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

Report of the Secretariat July 2008–June 2010

Introduction

A. Foundation, mandate and activities of and institutional arrangements for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was established in December 1985, following a conference of African ministers of environment held in Cairo. Its mandate is to provide advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; to ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner; to ensure that social and economic development is realized at all levels; and to ensure that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region.
2. AMCEN has continued to give guidance in respect of key events related to multilateral environmental agreements. It has led the process for the development of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to prepare a comprehensive regional report on the state of Africa's environment, entitled *Africa Environment Outlook*. Furthermore, AMCEN successfully facilitated the revision of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention). Measures have been taken to strengthen the linkages between AMCEN and the region's two marine and coastal conventions, namely, the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention)¹ and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention)
3. AMCEN has continued to pay particular attention to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements established pursuant to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the United Nations Convention to Combat

* UNEP/AMCEN/13/1.

¹ The Nairobi Convention has since been amended. It is now known as the Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean.

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Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol (the Rio conventions).

4. Regular sessions of AMCEN are held once every two years in various African locations. Meetings are sponsored by development partners, UNEP and African States. The UNEP Regional Office for Africa serves as the secretariat of AMCEN.

5. Since the first session, a number of programmes and initiatives have been developed to facilitate the effective implementation of the AMCEN mandate for environmental protection in Africa. Of particular note are the development of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD and the publication of the *Africa Environment Outlook* report. In addition, AMCEN decisions have been implemented successfully, subject to the availability of resources.

6. The present report provides information on the status of implementation of decisions adopted by AMCEN at its twelfth session; the status of implementation of its work programme during the biennium; and follow-up activities mandated by AMCEN at formal meetings convened by the President during the intersessional period.

I. Status of implementation of the decisions adopted at the twelfth session

7. The eight decisions adopted by AMCEN at its twelfth session covered the following themes:

- (a) Implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD;
- (b) Climate change:
 - (i) Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;
 - (ii) Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (c) Constitution of AMCEN,
- (d) Status and use of the general trust fund for AMCEN;
- (e) Chemicals and hazardous waste management;
- (f) Environmental education and technology-supported learning;
- (g) Africa Environment Day;
- (h) Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa Environment Information Network.

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

8. The action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD was prepared at the continental level. The following six thematic areas were selected through consultative and participatory processes: combating land degradation, drought and desertification; conservation of Africa's wetlands; prevention, control and management of invasive alien species; conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources; combating climate change in Africa; and transboundary conservation or management of natural resources.

9. The cross-cutting issues set out in the action plan include: health and environment; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; assessment of and early warning on natural disasters; and the environment directory of NEPAD.

10. As part of the implementation of the initiative, subregional environmental action plans for Central, Eastern, North, Southern and West Africa and national environmental action plans in five pilot countries – Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mozambique – have been prepared.

11. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (formerly the NEPAD secretariat) and AMCEN are each implementing aspects of the action plan. AMCEN is responsible for the implementation of the work programme and relevant decisions, which form an

integral part of the action plan. In this regard the work programme of AMCEN for the biennium was based mainly on the thematic areas set out in the action plan, in addition to policy and advocacy.

12. The three above-mentioned stakeholders have initiated a process to review the implementation of the action plan. This involves a comprehensive stocktaking exercise, analytical work, the preparation of relevant documents with recommendations, consultative meetings for key stakeholders and the establishment of a partnership platform. The review work began in April 2010 and is expected to be completed in July 2010 with the launch of the partnership platform. The report on the review of the implementation of the action plan will be circulated to member States.

13. At its twelfth session, AMCEN made a significant shift in paradigm by deciding to focus mainly on climate change, one of the six thematic areas of the action plan, for the biennium July 2008–June 2010. Significant achievements were made in implementing the AMCEN climate change initiative, as will be described in more detail below.

B. Decision 2: Climate Change

14. At its twelfth session, AMCEN adopted decision 2 on climate change. That decision was divided into two parts: the first focused on Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012, while the second related to a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes.

15. The new thematic thrust of AMCEN with regard to its work on climate change in Africa was initiated in follow-up to the twelfth session, during which ministers underscored the importance of the decision and outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, in particular the agreement on the Bali Action Plan, which set 2009 as the end date for negotiations on strengthening the climate regime beyond 2012.

16. The objectives of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa include the following:

- (a) To support efforts to implement the continent's process to achieve a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;
- (b) To provide a platform to deliberate and agree on a shared vision and common position for Africa to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development;
- (c) To engage the international community in finding solutions to the challenges posed by climate change;
- (d) To develop a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated subregional climate change programmes.

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

17. The following achievements were made with regard to Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012:

- (a) African countries attained a common negotiating position that was adopted at the highest political levels;
- (b) African countries defined, sharpened and articulated their national and regional policy positions throughout the global climate change negotiations that culminated in the climate change summit held in Copenhagen in December 2009;
- (c) African countries made policy statements at regional and global meetings, including those under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which generally took into account their national and regional positions agreed through the various consultative processes organized by AMCEN and others;
- (d) African countries generally had a shared vision in tackling the adverse effects of climate change.

