions,

*Determined* to use all means at our disposal to catalyse the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063,

*Decide:*

1. To take appropriate measures to promote and invest in innovative policy interventions, including replication, to sustain and improve the productivity of our natural capital to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063;
2. To enhance innovative environmental mechanisms through different financing schemes, education, research and development, and private and public partnerships, among other efforts, to foster socioeconomic development, including through the sustainable use of Africa's natural resources;
3. To promote the allocation of an adequate percentage of national or subnational revenues for investing in innovative environmental solutions and the sustainable use of natural resources;
4. To promote development and the strengthening of partnerships between Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the international community and other relevant parties in order to promote and enhance investments in innovative environmental solutions;
5. To call upon all States Members of the United Nations Environment Assembly to adopt, at the third session of the Assembly, a universally applicable resolution on innovative environmental solutions in order to galvanize international action on the strengthening of sustainable management of natural capital;
6. To promote the incorporation of the present decision and the attached key policy messages into regional, subregional, national and subnational policy, legislation and action.

## Key policy messages

### Introduction

1. We, African ministers of the environment, recognize that Africa's environment needs to play a strategic role, providing practical and affordable innovative solutions to socioeconomic development challenges in order for Africa to actualize the Sustainable Development Goals and realize the aspirations set forth in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

2. We affirm that achieving long-term sustainable development in Africa will depend on innovative environmental solutions that ensure sustainable socioeconomic progress. We believe that innovative environmental solutions will allow for action through financial, economic, social and environmental contributions towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as unlocking domestic and international resources.

3. We recognize the importance of education, research and development as well as technological innovations in promoting sustainable development, and in that connection we emphasize regional, national and subnational capabilities to develop innovative environmental technologies.

4. We are committed to mobilizing domestic resources by employing innovative strategies, mechanisms and interventions to sustainably harness Africa's natural capital. We therefore call upon our Governments to optimize innovative environmental policy measures to invest in (a) the reversal of ecosystem degradation and ecosystem losses so as to free up resources for development and (b) the sustainable harnessing of natural capital and sustainable green industrialization, green agriculture, integrated sustainable urban development, green transport systems, ecotourism, standardization and sustainable trade through value addition.

5. In order to facilitate effectiveness, we will establish or strengthen inter-agency or interministerial task forces to advocate and formulate enabling policies on clean energy that will add value to ecosystem-based adaptation-driven agriculture.

### A. Innovative environmental solutions and investments

6. The attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063 requires a substantial reorientation of development policies to focus on key sources of economic growth, especially those associated with the use of innovative scientific and technological knowledge, and related institutional adjustments. There is therefore an urgent need to find alternative approaches that can help to address sustainability-related drivers while at the same time offering opportunities for sustainable environmental management.

7. We recognize that investing in and promoting innovative solutions such as clean energy initiatives and ecosystem-based adaptation-driven agriculture, among others, will result in the recouping by Africa of substantial investment annually, which will then be available for re-investment in those sectors, thereby assisting in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. We are committed to facilitating the development of all financing tools, especially financial technology, risk-sharing facilities and complementary multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance enterprises in catalytic areas towards bridging financing gaps.

9. We will promote the standardization of ecosystem-based adaptation-driven agriculture, agro-value addition and the value chain approach as a means of catalysing sustainable clean-energy-powered agro-industrialization in Africa.

10. We, African ministers of the environment, are committed to working with our colleagues in other ministries to ensure targeted policy reforms and complementarity in the catalytic areas of clean energy development in order to add value to agriculture and industry.

### B. Financing models to maximize Africa's catalytic sectors

11. Africa needs up to 1.2 trillion United States dollars to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, and it is therefore imperative to engage in innovative environmental approaches that will unlock direct and indirect financing towards maximizing productivity in the catalytic areas and facilitating the actualization of multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

12. We, African ministers of the environment, will work towards enhancing financing for clean energy, for domestic and industrial applications, including powering agro-value addition that

will maximize innovative models for financing towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8.

13. We will create opportunities for complementary partnerships to finance profitable enterprises and mutual business partnerships between financiers and entrepreneurs in the catalytic areas, as well as clean energy-powered value addition to enhance businesses.

14. We will promote endeavours to strengthen the capacity of tax administration of Africa's natural capital that will recoup resources for investment in the catalytic areas, thereby curtailing illicit financial flows.

15. We will encourage public and private sector investment by developing policy incentives that encourage financial institutions to develop funds for enterprises based on the catalytic sectors.

## **C. Policy harmonization**

16. Policy is the biggest driver of change. Maximizing productivity in the catalytic areas will require the harmonization of policies across multiple ministries with all other relevant stakeholders in order to enhance sustainable socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability.

17. We, African ministers of the environment, will work to promote and facilitate policy and non-policy investments, institutional and legal measures and reforms that promote and strengthen innovative environmental technologies that will ensure the sustainable use of Africa's natural capital and value addition and reverse current environmental losses.

18. We will continue to mobilize policymakers, enhance awareness at all levels of the role of natural capital in the development process and build consensus at the regional, national and subnational levels in Africa on the contribution of natural capital in sustainable development.

19. We recognize that, in order to catalyse investment in clean-energy-powered value addition, policies will need to be harmonized, especially those in agriculture, industry, energy and land management. In addition, incentives need to be provided for private investors in order to create an enabling environment for the involvement of both State and non-State actors. We agree to create task forces focused on interministerial policy to bridge silos and harmonize policies to ensure they are complementary towards the achievement of sustainable socioeconomic development.

