



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

---



Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.17/16  
22 April 1991

Original: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Twelfth meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the  
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
29 April - 7 May 1991

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Twenty-sixth session of the Commission/  
seventeenth meeting of the Conference  
of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
9-13 May 1991

**REPORT ON THE PREPARATIONS IN AFRICA FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN 1992**

## I. BACKGROUND

1. By resolution 44/228 of September 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations took the decision to hold a Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil, to coincide with World Environment Day in June 1992. Nine issues of global concern will be discussed at the Conference. They include:

- (a) Protection of the quality and supply of fresh water resources;
- (b) Protection of the ocean and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas and coastal areas, the protection and rational use and development of their living resources;
- (c) Conservation of biological diversity;
- (d) Environmentally sound management of bio-technology;
- (e) Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, toxic chemicals and the prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes;
- (f) Protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life;
- (g) Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and trans-boundary air pollution;
- (h) Protection and management of land resources by, inter alia, combating deforestation, desertification and drought;
- (i) Improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, through eradicating poverty, inter alia, by implementing integrated rural and urban development programmes, taking other appropriate measures at all levels necessary to stem the degradation of the environment.

## II. AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AGENDA (AEA)

2. Sustainable development, as stated in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, must enable the enhancement of harmonious human relationships with natural resources to endure over time, and to adapt to changing conditions. Such development optimizes the capacity of the environment to meet the needs of people as defined by them, generating more security at the highest attainable living standard for an indefinite period.

3. Although all the issues for UNCED are of global concern, their regional manifestations and, consequently, specific regional approaches to the solution of related problems are bound to slightly differ. In the light of this, while participating in the management of global environmental concerns, the guiding principles in relating these issues to those of Africa are well defined in the different African initiatives mentioned above.

4. Within this context, an African Environment Agenda (AEA) has emerged. It reflects the environmental aspirations enshrined in the Monrovia Declaration on social and economic development of Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action as well as Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) and the programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). These formed the basis for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development that gave birth to the Kampala Agenda for Action Towards Sustainable Development in Africa

(1989) and the Bamako Commitment to Environment and Sustainable Development (1991). They should, therefore, dictate the tone of activities in the region to promote environment and sustainable development. The African Environment Agenda comprises the following:

A. Sectoral issues

5. The key sectors that the African Environment Agenda addresses concern the basic necessities of life, namely food, shelter and clothing. In other words, those basic needs that every citizen must have access to for sustainable development to be of any meaning. The accessibility by all to the following would ensure the satisfaction of these basic needs:

- (a) Food self-sufficiency and food security;
- (b) Efficient and equitable use of water resources, including marine and coastal resources;
- (c) Securing greater energy self-sufficiency;
- (d) Optimizing industrial production and pollution control;
- (e) Maintaining species and ecosystems;
- (f) Protection and management of land resources with emphasis on preventing and reversing desertification as well as environmentally sound development of mineral resources;
- (g) Managing demographic change and population pressures.

B. Inter-sectoral issues

6. Apart from the sectoral issues, there are many inter-sectoral ones which must accompany the sectoral issues if lasting results are to be achieved. They include:

- (a) Development and strengthening of environmental awareness;
- (b) Development of environmental legislation;
- (c) Popular participation and the democratization of environmental action including the enhancement of the role of and the opportunities for women and NGOs;
- (d) Development and strengthening of institutional manpower capabilities for sustaining the carrying capacity of resources;
- (e) Integration of environmental dimensions in economic development planning as a matter of policy;
- (f) Security, environment and sustainable development.

