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**AFRICAN COMMON POSITION
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

Document Submitted by

**The Joint ADB/ECA/OAU/UNCED/UNEP/UNSO Secretariat for the
Preparation of the African Ministerial Conference
for the Consolidation of the
African Common Position**

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AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PREAMBLE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. We, the Governments of African countries represented by our Ministers and designated Senior Officials responsible for Environment and Development, meeting in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire from 11 to 14 November 1991, for the second Regional Preparatory Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1992 as an Earth Summit on Environment and Development recognize that humanity has a common heritage that is ecologically interdependent and that for a sustainable common future we must individually and collectively protect this common heritage. Our meeting in Abidjan is to consolidate the African Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda (AEDA).
2. We recall that by OAU resolution Cm/Res. 1361 (LIV) the Fifty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Abuja, Nigeria, from 27 May to 1 June, 1991 which requested the Secretary-General of the OAU to pursue jointly with the Executive Secretary of the ECA, the Executive Director of UNEP, the preparation of the African region in the UNCED and take all the necessary steps to safe-guard The African Common Position both during the preparatory meetings as well as during the conference itself. This was in keeping with ECA resolution 712(XXVI) of May, 1991 which called on the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU to jointly prepare African countries for UNCED.
3. We are also responding to the spirit of African integration and inter-dependence as reflected in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the existing treaties of African sub-regional economic groupings and in the recent Treaty establishing the African Economic Community which was signed in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991.
4. We also recognise the need to accelerate the dialogue on the links between environmental and trade policies. The dialogue should focus on, inter-alia, the role of international trade in promoting sustainable development through the application of trade rules and instruments to environmental measures.
5. We also recognize that there is a strong and undeniable link between environment and development and that environmental conservation enhances development effort. We pledge to formulate and implement development programmes within the framework of this understanding for achieving our developmental goals through the environment.
6. We have within the UNCED regional preparatory process embarked on a series of important and critical activities of concern to the African region. These activities have been carried out in recognition of the strategic concern to integrate environmental dimensions into development activities and the need to evolve an African Common Position as our commitment, to the major policy decisions to be proclaimed by the Rio Earth Summit.

7. Consequently, our Ministers and designated Senior Officials responsible for environment and development, in mutual consultations with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) including those of Women and Youth from forty-eight out of the fifty-one countries of the Region met in Cairo - Arab Republic of Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 1991 for the first Regional Preparatory Conference for UNCED.

8. In the preparation of our common position, we have benefitted from the analysis made in the Conference background document ECA/ENV/UNCED.CA/91 entitled Achieving Our Development Goals through the Environment. The document is built-upon the environmental guidelines provided in the Monrovia Declaration (1979), the Lagos Plan of Action (1980), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), Cairo (1985) and the critical experiences that led to the adoption of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD).

9. These provided the basis for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the UNEP Perspectives for the Environment to the Year 2000 and Beyond, particularly the first Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa that was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 12 to 16 June 1989. This Conference was held with the Ministers of Environment, of Economic Planning and of Education as well as with representatives of NGOs, including those of Women and Youth.

10. The outcome of this Conference provided the spirit and orientation of the OAU Pan African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development held in Bamako, Mali from 23 to 30 January 1991. The Bamako Conference and the ensuing Bamako Commitment enriched the Kampala Agenda with the sustainability of economic growth, security of financial resources and the improvement of the quality of life and habitat as priority areas of action.

11. We have also benefitted from the spirit of environmental awareness which led to the adoption of the Bamako Commitment and the Bamako Convention on the ban of the imports into Africa and the control of trans boundary movement of hazardous wastes within Africa by the OAU Heads of State and Government. Additionally we have also benefitted from the ECO'92 Public Forum and the Consultative meeting of the twenty-two Sudano-Sahelian countries held in Cairo, Egypt from 9 to 10 July, 1991 and from the Statement of the member States of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) delivered during the Third Session of the UNCED preparatory Committee as well as from the report of the meeting of the Pan African Symposium on Science and Technology for the Environment Abidjan 5-8 August 1991.

12. The two regional preparatory conferences and related activities were part of the global implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and as a follow-up to the Report of the World Commission on Environment (WCED) and the UNEP perspectives for the Environment to the Year 2000 and Beyond. These were also a demonstration of the increased awareness of

environmental issues in our countries and the determination of the region to play an active role in joint global environmental action. Out of these activities and review of our environmental concerns, an African Environment and Development Agenda (AEDA) for sustaining development in the region has emerged.

13. We reaffirm that the challenge of sustainable development requires policy initiatives by national governments as well as collaborative action by NGOs, particularly those of Women and Youth and the private sector, which will facilitate the formulation and implementation of national, sub-regional and regional environment programmes. Within the concept of sustainability, common objectives and concrete measures must be defined in the context of effective management of individual ecosystems, economic sectors and geographic regions. These require a combination of national efforts and assessment with international co-ordination and co-operation.

14. It is our strong belief that sustainable development must be embedded in the efforts to meet the basic needs and aspiration of all peoples without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own requirements for a comfortable livelihood. In this regard, we note and re-affirm that investment in environmental conservation is the responsibility, not only of governments, but also of all groups and populations that live in and benefit from environmental endowments. We regard this as of extreme importance because we recognize that environmental management must have an integrated, inter-sectoral and, therefore, interdisciplinary approach.

15. We value the fact that Africa is the home of most of the world's biological diversity in flora and fauna - in its numerous climatic zones from tropical rain forests to deciduous and temperate forest lands, with numerous water systems in these zones to support these rich ecosystems. However, we lament that poverty, mass illiteracy and the non-development of ecological alternatives in Africa have exposed these rich biological varieties and their ecosystems to destruction and possible extinction as a result of existential pressure to exploit these resources for survival at all costs.

16. Poverty and mismanagement of the natural resources in Africa are interlinked and should therefore be conceived as one of the major forces against effective policy options for sound environmental management. Accordingly, the development of specific and alternative measures for a long term perspective policy for the eradication of poverty as well as the removal of other developmental constraints becomes a major strategic concern for Africa within the UNCED process.

17. Environmental degradation and the depletion of resources threaten Africa's biological systems as well as human health and the quality of human life. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in the industrialized countries which do not reflect adequate concern for environmental conservation and rehabilitation are also at the root of the numerous environmental problems, notably in Africa which constitutes a substantial portion of the global ecosystem from which the developed world has been benefitting for its own

development. To this end, the integration of environmental dimensions into development becomes an imperative policy option.

18. We, therefore, commit ourselves to pursue policies for sustainable development and rational management of our resources and call for the full participation of the developed world in the rehabilitation and conservation of the African environment.

SECTION I

AFRICA'S PRIORITY CONCERNS

19. We reaffirm that Africa's priority concerns relating to environment and development are rooted in the five areas identified in the Bamako Commitment listed below, as well as poverty and managerial issues:

- (a) Poverty and population dynamics
- (b) Food security
- (c) Energy security
- (d) Sustainability of economic growth and employment
- (e) Security and stability of financial resources
- (f) Improvement of quality of life and habitat
- (g) Weak analytical and managerial capacity in the area of environment

20. All of these have perpetuated underdevelopment of the African economies hence they will be the basis on which to draw the key elements of our common position.

21. Despite considerable efforts made by the African countries to address the above priority concerns by enhancing the efficiency of the African economies through policy reforms and Structural Adjustment Programmes; the relative improvement in weather conditions; and the initiatives of the international community; the overall performance of the African region was generally poor and unsteady during 1986-1990. The living conditions of the poor and vulnerable groups of the African society have deteriorated during the period. These concerted efforts by the African countries have been generally constrained by the relatively poor performance of the agricultural sector which continues to be the backbone as well as the engine of growth of the majority of the African economies.

22. We have, in particular, identified eight key factors to be the constraints in achieving sustainable development that is environmentally sound and poverty sensitive. In this regard, we endorse the report ECA/ENV/UNCED/CA/91. Rev. 1 entitled Achieving our Development Goals through the Environment, which has articulated these factors:

- (i) Declining agricultural production as a result of a variety of factors;
- (ii) Inappropriate production techniques in agriculture, livestock and mining;

- (iii) High dependence on primary commodities and the collapse of commodity prices as well as the prevailing unfair trade practices in international markets;
- (iv) Inappropriate policies and measures to address the African economic crisis;
- (v) The external debt burden of \$270 billion which in 1990 cost Africa \$23 billion to service;
- (vi) Activities of trans-national corporations with high financial as well as ecological costs;
- (vii) The net resource outflow from Africa to the rest of the world;
- (viii) Depletion of resources by Africa's population dynamics and pressures.

23. Economic recovery and development in Africa depend primarily on the policies and actions of African countries as well as the fairness of the international economic system. In this regard, and as the UN Secretary General pointed out in his report on UNPAAERD, three main factors influencing the situation are commodity prices, resource flows and external debt. This has led the UN Secretary General to call for an African Diversification Fund for Technical Assistance (ADFTS) to be set up to ease the chronic dependence of Africa on primary commodities. We consider this call to be opportune to merit support from the international community. We also support and endorse the following measures:

- (i) Cancellation of official bi-lateral debt;
- (ii) Cancellation of semi-official/export credit debts owed by African countries;
- (iii) Within the framework of debt equity swaps, debt for environment schemes and poverty alleviation should be considered;
- (iv) Substantial reduction, with the assistance of donor countries, of debt owed to multilateral financial institutions which now account for about 40% of Sub-Saharan debt servicing obligations.