18. In this regard AMCEN organized regional consultative meetings for policymakers and decision makers, in addition to African negotiators, and supported the negotiators to enhance the development of,

among others, a common negotiating position for Africa; and to build capacity in relevant areas upon demand. Regional consultations were held in Accra (August 2008), Algiers (November 2008), Poznań, Poland (December 2008), Bonn, Germany (March 2009), Nairobi (May 2009), Addis Ababa (October 2009), Copenhagen (December 2009) and Nairobi (March 2010). In addition, the secretariat accompanied the African negotiators to other climate change meetings held in Bonn (August 2009), Bangkok (September–October 2009) and Barcelona, Spain (November 2009), providing them with real-time policy and legal advice.

19. From the climate change meeting in Bonn in March 2009 to the summit in Copenhagen in December 2009, AMCEN provided policy and legal advice to the African negotiators and government officials at all global climate change meetings. It also provided fact sheets, policy and technical briefs to African negotiators and senior government officials. For example, the review and analysis of the negotiating text of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention in the light of the specific circumstances of Africa (document AMCEN/13/Ref/1) proved to be useful for African experts during the latter part of the climate change negotiations in 2009. An updated and revised version of that document has been made available as a reference document at the current session.

20. The support provided to the African negotiators by AMCEN is expected to continue until 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, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

21. To ensure that gender considerations were included in the negotiations, AMCEN established a gender group within the African negotiators. This group was instrumental in ensuring that gender issues were incorporated into the African common negotiating position that was presented in Copenhagen. It should also be noted that collaborative work was undertaken with some civil society organizations in Africa. Representatives of young people were sponsored so as to be able to attend some key meetings on climate change, including the Copenhagen summit.

22. Within the context of implementing the first part of the decision on climate change, some landmark regional meetings on climate change were held by AMCEN from May 2009 to June 2010. These included the special session on climate change, held in Nairobi in May 2009; the second extraordinary meeting on climate change, held in Copenhagen in December 2009; the first meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, held in Nairobi in May 2009; the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009; the meeting for African negotiators jointly organized by the African Union and AMCEN, held in Nairobi in March 2010; and the third meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, to be held in Bamako in June 2010. An account of some of these meetings is given in chapter II to the present report.

2. Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

23. As stated above, the second part of the decision on climate change relates to the preparation of a comprehensive framework of climate change programmes in Africa and associated frameworks of subregional climate change programmes under the auspices of AMCEN and the regional economic communities. The following achievements have been made in this regard:

- (a) A comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes has been prepared and will be presented for adoption at the current meeting;
- (b) Frameworks of subregional climate change programmes for Central, Eastern, North and Southern Africa have been developed and will be presented for endorsement at the current meeting;
- (c) A conceptual outline of a framework of climate change programmes for West Africa is being developed;
- (d) Experts' statements on combating climate change in each subregion have been devised.

24. West Africa independently prepared a vulnerability assessment and related action plan for the subregion. This is being taken into account in preparing the framework of subregional climate change programmes for West Africa.

25. Frameworks of subregional climate change programmes have already been prepared for Central, Eastern, North and Southern Africa. They were prepared mainly through desktop research that involved mapping the programmes, projects and initiatives in the region; identifying gaps; analysing

those gaps; making recommendations; and developing the framework. The outcomes of these studies were discussed at subregional consultative meetings held in Kigali (for Eastern Africa) and in Addis Ababa (for Central Africa) in August and October 2009, respectively. Similar meetings were held for North and Southern Africa in Nairobi in March 2010.

26. The comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes is based on an Africa-wide study and the subregional frameworks. At its third meeting, to be held immediately prior to the current meeting, the African high-level expert panel on climate change will consider the draft comprehensive framework with a view to submitting that framework for adoption at the current meeting.

27. The secretariat worked closely with the UNEP gender specialist and others to ensure that gender considerations were taken into account in preparing the frameworks of climate change programmes and in carrying out other major activities on climate change and related matters. For example, a presentation on gender and climate change was made at all subregional consultative meetings and gender specialists were invited to participate in working group sessions at those meetings.

28. It should be recalled that declarations made at the twelfth session and at the special session on climate change called for the involvement of women and young people in the development of climate change strategies, particularly in awareness creation and capacity-building, and in the mainstreaming of gender in all environmental programmes and strategies. The declarations also took cognizance of the vulnerability of women and children to the impacts of climate change and their needs in adaptation and mitigation interventions.

29. To tackle the linkages between gender and climate change from an African perspective, two main approaches were taken. Gender and climate change were discussed at subregional consultations and the capacity of various stakeholders to integrate gender into climate policies and plans at the national level built. For example, in October 2009, UNEP, together with Global Gender and Climate Alliance partners (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Women's Environment and Development Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) conducted a training-of-trainers workshop back-to-back with the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change. The first orientation session for stakeholders (including representatives of non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and Governments) was held from 15 to 17 October 2009, with representatives of 22 African countries attending. Thereafter, representatives, African negotiators and senior government officials attended a one-day orientation session on gender and climate on 18 October 2009.

30. It is envisaged that work on gender and climate change will continue during the coming biennium to provide capacity-building for negotiators, experts, government officials and others as an integral part of the implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa.

