

Annex I

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Johannesburg Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable 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,

Reinforcing the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in providing political guidance and leadership for environmental management and advocacy in Africa,

Noting the close linkages between the success of policies and actions for the protection of the environment and the success of national programmes to combat poverty and promote equitable human development,

Recalling the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, African Union summits and related African meetings, in which the special challenges facing Africa have been identified and commitments made to support Africa in achieving sustainable development,

Concerned by the increasing number of environmental challenges facing Africa and the continent's vulnerability to global climate change, the increasing need for capacity-building and technology transfer and the inadequate financial and technical resources to meet these challenges,

Concerned also by the fact that Africa is the most vulnerable region with the least capacity to adapt to climate change and that, while Africa contributes the least, it suffers most from the impacts,

Concerned further by the impact on women of environmental degradation and recognizing the importance of mainstreaming gender in all environmental policies, strategies and related programmes,

Noting progress made so far in implementing the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as presented at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting also the progress made so far by African countries in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the chemicals conventions,

Acknowledging the need for African countries to comply with and enforce their international environmental obligations and commitments under multilateral environmental agreements through effective regional and national implementation,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility and other partners to the regional economic commissions to enable them to prepare their subregional environmental action plans, as presented at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling further that, at its seventeenth session, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development is focusing on the thematic cluster of agriculture, rural development, land and drought and desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the efforts and progress made so far regarding environmental assessment in Africa and in increasing the awareness and capacity of African professionals in environmental assessment and management in support of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recognizing with appreciation the important role that the private sector and the civil society play in sustainable development,

Recalling the special effort needed by African countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 targets for reducing biodiversity loss,

Recalling the commitments made at the two partners' conferences on the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development held in Algiers, in December 2003, and in Dakar, in March 2005,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To continue implementing fully the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the subregional environmental action plans;
2. To urge the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to strengthen efforts to forge cooperative links with the relevant structures of the African Union and other relevant African ministerial bodies with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements, policies and programmes;
3. To urge the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to strengthen the relationship with United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international institutions and bodies, through constant liaison with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of relevant international institutions on issues related to the environment;
4. To urge Africa's development partners to support the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities in implementing their environmental action plans;
5. To call upon Governments to support capacity-building in the area of technology-supported learning to enhance the delivery of environmental education, training and awareness-raising;
6. To call upon African countries and development partners to mainstream gender issues into national and subregional environmental programmes and to initiate programmes aimed at promoting gender-sensitive capacity-building in relation to the environment;
7. To call upon African countries to participate effectively in upcoming negotiations on key multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those related to biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, land degradation and drought and desertification;
8. To call upon African countries to participate fully and effectively in the various capacity-building and enhancement activities for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the European Commission programme on capacity-building related to implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries;
9. To call upon the Global Environment Facility and the TerrAfrica initiative to continue to support efforts being made by African countries to promote sustainable land management in the context of their national poverty eradication strategies, and their efforts to disseminate the good lessons learnt to other countries for greater continental impact;
10. To urge the secretariats of the Rio conventions to ensure that synergies between climate change and efforts to combat land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss are optimized to take advantage of gains made through these actions, particularly in Africa;
11. To call upon the African group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, working with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, to develop a common African position on the comprehensive international climate-change regime beyond 2012, and further to call upon Governments of Africa to support the process actively;
12. To commit ourselves to creating a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, bringing together existing and new intergovernmental decisions, initiatives and programmes in a consolidated manner, to meet the pressing challenges of adaptation and mitigation and to meet the urgent needs for capacity-building, finance and technology in this region;
13. To invite the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the assistance of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Environment Programme, to develop a road map for the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

14. To request the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations specialized agencies and the African Development Bank to support the continuing regional coordination efforts to implement the action programmes at all levels, including the development of initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, extending such programmes to similar subregions of North-East Africa and Southern Africa;

15. To request the Commission of the African Union to take a leadership role in spearheading the development and implementation of biosafety strategies and policies and institutionalizing biosafety in its programmes;

16. To call upon Governments to enhance support for the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region as frameworks for implementation of the marine and coastal component of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

17. To call upon Governments to adopt integrated management approaches to freshwater resources and to develop regional and national policies and management measures to mitigate the impact of human activities on freshwater resources;

18. To mainstream climate change adaptation measures into national and, where appropriate, regional development plans, policies and strategies with a view to ensuring adequate adaptation to climate change in such areas as water resources, food and energy security and management of coastal and marine resources;

19. To request the United Nations agencies, Bretton Woods institutions, African Development Bank and other development partners to support African countries in taking measures to build economic and ecosystem resilience against climatic variability and change and to implement effectively the Bali Action Plan adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

20. To call for the modification of the Clean Development Mechanism to enhance its contribution to sustainable development efforts on the continent and to provide increased support for the introduction of climate change mitigation measures and technologies in African countries;

21. To request the African Union to consider convening an African leaders' summit on climate change to be held back-to-back with the summit of the African Union to be held in 2009;

22. To support the bid by South Africa to host 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 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2011;

23. To ensure that climate change adaptation imperatives are aligned more closely across regions and countries and to foster regional and international cooperation to develop appropriate adaptation financing mechanisms;

24. To support the transboundary conservation of natural resources, to share best practices and lessons learnt in Africa and to request international support to ensure the continued success and survival of transboundary conservation efforts;

25. To encourage African countries to establish regional mechanisms and initiatives to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species infestation in Africa;

26. To call upon the African Union and the United Nations Environment Programme to support African negotiators in the negotiation of a new international regime on access and benefit-sharing;

27. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue with the preparation and production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment*;

28. To renew our commitment to the endorsement of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environmental management and a framework for national, subregional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting, noting with appreciation the implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network at the national,

subregional and regional levels to strengthen access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa;

29. To renew our commitment to the continued promotion of capacity-building and strengthening of environmental assessment systems in line with the recommendations made at the workshop of African experts on effectiveness of environmental assessment systems and to urge development partners to support the implementation of those recommendations;

30. To urge the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its second session, to give priority to the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

31. To call on the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, development partners and regional economic communities to give priority to the needs of African countries in the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

32. To advocate the sustainable use of chemicals and to commit ourselves to the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the chemicals-related conventions;

33. To call upon African Governments to develop and implement appropriate policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable solid-waste management;

34. To call upon those countries that have not yet ratified the chemical-related conventions, namely, the Basel Convention on the Control of 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 the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to do so and to urge African development partners to assist and support African countries in the implementation of such conventions;

35. To call upon Governments to accelerate the ratification of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to permit the entry into force of the convention and secure a fully comprehensive and representative network of protected areas and other natural resources in Africa,

36. To call upon the Commission of the African Union, Governments and all stakeholders to work together to ensure the development and implementation of an African ecolabelling mechanism based on African experiences and lessons;

37. To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the fifth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

38. To encourage African countries to celebrate Africa Environment Day to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the continent;

39. To support the African Network of Environmental Journalists in its efforts to raise the awareness of African decision makers regarding major environmental issues and the challenges arising

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