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**REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE AU MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)
BAMAKO, MALI, 23-25 JUNE 2010**

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. Background

The ministerial segment of the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the International Conference Centre in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010. Meetings of the experts preceded the ministerial segment. The theme for the 13th session of AMCEN was “Enhancing the interrelationships between climate change, biodiversity and desertification for sustainable development”.

2. Objective of the 13th session of AMCEN

The main objective of the session was to provide a platform for environment Ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa that must be tackled in the context of desertification, continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity.

3. Participation

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

The 13th session of AMCEN was also 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

The ministerial segment was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of Mali at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 June 2010.

Opening statements were also made by Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Environment of South Africa and President of AMCEN; Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada, Minister of Environment and Natural

Resources of Mexico; Mr. Jonathan Pershing, special representative of the President of the United States of America; Mr. Idriss Ndele Moussa, President of the Pan-African Parliament; Mr. Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of Environment, Energy, Sustainable Development and Seas of France; and Ms. Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action.

4.1 Statements by representatives of international organization and multilateral environmental agreements

Representatives of the following international organizations and multilateral environmental agreements made statements:

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Civil Society Organizations

5. Organizational matters

Election of officers

The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2010-2012:

<u>Sub-Region</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Position</u>
Central Africa	Chad	Vice-President
Eastern Africa	United Republic of Tanzania	Vice-President
North Africa	Algeria	Vice-President
Southern Africa	Malawi	Vice-President
West Africa	Mali	President

PART II: DELIBERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The Ministerial segment deliberated on the following issues:

- (a) Climate change - international climate change regime beyond 2012;
- (b) Biodiversity – international regime on access and benefit sharing; and
- (c) Desertification

A. *Climate change: international climate regime beyond 2012*

In their statements many representatives emphasized the importance of securing the accession of all developed countries to a legally binding regime. Most representatives felt that the Cancún negotiations were not likely to lead to a legally

binding outcome. They nevertheless argued that Africa should push for a legally binding framework in any case. The threats posed by climate change were real and the survival of Africa and its peoples were at stake. There was, they said, a need to act, and a legally binding framework would be most fitting in that regard. Most representatives said that Africa would do well to consider ways to achieve a legally binding instrument in the long term.

Several representatives emphasized the importance of maintaining the two-track system under the Convention's two working groups, with all those who took the floor expressing the view that the Kyoto Protocol should not be abandoned, the efforts of some developed countries to do away with it notwithstanding. They also said that it was crucial to push for a second commitment period for Annex I parties under the Protocol. Representatives differed in their views when it came to the emissions by some developing countries, such as Brazil, China and South Africa, and no consensus could be reached in that regard.

Looking to temperature reduction targets, many representatives of least developed countries suggested that emissions should be capped at such a level that any temperature rise would not exceed 1.5° C. Representatives generally agreed that, whatever the eventual target set, the equivalent temperature experienced in Africa would be much higher than in other parts of the world, as Africa was the continent most vulnerable to the harmful effects of climate change, a reality already evident from the various negative climate phenomena impacting on the continent. Where funding for mitigation and adaptation activities was concerned, some representatives suggested that at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of developed countries should be channelled to developing countries through public funding.

Several representatives stressed the importance of communication with Heads of State and Governments in the negotiating process. Given that there were many bodies, organizations and stakeholders involved, it was essential to ensure that the leaders of all countries were apprised of developments so that they were able to react swiftly and also provide their own input into the process. A number of representatives bemoaned the mixture of politics and science, pointing out that it was harming equitable allocation. In that context, representatives emphasized the importance of taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

A number of representatives called for nationally appropriate, voluntary mitigation actions and national adaptation programmes of action to be taken and prepared, respectively, with a view to improving the continent's chances in efforts to combat the scourge of climate change.

B. International regime on access and benefit-sharing

The representatives welcomed the African common position for the negotiations of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, as adopted at the pan-African ministerial conference on access and benefit-sharing held in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010. They accepted the Government of Gabon's gracious offer to host a

meeting of African Ministers of environment, finance and economy, in order to further consider aspects of the international regime, with a view to reaching enhanced understanding of the issues to be discussed during the forthcoming tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

C. *Desertification*

Noting the increasing challenges being posed by land degradation and desertification, the representatives agreed to give greater attention to land degradation at country level. They welcomed the view that the link between climate change, biodiversity and desertification should be taken into account and also included as a priority in multilateral environmental negotiations, such as those currently under way in the area of climate change.