## **D. Education and capacity-building to empower youth**

20. Adequately empowered human capacity to seize opportunities in the catalytic areas remains an urgent imperative. The lack of alignment of the education sector to the catalytic areas is limiting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. By extension, African States are losing an opportunity to actualize the demographic dividend of African youth, who represent 60 per cent of the population;

21. We, African ministers of the environment, will promote the creation and enhancing of African institutions of higher learning, vocational institutions and training centres to empower youth with skills aligned to opportunities in innovative environmental solutions and the catalytic sectors.

22. We will promote capacity-building for different stakeholders in sustainable environmental management in different sectors, including the judiciary and compliance and enforcement agencies, among other sectors, with targeted curriculum development that will empower youth engaging in green jobs.

23. We encourage the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to support African countries in the integration and training of different sectors that will improve the skill and knowledge of its youth in innovative environmental solutions and the catalytic sectors.

24. We will take advantage of opportunities offered by the valuation of natural capital to promote training in green jobs for the benefit of young people.

## **E. Mobilizing global support**

25. We call upon the international community to support Africa's innovative environmental measures by supporting the sustainable use of Africa's environmental assets through the strengthening of capacity and the development of new, adaptable tools and innovative technologies.

26. We also call for international support in technology development and transfer and capacity-building to eliminate illegal financial flows, especially through the elimination of tax evasion and improved tax administration.

## **Decision 16/2: Environment in Africa**

*We, African ministers of the environment,*

*Having met* in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017 at the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the fifteenth session and the sixth special session of the Conference, held in Cairo from 2 to 6 March 2015 and from 16 to 19 April 2016, respectively,

*Welcoming* the resolutions adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016,

*Taking note of* Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the first 10-year implementation plan for the period 2014–2023, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015,

*Recalling* resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, in which Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling also* the Rio Principles, contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular the principles of equity and of the common but differentiated responsibilities,

*Respecting* national policy space for continuous, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing countries,

*Stressing* that access for African countries to adequate, predictable and sustainable means of implementation, including provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, is a cornerstone for enhancing the efforts of countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty,

*Determined* to strengthen our resolve to better manage the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

### **I**

## **Governance mechanisms for ocean- and ecosystem-based management in Africa**

*Noting* that the world, including the Africa region, is facing serious degradation and unsustainable management of the marine and coastal ecosystems, thereby having a negative impact on the functioning of ecosystems and affecting livelihoods of coastal communities,

*Acknowledging* the negative impact of fishery subsidies on African fisheries,

*Acknowledging also* that the sustained contribution of oceans to national economies depends upon, among other things, the use of effective governance frameworks and integrated ocean- and ecosystem-based management approaches,

*Acknowledging further* that weak governance infrastructure and lack of sustainable management of institutional frameworks has contributed to, inter alia, the degradation and depletion of marine and coastal ecosystems, maritime insecurity and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, thereby affecting national economies,

*Recalling* the Cairo Declaration on Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, adopted at the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in which member States agreed to develop a governance strategy on oceans and seas in Africa and reiterated support for the regional seas programmes in Africa as regional platforms for the implementation of the African Union 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters,

*Determined* to promote all relevant mechanisms implemented in Africa, including the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region; the amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean; the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; and the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment,

*Welcoming* the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, adopted in Lomé in October 2016,

*Welcoming also* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017,

*Decide:*

1. To support the regional seas programmes associated with the oceans and seas adjacent to Africa, namely, the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region; the amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean; the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; and the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment as the main platforms for ecosystem-based ocean governance frameworks in Africa;
2. To strengthen national and regional institutions to enhance governance and management approaches and to put in place appropriate ocean policies and legislation to guide the use of area-based planning tools, including marine spatial planning and marine-protected areas, in the management of marine and coastal resources within their exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters;
3. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the regional seas conventions and action plans to enter into cooperative agreements with the regional fishery bodies in order to enhance application of ecosystem-based approaches in ocean governance in Africa, and to support coastal States in integrating innovation and value-addition approaches into all ocean-based economic sectors, including fisheries, coastal tourism, aquaculture, maritime transport, off-shore oil and gas, renewable energy and sea-bed mining, using best available practices, in order to enhance the ocean economy so that it provides for more inclusive employment and meets the production and consumption needs of the coastal States and communities;
4. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support coastal States in the development of integrated ocean management policies, including the provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for marine spatial planning and the application of area-based management, integrated solid-waste management and marine litter, and to support the internalization of environmental values in business practices within the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters, using ecosystem-based management approaches;
5. To agree to continue fostering regional cooperation in the management of common or shared marine resources, including through information-sharing, communication, collaboration, cooperation, capacity-building and coordination;
6. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, working with the African Union Commission, to continue supporting member States in the ongoing global negotiations on marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction and the development of an effective ocean governance strategy, as well as on the roles of existing regional bodies, in accordance with the previous decisions adopted by the Conference on the matter;
7. To encourage States members of the African Union to implement the resolution “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

## II

**Managing pollution in Africa**

*Acknowledging* that the Africa region is facing increasing levels of land, air, freshwater and marine pollution, which is having a detrimental effect on the environment, socioeconomic development and human health and well-being,

*Noting* that strong and effective policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and adequate infrastructure are essential for the sound management and control of all forms of pollution,

*Aware* of the need to reduce costs associated with air, land and water pollution impacts on human and environmental health, and to redirect such savings towards sustainable socioeconomic development,

*Recognizing* that most of our nations do not have inventories and instruments in place to manage products containing lead or cadmium, resulting in significant negative environmental, health-related and socioeconomic impacts in Africa,

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the 2017 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, held in Geneva from 24 April to 5 May 2017 on the theme “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”, and acknowledging the challenges faced by African countries with regard to the implementation of the conventions in relation to financial resources, technical assistance, technology transfer and the need for adequate sustainable financial arrangements responsive to the need of the region, in order to improve the effectiveness of implementation of the conventions,