24. Africa's environment and development options therefore call for the integration of environmental dimensions into the formulation and implementation of economic policies and strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels. Achieving sustainable development necessitates altering the way we measure economic progress. Henceforth it will be necessary to adopt the system of resource accounting to better reflect the extent to which economic development activities have increased or decreased environmental degradation and the natural resources on which future development depends.

25. In view of the critical role of the Environment in growth and development of the African economies, we intend to participate in the UNCED negotiations process in a spirit of friendly cooperation and solidarity with other nations and countries making-up mankind but without compromising our interests given the critical economic situation facing the continent. We believe in and call for a new era of development strategies that emphasise economic growth which combine poverty reduction and environmental protection.

SECTION II

AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

26. We have after careful deliberations with the full participation of our NGO partners in development agreed on the African Environment and Development Agenda (AEDA). This Agenda comprises the strategies, priority actions programmes and negotiation mechanisms which Africa will implement in order to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development nationally and regionally so as to contribute to the achievement of global sustainable development.

27. In the desire for consistency, the African Environmental and Development Agenda should, therefore, dictate the tone of what governments and development agencies including those of the UN system must do in Africa in order to achieve environment and sustainable development. They must act as a team, each working out how best its capabilities can contribute to the package of national, sub-regional and regional development programmes with strong environment components, in their different initiatives.

28. This is a difficult challenge facing Africa, the UN and its institutions. Environment and sustainable development in the 1990s and beyond will call for considerable resource requirements and strong institutional and technological support. Ideally, all support for additional resources and technology transfer and adaptation would enable Africa to play an effective role in global, regional and national programmes.

29. Africa, in its AMCEN programmes stressed action among African countries and African inter-dependence on environmental management. Africa must, therefore, respond to environmental management responsibilities both within the national, regional, and the global context. In this connection development agencies working in Africa must continue to fulfil their mandates on social and economic development, duly integrating environmental concerns. In this way, they will be assisting Africa in demonstrating African independence and African inter-dependence in developing the region.

30. We recognize that eliminating poverty is a major element in combating famine and malnutrition and for reducing the pressure on natural resources and the environment. Conscious of this fact, our objective is, therefore, to reverse with immediate effect, the critical food situation confronting a large number of our countries and to promote local initiatives by concrete actions aimed at both increasing agricultural production and reducing food losses as well as improving the quality of production. We, therefore, renew our commitment to the FAO's "Programme of Action on African Agriculture - the next 25 Years". In this light, Africa expects effective support from the international community in this area.

31. We, therefore, emphasize the importance of participation by a well-informed and well-educated society in order to allow the public to mobilize itself to effect political change consistent with sustainable development. We will include these actions in our national and

sub-regional development plans and require that they should also be included for support from the resources of UNCED-1992 Agenda 21.

32. It is our desire that the Programme Briefs in Section III of this Common Position be included in UNCED Agenda 21 as the framework for the priority activities for the Africa region. We are convinced that the positive and effective contribution of the African community in the global development of the environment, cannot take place without addressing the cross-sectoral issues involved.

33. The elements of priority concerns of this Agenda are those dealing with the following:

- Food self sufficiency and food security,
- Efficient and equitable use of water resources,
- Management of marine and coastal resources,
- Securing greater energy self sufficiency,
- Managing demographic change and population pressures,
- Development of human settlement; planning and management,
- Optimizing industrial production and preventing pollution,
- Management of biodiversity and bio-technology,
- Mitigating global warming and climate change,
- Protection and rehabilitation of tropical forest,
- Reversing desertification in Africa,
- Environmentally sound development of mineral resources,
- Popular participation and enhancement of the role of NGOs, youth and women,
- Development of environmental legislation,
- Capacity building, environmental education, training and public awareness,
- Waste management,
- Additional resources for environmental rehabilitation
- Poverty alleviation,

SECTION III

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

34. The implementation of our Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda requires a number of cross-cutting programmes that are inter-sectoral in nature and aimed at enhancing the impact of the sectoral programmes. We adopt the strategies in this section to achieve the critical concerns contained in this Common Position. Indeed, we recognize that there are actions that need to be taken which cut across the whole economic and social fabric in order to facilitate the achievement of the goals expressed in this Common Position without which the sustainability of environmentally sound development will not be feasible.

35. The following briefs for programmes and, where appropriate subprogrammes, are recommended for inclusion in Agenda 21.

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 1

Food self-sufficiency and food security.

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

36. The Ministries of Agriculture and related departments of government with the assistance of relevant international organizations and bilateral agencies are carrying out activities to achieve food self-sufficiency and food security. The ADB, ECA, FAO, OAU, UNSO, WFC AND WFP have also been undertaking activities aimed at ensuring greater and more varied food production for achieving food self-sufficiency and food security as well as making food accessible to the needy in the region. There also the FAO's "Programme of Action on African Agriculture - the Next 25 Years" which was adopted in Yamoussokro during the 14th FAO Regional Conference for Africa in September 1986 on sustainable agriculture, food self-sufficiency and rural development. Some of the regional and sub-regional institutions for man-power development include the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) based at Ibadan, Nigeria, the Semi-Arid Land Food Development (SAFGRAD) and the African Centre for Fertilizer Development of the OAU which are based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and Harare, Zimbabwe respectively and the AMCEN Network on Soils and its eco-development projects.

37. However, the inadequate investment by national governments in agriculture and the often duplicative and seemingly competitive activities of the international agencies have greatly reduced the impacts of these programmes, hence the persistent food insufficiency and food insecurity. This is, therefore, suggestive of the situation whereby the inadequate emphasis by national governments and the non-streamlining of international assistance activities as well as massive food aid programmes have contributed greatly to dampening local initiative towards increased food production and reducing the impact of food programmes.

38. A number of actions need to be taken to address issues such as the elimination of restrictive practices which militate against efforts towards ensuring food security; the establishment of international regulatory arrangements on the management and export to Africa of harmful chemical products; the preparation of an inventory of biodiversity resources and potentials in the respective subregions; the encouragement of reliance on Africa's indigenous foodplants and crops; the establishment of systems for monitoring and forecasting food production; putting in place regional mechanisms for the exchange of information on the importation, usage and standards of chemical products; the revitalization of successful traditional farming methods.

39. Priority must be given to the involvement of local communities and NGOs in the design and implementation of policies for using agricultural lands, forests and water resources.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

40. The immediate and medium-term objectives of the programme will be to strengthen national food production capacity for self-sufficiency by: improvement of food production, rural transport, credit, extension services, technology and techniques that are labour intensive, enhancing research and development, particularly on high yield and environmentally adapted species; development and improvement of small-scale food processing/storage industries; enhancing rural employment and participation in development; improving national and intra-African food inter-dependence, including distribution infrastructure; contributing to mitigation of global food deficits and restoring the water harvesting capacity of the main African Watersheds and ecological systems in general; development of agro-meteorological services.

(b) Long-term goals:

41. The long-term goals of this programme is to achieve and sustain food security and be food self-sufficient for all populations.

Sub-programme areas

(a) Reversing Soil Degradation;

(b) Securing Food Self-Sufficiency and food security;

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 2

Efficient and equitable use of water resources,

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

42. Africa is the driest continent, having over 45% of the world's desert area. Over 50% of its land area is either covered by the hottest desert land or is desertification prone through the intensive cultivation of marginal lands as well as the scourges of severe drought.

Under these conditions rainfed agriculture and the raising of livestock is rendered extremely difficult. Added to this are the serious problems of potable water for domestic use. The low quality of potable water and poor environmental sanitation have reduced the chances of eliminating endemic water-borne diseases and improve the health of the populations. There is, therefore, the dire need to strengthen national fresh water development and water related environment management programme activities including the institutional, science and technology and manpower capability for enhancing R & D programmes in this area.

43. Some 4,200 billion cubic metres of river water and ground water return to the sea each year. Utilization of only 10 percent of this water would irrigate 13 million hectares of land. One of the ways of combating drought and desertification would be to impound and store part of the annual water flow wherever possible, using surface reservoirs and underground water basins. Efforts are also needed to reduce pollution, improve the quality of water, particularly drinking-water, and curb the spread of water-borne disease. Waste water should be recycled and utilized for agricultural purposes; more use could also be made of low-quality water, such as brackish water for agriculture.

44. Improved knowledge would give Governments a solid basis for distributing shared water resources. They could also consider the possibilities of establishing links between basins, which would mean that: large volumes of water could be retained within Africa, especially in the interior basins which are currently drying up; groundwater recharge could be increased; irrigation potential could be greatly developed; and the impacts of drought could be alleviated. The fact must be driven home that water resources are the essential basis for any attempt to regenerate vegetation, mitigate climate hazards and achieve food self-sufficiency.

