



Distr.: General
14 September 2012

Original: English

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Fourteenth session

Ministerial segment

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 12–14 September 2012

Report of the ministerial segment held from 12 to 14 September 2012

I. Introduction

1. The ministerial segment of the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre from 12 to 14 September 2012.
2. It was attended by representatives 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 full list of participants may be found in document UNEP/AMCEN/14/INF/6.

II. Opening of the meeting

3. The opening ceremony began at 3.40 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 September 2012, with an introduction by the master of ceremonies and welcoming remarks by Ms. Samia Suluhu, Minister of State for Union Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, who welcomed the participants to the fourteenth session, acknowledging in particular the ministers of environment present for demonstrating their commitment to a better future for Africa, and expressed appreciation for the hard work of the outgoing president of AMCEN. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania.
4. The introduction, welcoming remarks and opening statements were interspersed with musical interludes featuring pupils of the Trust St. Patrick School in Arusha, who sang songs in Kiswahili, French and English.
5. Mr. Bilal welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania. He said that the presence of experts, politicians and decision makers demonstrated their continuing cooperation in resolving the critical issues facing Africa and was a reflection of their commitment to better environmental management for present and future generations. Outlining the many environmental and developmental problems confronting the continent, he said there was a need to move away from conventional responses and to address underlying challenges through modern, improved methods of production accompanied by policy responses that embraced broader participation, provided greater opportunities and empowered the poor in their own development process. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the urgency of addressing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, gave stimulus to the promotion and implementation of holistic, integrated policies and actions that would help address the interlinkages between climate change, energy, food and water. Any consideration of how to build a green economy should aim to achieve sustainable development, reduce poverty and build resilience of communities against the changing environment, while taking account of national economic and social objectives. The United Republic of Tanzania would continue to work with all partners in addressing environmental challenges. In conclusion, he declared the fourteenth session of AMCEN officially open.

6. Opening statements were made by Mr. David Sagara, the President of AMCEN and Minister of Energy and Environment, Mali; Mr. Alberic Kacou, United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative for the United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; Mr. Philippe Dongier, Country Director for Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, World Bank; Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility; Mr. Josué Dioné, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, on behalf of Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa; Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Convention on Biological Diversity; Mr. Robert Bakiika, representing civil society; and Ms. Issa Amina Ado, representing youth.

7. Mr. Sagara, in his statement, thanked African countries for supporting the Government of Mali during the recent political crisis in that country and throughout its presidency of AMCEN. The fourteenth session of the Conference represented an important opportunity for Africa to build on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; to consider its implications for Africa; to reflect on the status of AMCEN itself; and to determine the best approach and strategic framework for tackling environmental issues on the continent. Reviewing the work undertaken by AMCEN during the presidency of Mali, he said that solid and appropriate lobbying had assisted the achievements made in reinforcing the position of AMCEN itself, consolidating its position within the structures of the African Union, integrating environmental issues such as climate change, desertification and biodiversity, promoting the green economy and strengthening the leadership of AMCEN in respect of regional and global environmental initiatives. Previous meetings had not entirely met aspirations but AMCEN had created an appropriate environment for consolidation of the African position on sustainable development and commitment to change. Turning to climate change, he said that the Conference had reaffirmed the importance of adaptation as a priority for the continent and the need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of adaptation measures from mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund. A number of challenges were still facing AMCEN, notably a lack of financial and human resources, the impact of the global financial crisis and the non-ratification of regional conventions by member States. The task of AMCEN was to provide leadership in transforming the public will into political will to meet the challenges facing the continent and to explore innovative means of doing so.

8. In his statement, Mr. Kacou welcomed the current session as a timely and relevant opportunity to ensure collective agreement and guidance on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development relevant to Africa. Globally the Conference had achieved significant progress but for Africa more work was needed in the areas of climate change financing, institutional capacity and technology transfer, among others. The natural resources potential of the continent had not been fully explored, environmental challenges resulting from climate change were increasing and deforestation, loss of biodiversity and water scarcity were continuing problems. AMCEN had a critical role to play in securing social and economic development and food security and creating sound, sustainable policies to achieve those goals. Highlighting the achievements of AMCEN in environmental leadership on the continent, coordination among African Governments and support for their effective participation in international bodies and meetings, he expressed the belief that a green economy vision for Africa focusing on sustainable development and poverty reduction could be forged at the current session. He highlighted examples of key actions by United Nations agencies in support of the United Republic of Tanzania. He said that the United Nations system would continue to support AMCEN in its central role of facilitating Africa's responses to climate change.

9. Mr. Steiner, in his statement, said that the current session was taking place at an auspicious moment for Africa, following closely on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, where Africa as a continent – a collection of different but united vocal advocates of sustainable development – had demonstrated its ability to gain the world's attention. Recognition was growing that the articulation of a sustainable development agenda, specific to Africa yet located within the global context, was gaining momentum, and AMCEN was playing a critical role in driving the process forward. The commitment of Africa to environmental sustainability, and the unified voice with which it was expressing that commitment, had also become increasingly apparent in climate change negotiations, and representatives of Africa were at the forefront in demonstrating the price of inaction on environmental matters. Given the great body of evidence on the threats to the planet, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, deforestation and other factors compromising humanity's ability to meet the growing needs of societies, the response of the international community was still falling far short of what was required, despite the considerable efforts made at the Conference

on Sustainable Development. The outcome document of the Conference did show, however, that there were many paths for remedial action, and there were reasons for optimism in the many initiatives that were emerging across Africa. African ministers and leaders still needed to be more vocal in expressing their environmental agenda, and upcoming meetings, including the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, and the United Nations climate change conference to be held in Doha in November 2012, presented further opportunities for their voices to be heard. In conclusion, he urged African leaders to be ambitious in bringing together the experience of the continent and framing it as a set of priorities at the international level that viewed the environment not as an obstacle to economic development but as an asset and an opportunity in moving towards a green economy.

10. In her statement, Ms. Tumusiime expressed support for the focus of the current session on sustainable development and the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which the united voice of Africa had featured strongly. The deep desire of African leaders to improve the livelihoods of their people, enhance peace and stability and promote harmony had been shaken by increased environmental threats and financial shocks, and how the environment was handled would determine the fate of African and global aspirations. The outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development were therefore of critical importance to Africa, and a coordinated approach was required to ensure that the many major programmes being implemented in Africa were mutually supportive and to devise mechanisms that increased the continent's capacity to deliver optimally in all priority areas. To support those endeavours and to strengthen the capacities of African institutions, the African Union Commission, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, had established a joint secretariat to guide the implementation of the Climate for Development in Africa Programme and to cooperate on other initiatives where the benefits of synergy could be maximized, including through the regional coordination mechanism. Other areas of cooperation and capacity-building in which the African Union Commission was engaged included the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative and access and benefit sharing for genetic resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also drew attention to several other initiatives worthy of support, including the revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention), Africa Environment Day and the commitment expressed by African parliamentarians in the Entebbe Declaration to mainstream multilateral environmental agreements into national plans and policies.

11. Mr. Dongier, in his statement, said that many African countries had made great progress in recent decades, with some achieving growth rates of more than 5 per cent before the recent financial crisis. In addition, across Africa advances had been made in reducing poverty and improving the quality of life, with several countries set to achieve many of their Millennium Development Goal targets. As in many parts of the world, however, progress had often been made at the expense of the environment, rendering long-term growth unsustainable. For example, research by the World Bank had shown that unsustainable farming practices accounted for the loss of 3 per cent of Africa's gross domestic product annually. Climate change and other environmental threats highlighted the extreme vulnerability of the continent. The Conference on Sustainable Development had refocused attention on how growth was taking place and the need for a green economy approach to ensure equitable and sustainable growth. Given the importance of agriculture to Africa, the adaptation of agricultural systems to climate change would be critical to ensure food security. In consequence, it was vital that the voice of Africa was clearly heard in the continuing negotiations on how adaptation would be financed in the future and that ministers put in place pipelines via which streams of climate funding could be accessed. He stressed that considerable progress had been made in sustainable development projects in Africa that yielded economic returns, many of which had the potential to be scaled up. Examples included sustainable land management, rainwater harvesting, reducing the carbon footprint of transport and development of renewable energy. In conclusion, he highlighted the strong commitment of the World Bank to work, in collaboration with other development partners, towards green economic growth in Africa.

12. In her statement, Ms. Figueres reflected on the achievements of the 2011 United Nations climate change conference held in Durban, South Africa, and its significance for the continent. Although the conference had not been perfect, it had been historic in terms of putting in place the necessary elements of a global response to climate change, which if successfully pursued could transform the future of Africa. She emphasized that implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change did not mean stunting industrial development and growth as many in Africa feared, but rather spurring resilience and economic growth. Concrete steps had been taken with regard to adaptation, the most urgent and relevant issue for Africa, although more remained to be done. She urged African countries to engage in the design and implementation of national adaptation plans to be tackled at the forthcoming United Nations climate change conference in Doha and to seek

clarity on financing for adaptation and a work programme for agriculture. While noting that industrialized countries needed to do more on mitigation, she urged African countries to develop their nationally appropriate mitigation actions as a means of achieving economic growth through carbon-efficient fuels and technologies. Africa had the opportunity to leapfrog a stage in energy infrastructure development by embracing its vast potential in renewable energy sources; several African countries were already moving in that direction but much more could be done with strong domestic policies that attracted serious investment. Applauding the efforts of AMCEN, she urged African countries to tackle the remaining challenges at the Doha conference and to ensure access to the benefits that the emerging climate regime was bringing.

13. Ms. Ishii, in her statement, expressed appreciation for the continuing engagement of AMCEN with the Global Environment Facility and for the Conference's insistence at its thirteenth session on the importance of embedding natural resource management in national development plans. Africa faced pressing environmental challenges in the coming decade, with the carrying capacity of ecosystems already reached or exceeded globally. The continent possessed nine of the world's 35 most important biodiversity hotspots, but the natural resource base of the region was sharply deteriorating, calling for a transformational change in global environmental management. AMCEN had recognized that development and the environment were inseparable and that natural resource management had to be at the core of development decision-making. She identified the leadership role of the Global Environment Facility in effecting transformational change by developing innovative ways of doing business and acting as a financial catalyst. Africa had made progress in promoting clean technologies in the energy sector and new approaches in protected areas management, as in the Great Green Wall, Congo Basin and Lake Chad initiatives, and the continent had a central role to play in implementing the vision of the Facility. In tackling the challenges, it was important to explore the value of regional approaches, as well as specific country-based action, and to engage with the private sector.

14. In his statement, Mr. Dioné emphasized the role played by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in partnership with the regional economic communities, UNEP and UNDP, at the Conference on Sustainable Development. The collective preparatory process had enabled the region to achieve consensus on Africa's sustainable development concerns and priorities and to effectively articulate them. He stressed, however, that Africa could not stop at that level of success: the ultimate measure of success lay in how well African countries organized themselves and marshalled resources for the implementation of the Conference outcomes. He noted the importance of the African regional implementation meetings to be held in Addis Ababa in October and November 2012 in preparation for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York in May 2013, which would feed into the General Assembly follow-up processes to the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. The Economic Commission for Africa also saw the Conference as a success in challenging the world on the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to development, both in conceptual and operational terms. In that vein, the Commission was engaging in internal deliberations on Africa's sustainable development priorities in all its divisions and in consultations with relevant African Union bodies and AMCEN on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in Africa, with a view to delivering as one in the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Conference outcomes.

15. Mr. Gbedemah, in his statement, said that the Convention on Biological Diversity and its two protocols – the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization – had reached a mature age. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, had resulted in the adoption of a number of key decisions, including those relating to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011–2020, and the Aichi biodiversity targets. Despite all efforts, however, biodiversity loss was continuing, and there was a considerable mismatch between commitments by parties and actual implementation. A pragmatic, multifaceted approach was required to mobilize resources and mainstream biodiversity into national development agendas; biodiversity should be viewed not as an obstacle to development but as an opportunity to enhance the social and economic spheres of societies. There was a need to operate strategically, prioritizing approaches and mechanisms, engaging the business sector, setting targets to reverse biodiversity loss and developing related monitoring systems, increasing capacity to improve implementation of goals and targets and promoting recognition of community-based approaches. In conclusion, he praised the efforts of Africa to support the development of the Nagoya Protocol, and he urged countries to ratify the Protocol and to incorporate its provisions into national policy frameworks.

