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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN STRATEGIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
AGENDA 21 AND THE AFRICAN COMMON POSITION:
PROGRESS REPORT**

1. INTRODUCTION

1. At its nineteenth meeting in May 1993, following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the ECA Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Development reviewed the implementation of UNCED Agenda 21 within the context of the African Common Position on Environment and Development. The aim was to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region. The African Common Position on Environment and Development which was adopted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in November 1991 provided the framework for discussion at UNCED and contributed to the content of Agenda 21. It was in this spirit that the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21¹ by its resolution 744 (XXVIII).

2. In so doing, and in recognition of the fact that poverty was one of the major causes of environmental degradation, the Conference of Ministers underscored the importance of fostering economic integration between and among countries in order to build strong collective bargaining power so as to overcome the small market constraint and further endorsed the need for the establishment of a peaceful and enabling environment and an effective management of the economy under democratic governance. National population programmes should be formulated and implemented simultaneously with programmes aimed at addressing environmental rehabilitation and conservation as well as other social concerns such as health and education.

3. The Conference of Ministers also encouraged greater cooperation between countries with similar characteristics and hence the same problems as well as the need to facilitate the involvement at the grass-roots level of the community in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes. Infrastructural facilities and national capabilities for formulating socio-economic development programmes should be improved and expanded. Poverty reduction and increasing employment opportunities could significantly further progress towards the transition to sustainable development. So also will the inclusion of income-generating activities in population and family planning programmes enhance their success.

4. The objective of the Strategies document was to propose a framework of action to enable African countries to address the problems of eradicating poverty through sound environmental management for sustainable development. It therefore foresaw actions that would be taken concurrently at the national, subregional and regional levels of development in order to alleviate poverty and therefore minimize environmental degradation in Africa. The achievement of sustainable development in African countries in a way would additionally depend on both the national and international communities building upon the initiatives already under way at these three levels:

(a) At the national level, African countries should establish and strengthen institutions responsible for their environmental matters; update and implement environmental legislation; establish and strengthen NGOs as well as youth/women's organizations for conserving the environment; incorporate environmental dimensions in the school curricula; and integrate environmental issues in macroeconomic planning;

(b) At the subregional level, the various environment-related intergovernmental organizations which have been established to coordinate environmental management should be fully utilized by African Governments. These include the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Ministerial Conference on Drought and Desertification (COMIDES). Other initiatives include

¹ See document E/ECA/CM.19/8.

the Abidjan Convention on the protection of marine and coastal areas of West and Central Africa as well as other African regional seas programmes;

(c) At the regional level, it will be recalled that the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), adopted in May 1989 by the ECA Conference of Ministers, calls for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development. This would involve popular participation in decision-making, maintenance of equity and justice and elimination of civil strife and instability. There is the additional need to set up democratic domestic mechanisms, encouraging inter-State trade (within the region) and ensuring a greater harmonization of the activities of the NGOs with government development policies.

6. Furthermore, by its resolution 744 (XXVIII), the ECA Conference of Ministers, among other issues:

(a) Urged member States to incorporate as many of the Strategies as possible in the formulation of their own national strategies;

(b) Further urged member States to establish and/or strengthen mechanisms for the mobilization of resources at the national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of the African Strategies;

(c) Called upon African countries to participate actively and at the highest level in the negotiations on the convention to combat desertification in full cognizance of the strong correlation that exists between desertification and certain economic development activities and further to mobilize support for the assistance to member States in the formulation of their positions in forging a consensus within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-D) on the International Convention on Combating Desertification;

(d) Called upon the Commission on sustainable development to support the efforts of the ECA Executive Secretary to review periodically progress in the implementation of the Strategies;

(e) Further called upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to take the necessary measures to support Africa's post-UNCED follow-up in line with the responsibilities assigned to them in Agenda 21, particularly chapter 38;

(f) Urged the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to strengthen its collaboration with the ECA Conference of Ministers, particularly in matters relating to Agenda 21 and the implementation of the Strategies.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Incorporation of the Strategies in the formulation of national, subregional and regional environment and development programmes

7. The incorporation of the Strategies in the formulation of national strategies is supposed to be done within the framework of the programmes of AMCEN whose new policy orientation and environment programme for combating poverty and environmental degradation were formulated taking into consideration the Strategies. AMCEN's 12 subprogrammes ranked in order of priority can be compressed into the seven programme areas of the Strategies. These 12 programme areas for 1994-1995 appear in annex II.

8. These programmes represent a determined attempt to streamline the Strategies and other ongoing programmes into an operational environment programme for Africa for the short and medium term. Within this context, it is expected that member States would establish and/or strengthen mechanisms for the mobilization of resources at the national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of environment and development programmes.

B. Negotiations on the convention to combat desertification

9. Resolution 744 (XXVIII) also urged member States to participate actively and at the highest level in the full cognizance of the strong correlation that exists between desertification and certain economic development activities and further to mobilize support for the assistance to member States in the formulation of their positions in forging a consensus within the INC-D.

