

69318

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF
AFRICAN MINISTERS OF MINES AND
ENERGY**

(2-3 December 2000, Ouagadougou, BURKINA FASO)

Preliminary to the 6th MIGA 2000 SYMPOSIUM, a Special Conference of African Ministers of Mines and Energy was held at the International Conference Centre of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) between 2 and 3 December 2000.

The following countries took part : Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following institutions also took part : the Liptako Gourma Authority (ALG) , the Central Bank of West African States (BECEAO), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Organisation (UNO), the World Bank Group, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), SADC Women in Mines, the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA), and the Miners Professional Grouping of Burkina (GPMB).

The list of the participants is attached as an annexure to this report.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister, Chief of the Government of Burkina Faso, Mr. Paramanga Ernest YONLI. Before His Excellency addressed the participants and declared the Conference open, the following personalities delivered their speeches : MR. K. Frédéric KOALA, Chairman of the Organising Committee, Ms. Phumzile MLAMBO-NGCUKA, Minister of Minerals and Energy of South Africa, Mr. Libéré BUZINGO, Representative of the OAU, Mr. Pancrace NYIMBONA, ECA Representative, Mr. Craig ANDREWS, Representative of the World Bank Group, and His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Abdoukader CISSE, Minister of Mines, Quarries and Energy of Burkina Faso.

The Conference consequently unanimously elected its Bureau as follows :

- President : Burkina Faso
- 1st Vice-President : Rwanda
- 2nd Vice-President : Angola

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| - 3 rd Vice-President | : Gabon |
| - Rapporteur | : Algeria |
| - Honorary Member | : South Africa |

The following agenda was adopted :

- Election of officers ;
- Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work ;
- Examination of the report of the meeting of experts;
- Any other business ;
- Adoption of the report;
- Closing of the meeting ;

After examining the agenda, the Conference adopted the following decisions :

DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF MINES AND ENERGY.

We, the African Ministers responsible for the development and utilisation of mineral and energy resources, met in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 2-3 December 2000 during the Special Conference. We discussed the African Mining Strategy for the New Millennium and the need for Africa to strengthen sub-regional and regional co-operation among development actors for the sustainable development and efficient utilisation of minerals and energy in our continent.

We have reviewed the report of the Experts, who met, prior to our Conference, from 29 to 30 November 2000, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The Conference took place in the context of a rapidly changing world economy in which globalisation has gathered pace and momentum since our last meeting in Durban in November 1997, with far-reaching consequences for our economies, particularly the drastic fall in mineral commodity price.

Like in Durban we take note of the role of artisanal and small scale mining as an economic stop gap. It is also an incubator for entrepreneurship and catalyst for the development of complementary and alternative productive activities necessary for sustainable poverty alleviation in rural areas.

In the light of the recommendations of the Experts, we have resolved on the following :

Harmonization of Mineral Policies and Legislations

The representatives received comprehensive information on on-going actions on harmonization of mining policies and legislation in the continent sub-regions namely SADC, WAEMU. After an exhaustive analysis of the experts' report, the Ministers have noted that actions to harmonise mining policies and legislations are being undertaken in the different sub-regions, especially with regard to:

- i. Mining resources ownership
- ii. Mining tax system
- iii. Small scale and artisanal mining management
- iv. Mining titles and legislations
- v. Mining infrastructure
- vi. Mining environment, sanitation and safety
- vii. Mining income
- viii. Mining marketing
- ix. Local processing of mineral products
- x. Contribution of mineral resources to rural development

In the light of these facts, the Ministers decided to :

1. Urge and pursue the harmonization of mining policies and legislation that have been undertaken in some sub-regions.
2. Encourage other sub-regions, which have not started actions, to set up technical groups to carry out an analysis of mining policies and legislation in their respective countries in order to identify similarities and differences for better coordination of policies and legal instruments.

3. Strengthen the exchange of mining information among different sub-regions, with a view to simulating the harmonization of mining policy and legislation.
4. Establish a technical group, comprising one representative from each sub-region, to endeavour to harmonize the policies and legislations at the level of the continent

Mineral Resources and Poverty Alleviation

Considering that mineral resources development could improve national income, the Ministers urge governments to :

1. Establish adequate macro economic plans creating opportunities for increasing national income from mining, and ensure that there is a better redistribution of the rent.
2. Take the necessary measures for a better redistribution of the rent derived from the exploitation of mineral resources so it can contribute efficiently to the alleviation of poverty, and the protection of the environment
3. Establish suitable modalities to incorporate the needs of the community into mining investment or development plan by involving community in decision making.
4. Remove the financial, technical and institutional constraints by:
 - Facilitating access to credit needs at short and medium terms, to be made possible;
 - Developing innovative guarantee mechanisms for small scale mining sector.
 - Developing regulatory frame work for investment opportunities for large scale mining.
 - Promoting private investment and
 - Training.

5. Organize the forum on minerals markets to address the cyclical volatility, of gold in particular.
6. Facilitate the beneficiation for added value of African mineral products to optimise sustainable development.
7. Address artisanal mining needs in both national and sub-regional policy .
8. Set up a sub-regional forum on mining contribution to poverty alleviation under the auspices of sub-regional organizations, in macro-economic context.
9. Assist women in mining by providing them with resources to enable them to create rapidly an African Women in Mining Network with existing organization so as to reinforce regional integration .
10. Provide effective support through capacity building and easy access to credit programs as well as data on mining, to women in particular.
11. Facilitate mining ownership by nationals, women in particular, and their participation in joint venture.