C. Decision 3: Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

31. At its eighth session, AMCEN decided to restructure its subsidiary institutional structure into a geographically balanced bureau, an intersessional committee and an inter-agency technical committee, instructing the secretariat to revise the constitution to reflect those changes. Document UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/2/Add.1 contained proposals for such changes and was considered at the ninth session. The outcome of those deliberations was inconclusive, however. Nevertheless, AMCEN operations were modified to reflect a new vision and strategy for AMCEN within the context of emerging African initiatives. A further review of the constitution was therefore required.

32. At its ninth session, AMCEN adopted the Kampala Declaration on the Environment for Development, which provided policy guidance on many issues pertaining to the effective implementation of the programme of work within the framework of emerging initiatives in Africa and the challenges of the new global economic order. AMCEN instructed the secretariat to revise the constitution on the understanding that the secretariat should initiate a process for further intergovernmental consultations, taking into account the need to follow closely the evolution of African Union and NEPAD initiatives.

33. By decision 3, taken at its tenth session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2004, AMCEN noted with appreciation the efforts by the secretariat to facilitate the completion of the document on the revised constitution. Noting that few countries had submitted comments on the draft

constitution, it requested the secretariat to circulate the draft revised constitution immediately, in both English and in French, to all African countries for their review and comments.

34. At its eleventh and twelfth sessions, AMCEN decided to defer any discussions on the constitution until the evolving structures of the African Union, with respect to specialized technical committees became clearer. AMCEN is now part of the specialized technical committee pertaining to agriculture, rural economy, water and the environment. Annex II to the present document contains the decision by which the African Union decided to incorporate AMCEN into the structures of the specialized technical committees.

D. Decision 4: Status and use of the general trust fund

35. Pursuant to decision 4 on the status and use of the general trust fund, adopted by AMCEN at its twelfth session, the secretariat has made every effort 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 have enabled work on climate change to be undertaken effectively, the implementation of the AMCEN work programme continues to be limited by financial constraints.

36. Denmark has been the main sponsor of the climate change initiative, supported by, among others, the African Development Bank, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (with funds provided by Norway), the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (through the World Bank), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (with funds provided by the British Department for International Development), UNEP and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

37. The implementation of many AMCEN activities regarding its decisions and work programme has been undertaken by UNEP in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, UNDP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Office for Project Services and the World Health Organization.

38. Other stakeholders involved in the process include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in addition to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat, the regional economic communities and a number of other institutions and organizations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory and the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).

39. A report on contributions to the general trust fund, their enhancement and use is available as document UNEP/AMCEN/13/5.

E. Decision 5: Chemicals and hazardous waste management

40. By its decision 5, on chemicals and hazardous waste management, AMCEN took cognizance of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, among others.

41. The integration of sound chemicals management into national development planning processes to support sustainable development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition was recognized as a priority in the Strategic Approach. To support this priority area and to facilitate and ensure financial resources for sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, UNDP and UNEP have developed a partnership initiative for the integration of sound chemicals management into development planning processes. The partnership aims at providing the basis for leveraging support from multilateral and bilateral partners for the development of national capacities to manage chemicals in a sound manner. In Africa, the partnership is working with Liberia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Uganda and Zambia. Activities in Uganda and Zambia are close to a successful finalization.

42. Some 234 project proposals were submitted to the Strategic Approach secretariat for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund over the first eight rounds of applications. Following the secretariat's screening of applications for completeness and eligibility, 193 applications were appraised by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee. The Committee approved 100 projects for total funding of approximately \$20,265,064. In addition, 63 projects were recommended for further development and resubmission. The approved projects are being implemented by 90 Governments and 10 civil society

organizations and involve activities in 89 countries, including 42 least developed countries and small island developing States. In Africa, 34 countries are involved in government and civil society projects.

43. Africa has been active in submitting project proposals to the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund. Of 173 government and 61 civil society project proposals, 67 and 23, respectively, came from Africa. The Programme is providing funding to 38 government-led projects and five civil society projects in Africa.

44. The approved projects pertain to initial enabling activities related to developing or updating national chemicals management profiles and establishing integrated national programmes for sound chemicals management; strengthening capacities to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; developing a globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals; implementing the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and enhancing the safe management of public health pesticides. The region received approximately \$7.8 million of total funding of \$20.2 million after the eighth round of applications to the Trust Fund in March 2010.

45. The Strategic Approach secretariat and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Division of Technology, Industry and Economics organized the third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach in Abidjan in January 2010. The objectives of the meeting were to provide a forum for regional Strategic Approach stakeholders to review the outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management; to identify priorities for follow-up in Africa; to address thematic issues of particular importance to the region, such as illegal traffic, emerging policy issues (including e-waste) and the strengthening of linkages to the health sector; to prepare for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its consideration of chemicals on that occasion; and to consider the work of the African core group thus far and offer further guidance to the group during its intersessional work back-to-back with the regional meeting.

46. Key outcomes of the meeting included: draft recommendations in the area of nanotechnology, electronic waste and illegal traffic; revised terms of reference (inclusion of an International Conference on Chemicals Management Bureau member; annual meeting). Further details of the meeting can be found at <http://www.saicm.org/index.php?ql=fc&pageid=6>.

47. Africa's input to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session was developed at the regional implementation meeting held in Addis Ababa in October 2009 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The meeting served as a preparatory forum for the consideration of the thematic clusters to be reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development during its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, to be held in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Those themes are: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and sustainable consumption and production (including a 10-year framework of programmes).