2. Invited Presentations

In line with the theme of the 13th session of AMCEN the following invited presentations were made:

Legal aspects of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
Synergies between the Rio conventions; and
Intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services

3. Declarations and Decisions of the 13th session of AMCEN (see the annexes for details)

The Ministers adopted the Bamako declaration on the environment for sustainable development. They also adopted nine decisions which can be found in annex II to the present report.

4. Venue for the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

The representative of the group of East African countries informed the representatives that, following consultations between East African States, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania had offered to host the fourteenth session of AMCEN.

The Conference confirmed by acclamation the selection of the United Republic of Tanzania as the host country for the fourteenth session of AMCEN.

5. Closure of the session

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the ministerial segment and the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment closed at 10.15 p.m. on Friday, 25 June 2010.

Declarations and Decisions of the 13th session of AMCEN (see the annexes for details)

Declarations

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's Bamako Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development.

Decisions

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

Decision 2: Further implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa

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: Environmental education and technology-supported learning

Decision 6: African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development

Decision 7: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information network

Decision 8: African common position on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing

Decision 9: Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Agenda

Agenda

The Ministers adopted the ten-point agenda

1. Opening of the thirteenth session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Consideration of the report on the implementation of the decisions of the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
4. Consideration of the report of the expert group meeting.
5. Ministerial policy dialogue on aspects of the implementation of the Rio conventions:
 - (a) Climate change: international climate regime beyond 2012;
 - (b) International regime on access and benefit-sharing;
 - (c) Desertification.
6. Consideration of matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment process:
 - (a) Status of the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (b) Amendments to the draft constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
 - (c) Consideration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as part of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union and related matters.
7. Venue for the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
8. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment.
9. Other matters.
10. Closure of the session.

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Annex 2

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's
Bamako Declaration on the Environment for
Sustainable Development**

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's Bamako
Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development**

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing and appreciating the Conference's contribution in providing political guidance and leadership on environmental management to Africa since its creation in 1987 in Cairo,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Global Environment Facility and other partners for environmental programmes in Africa,

Expressing appreciation for the role of all partners, including the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in supporting the African regional preparatory process for the eighteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, at which representatives considered the thematic cluster on chemicals, waste management, transport, mining and sustainable consumption and production,

Mindful that the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development will focus at its twentieth session on, among other matters, the thematic cluster of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains, to which Africa should provide collective inputs and in which it should participate effectively,

Mindful also that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and that Africa will need to embark on a regional preparatory process to that end to ensure the continent's readiness and effective participation,

Recognizing the need to take advantage of the opportunities provided by a growth and development trajectory that embraces the green economy model,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 6, on environmental education and technology supported learning, of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its twelfth session,

Acknowledging the outcomes of the summit of Heads of State and Government of Sub-Saharan countries related to the creation of a Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel pan-African agency, held in N'Djamena from 15 to 17 June 2010, with the aim

of combating desertification and poverty, restoring degraded land and conserving biological diversity,

Recognizing the cooperation with non-governmental and civil society organizations in implementing the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Affirming the important role that young people, the private sector, other major groups and civil society play in sustainable development, and the need for their effective involvement in driving Africa's sustainable development agenda,

Welcoming the adoption on 1 April 2010 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Amended Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Western Indian Ocean and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities,

Welcoming also the forthcoming seventh African Development Forum, to be held in October 2010 in Addis Ababa under the overall theme of "Acting on climate change for sustainable development in Africa", organized by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with all stakeholders and partners,

Welcoming further the outcome of the pan-African ministerial conference that took place in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010 with the aim of preparing an African common position for the access and benefit-sharing round of negotiations held in Cali, Colombia, in March 2010;

Expressing appreciation for the outcome of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 May 2009, at which agreement was reached, in the form of the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change, on the Conference's work on climate change in Africa as a platform to discuss the issue and shape a shared vision and common position to combat its adverse effects and achieve sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of the Africa Environment Outlook process as a framework to support decision-making for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Governments and other stakeholders and, in that regard, lauding efforts to prepare the third Africa Environment Outlook report and welcoming the participation of the World Health Organization in that process,

