

Annex II

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

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

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Decide:

- (a) To request the Commission of the African Union:
 - (i) To provide high-level political support to the successful implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
 - (ii) To strengthen its environment section and those of the relevant technical units of the regional economic communities to enable them to carry out their responsibilities of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (b) To urge development partners to assist in providing required resources for the implementation of subregional environmental action plans by the regional economic communities;
- (c) To call on development partners to provide financial support for the implementation of the projects and programmes of the action plan at the subregional and national levels;
- (d) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the implementation of the subregional action plans for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (e) To urge countries to implement the projects of the action plan in conformity with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (f) To request the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its facilitation of United Nations agency consultations, coordination and cooperation in respect of the thematic cluster concerned with the environment, population and urbanization, together with sub-clusters concerned with water, energy, biotechnology, biosafety and post-conflict environmental reconstruction and other relevant sub-clusters;
- (g) To request development partners to provide support to the United Nations Environment Programme for the reactivation of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa;
- (h) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to benefit from the experiences within African countries in the field of environmental law institutions;
- (i) To maintain effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union, including the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic commissions;

(j) To enhance the ratification and implementation of the revised Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant conventions for the effective management of natural resources.

Decision 2: Climate change

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

We, the African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting that the thirteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 mandated the negotiation, by 2009, of an international climate change agreement for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012,

Further noting that progress on negotiations on the new agreement will be reviewed at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008, with a view to completing these negotiations by the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009,

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

Decide:

(a) To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat of its New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, to organize a series of preparatory meetings for Africa's climate change negotiators and to provide the negotiators with substantive technical and policy analysis support to strengthen their preparations for the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth and fifth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(b) To urge African countries to participate actively in international climate change negotiations, in particular, the Accra and Poznan meetings in August and December 2008, respectively;

(c) To recommend that the African Union, at its thirteenth summit in June and July 2009, consider, with a view to its final adoption, a common African position on the comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012, which is to be finalized in December 2009;

(d) To mandate the President and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to initiate discussions with the Chair of the Commission of the African Union regarding the necessary procedures for Africa's climate change negotiators to prepare a common African position for adoption at a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and to submit that common African position for consideration at the summit of the African Union in June and July 2009, with a view to its adoption.

II. Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

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

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

Welcoming the recent decisions by the African Union and related African intergovernmental bodies establishing initiatives to meet the challenge of climate change, as outlined in annex I to the present decision,

Recognizing that, since progress in responding to the challenge of climate change in Africa is far from sufficient, it is essential to develop further and supplement these initiatives through a comprehensive framework of programmes to meet the challenges of climate change in Africa,

Recognizing the adoption by the African Union of the Tunis Declaration and action plan and the decision to determine the rationale and modalities for establishing an African panel on climate change, and in particular the Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa,² in which the heads of State and Government requested the Commission of the African Union to consult the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to establishing the necessary mechanisms to follow up on the implementation of the Declaration,

Decide:

(a) To create, in view of the need for synergies in implementation, a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, bringing together existing and new intergovernmental decisions and initiatives and programmes in a consolidated manner, to be implemented at the regional, subregional, national and local levels;

(b) To adopt and develop further a conceptual outline, as set out in annex II to the present decision, to serve as the basis for identifying and filling gaps in the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(c) To establish, under the direction of the President and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, an ad hoc working group to assist the President and the Bureau in the implementation of the present decision. The working group may invite contributions from relevant organizations as required;

(d) To submit for adoption the consolidated comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the margins of the summit of the African Union in June and July 2009, and to request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to support the Bureau in organizing that special session;

2 Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII).

