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REPORT ON THE FIRST AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
HELD IN KAMPALA, UGANDA, 12-16 JUNE 1989

I. BACKGROUND

1. As a result of the increasing deterioration in the state of the world's environment, the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution 38/161 adopted at its thirty-eighth session, decided to set up a World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) to carefully study the situation and:

(a) Propose long-term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development by the year 2000 and beyond;

(b) Recommend ways in which concern for the environment may be translated into greater co-operation among developing countries and between countries at different stages of economic and social development and lead to the achievement of common and mutually supportive objectives which take account of the interrelationships between people, resources, environment and development;

(c) Consider ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environmental concerns; and

(d) Help define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long-term agenda for action during the coming decades, and aspirational goals for the world community.

2. With this mandate, the WCED held meetings in all the regions of the world in order to get a first-hand view of the key environmental and development issues in each region. In addition, it also held public hearings where senior government representatives, scientists and experts, staff of research institutions, industrialists, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the general public could openly express their concerns to the WCED and submit their views and advice on issues of common concern.

3. The WCED solicited the views of all concerned with environment and development issues and requested their support and participation in its proposed activities. This would help the WCED in:

(a) Re-examining the critical issues of environment and development and to formulate innovative, concrete and realistic action proposals to deal with them;

(b) Strengthening international co-operation on environment and development and assessing and proposing new forms of co-operation that can break out of existing patterns and influence policies and events in the direction of needed change; and

(c) Raising the level of understanding and commitment to action on the part of individuals, voluntary organizations, businesses, institutes and governments.

4. The WCED report identified three areas of common concern which were also reflected in UNEP's Perspective for the Year 2000 and Beyond. These concerns were over a threatened future for mankind as a result of inadequate environmental management; mobilization towards sustainable development; and the participation of the international economy in activities for sustainable development.

5. Six areas of common challenges were highlighted, namely:

(a) Population and human resources management;

- (b) Food security and the sustenance of its potential;
- (c) Resources for the development of species and ecosystems;
- (d) Energy and the choice for environment and development;
- (e) Producing more with less in the industrial sector; and
- (f) Coping with the challenges of urban growth.

6. The WCED report as well as UNEP's Environmental Perspectives to the Year 2000 and Beyond were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolutions 42/187 and 42/186 respectively in December 1987. In response to this resolution the Secretary-General of the United Nations suggested the organization of regional conferences, seminars, etc., with the regional commissions, the United Nations Environment Programme and concerned departments of governments of member States.

7. The resolution further invited "governments, in co-operation with regional commissions and the United Nations Environment Programme and, as appropriate, intergovernmental organizations, to support and engage in follow-up activities, such as conferences, at the national, regional and global levels".

8. To further emphasize the importance of youth in the process of creating environmental awareness, the Secretary-General recommended that a starting point could be the organization of conferences and seminars involving the regional commissions, relevant United Nations bodies and ministers of environment, of economic planning and of education, non-governmental organizations and youth in order to achieve the goals stated in the WCED report.

II. THE KAMPALA CONFERENCE

9. In implementing the resolutions and the suggestions of the Secretary-General, ECA, in collaboration with UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO and with the major financial support of the Governments of Norway and Sweden, organized the first regional conference within the framework of the recommendations of the WCED at the ministerial and policy levels with ministers of environment, planning and education, as well as non-governmental and youths organizations on environment.^{1/}

10. The rationale for holding a regional conference at the policy level including ministers of environment, planning, education as well as non-governmental youth and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was to emphasize the shift in the analysis of the relationship between environment and development which had changed significantly since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. While maintaining the emphasis on the conservation of ecosystems, added focus was being directed to the social and economic determinants of environmental degradation. This had been manifest in the role of human activity, both economic and social, in increasing environmental degradation in the region. This environmental degradation

^{1/} See document ECA/NRD/ARCED/MC/3, Report of the first Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, Kampala, Uganda, 12-16 June 1989 (11 June 1989).

had, indeed, deepened the economic crisis that member States had been going through over the last five years.

11. It was further argued that the majority of African policy and decision makers had not, as yet, been sufficiently exposed to the new orientation in the approach to the present-day environmental problems in the region. As a result of this, its intersectoral and multidisciplinary nature as an important, most of the time determinant, factor in economic and social development planning had not as yet been fully appreciated. There was also inadequate environmental consideration in the education and upbringing of the youth who would be the leaders of tomorrow.

12. It was this inadequate awareness of the importance of the role of environmental management in modern international relations that African countries did not have environmental management issues as an integral part of protocols and conventions between them and other countries. It also accounts for the low rate of acceding, by African countries, to international conventions on environmental management, particularly the movement of hazardous wastes and potentially toxic materials as well as the preservation of the natural ecosystems, including wild life.

13. In the African region, the determining role of environmental management in sustaining economic development was highlighted by the economic crisis that the region had been going through over the last five years. During this period, drought and desertification had helped in stimulating discussion on environmental matters. This trend was further enhanced by the recent problems of the dumping of industrial wastes in the region which also led to the controversies over the ratification of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989).

