

AFRICAN UNION

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Fourteenth Ordinary Session
26 – 30 January 2009
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/471 (XIV)

**REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)**

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 10 – 12 JUNE 2008

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The ministerial segment of the twelfth session of the African Ministers' Conference on the Environment was held from 10 – 12 June 2008 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Meetings of the expert group segments preceded the ministerial segment.

2. The main objectives of the twelfth session were to review the status of implementation of AMCEN Decisions and Programmes, its budget and future activities with particular reference to climate change.

3 The AMCEN 12th Session was attended by representatives from the following African countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4 Representatives of African regional and sub-regional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended it.

5 The ministerial segment was officially opened by Mr. André Okombi Salissa, Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Congo and President of AMCEN, at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 June 2008. Opening statements were also made by Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, Dr. Babagana Ahmadu, Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the Commission of the African Union, and Dr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). International organisation and multilateral environmental agreements also made statements.

DELIBERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

6 Several important declarations ranging from Climate Change, the financing of NEPAD Environmental Action Plans at Sub regional and national levels, environmental governance were made during the 12th Session.

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**AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT
TWELFTH SESSION
10 – 12 June 2008
Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA**

**REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)**

**JOHANNESBURG, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
10 – 12 JUNE 2008**

PART I: INTRODUCTION

1 Background

2. The ministerial segment of the twelfth session of the African Ministers' Conference on the Environment was held from 10 – 12 June 2008 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Meetings of the expert group segments preceded the ministerial segment.

2. Objective of the AMCEN 12th session

3. The main objectives of the twelfth session were to review the status of implementation of AMCEN Decisions and Programmes, its budget and future activities with particular reference to climate change.

3 Participation

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

It was attended by representatives of African regional and sub-regional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

4 Opening Ceremony

4. The ministerial segment was officially opened by Mr. André Okombi Salissa, Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Congo and President of AMCEN, at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 June 2008.

5. Opening statements were also made by Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, Dr. Babagana Ahmadu, Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the Commission of the African Union, and Dr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

4.1 Statements by representatives of international organisation and multilateral environmental agreements

6. Representatives of the following international organisation and multilateral environmental agreements gave statements:

- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- World Bank (WB)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Basel Convention
- Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions
- Montreal and Vienna Conventions
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

5. Organisational matters

5.1 Election of officers

7. The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2008–2009:

<u>Sub-region</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Position</u>
Central Africa	Gabon	Vice-President
Eastern Africa	Eritrea	Vice-President
North Africa	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Vice-President
Southern Africa	South Africa	President
West Africa	Burkina Faso	Rapporteur

PART II: DELIBERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Ministerial segment deliberated on the following issues:

1. Africa's Climate Roadmap: Johannesburg through Africa to Copenhagen

1.1 In their statements, representatives underscored the importance of the decision and outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference¹ held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, in particular the agreement on the Bali Action Plan, which set 2009 as the end date for negotiations on strengthening the climate regime beyond 2012. It was agreed that Africa must speak with one voice in advancing the continent's interests in negotiations for the climate regime beyond 2012.

1.2 Representatives stressed the need for Africa to identify the key political messages to inform the global debate and negotiating process, in terms both of the commitments that it sought from the international community, and also of the actions that African countries would take themselves.

1.3 For the development of an African common position as part of the African Roadmap to Copenhagen, representatives proposed an African high-level expert panel on climate change, to include senior officials, and African focal points for the Framework Convention on Climate Change, working in collaboration with UNEP, NEPAD and the Commission of the African Union and mandated to develop a draft common position. They also proposed that a special session of AMCEN on climate change should be held and the outcome(s) of the session should be submitted to the Summit of the African Union scheduled to be held in June/July 2009.

2 Financing of NEPAD implementation

2.1 Representatives stressed the need to simplify the various international financing mechanisms for the expeditious allocation of funds once country and regionally driven needs had been identified.

2.2 Regarding the financing of environment programmes, there was a need to refocus the discussion on how Africa could ensure the sustainable use and management of its rich environmental resources. The environment should take centre stage in economic and development activities, in order to ensure true sustainable development.

2.3 Representatives stressed the need to take full advantage of the NEPAD capital flows initiative and urged the African Development Bank to provide additional environmental finance.

