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African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Thirteenth session
Bamako, 21–25 June 2010

Report of the ministerial segment held from 23 to 25 June 2010

Introduction

1. The ministerial segment of the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the International Conference Centre in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010.
2. It was attended by representatives of AMCEN member States and representatives of African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The full list of participants at the thirteenth session may be found in document UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/6.

I. Opening of the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session

3. The opening ceremony began at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 June 2010, with an introduction by the master of ceremonies. That introduction was followed by a musical performance featuring Malian musicians and dancers.
4. Opening statements were made by Mr. Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico; Mr. Jonathan Pershing, special representative of the President of the United States of America; Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Environment of South Africa and President of AMCEN; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumujiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission; Mr. Idriss Ndele Moussa, President of the Pan-African Parliament; and Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of Mali.
5. In his statement, Mr. Elvira, referring to Mexico's role as the host nation of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, stressed that dialogue with Africa was vital because climate change affected the continent in every way. He expressed the hope that discussions in Cancún would put in place mechanisms for green growth and reinvigorate, deliver and mediate for specific actions for the coming years. The meeting was expected to provide a global and balanced package with renewed understanding between parties, increased levels of expertise and mutual respect. He stressed that the initiative to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including agriculture and land management (REDD-plus), could effectively eradicate poverty and that financial support must be made available, both immediately and over time.
6. In his statement, Mr. Pershing, acknowledging the agreement on the need for clean air, clean water and sustainable land use, not just for the present generation but also for those to come, stressed that all countries had a special responsibility to solve the pressing problems related to those issues and affirmed the commitment of the United States to helping Africa to overcome the challenges that it faced. United States policies on climate issues were not narrowly focused but took a synergistic approach, incorporating energy security, the creation of new jobs and the promotion of sustainable land management. Hailing the Copenhagen Accord as an unparalleled agreement, he said that it provided a forum for developed and developing countries to move forward together, to strengthen efforts to control emissions and radically to scale up financing. While there remained no full consensus on all aspects of the Accord, all the countries involved should hold themselves and one another accountable for fulfilling

their commitments and reviewing the adequacy of the Accord's long-term goal. He stressed that countries had differing responsibilities and capabilities and that all needed to use their voices to create a common vision to ensure a better future for the generations to come.

7. In her statement, the President of AMCEN outlined the progress made since the twelfth session of AMCEN and lauded the accomplishments over that period, including the development of the African common negotiating position in the climate change talks. The development of the Africa comprehensive framework on climate change programmes constituted a first-ever attempt to provide a coordinated response for the continent and would put Africa in a position to achieve optimum results in adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer throughout the continent. Looking to other areas, she said that synergies between the Rio conventions should be accorded prominence in the AMCEN programme of work and that linkages should be made with other multilateral environmental agreements. She urged Africa to retain its united position on the issue of access and benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity and welcomed the expected establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services as a means of strengthening the science-policy interface and generating and sharing knowledge. She emphasized the urgency of dealing with the challenges faced by AMCEN and the importance of the process of integration between the African Union Commission and AMCEN. It was the responsibility of AMCEN to provide the leadership to convert public will into political will and political will into action, always bearing in mind that the priority for Africa was poverty alleviation.

8. Mr. Steiner, in his statement, remarked on the anomalous situation of Africa: while the continent had little influence on the world stage, with its population of 1 billion and immense natural wealth it represented a huge resource and not just a challenge, and the rest of the world had yet to come to terms with that reality. He called upon African ministers to resist the thinking that Africa had always to be the passive recipient in global transactions and that progress must always occur at the expense of the environment. In that context, he predicted that in years to come ministers of environment would be among the most powerful ministers in any cabinet as they would be the ones defining economic choices. Reviewing successful projects mounted in Africa, including the rejuvenation of the Lake Faguibine ecosystem in Mali, he expressed the hope that the green economy initiative would be pioneered on the continent.

9. Given that natural resources were dwindling, food security threatened and the very future of the planet itself placed in jeopardy, he said that business as usual was emphatically no longer an option and called upon African ministers to take the lead in such issues as REDD, climate change and biodiversity. The voice of Africa, he said, must be clearly heard at the major forthcoming environment meetings, bringing solutions and rejecting excuses not to act. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, Africa would stand proud as the pioneer of climate change innovations and solutions. He stated his belief that the next set of global environmental governance instruments would be shaped in Africa.

10. In her statement, Ms. Peace Tumusiime drew attention to the increasingly complex challenges being faced by Africa that demanded urgent action from its best technological minds and international partners. The environment being the very source of Africa's livelihood, environmental pollution, together with drought and flooding, affected health and reduced productivity and growth. To reverse the trends of climate change and climate variability and alleviate their impacts, Africa needed to shift the emphasis towards the green economy, for which resources would be required. She called for Africa to design new tools and to take new initiatives, treating climate change as a challenge and indeed as an emergency, given that the very survival of Africans was at stake. It was essential to strike a balance between agriculture and climate change. In establishing a united front on crucial issues, Africa was also working towards developing a disaster risk reduction agenda. In conclusion, she drew attention to the status of AMCEN as a specialized technical committee of the African Union, noting that the modalities of its operation would be discussed during the current session.

11. Mr. Ndele Moussa, in his statement, examined the role of the Pan-African Parliament in relation to climate change. He said that, once the Parliament had become a body with legislative powers, in 2011, it would be in a position to help meet the challenges of climate change in the context of its core business of dealing with issues related to democracy, good governance, environment and human rights. On the issue of the environment, he noted that climate change spelled disaster, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children. Biodiversity issues affected food production and security, raising the issues of biotechnology and genetically modified crops. The Parliament, as part of its supervisory and legislative role, would help to enforce the implementation of programmes against degradation, a significant issue currently afflicting Africa. He stressed that, following the disappointing outcome of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, a common African position needed to be upheld, and the Parliament would assist in the matter.

12. Following the delivery of opening statements, there was a musical interlude. Following that interlude, Mr. Touré was awarded a special prize by UNEP for his services to the environment.

13. Accepting the award, Mr. Touré gave a statement in which he congratulated Africa on the successful football World Cup competition being held in South Africa, describing the hosting of the event as a prize in itself. Speaking of his award, he professed himself touched but said that there were many who deserved it as much as he, notably the young people of Mali, in addition to those involved in the water and forestry sectors. He spoke of the role of Africa in raising awareness of climate change and, in particular, the extremely important role of the ministers of environment. He went on to highlight the pressing issue of desertification, offering a personal experience of how that phenomenon had made inroads over the past 50 years, but deploring that climate change was robbing Africa not only of its land, rivers and crops, but also of its associated cultural heritage. Addressing the continent's young people, who represented the future, he said that they must become eco-warriors in daily life, ensuring that all development activities had an environmental component. Noting that the current session provided an opportunity to reaffirm Africa's common positions and to work together for its future negotiations with the rest of the world, he saluted the work of AMCEN in support of African efforts to reverse the adverse effects of climate change. He declared the session officially open at 6.15 p.m.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

14. The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2010-2012:

| Subregion | Country | Position |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Central Africa | Chad | Vice-President |
| Eastern Africa | United Republic of Tanzania | Vice-President |
| North Africa | Algeria | Vice-President |
| Southern Africa | Malawi | Vice-President |
| West Africa | Mali | President |

15. Mr. Tiémoko Sangaré, Minister of Environment and Sanitation of Mali, on assuming the presidency, congratulated Ms. Sonjica on her sterling work as President of AMCEN. He said that the rich and compelling debates that had taken place under the auspices of AMCEN were of crucial importance for the future of Africa and, indeed, the planet. He drew attention to the presence of representatives of the European Union, Mexico, the United States and UNEP at the current session as evidence of Africa's growing solidarity with the international community. He referred to the significant progress made towards a common African position on access and benefit-sharing, underlining the importance in that regard of capacity-building in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and drawing attention to the importance for Africa of adaptation and the need for appropriate national arrangements to manage adaptation funds. In conclusion, he invited all representatives to attend the first African Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in Bamako in November 2010.

