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**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
Second meeting**
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
30 January–1 February 2018

**Report 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 on the work of its second
meeting**

I. Introduction

1. 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, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme under the theme “The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa”, was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 30 January to 1 February 2018 and hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire through the Ministry of Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development. The three-day meeting began with a full-day high-level ministerial segment on 30 January 2018, followed by a two-day meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 31 January and 1 February 2018.

2. Representatives of the parties to the Bamako Convention, as well as observers, including non-parties, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, took part in the meeting.

II. Report of the ministerial segment

A. Opening of the meeting

3. The official opening was marked by several statements, including by the outgoing President of the Conference of the Parties, Ms. Aïda M'bo Keita, Minister for the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Mali. In her statement, she stressed the relevance of the theme of the meeting and recalled the conditions that had led to the signing of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Bamako Convention. She stressed the need for urgent action to be taken by African countries to combat pollution in the region and ended her statement by recalling the expectations of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, whose coordination was jointly led by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization.

4. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, emphasized that African countries required the necessary resources in order to implement the Bamako Convention. He observed that only 25 out of 55 African countries

had ratified the Convention and 17 others had signed it, while 11 countries were yet to take any action. He noted that it was essential for countries that were most affected by the dumping of hazardous waste to take responsibility in addressing the environmental crime, as those countries that benefited from it would not do so on their behalf. He concluded with a strong message that the year 2018 should be one in which Africans themselves take full responsibility for the Convention.

5. In her remarks, Ms. Anne Ouloto, Minister for Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire, observed that the aim of the Convention was to protect the health of the population and their environment, and that as a forum for solidarity, it was the historic responsibility of African States not to allow the forum to stagnate. She concluded by stressing the need for strong political action to implement the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. A group photograph marked the end of the opening ceremony.

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Conference of the Parties adopted the agenda for its meeting, pursuant to the rules of procedure.

C. Organizational issues

1. Election of officers

7. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Conference, comprising a president, three vice-presidents and a rapporteur, was elected by consensus. The Conference of the Parties elected the following representatives taking into account regional balance:

President:	Ms. Anne-Désirée Ouloto, Minister for Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Batio Bassière, Minister for the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso
	Ms. Arlette Nonault Soudan, Minister for Tourism and Environment of the Congo
	Mr. Chokri Ibn Hassen, Secretary of State for Local Affairs and the Environment of Tunisia
Rapporteur:	Mr. Kare Chawicha, State Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change of Ethiopia.

2. Organization of work

8. The Conference of the Parties established contact groups and other groups and clarified their areas of responsibility. The following four contact groups were established to review the draft decisions prepared by the secretariat for discussion and adoption by the parties:

Contact group 1:	Programme of work and lessons learned, budget and finance
Contact group 2:	Strengthening the implementation of the Bamako Convention; synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives
Contact group 3:	Technical assistance and implementation matters: challenges and opportunities
Contact group 4:	Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties; additional discussion on how to establish the secretariat; strategic framework for implementation of resolutions relevant to the secretariat of the convention; branding identity for the Bamako Convention; establishing a list of hazardous substances to be considered "hazardous waste" under paragraph 1 (d) of Article 2 of the Bamako Convention

D. Report on the credentials of representatives to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention

9. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information set out in a note by the secretariat on the status of ratification of the Bamako Convention. It also took note of a preliminary report on credentials, including an indication that the final credentials report would be submitted before the end of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see annex I to the present report). The Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, reviewed the accreditation of the representatives of the parties and observers at the meeting and reported thereon to the Conference of the Parties.

10. Out of a total of 25 parties, 23 attended the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A total of 19 credentials were received from Benin, Burkina Faso (submitted after the second meeting), Burundi, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon (submitted after the second meeting), the Gambia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Niger, Senegal, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Of those credentials, three were copies (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Tunisia) and thus were provisionally accepted on the understanding that the respective parties would submit the originals to the secretariat soon after the conclusion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat was requested to remind them accordingly. A travel authorization document was submitted by one party (Burundi), which could not be admitted as a credential. Three parties (Cameroon, Comoros and Libya) did not submit their credentials.