2.4 Representatives further stressed the need to increase domestic resource mobilization. One approach would be to consider integrating environmental priorities into national planning processes to attract support from national budgetary allocations.

2.5 There was a strong call for the African Development Bank to clarify formally its position on the long-standing request by AMCEN and the African Union for the establishment of the African Environment Facility

3. Africa's vision for international environment governance

3.1 Noting the challenge posed by the proliferation of agreements and conventions which demanded ever-increasing resources and capacity to ensure their effective implementation, representatives stressed the need to engage the African Union and, through that body, to build capacity to ensure the national operationalization of multilateral and regional environmental conventions and agreements.

3.2 Representatives stressed the need for AMCEN to participate in the global discussion on international environmental governance and to bring an African vision to the negotiation process.

3.3 Representatives expressed the need to examine the strategic role of AMCEN in regional governance and its cooperation with the growing intergovernmental machinery in Africa, such as the African Ministers' Council on Water, the Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa and the structures of the African Union.

3.4 There was a strong sense that AMCEN should play a key role in taking Africa's environmental agenda to the international community, and, through the structures of the African Union, act as Africa's environmental conscience and voice.

3.5 Representatives underscored the need to bring the global debate on environmental issues to the forefront of the developmental debate and to ensure that environment concerns were at the heart of political and economic decision-making at the national and global levels.

3.6 Representatives highlighted the need for stronger involvement of ministries of finance and of foreign affairs to support the AMCEN programme at the national level. They also highlighted the need to engage with ambassadors in Nairobi and New York.

Consideration of other matters related to AMCEN

I. Amendments to the constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

8. The ministers adopted the decision on the constitution of AMCEN. The text of the decision may be found in annex II to the present report.

II. Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

9. The ministers adopted the decision on the status and use of the general trust fund for AMCEN which had been forwarded to them by the expert group for their consideration. The text of the decision may be found in annex II to the present report.

Consideration of matters related to climate variability and change

III. Climate Change

10. The ministers adopted the decision on climate change which had been forwarded to them by the expert group for their consideration. The text of the decision may be found in annex II to the present report

IV. Country and sub-regional case studies

11. Examination of country and subregional case studies of the NEPAD environment initiative in five regions of Africa and of national action plans within those regions. AMCEN had requested UNEP to provide capacity-building support to regional economic communities and countries for the preparation of subregional action plans and national action plans on the environment respectively and he outlined steps taken to that end.

V. Venue for the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

12. The representative of the group of West African countries informed the ministers that, following consultations between West African States, the Government of Mali had offered to host the thirteenth session of AMCEN.

13. The Conference confirmed by acclamation the selection of Mali as the host country for the thirteenth session of AMCEN

V. Other matters raised during the ministerial segment

14. One representative suggested, in the context of climate change adaptation projects to be funded in African countries, possible cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to improve weather information for rural women, given the problems caused to farming communities by disruptions to traditional rainfall patterns caused by the effects of climate change.

15. Several representatives pointed to the need to produce a manual for negotiators, with a view to preparing them to engage effectively in climate-change negotiations. The representative of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said that WWF was willing to work with the secretariats of AMCEN and NEPAD in capacity building in connection with climate change.

VI. Closure of the session

16. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the ministerial segment and the session closed at 12.50 p.m. on Thursday, 12 June 2008.

Declarations and Decisions of the 12th session of AMCEN (see the annexes for details)

Declarations

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

Decisions

Decision 1: Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD

Decision 2: Climate change:

- I. Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012.
- II. Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

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

Decision 4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Decision 5: Chemicals and hazardous waste management

Decision 6: Environmental education and technology-supported learning

Decision 7: Africa Environment Day

Decision 8: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa Environment Information Network

Annex 1: Agenda

The ministers adopted the following ten-point agenda

1. Opening of the twelfth session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting.
4. Ministerial policy dialogue.
5. Consideration of matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process:
 - (a) Amendments to the constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (b) Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
6. Country and sub-region case studies.
7. Consideration of some matters related to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
8. Venue for the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
9. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment.
10. Other matters.