B. Adoption of the agenda

16. The representatives adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/AMCEN/13/1):

1. Opening of the thirteenth session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.

3. Consideration of the report on the implementation of the decisions of the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
4. Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting.
5. Ministerial policy dialogue on aspects of the implementation of the Rio conventions:
 - (a) Climate change: international climate regime beyond 2012;
 - (b) International regime on access and benefit-sharing;
 - (c) Desertification.
6. Consideration of matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process:
 - (a) Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (b) Amendments to the draft constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (c) Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union and related matters.
7. Venue for the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
8. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment.
9. Other matters.
10. Closure of the session.

C. Organization of work

17. The President of AMCEN introduced the draft programme of work and the list of documents for the ministerial segment contained in annexes I and II to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/AMCEN/13/1/Add.1).

III. Consideration of the report on the implementation of the decisions of the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

18. Mr. Peter Acquah, AMCEN Secretary, reported on implementation over the biennium 2008-2010 of the eight decisions adopted by AMCEN at its twelfth session, in 2008. With regard to decision 1 of that session, on the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), he reviewed the six thematic areas identified in which work should be undertaken as a priority and recalled that, in the light of the need to prepare a consolidated African position for the negotiations on climate change in 2010, there had been a paradigm shift to a focus on climate change over the biennium. He explained that, following a meeting convened by the President of AMCEN and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility on the TerrAfrica-Global Environment Facility strategic investment programme for sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa in Ouagadougou on 24 and 25 April 2007, \$150 million in grant funding from the land degradation focal area had been allocated to support sub-Saharan countries during the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in advancing programmatic approaches to scale up climate-resilient sustainable land management practices, which in turn was helping to leverage an additional \$880 million in co-financing from a variety of sources.

19. With regard to the implementation of the marine, coastal and freshwater resources component of the action plan, he said that that thematic area continued to be implemented through the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions. Implementation took place under the four main themes – assessment, management, coordination and legal aspects – and taking into account cross-cutting issues, such as information dissemination and exchange and emerging issues. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme formed part of the overarching implementation framework. Over the period 2008–2010 the Programme had continued to assist the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions to respond to the

need for more effective management of coastal and marine ecosystems under increasing threat of degradation attributed to both natural and human-caused factors. The Programme had directed efforts towards enhancing the technical, legal and management capacities of African coastal States, including small island developing States, for the sustainable management of the environment of the Western Indian and Atlantic oceans. He also made brief presentations on the work undertaken in cross-cutting areas of the action plan, such as sustainable consumption and production; environment and health; and environmental impact assessment.

20. With regard to decision 2, on climate change, he highlighted achievements in the areas of updating the African common negotiating position, capacity-building, the development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, the forging of partnerships and the mobilization of resources. Looking to decision 3, on the constitution of AMCEN, he explained that the issue had been deferred since the Conference's eleventh session, pending the final evolution of its various structures, and that a decision would be submitted at the current session on a proposed way forward. On decision 4, on the status and use of the general trust fund, he said that every effort was being made to mobilize resources and forge partnerships to implement the decisions of the twelfth session and the work programme for the biennium 2009–2010. While those efforts had enabled work on climate change to be undertaken effectively, the implementation of the AMCEN work programme continued to be limited by financial constraints.

21. He said that, by its decision 5, on chemicals and hazardous waste management, AMCEN had taken cognizance of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, among others. Of the 234 project proposals submitted to the Strategic Approach secretariat for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund over the first eight rounds of applications, 100 projects had been approved for total funding of \$20,265,064. In addition, 63 projects had been recommended for further development and resubmission. With regard to decision 6, on environmental education and technology-supported learning, he said that the backbone of the Pan-African e-Learning for Environment Network had been established and 18 countries were participating. Capacity development and training had been conducted, as had awareness-raising activities.

22. Regarding decision 7, on Africa Environment Day he said that the eighth Africa Environment Day, in 2010, had been celebrated in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, under the theme of "African resilience to climate change: biodiversity conservation and enhancing traditional knowledge". The occasion had been marked by celebrations and meetings placing special emphasis on the application of science to combat the threats posed by climate change. The initiative to reduce emissions from forest deforestation and forest degradation had been a key topic considered. Both events had been well attended by dignitaries and key stakeholders. With regard to decision 8, on the Africa Environment Outlook process, he said that Kenya and Uganda had received support in producing their national environment atlases and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was also receiving support in that regard. He drew attention to the fact that work on the third edition of the Africa Environment Outlook report was progressing, with greater emphasis being laid on the nexus between health and environment. The work was being carried out by UNEP in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO).

23. Recalling that the implementation of the action plan had been under way for some seven years and that the AMCEN secretariat had been at the forefront of that process and noting that the current session would be his last in his capacity as AMCEN Secretary, he took the opportunity to acknowledge the many partners who had lent assistance and paid tribute to the architects of the action plan, recognizing, in particular, the contribution of Mr. Mohamed Sessay, Regional Coordinator for Africa for Land Degradation within the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, who had worked on its development since 2002.

24. In the ensuing discussion, representatives commended the secretariat on its work. Reviewing the issues arising in the report, they stressed the need for Africa to speak with one voice at the forthcoming climate change negotiations in Cancún and expressed appreciation to the Government of Algeria for championing the continent's cause in Copenhagen. One representative rued what he perceived as the discord within the African camp in Copenhagen, which, in his view, had undermined its position. Another voiced the opinion that Copenhagen, while a failure at the global level, had not been a total failure for Africa as it had demonstrated the continent's common resolve. Yet another suggested that African positions in the continued negotiations should be harmonized with those of other regions that shared its concerns.

25. A number of representatives voiced concern at the predominant focus on climate change, which was diverting attention from other important environmental issues, and called for the restitution of balanced coverage for the six thematic areas of work. Greater attention should be paid to such issues of

crucial importance to Africa as land degradation and desertification; the transboundary nature of environmental challenges; the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and the need to balance environmental conservation imperatives with efforts to combat poverty and achieve necessary economic growth; the need to take account of vulnerable groups and post-conflict countries in developing environmental actions; the need to mainstream gender considerations in environmental work; the importance of national adaptation programmes of action; the development of carbon trading frameworks to benefit from enhanced conservation; progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals; the need to forge partnerships with United Nations agencies and, in general, with relevant intergovernmental, international non-governmental and civil society bodies; and the need for awareness-raising, outreach and environmental education.

26. A number of representatives drew attention to the fact that work in all the areas enumerated would require considerable financial resources and therefore urged member States to pay their contributions to the general trust fund of AMCEN to enable the Conference to scale up its work and also tackle the perennial financial constraints facing it.