14. Faced with these serious environmental problems, African countries have taken some initiatives, sometimes with the assistance of ECA, sister agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations involved in environmental management in Africa, to seek their solutions. It was in this spirit that ECA organized in 1979 a seminar on Alternative patterns of development and life style which, among other things, identified environmental management as one of the key areas for consideration. This seminar was one of the main inputs into the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa which was later adopted as the Lagos Plan of Action (1980) for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy.

15. It was also in the same spirit that in December 1985 the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Cairo, Egypt and adopted a programme of action for regional co-operation on the African environment. This programme of action was based on a common priority objective: to halt the degradation of the resources base and ensure its rehabilitation, with the fundamental aim of securing self-sufficiency in food and energy by mobilizing Africa's human, scientific and technical resources as well as through the application of environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially acceptable methods.

16. In November 1985, a workshop on Youth for the Environment was organized by UNEP, as part of its contribution to the activities of International Youth Year (IYY). This workshop was attended by 50 youth leaders from African countries.

The recommendations of the workshop were distributed to the participants in the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, mentioned above, and also to the ministers in charge of youth affairs in Africa.

17. In order to ensure the active involvement of African NGOs in environmental management in the region, an African NGO Environment Network (ANEN) had been established (with headquarters in Nairobi) with a membership of over 220 African national NGOs. ANEN takes an active part in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as well as other important initiatives of other organizations.

18. The United Nations Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Nairobi in 1986, adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women which, among other things, recommended the enhancement of the awareness by individual women and women's associations for the management of the environment and sustain productive resources. Furthermore, UNEP Senior women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAG) met in June 1987 and decided to focus their collective efforts on Africa. They emphasized that this effort would be most effective if it related to the Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

19. In this connection, they decided to activate their network of senior level environmental women in Africa in close collaboration with AMCEN's national focal points and women at community level. Through this assembly of women in environment-related government services, NGOs, grass-root movements and any community-based organization would join in the first collective women's effort on a regional scale to combat environmental problems, thus filling the gaps in other recovery plans.

20. It was within this framework of endeavours that the first African Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development was organized.

21. The idea was to identify areas of programme activities that would re-animate environmental awareness at ministerial and policy levels and achieve a shift in policy and institutional orientation. This would further ensure the full integration of objectives of the Environmental Perspectives to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the recommendations of the WCED into national development plans and programme activities. The activities to be undertaken within the project's framework should reflect the immediate needs of member States, in effectively responding to the concerns of the recommendations of the WCED and General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

22. The Conference would, inter alia, seek to define means of inter-ministerial and inter-organizational collaboration, in particular at the national level and in general at the subregional and regional levels. It would also seek to secure actions by governments, youth, women and non-governmental organizations aimed at achieving sustainable development through the incorporation of environmental considerations in social and economic programmes.

23. ECA also saw this as an ideal opportunity to reinforce environmental protection strategies in the region within the framework of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) as adopted by ECA resolution 676 (XXIV) of April 1989.

AAF-SAP advocates, among other things, the strengthening and diversification of the production capacity, particularly of the rural sector. This would increase production and employment opportunities and thereby promote the equitable distribution of incomes and alleviate poverty which is one of the determining factors of environmental degradation.

24. Within this framework, African countries would be encouraged to strengthen their national environmental capabilities and be in stronger position to participate fully in the present world drive towards environmental conservation. It would also enable them to:

(a) Assess the nature and scope of major environmental problems at the national, subregional and regional levels in Africa;

(b) Establish appropriate legislative and administrative mechanisms for environmental management;

(c) Analyse the inter-relationship between social and economic development trends and environmental changes in Africa;

(d) Effectively carry out co-ordination of activities by individual departments/ministries and public participation in sound environmental management to promote sustainable development;

(e) Promote environmental education, public awareness and information dissemination so as to encourage public participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes for environmental management and sustainable development in Africa; and

(f) Integrate environmental consideration in negotiations for development programmes with international development agencies.

25. The Conference affirmed that the success of efforts to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development depended on a strong and persistent political commitment. It also depended on a strong and persistent political commitment and on continued consultations and co-operation among the countries of Africa and the different interests and groups at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that were participating in development activities.

26. It was also the consensus that to achieve sustainable development in Africa it would require taking environmental resources into account at an early stage in formulating development policies, programmes and projects. This could take many forms, including:

(a) Creating specialized inter-ministerial committees for co-ordinating environmental management activities;

(b) Requiring environmental impact assessments prior to implementing development activities;

(c) Expanding public participation - youth, women and non-governmental groups in the planning process;

(d) Introducing environmental considerations as an integral part of the curricula at all levels of formal and informal education and training;

(e) Ensuring the training of senior staff and experts in environmental sciences and engineering; and

(f) Involving subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations such as African Ministerial Conference on Environment, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Intergovernmental Agency on Drought and Development, Organization of African Unity and Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference; to play a strong role in the implementation of the relevant components of major programmes of action for environmental management - Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of Drought, the Cairo Programme of AMCEN and the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

27. The Conference also recognized the fact that African countries had taken significant initiatives in developing institutions and capabilities for environmental management. These initiatives were strong indications of the increasing awareness of the determining role of environmental management in Africa's economic and social development which demanded an intersectoral approach.

