

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE AT ITS FIFTH SESSION

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

**Recalling** resolution 1/1 of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment adopted in December 1985,

**Aware** of the evolution of global and regional environmental thinking and shifts in emphasis since the institutionalization of the Conference,

**Recognizing** the many initiatives taken by the African countries in response to the changing environmental conditions, such as the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economy Recovery and Development, the African Common Position on Environment and Development, the Kampala Agenda for Action on sustainable Development, and the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and Control of Transboundary Movement of All Forms of Hazardous Wastes within Africa,

**Further aware** of the important role of economic performance on the state of the environment and appreciative of the existence of African subregional economic groupings, particularly the treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

**Determined** to attain the utmost environmental benefits from these economic groupings,

**Appreciative** of the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and the adoption of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21,

**Recognizing** that the opportunity offered by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development calls for a new spirit of international cooperation in tackling jointly the immense challenge of achieving sustainable development through sound environmental management,

**Fully aware** of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development which highlighted the notion of environment and sustainable development,

**Expressing its appreciation** for the African activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the Pan African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, held in Bamako from 23 to 30 July 1991, the First Regional African Ministerial Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Cairo from 11 to 16 July 1991, and the Second Regional African Ministerial Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Abidjan from 11 to 14 November 1991,

**Determined** to participate fully in the implementation of Agenda 21 within the context of the African Common Position on Environment and Development,

**Fully aware** of the profound assessments and evaluations of the performance of the organizational and operational components of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

**Fully recognizing** of the recommendations of the African Regional Workshop on Agenda 21 held in Abuja, Nigeria, in January 1993, regarding the role of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in implementing Agenda 21,

**Fully** aware of the call in Agenda 21 and the African Common Position for broad-based approach to environmental management,

**Realizing** that the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in Africa, requires a revitalization of existing structures at the level of member States and at the regional level, in order to provide the necessary capacity,

**Also realizing** that other regional institutions dealing as partners with it on environmental matters may reform their structures to respond to their mandates in the implementation of Agenda 21 and in order to facilitate inter- institutional cooperation,

**Furthermore appreciative** of the proposals of the Expert Group Meeting (Addis Ababa, 22-25 November 1993) which were endorsed by the Ministerial Session on 27 November 1993 regarding the New Policy Orientation for the Conference and the Indicative Conference Programme for 1994-1995,

#### I. KEY POLICY ISSUES

*Decides:*

(a) That the primary objective of the Conference is to contribute positively to Africa's transition to sustainable development;

(b) That the mandate of the Conference is:

(i) To provide, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, and the African Economic Community, and the competent regional institutions and forums, continent-wide political and technical leadership on sustainable development within the framework of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and agreed African positions on environment and development;

(ii) Actively to support, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the African Economic Community, and other competent regional institutions the efforts of African States individually and collectively, with regard to national, subregional and regional issues pertaining to environment and sustainable development;

(c) That the functions of the Conference are:

Policy guidance and coordination

(i) To provide guidance and coordination;

(ii) To promote the integration of environment and development through inter-ministerial cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination;

Inter- and intra-African commitments on the environment

(iii) To monitor progress in the implementation of the commitments as well as relevant regional programmes relating to the integration of environmental and

developmental goals through analysis and evaluation of reports from subregional and regional organizations;

- (iv) To review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, subregional and regional levels through the analysis of reports submitted to the Conference by African governments and organizations, major groups and UN agencies active in the region;

Conventions and international agreements

- (v) To monitor the implementation of regional and global conventions and agreements of relevance to the Africa region and, in this regard, to pay special attention to the implementation of the Bamako Convention on Hazardous Waste, *biodiversity and climate change* conventions. Attention shall be given to the ongoing negotiations for a convention on desertification;
- (vi) To facilitate the harmonization of Africa's position and encourage active participation in all major negotiations;
- (vii) To promote the signing and ratification of relevant protocols and conventions by African countries;
- (viii) To promote the awareness on the benefits of such international agreements;

Subregional environmental programmes

- (ix) To mobilize support for the subregional environmental programmes of African subregional and regional organizations. In this regard, the Conference should review the information provided by these subregional groupings and on that basis solicit assistance for them with a view to strengthening their activities;

National environmental programmes

- (x) To consider information provided by Governments, including national reports regarding the activities being carried out to implement major environment and development programmes, particularly Agenda 21;

Funding of environmental programmes

- (xi) To review the adequacy of funding arrangements for environmental programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels in the African region and formulate appropriate remedial strategies;