*Welcoming also* the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted in Kigali on 15 October 2016 at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which included a commitment to reducing the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons,

*Recognizing* the crucial role that the African group played in the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol,

*Welcoming* the convening of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, to be held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, from 16 to 18 October 2017,

*Commending* the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility and other partners in supporting member States in addressing issues relating to sound management of persistent organic pollutants through the strengthening of the capacity of member States to implement their national implementation plans,

*Acknowledging* the relevant conventions of the International Maritime Organization relating to maritime and port activities,

*Commending* those African countries that have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

*Decide:*

1. To commit ourselves to improving the management of chemicals and wastes, as well as the control of land, air (indoor and outdoor), freshwater, marine and other forms of pollution through the strengthening of knowledge management, policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks;
2. To commit ourselves to integrating into our national development agendas and strengthening pollution management aspects, internalizing pollution costs and creating awareness at the subnational and local levels, including among businesses and local communities, of the negative environmental, health-related and socioeconomic impacts of pollution;
3. To support the development of programmes that invest in the management of land and ecosystems, including water catchments, so as to prevent pollution and maintain the health of water sources, such as mountains, landscapes, wetlands, groundwater, rivers and lakes, in order to ensure the availability of quality water in a sustainable manner for all uses;



4. To work collectively with the aim of developing innovative and environmentally sound technologies and financing mechanisms that prevent, reduce and manage marine, land, and indoor and outdoor air pollution;
5. To formulate and implement regional and national strategies aimed at preventing, controlling or managing pollution resulting from waste, energy, transport, service, industry and urban sources while creating value addition in production and consumption, in line with the provisions of the relevant conventions;
6. To urge national Governments to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and to work with other countries to promote universal ratification;
7. To adopt policies and mechanisms opting for affordable, safe, effective and efficient cooling technologies that will maximize the climate benefits of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol by catalysing energy efficiency of the refrigerants and appliances;
8. To urge national Governments to ratify the Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and to work with other countries to strengthen efforts to prevent dumping of waste in Africa and to promote the universal ratification of the Amendment;
9. To request the African Union Commission, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the African Development Bank and other partners, to hold a high-level interministerial forum relevant to key ministries, industry, the private sector and civil society in order to raise political awareness and develop common strategies for a future pollution-free Africa;
10. To develop programmes to strengthen the implementation of the chemical-related conventions, for which the States members of the African Union are contracting parties;
11. To improve the management of persistent organic pollutants in our countries in accordance with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and to request the Global Environment Facility and other financial arrangements to continue supporting that process;
12. To commend those member States that have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and urge those that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the Convention;
13. To recommend that issues specific to Africa are clearly identified during the regional preparatory meeting to be held in South Africa in July 2017 so as to take them into account during the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to be held in Geneva in September 2017;
14. To commit ourselves to a detoxified future by taking policy, legislative and programmatic action now and by implementing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
15. To formulate and implement regional strategies for the sound management of waste, and to request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support that process;
16. To take necessary measures and actions for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention and the decisions taken at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and to make the necessary preparations for its second meeting;
17. To urge and solicit parties to the Basel Convention to accede to the Basel Convention Ban Amendment in order to guarantee and secure a total ban on the import to Africa and the control of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;
18. To urge and solicit non-parties to the Bamako Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention;
19. To request parties to the Bamako Convention that have not yet informed the Secretariat of the designation or establishment of their competent authorities, focal point and dumpwatch to do so as soon as possible and to nominate competent experts to the Legal and Technical Working Group and to the Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Liabilities and Compensation;

### III

#### **Desertification, land degradation and drought**

*Aware* that desertification, land degradation and drought, especially in the context of climate change, require regional approaches and programmes in which member States need to work together with the regional economic communities and development partners,

*Welcoming* United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 2/13, on sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication, and 2/24, on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands,

*Welcoming also* the Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa, adopted at the high-level meeting of the first African Drought Conference, held in Windhoek from 15 to 19 August 2016, which calls for the operationalization of the Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa,

*Welcoming further* the commitment made by African countries to set voluntary land degradation neutrality targets linked to the identification of transformative projects for the mobilization of resources, including climate finance, given the link between climate change and land use,

*Recognizing* the importance of the African flagship programmes, including the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, in addressing desertification and land degradation,

*Recalling* decision 15/4, on strengthening African leadership in the United Nations Convention to Combat the Desertification process, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fifteenth ordinary session, and in particular recalling the decision to support the hosting of the regional coordination unit for Africa,

*Decide:*

1. To endorse the Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa, in particular the call for the establishment of a binding protocol on drought management and enhancing resilience in Africa within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
2. To recommend that a decision on the endorsement of the binding protocol on drought management and enhancing resilience in Africa within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification be submitted by the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for consideration and endorsement by the African Union summit to be held in July 2017;
3. To urge countries to develop programmes on afforestation and reforestation in order to restore degraded areas and enhance carbon sinks;
4. To support the inclusion of strategic objectives on drought in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification strategic framework for the period 2018–2030, to be adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held in Ordos, China, in September 2017;
5. To urge member States to implement the Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa so as to ensure a drought-resilient and prepared Africa;
6. To strengthen sustainable land management policies and practices to address issues relating to land tenure and the empowerment of women and youth;
7. To develop a common understanding and speak with one voice during the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, especially on regional issues, including the need to develop a protocol on enhancing drought resilience and the proposed land degradation neutrality fund;
8. To call for the extension of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative to the other parties of Africa affected by desertification and land degradation and the establishment of the carbon bank with the support of the global and regional financing mechanisms for

enhancing the implementation of the initiative and submit that request to the African Union Summit for their endorsement;

