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**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)
ARUSHA, TANZANIA, 10-14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Background

1. The ministerial segment of the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre from 12 to 14 September 2012. The ministerial segment was preceded by an expert group meeting from 10-12 September 2012. The 14th session was held under the theme “Africa’s post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development”.

II. Objective of the 14th session of AMCEN

2. The main objective of the session was to provide a platform for African ministers of the environment to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa as a follow-up to the key outcomes of the Rio+20 Summit. In addition, the session offered an opportunity for deliberation on Africa’s preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November/December 2012 in Doha, Qatar, as well as Africa’s preparations for the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 6) and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad, India in October 2012.

III. Participation

3. Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The 14th session of AMCEN was also attended by representatives of African regional and sub-regional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the youth.

IV. Opening ceremony

5. The ministerial segment was officially opened by Mr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania at 3.40 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 September 2012.

6. Opening statements were made by Mr. David Sagara, President of AMCEN and Minister of Energy and Environment, Mali; Mr. Alberic Kacou, United Nations Resident Coordinator, United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme; Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; Mr. Philippe Dongier, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi, Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility; Mr. Josué Dioné, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, on behalf of Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa; Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Convention on Biological Diversity; Mr. Robert Bakiika, representing civil society; and Ms. Issa Amina Ado, representing youth.

7. Other statements were made by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction; Ms. Connie Hedegaard, Climate Commissioner, European Union; Dr. Anthony Nyong, Manager Compliance and Safeguards Division, on behalf of Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President, African Development Bank Group; Mr. Guang Xia, Director General, Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy, Ministry of Environmental Protection, the People's Republic of China and Mr. Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, Deputy Secretary-General, East African Community.

V. Organizational matters

Election of officers

8. The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2012-2014:

<u>Sub-region</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Position</u>
Central Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Vice-President
Eastern Africa	United Republic of Tanzania	President
North Africa	Egypt	Vice-President/Rapporteur
Southern Africa	Botswana	Vice-President
West Africa	Sierra Leone	Vice-President

PART 2: DELIBERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

9. The ministerial segment deliberated on the following issues:

- a) Outcomes of the Rio+20 summit;
- b) Climate change;
- c) Biodiversity;
- d) Matters related to AMCEN
- e) Other issues of importance to Africa

a) Outcomes of the Rio+20 summit

10. Regarding the outcome document of Rio+20 and the themes and proposals contained therein, several representatives noted that the concept of sustainable development was not new to Africa, and a wide range of relevant initiatives were already in place that held promise for scaling them up to the regional level. They praised the inclusion in the 2012–2014 work programme of AMCEN of a number of key regional flagship programmes to support African countries in the implementation of the key substantive outcomes of Rio+20.

11. Several representatives commented on the tools and resources that would be needed to implement activities based on the outcomes of Rio+20, including technology transfer, capacity-building measures and new and dependable streams of funding. A number of representatives welcomed the proposal in the outcome document to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly to, among other things, assess financing needs with a view to developing an effective sustainable development strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources. Representatives noted the advantages to be gained from early African engagement in that process, both to shape the sustainable development agenda and to be open to innovative means of financing in the transition to a green economy. Several representatives said that efforts should be made to pursue alternative mechanisms for funding to embark proactively on green economy activities rather than waiting for international discussions to run their course. Several representatives said that it was important to keep in mind that the main aim of a green economy was poverty eradication.

12. Some representatives noted the need for institutional capacity-building and realignment to accommodate a new agenda that required a more integrated approach to the environmental, social and economic pillars of development. Also of importance were information exchange and partnership building, involving both private and public sectors, and involving both North-South and South-South cooperation.

13. Another issue viewed as important was the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP at its headquarters in Nairobi, and several representatives stressed the urgent need to move that process forward, including through lobbying at the General Assembly and ensuring that African views on the matter were clearly articulated.

14. The representatives agreed on the development of a common strategy for negotiation and engagement that represents the interests of Africa in the intergovernmental process, to be established by the 67th session of the General Assembly, on the establishment of the universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, the development of sustainable development goals, and strengthening and upgrading of UNEP, as well as the operationalization of the 10 YFP on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns, and a mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technology.

b) Climate change

15. Many representatives mentioned the need to reach agreement on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, the future of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action, the need for Africa to speak with one voice and support the African negotiating group and the priority issue of financing. It was essential to focus efforts on ensuring that all outstanding obstacles to the start of a second commitment period and conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action were removed before the conclusion of the Doha Conference.

16. Attention was also drawn to the low levels of ambition on the table, which was a disastrous situation for Africa. Africa should continue to call on those responsible for emissions to take action on their reduction and also demand responsible growth from those currently contributing to the increase. The Doha conference should elevate adaptation issues to the same level as mitigation. As a vulnerable continent, Africa should receive realistic support for adaptation.

17. Several speakers underlined the urgent need for substantial funding to deal with what was an urgent situation. Calls were made to exert pressure on developed countries to provide funding for climate change adaptation and implementation of the green economy. A number of representatives voiced concern about the finance gap for 2013–2020 and called for it to be resolved in Doha.

18. The representatives adopted the updated African common position on climate change and the key messages on climate change negotiations for the 18th COP and the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical information, and in this regard, ministers welcomed the research agenda and work programme of support for the African group of negotiators.

c) Biodiversity

19. Representatives endorsed the importance of biodiversity for Africa's social and economic development. The situation of biodiversity in Africa was familiar to everyone and posed a threat to the very survival of some African countries. The need for major investment in biodiversity and its sustainable use in Africa was underscored.

20. Biodiversity had suffered greatly in Africa over the previous few decades and it was now necessary to make the message clearly heard, as with climate change, and to speak with one voice for Africa. A number of representatives drew attention to specific examples of endangered biodiversity in their countries, such as the African elephant and rhinoceros, which were threatened by illegal trafficking in which other countries were involved.

21. The representatives called upon all African countries and regional bodies to fully support and implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, adopted by the tenth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including an update of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

22. The representatives decided to establish a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at three levels; experts, ministerial and Heads of State and Government levels to ensure preparation of common African positions for negotiations on biodiversity.

d) Matters related to AMCEN

23. Representatives considered the implications of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII), adopted in Malabo in 2011, in which the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government directed that the specialized technical committees provided for under the 2000 Constitutive Act of the African Union be made operational by January 2013, after which all sectoral ministerial conferences would be abolished.

24. There was considerable debate about how best to respond to the matter. Several representatives pointed out that the decision of the Heads of State must be respected, arguing that the current discussion within AMCEN reflected concerns about implications and modalities rather than an unwillingness to comply. Further thought needed to be given to the implications of the change, and more time was required to decide on the best way forward. There was consensus that the implementation of the Assembly decision by January 2013 was not practical and that many issues arising from the decision would need to be resolved.

25. The 14th session decided to request the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments to maintain the status quo until the various concerns had been addressed and to give consideration to the option of establishing a separate STC on environment as an additional specialized technical committee.

e) Other major issues discussed

26. The representatives requested the African Union Commission to continue to provide high-level political support and advocacy for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the NEPAD. They requested the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to operationalize the African Environment Partnership Platform as the mechanism for coordinating, mobilizing resources, fostering knowledge and aligning support for the implementation of the action plan.

27. Member States were requested to use the African Environment Outlook as one of its regular tools for reviewing the state of the African environment to support decision making at national and regional levels. The representatives requested UNEP to support the development of a regional reporting platform (an African environment outlook-Live) that will provide dynamic and regularly up-dated, scientific and evidence based, on-line information on the state of the environment, including trends and future outlook as part of the support for decision making in Africa.

28. The representatives agreed to consider the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, as a flagship programme that represents African contribution to the achievement of a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development, as recommended by Rio+20. They adopted the regional harmonized strategy for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel. They agreed to request for the transformation of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel into a specialized agency of the African Union Commission under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture.

29. The representatives made a decision to work closely and collaborate with Parliamentarians in the development and implementation of multilateral environment agreements as well as their integration in national governance, development plans and strategies. They call upon Parliaments of Member States to support the implementation of multilateral environment agreements including allocation of adequate budgetary resources, monitoring and enactment of appropriate laws and raising awareness at grass root level.

30. The conference urged all Member States to create awareness on the Maputo convention and called upon those that have not ratified the convention to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to ratify and implement the convention. They also encouraged the civil society to pursue sensitization activities to expedite the process of ratification of the convention.

31. The representatives agreed that at every ordinary session of AMCEN two countries will be identified to host the joint celebrations of the Africa Environment Day and the Wangari Maathai Day each year for the following two years.