F. Decision 6: Environmental education and technology-supported learning

48. By its decision 6, on environmental education and technology-supported learning, AMCEN called for, among other things, the development of an action plan for technology-supported learning. By paragraph (f), it also requested Governments undertaking the pilot action plans to provide an interim report to AMCEN at the current session and a final report at the fourteenth session on the status of their implementation.

49. An interim report is available as document UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/2. The environmental education and e-learning components of the decision are described in individual sections (3 and 4, respectively), while other sections consider both aspects holistically. Overall, considerable progress has been made during the intersessional period. A number of strategic partnerships have been established and some progress has been made in the area of South-South cooperation. A major survey on the status of environmental education and technology-supported learning has been conducted.

50. Building upon the results of the survey, UNEP has developed programmes to take environmental education and education for sustainable development in Africa forward strategically. The programmes cover such areas as capacity-building, curriculum review, the development of new courses, research and South-South collaboration between African universities, in addition to linkages with Asian and Caribbean universities. The UNEP partnership on mainstreaming environment and sustainability in African universities has been a major springboard in this process.

51. The backbone of the Pan-African e-Learning for Environment Network has been established and 18 countries are participating. Capacity development and training have been conducted, as have awareness-raising activities. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that the issue of donor support for the implementation of the broad spectrum of activities embraced by the decision continues to be the main challenge facing African countries, UNEP, international partners and other stakeholders. One case study focused on Kenya showing the impact of the decision at the national level is presented in the annex to the above-mentioned report.

G. Decision 7: Africa Environment Day

52. Africa Environment Day is celebrated on 3 March every year in accordance with decision CM/Dec.685 (LXXVI) of the African Union, taken in July 2001. It is generally aimed at heightening public awareness of issues linked to environmental conservation.

53. By its decision 7, AMCEN agreed that every year one African country should be requested, on a regional rotation basis, to host the continental celebration of Africa Environment Day. It also requested the Commission of the African Union and its cooperation partners to work with the hosting State to make adequate preparations for the occasion.

54. The seventh Africa Environment Day, in 2009, was celebrated in Dakar. The theme of the edition was “Greening Africa” and it focused on the initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel to plant an area of trees that would become known as a “great green wall” and the diverse environmental challenges that the initiative sought to resolve. The occasion was marked by the planting of trees and the organization of interactive programmes in partnership with local radio stations. In some cases, drawing and poetry competitions were organized with local schools.

55. The eighth Africa Environment Day, in 2010, was celebrated in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. Its theme was “African resilience to climate change: biodiversity conservation and enhancing traditional knowledge”. The occasion was marked by celebrations and meetings that placed 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 was a key topic considered. Both events were well attended by dignitaries and key stakeholders.

H. Decision 8: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa Environment Information Network

56. By its decision 8, AMCEN reaffirmed its commitment to the Africa Environment Outlook process as a tool for monitoring sustainable development in Africa and a framework for environmental reporting at the national and subregional levels. It requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to support the production of the third report in the series.

57. AMCEN also expressed its appreciation to UNEP for the production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* within the framework of the Africa Environment Outlook process. It requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to support its production on a regular basis and to assist countries to develop national atlases.

58. Kenya and Uganda have accordingly received assistance and have produced their national atlases. It is worth noting that work is continuing on the production of a national atlas for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

59. Work on the third edition of the Africa Environment Outlook report is progressing, with greater emphasis being placed on the nexus between health and environment.

I. Implementation of the work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment undertaken over the period July 2008–May 2010

60. As stated earlier, the AMCEN work programme is an integral part of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD. While steady progress continues to be made in implementation, the perennial financial constraints facing AMCEN are making it increasingly difficult to scale up key activities that must be undertaken.

1. Land degradation and desertification

61. Recognizing the pervasiveness and severity of land degradation and its impact on livelihoods and on the economies of sub-Saharan African countries, and to complement the Global Environment Facility (GEF) country partnership programme targeting that problem, the World Bank initiated the TerrAfrica programme in 2004. TerrAfrica is a global partnership designed as a multi-partner platform organized around three programmatic outcomes, with a view to enabling African Governments and their partners to scale up the mainstreaming and financing of effective and efficient country-driven sustainable land management approaches. It serves to focus attention, facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices, galvanize advocacy and make the case for increased investment in support of sustainable land management interventions. TerrAfrica has a financing instrument, the strategic investment programme, for action to tackle land degradation in sub-Saharan Africa. The strategic investment programme has been developed collectively in support of TerrAfrica partners' efforts to upscale sustainable land management.

62. The President of AMCEN and the Chief Executive Officer of GEF convened a meeting of AMCEN 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. The outcome of the meeting was a ministerial declaration that was approved by the GEF Council in June 2007. The approval earmarked a \$150 million umbrella grant from the land degradation focal area to support sub-Saharan countries during the fourth replenishment of GEF in advancing programmatic approaches to scale up climate resilient sustainable land management practices such as watershed management and land-use planning, low tillage, intercropping, agroforestry, small water infrastructure, woodlots and erosion control. The GEF grant is leveraging an additional estimated \$880 million in co-financing from the African Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, in addition to bilateral partners and 29 sub-Saharan countries.