9. To recommend that the Regional Coordination Unit for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Africa be located in the Africa Union Commission;

#### IV

### **Wildlife: management and illegal trade**

*Aware* that, despite management efforts, wildlife populations and their habitats in Africa continue to decline,

*Recognizing* the need to conduct a wildlife inquiry covering scientific, economic, social and governance aspects with the aim of sustaining investments in and enabling an integrated approach to wildlife management in the context of enhancing the natural capital of Africa,

*Recognizing also* the scourge of wildlife poaching and illegal trade, in particular of rhinoceros and elephants, and their importance to our national economies,

*Recalling* African Union Executive Council decision 879, on the report on the International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna in Africa, and African Ministerial Conference on the Environment decision 15/2, on the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora,

*Recalling also* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/14, on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, which calls upon member States to implement regional strategies to combat illegal wildlife trade,

*Decide:*

1. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other partners, to conduct a comprehensive study on the key issues surrounding the sustainable management of wildlife, addressing the status and trends of wildlife and habitats in partnership with different actors, in particular Governments, as well as relevant stakeholders to facilitate the development of a continent-wide strategy to address drivers of wildlife and habitat loss;
2. To continue, with the support of partners, with engagement in the African elephant range States in order to strengthen common understanding on conservation, management, trade and other issues of interest to African States;
3. To promote any programme aimed at carrying out inventory or mapping related to, or in connection with, the management of wildlife species under threat or endangered;
4. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to strengthen African institutions in order to effectively address the issues of wildlife poaching and illegal trade in wildlife;
5. To recommend the implementation of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa at the national, subregional and regional levels;
6. To endorse the creation of an expert group to facilitate the implementation of the strategy as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa;

#### V

### **Hosting of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Egypt**

*Recalling* decision SS.VI/3, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its sixth special session, held in Cairo from 16 to 19 April 2016, in which member States expressed support for the offer by Egypt to host the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in 2018,

*Noting* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has been held only once in Africa, in Nairobi in 2000,

*Noting also* that meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity have never been held in Africa,

*Recognizing* the role played by biodiversity in various fields, including in achieving Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in climate change mitigation and adaptation,

*Decide:*

1. To welcome with appreciation decision XIII/33 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which the Conference decided to hold the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing in Egypt from 1 to 17 November 2018;

2. To commend and emphasize Africa's full support for Egypt for its hosting of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols;

3. To endorse and support the proposal of Egypt to host a high-level event on African biodiversity in association with the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to provide policy and strategic guidance on African biodiversity priorities for inclusion in future work programmes of the Convention and its protocols;

4. To call upon the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Global Environment Facility, the African Development Bank and other financial institutions and development partners to provide technical and financial support towards:

(a) The organization of the high-level event and the participation of African delegates;

(b) The preparation and organization of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols and the participation of African countries in the meeting;

(c) The commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. To urge States members of the African Union to actively participate in the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. To call upon relevant stakeholders and major groups in Africa, including members of civil society within the business and scientific communities, industry, women, youth, tourism and the private sector to participate fully in the above-mentioned meetings;

7. To request the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to engage actively in coordination with the Government of Egypt in the preparation for the high-level event on African biodiversity and the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

## VI

### **Sustainable renewable energy**

*Recognizing* the accomplished efforts in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement,

*Recalling* the need to diversify sustainable energy sources and modes of consumption and to reduce the negative impacts linked to the utilization of fossil fuels,

*Aware* that renewable energy is an enabler and a pathway to addressing social, environmental and economic challenges by providing equal energy access and efficiency for productive use and electrification,

*Aware also* that African countries continue to face critical challenges relating to access to modern energy services, especially in rural areas, poor energy infrastructure, low purchasing power, low investment in production and transmission and overdependence on biomass to meet energy needs,

*Recognizing* the need to increase the rate of electrification in Africa with the objective of achieving economic development and Agenda 2063,

*Acknowledging* the establishment of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative by the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change of the African Union with the goals of helping to achieve sustainable development, enhanced well-being and sound economic development by ensuring universal access to sufficient amounts of clean, appropriate and affordable energy and of helping African countries to leapfrog to renewable energy systems that support their low-carbon development strategies while enhancing economic and energy security,

*Welcoming* the *Atlas of Africa Energy Resources*, which was prepared with the support of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa of the African Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Decide:*

1. To scale up the development and use of clean renewable energy that will drive sustainable harnessing and value addition of Africa's natural capital;
2. To hold joint meetings of African ministers of the environment and energy to provide policy and strategic guidance on innovative environmental and investment solutions to accelerate the development of clean energies;
3. To request the African Group of Negotiators to continue to support the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and its Independent Delivery Unit to achieve concrete results by accelerating, inter alia, the facilitation of the support necessary to enhance capacity and to access financial resources, in the context of the implementation of the nationally determined contributions of African States, and also to request the Group to facilitate access to means of implementation, in collaboration with other partners, in supporting, inter alia, the following:
  - (a) To use integrated approaches of:
    - (i) Decentralization or off-grid electrification;
    - (ii) Decarbonization or focus on low-carbon emission;
    - (iii) De-risking investment or developing risk-mitigation facilities to attract investments;
    - (iv) Democratization of energy services or energy access for all;
  - (b) To develop or strengthen national and regional harmonized policy frameworks for the acceleration of the sustainable production and consumption of biomass for the purposes of reducing land degradation and indoor pollution and increasing efficiency;
  - (c) To support all regional and national initiatives that add value to the energy potential of wind and solar energy, among others, on the African continent;
  - (d) To support the development of business models for enhancing access to financing in order to enable investment in clean energy, rural electricity transmission, and energy entrepreneurship among women and youth;
  - (e) To enhance our capacity and skills for developing applicable technologies and innovations in order to economically and socially use our clean energy resources;
  - (f) To promote energy efficiency in buildings and industrial processes through the development of guidelines and regulations on sustainable buildings and cities, awareness creation, technical support and innovative programmes, and the promotion of energy efficiency in small, medium-sized and large enterprises;
4. To call on the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative Board of Directors and its Independent Delivery Unit to accelerate their work in order to achieve the Initiative's agreed goals of deploying at least 10 gigawatts of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and to mobilize the potential of Africa to generate at least 300 gigawatts by 2030.