Declaration, decisions, regional flagship programmes and key messages of the 14th session of AMCEN (see annexes for details)

32. The ministers adopted the Arusha Declaration on Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development (annex I). They also adopted twelve decisions and key messages which can be found in annex II to the present report.

The Arusha Declaration

33. The Arusha Declaration spells out key elements of the continent's strategy for realizing sustainable development and for eradicating poverty in Africa, including the development of 10 regional flagship programmes to boost sustainable development in Africa in numerous areas including green economy, and sustainable consumption and production.

Decisions

34. Twelve (12) decisions on key environmental issues requiring a strong engagement by African Ministers of environment were adopted at the meeting:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Decision 14/1: | Africa's Post Rio+20 UNCSD Strategy for Sustainable Development; |
| Decision 14/2: | Strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme; |
| Decision 14/3: | Review of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; |
| Decision 14/4: | Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa; |
| Decision 14/5: | Strengthening the Africa Environment Outlook and Environment Information Networks in Support of Decision Making in Africa; |
| Decision 14/6: | African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the African Union Structures; |
| Decision 14/7: | The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative; |
| Decision 14/8: | Management of Biodiversity in Africa; |
| Decision 14/9: | Engaging Member States in Ratification and Adoption of a Strategy on Promotion of Ratification of the Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources; |
| Decision 14/10: | Engaging Parliamentarians in Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements; |
| Decision 14/11: | Joint Celebration of the Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day; |
| Decision 14/12: | Climate change, including key messages. |

Venue for the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

35. The fifteenth session of AMCEN will be held in Egypt in 2014.

36. The Conference also received an offer from the Government of Tunisia to host the fifth special session of AMCEN in 2013.

VI. Closure of the Session

37. After the customary exchange of courtesies, a closing statement was delivered by H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Congratulating the participants on the success of their work at the session, he stressed the need for urgent action to match the seriousness of the threats to the environment in the continent. The ministerial segment and the fourteenth session of AMCEN ended at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, 14 September 2012.

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Annex I

**ARUSHA DECLARATION ON AFRICA'S POST RIO+20
STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Arusha Declaration on Africa's Post Rio+20
Strategy for Sustainable Development**

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

In relation to Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development,

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Recalling the decision¹ of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which requests were made to:

- a) The fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to conduct a substantive analysis of the Rio+20 outcomes in order to develop a plan of action for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- b) The African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, regional economic communities and other partners to step up efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes to support sustainable development efforts in Africa,

Stressing the need for Africa to seize the opportunities available to achieve its sustainable development ambitions as a result of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

Recognizing the continued relevance and importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in providing a framework for sustainable development, and its action plan for the environment initiative as the framework for addressing environmental matters in Africa,

Expressing appreciation to all partners, including the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations agencies and partners

¹

Assembly/AU/Dec.437(XIX).

for the support in the preparatory work and successful participation of African countries in the Rio+20 Conference,

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of the global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns,² which supports regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, contributing to resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, while creating new job opportunities and contributing to poverty eradication;

Acknowledging that programmes in the adopted global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns cover consumer information aimed at promoting tools such as eco-labelling,

Recalling the Luanda Commitment (2010) on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, in which ministers of health and the environment identified chemicals management as one of the top continental health and environment priorities to be addressed to accelerate the implementation of the Libreville Declaration,

Determined to resolve current health and environmental challenges through the effective implementation of both the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the chemicals-related international conventions, which requires that the policies of the health and environment sectors be aligned with each other, and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms to facilitate collaboration and the greater integration of the sound management of chemicals into the sustainable development agenda,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Global Environment Facility and other partners for the implementation of environmental programmes in Africa,

Reaffirming the importance of the Africa Environment Outlook as a framework to support decision-making for the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes by member States and other stakeholders,

Recognizing the on-going United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014 and the Tbilisi Communiqué – Educate Today for a Sustainable Future, adopted by the Tbilisi Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (Tbilisi+35), held on 6 and 7 September 2012,

² A/CONF.216/5, annex.

Expressing our support for and stressing the importance of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Hyderabad, India, from 1 to 5 October 2012, and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad from 8 to 19 October 2012, including its high-level segment, scheduled for 17 to 19 October 2012,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Plan of Action for Africa 2012–2017 by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, which calls upon African Governments to fully support and implement the plan at the national level and encourages developed country partners and other partners to provide additional technical and financial resources for the full implementation of the plan,

Concerned with the limited progress in the implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Trans-boundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa,

Considering that the forthcoming sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to be convened in September 2012, will discuss and make decisions on the implementation of some of the Rio+20 outcomes,

Recognizing that the Rio+20 Conference reaffirmed the Rio principles on sustainable development as contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, made at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming the important role played by non-governmental and civil society organizations in implementing the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the important role that young people, the private sector, major groups, non-governmental organizations and civil society will play in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the need for their effective involvement in all such processes,

Recalling decision 13/4, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session, on the compulsory minimum contribution of \$10,000 by each member State to the trust fund of the Conference, and committed to having secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to ensure that the Conference fulfils its mandate,

Concerned that the non-contribution by some member States to the trust fund affects the ability of the Conference to carry out its activities,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. to agree to enhance the political visibility of the African sustainable development agenda and promote the stronger integration, in a balanced manner, of the three sustainable development dimensions;
2. to agree to strengthen and consolidate our commitment to the promotion of sustainable development and effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions into our local, national and regional development policies and strategies;
3. to reaffirm the need to continue speaking with one voice and ensure the adequate representation of Africa in all committees established for the follow-up of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
4. to develop a common strategy for negotiation and engagement that represents the interests of Africa in the intergovernmental processes to be established by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on:
 - a) The establishment of the universal intergovernmental high-level political forum;
 - b) The sustainable development goals;
 - c) The strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - d) The operationalization of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;
 - e) The mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technology;
 - f) The intergovernmental process for an effective and sustainable development financing strategy;
5. to develop and implement regional flagship programmes that will contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Africa;
6. to call on the African Union-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and regional economic communities and other relevant partners, to create the African Environment Partnership

Platform as a mechanism for cooperation and resource mobilization for the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of AU-NEPAD;

7. to initiate an African green economy partnership that facilitates coordinated support to member States and serves to implement the global partnership for action on the green economy as a vehicle for poverty eradication, the creation of decent jobs and sustainable development;
8. to effectively address and meet the commitment made at the Rio+20 Conference to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development and within the implementation for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
9. to agree to transform the Marrakech Process Task Force on Cooperation with Africa into a partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa so as to ensure the continuation of the implementation of activities and programmes on sustainable consumption and production in the region;
10. to emphasize the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenge of meeting basic needs in the process of developing national, sub-regional and regional activities in Africa under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;
11. to call on the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to dedicate a session during the upcoming Africa regional implementation mechanism meeting to examine African priorities and determine the guidelines for Africa's engagement with the intergovernmental process set up by the General Assembly, including the high-level political forum, sustainable development goals, financing and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production;
12. to recognize and support the further development of the African eco-labelling mechanism and its Eco-mark Africa eco-label as an effective market-based instrument and consumer information tool to enhance access for African products to regional and international markets;
13. to call upon member States to use the findings of the Africa Environment Outlook in national policies, development plans and strategies, and to call upon the African Union Commission to integrate the process and preparation of the Africa Environment Outlook in its programme of work, with the technical support of the United Nations Environment Programme;
14. to request the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct a study of the situation, best practices and needs, and to agree to develop and adopt a plan of action on, access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues in Africa;

15. to agree to develop programmes that will support the development of networks and the capacity of parliamentarians in raising awareness and integration of multilateral environmental agreements into national and regional policies and programmes;
16. to invite the Assembly of the African Union to reconsider the decision to abolish sectoral ministerial conferences, including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to allow for further consultations and to request the establishment of a specialized technical committee on the environment, given the increasing importance of the environmental dimension in sustainable development in Africa and the world;
17. to call upon member States individually and collectively to develop policies, guidelines, legislation and other strategies or mechanisms for the management of electrical and electronic wastes;
18. to agree to strengthen environmental education and training and develop an action plan for Africa, covering formal and non-formal education, capacity-building and information networking components, among others, and to explicitly include a focus on technology-enhanced learning in this action plan;
19. to reinforce the need for increased coordination and cooperation among the chemicals and wastes conventions, namely, the Bamako Convention, the Basel Convention on the Trans-boundary 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, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and to encourage continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among them and with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and to call upon member States to follow this synergistic approach in implementing the chemicals and wastes conventions at the national level;
20. to request the member States, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other partners, to support the implementation of the African programme to reduce chemical risks to health and the environment in Africa and to develop and disseminate for use by member States the necessary technical tools required for the implementation of the programme in the context of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa;
21. to urge the African Union Commission, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to develop a marine and coastal environment strategy for Africa;