(e) To call upon African Governments, international organizations and regional economic communities to expedite the implementation of existing programmes and initiatives on climate change in Africa at all levels and to strengthen and mobilize the capacities of existing relevant facilities and institutions in Africa to meet the pressing climate change challenges in this region;

(f) To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to present the progress in the development of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes at the joint annual meeting of the African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to take place in March and April 2009, to ensure adequate financing of the programmes and activities under the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(g) To call upon Africa's development partners to support, with financial and technical assistance through multilateral North-South and South-South cooperation, the implementation of the agreed decisions on climate change in Africa and to request multilateral financial institutions and other relevant donors to support the implementation of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;

(h) To invite multilateral financial institutions and other development partners to take into account the special needs of Africa in the decision-making processes under international financing schemes, including, among others, adaptation funds, World Bank climate funds, African Development Bank funds and United Nations initiatives, and to streamline their procedures to improve access to finance;

(i) To support the process of developing the Climate Information for Development in Africa programme (ClimDevAfrica) and to request the Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to accelerate the finalization of the programme document and the dissemination of this information to ensure the participation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the Climate for Development in Africa programme;

(j) To endorse the decision of Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in December 2007 on the African panel on climate change and to request the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work further with the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in defining the modalities of establishing an African panel on climate change;

(k) To welcome and support the establishment of the Africa Climate Policy Centre at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, emphasizing its role in supporting the integration of climate change into economic development and planning processes in Africa, and to call upon the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and other relevant institutions to play an active role in this initiative.

Annex I

Indicative list of Africa's climate change decisions

Decision on Climate Change and Development (Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII)), adopted at the eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union

Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII)), adopted at the eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union

Jinja Declaration adopted by the African Ministers' Council on Water at the African Ministerial Roundtable on Climate Change

Tunis Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the International Conference on International Solidarity for the Protection of Africa and the Mediterranean Region from Climate Change

Decision CP 5/3 on assessment and monitoring activities adopted at the fifth session of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region

Joint Declaration of the Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention

Joint Africa-European Union Strategy and Action Plan on Energy and Environment, including the Africa-European Union Partnership on Climate Change, adopted at the second Africa-Europe Summit

Decision on climate change and the continental shelf (Assembly/AU/Dec.179 (X)) adopted by the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union

Decision on the outcomes of the third ordinary session [of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology](#) (EX.CL/Dec.387 (XII)) adopted at the twelfth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union

Resolution L.2 on climate change and development in Africa adopted by the First Joint African Union-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 26–29 March 2008; the resolution expressed appreciation to the African Union, ECA and the African Development Bank for the Climate Information for Development in Africa programme and welcomed and endorsed the establishment of the Africa Climate Policy Centre by ECA

Decision on disaster risk reduction (EX.CL/Dec.250 (VIII)), adopted at the eighth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union

Annex II

Indicative conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

The discussions of the expert segment of the twelfth session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment resulted in the development of an indicative conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to be implemented at all levels.

Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programmes in such a way as to achieve sustainable development, in particular to alleviate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

Given that Africa is the most vulnerable region with the least adaptive capacity, adaptation is the most immediate priority.

There is a need, however, for global mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions as a primary mechanism to prevent long-term climate change impacts on this region. In addition, effective implementation of mitigation measures offers opportunities for Africa to increase its economic competitiveness along a sustainable path of low-carbon development.

The following indicative outline covers the two implementation areas of adaptation and mitigation supported and enabled by finance, capacity-building and technology.

The successful implementation of the adaptation and mitigation areas of work will require the full participation of all stakeholders, including the full involvement and empowerment of, and partnership with, civil society.

Adaptation

Three broad areas of work were identified:

- (a) Disaster reduction and risk management: including early warning, preparedness, emergency response and post-disaster recovery;
- (b) Sectoral planning and implementation: adaptation in key sectors including water, agriculture, coastal zones, health, infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystems, forests, energy, urban management and tourism, taking into account the cross-sectoral implications;
- (c) Building economic and social resilience through the diversification of economies to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, including through the use of indigenous knowledge and practices and the strengthening of community organizations.

Steps for effectively implementing work in the above three areas include:

- (a) Understanding climate and climate change processes, vulnerability and risks, including, but not limited to, through monitoring and observation systems;
- (b) Understanding the economics of adaptation;
- (c) Understanding the social and cultural dimensions of adaptation;
- (d) Policy setting and planning, including climate-proofing of future development;
- (e) Piloting and demonstrating;
- (e) Full-scale implementation.