11. Credentials or letters were received and admitted from the following four non-party States: Angola, the Central African Republic, Mauritania and Morocco. Letters or documents of appointment of representatives of the following two regional observer organizations were received and admitted: African Development Bank and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). One credential was also received and admitted from the private sector (Ivoire Oilfield Services).

E. Statements by State representatives and observers

12. A total of 17 statements were made, of which 12 were made by parties and 5 by non-parties, observers, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

13. Statements were made by ministers and heads of delegations representing the following parties: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Tunisia and Senegal. In their statements, they focused on reporting on the activities carried out in their countries as part of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention relating to the preparation of national reports. The parties also presented the status of the management of hazardous waste in their respective countries. One representative stressed the need for the effective implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting and for payment of country contributions. Another representative drew attention to the apparent lack of legal and institutional frameworks and other instruments required to strengthen the fight against dumping of hazardous waste in the African region. Several representatives reported that they had taken a number of actions, including enacting laws to combat hazardous waste and establishing an anti-pollution police force; establishing legal instruments to combat hazardous waste; creating recycling facilities for batteries, cells and other hazardous waste; developing national regulations; and strengthening hazardous waste management entities and instruments.

14. Statements were also made by the following observers: Angola, ECOWAS, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Basel Action Network (BAN) and Centre de recherche et d'éducation pour le développement (CREPD). The representative of Angola said that the country had adopted resolutions aimed at combating hazardous waste. Underlining the need to strengthen the secretariat, establish implementation mechanisms, formulate concrete recommendations and build partnerships to achieve the objectives of the Convention, the representative of ECOWAS called for the implementation of large-scale hazardous waste management projects and the development of a regional strategy to combat hazardous waste. The representative of ECOWAS then invited all countries to implement the Bamako Convention and to lay the foundation for the future implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and committed to bringing the issue of the Bamako Convention to the level of its Heads of State in support of the President of the Convention. The representatives of IPEN, BAN and CREPD underlined that the Bamako Convention suffered from a problem of implementation at the country level. The same entities then called on Governments to translate into action the declarations and expectations made by representatives at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties by working in collaboration with the Convention secretariat.

F. Matters relating to the implementation of the Convention

1. Report by the secretariat on the implementation of the Convention since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties

15. In its report on the implementation of the Convention since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat noted that, to date, 25 countries had ratified the Convention and 29 had signed it. The Conference of the Parties at its first meeting had adopted 23 decisions. By its decision 1/6, the Conference of the Parties had formally established the secretariat of the Convention and requested the United Nations Environment Programme to carry out the functions of the secretariat. By

its resolution 1/16, the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session had authorized the hosting of the secretariat of the Convention and authorized the Executive Director to carry out the secretariat functions.

16. By its decision 1/12, the Conference of the Parties had requested parties to designate national focal points, competent authorities and dumpwatches. To date, 19 out of 25 parties had submitted information to the secretariat on actions taken in that regard. Countries that had not yet done so were urged to submit information on the designation of national focal points, competent authorities and dumpwatches.

17. The secretariat had raised awareness of the Convention at various international meetings by organizing side events. Capacity-building activities had also been organized, notably in conjunction with the Southern African Development Community and ECOWAS. The secretariat noted that those types of actions would be increased.

18. A costed two-year workplan had been adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting but could not be fully implemented as no contributions from parties had been received to support its implementation. The revolving fund and trust fund were still awaiting pledged contributions.

2. Strategic repositioning of the Convention

19. Following the discussions, it was agreed that focus should be placed on the development of concrete proposals to move the Convention forward and to meet its challenges. Noting that there could be no repositioning of the Convention without genuine ownership, all parties agreed on the need to identify a country to be the permanent host of the secretariat of the Convention.

20. Noting that it was necessary for parties to assume responsibility for the Convention and to uphold the principle that an African country should host its headquarters, the representative of the Gambia expressed strong support for the proposal to move the headquarters to Mali and said that the secretariat should be functional and endowed with the required resources. The Minister for the Environment of Mali expressed the hope that the proposal would be examined in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme prior to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. The Conference of the Parties discussed and adopted with amendments the “Abidjan Declaration on the Bamako Convention: A Platform for a Pollution-free Africa” (UNEP/BC/COP.2/9).