Taking note of the omnibus decision simultaneously adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of 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 at their extraordinary meetings held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 24 February 2010,

Recognizing the strong commitment of African countries to disaster risk reduction and the development of meteorology that was renewed at the first conference of Ministers responsible for meteorology in Africa, held in Nairobi from 12 to 16 April 2010, and at the second African ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction, held in Nairobi from 14 to 16 April 2010, bearing in mind the close relationship between climate change, natural disasters and meteorology,

Noting the importance of the environmentally sound management of chemical products and wastes in environmental management for sustainable development,

Commending the role played by African countries in strengthening intra-African consultations and coordination by articulating common African positions in multilateral negotiation processes on climate change, biological diversity and sustainable development, such as the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change, as updated and adopted in Nairobi, by which African countries agreed on a common position for the climate change negotiations, in addition to the common African position on access and benefit-sharing,

Considering the vital importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the need to increase the absorption of carbon dioxide by forests,

Reaffirming that adaptation is the priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate support for the continent's implementation of adaptation measures,

Aware of the contribution of the Global Biodiversity Outlook process to the future of the environmental management in Africa,

Welcoming the review of the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the Planning and Coordinating Agency of that body, the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other partners, in the context of the United Nations regional coordination mechanism in support of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2009 established, by its decision 25/4, a regionally representative, consultative group of Ministers or high-level representatives to consider options for broader reform of the current international environmental governance system and to present their inputs to the United Nations General Assembly,

Welcoming the outcome of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010, at which Governments, as requested by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme through its decision SS.XI/4, concluded that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development,

Taking note of the forthcoming high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on biodiversity, to be held in September 2010, the fifth 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 Nagoya, Japan, from 11 to 15 October 2010, and, in particular, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held immediately after the aforementioned meeting, at which representative will consider, among others, the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity and targets for 2011–2020 and the adoption of an international legally binding regime on access and benefit-sharing,

Aware of the severe effects of climate change caused by the desiccation of Lake Chad,

Mindful of the holding of the resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in Montreal, Canada, from 10 to 16 July 2010, and of the conference on the theme of “Bolstering biodiversity in Africa: everyone’s problem and heritage” that took place in Libreville on 2 and 3 June 2010,

Noting that, by its resolution 62/195 of 17 December 2007, the United Nations General Assembly decided to declare the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

Noting also that, by its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, and that the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is one of the flagship activities organized in Africa under the Year,

Noting further that, by its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly decided to declare 2011 the International Year of Forests,

Recognizing the importance of African ecosystem research networks as long-term ecological infrastructure to support ecosystem management, sustainable livelihood and climate change in Africa,

Welcoming the Ouagadougou Declaration of the seventh World Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Ouagadougou from 9 to 11 October 2009,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts and support of all partners to promote environmental management for sustainable development in Africa,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To commit ourselves to reinforcing and to implementing decisions by the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to ensure and guarantee the coherence, transparency, continuity and effectiveness of the political and legal representation of Africa in the process of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto;
2. Also to commit ourselves to continuing the strengthening of the common negotiating position for a comprehensive international climate change regime to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change through the implementation of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes, and also to call upon African Governments to support the process actively;
3. To call upon countries to take steps to tackle issues afflicting vulnerable groups, in particular those attributable to climate change;
4. To participate in the Libreville meeting to finalize a common position on biodiversity with a view to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
5. To urge African States to adopt and implement an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation to tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change and to urge all multilateral and bilateral partners to support such implementation;
6. To call upon the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral partners to support the mobilization of financial resources for the Adaptation Fund of the Kyoto Protocol and to support African countries in gaining access to resources under the various climate-related funds;
7. To accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 and the programme of action for the implementation of the African regional strategy for disaster risk reduction (2005–2015) to increase the continent's resilience to the negative impacts of climate change;
8. To call upon countries to prepare innovative projects in order to scale up their environmental efforts and to benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism and other carbon markets;

