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**Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for Cooperation in the
Protection and Development of the Marine
and Coastal Environment of the West
and Central African Region**

Addis Ababa, 26 November 1993

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region was convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), after consultation with the Chairman of the Steering Committee and of the Conference of Contracting Parties and in accordance with the resolution on institutional arrangements adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, held at Abidjan from 16 to 23 March 1981 (UNEP/IG.22/7). The meeting was held on 26 November 1993 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the offices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
2. The following Contracting Parties, as recorded in the report presented by the Depositary of the Convention (Côte d'Ivoire) at the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee on 25 November 1993, were all invited to attend the meeting: Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. The other States of the West and Central African region, as defined in article 1 of the Convention, were invited to participate in the meeting as observers. The international, intergovernmental and regional organizations concerned with the Action Plan for the West and Central African Region were also invited to the meeting as observers.
3. Representatives of the following Contracting Parties attended the meeting: Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal.
4. Representatives of Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Zaire participated in the meeting as observers.
5. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the meeting as observers: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the World Bank.
6. A full list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting was opened on 26 November 1993 at 9.30 a.m. by Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection of Senegal, Chairman of the meeting of the Contracting Parties, who welcomed the participants and thanked the Executive Director of UNEP for having convened the third meeting of the Contracting Parties as well as the Economic Commission for Africa for hosting the meeting.

Agenda item 2: Organization of the meeting

Agenda item 2.1: Rules of procedure

8. It was decided that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, adopted by the first meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Abidjan from 18 to 20 April 1985 (UNEP/IG.59/6, annex VI), would apply to the conduct of the meeting.

Agenda item 2.2: Election of the Bureau

9. The meeting decided that the session should be chaired by Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, with the election of a new Bureau under agenda item 8.

Agenda item 2.3: Organization of work

10. It was decided that the meeting would be held in plenary sessions only.

11. The meeting was conducted in English and in French. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in those languages. All the documentation for the meeting was available in English and French, with the exception of the information documents.

Agenda item 2.4: Credentials

12. The Bureau examined the credentials of the delegations attending the session and found them to be in order.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda

13. The Contracting Parties adopted the agenda, which is contained in annex II to the present report.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director of UNEP

14. Since the report of the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/4/Rev.1) had already been presented to and considered by the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee, held in Addis Ababa on 25 November 1993, the Chairman suggested that there was no need to reintroduce it at the current meeting. The suggestion was adopted by the Contracting Parties.

15. A full list of documents submitted to the meeting is contained in annex III to this report.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Chairman of the Steering Committee

16. Since the report of the Chairman of the Steering Committee had already been presented to the Steering Committee, the Chairman suggested to the Contracting Parties that they should move on to the next item. The suggestion was adopted by the meeting.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Depositary of the Convention

17. Since the report of the Depositary of the Convention had already been presented to the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee, the Chairman suggested to the Contracting Parties that there was no need to reintroduce it. The suggestion was adopted by the meeting.

Agenda item 7: Consideration of the report of the Steering Committee

18. Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, Chairman of the Steering Committee, introduced the report of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee (UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.4/3), held on 25 November 1993, including its recommendations to the third meeting of the Contracting Parties. The report is contained in annex V to the present report.

19. After considering the reports and recommendations of the Executive Director (UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/4/Rev.1), the Chairman of the Steering Committee (UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/3) and the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee (UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.4/3), the Conference took note of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and the Convention as well as of the financial arrangements to support the Action Plan and of the status of the Trust Fund, in particular, and decided:

(a) To endorse the evaluation of the past achievements and shortcomings in the implementation of the Action Plan contained in the report of the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/4/Rev.1);

(b) To urge all States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Abidjan Convention and its Protocol and to deposit their instruments of ratification or accession with the Depository of the Convention (Côte d'Ivoire);

(c) To cancel the outstanding pledged contributions of each of the States of the West and Central African region;

(d) To extend the Trust Fund until 31 December 1995;

(e) To grant Namibia the opportunity of contributing to the Trust Fund;