22. to call upon partners, including the Global Environment Facility, to support African countries and relevant regional bodies in their efforts to effectively implement environmental matters, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, through, in particular, national-level implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and efforts towards the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;
23. to urge member States and all relevant regional bodies to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity for 2011-2020;
24. to appeal to member States to continue conserving and sustainably using biological diversity by supporting the objective of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, implementing national biosafety frameworks and promoting the safe use of modern biotechnology;
25. to urge member States to continue to promote synergy in the implementation of the Rio Conventions;
26. to encourage the African Union Commission to continue its on-going work in the development of guidelines to support the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing in Africa;
27. to request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with member States and partners, to support, with financial and technical assistance, through multilateral, North-South and South-South cooperation, the implementation of the agreed decision under the Rio+20 Conference regarding mountains in Africa;
28. to urge all countries to raise awareness of and use the African Union Commission strategy to guide the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;
29. to call for accession by all member States to the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora and for the implementation of appropriate measures to combat trans-boundary environmental crimes in this regard;
30. to urge member States to take the necessary measures to ratify and implement the 2003 Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

31. to request the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and regional economic communities to support the convening of the first conference of the parties to the Bamako Convention and facilitate the mobilization of resources for its operationalization;
32. to call upon partners, including the Global Environment Facility, to support African countries and relevant bodies in their efforts to effectively implement the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative and to use it as a flagship programme that represents Africa's contribution to the achievement of a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development;
33. to promote South-South cooperation, including through intra-Africa and Africa-Brazil-China cooperation for sustainable development in Africa;

In relation to the updated common African position on climate change,

Welcoming the decisions³ of the Assembly of the African Union adopted at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, inter alia, endorsing Namibia as the African candidate to bid for the hosting of the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session, held in Bamako from 20 to 25 June 2010, on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Recalling the outcome of the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Bamako from 12 to 16 September 2011, by which the Conference adopted the updated African common position on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Noting the outcome of 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, held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011,

Aware of the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012,

³ Assembly/AU/Dec.416-449^(XIX).

Recognizing the urgency of progress on all outcomes under consideration at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in particular an ambitious and science-based second commitment period for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol, an ambitious package of outcomes to implement the Convention under the Bali Action Plan, as well as progress on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action,

Stressing Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change, in particular the adverse effects on ecosystems, food production, and social and economic development in Africa, and noting the urgent need for all countries to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change,

Emphasizing that climate change represents an urgent and irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, that the window of opportunity to avoid dangerous climate change is closing, and that there is a growing risk of runaway climate change and catastrophic impacts, particularly to Africa,

Recognizing that a global goal of limiting average global warming to 2 degrees Celsius risks warming of over 3 degrees Celsius on the continent of Africa and represents extremely dangerous interference with the climate system and a threat to ecosystems, food production and sustainable development,

Concerned that inadequate mitigation ambition by developed countries will allow them to consume an excessive share of the global emissions budget for 2020, resulting in increased warming, limited atmospheric space for developing countries, and rising costs of adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, in particular in Africa, owing to its levels of vulnerability and development,

Concerned that there is insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed countries as "fast-start" financing for the period 2010 to 2012, that the bulk of funds disbursed are neither "new" nor "additional" and that there is no agreed level of financing for the period 2013 to 2020,

Concerned also that inadequate ambition on mitigation and finance reflects a broader tendency by some parties to fundamentally reorder the balance of rights and obligations in the international climate change regime to embody weaker obligations for developed countries and stronger obligations for developing countries and to weaken the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Calling on all parties to fulfil their commitments and to work together to preserve and strengthen the international architecture to address climate change through multilateral cooperation based on science, equity and the principles and provisions of

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Aware of the impacts of rising sea levels, especially on Small Island developing States as a result of climate change,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change in providing political direction for the promotion of African interests in the climate change negotiations,

Expressing appreciation also for the efforts of the African group of negotiators in the development of the updated African common position on strengthening the international climate change regime through full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Emphasizing the importance to all the States and peoples of Africa of a successful outcome to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012,

Recalling the decision⁴ of the African Union Executive Council, adopted at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 January 2011, in which the Council endorsed the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) and the declaration of the second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Nairobi from 14 to 16 April 2010,

Hereby declare our resolve:

- 34.** to endorse the updated African common position on climate change as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime through full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto;
- 35.** to agree that the key messages⁵ on climate change negotiations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol should guide and inform the discussions of the African group;
- 36.** to affirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto constitute the fundamental global legal framework on

⁴ Decision EX.CL/593(XVII).

⁵ See decision AMCEN 14/12 on climate change.

climate change, and that the climate change negotiations in Doha must conclude agreed outcomes in line with the Bali Road Map as well as progress under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;

37. to call for outcomes of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are based on science, equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, reflecting the latest scientific, technical, economic and social information, as such outcomes will significantly influence efforts to secure Africa's sustainable development;
38. to reaffirm that a long-term global goal must include ambitious short-, medium- and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, reflecting their historical responsibilities, and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort, as well as the provision of adequate means of implementation — finance, technology and capacity-building — to enable Africa to address its adaptation needs in particular;
39. to encourage Annex I parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol to undertake commitments under the Convention that are comparable in magnitude and effort and are measurable, reportable and verifiable through an agreed set of common accounting rules and a compliance framework;
40. to call on developed country parties to urgently scale up support for the implementation of adaptation measures and plans, through, in particular, the Cancun Adaptation Framework and the Nairobi Work Programme, and to support and expedite work to understand, reduce and compensate for loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture;
41. to call on developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support the strengthening or establishment of centres of excellence and regional centres and networks for adaptation and to request the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to engage bilateral and multilateral partners to take concrete steps to ensure that Africa has strong regional adaptation centres and networks;
42. to affirm the importance of the latest scientific findings on climate change for negotiations, and to support African centres of excellence and policy bodies in actively participating in the preparations for the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change so as to ensure that climate change issues relevant to Africa are adequately reflected in the report, due to be launched in 2014;

43. to urge the Green Climate Fund Board, in its capacity as an operating entity of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to commence funding and progressively strengthen its support for developing countries, taking into account the specific circumstances of the least developed countries, small island developing States and the countries of Africa;
44. to declare our resolve to support Namibia's bid as the African candidate to host the Green Climate Fund secretariat;
45. to call for agreement at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the sources and scale of public financial resources to be provided by Annex II parties for the period commencing in 2013, with enhanced transparency in the provision of new and additional financial resources through a common reporting format, and on the full capitalization of the Green Climate Fund and progress in the Standing Committee on Finance;
46. to call upon developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide new and additional resources to the climate funds under the Convention, in particular the Green Climate Fund, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Adaptation Fund, which are currently the only financial means to fund adaptation under the Convention;
47. to call upon all relevant institutions, including the African Development Bank and other regional development banks and partners, to assist African countries in accessing funding available through the Green Climate Fund and other global climate funds, and further enhance their capacity for direct access;
48. to urge parties to cooperate efficiently to rapidly increase technology development and transfer to Africa in support of adaptation to and the mitigation of climate change in all relevant sectors, including the agriculture, water, health, forestry, energy, transport, industry and waste-management sectors, and to support the full operationalization of the technology mechanism of the Convention;
49. to reaffirm that agriculture must be treated under adaptation because of its status as a means of livelihood and the backbone of the African economy, also to reaffirm that agriculture is a priority for Africa and should be treated as a matter of survival, and to recommend that a comprehensive work programme covering finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to support sustainable agricultural production in developing countries be established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, with support from developed countries;
50. to call for the work to enhance ambition under the Durban Platform to adequately address the need to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below

1.5 degrees Celsius, and to emphasize in this context the urgent need to reflect ambitious commitments under the Bali Road Map in order for Annex I parties to reduce their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2017 as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention;

