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**United Nations
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Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa
Second meeting
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
30 January–1 February 2018

Abidjan Declaration on the Bamako Convention: A Platform for a Pollution-free Africa

We, ministers responsible for environmental affairs from 25 parties and other heads of delegation,

Having met in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 30 January 2018, on the occasion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa under the theme of "The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa",

Appreciating the hospitality and generosity extended to delegations to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties by the host country, namely, the Government and the people of Côte d'Ivoire,

Having reviewed a number of issues pertaining to the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention, decisions adopted at its first meeting, held in Bamako in June 2013, as well as those adopted at its informal consultative meeting held in Nairobi in June 2016, and further underlined the importance of the Bamako Convention for Africa and reaffirmed our commitment to its implementation,

Recalling the Bamako Declaration on Protecting Africa against Illegal Dumping of Hazardous Wastes of 26 June 2013,

Welcoming the note by the secretariat entitled "Twenty years of the Bamako Convention: a time for more effective implementation" and the contents thereof including the recommendations made,

Welcoming with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Mali to host the secretariat of the Bamako Convention and noting that the Government of Mali has consistently repeated that offer since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in June 2013, including at the informal consultative meeting in Nairobi in June 2016 and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2018,

Welcoming also with appreciation the role that has been and continues to be played by the United Nations Environment Programme in providing the needed secretariat support and services to the Bamako Convention,

Bearing in mind that in 2018 the Bamako Convention is celebrating 20 years since it entered into force in 1998, which is an appropriate time to review progress made in its implementation, its effectiveness, challenges faced and its readiness to address the management of emerging and more complex hazardous wastes,

Taking into account that the review process will lead to the repositioning of the Bamako Convention and ensure that it aligns itself appropriately with relevant existing chemicals-related instruments, such as chemicals- and waste-related conventions and frameworks such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session,

While appreciating that some progress has been made in the implementation of the Bamako Convention, expressing concern on the limited progress made thus far in its implementation by most of the parties, as well as the lack of resources from the parties to support and facilitate its implementation at the national and regional levels,

Noting with concern the content of the note by the secretariat on its report on the status of implementation of the Bamako Convention as well as past decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties indicating that no resources have been made available by parties for the implementation of the approved costed programme of work, thereby leading to poor implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Acknowledging the organic relationship between the Bamako Convention and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and considering the magnitude of the challenges caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes within Africa and the opportunities that exist to enforce the ban on the import of hazardous wastes into Africa and thus protect human health and the environment, while contributing to the sound management of chemicals and wastes in Africa,

Welcoming the outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi in December 2017 under the theme “Towards a pollution-free planet”, which is directly relevant to the theme of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention, “The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa”,

Welcoming also the adoption of eleven resolutions and a negotiated ministerial declaration by the Environment Assembly, all of which provide adequate scientific tools and a framework for developing national policy and legislative instruments to deal with various forms of, inter alia, ocean pollution, as well as inclusive approaches to protect the planet from pollution and prevent or avoid activities that generate pollution that threatens humanity and the planet and has a negative impact on the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Reiterating decision 16/2 of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, adopted at its sixteenth session, held in Libreville in June 2017, in which the Conference urged non-parties to the Bamako Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention and requested parties to the Bamako Convention that had not yet informed the secretariat of the designation or establishment of their competent authorities, focal point and dumpwatch to do so as soon as possible and to nominate competent experts to the Legal and Technical Working Group and to the Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Liabilities and Compensation,

Acknowledging that while the objectives, aspirations and actions for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention go beyond those of the related global Basel Convention, promoting cooperation, collaboration and synergies with the Basel Convention and other chemicals-related conventions will nonetheless further foster and promote the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Welcoming the convening of the Third Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, to be held in Libreville in 2018, for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, aimed at catalysing the policy, institutional and investment changes required to reduce environmental threats to human health,

Welcoming also the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa to support the effective implementation at the national, subregional and regional levels of mechanisms for enforcing compliance with international conventions and national regulations to protect populations from health threats related to the environment, including accession to and implementation of the Bamako Convention by those countries that have not yet done so,

Welcoming with appreciation the role played and work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in continuing to serve as the secretariat of the Bamako Convention and supporting its effective implementation as well as the implementation of the decisions adopted by its governing body and other bodies of the Convention,