Mitigation

In order to implement sustainable development policies and mitigation measures in Africa, with special emphasis on the development of indigenous and local communities, women and children in Africa, the following key areas of mitigation work were identified:

- (a) **Energy sector:** Including scaling up investment to provide access to affordable cleaner energy, especially for rural communities; development of appropriate alternative energy sources; policies and measures to increase energy efficiency; precautionary approach to the development of biofuels for mitigation and energy security;
- (b) **Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD):** Including the development of market-based mechanisms to reward or provide incentives for forest conservation or the avoidance of deforestation and sustainable forest management practices;
- (c) **Land-use, land-use change and forestry:** As the primary source of emissions in Africa, this represents one of the key areas for mitigation work in the continent, which includes best practices to enhance carbon sequestration and reduced emissions;
- (d) **Using and maximizing opportunities from the international carbon market:** Africa to call for binding ambitious targets for developed countries to secure the price of carbon. Key areas of work for Africa include reforming the rules of market mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism to increase accessibility by African countries, the full implementation of the Nairobi Framework and building capacity in Africa to gain access to the available financial mechanisms (the Clean Development Mechanism, Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, among others).

Supporting and enabling measures

Three categories of supporting and enabling measures have been identified to support Africa's efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. These should form an integrated package of support tailored to each climate change intervention.

1. Capacity-building

- To enable human resource development through focused training, mentoring and learning-by-doing approaches, among other measures
- To empower relevant institutions at various levels
- To enhance observation, research and knowledge management
- To strengthen communication, education and awareness-raising at all levels, especially at the local and community levels
- To strengthen and use the regional networks of information and knowledge-sharing
- To develop tools, methods and technologies and support their application
- To encourage and strengthen participatory and integrated approaches in planning and decision-making, including the meaningful participation of civil society
- To share experiences, information and best practices of African countries
- To assess, strengthen and mobilize the capacities of existing relevant facilities and institutions in Africa

2. Finance

Scaling up sources of financing, including:

- National or domestic investment
- Multilateral funding: grant, loan and concessional
- Bilateral investment and donor funding
- Insurance and other risk management instruments
- Private sector instruments
- Market-based instruments, e.g., carbon finance

Improving access to financing through:

- Rationalizing the ever-growing number of funds (including eliminating duplications and harmonizing the governance of these funds, among other things to reduce conditionalities to disbursement of the funds)
- Streamlining bureaucratic procedures
- Reducing transaction costs

The need:

- For equity in the allocation of funds based on need and, including the use of vulnerability criteria in resource allocation decision-making
- To develop effective systems to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds mobilized for climate change
- For funding to be new, additional to existing development funds and reliable in the long-term

3. Technology development and transfer

The development and transfer of technology are critical to the achievement of both adaptation and mitigation programmes in Africa. Key areas of work in the field of technology include:

- Enhancing technology development and transfer, including hard technologies (e.g., drip irrigation, water harvesting, drought-resistant crop varieties, renewable energy technologies, building technologies, etc.) and soft technologies (e.g., knowledge, systems, procedures, best practices)
- Addressing technology transfer barriers, including rules of trade tariffs, intellectual property right-barriers and technical trade barriers (standards, ecolabelling)

- Enhancing and supporting the research and development capacity in African countries to foster the development and local manufacture of cleaner mitigation and adaptation technologies
- Enhancing technology cooperation between African countries and others, particularly the Africa-European Union joint strategy, Africa-China, Africa-India, Africa-South America and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development cooperation programme with Japan, including through encouraging member States to develop specific programme proposals and submit proposals for consideration

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

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

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

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

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

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

Noting that the process of further intergovernmental consultations continues to be under way, thus necessitating the close monitoring of the evolution of other initiatives under the African Union,

Decide:

(a) To note with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to facilitate the completion of the document on the revised Constitution;

(b) To note also the potential implications that the evolving structures of the African Union have on the Conference;

(c) To request the secretariat to defer the process of revising the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment pending the complete establishment of the institutional structures of the African Union and to report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session on any progress made in this regard.

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