51. to reaffirm that the Convention is the multilateral platform for climate change action, as such additional actions under the ambition work stream of the Durban Platform require agreed transparency, accounting and recognition provisions, and that enhanced action by developing countries through a clear process to scale up the means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity support is necessary;
52. to call for efforts under the Durban Platform to enhance ambition leading to a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention by 2015, to enter into force by 2020, to reflect all principles and provisions of the Convention, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in order to limit the increase of global average temperature to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius while ensuring equitable access to sustainable development and the sharing of atmospheric space and resources, taking into account cumulative historical responsibility and the use of such resources by Annex I parties;
53. to urge all African countries to participate actively in the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
54. to acknowledge that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation share common root causes and goals, and to recognize disaster risk management as a tool for climate change adaptation and the reduction of the vulnerability of communities and nations;

We, African Ministers of Environment, hereby declare our resolve:

55. to urge the member States of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to clear their outstanding mandatory contributions to the Conference and to work with all organs of their Government to ensure that the mandatory annual contributions are made on a timely basis;
56. to request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in consultation with the Bureau, to continue encouraging all member States to make their annual contributions;
57. to urge Governments to take the necessary action to ensure that the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished during the inter-sessional period;

- 58.** to express our appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other organizations for their continued support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - 59.** to mandate the President of the Conference to convey the priorities and position of Africa as contained in the report of the Conference on the work of its fourteenth session to all parties, including external partners, organizations and multilateral environmental conventions with a view to enlisting their support, and to report to the Conference at its next session;
 - 60.** to mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the Conference on the work of its fourteenth session, including the recommendations contained in the Arusha Declaration and in the other annexes to the report, to the Executive Council of the African Union;
 - 61.** to pay tribute to the President, the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants, the excellent facilities made available and their generous support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session, which contributed greatly to its success.
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EX.CL/761(XXII)
Annex 2

DECISIONS - AMCEN

Decision 14/1: Africa's post Rio+20 Strategy for Sustainable Development

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decisions¹ of the Assembly of the African Union at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, held in Malabo on 30 June and 1 July 2011 and in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 January 2012, on Africa's preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Taking note of the Africa consensus statement that was adopted in Addis Ababa on 25 October 2011 in the context of the African regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming also the decision² of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in which the Assembly urged member States to continue to speak with one voice, ensure adequate representation of Africa in all the committees to be established consequent to the outcome of Rio+20, and to use the fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to conduct a substantive analysis of the Rio+20 outcomes in order to develop a road map for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Decide:

1. To develop a common strategy for negotiation and engagement that represents the interests of Africa in the intergovernmental process, to be established by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, on:
 - (a) The establishment of the universal intergovernmental high-level political forum;
 - (b) The development of sustainable development goals;
 - (c) The strengthening and upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme;

¹Assembly/AU/Dec.381(XVII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.400 (XVIII).

²Assembly/AU/Dec.437(XIX).

- (d) The operationalization of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;³
 - (e) A mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technology;
 - (f) The intergovernmental process for an effective and sustainable development financing strategy.
2. To agree that African member States representing the region in the aforementioned intergovernmental process should coordinate with African missions through the African Union office in New York to agree on regional inputs on various issues prior to submission to various committees;
3. To establish mechanisms that provide coordinated support to member States for the promotion of the green economy in Africa, including the development of partnerships and national strategies, the promotion of regional and international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the transfer of resource-efficient and green technologies and know-how;
4. To develop and implement the following key African regional flagship programmes, identified on the basis of the Rio Outcome document, key priorities for Africa and existing regional programmes and partnerships, as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20):
- (a) African green economy partnership;
 - (b) Ecosystem based adaptation programme for Africa;
 - (c) African programme on sustainable energy development;
 - (d) Partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa;
 - (e) Integrated waste management programme for Africa;
 - (f) Africa integrated environmental assessment for sustainable development planning;
 - (g) Sustainable land management and desertification programme in Africa;
 - (h) Poverty and livelihoods;
 - (i) African programme on biodiversity and ecosystems;
 - (j) African partnership for capacity-building, technology transfer and skills development;
5. That the regional flagship programmes identified in paragraph 4 above will be further developed and implemented through existing institutional structures, taking into account frameworks for regional and interregional cooperation, including South–South cooperation, such as Africa-China-Brazil Cooperation for Africa’s Sustainable Development, the Tokyo International Conference on Africa’s Development and other cooperation initiatives;

³

A/CONF.216/5, annex.

6. To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to convene a meeting of experts in order to further develop the regional flagship programmes;
7. To call upon development partners, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity- building to support the implementation of the key regional flagship programmes at the regional and national levels.

Decision 14/2: Strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme

We, African Ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Taking note of the Africa consensus statement that was adopted in Addis Ababa on 25 October 2011 in the context of the African regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Welcoming the outcome document⁴ of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, adopted by the Conference on 22 June 2012,

Welcoming also General Assembly resolution 66/288, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document,

Welcoming further section C, in particular paragraph 88, of the outcome document, on the environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development, which calls for the strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the fact that paragraph 88 of the outcome document invited the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the decision⁵ of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, in which the Assembly requested the fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in order to develop a plan of action for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

⁴ A/CONF.216/L.1.

⁵ Assembly/AU/Dec.437(XIX).

Decide:

1. To invite the General Assembly to safeguard the positive results of the outcome document of Rio+20 and the decision of the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session by adopting at its sixty-seventh session a resolution on the strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme in conformity with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as follows:
 - (a) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance as well its responsiveness and accountability to member States;
 - (b) Ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate;
 - (c) Enhance the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening the engagement of the United Nations Environment Programme in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering UNEP to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment;
 - (d) Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making;
 - (e) Disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness on critical as well as emerging environmental issues;
 - (f) Provide capacity-building to countries, as well as support and facilitate access to technology;
 - (g) Progressively consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi, as well as strengthen its regional presence, in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies, collaborating closely with other relevant entities of the United Nations system;
 - (h) Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.

2. To invite the General Assembly at its sixty- seventh session to consider including the following additional elements in the strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme:
 - (a) Strengthening regional presence by increasing and upgrading the functions and capacity of regional offices and establishing five sub-regional offices in Africa so as to enable countries build their capacities to implement their national environmental policies, plans and programmes;
 - (b) Increasing financial resources to the United Nations Environment Programme to at least 2 per cent of the United Nations regular budget;
 - (c) Establishing a universal membership body known as the Environment Assembly, with a ministerial segment called the Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (d) Mandating the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to determine the details of the mandates and composition of other bodies of the Environment Assembly.
3. To urge all member States to actively participate and engage in the negotiations on and adopt a resolution on strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Decision 14/3: Review of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 13/1 on the review of the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and all the relevant partners in undertaking the review of the implementation of the action plan,

Acknowledging the inter-linkages between the environment action plan and the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference and other programmes and initiatives at the global and regional levels,

Recognizing the continued relevance and importance of the action plan as the framework for addressing environmental matters in Africa,

Expressing appreciation for the progress and success so far made and the achievements of the action plan in guiding and influencing policy and programme development at the regional, national and local levels in Africa,

Noting the consultative process undertaken to review the environment action plan, including the key findings of the review,

Welcoming the progress made in the review of the environment action plan,

Decide:

1. To request the African Union Commission to continue to provide high-level political support and advocacy for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
2. To request the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, regional economic commissions and other relevant partners, to finalize the update of the action plan;
3. To request the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant partners to develop key priorities, including emerging and persistent thematic areas for implementation in the updated action plan for the next five years;
4. To agree to include the following emerging and persistent areas as part of the updated action plan in the context of Africa's sustainable development and poverty reduction:
 - (a) Green economy;
 - (b) Natural resources governance;
 - (c) Waste management;
 - (d) Sustainable energy;
 - (e) Climate change;
 - (f) Biodiversity;
 - (g) Sustainable consumption and production;
 - (h) Sustainable land management; and
 - (i) Integrated management of African coastal lands.
5. To agree to enhance implementation of the action plan as identified in the following key findings of the review:

- (a) Improvement of coordination mechanisms at all levels;
 - (b) Establishment of a regular reporting framework by member States;
 - (c) Mobilization of additional financial resources, including from domestic sources;
 - (d) Inter-linkages and complementarity with other sustainable development sectors;
 - (e) Monitoring and evaluation;
 - (f) Communication, advocacy and knowledge management;
 - (g) Institutional capacity-building.
6. To agree to create the African Environment Partnership Platform as the mechanism to coordinate, mobilize resources, foster knowledge and align support for the implementation of the action plan;
7. To request the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, regional economic commissions and other relevant partners to develop modalities for the operationalization of the African Environment Partnership Platform within one year of the adoption of the present decision.