27. One representative stressed the need for a firm African stance in the negotiations on an international regime for access and benefit-sharing and expressed support for the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services which, he said, should be hosted alongside UNEP. Another noted the importance of the theme for the current session, which went beyond climate change and invoked synergies between the three Rio conventions; a third suggested that the link between biodiversity and desertification should underpin the African partnership in Cancún, which could serve as a model for other countries. Several drew attention to the initiative to create a great green wall for the Sahara and the Sahel and cited forthcoming desertification-related events in their countries.

28. Two representatives commented on the operation of AMCEN itself: they applauded its growth and development over the 25 years of its existence but suggested improvements to its workings and institutional structures, citing the need for better communications and more time for consultation among its Bureau members prior to its sessions. One representative expressed concern at the plethora of environmental instruments and forums, suggesting a need to streamline the operation of international environmental affairs. Another highlighted the need, when reviewing the Conference's institutional structures, to ensure that they matched the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. Yet another, cautioning against overburdening the African Union Commission with too many responsibilities, suggested the establishment of a dedicated commission under the African Union on the environment. Some drew attention to the issue of funding, pointing out the need to ensure that the secretariat was endowed with the resources that it needed to perform its mandate. In that context, one representative pledged to settle her country's arrears to the trust fund upon her return home and called upon her colleagues with arrears to do likewise.

29. Many representatives called for African negotiators to shape a common vision and to send forth a strong message from Bamako, one suggesting that the declaration to be issued at the close of the current session should be used to secure the stronger involvement in environmental activities of ministers of finance while others, highlighting the importance of turning challenges into opportunities, reiterated the importance for the continent of speaking with a united and strong voice.

30. In response to some of those observations, Ms. Peace Tumusiime endorsed representatives' call for the strengthened provision of resources to secure the operation of the AMCEN secretariat, with which the African Union Commission cooperated closely. She also supported the call by a number of representatives for a strengthened focus on desertification control activities and drew attention to a decision on that issue by African Union Heads of State and Government. Lastly, she highlighted the need for partnerships with all relevant agencies and called for the closer involvement and empowerment of women in efforts to safeguard the environment.

31. In conclusion, the Chair, endorsing the call for strengthened resources to support the operation of the AMCEN secretariat, suggested the formulation of a resource strategy that included elements on the mobilization, management and use of resources and on access to resources.

32. The representatives adopted the AMCEN Secretary's report.

IV. Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting

33. Mr. Fundisile Mketeni, Chair of the expert group segment held from 21 to 23 June 2010, presented the report of the segment, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/13/3, drawing attention to

the salient points in the group's deliberations and introducing the draft declaration and decisions prepared by the experts and submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the ministers. He noted that an interim draft indicative work programme of AMCEN for 2011–2012 prepared by the secretariat had been welcomed during the expert group segment, with the understanding that a more comprehensive indicative work programme would be prepared after the review of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD had been completed.

34. The representatives adopted the report of the expert group meeting.

V. Ministerial policy dialogue on aspects of the implementation of the Rio conventions

A. Climate change: international climate regime beyond 2012

35. Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, chair, Africa group of climate negotiators, gave a presentation on aspects of the negotiations regarding the international climate change regime beyond 2012, in which he evoked Africa's vulnerability to climate change caused by greenhouse-gas emissions, for which it bore little responsibility, and the potential impacts resulting from higher temperatures and rising sea levels. He highlighted the need for verified scientific data in support of Africa's position. While Africa remained fully committed to the two track approach, there was a move on the part of Annex I parties to maintain a single pledge based approach. That served to reinforce the need for Africa to pursue what he referred to as a "top-down" science-based approach.

36. Although Africa could adopt some mitigation actions, adaptation was the preferred option, through an adaptation fund and compliance mechanisms, which should be financed by developed countries' contributions. Those had to date had proved inadequate and, indeed, funds pledged at Copenhagen had yet to be disbursed. Africa must persist in its efforts to obtain more funds, he stressed.

37. In conclusion, he considered the prospects for Cancún and beyond. Given the failure of Copenhagen, it was likely that the Mexico negotiations would have very limited success, although Africa could hope for more at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in South Africa in 2011. It was imperative that the Annex I parties should not scale down their commitment; at the same time, Africa needed to ensure that there was a balanced and realistic approach, ensuring that some concepts, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), were not favoured at the expense of others and that there would be an adequate total package on the basis of a multilateral approach, leading to balanced outcomes under both tracks. There was a need to identify transparent modalities for African participation at all levels and to affirm support for a science-based rather than pledge-based approach. Clear benchmarks for negotiations must be established during 2010

38. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives emphasized the importance of securing the accession of all developed countries to a legally binding regime. In that regard, most representatives felt that the United States, given that climate change legislation was deadlocked in that country's Senate, was not yet ready to accede to any legally binding instrument on climate change and that, as long as the United States was not party to the treaty, it was unlikely that the Cancún negotiations would lead to a legally binding outcome. A number of representatives pointed out that it could be some time before the United States was ready to accede to binding legislation. They therefore argued that Africa should not allow itself to be held hostage by those reticent to ratify, including the United States, and should push for a legally binding framework in any case. The threats posed by climate change were real and the survival of Africa and its peoples were at stake. There was, they said, a need to act, and a legally binding framework would be most fitting in that regard. Most representatives said that Africa would do well to consider ways to achieve a legally binding instrument in the long term.

39. Several representatives emphasized the importance of maintaining the two-track system under the Convention's two working groups, with all those who took the floor of the view that the Kyoto Protocol should not be abandoned, the efforts of some developed countries to do away with it notwithstanding. They also said that it was crucial to push for a second commitment period for Annex I parties under the Protocol. Representatives differed in their views when it came to the emissions by some developing countries, such as Brazil, China and South Africa, and no consensus could be reached in that regard.

40. Looking to temperature reduction targets, many representatives of least developed countries suggested that emissions should be capped at such a level that any temperature rise would not exceed

1.5° C. Representatives generally agreed that, whatever the eventual target set, the equivalent temperature experienced in Africa would be much higher than in other parts of the world, as Africa was the continent most vulnerable to the harmful effects of climate change, a reality already evident from the various negative climate phenomena bedevilling the continent. Where funding for mitigation and adaptation activities was concerned, some representatives suggested that at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of developed countries should be channelled to developing countries through public funding.

41. Several representatives stressed the importance of communication with Heads of State and Governments in the negotiating process. Given that there were many bodies, organizations and stakeholders involved, it was essential to ensure that the leaders of all countries were apprised of developments so that they were able to react swiftly and also to provide their own input into the process. A number of representatives bemoaned the mixture of politics and science, pointing out that it was harming equitable allocation. In that context, representatives emphasized the importance of taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

42. A number of representatives called for nationally appropriate, voluntary mitigation actions and national adaptation programmes of action to be taken and prepared, respectively, with a view to improving the continent's chances in efforts to combat the scourge of climate change.

B. International regime on access and benefit-sharing

43. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment of Namibia, gave an overview of the status of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing. Following that presentation, Ms. Betty Kauna Schroder (Namibia) presented the African common position for the negotiations of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, as adopted at the pan-African ministerial conference on access and benefit-sharing held in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010.