III. ISSUES OF THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AGENDA AND UNCED-1992

7. In the light of the foregoing, it will be important to prepare for UNCED-1992 by critically examining;

(a) The impacts on the environment and sustainable development of the structure and functioning of African economies: The impacts on the environment and sustainable development of the structure and functioning of African economies have been demonstrated in APPER, UN-PAAERD and AAF-SAP. To fully understand the implications of the UNCED issues with regard to the African Environment Agenda, the Conference of Ministers and Preparatory Conference are called upon to review the situation against the background of the important role of environmental management in development programme conceptualization and implementation for sustainable development;

(b) UNCED-1992 and the African Agenda for Environment and Sustainable Development in the region: By the African Agenda as indicated above, it is understood to mean the aggregation of all the various declarations and resolutions made by member States on the environment from the Monrovia Declaration (1979) to the Lagos Plan of Action (1980), the resolutions on APPER and UN-PAAERD which have been integrated into the Agenda for Action Towards Sustainable Development in Africa which was adopted in Kampala, Uganda, in June 1989 and the Bamako Commitment to Environment and Sustainable Development made during the OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development held in Bamako, Mali, from 23 to 30 January 1991. It is important that the Conference takes into account the regional specificities of the issues and places them within the context of global environmental management.

#### IV. AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

8. Africa has not been totally inactive in the field of environmental management even if the identification of priorities have not tallied identically with those elsewhere. This gives Africa the starting point and helps to demonstrate Africa's potential to be involved in regional as well as global environmental concerns and emerging issues to which it is, in one way or another, party. The Conference is called upon to take this into account both in the preparatory process and in the discussions of programme activities that will form the negotiating package.

##### A. National programmes

9. Various national programmes have been initiated by member States either directly by the Ministry or department responsible for environmental matters, by local parastatals or by local NGOs. All these national programmes involve collective national political will that should serve as a basis for a strong regional strategy for strengthening Africa's bargaining position with external development agencies and the international community; the pooling of limited national resources to support large-cost programmes; the effective exchange of information among member States as well as the facilitation of the acquisition of environmental technologies and skills on national, subregional and regional bases.

10. The successful implementation of the programmes/projects identified above at all levels requires the mobilization and efficient utilization of requisite resources. These resources are financial, human, physical and technological, and they have to be mobilized at national, subregional and regional as well as international levels. As the environmental problems to be eliminated or controlled are enormous and urgent, the corresponding volume of resources required, their relevant sources and the time frame for their mobilization need to be elaborated at various stages.

11. African Governments have the primary responsibility to provide the enabling environment, both political and economic. They must in addition provide the political space for NGOs and popular participation in environmental conservation.

12. The NGOs, particularly the rural ones, are the most valuable base for mobilizing popular participation in environmental management for sustainable ecological conservation. They have their roots

in the population, as voluntary organizations which, in most cases, are outside political influence and can ensure democratization in the choice of priorities and the strategies for their implementation.

13. Popular participation in development is the key demonstration of the democratization of decision-making, resource mobilization for national development programme implementation and, above all, accountability. This ensures community involvement in income-generating activities and the support of the private sector in the development process.

B. Cross-cutting strategies for enhancing the impacts of sectoral activities

14. The economics of sustainability through environmentally sound development planning in order to sustain an optimum balance between resources, environment and development requires many cross-cutting strategies. Some of these have been indicated under paragraph 7 (a) above in the discussion of each of the nine UNCED-92 issues. In addition, however, the following strategies are also required:

(a) Environmental awareness

15. For the environment issue to acquire governmental concern and involve public participation, the policy- and decision-makers both within and outside the circles of government must be fully aware of the environmental implications of the development programmes they plan and implement. For there to be political will as regards environmental matters, the highest level of government and, therefore, of decision-making must also be environmentally conscious. For all this to happen, environmental education must part of the body-politique of national life, beginning as all education does, from childhood.

(b) Curriculum development

16. Development and integration of environmental education into general education curricula should be undertaken at all levels through the implementation of the Programme of Action for Environmental Education and Training in Africa adopted by African Ministers of Education in 1982. This implies a total review of the present educational curricula to include environmental education and environmental practices such as, where possible, school farms, gardens, zoos, aquaria and all basic practices of environmental conservation.

(c) Literacy campaigns

17. National environmental education and literacy campaign will do much to raise ecological consciousness, reduce environmental damage and abuse as well as mobilize social energies for ecological conservation.