63. The World Bank leads the strategic investment programme for GEF and the African Union, through NEPAD, in Africa. Its steering committee, comprising GEF agencies, NEPAD and the GEF secretariat, supports countries in developing the strategic investment programme portfolio. As one key investment activity in the joint work programme of the TerrAfrica partnership,² it contributes directly to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the NEPAD comprehensive Africa agriculture development programme. The overall portfolio was developed in accordance with principles agreed to by environment ministers at the above-mentioned AMCEN meeting held in Ouagadougou in 2007.

64. With regard to portfolio status, it is noteworthy that discrete strategic investment programme operations are beginning to work on the ground to prevent and reduce the impact of land degradation on ecosystem functions and services. Of the portfolio's current 37 active operations covering 29 countries, 31 projects have been approved by or submitted to the GEF Chief Executive Officer. These 31 projects support Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Additional operations will soon be delivered, supporting more countries and regional and civil society organizations. Approximately one fourth of the strategic investment programme discrete operations are under implementation. The full portfolio includes a mix of country operations (28), multi-country operations (seven) and regional operations (two).

65. The portfolio allows for improved forward operational and strategic planning on the thematic use of GEF resources. This approach enables GEF to play a stronger catalytic role that enhances country-level impact and reduces transaction costs, while leveraging a genuine regional dynamic around the TerrAfrica partnership to help to boost African leadership, accountability and benchmarking. Strategic investment programme investments are focused on land degradation risks faced by the rural poor in production landscapes; namely water availability, soil erosion and nutrient mining, deforestation, greater climate variability and general ecosystem deterioration. These have together resulted in stagnating yields, reduced income and global environmental costs in terms of carbon

² TerrAfrica is a platform to scale up effective and efficient financing for sustainable land management by building coalitions, sharing knowledge and aligning and leveraging investment responses at the country level. Partners include sub-Saharan countries and non-governmental organizations, the African Union-NEPAD and regional organizations, the Global Mechanism and Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, international agencies and bilateral donors. See www.terrafrica.org for more information.

emissions, less diverse genetic pools and greater stress on freshwater resources, many of which are transboundary, such as aquifers or major river basins.

66. Discrete strategic investment programme operations also take aim at the underlying barriers to sustainable land management uptake, including fragmented policy, institutions, knowledge, access to financial resources or land rights and weak land-use planning. One improvement in the enabling environment that continues to be catalysed by the strategic investment programme and TerrAfrica is the creation of national multisector investment platforms in Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Uganda, among others. In these countries, a public sphere is emerging around a country-defined vision for investment in land productivity, in addition to the policy and institutional reforms needed to achieve this vision. Countries are developing or improving unique investment frameworks for sustainable land management, which anchor this vision in a medium-term sequence of current and future priority investment operations, built upon a base of evidence and outreach.

67. The strategic investment programme also supports several regional activities, including direct support to NEPAD, regional economic communities and African civil society organizations to backstop countries in articulating investment priorities, tracking progress, sharing knowledge across countries and projects and benchmarking success across and outside the portfolio. In addition, some multi-country investments are supporting improved management of transboundary lake and river basins, such as the Eastern Nile Basin operation.

68. It is worth noting that the strategic investment programme is achieving early results in strengthening sub-Saharan countries to build coalitions, share knowledge and align and leverage investment responses for greater adoption of sustainable land management. The strategic investment programme targets policy and institutional enhancements that enable the upscaling of the strategic investment programme, leverages co-financing to expand the uptake of technology and land-use planning on the ground and strengthens country efforts to forge synergies among sectors and stakeholders.

69. In line with strategic investment programme objectives, participating countries are increasingly designing, implementing and managing suitable policies, strategies and on-the-ground investments to scale up sustainable land management. Seventeen countries have convened and, in some cases, institutionalized multisector land coalitions that are leading the preparation of country-driven sustainable land management investment frameworks, a key tool for cross-sector planning and aid harmonization. As a result, there is increasing cooperation between partners at the regional and country levels in moving towards unified multisector dialogue with countries on investment and policy. In some cases, the sustainable land management investment framework process was or is being used to mainstream sustainable land management and climate risk mitigation into sector plans, budget processes or poverty reduction strategy papers.

70. These efforts will gain momentum as the portfolio of projects is rolled out in the coming months. At the same time, a separate project focused on knowledge management and capacity-building will enable strategic engagement by NEPAD and the regional economic communities. The Economic Community of West African States and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa have pledged full support for this project, including a commitment to facilitate sustainable land management innovations as a regional priority for agricultural development.

2. Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources

71. The implementation of the marine, coastal and freshwater resources component of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD continues to be implemented through the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions. Implementation takes place under the four main themes – assessment, management, coordination and legal aspects – and cross-cutting issues, such as information dissemination and exchange and emerging issues. It is worth noting that implementation is taking place within the broad framework of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

72. Over the period 2008–2010 the Regional Seas Programme has continued to assist Contracting Parties to the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions to respond to the need for more effective management of coastal and marine ecosystems that are under increasing threat of degradation attributed to both natural and anthropogenic factors. The Programme has 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.