9. To call upon United Nations agencies, the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other partners to support the development of a strategic approach to reducing deforestation and land degradation in all ecological areas, especially in semi-arid and arid regions of Africa;
10. To call upon countries to prepare national adaptation plans to cover immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term needs, taking into consideration coordination and cooperation for adaptation actions that have a cross-border effect;
11. To call upon the United Nations and other multilateral and bilateral stakeholders to respond to country and industry needs for what is known as "climate-finance readiness support" to enable the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism and clean technology projects;
12. To support the convening of the seventh African Development Forum, which will focus on climate change, and to urge all stakeholders and partners to participate effectively in its organization and the subsequent implementation of its outcomes;
13. Also to support the establishment of an African ecosystems research network that would enhance the capacity of scientists and policymakers in the sustainable management of ecosystems and livelihoods in Africa;
14. To request developed countries and partners to increase their financial support for the implementation of processes relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including agriculture and land management (what is known as "REDD-plus"), in particular, the second phase of the REDD-plus programme;
15. To request international organizations, developed countries and all partners to increase their support for the implementation of adaptation strategies and programmes in Africa and to provide full support for the implementation of the national adaptation programmes of action prepared by least developed countries in Africa;
16. To commit ourselves to developing a common position for the continuing negotiations on liability, compensation and redress regimes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol and 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;
17. To commit ourselves to the African common position on the continuing negotiations on access and benefit-sharing, as endorsed at the pan-African

ministerial conference on the subject that took place in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010;

- 18.** To call upon States to support at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels the process to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services, to be considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-fifth session;
- 19.** To commit ourselves to implement activities in the framework of the celebration of the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity and those recommended in the third Global Biodiversity Outlook report;
- 20.** To invite the international community to take the necessary measures to prevent accidents that could result from biotechnological risks and to ensure the restoration of the environment in cases where such accidents occur;
- 21.** To invite the African Union Commission and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, with the continued support of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Global Mechanism of that Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility and other partners, to implement the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);
- 22.** To invite African countries to produce and implement national action programmes in the context of the celebration of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
- 23.** To reinforce shared actions by African countries to mobilize the required financial resources for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification and national action plans;
- 24.** To urge partners, the African Union Commission and United Nations agencies to support the development and implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Pan-African agency and other similar sub-regional initiatives with the constant support of the global mechanisms under the Rio Conventions;
- 25.** To strengthen consultations and coordination between African representatives at the Council of the Global Environment Facility to ensure that greater attention is paid to and increased financial resources made available for efforts to combat desertification and soil and forest degradation, in particular in Africa, in the context of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

- 26.** To urge countries to seek ways and opportunities to strengthen synergies in the implementation of the conventions on climate change, desertification and biodiversity at the national, sub-regional and global levels in support of sustainable development for Africa, notably through the development of joint programmes of work;
- 27.** To call for the development of a regional forum for synergies between the Rio conventions, to support the development of regional project proposals, through the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- 28.** To request the secretariats of the Rio conventions to explore the possibility of elaborating a joint programme of work with a view to using resources efficiently and to present such a programme at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012;
- 29.** To commit ourselves to the effective implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification at the national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- 30.** Also to commit ourselves to strengthening the African group's position during the international negotiations under the Convention to Combat Desertification and for the promotion of sustainable land management within other relevant international processes, such as forums on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development;
- 31.** To request the secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to establish a formal partnership with a clear road map, based on relevant objectives and targets to be achieved and activities to be undertaken, to support the mainstreaming of sustainable land management and desertification, land degradation and drought into national development policies, strategies and programmes and to strengthen the African group's positions regarding sustainable land management in relevant processes;
- 32.** To urge countries to support and promote the integrated management of river basins;
- 33.** To support the implementation of the Libreville Declaration of the Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held in Libreville in August 2008, and to participate in the second such conference, to be held in Luanda from 23 to 26 November 2010;
- 34.** To request the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, working with other partners, to support the implementation of the Libreville Declaration, including through the development of strategic alliances between the health and environment sectors and of joint plans of action;

35. To request the African Union Commission, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to support the convening in 2011 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to 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;
36. To call upon those States that have not yet done so swiftly to ratify in 2010 the Bamako Convention and all other chemicals and wastes conventions;
37. To call upon the African Union Commission and States to develop a mechanism for a common position in the continuing negotiations under the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury;
38. To call upon States individually or collectively to develop strategies or mechanisms to ban or control the trade and importation into Africa of electronic waste, including through the development of strategies for the sustainable management of electronic waste;
39. To call upon countries to continue supporting the implementation of declarations, multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous substances and wastes and all relevant instruments, including the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, held in Bali from 23 to 27 June 2008;
40. To call upon all stakeholders and partners to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa review implementation meeting on chemicals, waste management, mining, transport and sustainable consumption and production, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009, and the Africa-related priority actions on these thematic clusters of issues identified at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and also to ensure that Africa's concerns and priorities are effectively articulated during the review session on the same in May 2011;
41. To call upon States to promote the implementation of the decision adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their extraordinary meetings, held in Bali from 22 to 24 February 2010, and to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international organizations to support African countries in programmatic cooperation and coordination at the national level for the implementation of that decision;