(d) Primary environmental care (PEC)

18. Primary environmental care (PEC) has also been suggested for local communities and rural areas with the effective participation of peasants, workers, women, youth and NGOs as raised in a recent international conference in Vancouver, Canada.

(e) Support to non-governmental organizations

19. There should be the establishment or strengthening of national non-governmental, youth, women, workers and peasant organizations with environmental conservation as an important focus of their activities.

(f) Intra-African exchanges of experience

20. Subregional and regional cooperation in environmental matters should be encouraged. This should be done through the exchange of information, joint training of experts in environmental science and engineering, cooperative research and technological development, pooling of limited financial and other resources as well as the establishment and strengthening of cooperative environmental bodies like the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Desertification (IGADD), the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and the Conférence ministérielle sur la desertification (COMIDES).

(g) Environmental legislation

21. Environmental management has been difficult in many cases because of the inadequate legislative guidelines for action in all the development sectors that take into account the environmental implications of those activities, without their corresponding sanctions. Various national legislation exists as well as regional conventions and agreements adopted by the member States of the OAU, but not many are operational because they have not been signed and ratified by the required number of member States for them to enter into force. To make up for this deficiency, certain actions must be taken and quickly, too.

(h) Promotion of national environmental legislation

22. There is need for updating national environmental protection legislation as well as regional and international conventions, agreements, protocols, etc., on the subject. Guidelines for the development and implementation of related new legislative instruments need to be provided.

(i) Environmental standards

23. There should be the prescription by legislation for standards relating to products whose chemical composition is likely to be unsafe for human populations and the environment and of safety standards and health requirements in workplaces, especially factories and mines.

(j) Popular participation and democratization of environmental action

24. There is need to create an enabling environment with democratic domestic mechanisms that yield political protection. This involves the broadest participation of the people and their organizations in decision-making and resource allocation at all levels, the maintenance of justice and equity as well as the elimination of civil strife and political instability.

(k) Development and strengthening institutions

25. Special inter-ministerial committees for environment and development that will require prior environmental impact assessments for development activities at local, national, subregional and regional levels should be created.

(l) Addressing the refugee problem

26. Regional and international cooperation in the handling and drastic reduction of Africa's serious refugee problems through the provision of financial, food, medical and other resources, exchange of information and elimination of the major factors like strife, landlessness and hunger that create refugees should be promoted.

(m) Enhancement of opportunities for women

27. The rights, education, training and employment opportunities for women must be enhanced in order to further promote their participation in sustainable development and environmental conservation. They must therefore share in decision-making concerning the use of environmental resources and share the benefits of development. Popular participation programmes in development and environment involving particularly women are also critical for democratizing environmental conservation.

(n) Development of science and technology

28. Greater and more effective international cooperation in all aspects of environmental protection in Africa should be enhanced - funding, technology, research and training, exchange of information, enforcement of legislation and environmental standards (e.g., in commodity trade), elimination of foreign dumping of toxic and other hazardous wastes in African countries, control of atmospheric and water pollution and global warming.

(o) Development of alternative indicators

29. Alternative development indicators that are environmentally preserving and ecological sound should also be used to supplement the rapid economism of GDP and per capita income that conceal ecological degradation and encourage excessive exploitation of ecological resources. The Human Development Index of the United Nations is a good example of such an alternative indicator.

30. The responsibility for the suggested action will fall to the relevant Ministries which will be assisted by the international community.

C. Subregional and regional programmes at the sectoral level

31. Subregional and regional programmes must be aimed at strengthening national programmes. To have the desired impact, they should principally be for the expansion, strengthening and coordination of the related national programmes. In particular, major ecological problems like desertification, drought, deforestation, insect invasion, soil erosion, foreign toxic waste dumping and flooding tend to be transnational and, therefore, require subregional and regional initiatives to control. The various subregional and regional programmes identified above offer some scope for cooperation to strengthen or develop integrated programmes at these levels by member States and development agencies. The integrated programmes at national, subregional and regional levels that are feasible for these co-operative endeavours include, among others, the programmes of AMCEN, the OAU, FAO, CILSS, IGADD and SADCC.