10. The Strategies document underscored the fact that the environment-development linkage is built on the understanding that environmental degradation is principally the result of human activities that inadequately provide for environmental protection and/or conservation. Desertification is one of the major environmental response pressures arising from the poor management of development in the arid and semi-arid zones; pressures arising from the imbalance between population, environment and development.

11. Desertification must, therefore, be seen as a developmental problem which must be addressed not just by focusing on the physical causes, but also on the fundamental socio-economic factors underlying the problem. This calls for greater emphasis to be put on the eradication of poverty and the development of alternative livelihood systems for the peoples affected by this phenomenon including, *inter alia*, popular participation, environmental education and the promotion of active participation by the non-governmental sector.

12. The importance of ecosystems which lend themselves to management through conventions arises when their unscrupulous use endangers their conservation and survival which are of priority concern to the international community. For this to happen, there must be a mutual acceptance of these dangers between the parties concerned for them to accept mutual legal restrictions on their exploitation.

13. More than any other region, Africa has had a rich experience in combating desertification having received assistance from the United Nations system as well as other bilateral and multilateral donors since the Great Sahelian Drought of 1968-1973 to the present. Long before the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD), two institutions, namely CILSS and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had been established in 1973. UNSO's role was strengthened in 1978 when it was requested to act as the main coordinating mechanism for the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD). The main strength of the PACD was that it was the product of the international scientific community with vast experience in the combat of desertification. Because of its special problems and vulnerability of extensive areas in the region to the twin scourges of drought and desertification, the African region was the first to benefit from a series of anti-desertification projects which in a way could be regarded as a test case in the formulation of the methodologies suggested by UNCOD. These projects took the form of anti-desertification institutions, or as grass-roots activities such as afforestation, sand-dune fixation, grazing rehabilitation projects, water resources improvement, population re-settlement schemes, or even irrigation. By reviewing the projects and making an evaluation of what they have achieved over the period when they have been in operation, it is hoped that some lessons can be learned which will be of direct benefit to INC-D and the possibility of an African protocol in particular.

14. Africa's contribution to the negotiation process has been very concerted and effective under the guidance of the OAU Group of Experts. The challenges that lie ahead are those related to the formulation of an African instrument for the convention.

15. In order to provide information for the regional instrument, the INC-D secretariat funded the regional case study for Africa. The purpose of the regional study was to provide the elements for a regional negotiation framework built around development and strengthening the capacity to address, within the context of global cooperation, the problems of desertification in the region. The study reviewed project implementation at the subregional level, institutional arrangements for combating desertification and the kind of assistance which had been given by the international donor community to help with the realization of their dreams.

16. One of the important conclusions was that the weakness of subregional institutions made it difficult for the required coordination at that level to be carried out. There tended to be duplication of programme and the required support even from member States was not forthcoming. Because of this, the activities of funding agencies did not follow the bottoms-up approach.

(c) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)

17. Drought and desertification in addition to hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions constitute major disasters in Africa. All have a profound impact on the environment and the process of sustainable development. Consequently, disaster reduction and mitigation featured as one of the issues in the African Common Position for UNCED and an integral part of the follow-up as envisaged in the African Strategies and the AMCEN programme.

18. It is in this light that ECA, as part of the Joint UNEP/ECA/OAU/AMCEN Secretariat is fully committed to the preparations of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held in Yokohama, Japan, as an interim review of the implementation of the IDNDR.

19. This activity in being carried out also as part of ECA's support to the activities of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UNDHA). In this light, the experience that the Commission has had so far in dealing with the Somalia situation, Eritrea and now expanding into the other countries of the region where rehabilitation and reconstruction activities are under way is of great importance.

D. Institutional arrangements

20. In resolution 744 (XXVIII), the ECA Conference of Ministers also urged AMCEN to strengthen its collaboration with it, particularly in matters relating to Agenda 21 and the implementation of the Strategies. To this effect, modalities are being reviewed to propose what the working relations will be between the ECA Conference of Ministers which meets every year, the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment which meets every four years and AMCEN which meets biennially.

21. The ECA Conference of Ministers also called upon the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to support the efforts of the ECA Executive Secretary to review periodically progress in the implementation of the Strategies. Within the framework of the activities of the regional economic commissions in the implementation of the CSD programme, CSD is being requested to support ECA. The resource implications of this support appear in annex II.

22. The Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNEP were called upon to take the necessary measures to support Africa's post-UNCED follow-up in line with the responsibilities assigned to them in Agenda 21, particularly chapter 38. To this effect, consultations have been held with UNEP on collaboration for the implementation of the African environment programme within the framework of the new policy orientations and programmes of AMCEN.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The spirit and purpose of the Strategies is embodied in one of the decisions of the fifth session of AMCEN in which member States and African organizations are encouraged to use them as a framework for the formulation of their national environment action programme in the implementation of Agenda 21.

24. The implementation of resolution 744 (XXVIII) has brought to the surface a number of institutional arrangements that need to be clarified to facilitate the effective coordination of the African environment programme under AMCEN's new policy orientation, the elaboration of which took the African Strategies into consideration. The delineation of roles and responsibilities between the intergovernmental organs of ECA which are most likely to be interacting in the implementation of the Strategies is of vital importance. It is necessary for the ECA Conference of Ministers to take a number of decisions.