3. Reviewing arrangements on hosting the secretariat

22. The Government of Mali expressed its interest in hosting the secretariat of the Bamako Convention. The proposal was unanimously welcomed by the parties, who decided to request the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and the Government of Mali, to develop scenarios for the establishment of the executive secretariat of the Convention in Bamako, including with regard to personnel. The secretariat was also requested to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau, a draft decision on the issue for review by the Conference of Parties at its extraordinary session to be held in Khartoum in February 2019 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/4).

III. Report of the expert segment, held on 31 January and 1 February 2018

23. The expert segment was opened at 9.35 a.m. on 31 January 2018 by Ms. Kaba Nasséré, Chief of Staff, representing Ms. Anne Ouloto, the Minister for Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d’Ivoire.

The chairpersons of the contact groups established during the ministerial meeting were appointed as follows:

(a) Contact group 1 (programme of work and lessons learned, budget and finance): Mr. Sani Mahazou, Director General of Sustainable Development and Environmental Standards, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Niger.

(b) Contact group 2 (strengthening the implementation of the Bamako Convention; synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives; branding identity for the Bamako Convention): Mr. Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, Technical Manager of the National Anti-Pollution Centre of Gabon.

(c) Contact group 3 (technical assistance and implementation matters: challenges and opportunities): Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Abdelgeleel Mohamed Ibrahim, Radioactive Waste Management, Nuclear and Radiological Authority of Egypt.

(d) Contact group 4 (extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties; additional discussion on how to establish the secretariat; strategic framework for implementation of resolutions relevant to the functions of the Convention secretariat): Mr. Lemnyuy Albin William Banye, Deputy Director of Waste and Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Management of Cameroon.

24. The chairpersons of the contact groups were appointed during the ministerial meeting, while the rapporteurs were designated by members of the contact groups.

25. The contact groups worked in breakout sessions before reporting back to the plenary.

A. Report by the chairpersons on the proceedings of contact groups

1. Contact group 1: programme of work and lessons learned, budget and finance

26. The starting point for the discussions was the costed programme of work, budget and assessed contributions, as well as the contributions for the revolving fund for emergency situations adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. However, given that no contribution had been received from any party, the contact group decided to propose more realistic budgets for adoption. As agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, the current scale of assessments used by the African Union was used as the basis for computation of the assessed contributions from parties. Two members of the contact group, namely Egypt and Ethiopia, expressed the view that the scale should be reconsidered given that most of the biggest contributors to the African Union were not parties to the Bamako Convention. A consensus was reached to continue using the scale of assessment of the African Union for the biennium 2018–2019, and the secretariat was requested to develop a new scale of assessment reflecting balanced contributions among parties, to communicate the new proposed scale to parties for comments and inputs and to submit the new scale for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its third session. The contact group recommended to the Conference of the Parties the adoption of a decision on parties' assessed contributions to the revolving fund for emergency situations (UNEP/BC/COP.2/2) and a decision on the workplan, parties' assessed and estimated voluntary contributions and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/10).

2. Contact group 2: strengthening the implementation of the Bamako Convention – synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives

27. Members of the group made the following recommendations:

(a) Collaborate with subregional integration organizations (decision makers, informal sector, port authorities, consumers, non-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector) for stakeholder capacity-building in hazardous waste management;

(b) Encourage subregional organizations to set up networks for the exchange of information on hazardous waste and to provide alerts on illegal traffic;

(c) Encourage the exchange of information between the Bamako Convention, the International Energy Agency and other relevant organizations on radioactive materials and hazardous chemicals;

(d) Collaborate with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements for the integration of poison emergency centres into national health and development plans;

(e) Work with the regional economic communities to harmonize the methodological approach for the development policy and legal frameworks for extended producer responsibility;

(f) Collaborate with regional organizations in the development of regional hazardous waste management projects;

(g) Collaborate to harmonize policies, strategies, plans and regulations for hazardous waste management;

(h) Capitalize on existing implementation strategies of 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;

(i) Develop a partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on radioactive waste management;

