as the role and responsibility of the main actors including Governments, the private sector and civil society, must be emphasized, the approach to addressing the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Governments are the primary agents in this process, but other actors are vital in implementing United Nations environment-related instruments since Stockholm, institutional capacity-building and strengthened international cooperation.

The Private Sector and the Environment

11. The private sector has emerged as a global actor that has a significant impact on environmental trends through its investment and technology decisions. In this regard, Governments have a crucial role in creating an enabling environment. The institutional and regulatory capacities of Governments to interact with the private sector should be enhanced. A greater commitment by the private sector should be pursued to engender a new culture of environmental accountability through the application of the polluter-pays principle, environmental performance indicators and reporting, and the establishment of a precautionary approach in investment and technology decisions. This approach must be linked to the development of cleaner and more resource efficient technologies for a life-cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

12. The potential of the new economy to contribute to sustainable development should be further pursued, particularly in the areas of information technology, biology and biotechnology. This approach must be linked to the development of cleaner and more resource efficient technologies for a life-cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

Civil Society and the Environment

14. Civil society plays a critically important role in addressing environmental issues. The role, capabilities and involvement of civil society organizations has seen a substantial increase over recent years, which highlights the need for national Governments and for UNEP and international organizations to enhance the engagement of these organizations in their work on environmental matters.

15. Civil society has found new and effective modes of expression of popular sentiments and concerns. It provides a powerful agent for promoting shared environmental purpose and values. Civil society plays an important role in bringing emerging environmental issues to the attention of policy-makers, raising public awareness, promoting innovative ideas and approaches, and promoting transparency as well as non-conforming activities in environmental decision-making.

16. The role of civil society at all levels should be strengthened through freedom of access to environmental information, broad participation in environmental decision-making, as well as access to justice on environmental issues. Governments should promote conditions to facilitate the ability of all parts of society to have a voice and to play an active role in creating a sustainable future.

17. Science provides the basis for environmental decision-making. There is a need for increased public participation, full engagement of the scientific community and increased scientific cooperation on emerging environmental issues, as well as improved avenues for communication between the scientific community, decision-makers and other stakeholders.

18. We must pay special attention to threats to cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, in particular of indigenous and local communities, which may be posed by globalization. In this context we welcome the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly, as part of the 2001 as the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.

19. Greater emphasis must be given to the gender perspective in decision-making concerning the management of the environment and natural resources.

20. There is a need for independent and objective media at all levels in enhancing awareness and developing shared environmental values in global society. The media can serve the cause of sustainable development by identifying emerging issues, awareness-raising and promoting appropriate action.

The 2002 Review of UNCED

21. The 2002 review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) should be undertaken by an international conference at the summit level. The objective should not be to renegotiate Agenda 21, which remains valid, but to inject a new spirit of cooperation and urgency based on agreed actions in the common quest for sustainable development. In this regard, the ratification of all environmental conventions and protocols, in particular those related to climate, desertiﬁcation, biodiversity and chemicals, should be urgently pursued by Governments.

22. Governments and UNEP have to play a major role in the preparation for the 2002 review of UNCED at the regional and global levels and ensure that the environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully considered on the basis of a broad assessment of the state of the global environment. The preparations for the conference should be accelerated.

23. The 2002 conference should aim at addressing the major challenges to sustainable development, and in particular the pervasive effects of the burden of poverty on a large proportion of the Earth’s inhabitants, countered against the excessive and wasteful consumption and inefﬁcient resource use that perpetuate the vicious circle of environmental degradation and increasing poverty. Based on agreed actions in the common quest for sustainable development.

Conclusion

25. At the dawn of this new century, we have at our disposal the human and material resources to achieve sustainable development, not as an abstract concept but as a concrete reality. The unprecedented developments in production and information technologies, the emergence of a younger generation with a clear sense of optimism, solidarity and values, women increasingly aware and with an enhanced and active role in society all point to the emergence of a new consciousness. We can decrease poverty by half by 2015 without degrading the environment, we can ensure environmental security through early warning, we can better integrate environmental consideration into economic policy, we can better coordinate legal instruments and we can realize a vision of a world without slums. We commit ourselves to realizing this common vision.