Decision 14/4: Sustainable consumption and production in Africa

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment,

Recalling the Dakar Declaration for Enhanced Partnership in the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted by the Second Partnership Conference of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment on the Implementation of the Environmental Action Plan of NEPAD, held in Dakar on 15 and 16 March 2005,

Noting the progress made in the development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Noting also that eco-labelling is one of the priority areas of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Welcoming the global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns⁶ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, which supports regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, contributing to resource efficiency and decoupling

⁶

A/CONF.216/5, annex.

economic growth from environmental degradation, while creating new job opportunities and contributing to poverty eradication,

Reaffirming the emphasis on the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenge of meeting basic needs in the process of developing national, sub-regional and regional activities in Africa under the 10- year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns with partners such as the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners in supporting regional and national initiatives to promote a shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Decide:

1. To review the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production so as to hasten the implementation of the adopted global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;⁶
2. To implement the activities and programmes of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production as shall have been reviewed;
3. To call upon our development partners to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production activities at the regional and national levels for the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
4. To provide support for the implementation of the African Eco-labelling Mechanism and its Eco Mark Africa eco-label so as to promote Africa regional intra-national and international trade, as well as strengthening its Secretariat;
5. To support the Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa, and to strengthen the Secretariat of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Decision 14/5: Strengthening the Africa Environment Outlook and environment information networks in support of decision-making in Africa

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012, at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 13/7 and other decisions adopted by the Conference on the Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information network,

Noting that the environmental information assessment and reporting mechanism of the African Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information networks are essential to informing decision-making to effectively implement the achievements and outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),

Reaffirming the importance of the Africa Environment Outlook as a decision support tool for the work of the African Union, as well as its member States,

Decide:

1. To request member States to use the African Environment Outlook as one of its regular tools for reviewing the state of the African environment to support decision-making at the national and regional levels;
2. To agree to develop a regional reporting platform, African environment outlook-Live, to provide dynamic and regularly updated, scientific and evidence-based, on-line information on the state of the environment, including trends and the future outlook, as part of the support for decision-making in Africa;
3. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support the establishment of the African environment outlook-Live as the regional on-line environmental information platform that is linked to and compatible with UNEP-Live;
4. To agree to support the evaluation of uptake and use in decision-making of environmental information, including the findings and recommendations contained in the African Environment Outlook reports, in order to identify and strengthen appropriate mechanisms through which environmental information can better serve policy and decision-making in the region;
5. To agree to build national and regional capacities in environmental information management and communication and strengthen the African environment information network and other environment information networks at the national level;
6. To agree to mobilize resources to prepare future African environment outlook reports and support the capacity-building of African countries in thematic and integrated environmental assessment and reporting, including through the development of appropriate data and indicator management tools (environmental data and information management).

Decision 14/6: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the African Union structures

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decision⁷ of the Assembly of the African Union at its twelfth session, held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 February 2009, by which the Assembly established specialized technical committees of the African Union, with environmental matters falling under the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment,

Recalling also decision 13/3, in which African ministers of the environment requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to continue the revision of the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, taking into account the institutional evolution of the African Union, and to submit the revised text to the Conference at its fourteenth session,

Noting the action by the Bureau to suspend the revision of the constitution of AMCEN pending further clarification on the operationalization of the decision of the Assembly of the African Union on the specialized technical committees,

Recalling the decision⁸ of the Executive Council requesting the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to formalize the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the ministerial body for the environment under the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment,

Recalling also the decision⁹ of the Assembly of the African Union, adopted at its seventeenth session, held in Malabo on 30 June and 1 July 2011, in which the Assembly requested the African Union Commission to operationalize the specialized technical committees from January 2013 and that thereafter the Sectoral Ministerial Conferences be abolished, with environment matters continuing to be the responsibility of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment functioning as a subcommittee of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment,

Recalling further decision 8/3, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eighth session, held in Abuja, to build, through consultation and joint programming, partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society, including

7 Assembly/AU/Dec.227(XII).

8 Decision EX.CL/624 (XVIII).

9 Assembly/AU/Dec.365(XVII).

non-governmental organizations, women's groups and community-based organizations, the private sector, donor countries and multilateral donor organizations,

Recognizing that the environment contributes substantively to the achievement of Africa's sustainable development, is cross-cutting and varied and faces major challenges that require concerted efforts and political support at the continental, regional and national levels,

Recognizing also the resource implication and time constraints in implementing the decision adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its seventeenth session on operationalizing the specialized technical committees from January 2013,

Decide:

1. To request the Assembly of the African Union at its next session to reconsider the decision to abolish the sectoral ministerial conferences, specifically the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
2. To request the Assembly of the African Union, given the high importance of the environment to the sustainable development of Africa and its cross-cutting nature as well as its varied composition, which includes the areas of disaster risk reduction, meteorology, climate change, forestry, biodiversity, desertification and water, to authorize the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to function in its current form pending the determination of modalities that would define its future direction.

Decision 14/7: The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the efforts made by the African Union Commission, the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall and member States to operationalize the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, which led to its validation at the experts meeting held in Ouagadougou from 27 to 29 August 2012,

Considering the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as an African flagship programme to address issues related to desertification, land degradation, drought, climate change and loss of biodiversity in the Sahara-Sahel zone in Africa,

Calling for urgent action to reverse land degradation and to achieve a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development,

Considering the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) to take coordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally to monitor globally land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry humid areas,

Recalling the Bamako declaration of the thirteenth African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in which the African ministers of the environment called for a strategic partnership between the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to foster the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 10-year strategy in Africa,

Acknowledging the efforts of the partners in supporting the elaboration of national strategies and action plans to enhance the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative,

Concerned with the need for improving the institutional governance and the coordination of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative by the African Union Commission and the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall, as stressed in the decision¹⁰ of the African Union at its seventeenth session, held in Malabo in June 2011,

Taking note with appreciation of the conclusions of the regional experts meeting held in Ouagadougou from 27 to 29 August 2012, at which progress made in the implementation of the Initiative was reviewed,

Decide:

1. To consider the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, in the framework of the Environmental Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as a flagship programme that represents the African contribution to the achievement of a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development, as recommended by United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
2. To adopt the regional harmonized strategy for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as a strategy which has been fully aligned with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;¹¹

¹⁰ Assembly/AU/Dec.376 (XVII).

¹¹ See United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, decision 3/COP.8.

3. To request development partners to align their support for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative with the priorities identified by countries in their national action plans;
4. To agree to the transformation of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel into a specialized agency of the African Union Commission under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture.

Decision 14/8: Management of biodiversity in Africa

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decision¹² of the African Union Assembly on the report on Africa's participation in the Nagoya Conference on Biodiversity, in which the Assembly called for the inclusion of biodiversity among the priorities of the African Union and encouraged member States of the African Union to become parties to all the conventions on biodiversity,

Recalling also the report presented by the President of Gabon at the sixteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in which the Assembly called on member States to join forces and work together to ensure the adoption of a common African position for future negotiations on biodiversity and the establishment of a coordination mechanism to achieve this,

Acknowledging the request of the Government of Kenya to the African Union Commission, pursuant to the Assembly decision, to create a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity and to facilitate an African common position during international negotiations on biodiversity,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Kenya in hosting an African regional preparatory meeting for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nairobi on 6 and 7 September 2011, which requested the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to support the formalization of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity,

Recognizing that a coordinated structure provides a link between the political and technical processes and also provides political guidance to the negotiators and enhances Africa's visibility in the negotiations process,

¹²

Assembly/AU/Dec.352 (XVI).

Recognizing also the need for the ratification and effective implementation of biodiversity-related instruments, in particular the protocols adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Taking note with appreciation of the on-going work of the African Union Commission in implementing the African Union Assembly decision¹³ on the establishment of a coordination mechanism on biodiversity,

Concerned about the alarming prevalence of the trans-boundary illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, which is contributing to the destruction and extinction of species, in particular the African elephant, the rhinoceros and the African great apes,

Recalling the Libreville Declaration¹⁴ of the Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held from 13 to 17 September 2010, which called for adoption of appropriate measures at both the bilateral and multilateral levels to combat trans-boundary crime, including by encouraging African countries to accede to the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in wild fauna and flora,

Cognizant of the African Elephant Action Plan established in accordance with decision 14.75¹⁵ of fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

Aware that an African Elephant Fund has been established in accordance with decision 14.79 of the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

Decide:

1. To establish a coordination mechanism for the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, the modalities for which are set out in the annex to the present decision, comprising three levels of coordination to ensure the preparation of a common African position for negotiations on biodiversity, with the coordination established at:
 - (a) The experts level by the chairperson of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, selected by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the inter-sessional period between the Conferences;
 - (b) The ministerial level by the President of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment;

¹³ Assembly/AU/15 (XVI).