- (j) Make use of existing databases, guides and technical guidelines, platforms and expertise in the field of hazardous and radioactive waste management at the national and regional levels;
- (k) Develop public/private partnerships in the management of hazardous waste;
- (l) Strengthen partnerships and mechanisms for technical cooperation between States and United Nations organizations in the field of awareness-raising campaigns aimed at politicians and decision makers in countries and subregional organizations to encourage the implementation of the Bamako Convention and the allocation of resources to hazardous waste management activities;
- (m) Establish databases and knowledge management platforms on hazardous waste at the national and subregional levels;
- (n) Encourage the establishment of regional infrastructure for the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste;
- (o) Develop regulations to make extended producer responsibility mandatory;
- (p) Raise awareness on the environmental and health benefits of complying with the provisions of the Bamako Convention and the practical opportunities that could be created in all African countries, and disseminate relevant information to national stakeholders through the organization of feedback workshops, exchange visits and other platforms.

28. It was recommended that the secretariat should:

- (a) Develop cooperation with subregional organizations, regional research institutes and the European Union Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE) in the field of hazardous waste management;
- (b) Strengthen, promote and cooperate with international law enforcement networks, including existing illegal trafficking control networks, to prevent transboundary movements of waste across the borders of States parties;
- (c) Set up a monitoring and warning system for hazardous waste;
- (d) Disseminate information on illicit traffic in hazardous waste to States parties;
- (e) Strengthen existing networks on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous and radioactive waste;
- (f) Develop a partnership with regional centres (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) and EU CBRN CoE in training.

29. The recommendations of the working group are reflected in decision 2/8 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/8).

3. Contact group 3: technical assistance and implementation matters - challenges and opportunities

30. Members of the group discussed the seven items set out in the workplan table. From the analysis of each discussion point, the following emerged:

- (a) Countries at the Convention differ in terms of capacity-building. It is proposed to support countries on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the actual level of capacity-building needs of each country;
- (b) Regarding the management, dissemination and exchange of information, it is suggested that an implementation mechanism be created to better equip countries that are lagging behind;
- (c) Regarding collaboration with the Basel Convention and related institutions, an analysis of the possible contribution of regional centres to the implementation of the Bamako Convention shows that there may still be a crucial problem arising from the fact that some countries that have ratified the Basel, Rotterdam and other conventions have not yet ratified the Bamako Convention. It is therefore recommended that the Convention Bureau should raise awareness and encourage those countries to ratify the Bamako Convention;
- (d) In addition to the other waste streams covered by the Basel Convention, radioactive waste should be included. There is therefore a need for:
 - (i) The secretariat to enter into negotiations with IAEA;
 - (ii) The formulation of an output to clearly highlight this specificity of the Bamako Convention;

(e) It is necessary to set up an alert mechanism between countries to report in the event of a spill. There should be efforts to engage all entities involved in the implementation of the Convention, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, IAEA, the private sector and the International Criminal Police Organization, to enable them to provide immediate information on potential illegal activities (for example in the form of a “red alert”);

(f) It is suggested that new emphasis should be placed on the development of guidelines for the implementation of the Bamako Convention, taking into account the partnerships to be established with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and IAEA.

31. To conclude, contact group 3 made the following recommendations:

(a) The secretariat should group activities by their similarity to reduce implementation costs;

(b) Parties that have not yet done so are requested to designate their national focal points and forward their names to the secretariat of the Convention.

32. The contact group recommended a prioritized workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/9).

4. Contact group 4: extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties; additional discussion on how to establish the secretariat; strategic framework for implementation of resolutions relevant to the functions of the Convention secretariat; branding identity for the Bamako Convention; new list of chemicals

33. The contact group proposed that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties should last three days and be financed by the States parties and the secretariat, which would mobilize additional funds for that purpose. It also proposed the creation of national platforms, taking into account the decisions of the Convention and making arrangements for hosting the secretariat in Mali. The group proposed to grant discharge to the secretariat to carry out activities for the implementation of the Convention. The group further called for Mali, as host country, to grant staff of the secretariat the status of international civil servants.

34. Regarding the brand identity of the Convention, the group considered all options and proposed to keep option 2 (c) of the brand identity but requested that changes be made to the triangle on the logo. It also requested that a team be established to take stock of the progress made by the Convention over the next two years and prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The work of the contact group is reflected in documents UNEP/BC/COP.2/3, UNEP/BC/COP.2/5, UNEP/BC/COP.2/7 and UNEP/BC/COP.2/10.