(f) To request UNEP to establish financial arrangements which would enable States to contribute to the Trust Fund in their national currency;

(g) To request States in the region to contribute to the Trust Fund on a voluntary basis during the period of transition 1994-1995;

(h) To request the Executive Director of UNEP to establish new modalities for the assessment of contributions by States, which would take into consideration their economic and financial situation and, for those States which had contributed in the past, the available balance of the Trust Fund as at 31 December 1993;

(i) To request the Executive Director of UNEP to take all necessary action, in particular

with the competent services of United Nations Headquarters in New York, for the signing of the headquarters agreement for the Regional Coordinating Unit and to consider any arrangement which would enable this Unit to operate at UNEP headquarters at Nairobi from the beginning of 1994 for a transitional period of not more than one year;

(j) To approve the evaluation of the past achievements and shortcomings in the implementation of the Action Plan, contained in the report of the Executive Director;

(k) To approve the orientation of the WACAF Action Plan described in paragraphs 82-84 of the Executive Director's report;

(l) To approve the recommendations regarding the Action Plan in the medium and short term contained in paragraphs 85-106 of the report of the Executive Director and in the paragraphs relating to agenda item 5.6 of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee;

(m) To request the Executive Director of UNEP to carry out actions in accordance with those recommendations in the framework of its oceans and coastal areas programmes for the period 1994-1995, in accordance with the priorities for the region as set forth under agenda item 5.1 of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee;

(n) To prepare for the eighth meeting of the Steering Committee in 1994 and the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee and the fourth meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1995;

(o) To contribute to the activities relating to seas and small island ecosystems agreed upon by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);

(p) To request the Bureau of the Steering Committee, with the assistance of the secretariat, to draw up detailed activity plans and corresponding budgets for the period leading up to the eighth meeting of the Steering Committee, in 1994.

Agenda item 8: Election of members of the Bureau and of the Steering Committee

20. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of Contracting Parties, the meeting elected the following Bureau:

Chairman: GHANA, represented by Mr. Farouk Brimah

First Vice-Chairman: GAMBIA, represented by Ms. Ndey Isatou Njie;

Second Vice-Chairman: GUINEA, represented by Mr. Gérard Coker

Rapporteurs: CAPE VERDE, represented by Mr. Horacio Silva Soares

NAMIBIA, represented by Mr. C. Brown

21. In accordance with Rule 25 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of Contracting Parties and paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Steering Committee, the Contracting Parties elected the following members of the Steering Committee:

Chairman: GHANA (Mr. Farouk Brimah)

First Vice-Chairman: GAMBIA (Ms. Ndey Isatou Njie)

Second Vice Chairman: GUINEA (Mr. Gérard Coker)

Rapporteurs: CAPE VERDE (Mr. Horacio Silva Soares)
NAMIBIA (Mr. C. Brown)

Members: Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Mauritania, Sao
Tome and Principe

22. Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily invited Mr. Farouk Brimah, the newly elected Chairman of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and of the Steering Committee, to preside over the conclusion of the third meeting of the Contracting Parties, conveying his most sincere congratulations and wishing him every success in representing the interests of all the countries of the West and Central African region in protecting and developing their marine and coastal environment.

23. The Chairman thanked Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily for his words of encouragement and, on behalf of all the participants at the meeting, thanked the ministers of environment of Senegal who, in turn, had presided over the Action Plan for West and Central Africa for their dedication to the region's future.

Agenda item 9: Other business

24. Several States registered their dissatisfaction with the physical organization of meetings of the Steering Committee and the Contracting Parties and the lack of time that the participants had had to discuss their environmental problems in greater depth.

Agenda item 10: Adoption of the report

25. The draft report was presented to the meeting by the Rapporteurs and it was adopted with amendments as reflected in the present document.

26. The secretariat was requested to finalize the report, making necessary editorial changes, and to distribute it as appropriate.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the meeting

27. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11 a.m. on 26 November.