Abuja Declaration

Environment Programme (UNEP) on the escalating and emerging environmental problems in our continent. Concerned that Africa is the only continent in which poverty is expected to rise during the twenty-first century. Also concerned about the increasing number of emerging and crisis situations in Africa as a result of global environmental

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tal changes with adverse social, cultural and economic effects.

Further concerned at the exacerbation of the phenomenon of desertification in Africa and the effects it produces on the life of the people.

Expressing their concern at the persistence of domestic armed conflicts in Africa and the consequent deterioration in the quality of life of the people and the environment.

Recalling the efforts which have been made since the inception of AMCEN in 1985.

Recognizing the role played by regional, subregional, national and international bodies and non-governmental organizations in promoting sustainable development in Africa.

Bearing in mind the fact that success in achieving sustainable development will ultimately depend upon good policies, effective leadership, participatory citizenry, accurate information and informed national decision-making.

Extending our solidarity and sympathy to Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and other countries which have been affected by the recent floods in the southern African subregion, and acknowledging the international response in providing assistance to them.

Extending concern and sympathy to Ethiopia on the famine situation and land degradation and to the Sahelian countries on drought and the encroachment of the desert, and calling for an urgent international response in those countries to prevent further disaster and loss of life.

Noting with appreciation the efforts made to address environmental concerns at the recent Africa-Europe summit held in Cairo under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity and the European Union, and the commitment of African countries to the "Rio generation" conventions, in particular those relating to control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

To ensure adequate preparation for and effective participation in relevant global environmental conferences in order to address Africa's concerns; in this regard we make reference to the first Global Environment Forum to be held in Malmö, Sweden.

To support the candidatures of Morocco and South Africa to host the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and the second Earth Summit, respectively, and to cooperate with relevant regional and subregional bodies in the preparation of a common African position for the second Earth Summit and in the implementation of its outcome.

To support the AMCEN secretariat in the mobilization of financial resources to ensure the sustainable implementation of AMCEN programmes, and in this regard to commit ourselves to mandatory contributions to the AMCEN Trust Fund in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed in Abouja.

To commit ourselves to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the eighth session of AMCEN.

Main preamble

We, the African Ministers of Environment gathered in the city of Abuja, Nigeria, under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

Recalling the resolutions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment adopted in December 1985 and at other sessions of the Conference;

Aware of the evolution of global and regional environmental thinking and shifts in emphasis since the institutionalization of the Conference;

Recognizing the many initiatives taken by African countries in response to the changing environmental conditions;

Also aware that accelerated growth is needed as a top priority in all our countries, but that economic growth is not sustainable without reducing the widespread poverty of our people and protecting the resource base needed for our future development, while improving the health, income and living conditions of the majority of our people is imperative for ensuring the political and social stability needed for economic and environmental sustainability;

Noting with concern the increase in the number of emergency and crisis situations in some countries as a result of global environmental changes with adverse effects on Africa, external factors being to a large degree the causes of these disasters, whereas the impacts on our region are increasing in adversity, frequency and scale,

vent further disaster and loss of life.

Noting with appreciation the efforts made to address environmental concerns at the recent Africa-Europe summit held in Cairo under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity and the European Union, and the commitment of African countries to the "Rio generation" conventions, in particular those relating to control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

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To commit ourselves to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the eighth session of AMCEN.

Decisions

Further aware of the important role of economic performance on the state of the environment and appreciative of the existence of African subregional and regional economic groupings, particularly the treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Convinced that development which is not sustainable should no longer be called development,

Decision 1: Programme Priorities

Having examined the new proposals for policy and institutional change and the medium-term programme for 2000-2004 and noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the decisions of our seventh session with the very limited financial resources available.

Recognizing the important role that the new organs of the AMCEN – the Bureau, Inter-sessional Committee and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee – will play in promoting the implementation of the medium-term programme.