45. Africa has over 50 significant international river basins, 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 Africa's international rivers there are no international agreements. An encouraging initiative is the programme for the environmental management of inland waters launched by UNEP in co-operation with ECA/OAU member States. In Addition, AMCEN has established a committee on river and lake basins as well as a network on water resources thus providing a framework for co-operation among African institutions.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

46. The immediate and medium-term objectives of this programme are to assist member countries in developing and strengthening institutional capacity and capabilities, including manpower required for water resource development extension services and maintaining research and development for water resources for agriculture and domestic uses and carry out related resource inventories at the national level; in rural water supply schemes; in the development or strengthening of water harvesting and water storage technologies; in promoting ground water development schemes for agriculture and domestic uses; to harmonize and co-ordinate programmes and activities at the sub-regional and regional levels through technical co-operation in the management of common resources; promote the development of standards, rules and regulations relating to water treatment including association with the use of water polluting agricultural chemicals, particularly pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers; encourage the development of policy guidelines for water pricing to increase accessibility to fresh water resources; and to promote international agreements on shared water resources.

47. To strengthen the water resources capacity the programme will also aim at developing and strengthening of water research and development, training institutions, particularly for middle-level man-power capacity as well as the development of the capacity for water exploration and use in arid and semi-arid zones, including extension programmes and pilot projects on crop, forestry, agro-forestry and livestock varieties.

(b) long-term goals:

48. The long-term goals of the programme will be to bring about a better and more rational use of Africa's water resources for the socio-economic development of the continent.

SUB-PROGRAMME AREAS

- (a) Integrated management of national water resources including river and lake basins;
- (b) management of shared water resources including river and lake basins
- (c) Water Resources Assessment
- (d) Protection of Water Resources, Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystems
- (e) Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
- (f) Water and Sustainable Urban Development
- (g) Water for Sustainable Food Production and Rural Development

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 3

Management of marine and coastal environment.

Basis for action and goals at the programme level:

49. Involved in the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP the coastal countries of Africa have been actively participating in the programmes for the conservation of the coastal and marine environments. This has been done within the framework of action plans specifically formulated to cater for their needs in the protection, management and development of their marine and coastal living and non-living resources. The West and Central African Action Plan, the Eastern African Action Plan, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Action Plan and the Mediterranean Action Plan encompass the African continent. They were developed to mitigate against the destructive human activities that they had been subjected to. These activities had lead to the degradation of the unique and fragile ecosystems and habitats, thereby threatening the life support resources, human health and general well being of the region.

50. In December 1985 the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Cairo, Egypt, established a Committee on Seas. The objectives of this Committee were to support the implementation of UNEP's Regional Seas Action Plans and to strengthen the co-operation between African States, the activities of their national institutions and experts involved in the implementation of the plans.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

51. To promote the ratification of International and regional conventions related to the protection and development of the African marine environment; development of capabilities in this field through the organization of seminars on technical and scientific methods, as well as training programmes related to the protection and development of the African marine environment in order to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and data between African countries and amongst Regional Seas Programmes relevant to Africa; to promote the ratification of International and regional conventions related to the protection and development of the African marine environment; and to have a fully operational Regional Seas Programme for the region.

Sub-programme areas

- (a) Integrated Management of Coastal Areas and Exclusive Economic Zones
- (b) Management of living and non-living Marine Resources
- (c) Sustainable Use of Living and non-living Marine Resources Under National Jurisdiction
- (d) Maintenance of Ecosystems and Marine Biodiversity

- (e) Marine Pollution Prevention and Control: Land-Based and Sea-based Activities
- (f) Strengthening International and Regional Cooperation
- (g) Addressing Critical Uncertainties for Ocean Management and Climate Change

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 4

Securing greater energy self-sufficiency:

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

52. There are national programmes that are aimed at improving and sustaining energy self-sufficiency, but these are interpreted as mainly self-sufficiency in the supply of biomass. There have been initiatives at energy efficient stoves but these have not met with the desired success for a number of reasons important among which are the adverse climatic conditions which do not allow for the rapid growth of biomass to level of the required constant supply of biomass energy. The rapid rate of deforestation for reasons other than energy further compounds the situation, and lastly the inadequate investment of effort in the search for alternative sources of energy still leaves biomass under increasing pressure with the allied environmental degradation cycle. However, the question of alternatives to fuelwood still remains unaddressed, such that the contribution of the demand for energy for all purposes still remains the main source of environmental degradation in Africa. The impression has always been given that energy requirements were only for cooking and other domestic uses. It has many a times been forgotten that energy requirements transcend beyond that into a social dimension. Whereas fuelwood may be needed for cooking, the domestic energy demands, depending on the geographical zone, are usually the crucial source of energy pressure and consequently, ecological pressures.

53. To contribute to the initiatives of member States in this sector, ECA activities on the development of energy resources, AMCEN Network on Energy and the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy are important regional initiatives towards securing greater energy self-sufficiency. There is, therefore, the urgency to develop new and renewable energy resources so as to sustain ecological conservation and contribute to mitigating the problems of global warming and ozone depletion.

54. African countries are also aware of the importance of solar energy as an environmentally sound source of energy and that it is necessary to identify the constraints that impede its development in Africa, so as to present to UNCED in Rio de Janeiro national programmes for the efficient development of such a source of energy. It is also necessary to identify ways and means to promote the utilization of natural and biogas, in view of the great potential and possibilities of regional co-operation existing in the region in this field.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

55. To Assist member countries to prepare and implement national energy policies; increase the availability of biomass energy through tree planting and woodfuel demand management programmes; initiate and strengthen programmes aimed at developing and promoting alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind hydropower and geothermal; obtain preferential access to state-of-the-art environment friendly technology including related energy; make specific arrangements for the establishment of networks for the development, exchange and common use of energy products within and between African subregions; obtain preferential access to imported material inputs for affordable and technologically accessible energy generation and conservation, especially those suited for rural areas; prepare at the subregional and regional levels authoritative inventory of institutions for research and development in energy, resources reserves, production and forecasts; strengthen the institutions for energy planning and management, such as the AMCEN Network on energy.

(b) Long-term objectives:

56. Optimum utilization of the continent's vast energy resources and potentials (oil, natural gas, coal, peat and lignite deposits, uranium, hydroelectric power, solar and wind energy, geothermal, biomass and animal energy).

57. In the industrialized countries, a number of actions will require to be taken to support the overall transition to a more sustainable environmentally clean energy future. In the technologically less developed countries concrete actions will have to be taken to reduce the present pressure on biomass by promoting the development and use of alternative sources of new and renewable energy.

Sub-programme areas

- (a) Promoting the energy transition;
- (b) Increasing energy efficiency;
- (c) Promoting environmentally sound energy systems.

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 5

Managing demographic change and population pressures

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

58. Africa suffers from two main population problems, namely under-population in some of the sub-regions and depressing over-population in others. Population pressures, therefore, arise mainly from unfavourable demographic growth in some cases and the extremely unbalanced

spatial distribution in relation to resources as well as the population's accessibility to social welfare facilities. To alleviate the situation calls for effective action on the part of government in the decentralization and in taking facilities, social, public utility and administrative to the people thereby reducing the physical and psychological distance between the rural and urban populations. This calls for a serious exercise in the physical planning of settlements.

59. To manage the demographic changes and reduce the pressure on resources, there needs to be the incorporation of environmental and demographic planning into integrated development planning at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels. Visual aids, including films, posters, teaching materials, on the environmental implications of uncontrolled demographic growth should be developed and existing ones initiated by UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, Save the Children Fund should be fostered at the grassroots level. This should be of virtually emergency concern in those countries with exploding demographic growth such as Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda. This action should use the guidelines of the Kilimanjaro Action Plan on Population of 1984 and establish or strengthen government and non-governmental institutions responsible for population issues to be able to cope with the demands of this activity. Consequently, a National Population Policy is also urgent in those countries with escalating demographic growth problems, for implementing the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population with expansion of appropriate family planning. To enhance these activities, primary health care (PHC) facilities and information programmes for redistributing the population and reducing its excessive growth rate and mal-distribution so as to ease pressure on the land and environment.

60. The provision of the security of tenure to the landless urban and rural poor is an essential first step to the improvement of working, housing and living conditions. There are also a significant number of on-going population programmes being carried out by UNDP, UNESCO UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO, ECA and many bilateral agencies in the area of family planning, mother and child care, employment and other social welfare issues, including literacy campaigns, environmental education and rural development. These programmes are regional with very strong national focus.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

61. To implement the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and especially expand appropriate primary health care facilities as well as information programmes to reduce the high rate of infant mortality; assist member countries in the formulation and implementation of national population policies, to implement rural development programmes aimed at addressing fundamental issues such as employment, health care, education, infrastructural facilities and other amenities; implement and support programmes aimed at ensuring security of tenure to the landless urban or rural poor as an essential step for the improvement of working, housing and living conditions.

(b) Long term goals:

62. Fully operational programmes at national, subregional and regional levels for the management of demographic changes and pressures; integration of environmental and resource considerations as a key factor in all national economic and physical planning and decision making.