- 42.** To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Director General of the World Health Organization, in partnership with the African Union Commission and others, to support and participate in the preparation of the third Africa Environment Outlook report and in the implementation of the policy options set forth in that report;
- 43.** To urge all countries to participate in the development of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network by designating national environmental education e-learning centres and by developing e-learning strategies for the environment sector;
- 44.** To request the United Nations Environment Programme to ramp up its technology support and capacity-building interventions to support the development of the Network and to request all relevant stakeholders to mobilize resources for its future development;
- 45.** To develop comprehensive information, education and communication strategies emphasizing the Rio conventions;
- 46.** To urge the African Union Commission, together with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners, to develop a marine and coastal environment strategy for Africa, taking into account the adverse impacts of climate change and the need to improve communities' livelihoods;
- 47.** To encourage countries to develop national and sub-regional strategies and action plans on climate change and the marine and coastal environment;
- 48.** To urge States and relevant organizations to expedite the process of ratification, acceptance or approval and implementation of the Amended Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities, adopted by a conference of plenipotentiaries on 1 April 2010;

- 49.** To urge the United Nations Environment Programme and partners to support the implementation of the strategic action programme for the protection of the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities that was endorsed at the sixth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, held on 31 March 2010 in Nairobi;
- 50.** To urge countries and relevant organizations to develop partnerships with potential beneficiaries of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region with a view to mobilizing technical and financial resources for the implementation of the Convention;
- 51.** To urge those States that have not yet done so to expedite their accession to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region;
- 52.** To call upon coastal States to support a mangrove ecosystem management project being led by the African Mangrove Network and funded by the Global Environment Facility;
- 53.** To urge representatives at the joint annual meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to take specific steps in mainstreaming environmental issues in development planning;
- 54.** To urge Africa's development partners to support the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Planning and Coordination Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities in implementing their environmental action plans;
- 55.** To urge all countries, as a political commitment of the Heads of State of the African Union, to ratify or accede to and implement the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, in addition to other global and regional environmental conventions and agreements, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, as soon as possible;
- 56.** To call upon the Chair of the African Union Commission to develop a strategy to promote the ratification and implementation of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

- 57.** To call upon the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations agencies, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, African civil society organizations, other stakeholders and partners effectively to collaborate in the Africa preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with a view to ensuring that Africa's concerns and priorities are effectively tackled in the Conference outcomes, including by means of the provision of adequate and appropriate support for the implementation of Africa's sustainable development agenda;
- 58.** To call upon the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Tourism Organization, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, African civil society organizations, other stakeholders and partners to work together to ensure an effective regional preparatory process for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at which representatives will consider, among others, the thematic cluster on forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains, with a view to providing inputs that adequately reflect Africa's concerns and priorities;
- 59.** To encourage countries to strengthen synergies with other global and regional multilateral environmental agreements pertaining to biodiversity and the environment, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds and the Basel Convention, in the implementation of the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- 60.** To call upon the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in collaboration with the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to facilitate the implementation of programmes under the action plan for the environment initiative and to support mechanisms for improved coordination of implementation;
- 61.** To call upon the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, within the context of the Climate for Development in Africa Programme, to work together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and other partners to promote the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions;

