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## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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## **ALGIERS DECLARATION ON THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE MEETING OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ALGIERS, 19-20 NOVEMBER 2008**

*(Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)*

**ALGIERS DECLARATION ON THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE MEETING OF  
AFRICAN MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE,  
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*(Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)*

We African Ministers in charge of Environment, having met in Algiers, 19 – 20 November 2008 with the objectives of framing an African common position to enable the region to effectively participate in the post 2012 negotiations,

- **Declaring** the Algiers Conference of African Ministers in charge of Environment on climate change as a complementary important milestone to the previous meetings,
- **Reiterating** commitments made by Africa, particularly the need for effective implementation of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD,
- **Aware** of the vulnerability of our continent to climate change, a phenomenon to which it has never contributed and yet for which it remains one of the most affected,
- **Aware** also of our limited capacity to address negative impacts of this phenomenon on ecosystems and populations,
- **Recalling** relevant declarations on Africa's environment protection taking into account specific African environmental protection concerns,
- **Appreciating** efforts made by civil society organizations and the private sector while encouraging them to be further involved in sustainable development and environmental protection,
- **Calling** for an effective implementation of the Bali Action Plan,
- **Recalling** the importance of having regular African consultations on climate change since this matter seriously impedes socio economic development of our countries, in preparation for Post 2012,
- **Recalling** the decision of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of UNEP Council/Ministerial Forum held in Monaco on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008, inviting ECOSOC to propose the proclamation by the UN General Assembly, of the International Decade on Climate Change for 2010-2020,

***Reaffirm our commitment to implement:***

- Regional and international instruments on climate change, the preservation and conservation of ecosystem in Africa;
- Policies, strategies and recommendations from various regional and sub-regional consultations under the auspices of the African Union, AMCEN, including the Tunis Declaration on Solidarity to adapt for Africa and the Mediterranean to Climate Change held in November 2007 as well as sub-regional economic and political groupings on climate change;

- Strategies which contribute to global effort in greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation in Africa;
- “Win-win” partnerships with other regions of the world to preserve our planet from the negative impacts of global warming;
- Principles of good environmental governance;
- The Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa adopted by Heads of State during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa 2007.

***We are also committed to:***

- promoting the concrete integration of environment in all development policies and strategies;
- systematically taking into account climate risk in national, sub-regional and continental development plans;
- addressing broadly the nature of the next international regime on climate and taking into consideration the relevant elements of the “shared vision” in relation to the interests of Africa;
- strengthening and facilitating the participation of African experts in negotiations on the future global climate regime and in the work of the technical groups set up by the Convention;
- promoting cooperation and coordination among national meteorological and hydrological services, regional climate centres, as well as African universities and observation centres as well as climate change research centres in order to build capacities to climate change adaptation;

***Call on:***

- The G8 to implement the recommendations contained in the Gleneagles Communiqué relating to climate change, energy and sustainable development, in particular, to the creation of regional climate centres in Africa; the improvement of climate risk management; and the implementation of the African regional strategy for disaster-risk reduction;
- Developed countries to abide by their commitments in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and to continue to fulfil their commitments on development assistance and technology transfer by devoting appropriate financial means, without finding any justification in the current financial crisis to limit their action in this area;
- Multilateral funding bodies and other donors including the global Environmental Facility (GEF); the funding mechanism of the convention to continue their reform process and earmark more financial resources to enable our countries to address their difficulties, regarding in particular the issue of adaptation to climate change;

- The United Nations Organization and its specialised agencies concerned to urgently consider the problems related to the migratory flows resulting from environmental deterioration in order to help the African home countries to limit their magnitude and provide the new refugees with adequate protection;
- We acknowledge the United Nations Environmental Programme in carrying out work to support and assist Africa in the framework of post-2012 negotiations and invite other UN agencies to do so.

***Call on the Conference of Parties to take our continent's concerns into account, including in:***

- **On Adaptation**

The adoption of a protocol on adaptation should address African priorities such as desertification, soil degradation control and coastal zones integrated management to avoid coastal erosion and the sea rise, the safeguarding of biodiversity, agriculture and water resources.

- **Mitigation**

Actions aimed at alleviating the consequences of deforestation and forest degradation should be considered in future positive incentive mechanisms for emission reduction taking into account the role of forested areas in the regulation of the global climate system, as well as the beneficiation of land development efforts to ensure the perenniality of forested areas, sustainable agriculture. Equitable geographical distribution of CDM.

- **Capacity building**

The promotion of learning-by-doing approach for capacity building to support the transfer of skills.

- **Technology transfer**

The establishment of an institutional framework to address all aspects of technology transfer.

- **Funding**

Increasing the level of funding, particularly among the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the financial mechanism of the Convention and extend the "Share of Proceeds" of CDM to other mechanisms of the carbon market to contribute to the Adaptation Fund.

***Decide to:***

- establish a Continental and International Alliance for Climate among Africa and other regions of the world in order to promote strong actions for adaptation and reduction of vulnerability; and invite regional groups,

international organizations and civil society to support this Alliance, which is a platform of durable dialogue, exchange and partnerships aiming to establish good environmental governance;

- Set up a Ministerial Task Force on climate change as a political support for African negotiators in the perspective of future major events, especially Copenhagen 2009;
- Set up three-year plan including operational projects that can rapidly benefit Africa, as well as medium term programmes relating to: i) the development of renewable energies; ii) soil degradation control; and iii) sustainable management of forests;
- Launch an African initiative on adaptation and set up an African Climate change observatory;

***Finally***, we kindly request the host country, to present this declaration to the next Council of Ministers of the African Union.

**Algiers, November 20, 2008.**

2009

# Algiers declaration on the deliberations of the meeting of African ministers of environment on climate change, Algiers, 19-20 November 2008 (Item Proposed by the People's Democratic Republic Of Algeria)

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