## **Decision 16/3: Africa's engagement in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

*We, African ministers of the environment,*

*Having met* in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017 at the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 67/213 of 21 December 2012, which established the United Nations Environment Programme, and resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013, which changed the designation of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, respectively,

*Recalling also* the outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014 under the overarching theme "Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production",

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016 under the theme "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

*Recalling* the resolutions of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on giving priority to the African continent, in particular resolution 2/13, on sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication, resolution 2/14, on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and resolution 2/24, on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands, and concerned about the slow implementation of those resolutions,

*Aware* that the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will be held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017 under the overarching theme "Towards a pollution-free planet",

*Aware also* that environmental pollution is an increasing problem in Africa and that the major forms of pollution in Africa include indoor and outdoor air pollution, water and land pollution, and chemicals and hazardous waste pollution, affecting both urban and rural areas,

*Stressing* that efforts to reduce pollution should not undermine the development processes under way in African countries and that those efforts should be in line with the development priorities of Africa, while respecting national policy space for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth,

*Bearing in mind* that pollution is one of the various environmental challenges facing African countries and that Africa contributes the least to global pollution trends,

*Concerned* about the multifaceted challenges faced by African countries in effectively implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and other global decisions, including those of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the previous Governing Councils of the United Nations Environment Programme, mainly due to the lack of the necessary means of implementation,

*Bearing in mind* that Africa is richly endowed with natural resources that, if properly harnessed, could contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication in Africa,

*Emphasizing* the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development, including the environmental pillar,

*Affirming* the centrality of making available the necessary means of implementation, in particular technology development and transfer, capacity-building and financial support, which can significantly contribute towards the effective implementation in African countries of the decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Governing Council,

*Acknowledging* the positive role that stakeholders, including the private sector, could play in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and other global commitments, including those made within the framework of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and emphasizing the importance of engaging the various groups of stakeholders in a transparent, inclusive

and balanced manner, while reaffirming that their role is complementary to the intergovernmental nature of the processes of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Assembly,

*Appreciating* the work being done by the African Diplomatic Corps and its technical committee in Nairobi in all negotiations during the intersessional period and during the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which is based on the political guidance provided by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and acknowledging the centrality of the Conference in formulating African positions in all matters related to the environment,

*Decide:*

1. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to expedite the implementation of all previous United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council decisions and resolutions in a balanced manner, especially those of priority to the African continent;
2. To also request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop, as soon as possible and in consultation with member States, a monitoring mechanism by which member States can track and assess the status of the implementation of previous and future resolutions;
3. To further request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that African countries are supported through technology development and transfer, capacity-building and financial support in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063 and other global decisions, including those of the United Nations Environment Assembly and, previously, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
4. To underline the importance of developing solutions to pollution in Africa that are development-oriented and that contribute to poverty eradication and the creation of jobs and wealth on the continent, and of ensuring that any measures taken to combat pollution neither constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination nor conceal any restrictions on international trade;
5. To stress that the outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly should be geared towards providing technological and financial support and capacity-building in order to enhance the efforts of Africa to formulate and implement policies, legislation and programmes with a view to ensuring sound environmental management, including through preventing, reversing and overcoming the effects of pollution, while reaffirming the national ownership of such policies, legislation and programmes;
6. To urge member States to commence, at the earliest possible time, discussions and deliberations on environmental issues of priority to Africa with a view to formulating them into draft resolutions for presentation during the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
7. To stress that engagement with any group of stakeholders during the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly should be inclusive and geographically balanced with the overarching goal of involving African stakeholders;
8. To acknowledge the important role of the African private sector in addressing environmental challenges on the continent and that the Executive Director in his strategy to engage the private sector should also involve Africa's private sector;
9. To underline the importance of finalizing the stakeholder engagement policy of the United Nations Environment Programme on the basis of the proposal presented during the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and reaffirm that, until the adoption of the policy, African countries are committed to the inclusive and meaningful participation of all accredited relevant stakeholders in the United Nations Environment Assembly and its preparatory process, while maintaining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Assembly;
10. To reaffirm the importance of concluding the work of the high-level segment of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly with an outcome document in the form of a political declaration negotiated by Member States and adopted by consensus, which should be concise, focusing primarily on the theme of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and be based on the principles of sustainable development, including common but

differentiated responsibilities, as well as the need to support African countries in effectively implementing the outcomes of the session;

11. To agree that the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and its Bureau, in collaboration with the permanent representatives based in Addis Ababa, Geneva, Nairobi and New York, shall continue to coordinate the work of the African Group so as to ensure an effective and coordinated front during the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

12. To request the United Nations Environment Programme to finance, in accordance with the established practice, the participation of representatives from developing countries, particularly from Africa, in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in order to maintain the openness, transparency and inclusiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Assembly;

13. To invite member States to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and those in a position to do so to contribute to the United Nations Environment Fund;

14. To agree to continue to strengthen the linkages between the permanent representatives of member States at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi and the United Nations in New York, as well as at the United Nations Office at Geneva, for better collaboration, so as to ensure a common understanding of, and common approaches to, the issues affecting the sustainable development agenda of the African region;