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

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To continue implementing fully the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the sub-regional environmental action plans;
2. To urge the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to strengthen efforts to forge cooperative links with the relevant structures of the African Union and other relevant African ministerial bodies with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements, policies and programmes;
3. To urge the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to strengthen the relationship with United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international institutions and bodies, through constant liaison with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of relevant international institutions on issues related to the environment;
4. To urge Africa's development partners to support the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities in implementing their environmental action plans;
5. To call upon Governments to support capacity-building in the area of technology-supported learning to enhance the delivery of environmental education, training and awareness-raising;
6. To call upon African countries and development partners to mainstream gender issues into national and sub-regional environmental programmes and to initiate programmes aimed at promoting gender-sensitive capacity-building in relation to the environment;
7. To call upon African countries to participate effectively in upcoming negotiations on key multilateral environmental agreements, particularly

those related to biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, land degradation and drought and desertification;

8. To call upon African countries to participate fully and effectively in the various capacity-building and enhancement activities for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the European Commission programme on capacity-building related to implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries;
9. To call upon the Global Environment Facility and the TerrAfrica initiative to continue to support efforts being made by African countries to promote sustainable land management in the context of their national poverty eradication strategies, and their efforts to disseminate the good lessons learnt to other countries for greater continental impact;
10. To urge the secretariats of the Rio conventions to ensure that synergies between climate change and efforts to combat land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss are optimized to take advantage of gains made through these actions, particularly in Africa;
11. To call upon the African group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, working with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, to develop a common African position on the comprehensive international climate-change regime beyond 2012, and further to call upon Governments of Africa to support the process actively;
12. To commit ourselves to creating a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, bringing together existing and new intergovernmental decisions, initiatives and programmes in a consolidated manner, to meet the pressing challenges of adaptation and mitigation and to meet the urgent needs for capacity-building, finance and technology in this region;
13. To invite the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the assistance of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Environment Programme, to develop a road map for the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
14. To request the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations specialized agencies and the African Development Bank to support the continuing regional coordination efforts to implement the action programmes at all levels, including the development of initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, extending such programmes to similar subregions of North-East Africa and Southern Africa;

15. To request the Commission of the African Union to take a leadership role in spearheading the development and implementation of biosafety strategies and policies and institutionalizing biosafety in its programmes;
16. To call upon Governments to enhance support for the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region as frameworks for implementation of the marine and coastal component of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
17. To call upon Governments to adopt integrated management approaches to freshwater resources and to develop regional and national policies and management measures to mitigate the impact of human activities on freshwater resources;
18. To mainstream climate change adaptation measures into national and, where appropriate, regional development plans, policies and strategies with a view to ensuring adequate adaptation to climate change in such areas as water resources, food and energy security and management of coastal and marine resources;
19. To request the United Nations agencies, Bretton Woods institutions, African Development Bank and other development partners to support African countries in taking measures to build economic and ecosystem resilience against climatic variability and change and to implement effectively the Bali Action Plan adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
20. To call for the modification of the Clean Development Mechanism to enhance its contribution to sustainable development efforts on the continent and to provide increased support for the introduction of climate change mitigation measures and technologies in African countries;
21. To request the African Union to consider convening an African leaders' summit on climate change to be held back-to-back with the summit of the African Union to be held in 2009;
22. To support the bid by South Africa to host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2011;
23. To ensure that climate change adaptation imperatives are aligned more closely across regions and countries and to foster regional and international cooperation to develop appropriate adaptation financing mechanisms;
24. To support the trans-boundary conservation of natural resources, to share best practices and lessons learnt in Africa and to request international support to ensure the continued success and survival of trans-boundary conservation efforts;