Welcoming also with appreciation the financial and technical support and assistance received from the United Nations Environment Programme as well as from the donor community for the implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Agreeing to take the necessary measures and actions as soon as feasible to guarantee the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention, of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting and at its informal consultative meeting as well as during the present second meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To renew and reaffirm our political commitment made towards a platform for a pollution-free Africa through support for the implementation of the Bamako Convention as our contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
2. To reaffirm our ambition, proclaimed on 26 June 2013 at our first meeting, to protect vulnerable groups including children and poor communities from the negative impacts resulting from unsafe chemical use and unsound waste disposal, and to take action to prevent Africa from becoming a dumping ground for toxic wastes through the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
3. To ensure that the permanent secretariat for the Bamako Convention is established as soon as possible and in that regard we welcome with appreciation the offer extended by the Government of Mali to host the secretariat in Bamako; consequently, we request the Government of Mali and the current secretariat of the Bamako Convention to develop a road map, with inputs from the parties, for the establishment of the permanent secretariat at its new location in Mali and to report on its status at the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 6 of the rules of procedure of the Bamako Convention, in Sudan in early 2019;
4. To also ensure that the secretariat functions and activities for the implementation of the Bamako Convention make the transition soon to the permanent secretariat location in Bamako; in the meantime, we request the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide the secretariat support and services it has been providing as authorized by its governing body, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in June 2016 based on our request;
5. To guarantee that the secretariat is endowed with the adequate human and financial resources required to support and accelerate, in collaboration with the parties, the effective implementation of the costed programme of work, once it has been approved;
6. To ensure that our agreed assessed contributions to the budget for the implementation of the Bamako Convention, as well as accrued arrears, are paid in full and on time;
7. To take concerted measures individually as parties and jointly with other parties to fundraise for the prioritized activities for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention, and to that end we request the secretariat, in cooperation with the parties, to develop a fundraising strategy to be used by the secretariat and the parties to raise funds for the national and regional activities necessary for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
8. To ensure that the Bamako Convention is well repositioned to meet its current challenges and, in that regard, to request the Executive Secretary of the current secretariat to nominate and/or designate a dedicated focal point to work and collaborate on a regular and continuous basis with the parties, non-parties and partners to support the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
9. To guarantee and secure a total ban of imports of hazardous wastes into Africa and the control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, and to urge those countries that are not yet parties to the Bamako Convention to see its merit and ratify or accede to it;
10. To develop and/or review and update national strategies and policies, and legal, administrative and institutional frameworks and action plans necessary for the domestication and effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
11. To designate and/or nominate, if we have not yet done so, national focal point(s) for the implementation of the Bamako Convention as well as national experts to serve in the different subsidiary bodies established by the Conference of the Parties for specific purposes and to inform and update the secretariat of such designations or nominations or any changes to existing focal points;

12. To promote coherence and synergies between the Bamako Convention and other chemicals- and hazardous waste-related conventions, in collaboration with relevant secretariats, to conduct joint capacity development and capacity-building activities, including training, research programmes and awareness-raising;
13. To further enhance, advocate and promote cooperation and develop stronger partnerships with relevant partners, such as the regional economic communities and Basel Convention regional centres, for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
14. To fully engage with relevant global initiatives for the sound management of chemicals and waste and intensify efforts to achieve by 2020 the goal of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle, with the Bamako Convention serving as an implementation tool for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment in Africa, as underlined in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
15. To take concrete actions needed for the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and call for their adequate and coherent implementation;
16. To consider holding an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties before its third meeting, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 6 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure, to reposition the Bamako Convention in order to enable its rigorous implementation and to discuss and agree on a road map for the establishment of the permanent secretariat of the Bamako Convention in Bamako;
17. To accept and thank the Government of Sudan and the Government of the Congo, through their ministers, for their offers to host the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in early 2019 and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020 respectively on the dates to be determined in due course;
18. To call upon the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention at its second meeting to take into account the present declaration in its work and deliberations;
19. To request the secretariat of the Bamako Convention to include the present declaration in the report of the Conference, to collaborate with parties, relevant international organizations and stakeholders to advance a platform for a pollution-free Africa and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.