15. To request the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to support the collaborative arrangements between the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi, the permanent representatives in Addis Ababa and the African Group in Geneva and in New York to ensure a common understanding and approach to environmental issues affecting the region;

16. To also request the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate regular interaction by the representatives of the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi and Addis Ababa among themselves and with their colleagues in Geneva and New York, building on the strategy that has been developed in that regard;

17. To encourage member States that have not done so to establish resident diplomatic representation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi, given the critical role and importance of the two United Nations bodies as multilateral centres for the engagement of Africa in discussions on the global sustainable development agenda;

18. To stress that the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme was based on negotiations between and consensus among the Member States at the General Assembly of the United Nations, and that any changes to the nomenclature, mandate or nature of the Programme should follow the same process as in the General Assembly of the United Nations and be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner;

19. To reiterate the need to strengthen the strategic regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme in Africa so as to support member States and ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to enhance the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the implementation of programmes and projects at the national and subregional levels through the establishment of national and subregional programmes and offices;

20. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to expedite the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/2, and in particular the consolidation of the Programme headquarter functions as contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want".

## **Decision 16/4: Climate Change**

*We, African ministers of the environment,*



*Having met* in Libreville on 15 and 16 June 2017 at the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

*Expressing appreciation* to Egypt for its outstanding achievements as President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa in pursuit of its interests in the climate change negotiations, as well as in the operationalization and implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Africa Adaptation Initiative,

*Congratulating* and pledging support to the Government of Gabon, as the incoming President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change,

*Expressing appreciation* to Morocco for its successful hosting of the twenty-second session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016, and for its leadership and the achievements made at that session,

*Welcoming* the declaration of the First Africa Action Summit for Continental Co-Emergence, adopted in Marrakech, Morocco, on 16 November 2016,

*Welcoming also* the outcomes of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the first part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on climate change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016,

*Welcoming further* the ratification of the Paris Agreement and its rapid entry into force on 4 November 2016, highlighting a global commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement,

*Reiterating* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement constitute the global legal framework on climate change and that all actions or measures related to climate change must be in full conformity with the principles and provisions of those agreements, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of national circumstances,

*Encouraging* the African Group of Negotiators to continue to represent the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations and to constructively advance global governance on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

*Cognizant* of the forthcoming twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, to be held in Bonn from 6 to 17 November 2017, and reaffirming the support of African countries to the incoming President of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, the Government of Fiji, in its efforts to advance the work programme of the Paris Agreement in a balanced, fair, inclusive and rules-based manner,

*Decide:*

1. To urge the Parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with the relevant and previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and call on the incoming President to the Conference of the Parties to continue the consultations with a view to reaching a decision in that regard at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference;

2. To also urge the developed countries to enhance their efforts in the pre-2020 period to close the ambition gap with regard to mitigation, adaptation and finance, and call on all countries to accelerate the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and all relevant decisions, in accordance with their obligations under the Framework Convention;

3. To stress the importance of enhanced ambition in tackling climate change in the current and subsequent replenishment processes of the operating entities of the financial mechanism, in particular the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and the replenishment process of the Green Climate Fund;

4. To take note of the work of the Green Climate Fund in supporting African countries to deal with the challenge of climate change, to take note with concern of the low level of disbursement of resources and to urge the Green Climate Fund Board to take the necessary measures to clarify the eligibility criteria and facilitate access and timely release of the resources of the Fund to African countries;

5. To also take note of the threat that climate change poses to development in Africa and the urgent need to tackle the immediate, short- and medium-term challenges facing African countries and encourage a balanced consideration of action and support in the Paris Agreement negotiations, stressing the importance of support in building trust and enabling developing country action;

6. To reaffirm our commitment to a balanced treatment of adaptation and mitigation and stress the importance of harnessing relevant synergies between adaptation and adaptation co-benefits by African countries towards the goal of building and fostering resilience and an increased ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change;

7. To stress the importance of strengthening gender responsive climate policies in all activities relating to adaptation and mitigation and encourage further support for the Lima Work Programme on Gender;

8. To encourage all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to initiate, at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the negotiations, to be undertaken prior to 2025, on a new collective quantified finance goal for developed countries, from a floor of 100 billion United States dollars per year, as provided for in paragraph 53 of decision 1/CP.21, and to conclude the modalities for the biennial communication of indicative support to developing countries at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties;

9. To commend the work done by the technical working group of the Africa Adaptation Initiative, comprising the partners identified in African Union decision Assembly/AU/Dec.580/XXV, and endorse the outcomes of the meetings of the technical working group, as presented in appendix I to the present decision, deciding to adopt the work plan for the biennium 2017–2018, governance structure, guiding principles, expected results and targets of the Initiative, while appreciating the offer made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to host its technical support unit in the interim;

10. To welcome the offer by Egypt to permanently host the technical support unit of the Africa Adaptation Initiative;

11. To express appreciation for the successful launch of the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture by Morocco at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to call on that initiative to continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Africa Adaptation Initiative in order to ensure coherence, synergy and enhanced implementation;

12. To encourage the African Group of Negotiators to continue to support the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and its Independent Delivery Unit to achieve concrete results by accelerating, inter alia, the facilitation of support to enhance capacity and access financial resources in the context of the implementation of the nationally determined contributions of African countries;

13. To commend the Niger for the successful operationalization of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region through the organization of its first technical working group meeting, held in Niamey on 22 and 23 May 2017, and express our support to the Niger in its call for the technical working group to expedite its work so as to diligently mobilize the required financial resources for the implementation of its investment plan, also expressing our appreciation for the support provided by all partners, in particular the African Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank Group and the European Union, and inviting them to strengthen and continue that support;