Decide:

(a) To adopt:

(i) The proposals for policy and institutional change;

(ii) The proposals for a medium-term programme;

(b) To request the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to meet and prepare a biennial programme budget to be submitted to the Inter-sessional Committee;

(c) To urge member States of the Conference to integrate the actions agreed in the medium-term programme in their national programmes;

(d) To urge African regional and subregional organizations to take into account the actions agreed in the medium-term programme in their regional and subregional programmes;

(e) To invite the Executive Director of the UNEP to ensure that the actions agreed in the medium-term programme are fully integrated in the programmes and activities of the UNEP.

Decision 2: Global Negotiations On The Environment

Considering the importance of global negotiations and dialogue on the environment and the need for the Africa region to promote its environmental agenda in such negotiations and dialogue.

Recognizing the limited negotiating capacities in the Africa region as well as the difficult situations encountered by representatives of the region in global environmental negotiations,

Recognizing also the need for the Africa region to approach global negotiation on the environment with clarity of purpose and common consensus, positions and perspectives,

Recognizing further the seriousness and magnitude of land degradation in the region resulting from desertification processes,

Recognizing also the continuing loss of biological diversity,
Recognizing also that the adverse impacts of climate change pose serious threats to the development of African countries and that it is therefore necessary for Africa to play a key and active role at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for November 2000, 

Decide: (a) To express appreciation to the Executive Director of the UNEP for organizing within the framework of the AMCEN various regional consultations on specific environmental issues prior to global negotiations, and to urge the UNEP to continue to organize such consultations; 
(b) To develop common positions and perspectives within the framework of processes relating to global agreements, conventions and international dialogue on the environment; 
(c) To urge the President of the AMCEN to convene a regional Group at all global environmental negotiations; 
(d) To urge all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in particular annex I parties, who are responsible for the largest share of historical and current emissions of greenhouse gases, to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in order to facilitate its early entry into force; 
(e) To invite international financial institutions, the African Development Bank and donor countries to support African countries in their efforts at capacity building to enhance the effective implementation of the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification; 
(f) To work towards formulating common positions regarding the implementation of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum's Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and the development of such mechanisms as the Clean Development Mechanism, Activities Implemented Jointly, transfers of technology and capacity-building; 
(g) To request the UNEP to assist Africa countries by convening a regional meeting of scientific/technical, policy and legal experts to prepare position documents on key issues on the agenda of the forthcoming meetings of the conventions on biological diversity, desertification and climate change.

Decision 3: Building Strategic Partnerships 
Recognizing the important role that development partners, particularly in the UN system, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, women’s groups and community-based organizations, private sector, donor countries and multilateral donor organizations; 
(b) To organize consultation with Heads of African regional and subregional organizations with a view to ensuring that the priorities of the AMCEN are integrated in their programmes; 
(c) To develop partnerships with the major African ministerial conferences in order to strengthen understanding of the priorities of the AMCEN and ensure their incorporation in national development plans.

Decision 4: New And Emerging Environmental Matters 
Recognizing the implications for the Africa region of the planned Earth Summit (2002); 
Recognizing also the importance of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum which will be convened in Malmö, Sweden, 
Aware of the serious and adverse impacts of natural disasters that are on the increase in the region, 

Aware also of the serious and adverse impacts of civil conflicts on the environment as well as problems of refugees arising therefrom, 

Decide: (a) To commend the UNEP for taking the necessary measures for convening the Global Ministerial Environment Forum which will bring together in Malmö, Sweden, from 29 to 31 May 2000, Environment Ministers from all over the world, and to applaud the Government of Sweden for hosting the Forum, considering that since the issues to be discussed at the forum are of crucial importance to Africa, it is important that Africa should be represented in full force in order to effectively bring to bear on the discussions Africa’s perspectives on the agenda items; 
(b) To join hands with the OAU, the ECA, the ADB and the UNEP in carrying out necessary preparation for the development of a regional African common position in 2001 to be submitted to Earth Summit II (2002); 
(c) To establish a mechanism within the framework of the AMCEN which will serve as a vehicle for mobilizing actions for the purpose of comprehensive assessment of the impacts of disasters and civil conflicts on the environment, as well as environmental restoration measures.