25. In view of the intimate relationship between the issues that would be on the agenda and development planning and management, among the alternatives to consider are:

(a) Member States should implement the new policy orientations and programmes adopted at the fifth session of AMCEN as they are in consonance with the long-term goals of the Strategies document and ECA's environment and development in Africa work;

(b) In view of the key role of AMCEN in the orientation of the African environment programmes, ways and means should be studied for having joint sessions of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment and, in this regard, that the 1995 session of the aforementioned Conference, which coincides with that of AMCEN, should be a joint one; in this regard, the ECA Conference of Ministers may wish to consider a number of alternative institutional arrangements between AMCEN and the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment which would include:

(a) The possible merger of the mandates of AMCEN as spelt out in the new policy orientation and the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment becomes a joint session of Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment and AMCEN, with AMCEN becoming an intergovernmental organ of ECA;

(b) The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment becomes a Joint Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sustainable Development and AMCEN;

(c) Once every four years there is a joint session of AMCEN and the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Annex I

**DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT AT ITS FIFTH SESSION
Addis Ababa, 22-27 November 1993**

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling resolution 1/1 of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment adopted in December 1985,

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

Recognizing the many initiatives taken by the African countries in response to the changing environmental conditions, such as the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the African Common Position on Environment and Development, the Kampala Agenda for Action on Sustainable Development, and the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and Control of Transboundary Movement of All Forms of Hazardous Wastes within Africa,

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

Determined to attain the utmost environmental benefits from these economic groupings,

Appreciative of the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and the adoption of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21,

Recognizing that the opportunity offered by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development calls for a new spirit of international cooperation in tackling jointly the immense challenge of achieving sustainable development through sound environmental management,

Fully aware of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development which highlighted the notion of environment and sustainable development,

Expressing its appreciation for the African activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, held in Bamako from 23 to 30 July 1991, the first Regional African Ministerial Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Cairo from 11 to 16 July 1991 and the second Regional African Ministerial Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Abidjan from 11 to 14 November 1991,

Determined to participate fully in the implementation of Agenda 21 within the context of the African Common Position on Environment and Development,

Fully aware of the profound assessments and evaluations of the performance of the organizational and operational components of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Fully recognizing the recommendations of the African Regional Workshop on Agenda 21 held in Abuja, Nigeria, in January 1993, regarding the role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in implementing Agenda 21,

Fully aware of the call in Agenda 21 and the African Common Position for broad-based approach to environmental management,

Realizing that the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in Africa, requires a revitalization of existing structures at the level of member States and at the regional level, in order to provide the necessary capacity,

Also realizing that other regional institutions dealing as partners with it on environmental matters may reform their structures to respond to their mandates in the implementation of Agenda 21 and in order to facilitate inter-institutional cooperation,

Furthermore appreciative of the proposals of the Expert Group Meeting (Addis Ababa, 22-25 November 1993) which were endorsed by the Ministerial session on 27 November 1993 regarding the new policy orientation for the Conference and the indicative Conference programme for 1994-1995,

I. KEY POLICY ISSUES

Decides:

(a) That the primary objective of the Conference is to contribute positively to Africa's transition to sustainable development;

(b) That the mandate of the Conference is:

(i) To provide, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Economic Community and the competent regional institutions and forums, continent-wide political and technical leadership on sustainable development within the framework of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community and agreed African positions on environment and development;

(ii) Actively to support, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the African Economic Community and other competent regional institutions the efforts of African States individually and collectively, with regard to national, subregional and regional issues pertaining to environment and sustainable development;

(c) That the functions of the Conference are:

Policy guidance and coordination

(i) To provide guidance and coordination;

- (ii) To promote the integration of environment and development through inter-ministerial cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination;

Inter- and intra-African commitments on the environment

- (iii) To monitor progress in the implementation of the commitments as well as relevant regional programmes relating to the integration of environmental and developmental goals through analysis and evaluation of reports from subregional and regional organizations;
- (iv) To review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, sub-regional and regional levels through the analysis of reports submitted to the Conference by African Governments and organizations, major groups and United Nations agencies active in the region;

Conventions and international agreements

- (v) To monitor the implementation of regional and global conventions and agreements of relevance to the African region and, in this regard, to pay special attention to the implementation of the Bamako Convention on Hazardous Waste, biodiversity and climate change conventions. Attention shall be given to the ongoing negotiations for a convention on desertification;
- (vi) To facilitate the harmonization of Africa's position and encourage active participation in all major negotiations;
- (vii) To promote the signing and ratification of relevant protocols and conventions by African countries;
- (viii) To promote the awareness on the benefits of such international agreements;

Subregional environmental programmes

- (ix) To mobilize support for the subregional environmental programmes of African subregional and regional organizations. In this regard, the Conference should review the information provided by these subregional groupings and on that basis solicit assistance for them with a view to strengthening their activities;

National environmental programmes

- (x) To consider information provided by governments, including national reports regarding the activities being carried out to implement major environment and development programmes, particularly Agenda 21;