16. In his statement, Mr. Bakiika said that at a recent meeting in preparation for the fourteenth session of AMCEN, representatives of civil society groups had discussed issues related to the environment, sustainable development and climate change and the failure of the global community to

find effective solutions to the major problems facing the planet. Several priority areas had been identified, including poverty eradication, access to education, sustainable agriculture, food security, gender responsiveness, resource mobilization and management and protection of the environment and ecosystems. The engagement of civil society was of crucial importance to Africa in implementing environmental programmes in the wake of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Transparency was vital to the process, and Governments consequently needed to ensure access to information and public participation. He urged AMCEN to develop guidelines for the constructive engagement of civil society so that their expertise could enhance programmes for sustainable development in Africa. He cited the newly launched Tanzania Environment Portal as a good example of how Governments could improve access to information and management of environmental data to facilitate decision-making. He called on Governments to adopt a bottom-up approach to environmental decision-making, ensuring that all stakeholders worked together to eradicate poverty, hunger and injustice in a sustainable manner, without disturbing the harmony between nature and humanity.

17. Ms. Amina Ado, in her statement, highlighted the plight of children suffering from the effects of climate change, for example around Lake Chad, from displacement by foreign investors and from illnesses caused by toxic waste, among other things. Young people had drawn attention to the degradation of the planet at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and they deplored the fact that that situation had not improved. They were appealing to AMCEN to clarify the role of young people and other groups in their deliberations and appealed for the question of future generations to be included in the discussions. They also called for the establishment of a high-level adviser for future generations.

III. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

18. The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2012-2014:

Subregion	Country	Position
Central Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Vice-President
Eastern Africa	United Republic of Tanzania	President
North Africa	Egypt	Vice-President and Rapporteur
Southern Africa	Botswana	Vice-President
West Africa	Sierra Leone	Vice-President

19. Ms. Terezya Huvisa, Minister for the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania, on assuming the presidency, congratulated Mr. David Sagara on his hard work as President and added that her quest was to build on his achievements in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, and health and environment so as to move the AMCEN vision forward. She said that concerted efforts were urgently required to build the adaptation capacity of local communities and thereby save the people of Africa from the catastrophic impacts of climate change. AMCEN would therefore continue to play a central role in international and regional negotiations to tackle the effects of climate change in Africa.

20. She stressed the importance of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa in dealing with the many health challenges on the continent. She also emphasized the important role of the proposed African group of negotiators on biodiversity as a platform for forging common African positions on the issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol. She drew attention to the 2 billion people living in dryland areas, who depended heavily on environmental resources to feed themselves and their livestock, underlining the urgent need to halt and reverse land degradation in Africa. She added that Africa would need to develop important strategies to implement the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including the transition to a green economy, with policies tailor-made to the requirements and priorities of each country to avoid the blanket implementation of discriminatory policies.

21. All of those challenges needed to be tackled within the limits of available financial resources, with the aim of transforming the will of the public into concrete action through regional flagship programmes and North-South and South-South cooperation. In conclusion, she thanked all AMCEN partners, especially UNEP, for their invaluable support.

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

22. The representatives adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/14/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group.
4. Ministerial policy dialogue:
 - (a) African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Preparations for the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
5. Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN):
 - (a) AMCEN in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union;
 - (b) AMCEN trust fund.
6. Consideration of priority regional programmes, declaration, decisions and key messages.
7. Venue for the fifteenth 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

23. 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/14/1/Add.1).

IV. Consideration of the report of the expert group segment

24. Mr. Amadou Maiga, Chair of the expert segment, presented the report of the segment, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/14/6. Outlining the report, he drew attention to the draft Arusha Declaration and the set of draft decisions prepared by the experts and submitted for consideration and possible adoption during the ministerial segment.

V. Ministerial policy dialogue

25. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment of the Congo gave a presentation on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable development, at which Africa had negotiated with one voice to express its common goals and priorities in order to make sustainable development a reality for the continent by tackling such issues as poverty eradication, food security, water, sanitation and the effects of climate change. He stressed that AMCEN and its partners must guide Governments in the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. AMCEN should also prepare a plan of action for negotiations at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, where Africa should continue to speak with one voice through its diplomats in New York. He added that financial resources were limited, creating a need for diverse sources of funding. He requested that the outcome document be used as the basis for the ministerial discussions under agenda item 4, focusing on three main points: the African negotiation strategy for the General Assembly; mobilizing regional and international partnerships to accelerate the transition to a green economy with regard to funding and technology

development and transfer; and supporting the regional flagship programmes in implementing the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development.

A. African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

26. During the ensuing discussion, those present commented on a number of issues raised under agenda item 4 (a) on the African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Many representatives highlighted the wide range of environmental challenges facing Africa, including climate change, desertification, land degradation and loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, against the backdrop of increasingly daunting social and economic problems. Nevertheless, there was a mood of optimism and a determination that the growing confidence of the African voice in international forums, and the promising results emerging from the coordinated efforts across the continent, were powerful factors in dealing with those challenges and paving the way to poverty eradication, conflict resolution and sustainable development.

27. The value of coordination and cooperation was recognized by a number of representatives, with several drawing attention to the progress that had been made as a result of the considerable efforts to develop a unified African position for recent and forthcoming negotiations on major global issues, including sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity. Several representatives said that AMCEN had played a central role, and should continue to do so, in formulating common African positions on matters relating to the environment. The upcoming sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly was viewed as a major opportunity for African countries, through their diplomats and missions, to again take a central role in ensuring that African priorities were given full consideration. Several representatives stressed the importance of further enhancing cooperation with various actors, including the African Union, the African Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility and United Nations entities (in particular UNEP), as well as national Governments.

28. There was considerable discussion of the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development and the themes and proposals contained therein. One representative said that it was still unclear whether the Conference had achieved success, and there had been criticism of certain elements, including whether clear goals had been set, whether a proper timeline had been established for the transition to a green economy and whether the focus had been sufficiently global in scope. It was also unclear what implications the establishment of sustainable development goals would have for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, around which much national planning was centred. Some representatives said that while global objectives were important, it should be recognized that all countries had the right to pursue their own development agendas according to their own needs and aspirations. One representative drew attention to the special needs of small island developing States.

29. Regarding the response of Africa to the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, several representatives praised the inclusion in the 2013–2014 work programme of AMCEN of a number of key regional flagship programmes to support African countries in the implementation of the key substantive outcomes of the Conference. One representative said that the programmes were a significant step towards the achievement of sustainable development and the implementation of the green economy on the continent and that the ultimate objective was to have those programmes effective throughout all African countries. Several representatives noted that the concept of sustainable development was not new to Africa, and a wide range of relevant initiatives were already in place that held promise for scaling them up to the regional level. One representative said that in moving towards a green economy, Africa should ensure that it took advantage of its particular attributes, such as the huge potential for solar power.

30. One representative said that AMCEN should not lose sight at the current session of the analysis contained in document AMCEN/14/3 of the implications for Africa of the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development. That analysis highlighted seven key processes of significance for Africa and the related time frame for their completion, which could form a useful framework for an African action plan based on the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development.

31. Regarding the transition towards a green economy, several representatives said that it was important to keep in mind that the main aim of a green economy was poverty eradication. One representative said that the promotion of green jobs should be a major component of the transition, in particular given the high levels of unemployment in many parts of the continent, and that innovative approaches would be required to achieve that aim. Another representative said that it was critical for Africa to design a regional framework on the green economy, while avoiding a “one size fits all”

approach. The framework should build collaboration between key stakeholders and provide a blueprint for the engagement of international partners.

32. Several representatives commented on the tools and resources that would be needed to implement activities based on the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, including technology transfer, capacity-building measures and new and dependable streams of funding. A number of representatives welcomed the proposal in the Conference outcome document to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly to, among other things, assess financing needs with a view to developing an effective sustainable development strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources. Representatives noted the advantages to be gained from early African engagement in that process, both to shape the sustainable development agenda and to be open to innovative means of financing in the transition to a green economy. Several representatives said that efforts should be made to pursue alternative mechanisms for funding to embark proactively on green economy activities rather than waiting for international discussions to run their course. Another representative said that African countries should ensure that they fulfilled their own funding commitments to regional and subregional organizations before requiring assistance from others. Some representatives noted the need for institutional capacity-building and realignment to accommodate a new agenda that required a more integrated approach to the environmental, social and economic pillars of development. Also of importance were information exchange and partnership building, involving both private and public sectors, and involving both North-South and South-South cooperation.

33. Another issue viewed as important was the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP at its headquarters in Nairobi, and several representatives stressed the urgent need to move that process forward, including through lobbying at the General Assembly and ensuring that African views on the matter were clearly articulated.

34. Another issue highlighted was the need for peace and stability in order to create an environment conducive to progress and development.

B. Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

35. Introductory statements under the item were delivered by Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Mr. Emmanuel Dhlamini and Mr. Seth Osafo, chair of and legal adviser to the African group of negotiators, respectively.

36. In her statement, Ms. Figueres highlighted the main challenges facing African negotiators at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. To begin with, they had to decide how to ensure the transition to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and that they were not locked into committing to an excessively long time frame. Secondly, they needed to terminate the negotiating track under the Ad Hoc Working Group for Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and to decide on ways of reallocating the unresolved issues to other processes without jeopardizing the achievements of that track, especially with regard to establishing a definitive framework of financial and technical support for capacity-building in developing countries. The matter of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action was relatively less pressing and could be left until the following year. Expressing cautious optimism in the prospects for success in Doha, she stressed the importance of taking the outcomes of the Durban climate change conference to the next level in Doha.

37. In his statement, Mr. Dhlamini stressed the need to build on the multilateral process maintained in Durban so that the negotiations on outstanding issues were fair and inclusive in Doha. With the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol due to begin on 1 January 2013, the parties still had to decide whether to opt for a five-year or eight-year period. Either way, the negotiators must work to ensure that there was no gap between the two periods. They should also make sure that only parties to the Protocol had access to its flexibility mechanisms.

38. With regard to the termination of the negotiating track under the Ad Hoc Working Group, several key issues remained to be resolved, including limiting global temperature increases to below 1.5° C, which was crucial to Africa's ability to survive the effects of climate change. Another was that of equitable access to global atmospheric space, which must be reviewed on the basis of scientific data and the International Comparison Programme report. One major concern, however, was the lack of any indication as to how to bridge the financial gap between 2013 and 2020. A failure to address the issue would undermine another priority for surviving climate change, namely, implementation of adaptation measures. Progress on the matter at the recent meetings in Bonn and Bangkok had been too limited to guarantee a successful outcome in Doha, but the initial exchanges at the two workshops organized during the Bangkok meeting had proved positive. The Durban Platform for Enhanced

Action process, for its part, had produced a legal instrument applicable to all parties and providing a means of upholding the principles of the Framework Convention. It was worth noting that an African country, Eritrea, would be co-chairing the final phase of the process, due to take place in 2015.

39. Success in Doha would rely on African environment ministers being able to influence decision makers right through to the closure of the conference. They should therefore strive to ensure that their travel arrangements were flexible enough to allow them to stay on for the key decisions that, as was often the case with such complex and unpredictable events, might come up for adoption well after the proceedings were scheduled to end.