Decision 5: Financial Resources 
Recognizing the importance of having predictable and regular financial resources for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference as well as the medium-term programme, 
Recognizing also the need for contributions to the Trust Fund of the Conference, 
Recognizing further the financial support that the UNEP continues to provide to the Conference as well as the contributions made by some of the member States of the Conference, 
Recognizing also the need to look at the possibilities of other forms of resource assistance, 
Expressing our appreciation to the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which have cumulatively contributed, in the last four years, $825,700 to the Trust Fund established in 1985, 
Expressing especially our thanks to Egypt for contributing $689,800 of that amount, 

Decide: (a) To express our appreciation to the UNEP for having borne the necessary costs for secretarial services, programme activities and personnel since the inception of the Conference in December 1985, and urge it to continue to do so; 
(b) To urge our countries to increase their current contributions to the Trust Fund to a total of $3 million by December 2001 on the basis of the new system of contributions as well as the contributions to the medium-term programme, 
(c) To request the secretariat to take the necessary measures to mobilize additional financial resources for the Conference on the basis of the proposal it presented at this eighth session of the Conference;
Africa-Europe Summit* – Declaration of Cairo –

I. INTRODUCTION

We, the Heads of State and Government of African States and of the European Union as well as the President of the European Commission, have met in the First Africa–Europe Summit under the presidency of the OAU and EU, in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, under the kind invitation of His Excellency Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, under the Co-Presidency of the President of Algeria, His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU, and the Prime Minister of Portugal, His Excellency António Guterres, in his capacity as President of the European Commission.

The Secretary General of the OAU, and the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy also participated in the Summit. A representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations attended the Summit.

We solemnly declare that:

1. Over the centuries, ties have existed between Africa and Europe, which have led to many areas of co-operation, covering political, economic, social, as well as cultural dimensions. These have developed on the basis of shared values concerning political life, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, good governance, pluralism, international security, political stability and confidence among nations. In the light of the current rapid globalisation trend, we are determined to strengthen this co-operation in our mutual interest and make it more beneficial to the two regions.

In order to give a new strategic dimension to the global partnership between Africa and Europe for the Twenty First Century, in a spirit of equality, respect, alliance and co-operation between our regions, we are committed to the basic objective of strengthening the already existing links of political, economic and cultural understanding and of promoting a constructive dialogue on economic, political, social and development issues.

II. REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION

2. We stress the importance of regional economic co-operation and integration as an efficient strategy for the orderly and coordinated development of the African continent. We recognise the important inter-relation between political stability, peace and security on one hand and regional integration on the other. We commend the leaders of the African countries for adopting a number of declarations, plans and programmes, as well as treaties which constitute an appropriate framework for the collective promotion of the development of their countries, which include the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos of 1980, and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community of 1991 (the Abuja Treaty), which came into force in May 1994, and the Sirte Declaration adopted at the OAU Extraordinary Summit, Libya in September 1999, on the African Union.

3. We note the progress made in regional integration in Europe and in Africa and recognise that regional integration can be an important step towards beneficial participation in the world economy. We welcome the decision taken at the OAU Extraordinary Summit on the African Union in Sirte, Libya in September 1999 to realise the African commitment to regional integration and to consolidate and strengthen the regional economic communities as the building blocks for achieving the objectives of the African Economic Community.

4. We note the efforts to establish an Economic Partnership Area and, in the framework of the just concluded ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, to create institutional strengthening of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Africa, consistent with the objective of enhancing the economic integration of Africa. In addition, the priorities for action adopted by the Summit will be promoted through the current ministerial discussions between the European Union and the African countries in the framework of the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and the Barcelona Process. These discussions will maintain their present format and regularity.

5. We stress the need to promote close co-operation between the EU and African regional integration institutions, notably the African Economic Community (AEC), in the context of facilitating the sharing of experiences and institution building. In this regard, we agree to co-operate so as to ensure that in the framework of multilateral trade negotiations special attention is paid to products, including processed agricultural products, which are of export interest to developing countries, in particular Africa.

11. We underline the importance of special and differential treatment for developing countries, particularly in Africa,

(f) To mandate the UNEP accordingly to utilize the interest earned in the Trust Fund as at 31 March 2000 for the implementation of the activities in the budgeted biennial programme prepared by the Inter-Agency Technical Committee.

* Cairo, 3-4 April 2000. See also page 177.