Funding of environmental programmes

- (xi) To review the adequacy of funding arrangements for environmental programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels in the African region and formulate appropriate remedial strategies;

Non-governmental organizations and other major groups

- (xii) To promote actively the participation of non-governmental organizations and the major groups in the implementation of environmental programmes. In this regard, the Conference should receive and analyse relevant reports from them, particularly on their contribution to the implementation of African initiatives and commitments in the field of environment and development. This implies the development of a mechanism for dialogue between the Conference, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

Cooperation with the United Nations agencies on environmental programmes

- (xiii) To examine at each session the outcome of actions of the United Nations agencies active in Africa on issues related to the environment and other efforts in support of the integration of environment and development at the national, subregional and regional levels and consider the Conference inputs to the decision-making processes of the agencies;

Commission on Sustainable Development

- (xiv) To support and promote the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly regarding the implementation of its multi-year thematic programme of work;
- (xv) To cooperate closely with the Commission to enhance the participation of African countries;
- (xvi) To promote the integration of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on 14 June 1992;
- (xvii) To review continuously the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa, taking into account its linkages with and implications for the African environment;
- (xviii) To submit necessary recommendations on the matters referred to in subparagraphs (xiv) to (xvii) above to the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity and the Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Development of the Economic Commission for Africa;

Financial resources and related mechanisms

- (xix) To facilitate the mobilization of Capacity 21 resources;

- (xx) To review modalities for encouraging direct financial contributions towards environmental conservation and management programmes, particularly through an increased flow of resources from the North, funding of programmes, particularly of relevance to national priorities and speedy disbursement of funds for agreed programmes;
- (xxi) To provide a suitable forum for discussing and reviewing Africa's priority concerns within the context of the Global Environment Facility in order to ensure that its scope and coverage take into account Africa's concerns such as desertification control, drought mitigation and water resources management;
- (xxii) To provide a suitable forum for examining modalities for holding dialogue with the North on the cancellation of official bilateral debts, export credit debts, allocation of new and additional resources for the implementation of environmental programmes, taking into account their potential impact on natural resources management;
- (xxiii) To encourage African countries to allocate a percentage of their gross domestic product for environmental programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels;

Integrated development and management of freshwater resources

- (xxiv) To promote and support initiatives aimed at the integrated development and management of shared freshwater resources, including the activities of the African river and lake basin organizations;

Preventing and reversing desertification and mitigating the impacts of drought

- (xxv) To review at each session the status of desertification and drought in Africa, the progress in the implementation of desertification control programmes and plans of action at both the national and subregional levels and the adequacy of funding arrangements for desertification control programmes;
- (xxvi) To play an active role in the ongoing negotiations for an international convention to combat desertification by facilitating the participation of member States in all stages, including follow-up;

Technology transfer

- (xxvii) To review and monitor issues relating to the transfer of adaptive and environmentally safe and sound technology on concessional and preferential terms, as well as technological cooperation, intellectual property rights, access to technological information and indigenous capacity-building;

Securing greater energy efficiency and sufficiency and managing the environmental impacts of climate change and variability

- (xxviii) To promote the participation of African countries in programmes and conventions dealing with energy and climate change;

- (xxix) To review existing policies on alternative and renewable energy sources, particularly at the national level;

Sustainable management and use of forests

- (xxx) To promote and support programmes for the sustainable management and use of forests;
- (xxxi) To promote the incorporation of the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;

Management of biological diversity

- (xxxii) To promote the ratification by African countries of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (xxxiii) To review of issues relating to the ownership, management and use of biological resources and recommend strategies for action;
- (xxxiv) To promote the implementation of scientific research programmes on biodiversity;

Capacity-building and cross-sectoral issues

- (xxxv) To consider issues on the integration of environment and development in decision-making;
- (xxxvi) To review national reports on capacity-building (institutional strengthening, reinforcing environmental legislation, environmental training, particularly in natural resources accounting, awareness-building, research, environmental policy formulation);
- (xxxvii) To review national reports on the adoption of policy frameworks that reflect a long-term perspective and cross-sectoral approach as the basis for decisions, taking into account the linkages between and within the various political, economic, social and environmental issues involved in the development process;
- (xxxviii) To review national reports on measures for improving the processes of decision-making so as to achieve the progressive interaction of economic, social and environmental issues in pursuit of development that is economically efficient, socially equitable and responsible and environmentally sound;

Environmentally sound management of oceans and coastal areas

- (xxxix) To accord a higher degree of priority to promoting the ratification of the regional conventions related to the protection and development of the marine environment in order to enhance protection and development of the marine environment; this would be useful in the implementation of the four regional seas programmes involving Africa;

- (xl) To promote Africa's participation in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994 and regularly review thereafter the implementation of the decisions of that Conference;
- (xli) To review the progress in the implementation, by African countries, of related conventions, protocols and agreements relating to seas, oceans and island ecosystems;

Environmentally sound management of hazardous and all types of waste and toxic chemicals
- (xlii) To promote the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement of All Forms of Hazardous Waste with Africa and convene a conference of the Parties;
- (xliii) To examine policies and policy instruments that enhance the management of toxic chemicals, hazardous waste and solid waste to prevent the illegal traffic;