D. Pooled subregional and regional resources

32. Subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations provide a rallying force for intra-African cooperation in the solution of environmental problems. The existing ones in Africa are proven initiatives towards this end. It is, therefore, important that, among other things, there be regular financial contributions by member States to subregional and regional ecological agencies like CILSS, IGADD, SADCC and NGOs such as the African Environment Network (ANEN), Friends of the Earth and national NGOs. The OAU should also establish a special environmental conservation fund for dealing with environmental hazards like flooding, pest invasion, drought, etc. This should be paid for by special grants from or levies on member States on an annual basis. The payment of these member States' contributions should be regarded as the real measure of Africa's seriousness about sustainable development and environmental viability. The OAU should also ensure the mobilization of common political will to yield space for popular participation by NGOs and the people in environmental work as well as purposeful contributions (financial, human and other) to subregional and regional initiatives on the African environment.

### E. International programmes

33. The increasing depletion of Africa's financial resources by the collapse of its commodity trade, unbearable external debt-service payments, adverse effects of ongoing orthodox structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) and the huge costs of current levels of control of the massive problems of desertification, drought and foreign waste dumping all imply that, on per capita basis, Africa currently has the highest environmental costs. This fact calls for special international consideration in the commitment of resources to Africa's environmental protection. No other region in the world has Africa's vast Sahara Desert and Sahel with their enormous desertification and drought problems. The colossal damage of the Great African Drought of 1983/1985 underscores this point. These call for massive international resources for environmental protection in Africa.

### F. New programmes to strengthen ongoing ones

34. Despite Africa's efforts, the goals of sustainable development have been elusive. This item gives a series of actions that need to be taken to achieve sustainability. The assumptions here are that ongoing programmes are implemented as planned so that the proposed ones can strengthen them. The programmes and projects to serve as the framework of activities will be drawn up and will cover all the areas of the African Environment Agenda. Programme activities, with their resource implications, will be proposed for funding.

## **V. THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AGENDA AND THE SIX UNCED GLOBAL ACTION AREAS**

35. Against this background, Africa should be in a good position to discussion of the six UNCED action areas. The legal and institutional framework for global environmental management for sustainability is dealt with in this aspect of the preparatory process. This is the negotiating aspect of UNCED-1992. Based on the conclusions reached under agenda items 5(a) and (b), delegates are called upon to closely examine the possible implications of the strategies being suggested and come up with their own approaches to the UNCED negotiating process. Decision may be taken to ensure a high African participation during the process and at UNCED-1992 itself.

### A. Conventions

36. The areas of possible conventions include climate change, bio-diversity, and forestry. These conventions will be negotiated prior to the Conference and signed or agreed to at the Conference, depending on the result of these negotiations.

37. As concerns climate change, the fact must be taken into account that in terms of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Africa's contribution is virtually insignificant. This does not, however, mean that it should be neglected; Africa must share in the alternative CFC-free technology which is being developed by the industrialized countries. It must also be underscored that many of the ongoing programmes in the priority areas such as desertification control, afforestation, water resources management and related activities also contribute to the combating climate change.

38. The same arguments go for bio-diversity and forestry. The depletion of Africa's forests and bio-diversity is not just for domestic needs but also for export earnings. Conventions that seek to conserve bio-diversity and forest resources must have built-in mechanisms for replenishment of any form of compensation that fulfils such ends.

39. Most importantly, it is very likely that some of these conventions might imply, in one way or another, conditionalities on technical assistance and other forms of cooperation. Should that be the case, the circumstances must be well studied within the context of mutual interests.

**B. An "Earth Charter" or Declaration**

40. An "Earth Charter" or Declaration, setting out the basic principles for the conduct of peoples and nations towards each other and the earth to ensure a sustainable common future, will be signed or adopted. This document is most likely going to be a declaration of commitment to the implementation of the programmes that will be included in "Agenda 21".