- 62.** To call upon African civil society, the Pan-African Parliament, government institutions, including security agencies, and other stakeholders to support measures aimed at environmental management and protection;
- 63.** To urge countries to continue to support processes to improve the international environment governance system;
- 64.** To invite the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and programmes, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Stockholm Convention, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility, to study the inter-linkages between climate change, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous substances and wastes for a better understanding of their combined impacts on human well-being, biodiversity and ecosystems and to recommend specific measures targeted at reducing the vulnerability of affected groups and communities;
- 65.** To continue to support the implementation of the TerrAfrica initiative for sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa;
- 66.** To agree to hold an African summit on the green economy so as to support the mobilization of investments and accelerated economic growth alongside sustainable development;
- 67.** To support the green economy initiative and to work with the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners in the process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, enhancing the efficient use of natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities;
- 68.** To urge all countries to explore fully opportunities for building green economies, through, among other things, the development of clean technologies, renewable energies, water services, green transportation, waste management, green buildings and sustainable agriculture and forests;
- 69.** To urge the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission to undertake a study on the green economy in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development within the framework of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

- 70.** To engage young people, civil society, the Pan-African Parliament and national assemblies, government institutions and other stakeholders constructively in supporting measures aimed at environmental management;
- 71.** 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 intersessional period;
- 72.** To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the thirteenth session of the Conference, including the recommendations of the Bamako Declaration and its other annexes, to the Executive Council of the African Union;
- 73.** To pay tribute to the President and people of Mali 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 thirteenth session that contributed greatly to its success.

**Decisions adopted by the AU Ministerial Conference
on the Environment at its thirteenth session**

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on the Environment at its thirteenth session**

Decision 13/1: Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing that the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development covers the first decade of the twenty-first century and has been under implementation since July 2004,

Welcoming the achievement and efforts made by the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Union and all partners,

Decide:

- (a) To request the African Union Commission:
 - (i) To continue to provide support for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
 - (ii) To strengthen the Department of Agriculture, Rural Economy and Environment and to provide support to the regional economic communities to enable them to carry out their responsibilities under the action plan;
- (b) To request the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the implementation of their sub-regional action plans under the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including those on climate change;
- (c) To request the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in close cooperation with all relevant partners, to provide coordinating support, to review the implementation of the action plan and to ensure the establishment of a platform for the reinvigorated implementation of the action plan;

- (d) To urge development partners to provide the required resources for the implementation, in particular by the regional economic communities, of aspects of the action plan pertaining to climate change, biodiversity, desertification and wetlands;
- (e) To maintain effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union, including the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities;
- (f) To promote the ratification and implementation of the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant regional conventions for the effective management of natural resources.

Decision 13/2: Further implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the outcomes of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Nairobi in May 2009, including the adoption of a common negotiating position in the climate change negotiations aiming at strengthening the international climate change regime, in addition to a conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes,

Recalling also the outcomes of the second extraordinary meeting on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, including the adoption of the outcomes of the second meeting of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009,

Reaffirming all African Union decisions and declarations, including the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change of 19 November 2008 and the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process on Combating Climate Change of 29 May 2009,

Reinforcing the role played by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as a specialized technical committee of the African Union in providing leadership for environmental management and advocacy in Africa,

Expressing increasing concern at 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 continent most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and has the least capacity to adapt,

Reaffirming that Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programmes and projects to attain development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular to alleviate poverty with emphasis on achieving food security, especially for the most vulnerable groups,

Reaffirming also that adaptation is the priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate support for Africa's implementation of adaptation measures,

Expressing our appreciation for the efforts of African experts, including the chair of the African group of negotiators, together with those of the African high-level expert panel on climate change, working with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional economic communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, in the development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and of a common African position in the climate change negotiations aiming at strengthening the international climate change regime,

Emphasizing Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and noting the urgent need for all countries to take further action, 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 continue to participate actively and strategically in the negotiations to ensure that its needs, interests and requirements are met,

Decide:

- (a) To reaffirm that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in November and December 2010, should have a two-track outcome in line with the Bali Action Plan, regarding the long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention, and article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex I countries for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under the Kyoto Protocol;
- (b) Also to reaffirm that a firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments of developed-country parties that are legally binding in nature and appropriate mitigation voluntary actions by developing countries;
- (c) Further to reaffirm that the measuring and verification process shall be applied only to mitigation commitments of developed countries, supported

mitigation actions of developing countries and to the means of support provided by developed countries;