Monitoring the financial commitments undertaken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
- (xliv) To review at each session, in the context of financial resources and related mechanisms, the status of actions with regard to the Global Environment Facility in response to Africa's priority concerns;
- (xlv) To set up modalities for holding dialogue with the North in the allocation of new and additional resources for the implementation of environmental programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels;
- (xlvi) To undertake concrete measures for the mobilization of resources from the international community;

II. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Decides, in addition to reaffirming the present arrangements for the Conference, Bureau and Expert Group membership:**

Committees

- (a) That the present five ecosystems committees (Desert and Arid Lands, Forest and Woodlands, River and Lake Basins, Seas, and African Island Ecosystems) are transformed into standing committees of the Conference to be functional only at sessions of the Conference. In the meantime, that is, up to the sixth session of the Conference, the existing secretariats of the Committees (Units of the United Nations Environment Programme) as well as the various experts who hitherto supported the work of the committees will be maintained and used, *inter alia*, for:

** The delegation of Cameroon requested that the criteria for the Bureau membership should be reviewed.

(a) follow-up of ongoing activities as well as relevant activities in the approved 1994-1995 indicative Conference programme; (b) preparing documents for subregional conferences; and (c) African expert group consultations. A report on the outcome of this arrangement will be submitted to the sixth session;

Subregional ministerial conferences

- (b) That subregional ministerial conferences be convened in between sessions of the Conference to review and monitor policies, programmes and initiatives on the environment at the subregional level between sessions;

Networks

- (c) That:
- (i) The networks and their coordinating units should be located within the already existing African national, subregional and regional institutions and they should be provided with additional funding from within and outside the region for the discharge of the tasks assigned to them, including capacity-building, particularly those aspects relating to environmental training and information exchange;
 - (ii) The role of United Nations agencies in providing support to the networks should be strengthened;

Inter-Agency Working Group

- (d) That:
- (i) The Inter-Agency Working Group should be retained as an advisory body;
 - (ii) The role of the Working Group should be reviewed in the light of Agenda 21 and in such a way that it would enable the Conference to receive and consider progress reports on the activities of its members with regard to the support being provided to African countries and organizations in the implementation of Agenda 21;
 - (iii) As appropriate, relevant non-governmental organizations should take part in the activities of the Working Group;

III. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

1. Decides to approve the indicative Conference programme for 1994-1995;
2. Decides that appropriate agreements should be worked by the Secretariat for the participation of subregional organizations, regional bodies and international agencies in the implementation of the programme;

IV. OTHER MAJOR CONFERENCE MATTERS

1. Desertification

1. Expresses appreciation to the executive heads of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank for the progress report on the status of Africa's inputs to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a convention on desertification and urges them to continue the close cooperation with the Ministerial Conference on this matter;

2. Decides to step up efforts in support of Organization of African Unity and other regional efforts aimed at ensuring that Africa's interests are fully taken into account in the convention;

3. Urges African countries to participate at the ministerial level in the negotiations for a convention on desertification in full support of Africa's interests;

4. Decides to facilitate the efforts of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in addressing Africa's regional concerns;

5. Decides to provide all possible support to the expert groups of the Organization of African Unity charged with the responsibility of facilitating regional consultations and developing consensus;

2. Natural disasters

Expresses appreciation for the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa, the World Health Organization and the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction within the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and urges African countries to take an active part in the ongoing initiatives;

3. African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21

1. Takes note of and expresses appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21;

2. Encourages African countries and organizations to use it as a framework for formulating their national action programmes in the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. African regional meeting on biological diversity

1. Welcomes the proposal of the African Group of Ambassadors in Geneva for the convening of an African regional meeting on biological diversity;

2. Decides that the Conference secretariat should undertake the necessary consultations and measures essential to the holding of the meeting;

3. Agrees a position paper should be prepared by the end of January 1994 to be distributed to member States and in this regard requests the assistance in the preparation of the document of the executive

heads of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Development Bank and other concerned parties;

4. Further agrees that the secretariat should undertake the necessary consultations immediately in order to ensure an effective follow-up to ensure the timely preparation of the position paper referred to in paragraph 3 of the present section;

5. Decides to convene an African ministerial-level meeting, to be preceded by an expert group meeting, for the purpose of adopting an African common position and also in order to consider other related environmental concerns of Africa. This ministerial meeting should be convened before the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity which is expected to take place in May/June 1994;

V. RESOURCES REQUIRED

1. Encourages African countries to allocate a percentage of their gross domestic product for environmental programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels;

2. Agrees that member States could contribute, in any appropriate way, in local or foreign currency towards the costs of implementing the work programme and functions of the Conference secretariat;

3. Agrees to mobilize support from relevant African organizations, United Nations and international agencies for the work programme and secretariat costs;

4. Expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Director and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the continued firm support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and, in particular, for providing the necessary budgetary resources for the implementation of the programme as well as the running of the secretariat. The Conference notes with full satisfaction the favourable actions regarding the support to regional cooperation already taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventeenth session;

5. Further requests the United Nations Environment Programme to provide the same level of technical and financial support to the Conference and if possible to increase it in the light of Agenda 21 challenges;