28. The environmental dimensions of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) which was adopted by ECA resolution 676 (XXIV) of April 1989 by African Ministers of Economic Planning and those of Finance was also recognized. AAF-SAP strongly endorsed fundamental changes in planning policies and resource management with specific emphasis on the rural sector. It also called for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development. The creation of an enabling environment required alleviating poverty, the broadest participation in decision-making, maintenance of equity and justice and the elimination of civil strife and instability.

29. The Conference adopted an Agenda for Action: Towards Sustainable Development in Africa (annex I), which identified the key issues and priorities for action in the seven areas that were discussed.

30. It also issued a declaration resolving itself to the implementation of the Agenda for Action for sound environmental management for sustainable development in Africa (annex II).

III. CONCLUSION

31. The Conference was an important contribution to the effort being made at the global level in enhancing environmental management as a determining factor in sustainable, social and economic development. The Agenda for Action brings together all the activities that will enhance ongoing programmes, if member States commit themselves to its implementation as indicated in the final declaration.

32. The Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Development, regrouping ministers who are responsible for co-ordinating all national development policies and programmes, is called upon to endorse the Kampala Agenda for Action: Towards Sustainable Development in Africa. The Conference is also called upon, in the spirit of AAF-SAP, to replicate it at the national level. It should also endeavour

to formulate strategies for following up its implementation and co-ordination at the subregional and regional levels.

33. Within the framework of the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Action, the Conference of Ministers is invited to suggest strategies for preparing for the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development in order to ensure Africa's effective participation.

ANNEX I

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA:
AGENDA FOR ACTION

Adopted by the
African Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development
Kampala, Uganda, 16 June 1989

I. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: KEY QUESTIONS

1. The African Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, meeting in Kampala, Uganda, from 12 to 16 June 1989, considered the implications for Africa of the report "Our Common Future" of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the "Environmental Perspectives to the Year 2000 and Beyond" as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 successively in December 1987.

2. Participation included Ministers of Environment, of Planning, and of Education as well as representatives of youth, women and national and regional non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. This constitutes the first meeting with this composition. Such broad-based inter-ministerial meetings are important in making the transition to sustainable development.

3. It was the general consensus that the success of the efforts to achieve sustainable development will depend primarily on a strong and persistent political commitment and also on continued consultations and co-operation among the different interests and groups within and among African countries.

4. There are fundamental questions which should be addressed in the effort to achieve sustainable development. These key questions are:

(a) Where is Africa now?

5. Africa is now in a state of serious and linked economic and environmental crises. The achievement of sustainable development of Africa is a proper goal for the global community and requires serious global co-operation. Some crises derive from the present economic and policy structures which are deeply embedded in largely alien patterns of production, consumption and exchange. These crises do not only derive from African structures but also from adverse international economic structures. This pattern has not been conducive to the development of the rural sector which, in itself, is the backbone of all African economies. This structure has led to serious environmental degradation as evidenced by deforestation, soil erosion and alarming desertification. Environmental stress has become very acute. Agricultural production, especially for food, has been drastically reduced. The rural sector in Africa is becoming increasingly poorer. Many African countries are no longer able to feed themselves and have to import food.

6. Sustainable progress for Africa is now impeded by many international pressures such as external indebtedness and declining terms of trade. Africa suffers deforestation, desertification and atmospheric pollution from present energy and industrial activities. These forms of environmental degradation adversely affect global ecological systems, and thus investment in managing the African environment is an investment in global security.

7. Support and development for science and technology, without which very little development can take place, has in most African States not reached the minimum level set by the African Ministers responsible for science and technology some 15 years ago. Industrial development has been slow; indeed so slow that it has played a negligible role in mitigating the crisis. This is because Industrial development has not been planned to meet the medium- and long-term needs of the people.

8. Africa is also lacking coherent national, subregional and regional policy instruments and measures integrating environmental concerns into economic planning and programmes for sustainable development.

9. If these conditions are allowed to persist, Africa is heading for a state of increasing environmental degradation; a decrease in rural production, low production in all sectors, debt, underdevelopment and dependence on external aid.

(b) Where should Africa go?

10. The proposals in both reports were considered by the Conference in the context of the following:

- (i) The Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1980 in Lagos, Nigeria;
- (ii) The Programme of Action for Environmental Education and Training in Africa adopted by the African Ministers of Education in 1982;
- (iii) The Kilimanjaro Action Plan on Population of 1984;
- (iv) The Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) adopted in Cairo in 1985;
- (v) Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in 1986;
- (vi) The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986;
- (vii) The FAO Programme of Action on African Agriculture: The Next 25 years adopted by the African Ministers of Agriculture, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 1989; and
- (viii) The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Ministers of Finance of ECA in 1989.