Annex I

List of participants

A. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR
COOPERATION IN THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE
AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WEST AND
CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION

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Head of delegation

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SENEGAL

Head of delegation

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Head of delegation

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Annex II

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organization of the meeting:
 - 2.1 Rules of procedure;
 - 2.2 Election of the Bureau;
 - 2.3 Organization of work;
 - 2.4 Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report of the Executive Director of UNEP.
5. Report of the Depositary of the Convention.
6. Report of the Chairman of the Steering Committee.
7. Consideration of the report of the Steering Committee.
8. Election of members of the Bureau and of the Steering Committee.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

Annex III

List of documents

Working documents

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/1/Rev.1 | Provisional agenda |
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/2/Rev.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/3/Rev.1 | Report of the Chairman of the Steering Committee |
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/4/Rev.1 | Report of the Executive Director of UNEP |
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.4/3 | Report of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee for the Marine Environment of West and Central Africa |
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/5 | Report of the third meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (to be prepared during the meeting) |

Information documents -

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/Inf.1 Rev.1 | Rapport du Gouvernement de la Côte d'Ivoire, dépositaire de la Convention relative à la coopération en matière de protection et de mise en valeur du milieu marin et des zones côtières de la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre et du Protocole relatif à la coopération en matière de lutte contre la pollution en cas de situation critique: Etat de la Convention |
|----------------------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/Inf.2./Rev.1 | National contingency plans for the Gambia and Ghana - |
|-----------------------------------|---|

- UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/Inf.4/Rev.1 [Entitled - preliminary project document relating to coastal erosion in the West and Central African Region]
- UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/Inf.5/Rev.1 Coastal Erosion in the Gambia
- UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.5/Inf.6/Rev.1 WACAF Regional Coordinating Unit

Reference documents

- UNEP 1981 Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency. UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Protocols. UNEP, 1981
- UNEP 1983 Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No.27. UNEP, 1983
- UNEP 1988 Rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region
- UNEP/IG.59/6 Report of the first meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan, 18-21 April 1985)

UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.2/3

Report of the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee
for the Marine Environment of West and Central Africa

UNEP(OCA)/WACAF IG.3/5

Report of the second meeting of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and
Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of
the West and Central African Region

Annex IV

STATUS AS AT 25 NOVEMBER 1993 OF THE CONVENTION FOR COOPERATION
IN THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL
ENVIRONMENT OF THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION

AND THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING COOPERATION IN COMBATING POLLUTION IN
CASES OF EMERGENCY

Adopted: by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Cooperation in the
Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal
Environment of the West and Central African Region, Abidjan,
23 March 1981

Entry into force: 5 August 1984

Depositary: Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Secretariat: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

| Parties | Date of signature | Date of deposit of instruments | | Date of entry into force |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Angola | - | - | - | - |
| Benin | 23 March 1981 | - | - | - |
| Cameroun | - | Accession | 1 March 1983 | 5 August 1984 |
| Cape Verde | - | - | - | - |
| Congo | 23 March 1981 | Ratification | 19 December 1987 | 19 February 1988 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 23 March 1981 | Ratification | 15 January 1982 | 5 August 1984 |
| Equatorial Guinea | - | - | - | - |
| Gabon | - | Accession | 13 December 1988 | 11 February 1989 |
| Gambia | 23 March 1981 | | | |
| Ghana | 23 March 1981 | Ratification | 20 July 1989 | 18 September 1989 |
| Guinea | 23 March 1981 | Ratification | 4 March 1982 | 5 August 1984 |
| Guinea-Bissau | - | - | - | - |
| Liberia | 23 March 1981 | - | - | - |
| Mauritania | 22 June 1981 | - | - | - |
| Namibia | - | - | - | - |
| Nigeria | 23 March 1981 | Ratification | 6 June 1984 | 5 August 1984 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | - | - | - | - |
| Senegal | 23 March 1981 | Ratification | 10 May 1983 | 5 August 1984 |

Annex V

Report of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee
for the Marine Environment of West and Central Africa