6. Expresses deep appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity for the continued support for the Conference and the participation of the Organization of African Unity in the running of the Conference secretariat;

7. Requests the Secretary-General and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity to examine the modalities needed for entrusting specific responsibilities and tasks to the Conference in the implementation of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the participation of the Organization of African Unity in the running of the Conference secretariat;

8. Expresses deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for the continued support for the Conference and the participation of the Economic Commission for Africa in the running of the Conference secretariat;

9. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to examine modalities for mobilizing greater support and in this regard to consider possibilities with the African, Caribbean and Pacific States/European Economic Community;

10. Expresses appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme and its Regional Office for Africa for the resources and other forms of support provided to the Conference, particularly in the implementation of its pilot projects;

11. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and its Governing Council to urgently consider allocating specific funds (earmarked for environmental management in Africa) in support of the Conference activities from:

(a) Regional United Nations Development Programme indicative planning figure funds;

(b) Capacity-building resources taking into account paragraph 37.5 of Agenda 21, which states, *inter alia*, that the United Nations Development Programme should use and further improve its broad mandate to provide assistance using its experience in the field of technical cooperation for facilitating capacity-building at the country and regional levels;

12. Expresses appreciation to the President and Board of Directors of the African Development Bank for the various forms of support extended to the Conference, particularly its Network on Environmental Education and Training;

13. Requests the President, the Board of Directors and Governing Body of the African Development Bank urgently to consider allocating specific resources in support of the activities of the Conference and the running of the secretariat;

14. Expresses appreciation to the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the President of the World Bank for the support being provided to the Conference particularly its networks, and urges them to increase the support in the light of the challenges of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

15. Expresses appreciation to the executive heads of all United Nations agencies for the various forms of support being provided and urges them to increase the support in the light of the challenges of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

16. Expresses appreciation to the African organizations, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and international agencies for their contributions to the success of the fifth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Annex II

**INDICATIVE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME (1994-1995):
COMBATING POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

I. INTRODUCTION**A. Orientation and development objectives**

1. 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.

2. Poverty, in the absence of alternative means of livelihood, is strongly linked to the mismanagement of natural resources and the consequent environmental pressure out of which environmental degradation arises. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in the industrialized countries do not reflect adequate concern for environmental conservation and rehabilitation in developing countries.

B. Operational strategies for implementing the Conference programme

3. The programme activities shall be undertaken concurrently at the national, subregional and regional levels of development in order to alleviate poverty and, therefore, minimize environmental degradation in Africa. The achievement of sustainable development in African countries would additionally depend on both the national and international communities building on the initiatives already under way at these three levels:

(a) At the national level, African countries should establish and/or strengthen institutions responsible for their environmental matters, undertake necessary measures for capacity-building, inter-ministerial cooperation, integration of environment and development, and establish and strengthen non-governmental organizations as well as youth/women's organizations for conserving the environment;

(b) At the subregional level, the various intergovernmental organizations which have been established to coordinate environmental management should be fully utilized by AMCEN and the African Governments. These organizations include the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC);

(c) At the regional level, the Conference's new strategy is:

(i) Fully to utilize and cooperate with existing regional institutions, organizations and bodies which are already providing support to AMCEN such as the African Centre for Meteorological Applications to Development (ACMAD) and those with potential to assist in the implementation of the decisions of the Conference;

- (ii) To focus on the review, assessment and monitoring of major actions, policies and programmes affecting the state of the African environment;
- (iii) Supporting popular participation in decision-making and ensuring greater harmonization of the activities of the non-governmental organizations with government development policies.

Priority attention will be accorded to the review of the performance of inter- and intra-African commitments or initiatives on the environment particularly those relating to shared resources. Furthermore, particular attention will be given to the coordination of the implementation of the decisions of the Conference in the key priorities areas at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(d) Based on the above, the secretariat responsibilities for implementing these programme priorities will essentially be:

- (i) Technical assistance to member States in the different subprogramme areas;
- (ii) Relevant advisory services;
- (c) Mobilization of resources for activities in member States;
- (d) Promoting information flow and exchange;
- (e) Promotion of environmental awareness; and
- (f) Coordination.

4. Where relevant frameworks, programmes, schemes or projects exist in the areas of AMCEN interest, the secretariat should liaise with the organizations or bodies sponsoring or executing them, with the view to exploring or developing jointly their further promotion or reinforcement, in the interest of sustainable development in Africa.