40. Mr. Osafo, in his statement, said that the developed countries in Durban had decided to translate the pledges made in Copenhagen and Cancun into quantified emissions reduction targets, yet no such outcome had been achieved to date. Even if they were honoured, those pledges were not ambitious enough to prevent increases in global warming of over 2° C, which would be disastrous for Africa. The African group of negotiators must encourage developed countries to improve on them and secure clear targets through amendments to the Kyoto Protocol. The prospects for the second commitment period to the Protocol were far from positive. Some countries, including Canada, Japan and the Russian Federation, had stated their intention to withdraw, and the combined emissions of the remaining parties would represent a mere fraction of the world total. Furthermore, some non-parties were keen to use the flexibility mechanisms under the Protocol without signing up to it. The key issue for the African group of negotiators was to ensure that the second commitment period entered into force on 1 January 2013. There had been talk of a provisional arrangement, however, and a number of countries had indicated that they could not sign up to the second commitment period before it had been approved by their national legislatures.

41. With regard to the negotiating track under the Ad Hoc Working Group, while the issues involved in the five pillars of the Bali Action Plan were still under consideration, some countries participating in negotiations in Bangkok had declared certain issues resolved since the establishment of the Green Climate Fund. That was cause for concern, as the Fund had not settled the matter of long-term financing, which was crucial to developing countries. If the negotiators failed to secure an agreement on issues related to long-term cooperative issues in Doha, the process would have to be extended for another term, and reassigning them to the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action process, for example, might overburden the Platform.

42. Meanwhile, too much time had been spent in Bonn on decisions regarding the agenda and co chairs for Doha; instead of discussing clear-cut concepts such as protocols or legal instruments, participants had referred to “an instrument with clear legal force” and had differentiated between responsibilities and the question of equity. African negotiators must be prepared for such tactics to ensure that all parties to the Convention and the Protocol made the same commitments when drafting legal instruments.

43. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of the Environment, Congo, said that the body of decisions approved by the experts, once adopted at the current session, would serve to underpin the work of the African group of negotiators at the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

44. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives mentioned the need to reach agreement on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, the future of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action, the need for Africa to speak with one voice and support the African negotiating group and the priority issue of financing.

45. One representative cautioned that the climate change conference in Doha would not be easy. As climate change negotiations continued, decisions would become more complicated and it was important to approach the Doha conference with an open mind and in an optimistic spirit. Others urged AMCEN to strengthen the role of the African negotiating group in order to fully prepare for the Doha conference and ensure that the continent would speak with one voice.

46. A number of representatives stressed the importance of ensuring the ratification of the agreement reached at the Durban conference on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Attention was also drawn to the low levels of ambition on the table, which was a disastrous situation for Africa. Africa should continue to call on those responsible for emissions to take action on their reduction and also demand responsible growth from those currently contributing to the increase. One representative stressed that it was essential to focus efforts on ensuring that all outstanding obstacles to the start of a second commitment period and conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action were removed before the conclusion of the Doha Conference. Another said that although agreement was reached in Durban on the closure of the Ad

Hoc Working Group track, if the issues involved therein were not addressed the continent would not welcome such action.

47. Adaptation was seen by many as a priority for Africa, and in particular the urgent need for adequate financial and technical support to ensure the effective implementation of adaptation plans and actions. The Doha conference should elevate adaptation issues to the same level as mitigation. As a vulnerable continent, Africa should receive realistic support for adaptation.

48. Several speakers underlined the urgent need for substantial funding to deal with what was an urgent situation. Calls were made to exert pressure on developed countries to provide funding for climate change adaptation and implementation of the green economy. A number of representatives voiced concern about the finance gap for 2013–2020 and called for it to be resolved in Doha. One representative called for support for Namibia's bid to host the Green Climate Fund.

49. A number of representatives drew attention to the impacts of climate change and the threat posed to the survival of some African countries. Increasing conflicts over natural resources and food shortages were being experienced as a result of the impacts of climate change, leading to social disintegration and a weak economy and affecting the ability of countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Rising sea levels were eroding coastlines and destroying houses and cultural wealth. The economic progress that had been achieved through major reforms and investments was being undermined, and policy strategies developed with partners had not yielded the anticipated benefits owing to insufficient funding. Attention was also drawn to the problem of deforestation and issues surrounding the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programme. One representative described the experiences with REDD in his country, saying that the programme was often cumbersome and that alternative methods of funding were needed.

50. One representative called for greater involvement by civil society and proposed that AMCEN should produce guidelines to ensure their systematic participation. Another drew attention to the concerns of small island developing States, saying that their voices needed to be heard.

C. Preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

51. Introducing the item, Mr. Mostafa Fouda (Egypt) gave a brief overview of preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, outlining some of the important issues to be considered at the meetings. The situation of biodiversity in Africa was familiar to everyone and posed a threat to the very survival of some African countries. Biodiversity had suffered greatly in Africa over the previous few decades and it was now necessary to make the message clearly heard, as with climate change, and to speak with one voice for Africa. He drew attention to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and the need to achieve its ratification, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which he said should serve as the basis for more countries to update their national biodiversity strategies. He highlighted the relationship between climate change and biodiversity and the need for synergies between activities related to them. At the Hyderabad meeting it would be important to consider the conservation of resources and the rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems, as well as the tools needed to support sustainable use of biodiversity.

52. In the ensuing discussion, representatives endorsed the importance of biodiversity for Africa's social and economic development. One representative emphasized the importance of African countries speaking with one voice to ensure the effective integration of Africa's concerns into the outcomes of the two important meetings. He underscored the need for major investment in biodiversity and its sustainable use in Africa and called for African negotiators to be mandated to emphasize the mobilization of resources with clear targets. Other speakers endorsed the importance of addressing the lack of resources, and one representative urged AMCEN to support Namibia's bid to bring the Green Climate Fund to Africa. Another advocated the establishment of a funding mechanism similar to that for climate change.

53. A number of representatives drew attention to specific examples of endangered biodiversity in their countries, such as the African elephant and rhinoceros, which were threatened by illegal trafficking in which other countries were involved. One representative called for the implementation of the action plan for African elephant conservation. Another called for more action to be taken against known consumer countries of ivory and trafficking networks and the export of African flora and called

for institutional support for the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. He proposed that AMCEN should follow the example of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and adopt a resolution to tackle the loss of African biodiversity under the umbrella of the African Union.

54. One representative, stressing the importance of marine biodiversity, drew attention to the concept of the blue economy developed by the Indian Ocean Commission.

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

55. A presentation was made by the consultant contracted by the AMCEN secretariat to undertake an analysis of the implications of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII), adopted in Malabo in 2011, in which the African Union Assembly of Heads and State and Government directed that the specialized technical committees provided for under the 2000 Constitutive Act of the African Union be made operational by January 2013, after which all sectoral ministerial conferences would be abolished and the environmental issues currently being considered by AMCEN would fall under the remit of a subcommittee of the Committee of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. That institutional change would have a number of potentially negative outcomes, including a possible loss of focus and prominence for environmental issues; a reduction in the capacity of AMCEN, in its new formulation, to carry out its functional mandates; and a reduction in financial support. In addition, the modalities of the new arrangement were very unclear, including the implications for the AMCEN secretariat and its other administrative structures, its trust fund and the approved work programme, budget and associated activities. The conclusion of the consultant was that, for the reasons given, the implementation of the decision by January 2013 would give rise to serious difficulties. Accordingly, four options were put forward for the consideration of AMCEN: the implementation of the decision by January 2013; the maintenance of the status quo until concerns had been addressed; a hybrid arrangement whereby AMCEN would retain its current structure while engaging in the work of the Committee of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; or the creation of a stand-alone specialized technical committee on the environment.

56. In the ensuing discussion there was consensus that the implementation of the Assembly decision by January 2013 was impractical and that many issues arising from the decision would need to be resolved. Several representatives drew attention to the ambitious agenda of AMCEN for future action, including the follow-up to the Conference on Sustainable Development, measures to transition to a green economy, the implementation of subregional flagship programmes and involvement in the climate change and biodiversity agendas. The momentum built by AMCEN in responding to current environmental threats would be seriously jeopardized by the readjustments required to put in place the new structural arrangements, with adverse effects on efficiency and effectiveness. There was agreement that the scale of the environmental agenda required the engagement of a stand-alone institution rather than one operating at the subcommittee level. In addition, several representatives said that the multiplicity of themes within the mandate of AMCEN, including the environment, climate change and sustainable development, would require a cross-cutting approach that would be severely restricted if it were to be confined to a particular technical committee.

57. Serious concerns were expressed that the implementation of the decision would make it more difficult to access the financial and technical resources needed to realize the activities of the AMCEN work programme, given that AMCEN would be competing for funding with other priorities if it were to be located within a technical committee dealing with a range of other issues, and it would lose the eminent position that had previously enabled it to attract funding.

58. There was considerable debate about how best to respond to the matter. Several representatives pointed out that the decision of the heads of State must be respected, arguing that the current discussion within AMCEN reflected concerns about implications and modalities rather than an unwillingness to comply. More information was needed on the reasoning behind the decision, and some representatives said that they had not been aware of any relevant discussions taking place at the national level.

59. Further thought needed to be given to the implications of the change, and more time was required to decide on the best way forward, as the abolition of AMCEN in its current form was scheduled to take place before the specific duties of the technical committees had been defined. Several representatives expressed concern as to how the new arrangements would affect existing protocols, given the planned change from a ministerial conference to a technical committee, with implications for representation, function and lines of reporting. Nor was it clear whether AMCEN was alone in its concerns or what progress had been made by the African Union Commission in

operationalizing the 14 technical committees. It behoved the AMCEN secretariat to clearly set out to the heads of State its concerns and views and to seek clarification on issues of concern. The engagement of AMCEN in that regard needed to be both tactful and tactical, exploring different advocacy platforms.

60. The representative of the African Union Commission said that the Commission understood the concerns raised and the critical nature of the issue. She said that, as pointed out in document AMCEN/14/5, the Commission had encountered severe difficulties in operationalizing the specialized technical committees owing to logistical problems arising from the sectoral clustering within those committees. Attempts had been made at meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Council to re-examine the composition of the technical committees as provided for in the Constitutive Act, but the problem still eluded resolution. However, it remained the responsibility of the Commission to implement the directives of the heads of State. She remained ready to present the concerns of AMCEN to the heads of State, who greatly appreciated the work undertaken by AMCEN.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Conference decided to request the Assembly of Heads of State to maintain the status quo until its various concerns had been considered and to give consideration to the option of establishing AMCEN as an additional specialized technical committee in its own right.

VII. Consideration of priority regional programmes, declaration, decisions and key messages

61. In a closed session, the ministers considered the Arusha Declaration on Africa's Post-Rio Strategy for Sustainable Development and adopted it as amended (see annex I).

62. They then considered the 12 draft decisions approved by the expert group. In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that draft decision 14/8 on the management of biodiversity in Africa should call for the convening of a conference in 2013 to tackle the issue of illegal poaching in Africa and urge African countries that had not ratified the Lusaka Agreement to do so. With regard to draft decision 14/11 on the joint celebration of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day, it was decided that Tunisia would host the upcoming celebrations in 2013, followed by a country from southern Africa, Namibia, in 2014. Both draft decisions were adopted as orally amended (see annex II).

63. The remaining draft decisions were adopted without amendment (see annex II).

VIII. Venue for the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

64. The representative of the group of North African countries informed representatives that, following consultations among North African States, the Government of Egypt had offered to host the fifteenth session of AMCEN.

65. The Conference confirmed by acclamation the selection of Egypt as the host country for the fifteenth session of AMCEN, to be held in 2014.

66. The Conference also received an offer from the Government of Tunisia to host the fifth special session of AMCEN in 2013.

IX. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment

67. On the morning of Friday, 14 September 2012, the representatives adopted the report of the ministerial segment on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated at the meeting, as orally amended, and on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the secretariat, working in conjunction with the Rapporteur.