**C. An agenda for action - "Agenda 21"**

41. An agenda for action, "Agenda 21", will provide concrete measures for the implementation of the principles contained in the Earth Charter, through an agreed international work programme in the period following the Conference and leading to the twenty-first century as well as the means required to implement this agenda. This will be a compendium of all the programmes that must have been assembled during the preparatory process and successfully negotiated or committed to in Brazil.

42. The important implication is that Africa must, therefore, be prepared with its package of negotiable programmes that will form part of this Charter. This can only be successfully done if member States prepare updated country reports, identifying ongoing activities, their contribution to such programmes and the contribution of the international community, bilateral or multilateral, in them.

**D. Financial resources**

43. Financial resources will be needed for the actions provided for in Agenda 21 and to ensure access by developing countries to the new and additional resources they will require to integrate the environmental dimensions into their development policies and practices, including meeting the incremental costs of participating in international environmental agreements. The Global Environmental Facility Fund recently established by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the major industrialized countries is an important step in this direction.

44. This increases the urgency for Africa to come up with environmental programmes within the context of regional priorities and the global strategy so as to benefit fully from these financial resources. However, the administration of these resources must not be subjected to any conditionalities that were raised as concerns under A. above.

**E. Technology transfer**

45. Technology transfer will include measures to ensure favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms. In addition to access to environmentally sound technologies on an equitable and affordable basis, this will include measures to strengthen the capacities required to make effective use of them. The understanding, as far as Africa is concerned, is that this will not mean the literal transfer of technology but the transfer to fill technology gaps and of the capability to develop adaptable technologies and the local manpower capacity that goes with this.

**F. Institutions**

46. Attention to institutions will emphasize measures for strengthening existing institutions, notably UNEP, the environmental capacities of development agencies and organizations, the process of collaboration

and coordination among them and the machinery to enable environment-development issues to be examined at the policy level in their relationship to other important security, economic, humanitarian and related issues.

47. Integrating environment in development planning for sustainability calls for the active participation of agencies and organizations whose mandates have this as a priority. Thought might need to be given to strengthen the strategy used during the preparatory process for UNCED-1992 whereby the regional commissions, because of their mandates of social and economic development, were given the lead role in the regional preparations.

## VI. THE SCENARIO OF PREPARATIONS IN AFRICA FOR UNCED-1992

48. In this spirit, all the groups should be involved in the environmental management decision-making process. These groups include youth, women, non-governmental organizations and business, both private and parastatal, must actively contribute to the preparatory process. All country reports should include their inputs. This will ensure that programme strategies are formulated with their participation in order to utilize all available national resources.

49. ECA will organize, with the collaboration of all United Nations agencies, the regional conference for Africa in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 1991. Before then, the following activities have been planned:

### (a) Preparation and finalization of conference document

50. The draft contents of the document, Achieving our goals through the environment, which will form Africa's negotiating position, is being prepared. The document draws from the mandates contained in United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 on convening the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It relates the issues in that resolution to the priorities of the African Environment Agenda and other strategies for the viable social and economic development of the region as adopted at different instances by African Governments. The document is also inspired by the recommendations of the ECA in-house task force which reviewed all these governmental mandates and programmes of action related directly or indirectly to the issues of environment and social and economic development. The draft document also benefitted from the critical review of a group of eminent Africans who are specialists in environment and development.