- (d) To reiterate Africa's position that developed-country parties should provide financial support based on an assessed scale of contributions that constitute at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of developed countries effectively to tackle the adverse effects of climate change, noting 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;
- (e) To call upon countries to prepare national adaptation plans and strategies to cover immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term needs, taking into consideration coordination and cooperation actions for adaptation that have a cross-border effect;
- (f) To request developed countries and partners to provide full support for the implementation of adaptation strategies in Africa, in particular the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action prepared by least developed countries in Africa;
- (g) To call for the establishment of effective and accountable institutions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in relation to adaptation, finance and technology transfer in accordance with proposals advanced by the group of African countries and the Group of 77 and China;
- (h) To stress that the extent to which developing-country parties, including African countries, will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed-country parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and technology transfer, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, including in relation to article 4, paragraphs 1, 5 and 7, of the Convention;
- (i) To carry out the recommendations made in the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to ensure coordination and coherence in the implementation and review of climate change initiatives and sustainable development plans in Africa at the national, subregional and regional levels;
- (j) To take note of the Ouagadougou Declaration of the seventh World Forum on Sustainable Development of October 2009 and to call upon the international community to explore the possibility of establishing an international climate insurance agency in the context of article 4, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

- (k) 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 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with regard to climate change in Africa and to request multilateral financial institutions and other relevant donors to support the implementation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (l) To emphasize that Africa requires substantially scaled-up finance, technology and capacity-building for adaptation and risk management;
- (m) To restate the invitation to the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other partners to pursue their cooperation to give effective political, financial and technical support to all member States and regional economic communities in the implementation of measures to combat climate change;
- (n) To continue to keep under review the implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa;
- (o) 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 institutions in Africa to meet the pressing climate change challenges in the region;
- (p) To urge 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 adaptation funds, World Bank climate funds, African Development Bank funds and United Nations initiatives, and to streamline their procedures to improve access to finance;
- (q) To reaffirm our support for the establishment of an 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 13/3: Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth 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 from 3 to 6 April 2000, as contained in paragraph 31 of the ministerial report of the session,

Aware also of the mandate conferred upon the Conference by Ministers at the ninth session of the Conference, held in Kampala on 4 and 5 July 2002, as contained in decision 4 of that 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 that session,

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

Taking cognizance of the request made to the secretariat by Ministers at the twelfth session of the Conference, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, contained in decision 3 of that session,

Noting that the evolution of other relevant initiatives under the African Union referred to in the above-mentioned decisions has been completed through further intergovernmental consultations within the African Union,

Recognizing that the Conference is a specialized technical committee of the African Union,

Decide to request 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.

Decision 13/4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the decisions on financial resources adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its special session in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 and at its eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions,

Taking cognizance of the fact that enhanced secretariat functions and the implementation of the Conference's programmes, in particular its work on climate change in Africa, will require additional human and financial resources,

Expressing appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and to the United Nations Environment Programme and partners for their support,

Recognizing the need for the Conference to finance its core activities,

Recognizing also the inefficiency of the voluntary contribution system and the need to establish a new and efficient modality to mobilize resources,

Decide:

- (a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their contributions to the general trust fund;
- (b) Also to urge Governments to make a compulsory yearly minimum contribution of ten thousand United States dollars to the general trust fund to enable the Conference to carry out its activities;
- (c) To urge those Governments that can pay more than the yearly minimum contribution to the general trust fund to do so to enable the Conference to scale up its activities;
- (d) To agree to invest 2 million United States dollars of the principal of the general trust fund as an absolute minimum investment;
- (e) To request the Bureau to establish a working group to review new and more efficient methods and modalities to mobilize resources;
- (f) To request the President of the Conference to send regular reminders to member States to make their contributions;

- (g) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested to carry out Conference activities, cover the costs of Bureau meetings and meet the costs of regular sessions of the Conference and to request the secretariat to make proposals on such use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation;
- (h) To agree that the general trust fund should continue to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as long as the secretariat of the Conference remains with that organization;
- (i) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at sessions of the Conference;
- (j) To extend our appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the Conference.