44. The representative of Gabon announced that his country had undertaken to host a meeting of African ministers of environment, finance and economy, on aspects of the international regime, with a view to the forthcoming tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

45. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives welcomed the presentation, saying that it showed the existence of proven expertise in Africa. One representative suggested that the negotiations should also cover genetic resources acquired before the international regime on access and benefit-sharing came into force.

46. One representative proposed that an internationally recognized certificate to accompany goods and ensure the traceability of finished products should be incorporated into the African common position on access and benefit-sharing. Another asked what additional work had been undertaken beyond engaging negotiating groups. He stressed that the strategy should incorporate both civil society and the private sector and said that negotiations must involve regional and subregional parties and the United Nations.

C. Desertification

47. Mr. Boubacar Cisse, Regional Coordination Unit for Africa, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, delivered a message from the Executive Secretary of the Convention. In his message, the Executive Secretary reviewed the history of the Convention and the scale of its implementation by the parties. He elaborated on the 10-year strategy for 2008–2018 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, which focused on such areas as advocacy, awareness-raising, public involvement, knowledge management, capacity-building and resource mobilization, and drew attention to the importance, for the attainment of the strategy's objectives, of effective partnerships with all stakeholders, including AMCEN. Regretting that issues of land degradation were not receiving due attention at the national level, he called for the link with land degradation and desertification to be included as a priority in multilateral environmental negotiations, such as those currently under way in the area of climate change.

VI. Consideration of matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process

A. Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

48. The AMCEN Secretary introduced the item, drawing attention to the draft decision on the issue. In the ensuing discussion, representatives highlighted the need to ensure that the trust fund was adequately resourced and suggested that a strong appeal should be addressed to member States, which could be directed to ministers for foreign affairs in addition to those of environment.

49. The representatives adopted the decision on the status of the general trust fund of AMCEN which had been forwarded to them by the expert group for their consideration. The text of the decision may be found in annex II to the present report.

B. Amendments to the draft constitution of the African Ministerial conference on the Environment

C. Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union and related matters

50. The representatives agreed to consider the above sub-items at the same time.

51. Following an introduction by the AMCEN Secretary, representatives considered the future status and location of AMCEN and its secretariat. Many pointed out that, over the 25 years of its existence, AMCEN had developed its own expertise and standing in the international community, its own rules of procedure and its own constitution. They therefore suggested that it should remain as a distinct and separate specialized technical committee since the scope of activities to be covered under the current arrangement was too broad in scope. They pointed to the danger of the issues of environment losing prominence and being overshadowed by the more dominant questions of agriculture, should the secretariat be subsumed under the African Union Commission. A number of representatives also called for the establishment of a department of environment and climate change within the African Union Commission in view of the huge threat that environmental degradation, particularly climate change, was posing to the continent.

52. Many representatives expressed the view that the AMCEN secretariat should remain part of UNEP, expressing their appreciation for and satisfaction with the work being undertaken by the secretariat and AMCEN. They pointed out that the location of the secretariat at UNEP gave it strategic advantage, as Nairobi was, in a manner of speaking, the environmental capital of the world. Keeping AMCEN in Nairobi would help to ensure that it was recognized, both regionally and internationally. One representative pointed out that, even after 25 years, its work on the environment was still not mainstreamed in that of the African Union and there was good cause to wonder why. Others pointed out also that AMCEN did not play a political role: the political side of its work could be performed by the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa – the political nerve centre of Africa. In sum, all representatives who took the floor favoured the maintenance of the AMCEN secretariat at UNEP, although two representatives suggested that that arrangement should be considered provisional, pending the establishment of AMCEN as a specialized technical committee under the African Union in its own right.

53. One representative noted that, at the Copenhagen negotiations, the African Union Commission and AMCEN had been working on somewhat divergent agendas and that there was a clear need then, as now, for better coordination between them, to translate scientific knowledge into political positions. All representatives taking the floor agreed on the need for enhanced channels of communication between the two bodies and a range of proposals to that end were put forward, including the establishment of a task force to consider the appropriate mechanism to be developed. Some representatives proposed the establishment of a new structure that would serve as a liaison office with the Commission; others cautioned against the creation of new bodies which might bring no added value and suggested instead using existing structures to ensure closer interaction between the governing bodies – for example, by inviting the President of AMCEN to attend the African Union meetings of Heads of State and Government.

54. In response to some of those comments and observations, Ms. Peace Tumusiime outlined the ramifications of institutionalizing AMCEN into the structures and systems of the African Union. She explained that the decisions to establish specialized technical committees under the Commission were taken by the member States themselves, and not by the Commission. Acknowledging the concerns voiced by representatives regarding the need for a more effective interface between the Commission and AMCEN, she suggested that discussions on the issue should focus more on how to ensure that the issues dealt with by AMCEN were mainstreamed into the African Union's work. She gave assurances that all those issues were important to the Heads of State of the African Union and that there was no move to replace AMCEN with another body. She also pointed out that other sectors – such as finance, trade and health – were covered in the African Union by specialized technical committees and that a close interface with the African Union was vital for all of them. Accordingly, she said, the Commission and AMCEN should work together to ensure that closer interface.

55. The representatives adopted, as orally amended, the decision on the AMCEN constitution which had been forwarded to them by the expert group for their consideration. The text of the decision may be found in annex II to the present report.

VII. Venue for the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

56. The representative of the group of East African countries informed the representatives that, following consultations between East African States, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania had offered to host the fourteenth session of AMCEN.

57. The Conference confirmed by acclamation the selection of the United Republic of Tanzania as the host country for the fourteenth session of AMCEN.

VIII. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

58. On the evening of Friday, 25 June 2010, the representatives adopted the report of the ministerial segment on the basis of the draft report which had been circulated in the meeting, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the secretariat, working in conjunction with the Rapporteur.

IX. Other matters

A. Presentation on legal aspects of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

59. Mr. Dan Bondi Ogolla, Chief Legal Adviser, Legal Affairs Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, gave a presentation on legal aspects of the Convention and the continuing negotiations. He first considered the differences between legally binding and non-binding commitments and actions, before looking at how any post-2012 regime might be shaped. He reviewed which developments would constitute legally binding outcomes and those that could be developed through decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which were not legally binding in nature. He concluded by setting out four scenarios for the post-2012 regime and the advantages and disadvantages of each: a new protocol to the Convention that would supersede the Kyoto Protocol; two legal instruments running in parallel, namely, the Kyoto Protocol and another instrument under the Convention; a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol; and decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the meeting of the Parties.

B. Presentation on preparations for Cancún

60. Mr. Elvira gave a presentation on preparations for Cancún, in which he explained that one of the core strategies of his Government was to rebuild trust in multilateralism and the United Nations system by bringing new and innovative ideas into the Framework Convention on Climate Change process. The Government had been providing the chairs of the two working groups with opportunities to undertake informal consultations on such subjects as financing and mitigation. The President of Mexico was deeply involved in the process, and consultations were continuing at all levels to ensure the involvement of as many sectors and groups as possible. In that regard, the Government was seeking to bring together various ministries, given that climate change was cross-cutting in nature and could not be tackled by

one ministry alone. The Government was also doing its utmost to make the summit as inclusive as possible and to ensure that it served as an excellent opportunity for interaction with all stakeholders. In conclusion, he took issue with comments bandied around that there was little hope of a significant achievement in Cancún, arguing that even a legally binding outcome could not be ruled out and that the Government's expectations were high.