IV. Date and venue of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

35. Pursuant to rules 2, 3, 5 and 6 of its rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties decided that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be held in Brazzaville in February 2020. An extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be held in Khartoum in February 2019 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/2).

V. Miscellaneous

36. No issue was discussed under this item.

VI. Adoption of the report and conclusions of the meeting

37. The report of the meeting, as read by the representative of Ethiopia in his capacity as Rapporteur, was considered and unanimously adopted by the parties. The Rapporteur, supported by the secretariat, was given the responsibility of finalizing the report and circulating it to the parties. The Abidjan Declaration, as adopted, is set out in document UNEP/BC/COP.2/9.

38. The Conference of Parties at its second session adopted the following decisions, resolutions and declarations:

(a) Decision 2/1 entitled “The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa” (UNEP/BC/COP.2/1);

- (b) Decision 2/2 on parties' assessed contributions to the revolving fund for emergency situations (UNEP/BC/COP.2/2);
- (c) Decision 2/3 on the dates and venues of the third meeting and the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/BC/COP.2/3);
- (d) Decision 2/4 on synergies with other conventions and initiatives (UNEP/BC/COP.2/4);
- (e) Decision 2/5 on reviewing the arrangements for hosting the secretariat (UNEP/BC/COP.2/5);
- (f) Decision 2/6 on the prevention of electronic hazardous waste and the import and dumping of end-of-life waste electrical and electronic equipment in Africa (UNEP/BC/COP.2/6);
- (g) Decision 2/7 on the workplan, parties' assessed and estimated voluntary contributions and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/7);
- (h) Decision 2/8 on establishing a list of hazardous substances to be considered hazardous waste under article 2, paragraph 1 (d) (UNEP/BC/COP.2/8);
- (i) Abidjan Declaration on the Bamako Convention: A Platform for a Pollution-free Africa (UNEP/BC/COP.2/9);
- (j) Recommended prioritized workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/BC/COP.2/10);
- (k) Report 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 on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/BC/COP.2/11).

Other events

39. A presentation was made on the environmental audit report on the Probo Koala (see annex II to the present report).

VII. Conclusion of the meeting

A. Messages by participants

- 40. Before closing the meeting, the Chairperson, Ms. Anne Ouloto, invited participants (country parties, non-parties and observers) to make their closing remarks on item 10 of the agenda.
- 41. The representative of Mali congratulated all participants on the work accomplished and expressed her country's appreciation for the designation of Mali as the host of the Convention headquarters.
- 42. The representative of Cameroon expressed appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire as the host country of the meeting for revitalizing the Bamako Convention and urged all other countries to ensure that Africa did not serve as a hazardous waste dump.
- 43. The representative of Burundi thanked the outgoing and incoming Bureau members and reassured participants of the commitment of Burundi to promoting the Convention.
- 44. The representative of the Congo commended the leadership of the Bureau members, stressing the relevance of the theme as well as his country's determination to ensure that the decisions were implemented.
- 45. The representative of Gabon expressed appreciation to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, adding that the Conference had achieved convincing results as a result of the laudable determination of participants.
- 46. The representative of Senegal thanked the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Minister for the Environment of Mali, the country designated to host the headquarters of the Convention. She expressed her satisfaction at having participated in the meeting and said that her country had taken note of the decisions taken by the parties.
- 47. The representative of the Niger praised the leadership of the current and former Presidents of the Conference of the Parties, especially for their actions to revitalize the Convention.

48. The representative of Mauritius thanked the organizers and invited those States that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention. He also expressed the hope that the island States (Mauritius, Seychelles, Cabo Verde and the Comoros) would receive more attention.
49. The representative of Egypt commended the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for their hospitality and the successful organization of the meeting.
50. The representative of the Sudan thanked participants for the quality of deliberations and conclusions and looked forward to the next meeting in Khartoum.