51. Chapter I places the African preparatory process in the context of the roles of the different parties concerned. Chapter II examines the impacts on environment and sustainable development of the structure and functioning of African economies and, among other things, reviews the implications of orthodox stabilization and structural adjustment programmes as well as the African approach to these programmes. Chapter III brings the UNCED-1992 issues into perspective with the African Agenda for Environment and Sustainable Development. Chapter IV looks at the six UNCED action areas and views how Africa should approach them. Chapter V presents Africa's efforts in environmental management and its contribution to the global environmental management effort. In chapter VI, additional actions that should strengthen ongoing activities are suggested. The African environmental agenda and global follow-up is examined in chapter VII within the context of the activities of the United Nations agencies and the Organization of African Unity. Annex I is presented in three parts: part I is made up of briefs on sectoral projects based on the African Agenda; part II comprises inter-sectoral programmes to stimulate and encourage achievements in the sectors; and part III contains a programme for raising additional resources for the implementation of all the programmes. It is based on the principle that the one who is responsible for environmental degradation should pay for its rehabilitation. Annex II contains the draft Cairo Ministerial Declaration on UNCED and follow-up action.

52. As the Brazil Conference will be an Earth Summit at the level of Heads of State and Government, the document will be ready for presentation to the OAU Council of Ministers and the assembly of Heads of State and Government in June 1991, from which a mandate will be received to have the final version reviewed by the Ministers of the Environment, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs during the Regional Preparatory Conference in Cairo in July 1991.

(b) Promotional activities

53. To promote the understanding of the major environmental issues in Africa of the African preparatory process for UNCED-92, a number of promotional activities are foreseen. ECA, in collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system, is developing the following:

(a) Fact sheet series to be distributed to the independent sector and government offices of member States. It is planned to produce the first issue of the fact sheets for distribution before the Regional Preparatory Conference. From then on, there will be subsequent issues every two months until UNCED in June 1992;

(b) Leaflet, to be produced by ECA after the African preparatory meeting, with the "African position" on environmental matters. The leaflet would have wide distribution within and outside Africa, primarily, but not exclusively, to the government and independent sectors;

(c) Radio interview/documentary series, to be produced by ECA in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York and the OAU. As much as possible following the frequency and themes covered by the fact sheet series, the radio programmes would include interviews with government, independent sector and intergovernmental agencies officials;

(d) Film/video: Resources permitting, a 15-minute long documentary on the African environment will be produced for presentation at UNCED.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

54. Although all the nine issues for UNCED-1992 are of concern to Africa, not all command the same priority interest. While addressing all these issues, therefore, emphasis must be given to those that are of pressing concern to the region. There are global problems to which Africa shares in the blame such as climate change and ozone depletion. However, the modalities for solution cannot be unilaterally prescribed across the board. It is in this spirit that the regional preparatory process is capital to the success of UNCED-1992. This should be the thrust of preparations in Africa.

55. Cooperation between developed countries and the developing world will be one of the focuses of the discussion at the Conference. Participating in this dialogue will be representatives of governments, business, voluntary environmental groups, youth, science and labour. The outcome of the Conference will be global inputs to a UNCED-1992 follow-up programme which will be contained in Agenda 21.

56. Africa must, under these circumstances, purposefully discuss African approaches to its pressing environmental problems. Thereafter, to actively participate in concrete terms in the dialogue regarding the global approach, its own priorities must be clear and practicable. Within the framework of self-reliant development interests, the priorities and strategies that are chosen must be developed to facilitate global environmental management and the international flow of resources for that purpose.

57. Most importantly, institutions must be developed for the training of manpower capabilities and administrative structures that will practically reinforce environmental monitoring, assessment and evaluation. This must be a matter of policy.

58. This 1992 Conference must be considered within the context of the situation that will obtain in the rest of the world thereafter. Africa must, therefore, come out with a position for the Conference which will reflect its understanding of the issues as they affect it and the determination to effectively address them.

59. On this note, participants are requested to fully participate in the preparatory process by:

- (a) Assisting in the writing of country reports and forwarding them to ECA immediately;
- (b) Disseminating the ideas contained in this document, within the context of their environments;
- (c) Participating actively at all related meetings;
- (d) Encouraging the active participation of NGOs, youth and women's organizations in the preparatory process and in the main conferences, both in Cairo and in Brazil.

60. With this preparation package, it is hoped that Africa will make a strong representation at UNCED-1992.

Annex

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA  
FOR THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE**

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

African Regional Preparatory Conference

Cairo, Egypt

11 - 16 July 1991

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening ceremony shall be carried out in close consultation with the host government.