73. Through the implementation of the work programmes for the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions, a number of instruments aimed at enhancing the capacities of the Contracting Parties to manage the

coastal and marine environment sustainably have been developed. This includes a strategic action programme for the protection of the coastal and marine environment for the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities. A protocol on the same subject has been devised and the Nairobi Convention amended. A draft protocol to the Abidjan Convention concerning cooperation in the protection of the marine and coastal environment from-land based sources and activities is also under development. Furthermore, the Abidjan Convention has been fully revitalized to ensure its effective implementation and its secretariat was relocated from Nairobi to Abidjan in early 2010.

74. Other achievements in implementing this aspect of the AMCEN work programme are described in document UNEP/AMCEN/13/INF/3.

3. Efforts to combat climate change in Africa

75. Efforts in this regard have been described in the preceding sections of the present document.

4. Transboundary conservation or management of natural resources

76. AMCEN has continued to support the Congo Forest Basin Partnership, mainly through the offices of the Goodwill Ambassador of the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem.

5. Cross-cutting issues

77. The cross-cutting issues discussed in the present document include: health and environment; environmental education and training; integrated environment assessment; environmental impact assessment; and sustainable consumption and production.

78. Work carried out on environmental education and integrated environment assessment is briefly described in sections F and H, respectively, of the present document.

(a) Sustainable consumption and production

79. Africa has been active in implementing the concept of sustainable consumption and production through the Marrakech Process. The continent established the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production as a formal institution and was the first region to develop and launch in 2006 its own 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. High-level policymakers have committed themselves to the Marrakech Process. For example, the launch of the African 10-year framework of programmes was jointly organized by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UNEP, with the objective of informing the high-level representatives of African countries and development partners about the framework and catalysing the required political commitment and support at the national, regional and international levels for the further development and implementation of the framework.

80. The key activities under the framework, which was earlier approved by AMCEN, continue to include the development of an African eco-labelling scheme; the development of sustainable consumption and production action plans at the national and local levels; the compilation of best practices on sustainable consumption and production and “leapfrogging” – the process whereby developing countries advance rapidly to non-polluting technologies; pilot project on plastic waste management in Nairobi; capacity-building in life-cycle assessment in Africa; and capacity-building for promoting sustainable consumption and production in the Lake Victoria region.

(b) Environment and health

81. The first inter-ministerial conference on health and environment in Africa was held in Libreville in August 2008. Ministers of health and environment adopted the Libreville Declaration aimed at catalysing the policy, institutional and investment changes required to reduce environmental threats to health. Through the Libreville Declaration, they committed their countries to establishing a strategic alliance between the health and environment sectors as a basis for joint plans of action. They requested UNEP and the World Health Organization to work with other partners towards supporting efforts of the countries to address health and environment challenges.

82. A meeting of partners on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration was subsequently held in Windhoek in February 2009. Participants prepared a road map specifying the process, key

milestones and resources needed to carry out implementation activities at the country level and committed themselves to participating in the health and environment strategic alliance.

83. In response to the Libreville Declaration, UNEP and the World Health Organization have developed:

- (a) Guidance for situation analyses and needs assessment (a prerequisite for the preparation of national plans of joint action);
- (b) Data management system for health and environment linkages;
- (c) Guidance for the development of national plans of action.

84. Tools and methodologies that were developed to undertake country situation analysis and needs assessments were piloted in Gabon and Kenya and subsequently rapidly deployed in other countries. It is worth noting that the assessments are being undertaken in all African countries as a prerequisite for the development of national plans of joint action. The process addresses a full array of environmental health determinants, the drivers that determine their associated risk levels and the management of those risks. It also considers national policies and legislation, technical and institutional capacities, existing and potential intersectoral coordination mechanisms and available resources.

85. The process has led to enhanced dialogue on health and environment matters at both the policy and technical levels, and the identification of gaps in knowledge of health and environment linkages within countries. It has also led to country ownership of the process, in addition to a clear and joint process of identification and validation of national priorities. Thirteen countries are currently completing their situation analysis and needs assessment and setting their health and environment plans of joint action. Two meetings of partners have also been held to review the progress made in the implementation of the Libreville Declaration.

86. A synthesis report of the data and information gathered through the situation analysis and needs assessment processes is being compiled and will provide a basis for ministers to examine an Africa-wide assessment of the status of health and environment linkages during the second inter-ministerial conference, scheduled for November 2010. In so doing, ministers will be able to define regional priorities and agree on necessary national and regional actions to move the process forward.

(c) Environmental impact assessment

87. At its meeting in Durban, South Africa, in June 1995, AMCEN recognized and endorsed the usefulness of environmental impact assessments and identified a number of priorities for immediate action to build the capacity of African countries to conduct such assessments. In response to this call a number of initiatives culminated in the formation of a regional network of environmental impact assessment practitioners in 2000, called Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Impact Assessment in Africa, which was later transformed into Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa.

88. The action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD stated as part of its objectives that environmental valuation must be made part of investment and infrastructure projects for sustainable development to ensure the integration of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Thus, environmental impact assessments must be carried out for all infrastructure projects.