Partnership Between Government, Mining Companies, Local Communities for Sustainable Development

In view of the resolution of second Regional Conference of African Ministers Responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral and Energy Resources, November 1997, Durban South Africa and the success of the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa, MIASA, it is recommended that the mining industry in the region organizes itself to establish national mining associations where these do not already exist as well as regional mining associations on model of MIASA.

They also recommend that Government take provisions to allow local communities to better manage mining derived resources in line with their empowerment concerns. In addition, fair working conditions for workers should be protected.

Modalities and Mechanism for the Follow-Up of the Implementation of the Conference

Decisions

Considering the critical role of the mining and energy sector, as a driving force for socio-economic development and, the need for regular meetings among African mining leaders, and the effective implementation of recommendations, the Ministers decided to :

1. Explore measure to organize regular meetings of African Mining and Energy Ministers.
2. Undertake the necessary steps so that the Economic Commission for Africa takes into consideration the concerns of the African Ministers for Mines and Energy, and together with OAU, resume the organization of regular meetings of Ministers responsible for Mines and Energy .
3. Develop at the national and sub-region levels, wide sensitization campaigns towards the Ministry of Finance and/or Economic Planning on the importance of the energy and mining sectors and the organization of a forum.
4. Ensure that regional and sub-regional institutions are involved in the implementation of the various recommendations, and come with an implementation programme. Officials through their Bureau should submit annual report to the Chairperson of the Bureau of the conference.

Preparation of the Africa – United States of America Conference on Energy (Durban, 11 – 15 December 2000) and statement on the African Energy Commission

After hearing a statement on actions undertaken by the OAU to create African energy commission the Ministers noted that important progress has been achieved. They also noted the draft convention on the creation of African Energy Commission has been prepared and adopted by the meeting of African Experts in energy held in Cairo Egypt from the 22 to 25 May 2000.

With regard to the Africa/United States of America Conference on Energy to be held in Durban (South Africa) from the 11 to 15 December 2000, the Ministers:

- Acknowledge the importance of such meeting;
- Urge African Energy Ministers take part in the second Africa/United States of America Conference .
- Decide to include in the agenda of this conference, the review of the draft convention on the creation of the African Energy Commission .

Any Other Business

The Ministers regrettably noted that SYSMIN funds have been abolished in the new COTONOU I Convention and, replaced with other mechanisms. In light of the critical role of financing in the exploitation of Africa's mineral resource, the Ministers decided to :

- Meticulously explore and take advantage of the new funding mechanisms within the frame work of the new European Union /ACP Convention.
- Look for other sources of financial resources especially from the African Development Bank and the World Bank.
- Develop projects with a regional or sub-regional dimensions, which could attract donor funding, including projects concerned with the implementation of the recommendations of this conference.

In addition, the Ministers decided that the Chairperson of the out going bureau remains an honorary member of the new Bureau.

Meeting on the Preparation of the Durban Energy Conference

Consequent to the adoption of the above-mentioned resolutions, according to which the Ministers committed themselves to participate at the Durban Conference on Energy, which is to be held on 11 – 15 December, 2000, the Ministers met on 3 December to prepare for this Conference. To this effect, they listened to from the presentation made by the Minister of

Minerals and Energy of South Africa Ms. Phumzile MLAMBO-NGCUKA on the programme as well as the state of the preparations for this Conference.

The Conference then held discussions after which the Ministers agreed to debate the following points at the Durban Conference :

- Questions brought up at the 1st United States of America/Africa Conference held in Tucson (USA) ;
- Draft Convention on the creation of the African Energy Commission adopted by the meeting of African Experts in Energy held in Cairo, Egypt in May 2000 ;
- Decisions on Energy taken at the current Special Conference of Ouagadougou ; and
- Some recommendations of the meeting of Experts in Energy held in Marrakech, Morocco on 17 and 18 October 2000 at their meeting with the Deputy State Secretary of Energy of the United States of America.

In order to facilitate the discussions on these points, the Conference invited the OAU and Morocco to communicate the necessary documents to the Ministry of Minerals and Energy of the organising country, South Africa. The Ministers also noted that ECA would be in a position to communicate their input prepared for the forthcoming conference.

Finally, the Ministers agreed to admit MIGA as a partner at this meeting.

Closure

The meeting was adjourned by the Burkinabe Minister of Mines, Quarries and Energy, Mr. Abdoulaye Abdoukader CISSE.

On behalf of the Bureau, the Minister expressed his gratitude to the participants for honouring each of the member countries of the elected Bureau and particularly for the confidence put on Burkina Faso by choosing them as the head of the Bureau.

Minister Abdoulaye Abdoukader CISSE also expressed his appreciation to all the participants for their honest, efficient and courteous participation which has allowed the discussions to reach the expected results.

Minister CISSE hoped to continue to benefit from the support of the members of the Bureau in particular and of all his peers generally in the execution of this mission. In this regard, the Minister expressed his gratitude to Ms. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, Minister of Minerals and Energy of South Africa for all the work that has been accomplished and specially congratulated her for being accepted as the honorary member of the new Bureau.

Minister CISSE finally apologised for the imperfections which might have been noted in the organisation and wished each participant a safe journey to their respective homes before declaring the meeting closed.