Sub-programme areas:

(a) Managing Demographic Pressures

(b) Relieving Population Pressures

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 6

Development and management of Human Settlements Planning.

Basis for action and goals at the programme level:

63. The present population Africa is likely to double by the year 2000. The urban population is likely to increase by four folds. Such population growth and dynamics will continue to create an imbalance in the crucial relationship between people, resource, environment and development. That relationship has already deteriorated. Many people in African in both rural and urban areas lack such basic necessities of life such as decent housing, education and employment. Too many people and industries are already concentrated in the major urban centres resulting in mushrooming of slums leading to a complete breakdown of basic infrastructure including human settlements. Simultaneously, many of the small and intermediate urban centres and rural zones stagnate or decline because of lack of viable economic activity.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives

64. Implementation of the activities envisaged in the Global Human Settlement Strategy launched by the UN Centre for Human Settlements. Integration of human settlement considerations into national development plans slowing down the rate of rural/urban migration.

(b) Long term goals:

65. Provision of adequate and habitable human settlements for all.

Sub-programme areas:

(a) Generation of employment in human settlements;

(b) Promotion of health, education and recreation in human settlements;

- (c) Research, information and action programmes on adequate technology for human settlements (including technology for building; waste management, administration of human settlements).

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 7

Optimizing industrial production and preventing pollution.

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

66. Industrialization is the heart of development. The Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA) launched by the OAU, ECA and UNIDO at the same time as the Lagos Plan of Action, is an important contribution to developing common regional strategies for industrial development and standards for industrial production.

67. Every country has an industrial development programme. However, the problem is over concentration on the production of consumer goods with imported raw materials - beverages, both non-alcoholic and alcoholic, assembly of luxury goods and so on, which are branches of trans-and multinational corporations as well as other outpost of industries to increase their production and sales.

68. Industry is also a high polluter. To cater for the management of dangerous and toxic industrial wastes and, most importantly the dumping of these wastes by parties outside Africa within African national frontiers, the national ban on the dumping of foreign toxic waste has been adopted in several countries. To sustain and strengthen these activities on a continuous basis, monitoring and co-ordination among all concerned agencies and between countries, African countries adopted, on 30 January 1991, the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes and the Control of the Movement of those Wastes Generated in Africa.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

69. To develop and strengthen national industrial capacity and capabilities, including manpower required for sustaining industrial development within the context of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA) and promote clean industrial production technology research and development; promote the harmonization, co-ordination and location of industrial production programme activities at the sub-regional and regional levels through technical co-operation on the basis of relative advantage; contribute to global activities in this field; strengthen national industrial and clean production capability and capacity by improvement of industrial production technology and techniques; enhance industrial research and development, particularly on environmentally clean and healthy industrial production technology; strengthen popular participation in pollution monitoring and control; promote the improvement of national and intra-African clean industrial technology inter-dependence, including distribution infrastructure; contribute in the improvement of global production technology and management of hazardous wastes and restoring the polluted ecosystems and natural resources in general;

implement the recommendations of World Industry Conference on Environmental Management; support special economic incentives and disincentives to stimulate efficient use of energy and natural resources.

(b) Long term goals:

70. Achieve and sustain environmentally clean and healthy industrial production through the sustained implementation of related policies.

Sub-programme areas

- (a) Sustainable industrial production;**
- (b) Pollution control;**
- (c) Development of industrial legislation.**

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 8

Management of biodiversity and bio-technology

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

71. The importance of biological diversity to maintain a sustainable natural resources base for national socio-economic development and for a sustainability of the global environment has been fully recognized. In economies such as those of Africa which have the mainstay on the carrying capacity of the ecology and, indeed, natural resource, these efforts must be encouraged and supported. This is even more pertinent in situations where conservation activities have to compete for resources with, seemingly more pressing problems of the livelihood of the populations and of economic development.

72. Member States of the region have made a number of initiatives and have adopted the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources at Algiers in 1968. UNEP - in co-operation with UNESCO, FAO and other organizations - has three on-going activities under sub-programme Biological Diversity and Protected Areas, namely (i) Establishment of one on-site wildlife scheme in sub-Saharan Africa for the management and utilization of wildlife resources, (ii) Establishment of an African network for conservation of genetic resources, and (iii) Establishment of a regional data bank for animal genetic resources in Africa. In a more comprehensive approach, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) met in 1985 and adopted the African Programme of Action on the Environment, under which a regional Network for Genetic Resources has been established. UNIDO's activities in the field of genetic engineering represent another important initiative.

73. At the sub-regional level, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) formulated the SADCC Natural Resources and the Environment: Policies and Development Strategies in 1988 as a holistic framework for economic development and environmental protection. The framework recognized the need for establishing protected areas to preserve selected samples of floral and faunal communities and to protect areas of great scenic beauty or of special importance.

74. The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) also adopted the Strategy on Environmental Protection and Desertification Control; under which the Biodiversity Programme is formulated to ensure the continuous genetic richness of the subregion, and to explore ways of using biodiversity for sustainable economic development. At the national level, different measures have been taken. The Inter-State Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) also has a number of activities for the management and protection of genetic resources.

75. These are significant steps in the direction of conserving the biodiversity of the region as one of the determining factors sustaining the carrying capacity of the natural resources of the region. Due to lack of resources for co-ordinated planning and implementation of programmes, activities carried out to this effect have been scattered. Consequently, the impact of the few programmes that have been achieved has been minimal.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

76. To develop and sustain institutional and legislative capacity and the capabilities, including manpower required for the conservation of biological diversity through research and development; harmonize and co-ordinate programmes and activities on the protection, on a sustainable basis, of the biological diversity of the region; strengthen wildlife management programmes; contribute to global activities on conservation of biological diversity; promote collection, evaluation and conservation of gene pools through establishment of gene banks in concerned institutions, applied research on arid and semi-arid land to help combat desertification, facilitate transfer of biotechnologies in line with the principle of fair compensation between owners and users of and beneficiaries from biological resources; establish quarantine systems; disseminate information and results from pilot projects; support and strengthen networks for the conservation of genetic resources such as AMCEN's; promote the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

(b) Long-term goals:

77. Promote technical and economic co-operation among developing countries (T/ECDC) in the conservation, sustainable utilization, and environmental monitoring of biological resources as well as sustain activities in (a) above.

Sub-programme areas:

- (a) Management and conservation of biodiversity;
- (b) Development of bio-technology.

PROGRAMME BRIEF: NO. 9

Activities to mitigate global warming and climate change

Basis for action and goals at the programme level:

78. The problem of climate change has arisen from the fact that there is a dis-equilibrium between the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other green house gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), methane (CH₄) and other substances that contribute to global warming on the one hand and the capacity of the natural ecosystems to absorb them. The industrialized countries are principally responsible for the emission of (CFC) either in industry or for operation of domestic appliances. The technologically advanced countries also engage in intensive livestock raising and it has been scientifically proved that the production of methane from livestock farmyard wastes is an important sources of this green house gas.

79. Photosynthesis, that is the absorption of CO₂ from the atmosphere by plant life has been drastically reduced by the extensive removal of vegetation through deforestation without equal afforestation. Africa, Asia and Latin America have the world's greatest expanses of forests and consequently the world's greatest contributors in the natural absorption process of carbon dioxide. Unfortunately, massive deforestation of tropical forests for commercial purposes and domestic energy, drought and desertification in the tropical world, particularly Africa, are contributing to a large and determining measure, and in the natural capacity to reduce atmospheric CO₂.

80. A two prong approach provides the answer. Firstly the drastic reduction of the emission from industrial sources of all gases that contribute to global warming. Research by the West German Parliament's Enquiry on Protection of the Earth's Atmosphere has indicated that emission cuts of over 20% can be made by the industrialized nations at no, even negative, cost. This has been re-enforced by the conclusions of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that cuts in CO₂ emission of 60% were required immediately to stabilize the present day atmospheric concentrations of the gas.

81. Secondly, massive afforestation and rehabilitation of tropical forests and savanna woodlands, arid and semi-arid lands must be undertaken globally, as a matter of urgency so as to restore the capacity of global ecosystems to carry out their functions in the stabilization of atmospheric CO₂. Africa is a major sphere of this action.

82. Africa's gains from global measures in this field must be in the effective contribution by the international community in its afforestation, combatting desertification, and general ecosystem rehabilitation activities.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

83. To initiate the implementation of all programmes on the rehabilitation and management of land resources, particularly afforestation, reversing desertification, management of species and ecosystems; strengthen the meteorological observation infrastructure of the region and promote research and development in the area of climate change.

PROGRAMME BRIEF: NO. 10

Protection and rehabilitation of tropical forests

Basis for action and goals at the programme level

84. The tropical forests and savanna woodlands in Africa are being lost at the rate of 3.7 million hectares annually, with over half of that deforestation in some parts of Africa. Over 57% of the original forest cover in many countries has already disappeared in fifteen years and the situation is reaching critical proportions in many others. The main causes are forest clearing for agriculture, 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. Deforestation, as much as it is one of the major causes of soil degradation and desertification, contributes significantly to reducing the capacity of the natural ecosystems to sustain the optimum balance of atmospheric carbon dioxide and, thereby contributing to the increase in global warming. Africa owes it as a duty to the global conservation process to participate in halting global warming by regulating the causes that are within Africa's control.