11. To achieve sustainable, social and economic development through environmental conservation in Africa, we must reverse the situation of environmental degradation by adopting strategies for restructuring the current

structure of national economic production. With special attention to the rural sector, we must focus on:

- (i) Managing demographic change and pressures;
- (ii) Achieving food self-sufficiency and food security;
- (iii) Ensuring efficient and equitable use of water resources;
- (iv) Securing greater energy self-sufficiency;
- (v) Optimizing industrial production;
- (vi) Maintaining species and ecosystems; and
- (vii) Preventing and reversing desertification.

12. In addition, these objectives are set out because it is believed that their achievement will raise the standard of living of the people. The latter will contribute greatly in acting as a deterrent to high population growth rates. This would alleviate the problems of rural unemployment, rural exodus, urban stress and general demographic pressures.

13. Most importantly, Africa must define policy orientations, and make legal, administrative and institutional arrangements to ensure that all the elements can be orchestrated to achieve sound environmental management for sustainable development.

- (c) Can Africa achieve sound environmental management for suitable development?

14. The signs of hope for Africa's achievement of sound environmental management for sustainable social and economic development lie in building upon the initiatives already taken at national, subregional, regional and international levels. These initiatives include:

- 1. National level
 - (i) Establishment or strengthening of governmental institutions responsible for environmental matters;
 - (ii) Updating development and implementation of national environmental protection legislation;
 - (iii) Establishment or strengthening of national non-governmental, youth and women organizations with environmental conservation as an important focus of their activities; and
 - (iv) Incorporation of environmental dimensions in the training programmes, during and after school.

2. Subregional level

15. The main initiative here has been the establishment of intergovernmental organizations charged with co-ordinating environmental management such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) and the Ministerial Conference on Drought and Desertification (COMIDES). Other initiatives include the Abidjan Convention on the protection of marine and coastal areas of West and Central Africa as well as other African regional seas programmes.

3. Regional level

16. The most important regional initiatives have been the establishment of regional programmes specifically for environmental management or with strong environmental management components.

17. These initiatives are strong indicators of the increasing awareness of the determinant role of environmental management in Africa's economic development.

18. Especially, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation which was recently adopted by African Ministers of Economic Planning and Development and of Finance strongly endorsed fundamental changes in planning policies and resource management. The Framework calls for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development which requires broadest participation in decision-making, maintenance of equity and justice, and elimination of civil strife and instability.

19. In order to achieve sustainable development, African States should have democratic domestic mechanisms and carry out intensive trade with each other. The aspiration and abilities of the people should be better reflected in development plans as poverty is the greatest environmental and developmental problem. The alleviation of poverty will therefore be a core element in moving towards an environmentally sound future.

20. Yet, as long as African Governments are forced to give higher priority to satisfying international creditors rather than to their own people, as long as international commodity prices do not reflect the real costs of production for Africa, sustainable development will remain an elusive goal.

21. African women, youth and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play an important role in the development of the African region. There should be a greater harmonization of the activities of NGOs operating in Africa with the development policies defined by the governments.

II. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PRIORITIES FOR AFRICA

22. Sustainable development, as stated in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, "is a process in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs".

It enables 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.

23. The achievement of sustainable development will need a government-wide effort involving all ministries as well as the private sector and all non-governmental organizations. This will principally require, starting today, the integration of environmental concerns into the system of programming, budgeting and planning of our development activities. Greater efforts are needed to ensure that women in Africa actively participate and are better equipped in facing the challenge of incorporating environmental considerations into the sustainable development process. To stop unsustainable development will require changes in policies and programmes which lead to misuse of environmental resources. To achieve sustainable development will require taking environmental resources into account at an early stage in formulating development policies, programmes and projects. This can take many forms. For example:

(a) Creating special inter-ministerial committees for environment and development;

(b) Requiring prior environmental impact assessments for development activities;

(c) Ensuring that the process of integrated planning at the local, national and subregional levels;

(d) Expanding public participation, including the participation of women, youth, and non-governmental groups in the planning process and implementation of programmes at the grass-roots level;

(e) Introducing environmental aspects as an integral part of the curricula at all levels of formal and informal education and training;

(f) Ensuring the training of senior staff and experts in environmental science and engineering;

(g) Development of continuing training programmes for senior responsible personnel and public information personnel and of public information programmes on the state of the environment and on what can and should be done by all members of society to move towards sustainable development;

(h) Involving subregional organizations such as SADCC, IGADD, CILSS, COMIDES, etc., which should be called upon to play the following roles:

(i) undertake to implement relevant components of major programmes of action such as the Cairo Programme of Action;

(ii) act as focal point agencies in the co-ordination of activities of international and regional organizations as well as donor agencies that are active in their respective subregions; and

- (iii) serve, as appropriate on the main organs of regional Conferences (e.g., AMCEN) and subregional organizations. This arrangement will depend on rules of procedures of the relevant organizations.

24. All of the above are fundamental to success in achieving the following seven goals and in implementing the priorities for immediate action.

MANAGING DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND PRESSURES KEY ISSUES

25. The present population of our continent will likely double over the next two decades to a total of around 1 billion people. Over 40 per cent will be under 14 years of age. The urban population will likely quadruple.