¹⁴ AMCEN/SS/IV/INF/7.

¹⁵ See document CoP.15 Inf.68.

- (c) The Heads of State and Government level by a spokesperson to be selected by the Heads of State and Government.
2. To request the African Union Commission to support the work of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity, including hosting coordination meetings and capacity-building;
 3. To call upon all African countries and regional bodies to fully support and implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, adopted by the tenth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including an update of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 4. To urge those African countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to and implement as appropriate:
 - (a) The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefit Arising from Their Utilization;
 - (b) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
 - (c) The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
 - (d) The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds;
 - (e) The Lusaka Agreement to Combat Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna And Flora.
 5. To encourage the African Union Commission to continue its work on the preparation of guidelines to support the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa;
 6. To endorse and promote the African Elephant Action Plan and the African Elephant Fund for ensuring effective conservation and long term survival of elephants across Africa;
 7. To request the African Union Commission to convene in 2013, in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, an international conference on the fight against loss of biodiversity in Africa and to provide institutional and financial support to the Lusaka Agreement with a view of enhancing its capacity to undertake cooperative enforcement operations directed at trans-boundary illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in Africa.

Annex
Modalities for the Coordination Mechanism of the African
Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity

1. The African group of negotiators on biodiversity shall be composed of all Member States from Africa to ensure the preparation of a common African position for negotiations on biodiversity.
2. Terms of reference:
 - (a) The Chair of the experts shall:
 - (i) Coordinate the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the experts level;
 - (ii) Convene meetings of the experts in consultation with the African Union Commission and the secretariat of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (iii) Prepare the draft agenda of the meetings;
 - (iv) Lead the negotiations at the expert level.
 - (b) The African Union Commission shall serve as the secretariat of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity;
 - (c) The Chair of African group of negotiators at the experts' level shall report:
 - (i) To the ministerial level, that is, to the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (ii) On any biodiversity meeting, including inter-sessional meetings and conferences of the parties and on any progress to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, experts', ministerial and summit sessions.
 - (d) The Chair at the ministerial level shall:
 - (i) Coordinate the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the ministerial level;
 - (ii) Convene meetings of the ministers in consultation with the African Union Commission and secretariat of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
 - (e) The African Union Commission shall serve as the secretariat of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the ministerial level;

- (f) The Chair of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the ministerial level shall report:
 - (i) Progress to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and at the Summit of the African Union sessions;
 - (ii) Any biodiversity meeting including inter-sessional meetings and Conferences of the Parties.
- (g) At the Heads of State and Government level, the Chair shall:
 - (i) Provide political leadership and guidance to the African group of negotiators on biodiversity;
 - (ii) Call for meetings on biodiversity at the Heads of State and Government level in consultation with the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
- (h) The African Union Commission shall serve as the secretariat of the African group of negotiators on biodiversity at the Heads of State and Government level;
- (i) The Chair at the Heads of State and Government level shall report to the Summit of the African Union.

Decision 14/9: Engaging member States to ratify and adopt a strategy on the promotion of the ratification of the Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the importance of nature and natural resource conservation to Africa,

Recognizing also that the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources presents not only ecological but political, economic, social and cultural opportunities and advantages for Africa in terms of natural resources management,

Aware that the conservation of nature and natural resources in Africa requires the combined efforts of all member States and the involvement of all stakeholders,

Expressing appreciation for the number of efforts made by some member States towards signature and ratification of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources during the period 2003-2012,

Welcoming the efforts of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and other partners to sensitize member States to ratify the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources,

Welcoming also the strategy developed by the African Union Commission to guide the promotion of the ratification of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources,

Recognizing the potential for synergy with other conventions, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Decide:

1. To urge all member States to raise awareness of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources and use the strategy to guide the promotion of the ratification and the implementation of the Convention;
2. To urge member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to ratify and implement the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources;
3. To call upon the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the regional economic communities, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the secretariats of the multilateral environment agreements and other partners to support African countries in the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resources;
4. To encourage civil society and, in particular, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, to pursue sensitization activities to expedite the process of the ratification of the 2003 Maputo Convention on Nature and Natural Resource;
5. To request the Commission to report on the implementation of the present decision at the next ordinary session of the Executive Council.

Decision 14/10: Engaging parliamentarians in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, *Aware* that environment governance in Africa requires the combined efforts and involvement of the executive, judicial and legislative arms of the State as well as civil society, the public and the private sector,

Expressing appreciation for the role of parliaments in Africa as legislative bodies in supporting the development and implementation of policies and laws on the environment, including multilateral environment agreements,

Expressing appreciation also for the efforts of the African Union Commission and other partners in creating awareness and strengthening the capacity of parliamentarians in environmental management,

Taking note of the Entebbe declaration made by the Colloquium of Parliamentarians organized by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme on mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreement, held in Entebbe, Uganda, from 4 to 6 June 2012;

Decide:

1. To work closely and collaborate with the legislative arm of the State in the development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements as well as their integration into national governance, development plans and strategies;
2. To call upon the parliaments of member States to support the implementation of multilateral environment agreements, including the allocation of adequate budgetary resources, monitoring and the enactment of appropriate laws, raising awareness at the grass-roots level, so as to strengthen environmental governance in their countries;
3. To request the legislative bodies of the regional economic communities of the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and other related institutions to support national parliaments in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;
4. To request the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental

agreements and other partners to support the interactions and efforts of parliamentarians and the establishment of a network on environment governance in Africa.

Decision 14/11: Joint celebration of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling decision 12/7, in which the African ministers of the environment agreed that the celebration of Africa Environment Day on 3 March every year should be hosted by member States on regional basis,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union Assembly in January 2012 mandating the joint celebrations of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of member States, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners in celebrating Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day,

Recognizing the importance of the celebrations to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the continent,

Recognizing also the need for a roster of countries to host the event in 2013 and 2014, and recalling that the events have already been hosted by member States in the western, eastern and central regions of Africa,

Decide that at every ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment two countries shall be identified to host the joint celebrations of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day each year for the next two years.

Decision 14/12: Climate change

We, African ministers of the environment,

Having met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, at the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Welcoming decision 448 (XIX) adopted by the African Union Assembly at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, on Africa's preparation for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, inter alia, supporting the bid by Namibia on behalf of Africa

to host the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the continent where the impact of climate change has been and is likely to be felt most acutely in future,

Recalling paragraph 3 of decision 525 (XV) of the Executive Council, which requested the African Union Commission, in collaboration with partners, to elaborate a comprehensive African strategy on climate change, including the development of sector technical back-up data on the impacts of climate change, its cost to the economy and the amount of carbon sequestered in various African ecosystems,

Recalling also the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session to develop and adopt a common negotiating position on climate change, which affirms an international climate regime that ensures full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Recalling further the Bamako Declaration on Consolidating the African Common Position on Climate Change and Preparation for the United Nations Conference Sustainable Development (Rio+20), adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourth special session endorsing, inter alia, the updated African common position on climate change as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Recalling the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourth special session agreeing, inter alia, that the African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical information, and in this regard, inviting relevant institutions and development partners to support the elaboration of the research agenda in support of the African common position,

Recalling also the outcomes of the seventeenth session of Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Durban, and previous sessions thereof,

Aware of the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012,

Decide:

1. To adopt the updated African common position on climate change and the key messages¹⁶ on climate change negotiations for the eighteenth session of the

¹⁶

Decision SS-4/1, annex.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol presented as the outcome of the meeting of the African group of negotiators held in Arusha from 10 to 12 September 2012;