X. Other matters

68. Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, delivered a statement on disaster risk reduction and its linkages with environmental and developmental issues, including climate change and sustainable development. She said that disaster risk reduction had received attention in the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development, in which heads of State and Government had reaffirmed their commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The document had also called for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty

eradication and to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels. Disaster risk reduction was a priority for Africa, given the increasing vulnerability of the continent to natural disasters and extreme events, in particular those resulting from climate change, and the fact that disaster risk accrued with urbanization, economic development and increased investment in infrastructure. Under the Hyogo Framework for Action, an African Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy had been developed, and national Governments, with the support of the African Union Commission and regional economic communities, had reported progress on disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. With a view to supporting the process, it was important to set up national disaster loss databases and reporting systems. As the Conference on Sustainable Development had asserted, disaster risk management was a sustainable development issue that merited close attention in a changing world.

69. Ms. Connie Hedegaard, Climate Commissioner, European Union, delivered a statement on the implications of the current climate change negotiations for Africa. She said that the European Union viewed Africa as a strong partner in pursuit of their common goals on the environment and climate change, as had been demonstrated during the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Durban in 2011. The Climate Change Conference to be held in Doha in November 2012 would discuss the implementation of what had been agreed in Durban, including the preparation of a new legally binding instrument by 2015. Progress had been made in Durban on adaptation, but efforts should be made to ensure that progress was maintained, including through the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund. She praised the efforts of African countries to integrate climate change into their developmental and economic strategies in a cross-cutting manner. It was imperative to hold global warming below 2°C, and there should be no compromise on that target. The climate change challenge could be met only if all contributed to the best of their abilities, in particularly the bigger economies. The European Union fully intended to make a commitment in the second commitment period; it would confirm that in Doha. It was important to remember that a package of actions had been agreed in Durban, and real progress required commitment by all countries on all elements of the package. In addition, procedural technicalities should not be allowed to obstruct progress, and the next commitment must last until the new regime comes into force. Finally, on the issue of finance, she said that Europe would honour its funding commitments, and she encouraged countries to explore a wide range of funding mechanisms to finance climate change projects.

70. Mr. Guang Xia, Director General, Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China, took the floor to welcome the progress being made towards a framework for cooperation between Africa and his country under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. He noted that although there were expectations of cooperation between the two sides in the environmental field, no formal consultations between African Governments and China had yet taken place. As part of the developing world, China and African countries were facing multiple challenges in environmental and development issues and were all endeavouring to implement the outcomes of Rio+20; in that context they could learn from each other's experiences in the environmental field. Mr. Xia said that he would convey the outcomes of the current session to his ministry and recommend the establishment of a mechanism to promote cooperation with Africa.

71. Mr. Dhlamini expressed appreciation for the support provided by AMCEN to Swaziland in its role as Chair of the African group of negotiators and pledged the support of his country for the Conference in its efforts to address environmental challenges. He noted that the fourteenth session was the first meeting of AMCEN since recent tragic events on the continent and expressed his condolences to Ethiopia, Ghana and Malawi in connection with the recent loss of their heads of State.

XI. Closure of the session

72. After the customary exchange of courtesies, a closing statement was delivered by Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Congratulating the participants on the success of their work at the session, he stressed the need for serious action to match the seriousness of the threats to the planet's environment. Weather patterns had changed enormously since his youth, with more unpredictable rainfall and more frequent and longer-lasting droughts leading to the destruction of crops and the loss of livestock and wildlife. Sea levels were rising at an alarming rate, threatening coastal areas, including human settlements, and resulting in the salinization of freshwater wells. Developed countries were responsible for the largest share of global carbon emissions and should therefore be making the greatest effort to address such issues and to help those who were suffering as a result. They had the necessary financial, technological and human resources, and had acknowledged that responsibility, but were failing to take the appropriate action because they lacked the political will to set realistic carbon emission reduction deadlines and to make legally binding commitments.

73. The fact that rising sea levels in the South were caused by melting glaciers in the North illustrated the interconnected nature of environmental problems, and developing countries must not forget that they, too, had a responsibility. They must strive to address their own carbon emissions, which stemmed from, among others things, charcoal production, and to take action to tackle the environmental degradation caused by over-farming, overgrazing, deforestation and the depletion of water resources. It was a matter of striking the right balance to allow populations to meet their basic needs while introducing measures to regulate their activities, such as stricter rules for the approval of logging permits. Meanwhile, the carbon credits system should be reconsidered so that the eligibility criteria extended not only to the countries planting new trees but also to those working to conserve their existing forest cover.

74. In spite of repeated setbacks at successive conferences, African ministers of the environment must continue to believe in their ability to rise to the mammoth task of persuading their counterparts in the developed world to reverse their current position. All countries, rich and poor, had to work together in the fight to save the planet for future generations.

75. The ministerial segment and the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was brought to close at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, 14 September 2012.

Annex I

Arusha Declaration on Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

In relation to Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development,

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Recalling the decision¹ of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which requests were made to:

(a) The fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to conduct a substantive analysis of the Rio+20 outcomes in order to develop a plan of action for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

(b) The African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, regional economic communities and other partners to step up efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes to support sustainable development efforts in Africa,

Stressing the need for Africa to seize the opportunities available to achieve its sustainable development ambitions as a result of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the continued relevance and importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in providing a framework for sustainable development, and its action plan for the environment initiative as the framework for addressing environmental matters in Africa,

Expressing appreciation to all partners, including the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations agencies and partners for the support in the preparatory work and successful participation of African countries in the Rio+20 Conference,

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of the global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns,² which supports regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, contributing to resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, while creating new job opportunities and contributing to poverty eradication,

Acknowledging that programmes in the adopted global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns cover consumer information aimed at promoting tools such as eco-labelling,

Recalling the Luanda Commitment (2010) on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, in which ministers of health and the environment identified chemicals management as one of the top continental health and environment priorities to be addressed to accelerate the implementation of the Libreville Declaration,

Determined to resolve current health and environmental challenges through the effective implementation of both the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the chemicals-related international conventions, which requires that the policies of the health and environment sectors be aligned with each other, and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms to

¹ Assembly/AU/Dec.437(XIX).

² A/CONF.216/5, annex.

facilitate collaboration and the greater integration of the sound management of chemicals into the sustainable development agenda,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Global Environment Facility and other partners for the implementation of environmental programmes in Africa,

Reaffirming the importance of the Africa Environment Outlook as a framework to support decision-making for the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes by member States and other stakeholders,

Recognizing the ongoing United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014 and the Tbilisi Communiqué – Educate Today for a Sustainable Future, adopted by the Tbilisi Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (Tbilisi+35), held on 6 and 7 September 2012,

Expressing our support for and stressing the importance of the sixth 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 Hyderabad, India, from 1 to 5 October 2012, and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad from 8 to 19 October 2012, including its high-level segment, scheduled for 17 to 19 October 2012,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement Plan of Action for Africa 2012–2017 by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, which calls upon African Governments to fully support and implement the plan at the national level and encourages developed country partners and other partners to provide additional technical and financial resources for the full implementation of the plan,

Concerned with the limited progress in the implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa,

Considering that the forthcoming sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to be convened in September 2012, will discuss and make decisions on the implementation of some of the Rio+20 outcomes,

Recognizing that the Rio+20 Conference reaffirmed the Rio principles on sustainable development as contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, made at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming the important role played by non-governmental and civil society organizations in implementing the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the important role that young people, the private sector, major groups, non-governmental organizations and civil society will play in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the need for their effective involvement in all such processes,

Recalling decision 13/4, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session, on the compulsory minimum contribution of \$10,000 by each member State to the trust fund of the Conference, and committed to having secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to ensure that the Conference fulfils its mandate,

Concerned that the non-contribution by some member States to the trust fund affects the ability of the Conference to carry out its activities,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To agree to enhance the political visibility of the African sustainable development agenda and promote the stronger integration, in a balanced manner, of the three sustainable development dimensions;
2. To agree to strengthen and consolidate our commitment to the promotion of sustainable development and effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions into our local, national and regional development policies and strategies;

3. To reaffirm the need to continue speaking with one voice and ensure the adequate representation of Africa in all committees established for the follow-up of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
4. To develop a common strategy for negotiation and engagement that represents the interests of Africa in the intergovernmental processes to be established by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on:
 - (a) The establishment of the universal intergovernmental high-level political forum;
 - (b) The sustainable development goals;
 - (c) The strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (d) The operationalization of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;
 - (e) The mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technology;
 - (f) The intergovernmental process for an effective and sustainable development financing strategy;
5. To develop and implement regional flagship programmes that will contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Africa;
6. To call on the African Union-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and regional economic communities and other relevant partners, to create the African Environment Partnership Platform as a mechanism for cooperation and resource mobilization for the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of AU-NEPAD;
7. To initiate an African green economy partnership that facilitates coordinated support to member States and serves to implement the global partnership for action on the green economy as a vehicle for poverty eradication, the creation of decent jobs and sustainable development;
8. To effectively address and meet the commitment made at the Rio+20 Conference to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development and within the implementation for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
9. To agree to transform the Marrakech Process Task Force on Cooperation with Africa into a partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa so as to ensure the continuation of the implementation of activities and programmes on sustainable consumption and production in the region;
10. To emphasize the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenge of meeting basic needs in the process of developing national, subregional and regional activities in Africa under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.
11. To call on the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to dedicate a session during the upcoming Africa regional implementation mechanism meeting to examine African priorities and determine the guidelines for Africa's engagement with the intergovernmental process set up by the General Assembly, including the high-level political forum, sustainable development goals, financing and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production;
12. To recognize and support the further development of the African eco-labelling mechanism and its Eco-mark Africa eco-label as an effective market-based instrument and consumer information tool to enhance access for African products to regional and international markets;
13. To call upon member States to use the findings of the Africa Environment Outlook in national policies, development plans and strategies, and to call upon the African Union Commission to integrate the process and preparation of the Africa Environment Outlook in its programme of work, with the technical support of the United Nations Environment Programme;
14. To request the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct a study of the situation, best practices and needs concerning, and to agree to develop and adopt a plan of action on, access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues in Africa;

15. To agree to develop programmes that will support the development of networks and the capacity of parliamentarians in raising awareness and integration of multilateral environmental agreements into national and regional policies and programmes;
16. To invite the Assembly of the African Union to reconsider the decision to abolish sectoral ministerial conferences, including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to allow for further consultations and to request the establishment of a specialized technical committee on the environment, given the increasing importance of the environmental dimension in sustainable development in Africa and the world;
17. To call upon member States individually and collectively to develop policies, guidelines, legislation and other strategies or mechanisms for the management of electrical and electronic wastes;
18. To agree to strengthen environmental education and training and develop an action plan for Africa, covering formal and non-formal education, capacity-building and information networking components, among others, and to explicitly include a focus on technology-enhanced learning in this action plan;
19. To reinforce the need for increased coordination and cooperation among the chemicals and wastes conventions, namely, the Bamako Convention, the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and to encourage continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among them and with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and to call upon member States to follow this synergistic approach in implementing the chemicals and wastes conventions at the national level;
20. To request the member States, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other partners, to support the implementation of the African programme to reduce chemical risks to health and the environment in Africa and to develop and disseminate for use by member States the necessary technical tools required for the implementation of the programme in the context of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa;
21. To urge the African Union Commission, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to develop a marine and coastal environment strategy for Africa;
22. To call upon partners, including the Global Environment Facility, to support African countries and relevant regional bodies in their efforts to effectively implement environmental matters, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, through, in particular, national-level implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and efforts towards the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;
23. To urge member States and all relevant regional bodies to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity for 2011-2020;
24. To appeal to member States to continue conserving and sustainably using biological diversity by supporting the objective of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, implementing national biosafety frameworks and promoting the safe use of modern biotechnology;
25. To urge member States to continue to promote synergy in the implementation of the Rio Conventions;
26. To encourage the African Union Commission to continue its ongoing work in the development of guidelines to support the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing in Africa;
27. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with member States and partners, to support, with financial and technical assistance, through multilateral, North-South and South-South cooperation, the implementation of the agreed decision under the Rio+20 Conference regarding mountains in Africa;
28. To urge all countries to raise awareness of and use the African Union Commission strategy to guide the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