26. Such growth and major demographic change will continue to create an imbalance in the crucial relationship between our people, resources, environment and development. That imbalance and relationship has already deteriorated. Today many of our people in both our rural and urban areas lack such basic necessities of life as adequate food, health, housing, water, sanitation, education and employment.

27. Too many of our people and industries are already concentrated in our capitals and a few other cities and towns resulting in growing and overcrowded slums, the loss of often prime agricultural land through urban sprawl, breakdowns in urban services and infrastructure and rising pollution and health problems. At the same time many of our small and intermediate towns and rural economies stagnate or decline because of a lack of new economic activity. Population movements as a result of degraded environmental conditions create increasing tension within and among countries. Yet, even in highly populated areas, improvements in education, nutrition, health and family income can enable people to have more choices and make more productive and sustainable use of their limited resources.

GOAL

28. To manage population growth and demographic change in order to achieve a more equitable, productive and sustainable balance between people, resources, environment and development for meeting the needs of the present and later generations.

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Implement the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and especially expand appropriate family planning and primary health care facilities and information programmes to slow the birth rates and the high rates of disease and death among children;

(b) Integrate environmental and resource considerations as a main factor in all national socio-economic, physical and settlements planning and decision-making. Give special attention to the better spatial distribution of population and economic activities including strengthening of the informal sector through new programmes and industry incentives for revitalizing the economies and services in rural areas and small and intermediate towns;

(c) Provide security of tenure to the landless urban and rural poor as an essential first step to improve housing and living conditions; and

(d) Improve the rights, education, training and employment opportunities for women.

ACHIEVING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SECURITY KEY ISSUES

29. Too many of our people get too little food. The food needs of our rapidly growing population combined with the adverse impact of agricultural policies, practices and other factors have already led to extensive environmental damage and degradation of the natural resources base accelerating soil erosion, deforestation, drought and desertification, reduced genetic diversity and increasing the risk of pollution of our soils and our surface and ground water from unsafe use of agricultural chemicals.

30. The main problem, therefore, stems from some weaknesses in the present structure of the rural economy, which is not conducive to sustainable agricultural development. This has led to deficits in food production, poor opportunities for small-scale industries and back-up rural credit systems that are accessible to all rural populations, including women.

GOAL

31. To achieve food security without degrading our environment and depleting our natural resources and rehabilitate the agricultural resource base where environmental damage has already occurred.

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Prepare and implement national strategies for food security including contingency plans for emergency food shortages;

(b) Review the mandates, policies and budgets of the agricultural and other relevant economic and sectoral agencies to support research for increased food production, reduce post harvest losses, improve food distribution and promote local farming methods which are ecologically as well as economically sustainable (e.g., agroforestry systems for food and fuel). Special attention should be given to fisheries resources;

(c) Carry out a national programme of land and farm-income reforms. The land reforms should favour the land-poor, recognize the major contribution of women and youth in growing food and provide a basis for protecting the productivity of soils and forests. Also provide strong economic incentives and technical support for farmers through fair pricing policies and government budgetary allocations;

(d) Strengthen the legal and institutional capacity for safe management and use of agro-chemicals and put in place environmentally sound alternatives such as integrated pest management;

(e) Implement the AMCEN pilot projects for food and energy self-sufficiency in 150 villages. Start at least 50 projects by the end of 1989 and the rest in

1990. Quickly extend the sustainable development techniques and lessons learned to other villages throughout Africa in close co-operation with NGOs and local groups; and

(f) Extend and strengthen the AMCEN networks on environmental monitoring, soils and fertilizers, and climatology; establish by the end of 1989 the networks on climatology, science and technology and environmental education and training.

ENSURING EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE USE OF WATER RESOURCES KEY ISSUES

32. The water resources of our continent have greatly diminished in the last 20 years, even in the Congo-Zaire basin which receives about 50 per cent of the total water supplied to the entire continent. Consequently, there are chronic as well as seasonal acute water shortages in most of our countries. Yet in all of our countries there is a rapidly increasing demand for water generated by our growing populations, urbanization, industrialization and irrigation requirements.

33. Large numbers of our people do not have access to adequate and safe drinking water. Water pollution from industry, urban run-off, sewage and agro-chemicals is also increasing and is largely uncontrolled in most of our countries. Underground water resources are largely unmanaged and are being polluted, depleted or ignored.

34. International rivers are a major water source for many of our countries. In Egypt, for example, this provides over 50 times more water than domestic rainfall. We have over 50 significant international river basins, which is more than any other continent. Nearly all African countries are part of at least one. For 14 countries, practically their entire national territory falls within international river basins. Yet for most of our international rivers there are no intergovernmental agreements at all. Only a few have functioning institutional arrangements for consultation and co-operation on the management and sustainable development of their shared water resources.

GOAL

35. To improve water quantity and quality through efficient, equitable and sustainable use and distribution of national as well as internationally shared water resources and river basins.