Non-governmental organizations and other major groups

- (xii) To promote actively the participation of non-governmental organizations and the major groups in the implementation of environmental programmes. In this regard, the Conference should receive and analyse relevant reports from them, particularly on their contribution to the implementation of African initiatives and commitments in the field of environment and development. This implies the development of a mechanism for dialogue between the Conference, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

Cooperation with the United Nations Agencies on environmental programmes

- (xiii) To examine at each session the outcome of actions of the United Nations agencies active in Africa on issues related to the environment and other efforts in support of the integration of environment and development at the national, subregional and regional levels and consider the Conference inputs to the decision-making processes of the agencies;

Commission on Sustainable Development

- (xiv) To support and promote the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly regarding the implementation of its multi-year thematic programme of work;
- (xv) To cooperate closely with the Commission to enhance the participation of African countries;
- (xvi) To promote the integration of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on 14 June 1992;
- (xvii) To review continuously the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa, taking into account its linkages with and implications for the African environment;
- (xviii) To submit necessary recommendations on the matters referred to in subparagraph (xiv) to (xvii) above to the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity and the Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Development of the Economic Commission for Africa;

Financial resources and related mechanisms

- (xix) To facilitate the mobilization of Capacity 21 resources;
- (xx) To review modalities for encouraging direct financial contributions towards environmental conservation and management programmes, particularly through an increased flow of resources from the North, funding of programmes, particularly of relevance to national priorities and speedy disbursement of funds for agreed programmes;
- (xxi) To provide a suitable forum for discussing and reviewing Africa's priority concerns within the context of the Global Environment Facility in order to ensure that its scope and coverage take into account Africa's concerns such as desertification control, drought mitigation and water resources management;
- (xxii) To provide a suitable forum for examining modalities for holding dialogue with the North on the cancellation of official bilateral debts, export credit debts, allocation of new and additional resources for the implementation of

environmental programmes, taking into account their potential impact on natural resources management;

- (xxiii) To encourage African countries to allocate a percentage of their gross domestic product for environmental programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels;  
  
Integrated development and management of freshwater resources
- (xxiv) To promote and support initiatives aimed at the integrated development and management of shared freshwater resources, including the activities of the African river and lake basin organizations;  
  
Preventing and reversing desertification and mitigating the impacts of drought
- (xxv) To review at each session the status of desertification and drought in Africa, the progress in the implementation of desertification control programmes and plans of action at both the national and subregional levels and the adequacy of funding arrangements for desertification control programmes;
- (xxvi) To play an active role in the ongoing negotiations for an international convention to combat desertification by facilitating the participation of member states in all stages, including follow-up;  
  
Technology transfer
- (xxvii) To review and monitor issues relating to the transfer of adaptive and environmentally safe and sound technology on concessional and preferential terms, as well as technological cooperation, intellectual property rights, access to technological information and indigenous capacity-building;  
  
Securing greater energy efficiency and sufficiency and managing the environmental impacts of climate change and variability
- (xxviii) To promote the participation of African countries in programmes and conventions dealing with energy and climate change;
- (xxix) To review existing policies on alternative and renewable energy sources, particularly at the national level;  
  
Sustainable management and use of forests
- (xxx) To promote and support programmes for the sustainable management and use of forests;
- (xxxii) To promote the incorporation of the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;  
  
Management of biological diversity
- (xxxiii) To promote the ratification by African countries of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

- (xxxiii) To review issues relating to the ownership, management and use of biological resources and recommend strategies for action;
- (xxxiv) To promote the implementation of scientific research programmes on biodiversity;

Capacity-building and cross-sectoral issues

- (xxxv) To consider issues on the integration of environment and development in decision-making;
- (xxxvi) To review national reports on capacity-building (institutional strengthening, reinforcing environmental legislation, environmental training, particularly in natural resources accounting, awareness-building, research, environmental policy formulation);
- (xxxvii) To review national reports on the adoption of policy frameworks that reflect a long-term perspective and cross-sectoral approach as the basis for decisions, taking into account the linkages between and within the various political, economic, social and environmental issues involved in the development process;
- (xxxviii) To review national reports on measures for improving the processes of decision-making so as to achieve the progressive interaction of economic, social and environmental issues in pursuit of development that is economically efficient, socially equitable and responsible, and environmentally sound;

Environmentally sound management of oceans and coastal areas

- (xxxix) To accord a higher degree of priority to promoting the ratification of the regional conventions related to the protection and development of the marine environment in order to enhance protection and development of the marine environment, this would be useful in the implementation of the four regional seas programmes involving Africa;
- (xl) To promote Africa's participation in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994 and regularly review thereafter the implementation of the decisions of that Conference;
- (xli) To review the progress in the implementation, by African countries of related conventions, protocols and agreements relating to seas, oceans and

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