25. To encourage African countries to establish regional mechanisms and initiatives to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species infestation in Africa;
26. To call upon the African Union and the United Nations Environment Programme to support African negotiators in the negotiation of a new international regime on access and benefit-sharing;
27. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue with the preparation and production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment*;
28. To renew our commitment to the endorsement of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a monitoring and reporting tool for sustainable environmental management and a framework for national, sub-regional and regional integrated environmental assessment and reporting, noting with appreciation the implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to strengthen access to reliable environmental data and information in Africa;
29. To renew our commitment to the continued promotion of capacity-building and strengthening of environmental assessment systems in line with the recommendations made at the workshop of African experts on effectiveness of environmental assessment systems and to urge development partners to support the implementation of those recommendations;
30. To urge the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its second session, to give priority to the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
31. To call on the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, development partners and regional economic communities to give priority to the needs of African countries in the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
32. To advocate the sustainable use of chemicals and to commit ourselves to the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the chemicals-related conventions;
33. To call upon African Governments to develop and implement appropriate policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable solid-waste management;
34. To call upon those countries that have not yet ratified the chemical-related conventions, namely, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Trans-boundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to do so and to urge African development partners to assist and support African countries in the implementation of such conventions;

35. To call upon Governments to accelerate the ratification of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to permit the entry into force of the convention and secure a fully comprehensive and representative network of protected areas and other natural resources in Africa,
36. To call upon the Commission of the African Union, Governments and all stakeholders to work together to ensure the development and implementation of an African ecolabelling mechanism based on African experiences and lessons;
37. To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the fifth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production;
38. To encourage African countries to celebrate Africa Environment Day to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the continent;
39. To support the African Network of Environmental Journalists in its efforts to raise the awareness of African decision makers regarding major environmental issues and the challenges arising there from and to encourage the network to continue its activities, in particular the involvement of the African press in efforts to further the environmental cause;
40. To urge Governments to take necessary action to ensure that the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is replenished during the intercessional period;
41. To urge the Global Environment Facility to allocate new and additional resources through the persistent organic pollutants focal area and any additional mechanism that might be created to support the implementation of the chemicals-related conventions and to develop the capacities needed to achieve sound chemicals management;
42. To invite donor countries to provide bilateral and multilateral aid funding to facilitate the effective implementation of national obligations under the chemicals-related instruments, including the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions;
43. To request the President of the African Development Bank to clarify its position on the request by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union to host the African Environment Facility at the Bank;
44. To call upon the Global Environment Facility to continue to give high priority to African countries and to allocate financial resources based on the needs and priorities of countries and not merely on ex-ante allocation systems such as the resource allocation framework and to request the Facility to improve its procedures and to revise its co-financing policy to give African countries easier access to its financial resources;

45. To urge all donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund to contribute to a substantially higher and robust fifth replenishment;
46. To commit ourselves to the issues highlighted at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and to give effect to the decisions adopted at that session;
47. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the twelfth session of the Conference, including the Johannesburg Declaration and its other annexes, to the Executive Council of the African Union;
48. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the President's summary of the ministerial policy dialogue to the Group of Eight at its summit meeting, to be held in Hokkaido, Japan, in July 2008, to the United Nations General Assembly at its special high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, scheduled to be held in New York in September 2008, and for consideration at the meetings in the Monterrey process on financing for development.
49. To pay tribute to the President and people of South Africa for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to participants, the excellent facilities made available and their generous support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its twelfth session, which contributed greatly to its success.

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

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

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Decide:

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

- (g) To request development partners to provide support to the United Nations Environment Programme for the reactivation of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa;
- (h) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to benefit from the experiences within African countries in the field of environmental law institutions;
- (i) To maintain effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union, including the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic commissions;
- (j) To enhance the ratification and implementation of the revised Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant conventions for the effective management of natural resources.

Decision 2: Climate change

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

We, the African Ministers of Environment,

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

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

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

Stressing Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and noting the urgent need for all countries to take further actions, including more stringent and binding emissions reductions by all developed countries, and underscoring the importance of a successful outcome of these negotiations and the essential need for Africa to participate

actively and strategically in the negotiations to ensure that its needs, interests and requirements are met,

Decide:

- (a) To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat of its New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, to organize a series of preparatory meetings for Africa's climate change negotiators and to provide the negotiators with substantive technical and policy analysis support to strengthen their preparations for the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth and fifth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (b) To urge African countries to participate actively in international climate change negotiations, in particular, the Accra and Poznan meetings in August and December 2008, respectively;
- (c) To recommend that the African Union, at its thirteenth summit in June and July 2009, consider, with a view to its final adoption, a common African position on the comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012, which is to be finalized in December 2009;
- (d) To mandate the President and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to initiate discussions with the Chair of the Commission of the African Union regarding the necessary procedures for Africa's climate change negotiators to prepare a common African position for adoption at a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and to submit that common African position for consideration at the summit of the African Union in June and July 2009, with a view to its adoption.

II. Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

- (a) To create, in view of the need for synergies in implementation, a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, bringing together existing and new intergovernmental decisions and initiatives and programmes in a consolidated manner, to be implemented at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels;
- (b) To adopt and develop further a conceptual outline, as set out in annex II to the present decision, to serve as the basis for identifying and filling gaps in the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (c) To establish, under the direction of the President and Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, an ad hoc working group to assist the President and the Bureau in the implementation of the present decision. The working group may invite contributions from relevant organizations as required;
- (d) To submit for adoption the consolidated comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the margins of the summit of the African Union in June and July 2009, and to request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to support the Bureau in organizing that special session;

² Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII).

- (e) To call upon African Governments, international organizations and regional economic communities to expedite the implementation of existing programmes and initiatives on climate change in Africa at all levels and to strengthen and mobilize the capacities of existing relevant facilities and institutions in Africa to meet the pressing climate change challenges in this region;
- (f) To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to present the progress in the development of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes at the joint annual meeting of the African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to take place in March and April 2009, to ensure adequate financing of the programmes and activities under the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (g) To call upon Africa's development partners to support, with financial and technical assistance through multilateral North-South and South-South cooperation, the implementation of the agreed decisions on climate change in Africa and to request multilateral financial institutions and other relevant donors to support the implementation of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (h) To invite multilateral financial institutions and other development partners to take into account the special needs of Africa in the decision-making processes under international financing schemes, including, among others, adaptation funds, World Bank climate funds, African Development Bank funds and United Nations initiatives, and to streamline their procedures to improve access to finance;
- (i) To support the process of developing the Climate Information for Development in Africa programme (ClimDevAfrica) and to request the Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to accelerate the finalization of the programme document and the dissemination of this information to ensure the participation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the Climate for Development in Africa programme;
- (j) To endorse the decision of Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in December 2007 on the African panel on climate change and to request the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work further with the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, the United Nations Environment Programme and

the World Meteorological Organization in defining the modalities of establishing an African panel on climate change;

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

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

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide:

- (a) To note with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to facilitate the completion of the document on the revised Constitution;
- (b) To note also the potential implications that the evolving structures of the African Union have on the Conference;
- (c) To request the secretariat to defer the process of revising the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment pending the complete establishment of the institutional structures of the African Union and to report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its thirteenth session on any progress made in this regard.

Decision 4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Recalling the Conference's decisions on financial resources adopted at its special session in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 and at the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions,

Taking cognizance of the fact that enhanced secretariat functions and the implementation of its programmes, in particular the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, will require additional human and financial resources,

Expressing appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and, in the same regard, also expressing appreciation to the development partners for their support,

Expressing appreciation for the financial and technical support that the United Nations Environment Programme provides to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the need for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to finance its core activities,

Decide:

- (a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (b) To urge those Governments that have not contributed to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to endeavour to contribute to the fund to enable the Conference to scale up its activities;
- (c) To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work with Governments that have not fulfilled their commitments to pay their contributions to the trust funds (arrears of four years and above) on an arrangement to fulfill such commitments;
- (d) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and to request the secretariat to make proposals on its use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation;

- (e) To agree that the general trust fund continues to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as long as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment remains with that organization;
- (f) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (g) To extend its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Decision 5: Chemicals and hazardous waste management

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Recognizing the direct adverse effects of chemicals on public health and the environment, including loss of productivity and income owing to ill health,

Recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which countries agreed on a common objective to “achieve by 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”,

Noting that the chemical-related conventions are key to the successful attainment of the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Noting the initial capacity-building activities for implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management through the Quick Start Programme,

Noting also the active engagement and involvement of African countries in the implementation of the Strategic Approach through the nomination of national focal points, the development of an African regional plan of action and submission of project funding requests under the Quick Start Programme and other related activities,

Recalling the importance of the regional centres under the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for capacity-building and technology transfer,

Recognizing that financial and technical support is essential to developing countries to deliver their commitments under existing policies and instruments for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste,