85. Deforestation and unscrupulous exploitation of wild life resources result in great losses in the genetic materials in wild species that have 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 African people. Well managed wildlife resources are of particular importance in this respect. The protection, management and conservation, on a sustainable basis, of endangered species and ecosystems contribute to maintaining the biodiversity. Backed by the developments in biotechnology, this will enhance the enormous economic potential of this natural heritage through the exercise of rights such as patent rights licensing, rights of ownership over plants and animal species and a wide variety of other commercial benefits that Africa has the duty to defend.

86. African tropical forest conservation is an integral part of global measures to protect forests in all climatic zones of the region and promote their sustainable management. This position is based on the appreciation of the ecological and economic endowments of these forests. Negotiations both for the Convention on biodiversity and on forests should take into account the need for compensation to developing countries and for incomes lost due to their conservation efforts.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

87. To develop, strengthen and implement all afforestation programmes and promote research and development in this field, particularly in the area of biodiversity, genetic resources, species and ecosystems.

Sub-programme areas:

(a) Developing mechanisms for global/regional/national afforestation and reforestation including provisions for large-scale global funding for forests;

(b) Assessing potential impact of climate change on forests and initiating in-depth studies on the carbon cycle relating to different forest and woodland types;

(c) Developing and encouraging expansion of community forests and popular participation in afforestation and reafforestation activities in developing countries.

PROGRAMME BRIEF: NO. 11

Management of land resources: Combating drought and reversing desertification in Africa

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level

88. The damaging effects of desertification on the structure and functioning of African economies was greatly amplified during the African crisis of the 1980s. Experience during this very teaching period, have demonstrated the need to intensify anti-desertification activities and the importance of developing research and development activities in desertification control for sustainability in the social and economic development process, particularly in the Sahelian and Kalahari semi-arid and arid zones of the region. It is important to note that in economies such as those of Africa which have the mainstay on the carrying capacity of the ecology and, indeed, natural resources, these efforts must be encouraged and supported. Some of the principal causes of persistent desertification have been the over-dependence on fuelwood as the source of energy, deforestation for various reasons including agriculture and forest products for export, soil erosion and the non-maintenance and management of watershed and catchment areas. This is even more pertinent in situations where conservation activities have to compete for resources with, seemingly more pressing problems of the livelihood of the populations and of economic development.

89. Africa has taken a number of initiatives and have adopted or associated itself with a number of Plans of Action to combat drought and desertification. Important among them are the UN Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNPACD) adopted during UNCOD-1977, the Plan of Action to combat the impacts of drought in Africa (1984) and the programme of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN 1985), within the framework of which a Committee on Deserts and Arid Lands has been established. Important initiatives have been or are being carried out (in co-operation with relevant agencies such as the ECA, FAO and UNESCO) by the UNEP Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre (DC-PAC) as well as the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). At the sub-regional level, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), the Inter-state Committee for Combating Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) have also formulated and/or implemented various programmes on combating desertification, as part of their mandate.

90. These are significant steps in the direction of conserving the biodiversity of the region as one of the determining factors sustaining the carrying capacity of the natural resources, thereby securing increased food production and food self-sufficiency in the region. Due to lack of resources for co-ordinated planning and implementation of programmes, activities carried out to this effect have been scattered. The full implementation of the UN-PACD has been hampered by the lack of adequate financial resources. Consequently, the impact of the few programmes that have been achieved has been minimal.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

91. To develop and strengthen institutional and legislative capacity and the capabilities, including manpower required for combating desertification through, inter-alia, research and development; harmonize and co-ordinate programmes and activities on alternative sources of energy and other forest products so as to reduce pressure on resources; contribute to global activities on combating desertification and climate change; strengthen national capacity for desertification control by implementing related policy measures and plans meant for that purpose; implementation of rural development programmes with emphasis on desertification control; rehabilitation of ecosystems, creation of green belts as CO₂ sink zone, reversing desertification and contribution to mitigating global warming and ozone depletion.

92. The objectives are also to establish adequate quarantine systems with related regulations and facilities to protect indigenous practices for drought relief and other drought mitigating measures, and projects having a potentially harmful effect of hot desert on biodiversity; promote the collection, evaluation and conservation of gene pools, and establishment of gene banks for hybridizing and multiplication purposes of hot desert and drought resistant species through intra and inter-regional co-operation, and technical support to national and sub-regional institutions as well as arid and semi-arid land research and training on plant, crop and livestock species and their adaptability to prevailing conditions, applied research and training on adaptation of floral and faunal species of temperate desert to tropical desert conditions; development and strengthening of national and sub-regional capacities in conservation legislation, institution and

techniques both in-situ and ex-situ related to desert ecology; develop national conservation strategies; Develop curricula introducing the concept and practice of protection, conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources to school children and students; promote public awareness and participation in the conservation of genetic resources through education, equitable distribution of incomes, generation of employment; and promotion of transfer of relevant biotechnologies for preservation, breeding and dissemination of semi-arid and arid plant species, crop, animal genetic materials.

(b) Long term goals:

93. Sustaining the implementation of environmental impact assessment methodologies for desertification control programmes, sustain the development biotechnologies in line with the principle of fair compensation between owners and users of and beneficiaries from biological resources and technical and economic co-operation among developing countries (T/ECDC) in drought and desertification control. Substantially strengthening African subregional bodies such as CILSS, IGADD, SADCC, ECOWAS and AMU.

Sub-programme areas

- (a) Strengthening the knowledge base and developing information and monitoring system of fragile ecosystems and the economic and social aspects of these systems;
- (b) Intensifying afforestation and reforestation activities, combating land degradation, supporting the management of biotic resources;
- (c) Developing and strengthening programmes for integrated development actions and alternative livelihood systems in areas prone to desertification;
- (d) Encourage and support popular participation and environmental education;
- (e) Design programmes to cope with environmental refugees;
- (f) Poverty alleviation;
- (g) Integrating anti-desertification programmes into national development programmes and/or national environmental action plans;
- (h) Developing and improving an integrated approach to planning and management of land resources already desertified or subject to desertification;
- (i) Develop comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes for drought prone areas.

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 12

Environmentally sound development of mineral resources

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level

94. Africa as a unit possesses a vast variety of mineral resources. However, these minerals remain underdeveloped due to social, economic and technological constraints which have prevented many of the countries from transforming these resources to products which could be used internally for the advancement of living conditions of the majority of their people. Hence it is imperative for the countries of the African region to create the necessary political, economic and technological environment to enhance the discovery and development of the mineral resources of the region to meet the needs of the people.

95. Small-scale mining of such minerals as gold, diamonds and other precious minerals, building materials, etc., in several African countries is contributing to the deterioration of physical environment through inappropriate and wasteful working practices, and non-rehabilitation of exploited areas. Similarly there are social environmental problems associated with these operations resulting from lack of support infrastructure for those working in the industry. The development of workable small-scale mining policies, the provision of training and technical assistance to small-scale mineral development operators, the provision of required physical infrastructure etc., by government institutions are some of the areas of improvement in this sector.

96. African countries are faced with two different types of environmental problems in the mineral resources development sector: in the first type, the countries have to alleviate poverty through the development of their mineral resources, while in the other, they have to seek ways to prevent the environmental deterioration often associated with mineral development.

97. Within Africa, information regarding measures taken to conserve and protect the environment in the process of mineral resources development is very scant. This information must be generated in order to stimulate environmental awareness in mineral resources development in the region, promote the acquisition of knowledge by African countries about policies and activities related to the environment and mineral resources development and facilitate the evolution of environmentally acceptable standards for the development of mineral resource in the African region.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

98. Strengthen national mineral development and related environment management programme activities including the institutional, science and technology and manpower capability for enhancing R & D programmes in the mineral sector; develop and strengthen national mineral related industrial capacity and capabilities, including manpower required for sustaining industrial development within the context of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA) and

promote clean industrial production technology research and development; promote the harmonization, co-ordination and location of mineral related industrial production programme activities at the sub-regional and regional levels through technical co-operation on the basis of relative advantage; and contribute to global activities in the environmentally sound development of mineral resources.

99. The programme also aims at the updating of inventories of the geographical distribution of all types of mineral energy resources; the promotion of integrated mineral and energy development with emphasis on ecosystem conservation; development and strengthening of mineral energy technology for domestic and non-domestic uses; promotion of research and training including pilot projects on mineral and energy resources management; promotion of transfer of relevant mineral energy technologies; development and implementation of environmental impact assessment methodologies for mineral and energy resources development programmes.

(b) Long-Term objectives:

100. Promote the rational and environmentally-sound utilization of Africa's mineral resources for socio-economic development.