B. Messages by observers

51. The representative of ECOWAS congratulated the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for the organization of the conference and reiterated the commitment of ECOWAS to working with all stakeholders. ECOWAS had taken note of the decisions adopted, particularly those related to regional organizations.
52. The representative of Sierra Leone said that she was impressed with the spirit and objectives of the Bamako Convention and that her country would join others in becoming a State party to the Convention.
53. The representative of the Basel Convention Regional Centre congratulated the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for its leadership in organizing the meeting. On behalf of the Directors of Regional Centres, she expressed her appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme for its involvement in capacity-building in the implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and other conventions.
54. Speaking on behalf of his Minister, the representative of the Gambia expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm of participants despite the challenges they faced. He noted that the momentum established around the convening of the Conference of the Parties deserved to continue.
55. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Juliette Biao Koudoukpo, Regional Director and representative of the United Nations Environment Programme Africa Office, expressed the belief that "toxic waste colonialism" should be brought to an end. She expressed her appreciation for the progress made by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting and recalled the high points, namely the commitment of delegates to making Africa a clean continent and to providing the Convention with a functional secretariat. She took note of the publication of encouraging results from the studies on the Probo Koala and indicated that the decisions of the conference were in line with the conclusions of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session, held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017. Ms. Koudoukpo concluded her statement by thanking the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire and the delegates for their commitment.
56. Finally, the Chairperson, Ms. Anne Ouloto, delivered the closing address of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention at 9.40 p.m. on Thursday, 1 February 2018.
57. In her closing address, she thanked the speakers, donors, participants and other stakeholders for the vast array of ideas and contributions they had provided to the conference. She stressed that the Convention signalled the willingness of Africans to protect their continent from hazardous waste and hailed the identification of innovative solutions to achieve a pollution-free Africa. Ms. Ouloto concluded by expressing pride in the continued interest of participants throughout the meeting.

Annex I

Report on credentials prepared by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

1. The Credentials Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) is composed of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, as stipulated in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, held in Bamako in 2013. Consequently, the Committee of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, led by its President and supported by the secretariat, was composed of representatives from the following Bureau member delegations: Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia and Tunisia.
2. Pursuant to rule 17 of the rules of procedure, each party at the Conference of the Parties is represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required. Furthermore, each party delegation is expected to submit its credentials with names of representatives and alternate representatives and advisers to the President of the Conference of the Parties before the session through the secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 1 of rule 18 of the rules of procedure.
3. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Committee examined the credentials submitted by delegations for the purposes of rules 17 and 18, as well as letters from representatives of observers composed of non-parties, regional organizations and the media participating at the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rules 61, 62, 63 and 64 of the rules of procedure.
4. On the basis of the information provided by the secretariat relating to the practice prevailing in other conferences of the parties, the Committee decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its plenary meeting that the following criteria be applied by the Committee in its examination of credentials and should govern the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the credentials submitted to it for the purposes of rule 17 and paragraph 1 of rule 18 of the rules of procedure:
 - (a) The credentials of a party’s delegation should be accepted if they were signed by that State’s Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs or if they were contained in a note verbale of that State’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Credentials signed or emanating from a communication from a minister other than the Minister for Foreign Affairs should not be accepted as credentials;
 - (b) A letter or other document of appointment submitted by a non-party’s representative to the secretariat by means of a letter, note verbale or signed email or facsimile will be accepted as credentials;
 - (c) A letter or other document of appointment submitted by an organization’s representative should be accepted as credentials if it is signed by the head (director general, secretary general or president) or deputy head or appropriate designated official of the organization;
5. The Committee decided to apply those criteria to the documents submitted, unless the Conference of the Parties, meeting in plenary, decided otherwise. Consequently, the Committee noted the following:
 - (a) The credentials (that is, credentials to participate in, negotiate in and adopt decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties) of the delegations of the following 17 parties had been submitted and reviewed: Benin, Burundi, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Of those, 13 credentials (Benin, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe) were considered to be fully admissible. Three credentials (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Tunisia) were copies and thus were provisionally accepted on the understanding that the respective parties would submit the originals to the secretariat soon after the conclusion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat was requested to remind them accordingly. One party (Burundi) submitted a travel authorization document, which could not be admitted as credentials. Five parties (Burkina Faso,

Cameroon, Comoros, Gabon and Libya) attended the meeting with no credentials or had not submitted their credentials to the secretariat for the review of the Committee.