C. Presentation on synergies between the Rio conventions

61. Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, an independent consultant, gave a presentation on promoting synergies between the Rio conventions. He said that there was a direct relationship between the issues that formed the basis of the conventions and stressed that biodiversity had the capacity to reverse the harmful effects of climate change. He also drew attention to the importance of poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

62. In the ensuing discussion, one representative highlighted the need to invest in adaptation measures. He said that collaboration between partners on adaptation was necessary to protect shared resources and to ensure peace and stability between neighbouring countries. Several representatives highlighted the importance of promoting synergies between the Rio conventions to protect natural resources and combat the negative effects of climate change and expressed their commitment to the fundamental objectives of the three conventions. One representative referred to the financial mechanisms under the conventions, which allowed for specific allocation to the three areas covered by those conventions, and called upon partners to seize the opportunity to develop projects to promote synergies between them. Others highlighted the need to reach out to communities to preserve and demonstrate the economic importance of biodiversity.

D. Presentation on an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services

63. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, gave a presentation on the outcomes of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services, which had taken place in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010 and had culminated in the Busan outcome, whereby Governments had agreed to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services, pending a decision of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. He requested the representatives to endorse that outcome during the current session.

E. Invited statements

1. Statement by the Minister of Environment of France

64. Mr. Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of Environment, Energy, Sustainable Development and Seas of France, spoke of the climate change negotiations, noting the ambiguous nature of the Copenhagen Accord: whether it had been a success or a failure was a moot point. Conceding that the Accord had been the best outcome that negotiators could achieve under the circumstances prevailing at that time, he stressed the need to take advantage of Cancún as an opportunity to operationalize the commitments reached in Copenhagen and called upon AMCEN and its constituent ministers to play a decisive role in achieving that outcome.

2. Statements by the representatives of regional economic communities

65. Ms. Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, assured the representatives of Europe's commitment to maintaining ties with the continent. She said that it was imperative to achieve an international climate agreement under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. While conceding that the outcome of Copenhagen had been disappointing on many levels, she suggested that it had not been without its successes. The industrialized world had made specific financial pledges; now the money needed to be made available swiftly. She warned that, should Cancún not deliver, there was a risk of the entire process simply collapsing. In that regard, the United States could bolster the process by committing itself to actions under the Convention. She called upon the representatives to consider adaptation measures and to deliver on specific methods. She concluded by welcoming the adoption of the African common position on climate change.

66. Mr. Bougonou K. Djeri-Alassani, speaking on behalf of the President of the Economic Community of West African States, reported that the Community's ministers of environment had, on 18 March 2010 in Accra, adopted a strategic action framework to reduce vulnerability and adapt to climate change in West Africa. A subregional consultation to analyse the decisions arising from the

current session would take place from 2 to 6 August 2010. He drew attention to the second round of negotiations in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, noting that the regional African consultation meeting scheduled to be held in Libreville in September would allow the issue of biological technical risk prevention and reparation to be discussed prior to the adoption of the negotiating text at the tenth meeting. In conclusion, he called upon representatives to attend in large numbers the first African Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in Bamako in November 2010.

67. Ms. Margaret Nyirenda, Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that SADC had been cooperating closely with the AMCEN secretariat in many areas, including the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD, which had been endorsed by SADC ministers, and the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes. She assured the AMCEN secretariat and the regional economic communities of the continued support of SADC for the various processes under way.

3. Statement by the representative of the African Ministers' Council on Water

68. The AMCEN Secretary delivered a message on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the African Ministers' Council on Water, saying that water resources management should be integrated into the climate change negotiations; that the Adaptation Fund should also include water resources; and that the Council should be invited to join the group of African negotiators in its work.

4. Statement by the representative of the World Health Organization

69. Mr. Lucien Manga, WHO, welcoming the Bamako Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development, reaffirmed WHO commitment to working with all relevant partners to redress health inequalities as a contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. He considered the acknowledged health risks and negative impacts resulting from climate change and climate variability, which were extremely difficult to eradicate or to reverse. Efforts to combat those threats would require cooperation between sectors and organizations and, in that context, he reported that, following the adoption of the Libreville Declaration in 2008 on the creation of a health and environment strategic alliance, WHO had established an inter-agency team with UNEP to support implementation of the declaration.

70. He further reported that resolution WHA61.19, adopted at the Sixty-first World Health Assembly, calling upon the Director-General of WHO to engage in a number of activities that would draw attention to the issues of global health and climate change, had resulted in a comprehensive review of the national adaptation programmes of action of 28 African countries. The conclusions of the review had established that the interventions were inadequate with regard to supporting resilience processes and protecting against the negative impacts of climate change in Africa. He went on to propose some recommendations on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration pertaining to impact assessment, integrated surveillance and the strengthening of health systems.

5. Statement by the representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

71. Mr. Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, Convention on Biological Diversity, looking ahead to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, urged the conferences of the parties to the Rio conventions to develop joint activities and, possibly, a joint work programme with common targets and indicators and, potentially, harmonized reporting. He stressed that significant energy was needed for the implementation of the decisions taken at the current session, perhaps even more so than for negotiating efforts, pointing out that funds were available, including in the Global Environment Facility. He concluded by saying that the secretariat would list the current session among the key activities undertaken as part of the International Year of Biodiversity and called for the world to feel responsible for human actions and impacts on biodiversity and to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss, including, in particular, climate change and land degradation.

6. Statement by the representative of civil society organizations

72. Mr. Augustine B. Njamnshi, representing civil society organizations, drew attention to the challenges faced by those who had been working day and night to craft a unified African position on the climate change negotiations, comparing their struggle to those of the African leaders who had achieved independence for their countries. He said that the new struggle facing Africa was that to combat the effects of climate change, expressing the support of civil society organizations for AMCEN in making concerted efforts to champion the interests of poor communities.

X. Closure of the session

73. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the ministerial segment and the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment closed at 10.15 p.m. on Friday, 25 June 2010.

Annex I

Bamako Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

Recognizing and appreciating the Conference's contribution in providing political guidance and leadership on environmental management to Africa since its creation in 1987 in Cairo,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Global Environment Facility and other partners for environmental programmes in Africa,

Expressing appreciation for the role of all partners, including the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in supporting the African regional preparatory process for the eighteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, at which representatives considered the thematic cluster on chemicals, waste management, transport, mining and sustainable consumption and production,

Mindful that the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development will focus at its twentieth session on, among other matters, the thematic cluster of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains, to which Africa should provide collective inputs and in which it should participate effectively,

Mindful also that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and that Africa will need to embark on a regional preparatory process to that end to ensure the continent's readiness and effective participation,

Recognizing the need to take advantage of the opportunities provided by a growth and development trajectory that embraces the green economy model,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 6, on environmental education and technology-supported learning, of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its twelfth session,

Acknowledging the outcomes of the summit of Heads of State and Government of sub-Saharan countries related to the creation of a Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel pan-African agency, held in N'Djamena from 15 to 17 June 2010, with the aim of combating desertification and poverty, restoring degraded land and conserving biological diversity,

Recognizing the cooperation with non-governmental and civil society organizations in implementing the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Affirming the important role that young people, the private sector, other major groups and civil society play in sustainable development, and the need for their effective involvement in driving Africa's sustainable development agenda,

Welcoming the adoption on 1 April 2010 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Amended Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Western Indian Ocean and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities,