5. The costs to the secretariat are reflected in the budget appended hereto.

Contents

(Ranked in order of priority)

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Subprogramme 1. | Capacity-building (within the context of Agenda 21) at national level (special focus on: environmental economics, accounting and management tools; environmental law, institutions and policies; environmental education and training) |
| Subprogramme 2. | Environmentally sound management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources (special focus on: preventing and reversing desertification; mitigating the impacts of drought, environmentally sound management and sustainable use of forests and savannah woodlands; promotion of the environmentally sound management of biodiversity and sound development and utilization of microbial resources and related biotechnologies; environmentally sound management of soils and agricultural lands) |
| Subprogramme 3. | Environmentally sound management of freshwater resources |
| Subprogramme 4. | Environmentally sound management of hazardous and all types of waste and toxic chemicals |
| Subprogramme 5. | Environmentally sound management of marine and coastal areas, including island ecosystems |
| Subprogramme 6. | Promoting human welfare, environment and development (special focus on: managing demographic change and population pressures development of human settlements, planning and management) |
| Subprogramme 7. | Managing the environmental impacts of climate change and climate variability |
| Subprogramme 8. | Securing greater energy efficiency and sufficiency |
| Subprogramme 9. | Monitoring and assessing the state of the African environment |
| Subprogramme 10. | Promotion of subregional and regional cooperation |
| Subprogramme 11. | Promoting the role of major groups in Africa's environmental management |
| Subprogramme 12. | Mobilization of support for the implementation of Africa's environment programme at the national subregional and regional levels |

II. THE 1994-1995 PROGRAMME

Subprogramme 1. **Capacity-building (within the context of Agenda 21) at national level**

Orientation and development objectives

1. To meet the challenges posed by the constantly changing international situation, Africa must consider the emerging trends related to issues such as the increased competition among countries and regions for capital, the aid fatigue syndrome and the new priorities of the development assistance countries (DACs). Poverty eradication with particular emphasis on human capacity development should be targeted.

2. The areas of focus should include:

- (a) Environmental economics, accounting and management tools;
- (b) Environmental law, institutions and policies;
- (c) Environmental education and training;
- (d) Environmental awareness: public information;

Programme element 1.1. Environmental economics, accounting and management tools

Activities

- 1. (a) Promotion of activities for strengthening the training, teaching and applied research database and information capabilities in African countries;
- (b) Promotion of the training of administrators and policy makers in the use of techniques and policies relating to environment and economics.
- 2. Support for further development, testing and application of methodologies of the evaluation of environmental and natural resources.
- 3. Assistance to African countries in the application of economic instruments and policies for environmental management, with particular emphasis on intergovernmental environmental agreements and national capacity-building.

Expected outcome

- 1. Enhanced capabilities of Africa countries to integrate environment and development.
- 2. Assistance to African countries in the application of economic instruments and policies for environmental management.
- 3. Selected country applications of the valuation methodologies of environmental and natural resources: biological diversity, climate change, ozone layer depletion, soil and land degradation, desertification, coastal areas and regional seas, energy, freshwater, forests and environmental health (12 pilot country applications).

4. (a) Strengthened institutions (six of them) in African countries;
- (b) Administrators and policy makers trained in the use of techniques and policies relating to environment and economics.

Programme element 1.2. Environmental law, institutions and policies

Activities

1. Promotion of the ratification of the conventions on the environment relevant to Africa.
2. Assistance to African countries within the framework of the Netherlands-funded UNEP/UNDP joint project on capacity-building with special focus on environmental legislation.
3. Preparatory work for the formulation and implementation, as appropriate, of international legal instruments on, in particular, marine pollution from land-based sources, exchange of information on chemicals in international trade, desertification, international cooperation in environmental emergencies, and environmental impact assessment.
4. Conducting national, subregional and regional seminars and workshops in international environmental law, training and information.

Expected outcome

1. National legislation in African countries reviewed and strengthened.
2. Entry into force and effective implementation of the environmental conventions relevant to Africa.
3. Implementation of international legal instruments on marine pollution from land-based sources and information exchange on international trade in chemicals, preparatory work for the development of legal instruments on international cooperation in environmental emergencies, environmental impact assessment and for the development and implementation of a convention on desertification.
4. (a) Organization of national, subregional and regional seminars and workshops on environmental law and institutions, training of government legal officials in international and national environmental law so as to increase environmental awareness;
- (b) Technical advisory services, and as contribution to developing the human resource component of the capacity-building programme.

Programme element 1.3. Environmental education and training

Activity

Promotion of environmental education in Africa, including the implementation of the International Environmental Education Programme (IEEP), phase 9, modified to cover environment and sustainable development education.

Expected outcome

Nationals of African countries trained in environmental management.

Subprogramme 2. **Environmentally-sound management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources**

Orientation and development objectives

Programmes in ecosystems management and conservation, particularly those related to the environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources, should ensure the use of ecosystems as an integral part of renewable resources. Activities in all sectors of development that impose ecological pressures and lead to environmental degradation should not be promoted. Such activities should, therefore, be aimed at the conservation, protection where necessary and management of a sustainable basis of endangered species and ecosystems. They should also be geared to maintaining biological diversity as a major part of the natural heritage and future economic development. This priority should focus on:

- (a) Environmentally sound management of soils and agricultural lands;
- (b) Preventing and reversing desertification;
- (c) Environmentally sound management sustainable use of forests and savannah woodlands;
- (d) Promotion of the environmentally sound management of biodiversity.

Programme element 2.1. Environmentally sound management of soils and agricultural lands.

Activity

Assistance in and/or promotion of national, subregional and regional land cover/land use, soil degradation assessments and identification of vulnerable areas and their environmental accounting; promotion of methodologies for the compilation of the soils and terrain digital database at national, subregional and regional levels.