INTER-SECTORAL PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 13

Popular participation and enhancement of the role of NGOs and grass roots organizations

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level

101. While there are activities that can be easily slotted into the different priority issues for both UNCED and Africa, there are inter-sectoral and cross-cutting activities that are determinant on the level of the impact of the actions in the other sector. In fact, in many cases the crux of the success of sectoral programmes depend on the vision and ability of the planner to see these cross-cutting activities and incorporate them in the overall planning for sustaining the productive capacity of the different sectors. The most important of these are identified below.

102. The creation and sustenance of environmental awareness at all levels is an extremely important aspect of the drive to integrate environmental dimensions into social and economic development planning. The OAU Declaration of 1991 as the African Year of the Environment is a major step towards this direction. All schools in Africa, from primary to university, offer disciplines, both in the social and natural sciences that relate directly to the environment and environmental management. These are indications of incipient environmental awareness.

103. The establishment of national environmental machineries, either as ministries or other government departments, is proof of the serious attempt by African countries to be involved in integrating environment in development. Important still, these initiatives bring the environment into the thinking of the policy and decision makers in government. Although the desired integrated approach to environment and development is not yet obvious the ground is well laid out. For instance, all of AMCEN's pilot projects in the African countries, if well implemented, should serve as a demonstration of this package, multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach to sustainability through sound environmental management. They will not only kindle the flame of environmentally sound development planning and popular participation in development but will also clear the way for additional initiatives towards the democratization of the environment and development process.

104. There are also national radio and television programmes that are aimed at sensitizing the people to environmentally healthy practices in agriculture and related activities as well as environmental sanitation in urban areas. Furthermore, programmes such as the UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Educational Programme have been initiated in each member State either through the Man and Biosphere (MAB) or similar programme. These are enhancing the on-going activities. Sustainability in self-reliant development, as well expressed in the Lagos Plan of Action, cannot be discussed without including the development of science and technology. The level of achieving all the goals in the African environmental priorities mentioned earlier depends on developing, to its optimum, Africa's science and technology capacity to back up its development process.

105. Popular participation and the democratization of environmental action presuppose the situation wherein there is consultation and involvement of the people in all actions. This includes the identification of local or national environmental problems, the solutions for those problems, paving out the modalities for action and participating in the implementation of those modalities. It assures the involvement of the people in all development action. This is crucial.

106. For a long time now, addressing environmental issues, in Africa, has been largely a monopoly of the government. Due to inadequate awareness, by the policy and decision makers, of the importance, in fact determining role environmental factors play in sustaining social and economic development, there has been a significant neglect of these considerations in development planning. Consequently, there has not been the maximum mobilization of available national resources for environmental management as should have been.

107. Communal activities such as land terracing which were very popular during the first half of this century are no longer encouraged as before. This significantly reduced popular participation. One of the key reasons is that soon after independence such organizations were given more political interpretations than developmental ones. Consequently, and unfortunately too, they were quickly stifled by those who were either politically threatened or used them for political ends rather than developmental ones. NGOs and other independent organizations, either working on environmental matters or related activities, were driven to the background, even underground. The role of women in development was not fully appreciated; they were considered

only in terms of child support and agricultural activities. Hence the opportunities for them to participate in all the sectors of development were not opened up.

108. In short, there has been little independent participation in environmental activities. In other words, popular participation and the democratization of environmental action including the enhancement of the role of and the opportunities for women, youth and NGOs, has not received the encouragement it deserves from governments. Fortunately the situation is changing and there are a considerable number of national NGOs and associations. There also exist a number of regional NGOs such as the African NGOs Environment Network (ANEN) and the Friends of the Earth. The current momentum towards democratization sweeping over Africa will, hopefully, bring about an increased drive towards the peoples participation in decision making and programme implementation.

109. The integration of environmental dimensions in economic development planning as a matter of policy summarizes all the cross-cutting issues as the key to sustainability in development. This responsibility lies at the top of the political decision making and environmental awareness must be carried to that level, and UNCED-1992 has given this fact the leverage. Africa must emulate this.

110. A number of African countries are torn apart by bloody civil strifes which have thrown brother against brother, tribe against tribe and ideology against ideology. Some of these strifes are cross-frontier intensifying tension within and between states. The result has been the proliferation of the refugees of all types. The scourges of drought and the inability to maintain the optimum carrying capacity have magnified the problem of environmental insecurity. Sustainable development must go with security, political and environmental.

111. These cross-cutting inter-sectoral programmes are having more implementation problems than the sectoral ones mainly because of the inadequate attention given to them due, to a large extent, to the demands on the political will that they have. This is caused by the sectoral jealousies of government departments in addition to the resources constraints and the adequate awareness of the environmental problematics at the government policy and decision making levels.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

112. To promote the active participation of all sections of society in various aspects of national development. To assist member countries in developing and strengthening institutional and legislative capacity and the capabilities, including manpower required to facilitate the integration of environment in development planning; harmonize and co-ordinate integrated development programme activities on environment and sustainable development in the region; Integration of environmental dimensions in economic development planning as a matter of policy; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development; contribute to global activities on environment and sustainable development; establish national and region-wide operational networks of existing institutions; assist member countries in integrating and implementing

integrated programme on environment and development; and promote technical and economic co-operation among developing countries (T/ECDC) in environment and development activities.

(b) Long-Term objectives

113. Total participation of all citizens of African countries in the sustainable development of the continent.

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 14

Development of Environmental legislation.

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

114. National environmental legislation is yet in its infancy in Africa. Most of the rules and regulations relating to environmental matters date from the colonial period and need revision to fit the current situation. Most of these regulations are associated with environmental sanitation and not with the emerging environmental issues such as the movement of toxic wastes. Over the last decade, UNEP and ECA have provided substantial assistance to African countries in the development or updating of environmental legislation as well as strengthening of environmental machinery.

115. There are legislative instruments at the sub-regional and regional levels for environmental conservation - the Conventions covering the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in Africa, the Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and natural resources and, recently, the OAU Bamako Convention on hazardous wastes are cases in point. Faced with the necessity to actively participate in global environmental management, which as of necessity, has conventions, protocols and agreements as an important aspect, Africa must develop the capability to build a corpus of legislative instruments of her own. This will guide environmental management in the development process both regionally and nationally and make it more conducive for participation in global action. Environmental management of scarce resources and delicate ecosystems for sustainability must have these guidelines.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

116. To assist member countries in developing and strengthening institutional and legislative capacity and the capabilities, including manpower required for the integration of environment in development planning; strengthen the capacity for developing legislation and administrative instruments and guidelines for environmental management for sustainable development; contribute to global activities on environmental legislation; and promote technical and economic co-operation among developing countries in the conservation, sustainable utilization, and environmental monitoring of biological resources.

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 15

Capacity building, environmental education, training and public awareness

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level

117. One of the main reasons that Africa lags behind the rest of the world in terms of economic development is the inadequate advancement in institutional and manpower capacity as well as the inadequate use of the available African manpower competence both within and outside the continent. Although nearly all African countries have a university or a training and/or research institution that can handle issues relating to environmental education, training and research at a level to promote environmental awareness and meet the developmental needs of the continent the impact of these institutions is not apparent. Unfortunately, the investment in this sector of development does not seem to be geared towards the development of the science and technology that squarely meet the challenges of demands on technology for development. In other words, the needed infrastructure in terms of research equipment and facilities including the freedom to express scientific ideas is not adequately provided for. The result is that a good number of well-honed and enthusiastic African scientists get frustrated and look for jobs elsewhere outside the region.

118. Apart from the brain-drain from Africa, there are top-notch African scientists and other such cadres that are being used by the developed countries for their interests at very high levels. The other aspect of institutional and manpower development is that of the institutions for executing programme, including monitoring and evaluation. Although the semblance exists in many countries the practice does not seem to be the case, hence the environmental and developmental problems that we still have.

(a) Immediate and medium-term objectives:

119. To assist member countries in developing and strengthening science and technology institutional and legislative capacity for developing environmental standards for production and consumption processes; development of the appropriate science and technology for clean production and the facilitation of the integration of environmental considerations into all production processes as a matter of policy; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development; create grass-root awareness of environmental concerns in the development and application of science and technology; and contribute to global activities on clean production and environment and sustainable development; support to Networks on Science and Technology such as AMCEN's.

(b) Long-term objectives:

120. Fully developed, manned, funded and operational S/T institutions at national, subregional and regional levels.

Sub-programme areas

- (a) Strengthening of national, sub-regional and regional environmental machineries;
- (b) Development and implementation of environmental education and training curricula for national environmental awareness programmes;
- (c) Promotion of grassroots environmental groups.

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 16

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Basis for action

121. Most development activities, particularly the exploitation, transformation and utilization produce. Solid wastes are either industrial or human waste, particularly in urban areas that deserve appropriate handling including recycling. Industrial production and many extractive activities like mining produce wastes whose constituents can make them toxic and therefore dangerous. Environmentally sound management of wastes must, therefore, be an integral part of environmental management process. This means that attempts must be made to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption for effective management, the waste problem will be considered in three distinct but related programmes as follows:

122. For Solid waste management, a preventive waste management approach focused on changes in lifestyles and in production and consumption patterns offers the best chance for accusing current trends. For toxic chemicals, the approach will greatly reduce the risk to human health and environment associated with the thousands of chemical substances which human beings come into contact with in food, commercial products and various environmental media.