Welcoming also the forthcoming seventh African Development Forum, to be held in October 2010 in Addis Ababa under the overall theme of "Acting on climate change for sustainable development in Africa", organized by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with all stakeholders and partners,

Welcoming further the outcome of the pan-African ministerial conference that took place in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010 with the aim of preparing an African common position for the access and benefit-sharing round of negotiations held in Cali, Colombia, in March 2010;

Expressing appreciation for the outcome of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 May 2009, at which agreement was reached, in the form of the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change, on the Conference's work on climate change in Africa as a platform to discuss the issue and shape a shared vision and common position to combat its adverse effects and achieve sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a framework to support decision-making for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Governments and other stakeholders and, in that regard, lauding efforts to prepare the third Africa Environment Outlook report and welcoming the participation of the World Health Organization in that process,

Taking note of the omnibus decision simultaneously adopted by 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 at their extraordinary meetings held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 24 February 2010,

Recognizing the strong commitment of African countries to disaster risk reduction and the development of meteorology that was renewed at the first conference of ministers responsible for meteorology in Africa, held in Nairobi from 12 to 16 April 2010, and at the second African ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction, held in Nairobi from 14 to 16 April 2010, bearing in mind the close relationship between climate change, natural disasters and meteorology,

Noting the importance of the environmentally sound management of chemical products and wastes in environmental management for sustainable development,

Commending the role played by African countries in strengthening intra-African consultations and coordination by articulating common African positions in multilateral negotiation processes on climate change, biological diversity and sustainable development, such as the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change, as updated and adopted in Nairobi, by which African countries agreed on a common position for the climate change negotiations, in addition to the common African position on access and benefit-sharing,

Considering the vital importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the need to increase the absorption of carbon dioxide by forests,

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

Aware of the contribution of the Global Biodiversity Outlook process to the future of the environmental management in Africa,

Welcoming the review of the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the Planning and Coordinating Agency of that body, the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other partners, in the context of the United Nations regional coordination mechanism in support of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2009 established, by its decision 25/4, a regionally representative, consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives to consider options for broader reform of the current international environmental governance system and to present their inputs to the United Nations General Assembly,

Welcoming the outcome of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010, at which Governments, as requested by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme through its decision SS.XI/4, concluded that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development,

Taking note of the forthcoming high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on biodiversity, to be held in September 2010, the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 11 to 15 October 2010, and, in particular, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held immediately after the aforementioned meeting, at which representative will consider, among others, the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity and targets for 2011–2020 and the adoption of an international legally binding regime on access and benefit-sharing,

Aware of the severe effects of climate change caused by the desiccation of Lake Chad,

Mindful of the holding of the resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in Montreal, Canada, from 10 to 16 July 2010, and of the conference on the theme of “Bolstering biodiversity in Africa: everyone’s problem and heritage” that took place in Libreville on 2 and 3 June 2010,

Noting that, by its resolution 62/195 of 17 December 2007, the United Nations General Assembly decided to declare the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

Noting also that, by its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, and that the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is one of the flagship activities organized in Africa under the Year,

Noting further that, by its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly decided to declare 2011 the International Year of Forests,

Recognizing the importance of African ecosystem research networks as long-term ecological infrastructure to support ecosystem management, sustainable livelihood and climate change in Africa,

Welcoming the Ouagadougou Declaration of the seventh World Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Ouagadougou from 9 to 11 October 2009,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts and support of all partners to promote environmental management for sustainable development in Africa,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To commit ourselves to reinforcing and to implementing decisions by the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to ensure and guarantee the coherence, transparency, continuity and effectiveness of the political and legal representation of Africa in the process of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto;
2. Also to commit ourselves to continuing the strengthening of the common negotiating position for a comprehensive international climate change regime to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change through the implementation of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, and also to call upon African Governments to support the process actively;
3. To call upon countries to take steps to tackle issues afflicting vulnerable groups, in particular those attributable to climate change;
4. To participate in the Libreville meeting to finalize a common position on biodiversity with a view to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
5. To urge African States to adopt and implement an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation to tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change and to urge all multilateral and bilateral partners to support such implementation;
6. To call upon the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral partners to support the mobilization of financial resources for the Adaptation Fund of the Kyoto Protocol and to support African countries in gaining access to resources under the various climate-related funds;
7. To accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 and the programme of action for the implementation of the African regional strategy for disaster risk reduction (2005–2015) to increase the continent’s resilience to the negative impacts of climate change;

8. To call upon countries to prepare innovative projects in order to scale up their environmental efforts and to benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism and other carbon markets;
9. To call upon United Nations agencies, the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other partners to support the development of a strategic approach to reducing deforestation and land degradation in all ecological areas, especially in semi-arid and arid regions of Africa;
10. To call upon countries to prepare national adaptation plans to cover immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term needs, taking into consideration coordination and cooperation for adaptation actions that have a cross-border effect;
11. To call upon the United Nations and other multilateral and bilateral stakeholders to respond to country and industry needs for what is known as "climate-finance readiness support" to enable the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism and clean technology projects;
12. To support the convening of the seventh African Development Forum, which will focus on climate change, and to urge all stakeholders and partners to participate effectively in its organization and the subsequent implementation of its outcomes;
13. Also to support the establishment of an African ecosystems research network that would enhance the capacity of scientists and policymakers in the sustainable management of ecosystems and livelihoods in Africa;
14. To request developed countries and partners to increase their financial support for the implementation of processes relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including agriculture and land management (what is known as "REDD-plus"), in particular, the second phase of the REDD-plus programme;
15. To request international organizations, developed countries and all partners to increase their support for the implementation of adaptation strategies and programmes in Africa and to provide full support for the implementation of the national adaptation programmes of action prepared by least developed countries in Africa;
16. To commit ourselves to developing a common position for the continuing negotiations on liability, compensation and redress regimes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol and to call upon the African Union and the United Nations Environment Programme to support African negotiators in the negotiation of a new international regime on access and benefit-sharing;
17. To commit ourselves to the African common position on the continuing negotiations on access and benefit-sharing, as endorsed at the pan-African ministerial conference on the subject that took place in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010;
18. To call upon States to support at the national, subregional, regional and global levels the process to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services, to be considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-fifth session;
19. To commit ourselves to implement activities in the framework of the celebration of the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity and those recommended in the third Global Biodiversity Outlook report;
20. To invite the international community to take the necessary measures to prevent accidents that could result from biotechnological risks and to ensure the restoration of the environment in cases where such accidents occur;
21. To invite the African Union Commission and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, with the continued support of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Global Mechanism of that Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility and other partners, to implement the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);¹