2. To request member States and the African group of negotiators to use the common position as the basis for their positions during the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
3. To request member States and the African group of negotiators to reaffirm the decisions adopted at the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and call for their implementation in Doha, in particular:
 - (a) The realization of an ambitious, legal second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, coming into effect on 1 January 2013; that Parties provisionally apply the amendments, pending entry into force, in order to facilitate their early implementation;
 - (b) That Annex I parties agree to a second commitment period that ensures environmental integrity and limit the access of the flexible mechanisms only to those parties that have commitments during the second commitment period;
 - (c) The successful conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action , with a clear comparability framework for Annex I parties that are not covered by the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; the need to close the finance gap between 2013 and 2020, and to provide concrete support for adaptation actions; and remove barriers to technology support during the implementation of the Bali road map;
 - (d) That the work to enhance ambition under the Durban Platform should not be a substitute for commitments under the Bali road map, and to reaffirm that the Convention is the multilateral platform for climate change action, and any additional actions require agreed transparency and accounting provision; reaffirming that the future legal outcome should be based on the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particularly equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, further reaffirming that the outcome should cover mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building.
4. To reiterate that the African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical

information, and in this regard, to welcome the research agenda and work programme of support for the African group of negotiators, and to invite institutions, African centres of excellence, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Climate Policy Centre and other development partners, including the World Bank, to support the elaboration of the research agenda and work programme in support of the African common position;

5. To recognize the support of African and multilateral institutions towards climate change action on the continent, and to recall the decision of the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Bamako, in which African ministers of the environment requested the African Development Bank to further consult on the African Green Fund, and in this connection takes note of the proposal of the African Development Bank to broaden the scope of the original idea of the Fund to an African Green Facility in order to address the call of the African leaders to implement the outcomes of the Rio+20 summit;
6. To request the African Development Bank to keep African institutions and experts, the African group of negotiators and ministers informed of further developments on this initiative;
7. To encourage the African Union Commission to present the strategy document on climate change to the African group of negotiators and ministers for consideration, pursuant to the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourth special session;
8. To invite all member States to attend and participate actively in the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and promote the African common position;
9. To reaffirm the mandate of the African group of negotiators to continuously update the African common position on the basis of the guidance encompassed in the key messages document and emerging scientific understanding and dynamics in the negotiation.

Annex

Key messages on climate change negotiations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

1. We, African ministers of the environment, recognize that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and represents an urgent and irreversible threat to human societies and the planet. We express our deep concern that the window of

opportunity to avoid dangerous human interference with the climate system is closing, with a growing risk of run-away climate change and catastrophic impacts for natural ecosystems and humankind, particularly in Africa.

2. We reaffirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol constitutes the fundamental global legal framework on climate change and that all actions or measures related to climate change must be in full conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular those of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

3. We reaffirm that achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication are the priorities for Africa. We recognize that today Africa faces numerous, severe and growing negative impacts arising from climate change and that these impacts are undermining Africa's efforts to attain its development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

4. We note with concern that wealthy Annex I parties increased their emissions by approximately 8 per cent between 1990 and 2008. We further express concern that the current inadequate mitigation pledges, in particular by Annex I parties, are likely to lead to an increase of the global average temperature of greater than 2°C – and possibly as much as 5°C – threatening catastrophic impacts worldwide, and particularly for Africa due to its high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and low adaptive capacity.

5. We acknowledge that there is an urgent and immediate need to avoid further loss and damage to Africa and call for an intensified action, in particular by Annex I parties, to reduce their emissions in line with the information set out in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and more recent scientific studies in a way that will limit the global average temperature increase to well below 1.5°C.

6. We are aware that, despite the urgent threat facing human societies and the planet, the mitigation pledges by Annex I parties in the context of the climate change negotiations amount to less than the voluntary mitigation pledges by non-Annex I parties. We recall that the Convention requires Annex I parties to make equitable and appropriate contributions to achieving the objective of the Convention and therefore stress that Annex I parties should show leadership, including through raising their level of ambition to the scale required by science and equity.

7. We urge Annex I parties to provide scaled-up new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries, particularly to countries in Africa, to mitigate and adapt to climate change without diverting scarce resources required for poverty eradication and other sustainable development objectives.

8. We recognize that Africa needs its fair share of atmospheric space in order to meet its development needs, and acknowledge that this may result in increased emissions.

9. We note that in the absence of increased ambition, the projected emissions of Annex I parties would consume almost half of the 44 Gt emissions budget for 2020 that is estimated by the United Nations Environment Programme to have a likely chance of limiting temperature increase to 2°C or less, thereby limiting the atmospheric space available to non-Annex I parties and allocating to the Annex I parties an excessive share of a global atmospheric resource.

10. We express concerns that rather than increasing their ambition some Annex I parties have refused to ratify, or have withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol or intend to do so. We further express concern at the apparent intention of some Annex I parties to move away from a legally binding regime applicable to them into a weaker pledge-based regime, while shifting the burden to non-Annex I parties.

11. We reaffirm that adaptation is an essential priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of country-driven adaptation measures and actions through the provision of grant-based public resources including through direct access to the Green Climate Fund and other relevant financial entities.

12. We also recognize, in this context, the importance of agriculture to Africa and reaffirm our recommendation that a comprehensive work programme on agriculture in non-Annex I parties is to be established under the Adaptation Framework, and that agriculture is to be addressed as a matter of priority in relation to the mitigation commitments of Annex I parties. We confirm that Africa's emissions, including from the agriculture sector, are low and that most of the global emissions from the agriculture sector derive from industrialized, subsidized and fossil-fuel intensive agricultural practices in Annex I parties, and that the overriding priority for Africa in the agriculture sector is food production and rural development.

13. We express concern about the lack of clarity on long-term financing of results-based REDD+ activities in phase three. We call for a transparent process for the provision of adequate and equitable long-term financial resources. We further call for the establishment of a simplified structure that would allow broader participation of countries in accordance with their national circumstances.

14. We recall that the effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions by non-Annex I parties depends on the fulfilment by Annex I parties of their commitments relating to financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity building. We recognize, in this context, the insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed country parties as "fast start" finance for the period 2010-2012 and indications that only a small proportion of these resources are "new and additional", and we call on Annex I parties to fully implement their commitments relating to financial resources and the transfer of technology as an important step towards addressing the common challenge of climate change.

15. We further call for an agreement in Doha on scaled-up public resources to be provided by Annex II parties commencing in 2013, building on lessons learned from fast start finance and reaching a scale adequate to meet the needs of developing countries up to 2020 and beyond.

Negotiations under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto

16. We reaffirm that the outcome of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must be based on science, principles and provisions of the Convention. Such an approach must include ambitious short- medium- and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I parties that reflect their historical responsibility and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change, and the provision of adequate means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity building – to enable non-Annex I parties to address mitigation and adaptation.

17. We reiterate that the climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should produce: (a) an amendment to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex I parties for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under the Kyoto Protocol; (b) a set of outcomes in line with the Bali Road Map regarding an agreed outcome on long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention; and (c) a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention addressing mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building through the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) no later than 2015 to come into effect and be implemented by 2020.

18. We call on all parties to respect the balance of the outcome at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Durban, South Africa. We urge Annex I parties to join us in ensuring an ambitious and legally binding second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, an ambitious and comprehensive set of outcomes under the Bali Action Plan to ensure the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, recognizing that progress in the ADP negotiations is premised on successful conclusion of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). We affirm that these three negotiations are interlinked and that new discussions under the Durban Platform must build on conclusions agreed in longstanding negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention.

19. We emphasize that work under these negotiations must be carefully balanced and sequenced to ensure that Annex I parties take on equitable and adequate mitigation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, that parties achieve the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention in accordance with the Bali Action Plan, and

that the ambition gap on mitigation and means of implementation is closed prior to 2015 to ensure the highest level of effort by all parties, as a sound basis for negotiations towards a new protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome for legal force under the Durban Platform.

20. We call on all parties to join us in preserving and building on the architecture of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol developed over almost two decades, and we warn against the unravelling of the international climate change architecture into a weaker regime based on “pledge and review” for Annex I parties, as this will undermine environmental integrity thus increasing the risk to the African continent of climate change. We call on all Annex I parties to fulfil their commitments through an ambitious and legally binding second period of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, comparable efforts by Annex I non-Kyoto parties, as well as full implementation of commitments relating to adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and related matters.

Implementing the Kyoto Protocol

21. We call on developed country parties to the Kyoto Protocol to honour their commitments through ambitious mitigation commitments for a second commitment period and to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 per cent during the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 and by at least 95 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention. We stress the urgency of concluding all issues for a second commitment period in Doha and of elaborating measures to avoid a gap between commitment periods.

22. We confirm that negotiations towards a new agreement under the Durban Platform must not detract from agreement of ambitious further commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol. We join other developing countries in confirming that the second commitment period shall end in 2017 to avoid locking in low levels of ambition by Annex I parties until 2020, which would risk extremely dangerous levels of warming and an inadequate contribution by Annex I parties towards addressing climate change. Individual contributions by Annex I parties are to be agreed and converted into quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) for inclusion in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol to be adopted in Doha and further urge those Annex 1 parties that have not submitted their QELROs to do so.