29. To call for accession by all member States to the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora and for the implementation of appropriate measures to combat transboundary environmental crimes in this regard;

30. To urge member States to take the necessary measures to ratify and implement the 2003 Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

31. To request the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and regional economic communities to support the convening of the first conference of the parties to the Bamako Convention and facilitate the mobilization of resources for its operationalization;

32. To call upon partners, including the Global Environment Facility, to support African countries and relevant bodies in their efforts to effectively implement the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative and to use it as a flagship programme that represents Africa's contribution to the achievement of a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development;

33. To promote South-South cooperation, including through intra-Africa and Africa-Brazil-China cooperation for sustainable development in Africa;

In relation to the updated common African position on climate change,

Welcoming the decisions³ of the Assembly of the African Union adopted at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, inter alia, endorsing Namibia as the African candidate to bid for the hosting of the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session, held in Bamako from 20 to 25 June 2010, on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Recalling the outcome of the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Bamako from 12 to 16 September 2011, by which the Conference adopted the updated African common position on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Noting the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011,

Aware of the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012,

Recognizing the urgency of progress on all outcomes under consideration at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in particular an ambitious and science-based second commitment period for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol, an ambitious package of outcomes to implement the Convention under the Bali Action Plan, as well as progress on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action,

Stressing Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change, in particular the adverse effects on ecosystems, food production, and social and economic development in Africa, and noting the urgent need for all countries to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change,

Emphasizing that climate change represents an urgent and irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, that the window of opportunity to avoid dangerous climate change is closing, and that there is a growing risk of runaway climate change and catastrophic impacts, particularly to Africa,

Recognizing that a global goal of limiting average global warming to 2 degrees Celsius risks warming of over 3 degrees Celsius on the continent of Africa and represents extremely dangerous interference with the climate system and a threat to ecosystems, food production and sustainable development,

³ Assembly/AU/Dec.416-449(XIX).

Concerned that inadequate mitigation ambition by developed countries will allow them to consume an excessive share of the global emissions budget for 2020, resulting in increased warming, limited atmospheric space for developing countries, and rising costs of adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, in particular in Africa, owing to its levels of vulnerability and development,

Concerned that there is insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed countries as “fast-start” financing for the period 2010 to 2012, that the bulk of funds disbursed are neither “new” nor “additional” and that there is no agreed level of financing for the period 2013 to 2020,

Concerned also that inadequate ambition on mitigation and finance reflects a broader tendency by some parties to fundamentally reorder the balance of rights and obligations in the international climate change regime to embody weaker obligations for developed countries and stronger obligations for developing countries and to weaken the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Calling on all parties to fulfil their commitments and to work together to preserve and strengthen the international architecture to address climate change through multilateral cooperation based on science, equity and the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Aware of the impacts of rising sea levels, especially on small island developing States as a result of climate change,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change in providing political direction for the promotion of African interests in the climate change negotiations,

Expressing appreciation also for the efforts of the African group of negotiators in the development of the updated African common position on strengthening the international climate change regime through full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Emphasizing the importance to all the States and peoples of Africa of a successful outcome to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012,

Recalling the decision⁴ of the African Union Executive Council, adopted at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 January 2011, in which the Council endorsed the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) and the declaration of the second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Nairobi from 14 to 16 April 2010,

Hereby declare our resolve:

34. To endorse the updated African common position on climate change as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime through full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto;

35. To agree that the key messages⁵ on climate change negotiations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol should guide and inform the discussions of the African group;

36. To affirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto constitute the fundamental global legal framework on climate change, and that the climate change negotiations in Doha must conclude agreed outcomes in line with the Bali Road Map as well as progress under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;

37. To call for outcomes of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are based on science, equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, reflecting the latest scientific, technical, economic and social information, as such outcomes will significantly influence efforts to secure Africa’s sustainable development;

⁴ Decision EX.CL/593(XVII).

⁵ See decision AMCEN 14/12 on climate change.

38. To reaffirm that a long-term global goal must include ambitious short-, medium- and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, reflecting their historical responsibilities, and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort, as well as the provision of adequate means of implementation — finance, technology and capacity-building — to enable Africa to address its adaptation needs in particular;
39. To encourage Annex I parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol to undertake commitments under the Convention that are comparable in magnitude and effort and are measurable, reportable and verifiable through an agreed set of common accounting rules and a compliance framework;
40. To call on developed country parties to urgently scale up support for the implementation of adaptation measures and plans, through, in particular, the Cancun Adaptation Framework and the Nairobi Work Programme, and to support and expedite work to understand, reduce and compensate for loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture;
41. To call on developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support the strengthening or establishment of centres of excellence and regional centres and networks for adaptation and to request the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to engage bilateral and multilateral partners to take concrete steps to ensure that Africa has strong regional adaptation centres and networks;
42. To affirm the importance of the latest scientific findings on climate change for negotiations, and to support African centres of excellence and policy bodies in actively participating in the preparations for the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change so as to ensure that climate change issues relevant to Africa are adequately reflected in the report, due to be launched in 2014;
43. To urge the Green Climate Fund Board, in its capacity as an operating entity of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to commence funding and progressively strengthen its support for developing countries, taking into account the specific circumstances of the least developed countries, small island developing States and the countries of Africa;
44. To declare our resolve to support Namibia's bid as the African candidate to host the Green Climate Fund secretariat;
45. To call for agreement at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the sources and scale of public financial resources to be provided by Annex II parties for the period commencing in 2013, with enhanced transparency in the provision of new and additional financial resources through a common reporting format, and on the full capitalization of the Green Climate Fund and progress in the Standing Committee on Finance;
46. To call upon developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide new and additional resources to the climate funds under the Convention, in particular the Green Climate Fund, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Adaptation Fund, which are currently the only financial means to fund adaptation under the Convention;
47. To call upon all relevant institutions, including the African Development Bank and other regional development banks and partners, to assist African countries in accessing funding available through the Green Climate Fund and other global climate funds, and further enhance their capacity for direct access;
48. To urge parties to cooperate efficiently to rapidly increase technology development and transfer to Africa in support of adaptation to and the mitigation of climate change in all relevant sectors, including the agriculture, water, health, forestry, energy, transport, industry and waste-management sectors, and to support the full operationalization of the technology mechanism of the Convention;
49. To reaffirm that agriculture must be treated under adaptation because of its status as a means of livelihood and the backbone of the African economy, also to reaffirm that agriculture is a priority for Africa and should be treated as a matter of survival, and to recommend that a comprehensive work programme covering finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to support sustainable agricultural production in developing countries be established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, with support from developed countries;

50. To call for the work to enhance ambition under the Durban Platform to adequately address the need to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to emphasize in this context the urgent need to reflect ambitious commitments under the Bali Road Map in order for Annex I parties to reduce their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2017 as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention;

51. To reaffirm that the Convention is the multilateral platform for climate change action, as such additional actions under the ambition work stream of the Durban Platform require agreed transparency, accounting and recognition provisions, and that enhanced action by developing countries through a clear process to scale up the means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity support is necessary;

52. To call for efforts under the Durban Platform to enhance ambition leading to a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention by 2015, to enter into force by 2020, to reflect all principles and provisions of the Convention, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in order to limit the increase of global average temperature to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius while ensuring equitable access to sustainable development and the sharing of atmospheric space and resources, taking into account cumulative historical responsibility and the use of such resources by Annex I parties;

53. To urge all African countries to participate actively in the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

54. To acknowledge that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation share common root causes and goals, and to recognize disaster risk management as a tool for climate change adaptation and the reduction of the vulnerability of communities and nations;

We, African Ministers of Environment, hereby declare our resolve:

55. To urge the member States of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to clear their outstanding mandatory contributions to the Conference and to work with all organs of their Government to ensure that the mandatory annual contributions are made on a timely basis;

56. To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in consultation with the Bureau, to continue encouraging all member States to make their annual contributions;

57. 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;

58. To express our appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other organizations for their continued support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

59. To mandate the President of the Conference to convey the priorities and position of Africa as contained in the report of the Conference on the work of its fourteenth session to all parties, including external partners, organizations and multilateral environmental conventions with a view to enlisting their support, and to report to the Conference at its next session;

60. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the Conference on the work of its fourteenth session, including the recommendations contained in the Arusha Declaration and in the other annexes to the report, to the Executive Council of the African Union;

61. To pay tribute to the President, the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants, the excellent facilities made available and their generous support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session, which contributed greatly to its success.

Annex II

Decision 14/1: Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decisions¹ of the Assembly of the African Union at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, held in Malabo on 30 June and 1 July 2011 and in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 January 2012, on Africa's preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Taking note of the Africa consensus statement that was adopted in Addis Ababa on 25 October 2011 in the context of the African regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming also the decision² of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in which the Assembly urged member States to continue to speak with one voice, ensure adequate representation of Africa in all the committees to be established consequent to the outcome of Rio+20, and to use the fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to conduct a substantive analysis of the Rio+20 outcomes in order to develop a road map for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Decide:

1. To develop a common strategy for negotiation and engagement that represents the interests of Africa in the intergovernmental process, to be established by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, on:
 - (a) The establishment of the universal intergovernmental high-level political forum;
 - (b) The development of sustainable development goals;
 - (c) The strengthening and upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (d) The operationalization of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;³
 - (e) A mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies;
 - (f) The intergovernmental process for an effective sustainable development financing strategy;
2. To agree that African member States representing the region in the aforementioned intergovernmental process should coordinate with African missions through the African Union office in New York to agree on regional inputs on various issues prior to submission to various committees;
3. To establish mechanisms that provide coordinated support to member States for the promotion of the green economy in Africa, including the development of partnerships and national strategies, the promotion of regional and international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the transfer of resource-efficient and green technologies and know-how;
4. To develop and implement the following key African regional flagship programmes, identified on the basis of the Rio Outcome document, key priorities for Africa and existing regional programmes and partnerships, as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20):
 - (a) African green economy partnership;
 - (b) Ecosystem-based adaptation programme for Africa;

¹ Assembly/AU/Dec.381(XVII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.400 (XVIII).

² Assembly/AU/Dec.437(XIX).

³ A/CONF.216/5, annex.

- (c) African programme on sustainable energy development;
- (d) Partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa;
- (e) Integrated waste management programme for Africa;
- (f) Africa integrated environmental assessment for sustainable development planning;
- (g) Sustainable land management and desertification programme in Africa;
- (h) Poverty and livelihoods;
- (i) African programme on biodiversity and ecosystems;
- (j) African partnership for capacity-building, technology transfer and skills development;

5. That the key regional flagship programmes identified in paragraph 4 above will be further developed and implemented through existing institutional structures, taking into account frameworks for regional and interregional cooperation, including South-South cooperation, such as Africa-China-Brazil Cooperation for Africa's Sustainable Development, the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development and other cooperation initiatives;

6. To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to convene a meeting of experts in order to further develop the key regional flagship programmes;

7. To call upon development partners, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to support the implementation of the key regional flagship programmes at the regional and national levels.

Decision 14/2: Strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Taking note of the Africa consensus statement that was adopted in Addis Ababa on 25 October 2011 in the context of the African regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Welcoming the outcome document⁴ of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", adopted by the Conference on 22 June 2012,

Welcoming also General Assembly resolution 66/288, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document,

Welcoming further section C, in particular paragraph 88, of the outcome document, on the environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development, which calls for the strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the fact that paragraph 88 of the outcome document invited the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the decision⁵ of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, in which the Assembly requested the fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in order to develop a plan of action for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Decide:

1. To invite the General Assembly to safeguard the positive results of the outcome document of Rio+20 and the decision⁵ of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session by adopting at its sixty-seventh session a resolution on the strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme in conformity with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as follows:

⁴ A/CONF.216/16, chap. I, resolution I, annex.

⁵ Assembly/AU/Dec.437(XIX).