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Develop and implement a national water policy for the assessment, management and sustainable development of surface and underground water resources, including use-reallocation and pollution control measures through regulations and economic incentives and pricing mechanisms;

(b) Review the policies, programmes and budgets of major economic and sector agencies (e.g., agriculture, industry, energy) to make them responsible and accountable for ensuring efficient use of surface and underground water resources, especially in irrigation schemes, and for reducing and preventing water pollution from industrial and agricultural activities;

(c) Expand African programme for the sustainable development of shared water resources; get intergovernmental agreement on common principles and guidelines for the equitable use and sustainable development of shared water resources; put in place by 1986 special agreements and effective institutional arrangements for the sustainable development of major international river basins, with priority to the Congo-Zaire, Lake Chad, Senegal, Lake Victoria, Volta, Zambezi, the Nile and the Niger;

(d) Expand and strengthen the AMCEN network on water quality and quantity as a major source of technical information, advice and mutual assistance; and

(e) Implement the programme of improved access to drinking water supply and sanitation (United Nations Decade).

SECURING GREATER ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

36. Although many African countries have large energy import bills many Africans cannot afford such energy. The growth of our populations, industry, agriculture and cities are putting unsustainable pressures on our biomass base, increasing the demand and consumption of largely imported commercial fuels and creating rising air pollution and health problems in our urban areas.

37. Wood is the main fuel for cooking, heating and lighting and accounts for more than 80 per cent of energy consumption in the majority of our countries. Firewood is consumed with low levels of efficiency and our forests are being depleted at an unsustainable rates. Already over 40 per cent of our people live in areas where the biomass production capacity has been exceeded. In parts of the continent, 30 per cent of family income is used to buy wood or charcoal.

38. Yet the continent has a vast energy potential. Oil reserves are 55 million barrels; 5,900 billion m³ of natural gas, mostly in North Africa; 88.5 million tons of coal, mostly in Southern Africa; peat and lignite deposits; 1.7 tons of uranium; 200,000 megawatts of untapped hydroelectric power; great potential in solar and wind energy, considerable geothermal prospects, chiefly in the Great Rift Valley; biomass and animal energy. The rapid depletion of these energy sources is a crucial problem to our development. Africa, which, on a per capita basis, consumes only about one tenth of the energy consumed by industrialized countries, needs energy for its development. Energy strategies have to be designed on the basis of end-use assessments and aim at an optimal energy mix depending on local resources where possible. Innovative, regional co-operation schemes should be explored such as for hydro-power.

GOAL

39. To move towards greater energy efficiency and self-sufficiency locally and nationally on an economically and ecologically sustainable basis.

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Develop and implement a national energy policy aimed at greater local and national self-sufficiency with less environmental impacts through more efficient, conserving, and less polluting uses of existing wood and fossil fuels

and strengthen research, rapid development and application of renewable sources of energy such as biogas, solar, wind and hydro-power;

(b) Review the mandates, policies and budgets of major economic and sectoral agencies (e.g., transportation, industry, science and technology) to ensure more efficient use and conservation of existing wood and fossil fuels, including regulations, economic incentives and pricing policies to reduce adverse impacts on human health, environment, the natural resource base and national balance-of-payments accounts;

(c) Implement the AMGEN pilot projects for food and energy self-sufficiency in 150 villages. Start at least 50 projects by the end of 1989 and the rest in 1990. Quickly extend the sustainable development techniques and lessons learned to other villages throughout Africa in close co-operation with NGOs and local groups;

(d) Develop and strengthen the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy and its co-ordination with the AMGEN network on renewable sources of energy as a combined government, private sector, university and NGO co-operative programme. Convene in 1991 a technical workshop of the most active members to assess progress made and needed for the accelerated development and application in Africa of renewable energy alternatives to wood and fossil fuels.

OPTIMIZING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION KEY ISSUES

40. Our industries must expand and produce more with less on a self-reliant and self-sustaining basis to meet the growing needs of our increasing populations (e.g., agro-related industries). To become self-reliant will require special support to industries and technologies that better serve local needs by making optimum use of local resources, local manpower and schemes. To become self-sustaining will require choosing processes and technologies that have less adverse impacts on our environment.

41. The industries must expand to include a strong cottage industry as the basis for a self-reliant and self-sustaining development at all levels of the industrial sector. To become self-reliant the industrial sector will require special support from the private and public sector and promotion of consumption patterns that encourage investment.

42. In many African countries, the development of the industrial sector has been problematic at all levels. Investment by governments in industries has been to satisfy the export economy. New incentives are needed to support sustainable industrial development.

43. In many of our countries industry is still largely unregulated because appropriate health and environmental standards are not yet in place or are widely ignored. The rising pollution and resource depletion costs are putting additional pressures on limited government resources. If restoration and public health programmes are not expanded the next generations will face a growing backlog of environmental problems, a diminished resource base and declining economic prospects.

44. New regulatory measures and economic incentives are needed to support sustainable industrial development. Energy and water pricing policies, for example, can encourage industry to make more efficient use of resources. Special investment tax breaks, low-interest loans, depreciation allowances, pollution or waste charges and non-compliance fees can encourage product redesign and technological innovations leading to safer products, more efficient and safer industrial processes and the recycling of raw materials.