Noting the existence of a financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention but not for the Basel Convention or for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

Decide:

- (a) To prioritize sound chemical management in regional, subregional and national environmental planning, sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies;
- (b) To provide high-level political support to the development and implementation of the national implementation plans for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and chemicals-related conventions;
- (c) To develop effective chemicals management infrastructures, using the assistance mechanisms available under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme and chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements;
- (d) To call upon Governments to promote at the national level an integrated approach to the implementation of these three conventions as a set of tools to assist countries in taking a holistic or life cycle approach to the sound management of chemicals by:
 - (i) Preventing unwanted trade in hazardous chemicals that cannot be managed safely at the national level;
 - (ii) Access to information on banned or severely restricted chemicals;
 - (iii) Promoting coordination and links with public health structures;
 - (iv) Identifying persistent organic pollutants and other toxic and hazardous chemicals in use or as wastes for sound management;
 - (v) Calling upon Governments to promote at the national level the establishment of an institutional framework and strengthening of national capacity within an integrated programme for the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
- (e) To invite sub-regional and regional economic communities and regional economic integration organizations to cooperate with convention secretariats and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management secretariat for successful regional delivery;
- (f) To invite donor countries, the Global Environment Facility and other donors to support the work of national civil-society organizations in raising awareness of populations of the effects of chemicals;

- (g) To invite the Global Environment Facility and other donors to make available new and additional resources for expanding the chemical management portfolio of the Global Environment Facility beyond persistent organic pollutants;
- (h) To invite countries that have not done so to ratify the conventions and to nominate Strategic Approach national focal points;
- (i) To request the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, with the support of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to make funds available to support least developed countries in reaching the capacity necessary to initiate implementation of the Stockholm Convention and other chemical management instruments and programmes;
- (j) To invite donor countries to provide bilateral and multilateral aid funding to facilitate the effective implementation of national obligations and commitments under the chemical-related instruments including the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, 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 and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
- (k) To invite the Global Environment Facility and other donors to support the work of regional centres as centres of excellence for regional capacity-building and technology transfer;
- (l) To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, in conjunction with the conventions secretariats and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to review periodically the progress of integration of sound chemical management into national planning strategies and programmes and implementation of the conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in African countries and to report back to the Conference;
- (m) To invite the International Conference on Chemicals Management to consider at its second session the adoption of a sustainable financial mechanism for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in attaining the 2020 chemicals safety goals;
- (n) To urge African Governments and other stakeholders to promote synergies among the various initiatives for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste;

- (o) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate the promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation and exchange of experiences and to make use of regional centres to define projects of regional scope;
- (p) To invite African Governments to participate in the African Stockpiles Programme and to recognize it as the continental programme for the safe disposal of obsolete pesticides;
- (q) To invite the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support countries' efforts to participate effectively in international meetings and activities relating to the sound management of chemicals through:
 - (i) Strengthening their access to scientific and technical information;
 - (ii) Consolidating and expanding the chemicals information exchange network programme;
- (r) To invite countries to report jointly on the progress of implementation of the present decision;
- (s) To invite the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to transmit the present decision to the joint conference of Health and Environment Ministers in Africa and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, for their consideration and further action.

Decision 6: Environmental education and technology-supported learning

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Welcoming the working paper submitted by the secretariat on opportunities and challenges for environmental institutions and universities in Africa in adopting technology-supported learning,

Welcoming also the commitment by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, towards the enhancement of Africa's human resources through the provision of more and better education and training, especially in information and communications technology and other skills central to a globalizing world,

Noting the commitment made by the African Ministers of Education in 2006 to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the context of the Second Decade of Education in Africa and, in particular, to support the development of strategies for implementing the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective countries within the framework of the African Union's Second Decade on Education, and to ensure that principles of sustainable development are included in educational development frameworks, programmes and activities at all levels,

Noting also the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society, in particular the action line addressing e-learning and e-environment,

Recalling the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session in February 2007 to promote and support environmental education programmes as a highly effective tool for building an environmentally sensitive and responsive populace capable of partnering with Governments in achieving established policy goals and targets,