- (a) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance as well its responsiveness and accountability to member States;
- (b) Ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate;
- (c) Enhance the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment;
- (d) Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making;
- (e) Disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness on critical as well as emerging environmental issues;
- (f) Provide capacity-building to countries, as well as support, and facilitate access to technology;
- (g) Progressively consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi, as well as strengthen its regional presence, in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies, collaborating closely with other relevant entities of the United Nations system;
- (h) Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society;

2. To invite the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to consider including the following additional elements in the strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme:

- (a) Strengthening regional presence by increasing and upgrading the functions and capacity of regional offices and establishing five subregional offices in Africa so as to enable countries to build their capacities to implement their national environmental policies, plans and programmes;
 - (b) Increasing financial resources to the United Nations Environment Programme to at least 2 per cent of the United Nations regular budget;
 - (c) Establishing a universal membership body known as the Environment Assembly, with a ministerial segment called the Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (d) Mandating the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to determine the details of the mandates and composition of other bodies of the Environment Assembly;
3. To urge all member States to actively participate and engage in the negotiations on and adopt a resolution on strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Decision 14/3: Review of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 13/1 on the review of the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and all the relevant partners in undertaking the review of the implementation of the action plan,

Acknowledging the interlinkages between the environment action plan and the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference and other programmes and initiatives at the global and regional levels,

Recognizing the continued relevance and importance of the action plan as the framework for addressing environmental matters in Africa,

Expressing appreciation for the progress and success so far made and the achievements of the action plan in guiding and influencing policy and programme development at the regional, national and local levels in Africa,

Noting the consultative process undertaken to review the environment action plan, including the key findings of the review,

Welcoming the progress made in the review of the environment action plan,

Decide:

1. To request the African Union Commission to continue to provide high-level political support and advocacy for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
2. To request the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, regional economic commissions and other relevant partners, to finalize the update of the action plan;
3. To request the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant partners, to develop key priorities, including emerging and persistent thematic areas for implementation in the updated action plan for the next five years;
4. To agree to include the following emerging and persistent areas as part of the updated action plan in the context of Africa's sustainable development and poverty reduction:
 - (a) Green economy;
 - (b) Natural resources governance;
 - (c) Wastes management;
 - (d) Sustainable energy;
 - (e) Climate change;
 - (f) Biodiversity;
 - (g) Sustainable consumption and production;
 - (h) Sustainable land management; and
 - (i) Integrated management of African coastal lands;
5. To agree to enhance implementation of the action plan as identified in the following key findings of the review:
 - (a) Improvement of coordination mechanisms at all levels;
 - (b) Establishment of a regular reporting framework by member States;
 - (c) Mobilization of additional financial resources, including from domestic sources;
 - (d) Interlinkages and complementarity with other sustainable development sectors;
 - (e) Monitoring and evaluation;
 - (f) Communication, advocacy and knowledge management;
 - (g) Institutional capacity-building;
6. To agree to create the African Environment Partnership Platform as the mechanism to coordinate, mobilize resources, foster knowledge and align support for the implementation of the action plan;
7. To request the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, regional economic commissions and other relevant partners to develop modalities for the operationalization of the African Environment Partnership Platform within one year of the adoption of the present decision.

Decision 14/4: Sustainable consumption and production in Africa

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment,

Recalling the Dakar Declaration for Enhanced Partnership in the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted by the second Partners Conference of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the implementation of the plan, held in Dakar on 15 and 16 March 2005,

Noting the progress made in the development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Noting also that eco-labelling is one of the priority areas of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Welcoming the global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns⁶ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, which supports regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, contributing to resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, while creating new job opportunities and contributing to poverty eradication,

Reaffirming the emphasis on the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenge of meeting basic needs in the process of developing national, subregional and regional activities in Africa under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns with partners such as the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners in supporting regional and national initiatives to promote a shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Decide:

1. To review the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production so as to hasten the implementation of the adopted global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;⁶
2. To implement the activities and programmes of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production as shall have been reviewed;
3. To call upon our development partners to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production activities at the regional and national levels for the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
4. To provide support for the implementation of the African Eco-labelling Mechanism and its Eco Mark Africa eco-label so as to promote African regional, intra-national and international trade, as well as strengthen its Secretariat;
5. To support the Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa, and to strengthen the Secretariat of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Decision 14/5: Strengthening the Africa Environment Outlook and environment information networks in support of decision-making in Africa

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 13/7 and other decisions adopted by the Conference on the Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information network,

Noting that the environmental information assessment and reporting mechanism of the Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information networks are essential to

⁶ A/CONF.216/5, annex.

informing decision-making to effectively implement the achievements and outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),

Reaffirming the importance of the Africa Environment Outlook as a decision support tool for the work of the African Union, as well as its member States,

Decide:

1. To request member States to use the Africa Environment Outlook as one of its regular tools for reviewing the state of the African environment to support decision-making at the national and regional levels;
2. To agree to develop a regional reporting platform, Africa Environment Outlook-Live, to provide dynamic and regularly updated, scientific and evidence-based, on-line information on the state of the environment, including trends and the future outlook, as part of the support for decision-making in Africa;
3. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support the establishment of Africa Environment Outlook-Live as the regional on-line environmental information platform that is linked to and compatible with UNEP-Live;
4. To agree to support the evaluation of uptake and use in decision-making of environmental information, including the findings and recommendations contained in the Africa Environment Outlook reports, in order to identify and strengthen appropriate mechanisms through which environmental information can better serve policy and decision-making in the region;
5. To agree to build national and regional capacities in environmental information management and communication and strengthen the Africa environment information network and other environment information networks at the national level;
6. To agree to mobilize resources to prepare future Africa Environment Outlook reports and support the capacity-building of African countries in thematic and integrated environmental assessment and reporting, including through the development of appropriate data and indicator management tools (environmental data and information management).

Decision 14/6: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the African Union structures

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decision⁷ of the Assembly of the African Union at its twelfth session, held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 February 2009, by which the Assembly established specialized technical committees of the African Union, with environmental matters falling under the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment,

Recalling also decision 13/3, in which African ministers of the environment requested 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,

Noting the action by the Bureau to suspend the revision of the Constitution pending further clarification on the operationalization of the decision of the Assembly of the African Union on the specialized technical committees,

Recalling the decision⁸ of the Executive Council requesting the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to formalize the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the ministerial body for the environment under the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment,

Recalling also the decision⁹ of the Assembly of the African Union, adopted at its seventeenth session, held in Malabo on 30 June and 1 July 2011, in which the Assembly requested the African Union Commission to operationalize the specialized technical committees from January 2013 and that thereafter the Sectoral Ministerial Conferences be abolished, with environmental matters continuing to

⁷ Assembly/AU/Dec.227(XII).

⁸ Decision EX.CL/624 (XVIII).

⁹ Assembly/AU/Dec.365(XVII).

be the responsibility of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment functioning as a subcommittee of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment,

Recalling further decision 8/3, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eighth session, held in Abuja from 3 to 6 April 2000, to build, through consultation and joint programming, partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, women's groups and community-based organizations, the private sector, donor countries and multilateral donor organizations,

Recognizing that the environment contributes substantively to the achievement of Africa's sustainable development, is cross-cutting and varied and faces major challenges that require concerted efforts and political support at the continental, regional and national levels,

Recognizing also the resource implication and time constraints in implementing the decision adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its seventeenth session on operationalizing the specialized technical committees from January 2013,

Decide:

1. To request the Assembly of the African Union at its next session to reconsider the decision to abolish the sectoral ministerial conferences, specifically the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
2. To request the Assembly of the African Union, given the high importance of the environment to the sustainable development of Africa and its cross-cutting nature as well as its varied composition, which includes the areas of disaster risk reduction, meteorology, climate change, forestry, biodiversity, desertification and water, to authorize the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to function in its current form pending the determination of modalities that would define its future direction.

Decision 14/7: The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the efforts made by the African Union Commission, the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall and member States to operationalize the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, which led to its validation at the experts meeting held in Ouagadougou from 27 to 29 August 2012,

Considering the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as an African flagship programme to address issues related to desertification, land degradation, drought, climate change and loss of biodiversity in the Sahara-Sahel zone in Africa,

Calling for urgent action to reverse land degradation and to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development,

Considering the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) to take coordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally to monitor globally land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry humid areas,

Recalling the Bamako declaration of the thirteenth African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in which African ministers of the environment called for a strategic partnership between the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to foster the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 10-year strategy in Africa,

Acknowledging the efforts of the partners in supporting the elaboration of national strategies and action plans to enhance the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative,

Concerned with the need for improving the institutional governance and the coordination of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative by the African Union Commission and the

Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall, as stressed in the decision¹⁰ of the African Union at its seventeenth session, held in Malabo in June 2011,

Taking note with appreciation of the conclusions of the regional experts meeting held in Ouagadougou from 27 to 29 August 2012, at which progress made in the implementation of the Initiative was reviewed,

Decide:

1. To consider the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, in the framework of the Environmental Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as a flagship programme that represents the African contribution to the achievement of a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, as recommended by United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
2. To adopt the regional harmonized strategy for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as a strategy which has been fully aligned with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);¹¹
3. To request development partners to align their support for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative with the priorities identified by countries in their national action plans;
4. To agree to the transformation of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel into a specialized agency of the African Union Commission under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture.

Decision 14/8: Management of biodiversity in Africa

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decision¹² of the African Union Assembly on the report on Africa's participation in the Nagoya Conference on Biodiversity, in which the Assembly called for the inclusion of biodiversity among the priorities of the African Union and encouraged member States of the African Union to become parties to all the conventions on biodiversity,

Recalling also the report presented by the President of Gabon at the sixteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in which the Assembly called on member States to join forces and work together to ensure the adoption of a common African position for future negotiations on biodiversity and the establishment of a coordination mechanism to achieve this,

Acknowledging the request of the Government of Kenya to the African Union Commission, pursuant to the Assembly decision, to create a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity and to facilitate an African common position during international negotiations on biodiversity,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Kenya in hosting an African regional preparatory meeting for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nairobi on 6 and 7 September 2011, which requested the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to support the formalization of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity,

Recognizing that a coordinated structure provides a link between the political and technical processes and also provides political guidance to the negotiators and enhances Africa's visibility in the negotiation process,

Recognizing also the need for the ratification and effective implementation of biodiversity-related instruments, in particular the protocols adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

¹⁰ Assembly/AU/Dec.376 (XVII).

¹¹ See United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, decision 3/COP.8.

¹² Assembly/AU/Dec.352 (XVI).

Taking note with appreciation of the ongoing work of the African Union Commission in implementing the African Union Assembly decision¹³ on the establishment of a coordination mechanism on biodiversity,

Concerned about the alarming prevalence of the transboundary illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, which is contributing to the destruction and extinction of species, in particular the African elephant, the rhinoceros and the African great apes,

Recalling the Libreville Declaration¹⁴ of the Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held from 13 to 17 September 2010, which called for adoption of appropriate measures at both the bilateral and multilateral levels to combat transboundary crime, including by encouraging African countries to accede to the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora,

Cognizant of the African Elephant Action Plan¹⁵ established in accordance with decision 14.75 of the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

Aware that an African Elephant Fund has been established in accordance with decision 14.79 of the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

Decide:

1. To establish a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, the modalities for which are set out in the annex to the present decision, comprising three levels of coordination to ensure the preparation of a common African position for negotiations on biodiversity, with the coordination established at:

(a) The experts level by the chairperson of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, selected by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the intersessional period between the Conferences;

(b) The ministerial level by the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(c) The Heads of State and Government level by a spokesperson to be selected by the Heads of State and Government;

2. To request the African Union Commission to support the work of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, including hosting coordination meetings and capacity-building;

3. To call upon all African countries and regional bodies to fully support and implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Targets, adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including an update of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

4. To urge those African countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to and implement as appropriate:

(a) The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(d) The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds;

(e) The Lusaka Agreement to Combat Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna And Flora;

5. To encourage the African Union Commission to continue its work on the preparation of guidelines to support the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa;

¹³ Assembly/AU/15 (XVI).