1 Decision 3/COP.8.

22. To invite African countries to produce and implement national action programmes in the context of the celebration of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
23. To reinforce shared actions by African countries to mobilize the required financial resources for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification and national action plans;
24. To urge partners, the African Union Commission and United Nations agencies to support the development and implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel pan-African agency and other similar subregional initiatives with the constant support of the global mechanisms under the Rio Conventions;
25. To strengthen consultations and coordination between African representatives at the Council of the Global Environment Facility to ensure that greater attention is paid to and increased financial resources made available for efforts to combat desertification and soil and forest degradation, in particular in Africa, in the context of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;
26. To urge countries to seek ways and opportunities to strengthen synergies in the implementation of the conventions on climate change, desertification and biodiversity at the national, subregional and global levels in support of sustainable development for Africa, notably through the development of joint programmes of work;
27. To call for the development of a regional forum for synergies between the Rio conventions, to support the development of regional project proposals, through the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
28. To request the secretariats of the Rio conventions to explore the possibility of elaborating a joint programme of work with a view to using resources efficiently and to present such a programme at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012;
29. To commit ourselves to the effective implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification at the national, subregional and regional levels;
30. Also to commit ourselves to strengthening the African group's position during the international negotiations under the Convention to Combat Desertification and for the promotion of sustainable land management within other relevant international processes, such as forums on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development;
31. To request the secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to establish a formal partnership with a clear road map, based on relevant objectives and targets to be achieved and activities to be undertaken, to support the mainstreaming of sustainable land management and desertification, land degradation and drought into national development policies, strategies and programmes and to strengthen the African group's positions regarding sustainable land management in relevant processes;
32. To urge countries to support and promote the integrated management of river basins;
33. To support the implementation of the Libreville Declaration of the Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held in Libreville in August 2008, and to participate in the second such conference, to be held in Luanda from 23 to 26 November 2010;
34. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, working with other partners, to support the implementation of the Libreville Declaration, including through the development of strategic alliances between the health and environment sectors and of joint plans of action;
35. To request the African Union Commission, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to support the convening in 2011 of the first 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;
36. To call upon those States that have not yet done so swiftly to ratify in 2010 the Bamako Convention and all other chemicals and wastes conventions;
37. To call upon the African Union Commission and States to develop a mechanism for a common position in the continuing negotiations under the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury;

38. To call upon States individually or collectively to develop strategies or mechanisms to ban or control the trade and importation into Africa of electronic waste, including through the development of strategies for the sustainable management of electronic waste;
39. To call upon countries to continue supporting the implementation of declarations, multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous substances and wastes and all relevant instruments, including the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, held in Bali from 23 to 27 June 2008;²
40. To call upon all stakeholders and partners to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa review implementation meeting on chemicals, waste management, mining, transport and sustainable consumption and production, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009, and the Africa-related priority actions on these thematic clusters of issues identified at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and also to ensure that Africa's concerns and priorities are effectively articulated during the review session on the same in May 2011;
41. To call upon States to promote the implementation of the decision adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their extraordinary meetings, held in Bali from 22 to 24 February 2010, and to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international organizations to support African countries in programmatic cooperation and coordination at the national level for the implementation of that decision;
42. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in partnership with the African Union Commission and others, to support and participate in the preparation of the third Africa Environment Outlook report and in the implementation of the policy options set forth in that report;
43. To urge all countries to participate in the development of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network by designating national environmental education e-learning centres and by developing e-learning strategies for the environment sector;
44. To request the United Nations Environment Programme to ramp up its technology support and capacity-building interventions to support the development of the Network and to request all relevant stakeholders to mobilize resources for its future development;
45. To develop comprehensive information, education and communication strategies emphasizing the Rio conventions;
46. To urge the African Union Commission, together with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to develop a marine and coastal environment strategy for Africa, taking into account the adverse impacts of climate change and the need to improve communities' livelihoods;
47. To encourage countries to develop national and subregional strategies and action plans on climate change and the marine and coastal environment;
48. To urge States and relevant organizations to expedite the process of ratification, acceptance or approval and implementation of the Amended Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities, adopted by a conference of plenipotentiaries on 1 April 2010;

49. To urge the United Nations Environment Programme and partners to support the implementation of the strategic action programme for the protection of the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities that was endorsed at the sixth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, held on 31 March 2010 in Nairobi;

50. To urge countries and relevant organizations to develop partnerships with potential beneficiaries of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region with a view to mobilizing technical and financial resources for the implementation of the Convention;

51. To urge those States that have not yet done so to expedite their accession to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region;

52. To call upon coastal States to support a mangrove ecosystem management project being led by the African Mangrove Network and funded by the Global Environment Facility;

53. To urge representatives at the joint annual meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to take specific steps in mainstreaming environmental issues in development planning;

54. To urge Africa's development partners to support the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Planning and Coordination Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities in implementing their environmental action plans;

55. To urge all countries, as a political commitment of the Heads of State of the African Union, to ratify or accede to and implement the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, in addition to other global and regional environmental conventions and agreements, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, as soon as possible;

56. To call upon the Chair of the African Union Commission to develop a strategy to promote the ratification and implementation of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

57. To call upon the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations agencies, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, African civil society organizations, other stakeholders and partners effectively to collaborate in the Africa preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with a view to ensuring that Africa's concerns and priorities are effectively tackled in the Conference outcomes, including by means of the provision of adequate and appropriate support for the implementation of Africa's sustainable development agenda;

58. To call upon the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Tourism Organization, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, African civil society organizations, other stakeholders and partners to work together to ensure an effective regional preparatory process for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at which representatives will consider, among others, the thematic cluster on forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains, with a view to providing inputs that adequately reflect Africa's concerns and priorities;

59. To encourage countries to strengthen synergies with other global and regional multilateral environmental agreements pertaining to biodiversity and the environment, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Basel Convention, in the implementation of the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

60. To call upon the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in collaboration with the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to facilitate the implementation of programmes under the action plan for the environment initiative and to support mechanisms for improved coordination of implementation;

61. To call upon the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, within the context of the Climate for Development in Africa Programme, to work together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and other partners to promote the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions;

62. To call upon African civil society, the Pan-African Parliament, government institutions, including security agencies, and other stakeholders to support measures aimed at environmental management and protection;

63. To urge countries to continue to support processes to improve the international environment governance system;

64. To invite the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and programmes, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Stockholm Convention, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility, to study the interlinkages between climate change, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous substances and wastes for a better understanding of their combined impacts on human well-being, biodiversity and ecosystems and to recommend specific measures targeted at reducing the vulnerability of affected groups and communities;

65. To continue to support the implementation of the TerrAfrica initiative for sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa;

66. To agree to hold an African summit on the green economy so as to support the mobilization of investments and accelerated economic growth alongside sustainable development;

67. To support the green economy initiative and to work with the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners in the process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, enhancing the efficient use of natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities;

68. To urge all countries to explore fully opportunities for building green economies, through, among other things, the development of clean technologies, renewable energies, water services, green transportation, waste management, green buildings and sustainable agriculture and forests;

69. To urge the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission to undertake a study on the green economy in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development within the framework of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

70. To engage young people, civil society, the Pan-African Parliament and national assemblies, government institutions and other stakeholders constructively in supporting measures aimed at environmental management;

71. To urge Governments to take the necessary action to ensure that the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished during the intersessional period;

72. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the thirteenth session of the Conference, including the recommendations of the Bamako Declaration and its other annexes, to the Executive Council of the African Union;

73. To pay tribute to the President and people of Mali for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to participants, the excellent facilities made available and their generous support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session that contributed greatly to its success.