Decision 13/5: Environmental education and technology-supported learning

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware of the commitment by the New Partnership for Africa's Development to 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,

Mindful of the request pertaining to environmental education and technology-supported learning made by Ministers at the twelfth session of the Conference, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, as contained in decision 6 of that session,

Welcoming the report of the secretariat on the implementation of decision 6 and the summary made by the chair of the second meeting of the Open-ended Steering Committee of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network, held in Lusaka on 26 May 2010,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of decision 6,

Decide:

- (a) To request African countries to participate actively in the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network and also to foster collaboration

between the environment and education sectors by establishing a national committee on e-learning programmes for the environment comprising all relevant stakeholders;

- (b) Also to request African countries to assist in mobilizing resources for the future development of the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network;
- (c) To request the sub-regional network hubs to carry out agreed activities, such as developing the sub-regional components of the network in accordance with the agreed terms of reference for the hubs, assisting the national centres with the development of e-learning strategies and action plans and encouraging partnerships with existing networks in the region;
- (d) To request the African Union, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to support measures to carry out programmes and projects under the Pan-Africa e-Learning for the Environment Network;
- (e) To request African countries to develop national e-learning strategies for the environment through a consultative process engaging all relevant sectors.

Decision 13/6: African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Aware of the significance of Earth observation data in shaping member States' national planning and development efforts,

Aware also of the important role being played by the African Union Commission in coordinating the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development programme,

Recognizing the need for member States to strengthen policy and decision-making frameworks that would ensure their active and sustainable participation in environmental surveillance initiatives,

Highlighting the need to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences that would improve environmental governance through the extensive use of data, products and services generated by the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development programme,

Understanding the significance of supporting regional mechanisms to enhance the capacity of member States to use Earth observation products and services and integrate those into development processes,

Decide:

- (a) To institutionalize and integrate the use of climate-related data and information in building resilience and adaptation to climate change in national, sub-regional and regional planning and development endeavours;
- (b) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to work with the African Union to build an environmental information system and other tools to enhance capacity in environmental monitoring and reporting in the region and to forge synergies in this area.

Decision 13/7: Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa environment information network

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 20 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with appreciation the production of the publication *Atlas of Our Changing Environment* in pilot African countries within the framework of the Africa Environment Outlook process and the progress being 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 periodical reporting at the national and sub-regional levels,

Aware of the implementation of the Africa environment information network and its increasing contribution to building capacity for the implementation of national development programmes, including poverty reduction strategies within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and to introducing state-of-the-art technology, such as remote sensing, to monitor environmental changes in Africa and to support decision-making,

Recognizing the efforts of civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in the production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report,

Decide:

- (a) To enhance the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the Africa Environment Outlook process through the inclusion of relevant

aspects in the programme of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

- (b) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and others, to support the preparation and production of the third Africa Environment Outlook report;
- (c) To encourage all member States to mainstream the findings of that report into national policies, development plans and strategies;
- (c) To enhance cooperation and invite civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the development of the third report;
- (d) To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support to the Africa environment information network to build capacity in environmental monitoring and reporting in the region.

Decision 13/8: African common position on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the call by Governments at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, for the negotiation of an international regime to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Recalling also the decision of the African group during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006, to elect Namibia as the chief negotiator and intersessional coordinator of the African group until the adoption of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010,

Recalling further the pan-African ministerial conference on access and benefit-sharing, held in Windhoek in March 2010 with a view to refining and endorsing the African common position in the continuing negotiations of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing,

Decide:

- (a) To commit ourselves to the common position of the African group as adopted and endorsed at the above-mentioned pan-African ministerial conference;
- (b) To urge member States to continue to negotiate as a bloc on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing to ensure that the international regime takes into consideration Africa's specific needs;
- (c) To urge all member States to participate in the ministerial conference on the subject scheduled to take place in Libreville as an important consultative meeting in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 13/9: Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

We, the African Ministers of environment,

Having met in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 at the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Taking note of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity and decision IX/15, of 9 October 2008, of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling decision 25/10 of 20 February 2009 of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, by which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to undertake a further process to support efforts by Governments and relevant organizations to explore mechanisms to improve and strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development,

Recalling also decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010 of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, by which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Welcoming the outcome of that third and final meeting, which was held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010,

Expressing our gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme for having facilitated the negotiation of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Decide:

1. To endorse the “Busan outcome” in which representatives of Governments agreed that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-fifth session as a mechanism for strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development;
2. To take the necessary action, at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, as appropriate, to support the establishment of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;
3. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the Busan outcome and the mandate accorded in decision SS.XI/4, to pursue his efforts to facilitate any ensuing process of establishing and implementing the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services until such time that a secretariat is established;
4. To invite Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations and entities, including multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, scientific organizations and the private sector to participate actively in, and to contribute to, the intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services once it is established.