¹⁴ AMCEN/SS/IV/INF/7.

¹⁵ See document CoP.15 Inf.68.

6. To endorse and promote the African Elephant Action Plan and the African Elephant Fund for ensuring effective conservation and long-term survival of elephants across Africa;

7. To request the African Union Commission to convene in 2013, in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, an international conference on the fight against loss of biodiversity in Africa and to provide institutional and financial support to the Lusaka Agreement with a view to enhancing its capacity to undertake cooperative enforcement operations directed at the transboundary illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in Africa.

Annex

Modalities for the coordination mechanism of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity

1. The African group of negotiators on biodiversity shall be composed of all member States from Africa to ensure the preparation of a common African position for negotiations on biodiversity.
2. Terms of reference:
 - (a) The Chair of the experts shall:
 - (i) Coordinate the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the experts level;
 - (ii) Convene meetings of the experts in consultation with the African Union Commission and the secretariat of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (iii) Prepare the draft agenda of the meetings;
 - (iv) Lead the negotiations at the experts level;
 - (b) The African Union Commission shall serve as the secretariat of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity;
 - (c) The Chair of African group of negotiators at the experts level shall report:
 - (i) To the ministerial level, that is, to the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (ii) On any biodiversity meeting, including intersessional meetings and conferences of the parties, and on any progress to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, experts, ministerial and summit sessions;
 - (d) The Chair at the ministerial level shall:
 - (i) Coordinate the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the ministerial level;
 - (ii) Convene meetings of the ministers in consultation with the African Union Commission and secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (e) The African Union Commission shall serve as the secretariat of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the ministerial level;
 - (f) The Chair of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the ministerial level shall report:
 - (i) Progress to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and at the Summit of the African Union sessions;
 - (ii) Any biodiversity meeting including intersessional meetings and Conferences of the Parties;
 - (g) At the Heads of State and Government level, the Chair shall:
 - (i) Provide political leadership and guidance to the African group of negotiators on biodiversity;
 - (ii) Call for meetings on biodiversity at the Heads of State and Government level in consultation with the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(h) The African Union Commission shall serve as the secretariat of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the Heads of State and Government level;

(i) The Chair at the Heads of State and Government level shall report to the Summit of the African Union.

Decision 14/9: Engaging member States to ratify and adopt a strategy on the promotion of the ratification of the Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the importance of nature and natural resource conservation to Africa,

Recognizing also that the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources presents not only ecological but political, economic, social and cultural opportunities and advantages for Africa in terms of natural resources management,

Aware that the conservation of nature and natural resources in Africa requires the combined efforts of all member States and the involvement of all stakeholders,

Expressing appreciation for the number of efforts made by some member States towards signature and ratification of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources during the period 2003–2012,

Welcoming the efforts of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and other partners to sensitize member States to ratify the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources,

Welcoming also the strategy developed by the African Union Commission to guide the promotion of the ratification of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources,

Recognizing the potential for synergy with other conventions, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Decide:

1. To urge all member States to raise awareness of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources and use the strategy to guide the promotion of the ratification and the implementation of the Convention;
2. To urge member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to ratify and implement the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources;
3. To call upon the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the regional economic communities, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the secretariats of the multilateral environment agreements and other partners to support African countries in the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources;
4. To encourage civil society and, in particular, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, to pursue sensitization activities to expedite the process of the ratification of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources;
5. To request the Commission to report on the implementation of the present decision at the next ordinary session of the Executive Council.

Decision 14/10: Engaging parliamentarians in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware that environmental governance in Africa requires the combined efforts and involvement of the executive, judicial and legislative arms of the State as well as civil society, the public and the private sector,

Expressing appreciation for the role of parliaments in Africa as legislative bodies in supporting the development and implementation of policies and laws on the environment, including multilateral environmental agreements,

Expressing appreciation also for the efforts of the African Union Commission and other partners in creating awareness and strengthening the capacity of parliamentarians in environmental management,

Taking note of the Entebbe declaration made by the Colloquium of Parliamentarians organized by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme on mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreements, held in Entebbe, Uganda, from 4 to 6 June 2012;

Decide:

1. To work closely and collaborate with the legislative arm of the State in the development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements as well as their integration into national governance, development plans and strategies;

2. To call upon the parliaments of member States to support the implementation of multilateral environment agreements, including the allocation of adequate budgetary resources, monitoring and the enactment of appropriate laws, and raising awareness at the grass-roots level, so as to strengthen environmental governance in their countries;

3. To request the legislative bodies of the regional economic communities of the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and other related institutions to support national parliaments in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

4. To request the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements and other partners to support the interactions and efforts of parliamentarians and the establishment of a network on environmental governance in Africa.

Decision 14/11: Joint celebration of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 12/7, in which the African ministers of the environment agreed that the celebration of Africa Environment Day on 3 March every year should be hosted by member States on a regional basis,

Recalling also the decision¹⁶ of the African Union Assembly at its eighteenth session mandating the joint celebrations of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of member States, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners in celebrating Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day,

Recognizing the importance of the celebrations to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the continent,

Recognizing also the need for a roster of countries to host the event in 2013 and 2014, and recalling that the events have already been hosted by member States in the western, eastern and central regions of Africa,

Decide that at every ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment two countries shall be identified to host the joint celebrations of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day each year for the next two years.

¹⁶ Assembly/AU/Dec.406(XVIII).

Decision 14/12: Climate change

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Welcoming decision 448(XIX), adopted by the African Union Assembly at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, on Africa's preparation for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, inter alia, supporting the bid by Namibia on behalf of Africa to host the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund in the continent where the impact of climate change has been and is likely to be felt most acutely in future,

Recalling paragraph 3 of decision 525(XV) of the Executive Council of the African Union, in which the Council requested the African Union Commission, in collaboration with partners, to elaborate a comprehensive African strategy on climate change, including the development of sector technical back-up data on the impacts of climate change, its cost to the economy and the amount of carbon sequestered in various African ecosystems,

Recalling also the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session to update the common negotiating position on climate change, which affirms an international climate regime that ensures full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Recalling further the Bamako Declaration on Consolidating the African Common Position on Climate Change and Preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development¹⁷, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourth special session, in which African ministers of the environment endorsed, inter alia, the updated African common position on climate change as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Recalling the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourth special session agreeing, inter alia, that the African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical information, and in this regard, inviting relevant institutions and development partners to support the elaboration of the research agenda in support of the African common position,

Recalling also the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Durban, and previous sessions thereof,

Aware of the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012,

Decide:

1. To adopt the updated African common position on climate change and the key messages¹⁸ on climate change negotiations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol presented as the outcome of the meeting of the African group of negotiators held in Arusha from 10 to 12 September 2012;
2. To request member States and the African group of negotiators to use the common position as the basis for their positions during the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

¹⁷ AMCEN/SS/IV/3, annex I.

¹⁸ Decision SS.IV/1, annex.

3. To request member States and the African group of negotiators to reaffirm the decisions adopted at the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and call for their implementation in Doha, in particular:

(a) The realization of an ambitious, legal second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, coming into effect on 1 January 2013;

(b) That parties provisionally apply the amendments, pending entry into force, in order to facilitate their early implementation;

(c) That Annex I parties agree to a second commitment period that ensures environmental integrity and limit the access of the flexible mechanisms only to those parties that have commitments during the second commitment period;

(d) The successful conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action, with a clear comparability framework for Annex I parties that are not covered by the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; the need to close the finance gap between 2013 and 2020, and to provide concrete support for adaptation actions; and remove barriers to technology support during the implementation of the Bali Road Map;

(e) That the work to enhance ambition under the Durban Platform should not be a substitute for commitments under the Bali Road Map, and to reaffirm that the Convention is the multilateral platform for climate change action, and any additional actions require agreed transparency and accounting provision; reaffirming that the future legal outcome should be based on the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particularly equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, further reaffirming that the outcome should cover mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building;

4. To reiterate that the African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical information, and in this regard to welcome the research agenda and work programme of support for the African group of negotiators and to invite institutions, African centres of excellence, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Climate Policy Centre and other development partners, including the World Bank, to support the elaboration of the research agenda and work programme in support of the African common position;

5. To recognize the support of African and multilateral institutions towards climate change action on the continent, and to recall the decision of the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Bamako, in which African ministers of the environment requested the African Development Bank to further consult on the African Green Fund, and in this connection to take note of the proposal of the African Development Bank to broaden the scope of the original idea of the Fund to an African Green Facility in order to address the call of the African leaders to implement the outcomes of the Rio+20 summit;

6. To request the African Development Bank to keep African institutions and experts, the African group of negotiators and ministers informed of further developments on this initiative;

7. To encourage the African Union Commission to present the strategy document on climate change to the African group of negotiators and ministers for consideration, pursuant to the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourth special session;

8. To invite all member States to attend and participate actively in the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and promote the African common position;

9. To reaffirm the mandate of the African group of negotiators to continuously update the African common position on the basis of the guidance encompassed in the key messages document and emerging scientific understanding and dynamics in the negotiation.

Annex

Key messages on climate change negotiations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

1. We, African ministers of the environment, recognize that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and represents an urgent and irreversible threat to human societies and the planet. We express our deep concern that the window of opportunity to avoid dangerous human interference with the climate system is closing, with a growing risk of runaway climate change and catastrophic impacts for natural ecosystems and humankind, particularly in Africa.
2. We reaffirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol 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 equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
3. We reaffirm that achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication are the priorities for Africa. We recognize that today Africa faces numerous, severe and growing negative impacts arising from climate change and that these impacts are undermining Africa's efforts to attain its development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
4. We note with concern that wealthy Annex I parties increased their emissions by approximately 8 per cent between 1990 and 2008. We further express concern that the current inadequate mitigation pledges, in particular by Annex I parties, are likely to lead to an increase of the global average temperature of greater than 2°C – and possibly as much as 5°C – threatening catastrophic impacts worldwide, and particularly for Africa due to its high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and low adaptive capacity.
5. We acknowledge that there is an urgent and immediate need to avoid further loss and damage to Africa and call for an intensified action, in particular by Annex I parties, to reduce their emissions in line with the information set out in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and more recent scientific studies in a way that will limit the global average temperature increase to well below 1.5°C.
6. We are aware that, despite the urgent threat facing human societies and the planet, the mitigation pledges by Annex I parties in the context of the climate change negotiations amount to less than the voluntary mitigation pledges by non-Annex I parties. We recall that the Convention requires Annex I parties to make equitable and appropriate contributions to achieving the objective of the Convention and therefore stress that Annex I parties should show leadership, including through raising their level of ambition to the scale required by science and equity.
7. We urge Annex I parties to provide scaled-up new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries, particularly countries in Africa, to mitigate and adapt to climate change without diverting scarce resources required for poverty eradication and other sustainable development objectives.
8. We recognize that Africa needs its fair share of atmospheric space in order to meet its development needs, and acknowledge that this may result in increased emissions.
9. We note that in the absence of increased ambition, the projected emissions of Annex I parties would consume almost half of the 44 Gt emissions budget for 2020 that is estimated by the United Nations Environment Programme to have a likely chance of limiting temperature increase to 2°C or less, thereby limiting the atmospheric space available to non-Annex I parties and allocating to the Annex I parties an excessive share of a global atmospheric resource.
10. We express concerns that rather than increasing their ambition some Annex I parties have refused to ratify, or have withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol or intend to do so. We further express concern at the apparent intention of some Annex I parties to move away from a legally binding regime applicable to them into a weaker pledge-based regime, while shifting the burden to non-Annex I parties.
11. We reaffirm that adaptation is an essential priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of country-driven adaptation measures and

actions through the provision of grant-based public resources including through direct access to the Green Climate Fund and other relevant financial entities.