GOAL

45. To expand our industrial capacity on a self-reliant and sustainable basis to meet the growing needs of our increasing populations and for export and make best use of local manpower and skills, provide the best option for maintaining and improving local environmental conditions and natural resource capital.

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Change the mandates, policies and budgets of major economic and sectoral agencies (e.g., national planning, finance, trade, technology, industry, agriculture) to make them responsible and accountable for ensuring that their policies, programmes and choice of technologies support self-reliant industrial development which is economically and ecologically sustainable;

(b) Set appropriate standards for the protection of human health and environment for all major industrial sectors and processes, especially workers' safety and health and disposal of hazardous wastes, backed up by an effective monitoring and enforcement capability with indexed penalties for non-compliance;

(c) Put in place new regulatory measures for economic incentives for efficient use of energy and natural resources and the reduction of industrial waste and pollution. Require the prior assessment of technologies and projects likely to have adverse effects on human health, the environment and on future development prospects;

(d) Strengthen the national and regional capacity for research development, procurement and assessment of industrial technology and processes so that decision makers in government and industry can have more choices and better information on the benefits and risks associated with different products and technologies;

(e) Adopt investment codes and procedures tailored to the promotion and development of small-scale industries, including rural institutions to support cottage industries and small-scale industries with emphasis on indigenous technology, domestic finance, rural infrastructure and participation of women and youth in order to provide an enabling economic environment for the involvement of local entrepreneurs; and

(f) Develop a clear legal framework on ownership and participation of the different socio-economic groups such as rural co-operatives, artisans, traders and women and youth groups in order to enable popular participation in production, marketing and the strengthening of the informal sector and its ultimate integration into the mainstream of development.

MAINTAINING SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

KEY ISSUES

46. Tropical forests in Africa are being lost at the rate of 3.7 million hectares annually, with over half of that deforestation in West Africa alone. Over 30 per cent of the original forest cover in Côte d'Ivoire has already disappeared. The situation is becoming critical in Madagascar, south-eastern Guinea, the Fouta-Djallon massif, south-western Cameroon, Bas Zaire, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. The main causes are clearing for agriculture and shifting cultivation and timber exploitation. The loss of plant cover leads to other problems such as decreasing soil fertility, erosion and the loss of genetic resources and diversity. In Madagascar, it is estimated that the loss of over 90 per cent of the original primary forest led to the extinction of half of the original endemic species.

47. Genetic material in wild species has significant economic value in improved crop species, new drugs and medicines and as raw materials for industrial products. Unique species and protected natural areas are also a major attraction for the growing tourist industry in African countries. The protection of habitat such as mangrove swamps and coastal wetlands is important for maintaining the productivity of coastal fisheries, a major source of protein and income for many of our people. Well-managed wildlife resources are of particular importance in this respect.

GOAL

48. To protect and manage on a sustainable basis endangered species and ecosystems and maintain biological diversity as a major part of our natural heritage and future economic development

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Prepare and implement national conservation strategies with priorities to endangered species, threatened terrestrial habitats and marine ecosystems;

(b) Review major local and national programmes for reforestation and agroforestry;

(c) Protect tropical forests through appropriate legislation and a special fund as their function in the carbon dioxide (CO₂) cycle and the generation of oxygen provide the lifeline to mankind. Consequently, tropical forests (46 per cent in Latin America and 36 per cent in Africa) should be considered the common property of the whole of mankind and as such should be protected through appropriate legislation and a special fund;

(d) Review the mandates, policies and budgets of the relevant economic and sectoral agencies to ensure that they enhance rather than undermine the biological diversity and ecosystems needed to meet their own economic development objectives. Include requirements for the prior assessments of projects likely to adversely affect the environment;

(e) Establish gene banks and biosphere reserves and operationalize the AMCEN network for the conservation of genetic resources to link together those responsible for nature reserves, protected areas and germ-plasm banks and to

facilitate exchanges of information, experience and germ-plasm material and also promote biotechnology to enhance sustainable development;

(f) Accelerate implementation of the regional seas programmes for the Mediterranean, for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, for West and Central Africa and for Eastern Africa, especially measures to protect the marine environment from land- and marine-based pollution and unregulated dumping, the overfishing of certain species, coastal erosion and the overexploitation of coastal resources.

PREVENTING AND REVERSING DESERTIFICATION KEY ISSUES

49. Desertification seriously threatens the livelihoods of large number of African people. In the semi-arid and arid lands of Africa over 80 per cent of the people live on lands that are severely desertification-prone. The daily struggle of these peoples to survive is the major cause of increasing desertification. Their declining opportunities and limited choices for pastures and the high livestock population have led to overgrazing, increasing cultivation of marginal lands and denudation due to growing demand for firewood and timber. The effects of prolonged drought has further accelerated the process of environmental degradation and desertification.