123. Similarly the approach towards hazardous waste management will be to (a) implement the Bamako Convention for the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Importation of wastes into Africa. (b) Minimize the generation of hazardous wastes through the adoption of cleaner production strategies, industrial process and consumer patterns.

Objectives

124. The overall objectives will be:

- (a) to reduce to the extent feasible the generation of wastes
- (b) to stabilize waste production

(c) enhance practicable and environmentally sound utilize residence managing plan production processes so as to optimize use of raw materials.

(d) environment waste related surface and ground water pollution is eliminated

(e) adopt shelters for environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes in each country so that beneficial uses of compounds can take place with minimum risk to health and the environment.

Sub-Programme areas:

(a) Solid waste management

(b) Toxic chemical management and

(c) Hazardous waste management

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO. 17

Additional resources for environmental rehabilitation

Basis for Action and goals at the programme level:

125. The special Global Environment Facility (GEF) should be operated in a manner similar to the International Fund for the Atmosphere proposed by the Norwegian Government which should be fully supported. This is additional to regular aid and lending, and it is to finance new measures for dealing with ecological degradation like "greenhouse effect", global warming and the adoption of new ecological standards and requirements by development. An environmental facility or window similar to the oil facility on concessional terms should also be established by the multilateral financial institutions. The major surplus countries should be persuaded to contribute generously to "Our Common Future".

126. International programmes/projects in new and renewable energy are also required to supplement national and regional efforts. Such international programmes should counter global warming, "greenhouse effect", atmospheric and water pollution as well as the depletion of ecological resources through current energy uses. More prudent consumption and use of non-renewable energy resources is also critical here in order to conserve dwindling global energy resources - especially by the advanced countries whose 20% of world population has been consuming some 80% of world resources, including non-renewable energy resources. Contributions of alternative and renewal sources of energy whose use can be subsidized internationally are important here. These can include solar energy, cheap stoves, coal, etc. whose mobilization and distribution among regions and contributions can be handled by UN Specialized Agencies and other multilateral institutions. International support for the

implementation of AAF-SAP that involves a holistic strategy for sustainable development and ecological viability is important for environmental conservation in Africa.

127. The development and use of alternative development indicators along the lines of the UNDP Caracas Report on alternative development indicators that are modest in ecological use and environmental degradation is important.

128. International support should be given to the laudable national, sub-regional and regional programmes for the control of desertification, drought and deforestation, as well as for energy and food sufficiency. This can include the provision of funding and technological training to enhance the capacity for dealing with these problems, exchange of information and assistance with equipment. These are critical because the resources for these purposes are simply beyond Africa's dwindling means.

129. Furthermore the increasing depletion of Africa's financial resources by the collapse of its commodity trade, escalating external debt service payments, adverse effects of on-going orthodox 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 1983/85 underscores this point. These call for massive international resources for environmental protection in Africa

130. Under the circumstances there should be international compensation to African countries for the potential export losses that they suffer from the conservation of tropical rain forests, savannah woodlands, wildlife and overall biological variety as well as for soil depletion by mining activities. The conservation of resources imply that Africa will suffer the loss of export of tropical wood and timber, agricultural products artifacts, hides and skins, elephant tusks, among others. In Latin America, foreign-debt-for-nature swaps and similar compensation are paid to offset its economic losses from the preservation of tropical rain forests, especially in the Amazon Basin of Brazil and elsewhere. Africa qualifies even more critically for similar compensation for environmental conservation, so its potential annual losses and the corresponding financial compensation should be computed and implemented.

131. Drastic external debt relief by the international community to African countries is also critical in order to arrest the excessive exploitation of environmental resources like farm and grazing land, minerals, forests, water resources and wildlife in order to repay these external debts. This should involve the total cancellation of the \$46 billion debt of Africa's least developed countries; a moratorium of ten years on the remaining debt stock; the freezing of interest rates on these debts to their 1985 levels; a maximum debt service ratio of 10% of annual export earnings; and the reduction of all outstanding external debt stock by at least 50%.

132. The participation of the international community is pertinent for two important reasons. First, Africa is part of the global common and despite all the odds against it, the region is promoting activities for the conservation of this global common. Second, a significant proportion of the environmental degradation in Africa, indeed in the Third World, is caused, directly or indirectly, by the activities of business interests in the developed world, particularly the transnationals. Deforestation, mining pits and slags, endangered species, disposal of dangerous and toxic wastes, use of environmentally hostile technology in the exploitation of natural resources and the neglect of rehabilitation practices are cases in point. Then there are those arising from poverty imposed on the African people by the functioning of the international economic order through chronic trade deficits, collapse in commodity trade and resultant foreign debts and unbearable debt servicing burden, to name just a few, that require international action to redress.

133. The international business community, particularly the trans-national corporations (TNCs), have a lot to contribute to environmental conservation in Africa and the Third World for many reasons of history. Although it is not on the same footing as the responsibilities placed on aggressors and their accomplices for damages caused in war, as is still being done for actions during the Second World War, the international community should carefully examine the case for the prompt payment of compensation for ecological damages caused by these trans-national corporations in Africa through deforestation for timber, soil depletion for mining, destruction of plants for herbicides and pharmaceuticals as well as the pollution of water and the atmosphere through their activities.

134. Action should be initiated for the effective compensation either financially or through direct environmental rehabilitation activities from those who have in one way or the other, contributed to the depletion of Africa's natural resources. A reparations and indemnities inventory at the national, sub-regional and regional levels should be established. Then there will be a financial assessment of all ecological fall-outs of all the identified activities as well as negotiation.

Immediate, medium-term and long-term objectives:

135. To mobilize resources on direct programme basis for strengthening national ecosystem rehabilitation capacity by improvement of afforestation programmes, erosion control and soil rehabilitation programmes; rehabilitate endangered species both flora and fauna, development and strengthening of related technology and techniques; enhance R & D particularly on high yield and environmentally adapted species; To enhance rural employment and popular participation in rehabilitation activities; improve national and intra-African inter-dependence in experiences, expertise and technology, including distribution infrastructure; develop and enforce rehabilitation legislation; and implement measure for contributing to mitigation of global ecosystem rehabilitation programmes and restoration of native species in general.

Sub-programme area:

Compensation for Africa's natural resource depletion

PROGRAMME BRIEF NO: 18

ELIMINATION OF POVERTY

Basis for action and goals at the programme level:

136. Poverty and environmental degradation are very closely interlinked. Indeed, poverty is the major cause of environmental degradation. The scarcity of resources for the initiation, stimulation, promotion and sustenance of development activities is at the root of the underdevelopment and environmental degradation in the developing countries, particularly Africa. Poverty is the fundamental cause of environmental pressures and consequent massive environmental degradation both at the regional and global levels. It is a vicious cycle of global economic transactions which have sustained the inequality in development between the North and the South.

137. It is of serious concern to Africa and, indeed the developing countries, that the document does not allude to the problems of international economic relations and the debt issue that has impinged on national development plan and the ability of governments to meet the basic needs of their populations.

138. The situation is that poverty has perpetuated the underdevelopment of resources, low levels of technological development and, consequently, low production in all sectors leading to the exacerbation of environmental degradation.

139. Poverty, in the absence of alternative means of livelihood is strongly linked to the mismanagement of natural resources and the consequent environmental pressures out of which environmental degradation is rife. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in the industrialized countries which do not reflect adequate concern for environmental conservation and rehabilitation in developing countries, are also at the root of the poverty that abounds in developing countries.

140. In the industrialized countries poverty is measured by the relative accessibility to the available amenities resulting from the development process in that part of the world. It is the question of the lack of and inequalities in resource availability and distribution. In the developing countries it is even worse. It is inadequate development and the absence of amenities that would have resulted from the development process.

141. At the global level, therefore, poverty must be viewed in these two perspectives if the activities for Agenda 21 are to be comprehensive in nature and content to deal with poverty and environmental degradation. The importance, in fact the determining nature of the inequalities in

economic international relations on the performance of national economies and the perpetuation of poverty must be isolated from the inequalities in the distribution of incomes in the industrialized countries.

Objectives

142. To initiate and promote activities aimed at alleviating poverty through integrated intermediate production programmes that in the different sectors for employment creation and diversification. Increasing access by the non-government sector to activities that will be remunerative and sustainable.

Sub-programme areas

- (a) Diversify economic production and create employment;
- (b) Increase the accessibility to credit by the largest spectrum of the population;
- (c) Redressing economic inequalities both at the national and international levels;
- (d) Addressing the debt problem of developing countries;
- (e) Democratization of economic decision making in favour of the development and promotion of production and consumption patterns that favour local industrial capacity.

SECTION IV

THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND POST CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

143. We take this opportunity presented by UNCED to call for a new spirit of international cooperation to tackle jointly this immense challenge. In a world of increasing global interdependence, Africa's future is inextricably linked to those of other continents. We are prepared to play our part in searching for a new world order.