89. The Brazzaville Declaration on the Environment for Development adopted by AMCEN at its eleventh session, in May 2006, made reference to the Durban Declaration on Environmental Impact Assessment, adopted by AMCEN in 1995, and recognized the role of the pan-African Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Impact Assessment network as a tool to raise the awareness and boost the capacity of African professionals in respect of environmental assessment and management, as required for the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD.

90. In pursuance of the above-mentioned goals, the Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment network has undertaken a number of activities and has successfully helped to develop environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment as a key tool for sustainable development in many African countries. It has grown to become a useful regional network that promotes sustainable development in Africa through the use of environmental assessment and management tools. It is also promoting the use of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments as key policy instruments and analytical tools for improving the sustainability of development programmes in projects in Africa.

II. Outcomes and outputs of some key activities undertaken

A. Special session on climate change

91. The special session on climate change was held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 May 2009. The experts segment, held from 25 to 28 May 2009, was highly structured, including parallel meetings of the African negotiators on climate change and presentations on topical issues relating to climate change. It was attended by government officials, many climate change experts from the region and representatives of secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, partners of AMCEN and key stakeholders. The first meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change was also held during that period. The Government of Kenya and some invited organizations mounted a mini-exhibition on climate change.

92. The ministerial segment was held on Friday, 29 May 2009, preceded by a technical briefing for ministers. It was attended by ministers and other heads of delegation from 51 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 report of the ministerial segment is contained in document AMCEN/SS/III/6.

93. The outcomes and outputs of the special session included the following:

- (a) Updated Africa's common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;
- (b) Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change;
- (c) Decision on the African process for combating climate change;
- (d) Conceptual framework for African climate change programmes;
- (e) Establishment of the African high-level expert panel on climate change;
- (f) Report of the special session.

94. The outcomes and outputs were presented to the African Union at its summit held in Sirte in July 2009, where they were endorsed.

B. Second extraordinary meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change

95. The second extraordinary meeting of AMCEN was held at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen on 15 and 16 December 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives of a number of AMCEN member States, international organizations and regional economic communities.

96. Representatives discussed, among other things, the status of climate change negotiations vis-à-vis the African common negotiating position and modalities of engagement at the high-level segment of the Copenhagen summit. A decision on the further implementation of work by AMCEN on climate change in Africa was adopted and can be found in the annex to the present document.

97. The report of the meeting is available in document AMCEN/EX.MTG/II/2.

C. Meetings of the African high-level expert panel on climate change

98. The African high-level expert panel on climate change met on three occasions. The expert group segment of the special session on climate change, serving as the first meeting of the panel, was held in Nairobi on 25 and 26 May 2009. It was attended by experts from AMCEN member States, African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

99. The outcomes and outputs of the meeting included the following:

- (a) Draft Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change;
- (b) Decisions approved for consideration at the ministerial segment;
- (c) Updated African common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;

(d) Indicative conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(e) Report of the meeting (AMCEN/SS/III/4).

100. The panel's second meeting was held at the premises of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa from 21 to 23 October 2009. It was attended by representatives of a number of AMCEN member states and of African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The report of the meeting is available in document AMCEN/AHLPCC/2/2.

101. The following were the products of the meeting:

(a) Key messages to ministers and heads of State and government on Africa's common negotiating position on climate change;

(b) Recommendations on programmatic aspects of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa;

(c) Statement on the implementation of climate change programmes in Africa;

(d) Report of the meeting.

102. The panel's third meeting will be held in Bamako on 20 June 2010. The expected products include a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and agreed measures to combat climate change in Africa.

D. Meetings of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

103. Two meetings of the Bureau were held between July 2008 and May 2010. The twenty-third meeting of the Bureau was convened in Nairobi in February 2009, to consider the following issues:

(a) Consideration of progress report on the implementation of decision 2 of AMCEN on climate change, taken at the twelfth session of AMCEN;

(b) Contributions to the general trust fund;

(c) Role of the Bureau during the intersessional period;

(d) Consideration of AMCEN as a specialized technical committee of the African Union;

(e) Consideration of the updated indicative work programme for the biennium 2009–2010.

104. South Africa was represented at the ministerial level while Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Gabon and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were represented by senior government officials. The meeting was attended by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural Economy and Environment of the African Union, the Executive Director of UNEP, the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and a representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The deliberations during the meeting are outlined in document AMCEN/UNEP/BUR/23/9.

105. An extraordinary meeting of the Bureau was held in Copenhagen on 14 December 2009 back-to-back with the high-level segment of climate change summit. Burkina Faso, Gabon and South Africa were represented at the ministerial level. The Bureau agreed to confine its discussions to the arrangements and substantive issues pertaining to the second extraordinary meeting of AMCEN on climate change that was scheduled to be held at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen on 15 December 2009.

106. The Bureau deliberated on the draft agenda, objectives of the meeting and modalities for engagement during the high-level segment. The Bureau members expressed their appreciation for the arrangements made by the secretariat regarding the second extraordinary meeting of AMCEN on climate change.

III. Intersessional period

107. Ms. Buyelwa P. Sonjica, President of AMCEN, her predecessor, Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk, and the Bureau have successfully transformed AMCEN into a more focused ministerial forum dealing with key environmental issues, such as climate change, that have serious consequences for the future well-being of Africa and its peoples.