50. The implementation of the 1977 United Nations Plan to Combat Desertification led to slight, mainly local, gains in controlling the problem but, 12 years later, it still largely remains just a plan. A lot of precious time, land and livelihoods have since been lost. Local communities have not been adequately informed and involved in the exercise. African Governments should continue to give to anti-desertification and land restoration measures the priority they deserve in their national plans and budgets. In addition, the international community should strengthen and intensify its support to desertification control efforts. Increased self-reliance within and among African countries is essential to the success of desertification control.

GOAL

51. To prevent and reverse desertification by helping those living in arid, semi-arid and other threatened areas to meet their daily needs for food, shelter and fuel by using methods and practices which protect and improve their soil, water, vegetation and animal resources.

PRIORITIES FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

(a) Strengthen and implement immediately national programmes to combat desertification, principally by working with the local populations, NGOs and other groups in affected areas to design and put in place environmentally sound development programmes to meet their daily needs for food, shelter and fuel;

(b) Implement the AMCEN pilot projects for sustainable development in semi-arid stock-raising zones in 30 countries. Start at least 10 of these projects by the end of 1989 and the rest in 1990;

(c) Request the next OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government to pay their contribution to the Drought Emergency Fund;

(d) Develop desertification research in order to improve techniques on sand-dune stabilization and select suitable plant and crop species;

(e) Review the policies and programmes of agricultural and other relevant economic and sectoral agencies, modifying all programmes which contribute to soil degradation and adding special measures and financial resources to protect ecosystems, rehabilitate degraded land and improve sustainable resource use and productivity in drylands; and

(f) Strengthen co-ordination and co-operation among the existing national, subregional, regional and international organizations as well as between them and non-governmental organizations working on desertification control in Africa.

ANNEX II

THE KAMPALA DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Adopted by the first African Regional
Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development

Kampala, Uganda, 12-16 June 1989
ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, the Ministers of Environment, of Planning and of Education as well as the representatives of youth, women and non-governmental organizations from 35 African countries, meeting in Kampala, from 12 to 16 June 1989,

Conscious of the vital importance of environmental conservation and management of our economic and social development and the survival of the present and future generations in our countries,

Confirming that economic development which leads to the degradation of our environment and the depletion of our natural resources is simply not sustainable,

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

Recognizing that sustainable development is a priority for Africa which requires political commitment and mobilization of our natural resources as well as effective subregional, regional and global co-operation,

Resolve to achieve sustainable development within and among our countries in Africa.

RENEWED POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND POLICY CHANGE

1. Our countries are already confronted by many problems of environmental pollution and depletion of natural resources resulting from our own national as well as international policies and pressures. This cumulative environmental degradation, in combination with our increased external indebtedness, declining terms of trade and other adverse international economic conditions, has already undermined our capacity and potential to meet the needs of our people today and of our children tomorrow.

2. We therefore resolve to speed up the process of change and innovation towards development policies and practices that are environmentally sound, economically sustainable and socially acceptable.

3. We undertake to integrate environmental concerns into all existing and future economic and sectoral policies to ensure that they protect and improve the environment and natural resource base on which the health and welfare of our people depend. We must also begin to implement new sustainable development programmes that increase our possibilities for meeting the pressing needs of our people today without compromising the prospects of future generations.

4. We therefore resolve to ensure that institutions charged with the responsibilities of environmental resource management have the required legal

statutes, administrative authority and supportive mechanisms for co-ordination to fulfill those responsibilities, and to building new institutions where required.

5. We further resolve to develop African strategies and technologies for production, preservation, storage, distribution and consumption which will stimulate sustainable economic growth and secure livelihoods in the rural areas where the majority of our populations live. We should at the same time adopt common strategies concerning imported technologies which could adversely affect our environment.

6. In the context of reviving economic growth with greater equity and meeting the essential needs for food, water, energy and jobs for our people, we resolve to take immediate action on the following priority issues and goals for achieving sustainable development in our countries and continent:

- Managing demographic change and pressures;
- Achieving food self-sufficiency and food security;
- Ensuring efficient and equitable use of water resources;
- Securing greater energy self-sufficiency;
- Optimizing industrial production;
- Maintaining species and ecosystems; and
- Preventing and reversing desertification.

MAKING THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. To move from the present and often destructive processes of development towards sustainable development will require a transition period of years to decades. The duration and success of that transition will depend on a strong and continuous political commitment at the highest levels within and among our countries, on the active role of an informed, involved public and on pragmatic programmes of national action and subregional and regional co-operation.

8. We have therefore endorsed "Priorities for Immediate Action" for the seven priority issues and goals for moving towards sustainable development in Africa. We resolve from today to begin to implement them immediately within and among our own countries.

9. We call upon the international community to support our efforts in the spirit of true partnership among States in providing for our common future.

10. On our part we undertake to immediately replicate the Kampala Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development at the national and subregional levels so as to internalise and integrate the Agenda for Action with national and subregional strategies and policies and to follow-up periodically on the implementation of the Agenda for Action. We request the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Executive Director of UNEP, with the co-operation of other relevant international, regional

and subregional organizations, to assist us in every way possible in ensuring the follow-up at the national and subregional levels.

Done at Kampala, 16 June 1989.