2. Election of the Bureau

The Bureau of the Conference shall be made up of one Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one rapporteur, two assistant rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

The Conference shall adopt its agenda, guided by the drafts submitted to it as well as a programme of work, taking into account the working hours of the host country.

4. Presentation of the working document(s)

A member of the ECA secretariat shall present the working document(s).

5. Discussions on the document

- (a) The impacts on the environment and sustainable development of the structure and functioning of African economies (chapter II)

This chapter of the document examines the impacts on the environment and sustainable development of the structure and functioning of African economies. To fully understand the implications of the UNCED issues as well as the six action areas, the Conference is called upon to fully discuss this agenda item. It is crucial to the appreciation of the important role of environmental management in development programme conceptualization and implementation for sustainability.

- (b) UNCED-1992 and the African Agenda for Environment and Sustainable Development (chapter III)

By the African Agenda, it is understood to mean the aggregation of all the various declarations and resolutions made by member States on the environment from the Monrovia Declaration (1979) to the Lagos Plan of Action (1980), the resolutions on APPER and UN-PAAERD which have been integrated into the Agenda for Action Towards Sustainable Development in Africa which was adopted in Kampala, Uganda in

June 1989 and the Bamako Commitment to Environment and Sustainable Development made during the OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, held in Bamako, Mali, from 23 to 30 January 1991. It is important that the Conference takes into account the regional specificities of the issues and places them within the context of global environmental management, akin to the approaches evoked under agenda item 5(c).

(c) The African Agenda and the six UNCED global action areas (chapter IV).

The legal and institutional framework for global environmental management for sustainability is dealt with in this chapter. This is the negotiating aspect of UNCED-1992. Based on the conclusions reached under agenda items 5(a) and (b), delegates are called upon to closely examine the possible implications of the strategies being suggested and come up with their own approaches to the UNCED negotiating process. Decision may be taken to ensure a high African participation during the process and at UNCED-1992 itself.

(d) Programmes within the context of African environmental initiatives (chapter V)

Africa has not been totally inactive in the field of environmental management even if the identification of priorities has not tallied identically with those elsewhere. This is a confidence-building agenda item to demonstrate Africa's potential to be involved in regional as well as global environmental concerns and emerging issues to which it is, in one way or another, party. The Conference is called upon to take this into account both in the preparatory process and in the discussions of the programme activities in the annex of the working document.

(e) Additional programmes to strengthen ongoing ones (chapter VI)

Despite Africa's efforts, the goals of sustainable development have been elusive. This item gives a series of actions that need to be taken to achieve sustainability. The assumptions here are that ongoing programmes are implemented as planned so that the proposed ones can strengthen them. The programmes/projects in annex I are drawn from the narratives in this item. Delegates are expected to make their inputs to the proposals.

(f) The African Agenda and global follow-up (chapter VII)

To facilitate the global environmental agenda, African environmental initiatives must be a coherent part of the global agenda. Some strategies as would facilitate this are the subject of this item. Delegates are expected to examine them and make inputs thereto.

(g) Programme activity profiles (annex I to the document ECA/ENV/UNCED.2/91(Rev.2))

Programme activities, with their resource implications, have been proposed for funding. The Conference is called upon to review them with the view to making suggestions for their improvement.

(h) Conference Declaration (annex II to the main document ECA/ENV/UNCED.2/91(Rev.2))

The Conference may wish to issue a declaration reiterating their commitment to the implementation of the programmes relating to the issues for UNCED.

This agenda item is included to ensure that Africa draws up an agenda of participation in all the negotiations regarding conventions and all the matters raised in item 5(c) above.

7. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The Conference shall adopt its report. It is also expected that there will be a Conference declaration on the document which shall then be finalized for submission to the UNCED Preparatory Committee during its August 1991 meeting.

8. Closure of the Conference

The closing ceremonies shall be arranged in close consultation with the host Government.