23. We call on Annex I parties to ensure the environmental integrity of their emission reduction commitments, and to guarantee an equitable and appropriate level of domestic emission reductions, by closing existing loopholes, limiting the use of carbon markets and project-based mechanisms to 10 per cent of their quantified emission reduction commitments, and ensuring the additionality of carbon credits.

24. We recognize that the continued existence and effectiveness of the Adaptation Fund is contingent on an ambitious second commitment period by Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol, including ambitious emission aggregate and individual reduction commitments as well as the effective closure of all loopholes, as a precondition for a functioning project-based mechanism and delivery of carbon credits. As a means for increasing funding for the Adaptation Fund we call for financial resources to be raised through a levy on emissions trading and other carbon mechanisms and markets.

25. We reiterate that Annex I parties that do not sign up to the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, and have therefore not taken on a legally binding QELRO under the Kyoto Protocol, shall not have access to the mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol, including emissions trading, joint implementation and clean development mechanism.

Implementing the Convention

26. We reiterate the importance of fulfilment by all parties of their commitments under the Convention and call for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action to continue its work to reach an agreed outcome pursuant with decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan) and conclude its work in Doha in accordance with decision 1/CP.17.

Shared vision

27. We emphasize that avoiding dangerous interference with the climate system and achieving a global goal of limiting temperature increase to well below 1.5°C will require an integrated approach based on science, equity and the principles and provisions of the Convention. We are concerned that temperature increases above 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels pose catastrophic impacts to poor and vulnerable people and communities worldwide, in particular Africa, and is inconsistent with the fundamental objective of the Convention.

28. We recognize that a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050 and the time frame for global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions cannot be undertaken in the abstract and will necessarily involve matters related to the context of such considerations including ambitious short, medium and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I parties that reflect their historical responsibilities and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change. We confirm that a long-term global goal for reducing emissions by 2050 and a time frame for global peaking can only be understood in the context of a global goal for adaptation, finance, technology support and the implications for economic and social development in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Adaptation

29. We welcome the operationalization of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, in particular the Adaptation Committee. We urge the Adaptation Committee to expedite its work on facilitating the support process and implementation of national adaptation actions and plans of non-Annex 1 parties through the relevant linkages between the finance and technology mechanisms of the Convention.

30. We affirm that adaptation activities should be funded at full cost through direct and simplified access to adequate, new and additional public grant-based financial resources, following a country driven approach, as well as to environmentally sound technologies and capacity building in a predictable and prompt manner as part of a balanced package on all issues to implement the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

31. We urge that measures should be taken to expedite work on strengthening international cooperation and expertise in order to understand, reduce and compensate loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture, water, human health, and other economic and non-economic losses related to extreme weather events and slow onset events.

Mitigation

32. We reiterate concerns about efforts by Annex I parties to move away from a legally binding into a weaker “pledge-based” regime, the conditional nature of Annex I pledges, the low level of mitigation ambition and the associated party specific rules and accounting methodologies which may undermine environmental integrity and significantly reduce the contribution of Annex I parties to the global mitigation effort by 2020.

33. We call on Annex I parties that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol to undertake legally binding commitments under the Convention that are comparable in magnitude and effort and are measurable, reportable and verifiable with regard to mitigation and the provision of financial and technological resources. We call for the development of an agreed set of common accounting rules and a compliance framework for Annex I parties that have not subscribed to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to assess their quantified emission reductions.

34. We reaffirm that a firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments of Annex I parties that are legally binding in nature and appropriate voluntary mitigation actions by non-Annex I parties.

35. We stress that the extent to which non-Annex I parties will effectively implement actions under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation and fulfilment by developed country parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources, capacity-building and technology development and transfer.

Means of implementation

36. We welcome the adoption in Durban of the governing instrument of the Green Climate Fund and stress the need for concrete outcomes on the long-term finance work programme and the work of the Standing Committee. We call for enhanced transparency in the provision of support through a common reporting format, definitions and methodologies.

37. We note the pledge by developed country parties to mobilize jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020, and reiterate Africa's position that developed country parties should by the year 2020 provide scaled-up financial support based on an assessed scale of contributions that constitutes at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of Annex I parties, in order to curb climate change and meet the needs of non-Annex I parties to tackle climate change and its adverse effects.

38. We note with concern the gap between the end of fast start finance in 2012 and the \$100 billion pledge by 2020. We call on Annex II parties to significantly scale up the provision of new, additional predictable and adequate resources in the interim period. We also call on those parties to contribute to the Green Climate Fund and to accelerate its operationalization with a view to addressing the most urgent adaptation needs of developing countries.

39. We emphasize the need for an appropriate body under the Convention with respect to mobilization of financial resources to address the ambition gap on finance, and to look beyond the short-term financial constraints faced by developed countries, in order to raise in a predictable and identifiable manner the amount of new and additional funding necessary and available for the implementation of this Convention and commensurate to the adaptation, mitigation and technology needs of developing countries, and establish the conditions under which that amount shall be periodically reviewed.

40. We stress the importance of ensuring direct access to financial resources for all developing countries through a transparent process, ensuring equitable allocation taking into account geographical and needs based criteria, a balance between adaptation and mitigation, and grant-based funding for adaptation activities.

41. We emphasize that public finance should be the main source of funding to ensure the sustainability, predictability and adequacy of funding, bearing in mind that private and market finance can play a complementary role.

42. We stress the urgent need to fully operationalize the technology mechanism in 2012 and taking into account the need to resolve the outstanding issues such as the link between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and its network, the operationalization of the Advisory Board, the identification and removal of all barriers preventing access to climate-related technologies and the appropriate

treatment of intellectual property rights, including the removal of patents on climate-related technologies for non-Annex I parties.

43. We welcome the Durban Forum on Capacity-building and call for its further development through the establishment of a work programme. We acknowledge the creation of performance indicators for monitoring and review of capacity building is paramount. We further stress that capacity building activities should not be left to the private sector.

44. We welcome progress made in Durban in the establishment and operationalization of effective and accountable institutions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties in relation to adaptation, finance and technology transfer, including the Cancun Adaptation Framework, Green Climate Fund and Technology Mechanism. We further call for the prompt effective, and full operationalization of these institutions including through the provision of required financial resources to ensure these institutions are not “empty shells” and that adequate financial resources, including for time-bound deliverables and work programmes, are available for action in developing countries, particularly in relation to adaptation, mitigation and technology development and transfer.

Negotiations under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

45. We welcome the successful launching of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention addressing, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building, as well as the workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition to identify and to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap.

46. We express satisfaction with the adoption of an agenda and initial exploratory discussions among Parties in Bangkok. We look forward to the successful completion of the mandates to implement the Convention (AWG-LCA) and Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in accordance with the Bali Road Map, as part of the Durban package. We call for ambitious and comprehensive outcomes under the Bali Roadmap, noting that unresolved items under this negotiation shall be dealt with in appropriate bodies under the Convention, including the Durban Platform.

47. We stress that the negotiations of a future legal outcome under the Durban Platform are under the Convention and, as a result, all of the principles and provisions of the Convention apply including the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The outcome must reinforce a fair, multilateral and rules-based regime that brings into effect the right to equitable access to sustainable development, sharing of atmospheric space and resources taking into account cumulative historical responsibility and use of such resources by Annex I Parties, with the principle of equity reflected in all aspects of a future agreement.

48. We stress that the outcome must fulfil the objective of the Convention including a limit in the increase of global average temperature to well below 1.5°C. We emphasize in this context the urgent need to reflect ambitious commitments under the Bali Road Map in order for Annex I parties to reduce their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2017 as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention. We further reaffirm that the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol thereto are the multilateral platform for climate change action, as such additional actions under the ambition work stream of the Durban Platform require agreed transparency, accounting, and recognition provisions. To enhance action by developing countries a clear process to scale up the means of implementation including finance, technology and capacity to support is necessary.

49. Finally, we affirm that the outcome of negotiations should culminate in an enhanced multilateral rules based regime that implements the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol thereto through a common vision covering global goals relating to temperature, global emission reductions and trajectories, adaptation, finance and technology transfer in the context of an equity reference framework, as well as means to record additional specific commitments by Annex I parties and contributions by non-Annex I parties, operational mechanisms with dedicated funding, work programmes and deliverables, and arrangements for accountability, compliance and review.

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