14. To call on African countries that have signed the memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the Congo Basin Blue Fund to accelerate its implementation in order to support adaptation and mitigation programmes;

15. To express appreciation for the work of the African Group of Negotiators in developing the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency programme established by the Global Environment Facility, which calls on the Group to ensure diligent implementation and inviting further African countries to join the programme;

16. To take note of the forthcoming assessment and special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate and on climate change and land, expressing concern about the underrepresentation of African authors in the preparation of the reports, taking into account that they provide the science base needed to inform climate action, and encouraging African Governments to support the participation of African scientists;

17. To endorse the key messages on climate change negotiations, as set out in appendix III to the present decision, and urge the African Group of Negotiators to enhance its efforts in updating the African Common Position on Climate Change as a platform to articulate the interests of African countries at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;

18. To express appreciation for the support provided to African countries and the African Group of Negotiators by the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Government of Germany, among other development partners.

## Appendix I

### **Africa Adaptation Initiative**

*We, African ministers of the environment,*

*Encouraging* developed countries to support the implementation of the Africa Adaptation Initiative, taking into consideration the reaffirmation set out in the Paris Agreement that adaptation is a global challenge and the importance of support for, and international cooperation with, adaptation efforts, taking into account the needs of developing countries and stressing the importance of coordination and synergy between the technical working group and the African Risk Capacity, the Climate for Development in Africa Programme (ClimDev-Africa) and other relevant initiatives and efforts,

*Decide* that the governance structure of the Africa Adaptation Initiative shall operate under the political guidance of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, with the oversight of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and with the technical support of the African Group of Negotiators, the technical working group and the technical support unit, as set out below;

*Endorse* the Africa Adaptation Initiative work plan for the period 2017–2018, the governance structure set out in appendix II to decision 16/4 on climate change, and the guiding principles, expected results and targets, and express appreciation for the offer made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to host the interim technical support unit;

*Invite* the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the African Group of Negotiators, in consultation with the technical working group, to elaborate terms of reference for the respective organs of the Africa Adaptation Initiative for consideration by ministers at the next session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

*Invite* the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change to serve as a political champion of the Africa Adaptation Initiative in order to advance the initiative at the continental level and in relation to resource mobilization with development partners.

## Appendix II

### Governance structure of the Africa Adaptation Initiative

The governance structure of the Africa Adaptation Initiative shall:

- (a) Operate under the political guidance and supervision of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. As a political body, the Conference shall:
  - (i) Provide political leadership and increase the visibility of the need to enhance action on adaptation and to address loss and damage in Africa;
  - (ii) Advocate the mobilization of additional resources to support African countries in enhancing adaptation action and to address loss and damage;
  - (iii) Receive advice and recommendations from the technical working group and the technical support unit;
  - (iv) Approve the annual work plan and budget of the technical support unit and the appointment of the Head of the technical support unit;
  - (v) Facilitate and approve other tasks to enhance adaptation action and address loss and damage upon recommendation by the technical working group or the technical support unit.
- (b) Include the technical working group, chaired by the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and composed of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Group of Negotiators, the African Development Bank, African Risk Capacity, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. The technical working group shall:
  - (i) Increase the visibility of the Initiative and ensure the mobilization of adequate resources needed for its operationalization and implementation;
  - (ii) Promote coherence between the Initiative and other relevant initiatives;
  - (iii) Provide technical advice and recommendations to the technical support unit;
  - (iv) Offer advice and recommendations through its chair to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for political guidance to the Initiative and to the technical support unit;
  - (v) Undertake other such functions as may be determined by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
- (c) Further include a technical support unit, which shall:
  - (i) Serve as the secretariat and coordinate the day-to-day operationalization of the Initiative;
  - (ii) Operate under the guidance and authority of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and report to the Conference;
  - (iii) Prepare and, once approved, undertake its work plan in accordance with its budget;
  - (iv) Follow advice and recommendations from the technical working group regarding its operations.

## Appendix III

### **Key messages on climate change negotiations for the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement**

#### **Pre-2020 action**

1. We note with concern the inadequate pre-2020 mitigation ambition, which is likely to lead to a gap of 8 to 12 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for a scenario in which warming is limited to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and a larger ambition gap for an equivalent probability of remaining below 1.5°C. We urge developed countries to demonstrate leadership in increasing their ambition and supporting developing countries in their efforts.
2. We urge developed countries to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to close the ambition gap on mitigation, the adaptation gap and the finance gap. We call upon all countries to accelerate the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and relevant decisions in accordance with the obligations under the Convention.
3. We further urge developed country parties to continue to fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. We call on parties that have not yet done so to ratify the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
4. We reiterate the importance of adaptation in Africa and stress the importance of the technical examination process on adaptation to strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerabilities and increase the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions in the pre- and post-2020 periods. We further call on the high-level Climate Action Champions appointed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to advocate, through high-level engagement, the acceleration of the implementation of concrete adaptation actions, including through enhanced means of implementation.
5. We urge parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and call upon the incoming presidency of the Conference of the Parties to continue with the consultations, with a view to reaching a decision in that regard by the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties.
6. We call for developed countries to accelerate action to fulfil the goal of providing at least 100 billion United States dollars by 2020 from a variety of sources, and to ensure that balance is achieved between finance for adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the need to double adaptation finance to address the immediate needs of African countries.
7. We stress the importance of enhanced ambition to tackle climate change in the current and subsequent replenishment processes of the operating entities of the financial mechanism, in particular the seventh replenishment of resources of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the replenishment process of the Green Climate Fund.
8. We highlight the important role of the operating entities of the financial mechanism in supporting the actions of developing countries to tackle climate change, and the importance of ensuring predictable, sustainable and adequate resources for the funds that are supporting climate action, in particular the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.