(b) Credentials or letters were received and admitted from the following four non-party States: Angola, Central African Republic, Mauritania and Morocco.

(c) Letters or documents of appointment were received and admitted from representatives of the following two regional observer organizations: African Development Bank and Economic Community of West African States. One credential from the private sector (Ivoire Oilfield Services) was also received and admitted.

6. The Committee is proposing to the plenary that it accepts the credentials of the representatives of the parties and partners as referred to in paragraph 5 above. With regard to the credentials that have not yet been submitted or submitted in due form, the Bureau proposes that the plenary accepts the assurances given by the representatives concerned, on the understanding that their credentials, in conformity with rules 17 and 18 of the rules of procedure, will be submitted promptly to the Executive Secretary of the Bamako Convention soon after the conclusion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

7. The Credentials Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the present report of the Credentials Committee and include it in the report of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex II

Presentation of the audit report on the Probo Koala

1. The report, which was presented by Ms. Silja Halle, the Project Coordinator on Probo Koala of the United Nations Environment Programme, stated that none of the affected sites exceeded the limits for decontamination and that they no longer posed a danger to the population. Waste dumping by the ship Probo Koala in 2006 had affected 12 sites and 100,000 people and had resulted in the following government measures being taken to save the lives of the population:

- (a) School closures;
- (b) Prohibition of fishing activities in the lagoon;
- (c) Launching of clean-up processes;
- (d) Monitoring of affected sites.

2. An audit project was carried out in the following three phases:

- (a) Outlining;
- (b) Field work;
- (c) Laboratory analysis and report writing.

3. A total of 21 sites had been involved in the audit, including 18 sites that were examined as well as 3 control sites, and 130 samples had been taken. According to Ms. Halle, the work had shed light on the situation of other sites that had not been affected by the Probo Koala dumping, including a corn composting site in Agboville where chromium had been discovered; the Akouédo site, a municipal landfill showing signs of pollution; and a site in the Koumassi industrial zone affected by air and water pollution. The following are some of the recommendations stemming from the audit:

- (a) Close monitoring of the populations affected by the dumping of toxic waste in 2006 in order to determine whether public health measures still need to be taken;
- (b) Further evaluation and close monitoring of the Agboville site, maintaining restrictions on public access, and the installation of signs warning the public not to collect grass or vegetables growing on those lands;
- (c) Due diligence for the dismantling of the Akouédo municipal dump, which has long been under consideration for closure. In the meantime, the United Nations Environment Programme recommends that consideration be given to restrictions on use, particularly for on-site agriculture;
- (d) A comprehensive environmental assessment of the area as a basis for an action plan to mitigate public health impacts. The United Nations Environment Programme also urges the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure that workers have personal protective equipment and are trained in occupational health;
- (e) Examination of a representative selection of cases of origin;
- (f) Implementation of a health monitoring programme to understand and address the possible long-term health effects of exposure to toxic waste in 2006.

4. With regard to the recommendations, Ms. Halle and her team, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, were available to provide support to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

5. Following the presentation, Ms. Halle responded to concerns expressed by three delegates: the representative of Cameroon asked how the audit team had been able to distinguish between Probo Koala and household substances; the representative of Benin asked whether the adverse effects of the substances released by Probo Koala continued; and the representative of Senegal asked about the nature of the substances released. In response to the first question, Ms. Halle said that the results had been obtained through analyses carried out in accredited laboratories in Europe. In response to the second question, she said that to date none of the sites presented any danger to the population and that her mission did not have a mandate to determine the adverse effects and that it was the responsibility of the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire to turn to health experts regarding that issue. With regard to the third question, Ms. Anne Ouloto, Minister for Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire, responded by outlining the dumping scandal and the initiatives taken by her Government to improve the living conditions of the population. The initiatives taken included the following:

- (a) Closure of the Akouédo site;
 - (b) Clean-up mechanism for the Agboville and Koumassi sites;
 - (c) Creation of a watchdog committee, chaired by the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire;
 - (d) Creation of an interministerial committee within the framework of the Abidjan city sanitation programme.
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