Annex II

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

Decide:

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

Recalling also the outcomes of the second extraordinary meeting on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, including the adoption of the outcomes of the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

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

3 UNEP/AMCEN/8/5.

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

Welcoming the report of the secretariat on the implementation of decision 6⁴ and the summary made by the chair of the second meeting of the Open-ended Steering Committee of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network, held in Lusaka on 26 May 2010,

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

Decide:

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

4 UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/2.

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

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

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

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

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

- (a) To enhance the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the Africa Environment Outlook process through the inclusion of relevant aspects in the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and others, to support the preparation and production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report;
- (c) To encourage all member States to mainstream the findings of that report into national policies, development plans and strategies;
- (d) To enhance cooperation and invite civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the development of the third report;
- (e) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support to the Africa environment information network to build capacity in environmental monitoring and reporting in the region.

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

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

Decide:

- (a) To commit ourselves to the common position of the African group as adopted and endorsed at the above-mentioned pan-African ministerial conference;
- (b) To urge member States to continue to negotiate as a bloc on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing to ensure that the international regime takes into consideration Africa's specific needs;
- (c) To urge all member States to participate in the ministerial conference on the subject scheduled to take place in Libreville as an important consultative meeting in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

We, the African ministers of environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

1. To endorse the “Busan outcome”,⁵ in which representatives of Governments agreed that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-fifth session as a mechanism for strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development;
2. To take the necessary action, at the national, subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, to support the establishment of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;
3. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the Busan outcome and the mandate accorded in decision SS.XI/4, to pursue his efforts to facilitate any ensuing process of establishing and implementing the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services until such time that a secretariat is established;
4. To invite Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations and entities, including multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, scientific organizations and the private sector to participate actively in, and to contribute to, the intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services once it is established.

5 UNEP/IPBES/3/3, annex.

Annex III

Key messages on climate change

1. We, African ministers of environment, recognize that Africa is currently facing numerous severe negative impacts arising from the adverse effects of climate change that have been documented and supported by scientific findings, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other reports. Such impacts are hampering Africa's efforts to attain its development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
2. We acknowledge that there is an urgent and immediate need to avoid further loss and damage arising from the adverse effects of climate change on Africa and, in this regard, state that immediate action should be taken, in particular by developed countries to reduce their emissions in line with the recommendations set out in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in a way that will limit the global average temperature increase to not more than 1.5° C.
3. We reaffirm that achieving sustainable development and eliminating poverty are the priorities for Africa. We also reaffirm the right to equitable sharing of atmospheric space and resources by developing-country parties, in particular African countries, taking into account the cumulative historical use of such resources by developed-country parties and the fact that per capita emissions in Africa remain extremely low. Africa's share of global emissions will need to grow to meet its social and development needs.
4. We reaffirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change constitutes the fundamental 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 the Convention, in particular those of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
5. We stress that the extent to which developing-country parties, including African countries, will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed-country parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and technology transfer, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, including in relation to article 4, paragraphs 1, 5 and 7, of the Convention.
6. We stress that the climate negotiations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change should produce two legally binding outcomes in line with the Bali Action Plan, regarding the long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention, and article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex I countries for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under the Kyoto Protocol.
7. We request developed-country parties to the Kyoto Protocol to honour their commitments under the Protocol, to undertake ambitious mitigation commitments for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 of at least 31 per cent and to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 per cent by 2020 and at least 80–95 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.
8. We request all developed countries – including those that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol – to undertake legally binding commitments that are comparable in magnitude and effort and are measurable, reportable and verifiable with regard to mitigation efforts and the provision of financial and technological resources.
9. We reaffirm that a firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments of developed-country parties that are legally binding in nature, and appropriate voluntary mitigation actions by developing countries. We also reaffirm that the measuring and verification process shall be applied only to mitigation commitments of developed countries and to the means of support provided by those countries.

10. We reaffirm that adaptation is an overriding priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of adaptation measures and actions, including through the provision of substantial new and additional public financial resources, environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building in a predictable and prompt manner.

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

12. We stress the urgent need to address the issue of technology transfer, including the identification and removal of all barriers preventing access to climate-related technologies and the appropriate treatment of intellectual property rights, including the removal of patents on climate-related technologies for developing-country parties.

13. We call for the establishment of effective and accountable institutions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of Parties to the Convention in relation to adaptation, finance and technology transfer in accordance with the proposals made by the group of African countries and the Group of 77 and China.

14. Lastly, we reaffirm that the two tracks of negotiations under the Convention must continue as separate tracks and that the two main outcomes expected at the end of the negotiations should be a legally binding outcome on the levels of commitment of Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol and a legally binding outcome on the various pillars of the Bali Action Plan.

Annex IV

Updates to Africa's common negotiating position⁶

- Para 2, page 5,
~~post-2012 regime~~ - to be replaced by - *basis for a strengthened international climate change regime* ..
- Add new para 3bis: that reads
“Given the severity of the impacts of climate for Africa as confirmed by the scientific findings including IPCC reports, adaptation is an overriding priority for Africa, and Africa calls on developed countries to honour their commitments under the provisions of the convention, including supporting Africa’s precautionary adaptation measures.
- Para 4. Change all ~~Copenhagen~~ to *Cancun*:
- Para 5 , Africa will not accept any *Further* delay by..
- Para 6: *Cancun* instead of ~~Copenhagen~~
- Para 7. A , and equitable, *legally binding agreement in Cancun*

II- Adaptation

Add to para 8, a, add a second part to the para: “... *and there is an urgent need for immediate support for implementation of adaptation measures and actions in Africa*

A new para **8.e** on agriculture: "*Africa recognizes the urgent need to prepare for adaptation to the impacts of climate change in all sector such as agriculture sector.*

Mitigation:

- A chapeau para 9 a :
“ A firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments (that are legally binding in nature) by all developed countries and mitigation actions (that are voluntary) by developing countries”
 - Add a new para under the chapeau:
" The process of MRV should be applied only to Mitigation commitments of Developed countries, support provided to developing countries by developed countries as fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention, and internationally supported mitigation actions by developing countries"
- Separate 1b1: *Mitigation Commitments by Developed Countries* to include 9, b, c, d
- 9c: add at the end add *And at least 80 to 95% below 1990 by 2050.*
- Separate 1b2: *Mitigation Actions by Developing Countries* to include para 9
- *Mitigation actions by developing countries are voluntary in nature, nationally appropriate and are supported and enabled by technology transfer, finance and capacity building from developed countries.*

⁶ The text is presented as received and has not been formally edited.

Finance:

- 10.a- "*An AWG-LCA outcome should ensure the fulfilment of developed countries commitments in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Conventions including through the provision of financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries*".
- 10.b- *Financial commitments of at least 1.5% of global GDP of developed countries based on assessed scale of contributions, should be made available to support and enable adaptation and mitigation actions in developing countries, with fair and equitable share of this funding being allocated to Africa.*
- 10.c- add "*.. Mainly from public sources..*"
- 10.d- remove , and must facilitate access" to be replaced by "*must ensure direct access..*"
- 10.e- "*The established technology mechanism for technology deployment, dissemination and transfer must ensure availability and affordability of climate related technologies and accessibility of developing countries to appropriate and needed technologies for enhanced action on mitigation and adaptation to address the needs of Africa*"

Kyoto Protocol

- 11.b- "*The Parties included in Annex I shall, in pursuant to article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol, reduce their emissions in aggregate as well as individual through second and subsequent commitment periods.*
- 11.b- "*The Parties included in Annex I shall, individually or jointly, ensure that their aggregate anthropogenic carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of the greenhouse gases listed in Annex A be reduced by at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2017 in a commitment period 2013 to 2017.*