#### **Programme of work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement**

9. We note the threat that climate change poses to the development of Africa and the urgent need to tackle the immediate, short and medium-term adaptation challenges facing African countries. We call for the operationalization of the global goal on adaptation under article 7 of the Paris Agreement.
10. We urge developed countries to provide full support to developing countries for the formulation, updating and implementation of adaptation communications, including as a component of nationally determined contributions, in a manner that takes into account information on the needs of developing countries and associated costs, including the support needed to implement adaptation action.

11. We call for the enhancement of institutional arrangements and support, in terms of finance, technology and capacity-building, in order for the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to achieve its mandate and fulfil its functions.
12. We further call for the expeditious completion of the five-year work plan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, which should take into consideration the priorities identified by developing countries to assist them in preparing and implementing plans and strategies that address current and anticipated losses and damages in the light of the agreed temperature goal.
13. We emphasize the importance of further guidance as to the information required to ensure the clarity and transparency of the mitigation component of nationally determined contributions so as to contribute to a meaningful global stocktake, recognizing that developed countries should take the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, while noting the flexibility provided to developing countries under the Paris Agreement.
14. We call for enhanced mitigation ambition in line with article 2 of the Paris Agreement and with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We stress that enhanced support for African countries will allow for higher ambition in their actions, recognizing that development needs are the priority for Africa.
15. We encourage all parties to conclude the modalities for the biennial communication of indicative support to developing countries at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, including the associated quantitative and qualitative information of projected levels of public financial resources to be provided to developing countries.
16. We further encourage all parties to initiate at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties the negotiations, to be undertaken prior to 2025, for the new collective quantified finance goal from developed countries from a floor of 100 billion United States dollars per year, as provided for in paragraph 53 of decision 1/CP.21, taking into account the lengthy and complicated access and disbursement rules and procedures.
17. We urge all parties to finalize the arrangements for the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement, noting that the share of proceeds under article 6 of the Paris Agreement constitutes an important source for the Fund, in addition to voluntary contributions.
18. We recognize the importance of technology in climate action and the role of the technology framework under article 10 of the Paris Agreement. We urge that its elaboration involve updating technology needs assessments, enhancing the implementation of their results, assessing available technologies and enhancing financial and technical support for the implementation of climate action.
19. We underline the importance of the early and full implementation of article 11 of the Paris Agreement, noting the need for capacity-building for African countries to deliver on their obligations, and urge parties to fast-track the activities of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in order to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, for implementing climate action. We further urge developed countries to pledge financial resources to the core budget of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support an increased frequency of meetings of the Paris Committee in order for it to achieve its objectives.
20. We call for the acceleration of the establishment of the enhanced transparency framework for action and support, and urge the development of its modalities, procedures and guidelines, to take into account flexibility, different types of commitments and the different capacities of parties, in line with, and building on, existing transparency arrangements under the Convention.
21. We stress the importance of a balanced consideration of action and support, noting the importance of the transparency of support in building trust and in enabling developing country action. We further stress that the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should continue to provide full support for developing countries to implement activities under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, in line with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
22. We recognize the importance of the global stocktake and its outcomes in stimulating parties to self-enhance and update their contributions, stressing that developed countries will take the lead, in the interests of equity and in the light of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We urge that the global stocktake be informed by the best available science and be conducted in a manner that is comprehensive, facilitative and balanced in its assessment of the collective efforts of parties in terms of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, noting

that this would be achieved through, inter alia, clear guidance on information under the adaptation communication and means of implementation contributions by all parties.

23. We urge all parties to design a compliance regime with a comprehensive scope covering all the provisions of the Paris Agreement in order to facilitate implementation for developing countries and promote compliance for developed countries, by designing effective modalities and procedures that take into account differentiated obligations between developed and developing countries and national circumstances in order to facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We emphasize the centrality of the fulfilment of financial obligations by each of the developed countries in the design of a comprehensive compliance mechanism.

24. We welcome the decision to convene a facilitative dialogue among parties in 2018, informed by a special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, that would assess the collective efforts of parties towards the long-term global goal on mitigation and the consequential impacts on the long-term global goal of adaptation and means of implementation, and the outcome of which should inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions. We reiterate the importance of closing the pre-2020 mitigation, adaptation and finance gap by developed countries so as not to shift the burden to developing countries post-2020.

25. We call for equal treatment with regard to cooperative approaches and the mechanism for mitigation and sustainable development under article 6 of the Paris Agreement in terms of raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation actions and of helping to meet the cost of adaptation for developing countries.

26. We emphasize that measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral measures, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. We express concern about the shifting of responsibility to developing countries through a focus on economic diversification, which should include and focus on an understanding of the impacts of the policies of developed countries on developing countries.

27. We recognize the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of agricultural and food production systems, especially in Africa, to the adverse impacts of climate change. We emphasize that building resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change in agricultural and food production systems requires sustainable and predictable access to adequate means of implementation, including finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, for developing country parties.

28. We stress the importance of harnessing relevant synergies between adaptation and adaptation co-benefits in agricultural and food production systems in order to safeguard food security and to contribute to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. We invite the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, development partners and financial institutions to support African countries in their efforts to strengthen the development and implementation of national and regional plans and strategies to build and foster resilience and increase their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

29. We welcome the decision by the Board of the Green Climate Fund to operationalize results-based finance for the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus). We urge the Board of the Green Climate Fund to include provisions to incentivize non-carbon benefits associated with the implementation of REDD-plus, taking into account the circumstances of African countries.