Recalling further the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-third session, in February 2005, as an inter-governmentally agreed approach to enhancing the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the implementation plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the Bali Strategic Plan, presented at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Dubai in February 2006,

Decide:

- (a) To encourage Governments, through their principal environmental authority, to facilitate interministerial cooperation to undertake, among other things, the following key actions in the area of environmental education and technology-supported learning:
 - (i) An assessment of existing environmental education strategies, needs and challenges facing Governments in the area of technology-supported learning;
 - (ii) The development of a strategic approach to mainstreaming environmental education across all relevant governmental institutions, including the design of programmes suitable for the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors; and fostering cooperation with the non-formal environmental education sector;
 - (iii) The development of an action plan for technology-supported learning in conjunction with the Human Resources, Science and Technology Department of the African Union (including e-learning) in follow-up to the strategic approach;
- (b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide strategic guidance and technical advisory services on the implementation of the above-mentioned activities and multilateral development partners to provide financial and technical assistance to build the capacities of African countries in this respect;
- (c) To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other partners concerned to strengthen their cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in order to provide their technical support and expertise to African countries to implement effectively and develop e-learning on environmental education for sustainable development;
- (d) To constitute a small group of members of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to undertake, on a trial basis, the development of 1–2 year pilot action plans for technology-supported learning;
- (e) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to identify partnerships involving international organizations, the donor community, the private sector and centres of excellence that will support the implementation of the pilot set of action plans;
- (f) To request Governments undertaking the pilot action plans to provide an interim report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its

thirteenth session and a final report to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session on the status of their implementation;

- (g) To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to enhance greater stakeholder involvement including non-governmental organizations, scientific organizations, nature clubs and local communities in the e-learning programme and in dissemination and exchange of information;
- (h) To invite countries to establish an African environmental e-learning network to share expertise, best practices and content and to identify a coordinating hub.

Decision 7: Africa Environment Day

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Taking note of the report on the activities of the Commission of the African Union,

Recalling the decision by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity calling upon all member States to celebrate Africa Environment Day on March 3,³

Commending the efforts by the Commission of the African Union to galvanize member States to implement the decision,

Renewing the commitment of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to promoting environmental awareness at all levels of the continent,

Decide:

- (a) To agree that every year one country should be requested, on a regional rotation basis, to host the continental celebration of Africa Environment Day;
- (b) To request the Commission of the African Union and its cooperation partners to work with the hosting State to make adequate preparations for the occasion.

³ Decision CM/Dec.686 (LXXVI).

Decision 8: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa Environment Information Network

We, African Ministers of Environment,

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

Noting with appreciation the production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* within the framework of the Africa Environment Outlook process and the progress made by the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare the third Africa Environment Outlook report,

Reaffirming our commitment to the Africa Environment Outlook process as a tool for monitoring sustainable development in Africa and a framework for environmental reporting at the national and sub-regional levels,

Noting with appreciation the implementation of an Africa environment information network and its increasing contribution to building the capacity for the implementation of national development programs, including poverty reduction strategies within the United Nations development assistance frameworks and introducing state of the art technology, such as remote sensing to monitor environmental changes in Africa and to support decision-making,

Welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Programme and the support of the development partners to enhance the role of the Africa Environment Information Network and integrated environmental assessment in the United Nations country programming processes,

Decide:

- (a) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to mobilize financial resources to build the capacity of African countries in integrated assessment and reporting, including environmental data and information management;
- (b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to support the production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report as requested by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its eleventh session;
- (c) To call upon Governments to take advantage of earth observation technologies, such as remote sensing, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme to undertake regular national integrated environmental assessments to strengthen the strategic positioning of the national environmental agencies and departments in national development

planning processes such as the poverty reduction strategies and United Nations development assistance frameworks.

- (d) To urge the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment increasingly to involve the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in integrated environmental assessment and reporting and the related capacity-building activities;
- (e) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to support the production of the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* on a regular basis and to assist countries to develop national atlases;
- (f) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to liaise with secretariats of relevant conventions and other international organizations to mobilize resources for the Africa Environment Outlook, Africa Environment Information Network and the atlas processes.

2009

Report of the twelfth session of the African ministerial council on environment (AMCEN) Johannesburg, South Africa, 10 – 12 June 2008

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