144. We also commit ourselves to:

- (i) Integrate environmental criteria systematically into every aspect of economic decision-making so as to make development truly sustainable.
- (ii) Take appropriate steps to improve the economic situation of our people by placing the provision of the basic necessities of life: food, water, shelter, security, education, health at the highest political level.
- (iii) Effectively participate in the negotiation of the conventions and agreements proposed in the UNCED process in order to ensure a better and safer world for all.
- (iv) Formulate and implement development programmes within the framework of the imperative link between environment and development for achieving our development goal, through the environment.
- (v) Build our infrastructure to cope with our future responsibilities, especially technological and manpower development, particularly in the new vistas like management of natural hazards and the development of information networks on the regional, national and provisional levels;
- (vi) Support of Science and Technology through different ways and means, especially through bi-lateral, multi-lateral, regional or international programmes;
- (vii) Implement our Environment and Development Agenda and enhance its impact on the development of our countries.
- (viii) Accelerate the dialogue on the links between environment and trade policies to focus on the role of international trade in promoting sustainable development through the application of trade rules and instruments to environmental measures.

145. We also commit ourselves to ensure individual and collective implementation of the element contained in these strategies so as to realise the objectives of integrating environment into development at all levels of the African society.

146. Accordingly African government will strengthen their capacity to negotiate in multi-lateral forum. In addition they will pursue vigorous measures for eradication of poverty.

147. We are convinced that for Africa, the approaches to UNCED-1992 are anchored in:

(a) Institution building and human capacity to implement its Environment and Development Agenda;

(b) The imperative of popular participation and full democratization at all levels of governance, the decision making process and programme implementation;

(c) Economic empowerment of the region as a whole, particularly of individual countries and social groups, especially women and people at grassroots level by allowing them to participate more effectively in matters of environment and development; additionally access to credit and development investment to promote the principle of equity is also imperative; this is required if growing mass poverty and the problem of human resources development are to be effectively addressed;

(d) The effective co-ordination of development and environment programmes and policies at the sub-regional and regional levels.

148. In this regard, it is of great importance that we endeavour to rationalize, reform and strengthen our institutions for environmental management, including administrative structures that will reinforce programme implementation, promote training and manpower development, facilitate inter-action between all concerned, monitoring and evaluation activities and, thereby, enhance the impact of programmes.

149. We will, therefore, seek to:

(a) Actively participate in the formulation of all the conventions, treaties, protocols and, particularly the Earth Charter and the Agenda 21;

(b) Participate in the mobilization of the international community in raising resources for implementing all the programmes in Agenda 21 for effective environmental protection and conservation in order to prevent the world from self destruction.

(c) Make the UNCED process an enhancement process for North-South and South-South dialogue and co-operation in environmental management and the facilitation of the flow of resources for that purpose and for the promotion of genuine global inter-dependence and solidarity;

(d) Encourage, support and strengthen:

- (i) African regional and sub-regional programmes on development and environment;
- (ii) African intergovernmental institutions notably OAU, ADB, AMCEN, CILSS, IGADD and SADCC.
- (iii) UN bodies with headquarters in Africa, notably ECA, UNEP and UNCHS;
- (iv) The regional offices of UN organization located in Africa, namely, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, WMO and ILO;
- (iv) Specialized and other development agencies operating in the region so that they can continue to implement their mandates on social and economic development.

150. We reaffirm our strong attachment to the location of the UNEP global headquarters in Africa and request that it be equally strengthened. UNEP should, therefore, be placed in a position to play the role of the co-ordinating institution to lead in the reconciliation of the different environmental interests of African member States and mobilize resources to achieve sustainable development, and improve environmental quality within this region and globally.

151. We further commit ourselves to strengthening international programmes, institutions and laws leading up to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and the follow-up thereto. It is our aspiration that the Conference should usher in a new era of international co-operation and action for putting our planet on a sustainable development path as we move into the next century.

152. We further recognize that environmental policies must be based on a precautionary principle that should govern the development and use of science and technology for implementing environmental measures by anticipating, preventing and attacking the causes of environmental degradation, even if firm scientific proof is yet lacking because proof may come too late. Arguments based on "reasonable doubt" should not be used as an excuse for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation or address emerging issues such as climate change and global warming.

153. We further recognize the legitimate right of African countries to exploit their natural resources for development purposes and that activities to protect the environment should not frustrate the development process. We also trust that during the UNCED process and beyond, environmental considerations will not be used by development and funding agencies as preconditions for financing the economic development of our countries. To this end we re-affirm our commitment to continue to participate in the management and conservation of global environmental commons for this and future generations.

154. We affirm that the unfortunate economic environment confronting Africa, particularly mass poverty and crushing foreign debt burden, collapse of commodity trade, inadequate transfer of appropriate and environmentally sound technology, the reverse flow of financial resources, backward scientific and technological capabilities have all led to severe constraints on the continent's development capacity. This fact of very limited resources has contributed significantly in frustrating Africa's capacity to effectively participate in global development and environment effort.

155. In spite of these limitations, we are committed to participate fully in the global approach to environmental management for the common future of all humanity, and to redress the global inequalities that plague and hamper fruitful mutual international co-operation.

156. It is on the basis of this approach that Africa will strengthen its negotiating capacity in order to participate fruitfully in the negotiations on global strategies on environment and development in the interest of Africa's Environment and Development Agenda. Within the framework of the regional commitment to national and collective self-reliant development, the priorities and strategies adopted by member States will facilitate global environmental management with adequate internal and external flow of resources for this purpose.

157. We must, under these circumstances, constructively and collectively discuss our approaches to pressing development and environment problems. Hence, Africa will participate actively in concrete terms in the UNCED dialogue and in negotiations for an Earth Charter, UNCED conventions and Agenda 21, that should spell out the ethics of inter-generational development and the conservation of a healthy environment:

- (i) Establishment of an ecologically-oriented Diversification Fund for promoting structural transformation of African economies;
- (ii) Development of an environmentally sound Regional Energy Strategy, particularly renewable energy for Africa with the necessary new and additional resources to implement it;
- (iii) The return of the Principle of Relative advantage in the field of agriculture whereby the North withdraws all subsidies that are currently propping up the unsustainable agricultural sector;

- (iv) The prohibition of the dumping of toxic and other hazardous wastes in Africa in consonance with the Bamako Convention and in the spirit of the Basel Convention;
- (v) The adoption of a strategy for promoting popular participation and ensuring the implementation of the principle of putting the people first in the formulation and implementation of development programmes for addressing development and environment on a sustainable basis;
- (vi) The formulation and signing of an International Convention on Halting Desertification in Africa by the creation, through collective international effort, of green-belts north and south of the Sahara and in the Kalahari desert. This should be done bearing in mind that, in keeping with the recent conclusions of the IPCC, global effort on afforestation and reforestation could also reduce the high level of CO₂;
- (vii) Releasing of resources for environmental conservation through Total Debt Cancellation for African countries which are among the most underdeveloped among Third World countries;
- (viii) Revitalization of Commodity Agreements and addressing the commodity problem with a view to guaranteeing minimum prices and, consequently, enhancing the income-generating ability of producing countries;

158. In addition, we support the establishment of an International Fund for financing environmentally sound and sustainable development in Africa. Such fund should be financed through:

- (i) International financial organizations;
- (ii) Creditor countries committing certain percentage of the Third World's outstanding external debts;
- (iii) The imposition of a stamp duty or its equivalent in local currencies.

159. In this regard, we urge ADB to develop the modalities for the management and utilization of such a fund.

160. Furthermore we note the establishment of the Global Environment Facility and request that its mandates be expanded to include desertification and other areas of priority concern to Africa and that its governance be transparent and broad based to include developing countries, particularly Africa.

SECTION V

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS OF OUR COMMON POSITION

161. While aiming at achieving Africa's sustainable development goals through the environment, the African Environment and Development Agenda must operate to enhance global action for environment and sustainability in social and economic development. The African Environment Agenda should strive to interact with the global environmental follow-up as of now into the UNCED-1992. The crisis that abound the region must serve as warnings and cause for immediate remedial action, both at the regional level and the global follow-up to UNCED-1992. This will require serious and determined shifts in policy and decision-making for environmental management as an integral part of development planning on the part of African countries on the one hand, and greater North-South and South-South co-operation on the other.

162. The importance of mobilizing all the global resources for environment and development programme activities has been greatly emphasized. It has also been emphasized that one of the surest way of doing this is to democratize decision making and involvement in development activities. NGOs and the independent sector, including trade unions, business and similar groups must be encouraged to be involved in this process.

163. All UN agencies can co-ordinate their activities and work together to assist member States in dealing with these environmental problems in several ways. These should hinge on arrangements for co-ordination in which UNEP and all the other UN agencies working in Africa, should continue to associate the ECA, intimately, in their assistance to member States as the ECA is also the UN agency with overall mandate for ensuring sustainable social and economic development in Africa. To cope with this actions the Commission is equipped with technical Divisions that correspond to nearly all departments of government. It has also recently created a Multi-disciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG) charged with the responsibility of providing required services of this nature to member States.

164. To this end we commit ourselves to approach development and environment problems in Africa including activities and negotiations during and after the UNCED process within the context of Our Common Position.