108. The President has been the spokesperson for the member States during key environmental meetings. As described above, she convened meetings before and during the Copenhagen climate change summit. She also represented AMCEN at high-level meetings on climate change held in Africa and elsewhere, including the African Union summit in Sirte in July 2009, and she facilitated the submission to the African Union of the outcomes of the special session on climate change through the African Union Commission.

109. The efforts by the President to advance the position, priority areas and concerns of Africa have been recognized on many occasions, particularly during the Copenhagen climate change summit. She was able to build consensus on the way forward during the crucial part of the high-level meeting when Africa's united common negotiating position was greatly challenged.

110. The secretariat has produced or facilitated the production of the following documents during the reporting period:

- (a) Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (b) Frameworks of Central African, Eastern African, North African and Southern African climate change programmes;
- (c) Framework of West African climate change programmes (work in progress);
- (d) Climate change communications strategy;
- (e) Technical and policy briefs, brochures and fact sheets on climate change;
- (f) NEPAD national action plans for five pilot countries;
- (g) Review and analysis of the negotiating text of Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention in the light of the specific circumstances of Africa;
- (h) Reports of various meetings conducted under the auspices of AMCEN, including:
 - (i) Special session of AMCEN on climate change;
 - (ii) Second extraordinary meeting of AMCEN on climate change;
 - (iii) First meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change (report of the experts group segment of the special session of AMCEN on climate change);
 - (iv) Second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change;
 - (v) Subregional consultative meeting for Central Africa;
 - (vi) Subregional consultative meeting for Eastern Africa;
 - (vii) Subregional consultative meeting for North and Southern Africa.

IV. Challenges facing the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session

111. Many challenges face AMCEN at its thirteenth session. Although some progress has been made in tackling environmental issues, the degradation of the region's environment continues and the steady decline of the natural resource base is yet to be halted and reversed. In general, the state of the environment in Africa continues to decline, while poverty is worsening. The unsustainable exploitation and degradation of natural resources and demand for economic growth have resulted in a vicious cycle of poverty in many African countries. The adverse effects of climate change and variability have the potential to exacerbate the situation and reverse the modest gains made by the continent in attaining the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

112. The responses to be made in adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change will, however, also offer some opportunities and African countries should therefore position themselves to benefit from such opportunities. It is generally accepted that, without sustainable development, Africa cannot solve its problems. One main challenge is how to enhance the interrelationship between climate change, biodiversity and desertification for sustainable development in Africa.

113. It is envisaged that outcomes of the thirteenth session will lead to AMCEN becoming a body with an enhanced focus, on a firmer financial footing, and more able to mobilize resources to carry out its shared vision.

Annex I

Decision on the further implementation of work by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa, adopted at the second extraordinary meeting on climate change

We, African Ministers of 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 on an international climate change regime beyond 2012, in addition to a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes,

Reaffirming all African Union decisions and declarations, including the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change of 19 November 2008,

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 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 in such a way as to achieve sustainable development, in particular to alleviate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities,

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

Reiterating our appreciation for the efforts of the African group of negotiators under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 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 Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, in the development of a common African position on the comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012,

Decide:

1. To reaffirm that the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Copenhagen in December 2009 should have a two-track outcome, specifically on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention;
2. To adopt the outcomes of the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change held in Addis Ababa in October 2009, serving as the expert meeting for the second extraordinary meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
3. To adopt also the key messages to ministers and heads of State and government on Africa's common negotiating position on climate change made at a special meeting held in Addis Ababa in October 2009;
4. To note the outcomes of the meetings of the African group of negotiators and experts made at the technical session of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Copenhagen in December 2009;

5. To reaffirm also that Africa, in the context of environmental justice, should be equitably compensated for environmental resources, economic and social losses;
6. To emphasize that Africa requires substantially scaled up finance, technology and capacity-building for adaptation and risk management;
7. To restate the invitation to the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat 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;
8. To invite the secretariat of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change to take necessary action to ensure that focal points from African countries include both technical experts and policymakers;
9. To express our appreciation to the bilateral and multilateral partners supporting the implementation of measures to combat climate change in Africa and urge them to continue with their support;
10. To continue to keep under review the implementation of the African process for combating climate change and its associated programmes and projects.

Annex II³

DECISION ON THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (STCS) DOC. EX.CL/496(XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Specialised Technical Committees (STCs);
2. **DECIDES** to reconfigure the STCs as follows:
 - (1) Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
 - (2) Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration;
 - (3) Committee on Trade and Industry and Minerals;
 - (4) Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism;
 - (5) Committee on Gender and Women empowerment;
 - (6) Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
 - (7) Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
 - (8) Committee on the Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
 - (9) Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control;
 - (10) Committee on Migration, Refugees and IDPs;
 - (11) Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports;
 - (12) Committee on Education, Science and Technology;
 - (13) Committee on Communication and ICT;
 - (14) Committee on Defence, Safety and Security.
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare a detailed breakdown of the financial implications of the STCs meetings setting out the figures if the STCs were to be convened on an annual or bi-annual basis;
4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare detailed activities of the STCs with a view to avoiding overlap and ensuring coherence and harmony with the portfolios of the Commission;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to work with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and make appropriate recommendations on the periodicity of the meetings of the STCs to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2009.

³ The decision of the African Union is reproduced as received. It has not been formally edited by the Secretariat.