12. We also recognize, in this context, the importance of agriculture to Africa and reaffirm our recommendation that a comprehensive work programme on agriculture in non-Annex I parties be established under the Adaptation Framework and that agriculture be addressed as a matter of priority in relation to the mitigation commitments of Annex I parties. We confirm that Africa's emissions, including from the agriculture sector, are low and that most of the global emissions from the agriculture sector derive from industrialized, subsidized and fossil-fuel intensive agricultural practices in Annex I parties, and that the overriding priority for Africa in the agriculture sector is food production and rural development.

13. We express concern about the lack of clarity on long-term financing of results-based REDD+ activities in phase three. We call for a transparent process for the provision of adequate and equitable long-term financial resources. We further call for the establishment of a simplified structure that would allow broader participation of countries in accordance with their national circumstances.

14. We recall that the effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions by non-Annex I parties depends on the fulfilment by Annex I parties of their commitments relating to financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building. We recognize, in this context, the insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed country parties as "fast start" finance for the period 2010-2012 and indications that only a small proportion of these resources are "new and additional", and we call on Annex I parties to fully implement their commitments relating to financial resources and the transfer of technology as an important step towards addressing the common challenge of climate change.

15. We further call for an agreement in Doha on scaled-up public resources to be provided by Annex II parties commencing in 2013, building on lessons learned from "fast start" finance and reaching a scale adequate to meet the needs of developing countries up to 2020 and beyond.

Negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto

16. We reaffirm that the outcome of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must be based on science and the principles and provisions of the Convention. Such an approach must include ambitious short-, medium- and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I parties that reflect their historical responsibility and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change, and the provision of adequate means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity-building – to enable non-Annex I parties to address mitigation and adaptation.

17. We reiterate that the climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should produce: (a) an amendment to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex I parties for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under the Kyoto Protocol; (b) a set of outcomes in line with the Bali Road Map regarding an agreed outcome on long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention; and (c) a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention addressing mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building through the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) no later than 2015 to come into effect and be implemented by 2020.

18. We call on all parties to respect the balance of the outcome at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Durban, South Africa. We urge Annex I parties to join us in ensuring an ambitious and legally binding second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, an ambitious and comprehensive set of outcomes under the Bali Action Plan to ensure the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, recognizing that progress in the ADP negotiations is premised on successful conclusion of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). We affirm that these three negotiations are interlinked and that new discussions under the Durban Platform must build on conclusions agreed in longstanding negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention.

19. We emphasize that work under these negotiations must be carefully balanced and sequenced to ensure that Annex I parties take on equitable and adequate mitigation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, that parties achieve the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention in accordance with the Bali Action Plan, and that the ambition gap on mitigation and means of implementation is closed prior to 2015 to ensure the highest level of effort by all parties, as a sound

basis for negotiations towards a new protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome for legal force under the Durban Platform.

20. We call on all parties to join us in preserving and building on the architecture of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol developed over almost two decades, and we warn against the unravelling of the international climate change architecture into a weaker regime based on “pledge and review” for Annex I parties, as this will undermine environmental integrity thus increasing the risk to the African continent of climate change. We call on all Annex I parties to fulfil their commitments through an ambitious and legally binding second period of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, comparable efforts by Annex I non-Kyoto parties, as well as full implementation of commitments relating to adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and related matters.

Implementing the Kyoto Protocol

21. We call on developed country parties to the Kyoto Protocol to honour their commitments through ambitious mitigation commitments for a second commitment period and to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 per cent during the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 and by at least 95 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention. We stress the urgency of concluding all issues for a second commitment period in Doha and of elaborating measures to avoid a gap between commitment periods.

22. We confirm that negotiations towards a new agreement under the Durban Platform must not detract from agreement of ambitious further commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol. We join other developing countries in confirming that the second commitment period shall end in 2017 to avoid locking in low levels of ambition by Annex I parties until 2020, which would risk extremely dangerous levels of warming and an inadequate contribution by Annex I parties towards addressing climate change. Individual contributions by Annex I parties are to be agreed and converted into quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) for inclusion in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol to be adopted in Doha and further urge those Annex I parties that have not submitted their QELROs to do so.

23. We call on Annex I parties to ensure the environmental integrity of their emission reduction commitments, and to guarantee an equitable and appropriate level of domestic emission reductions, by closing existing loopholes, limiting the use of carbon markets and project-based mechanisms to 10 per cent of their quantified emission reduction commitments, and ensuring the additionality of carbon credits.

24. We recognize that the continued existence and effectiveness of the Adaptation Fund is contingent on an ambitious second commitment period by Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol, including ambitious emission aggregate and individual reduction commitments as well as the effective closure of all loopholes, as a precondition for a functioning project-based mechanism and delivery of carbon credits. As a means of increasing funding for the Adaptation Fund we call for financial resources to be raised through a levy on emissions trading and other carbon mechanisms and markets.

25. We reiterate that Annex I parties that do not sign up to the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, and have therefore not taken on a legally binding QELRO under the Kyoto Protocol, shall not have access to the mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol, including emissions trading, joint implementation and clean development mechanism.

Implementing the Convention

26. We reiterate the importance of fulfilment by all parties of their commitments under the Convention and call for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action to continue its work to reach an agreed outcome pursuant to decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan) and conclude its work in Doha in accordance with decision 1/CP.17.

Shared vision

27. We emphasize that avoiding dangerous interference with the climate system and achieving a global goal of limiting temperature increase to well below 1.5°C will require an integrated approach based on science, equity and the principles and provisions of the Convention. We are concerned that temperature increases above 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels pose catastrophic impacts to poor and vulnerable people and communities worldwide, in particular Africa, and is inconsistent with the fundamental objective of the Convention.

28. We recognize that a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050 and the time frame for global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions cannot be undertaken in the abstract and

will necessarily involve matters related to the context of such considerations including ambitious short-, medium- and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I parties that reflect their historical responsibilities and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change. We confirm that a long-term global goal for reducing emissions by 2050 and a time frame for global peaking can only be understood in the context of a global goal for adaptation, finance, technology support and the implications for economic and social development in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Adaptation

29. We welcome the operationalization of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, in particular the Adaptation Committee. We urge the Adaptation Committee to expedite its work on facilitating the support process and implementation of national adaptation actions and plans of non-Annex I parties through the relevant linkages between the finance and technology mechanisms of the Convention.

30. We affirm that adaptation activities should be funded at full cost through direct and simplified access to adequate, new and additional public grant-based financial resources, following a country-driven approach, as well as to environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building in a predictable and prompt manner as part of a balanced package on all issues to implement the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

31. We urge that measures should be taken to expedite work on strengthening international cooperation and expertise in order to understand, reduce and compensate for loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture, water, human health, and other economic and non-economic losses related to extreme weather events and slow onset events.

Mitigation

32. We reiterate concerns about efforts by Annex I parties to move away from a legally binding into a weaker “pledge-based” regime, the conditional nature of Annex I pledges, the low level of mitigation ambition and the associated party-specific rules and accounting methodologies which may undermine environmental integrity and significantly reduce the contribution of Annex I parties to the global mitigation effort by 2020.

33. We call on Annex I parties that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol to undertake legally binding commitments under the Convention that are comparable in magnitude and effort and are measurable, reportable and verifiable with regard to mitigation and the provision of financial and technological resources. We call for the development of an agreed set of common accounting rules and a compliance framework for Annex I parties that have not subscribed to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to assess their quantified emission reductions.

34. We reaffirm that a firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments of Annex I parties that are legally binding in nature and appropriate voluntary mitigation actions by non-Annex I parties.

35. We stress that the extent to which non-Annex I parties will effectively implement actions under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation and fulfilment by developed country parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources, capacity-building and technology development and transfer.

Means of implementation

36. We welcome the adoption in Durban of the governing instrument of the Green Climate Fund and stress the need for concrete outcomes on the long-term finance work programme and the work of the Standing Committee. We call for enhanced transparency in the provision of support through a common reporting format, definitions and methodologies.

37. We note the pledge by developed country parties to mobilize jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020, and reiterate Africa’s position that developed country parties should by the year 2020 provide scaled-up financial support based on an assessed scale of contributions that constitutes at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of Annex I parties, in order to curb climate change and meet the needs of non-Annex I parties to tackle climate change and its adverse effects.

38. We note with concern the gap between the end of fast start finance in 2012 and the \$100 billion pledge by 2020. We call on Annex II parties to significantly scale up the provision of new, additional, predictable and adequate resources in the interim period. We also call on those parties to contribute to the Green Climate Fund and to accelerate its operationalization with a view to addressing the most urgent adaptation needs of developing countries.

39. We emphasize the need for an appropriate body under the Convention with respect to mobilization of financial resources to address the ambition gap on finance, and to look beyond the short-term financial constraints faced by developed countries, in order to raise in a predictable and identifiable manner the amount of new and additional funding necessary and available for the implementation of this Convention and commensurate to the adaptation, mitigation and technology needs of developing countries, and establish the conditions under which that amount shall be periodically reviewed.
40. We stress the importance of ensuring direct access to financial resources for all developing countries through a transparent process, ensuring equitable allocation taking into account geographical and needs-based criteria, a balance between adaptation and mitigation, and grant-based funding for adaptation activities.
41. We emphasize 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.
42. We stress the urgent need to fully operationalize the technology mechanism in 2012 and taking into account the need to resolve the outstanding issues such as the link between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and its network, the operationalization of the Advisory Board, 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 non-Annex I parties.
43. We welcome the Durban Forum on Capacity-building and call for its further development through the establishment of a work programme. We acknowledge that the creation of performance indicators for monitoring and review of capacity-building is of paramount importance. We further stress that capacity-building activities should not be left to the private sector.
44. We welcome progress made in Durban in the establishment and operationalization of effective and accountable institutions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties in relation to adaptation, finance and technology transfer, including the Cancun Adaptation Framework, Green Climate Fund and Technology Mechanism. We further call for the prompt, effective, and full operationalization of these institutions including through the provision of required financial resources to ensure these institutions are not “empty shells” and that adequate financial resources, including for time-bound deliverables and work programmes, are available for action in developing countries, particularly in relation to adaptation, mitigation and technology development and transfer.

Negotiations under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

45. We welcome the successful launching of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention addressing, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building, as well as the workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition to identify and to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap.
46. We express satisfaction with the adoption of an agenda and initial exploratory discussions among parties in Bangkok. We look forward to the successful completion of the mandates to implement the Convention (AWG-LCA) and Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in accordance with the Bali Road Map, as part of the Durban package. We call for ambitious and comprehensive outcomes under the Bali Road Map, noting that unresolved items under this negotiation shall be dealt with in appropriate bodies under the Convention, including the Durban Platform.
47. We stress that the negotiations of a future legal outcome under the Durban Platform are under the Convention and, as a result, all of the principles and provisions of the Convention apply including the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The outcome must reinforce a fair, multilateral and rules-based regime that brings into effect the right to equitable access to sustainable development, sharing of atmospheric space and resources taking into account cumulative historical responsibility and use of such resources by Annex I parties, with the principle of equity reflected in all aspects of a future agreement.
48. We stress that the outcome must fulfil the objective of the Convention including a limit in the increase of global average temperature to well below 1.5°C. We emphasize in this context the urgent need to reflect ambitious commitments under the Bali Road Map in order for Annex I parties to reduce their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2017 as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention. We further reaffirm that the Convention and the Kyoto

Protocol thereto are the multilateral platform for climate change action, as such additional actions under the ambition work stream of the Durban Platform require agreed transparency, accounting, and recognition provisions. To enhance action by developing countries a clear process to scale up the means of implementation including finance, technology and capacity to support is necessary.

49. Finally, we affirm that the outcome of negotiations should culminate in an enhanced multilateral rules-based regime that implements the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol thereto through a common vision covering global goals relating to temperature, global emission reductions and trajectories, adaptation, finance and technology transfer in the context of an equity reference framework, as well as means to record additional specific commitments by Annex I parties and contributions by non-Annex I parties, operational mechanisms with dedicated funding, work programmes and deliverables, and arrangements for accountability, compliance and review.