Expected outcome

National soils policies and guidelines.

Programme element 2.2. Preventing and reversing desertification; mitigating the impacts of drought

Activities

1. Assistance to African countries within the framework of negotiations for the international convention to combat desertification.
2. Establishment and strengthening of national desertification monitoring systems and links to regional systems, including the strengthening of national and local anti-desertification authorities and non-governmental organizations; development of anti-desertification action plans as integral parts of national development plans; strengthening subregional programmes to combat drought and desertification; development of comprehensive desertification, land degradation and human conditions database; and establishment of indicators and benchmarks

for assessing progress in the implementation of desertification control and drought mitigation programmes at both the national and subregional levels.

3. Establishing the status of desertification and drought in Africa.
4. Promotion of information exchange and general awareness-raising on desertification control and drought mitigation issues.
5. Assistance to countries in the drylands of Africa in formulating integrated national and subregional strategies to combat land degradation and to alleviate the impact of drought.

Expected outcome

1. Effective participation by Africa in activities of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on desertification, taking fully into account Africa's concerns in the final convention.
2. Integrated database system with question-answer capabilities on major desertification topics; strengthened subregional programmes on drought and desertification.
3. Information on the status of desertification and drought in Africa.
4. Reports prepared and disseminated to raise awareness; successful and replicable anti-desertification activities identified and disseminated.
5. Countries assisted in the establishing national strategies to combat desertification.

Programme element 2.3. Environmentally sound management and sustainable use of forests and savannah woodlands

Activities

1. Promotion of support to subregional organizations, governments and national institutions and non-governmental organizations to develop and implement subregional and national plans for sustainable management of all forests types and other ecosystems. This activity includes supporting the protection and maintenance of biodiversity in forest ecosystems and supporting the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP).
2. Strengthening of forest conservation and rehabilitation of degraded areas to ensure sustainable management of all forest ecosystems and woodlands.
3. Promotion of activities to enhance the participation of African countries in the global debate on forestry principles.

Expected outcome

1. Completed national forest conservation plans, as well as rehabilitated and protected natural forests in concerned countries.

2. Established national heritage sites, community forests and green belts in member States, as well as enhanced local knowledge on forests and their management.
3. Greater or increased preparedness by African countries to address the Rio Forestry Principles.

Programme element 2.4. Promotion of the environmentally sound management of biodiversity and sound development and utilization of microbial resources and related biotechnologies

Activities

1. Assistance to African countries to facilitate their participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. Promotion of activities for the ratification of the Convention by African countries.
3. Development of action plans for the conservation of biological resources and diversity.
4. Expansion of education and training in biodiversity conservation.

Expected outcome

1. Effective participation by a good number of African countries in the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. Ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity by African countries.
3. Training courses in conserving and evaluating biological resources and diversity as well as in biotechnologies.
4. Implementation of activities within the framework of Convention on Biological Diversity.

Subprogramme 3. **Environmentally sound management of freshwater resources**

Orientation and development objectives

1. The problem of water resources development has its root in the lack of clear policy directives acknowledging the high priority that must be accorded to it with due recognition to the need of strengthening the national and intergovernmental institutions in which water development is vested. The policies should be cohesive embracing the management, conservation and its use.
2. The water programmes, including river and lake basins development plans, should be reviewed periodically in terms of objectives, targets, plans and resources.

Activities

1. Promotion of activities for the environmentally-sound management of inland waters particularly river and lake basins.
2. Assistance to subregional organizations within the framework of intergovernmental agreements on shared water resources.

3. Preparation of national environment related plans and programmes for integrated water management.
4. Mobilization of international support for the implementation of basin action plans.

Expected outcome

1. Strengthened river and lake basins integrated action plans.
2. Diagnostic studies.
3. Enhanced subregional and intergovernmental cooperation on shared water resources.
4. (a) Methodologies for:
 - (i) Assessing quality, environmental integrity and quantity of international freshwater resources;
 - (ii) Developing control strategies/options for integrated management of international freshwater resources;
 - (iii) Assessing feasibility of alternative management strategies/options for international freshwater resources;
- (b) Strengthened institutional, manpower and technical capabilities of African countries regarding integrated management of international freshwater resources;
- (c) Water-quality and quantity databases on a minimum of three shared river basins and associated comprehensive reports;
- (d) Strengthened regional capabilities (institutional, manpower, technical) to monitor and assess regional water resources;
- (e) Water-pollution control.

Subprogramme 4. Environmentally sound management of hazardous and all types of waste and toxic chemicals

Orientation and development objectives

Industrialization is an imperative for Africa's economic development. The programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA-2) recognizes the need to promote, acquire and develop cleaner production technologies, the transfers of environmentally friendly technologies, integrated waste management and the reduction, substitution and elimination of toxic and hazardous wastes. Forest-based industries could create deforestation and soil erosion. Food processing industries have to take great care about the levels of toxicity in food processing chemicals. Fisheries can be adversely affected by the discharge of effluent into river waters. The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement of All Forms of Hazardous Waste within Africa represents a laudable African effort to halt the movement of

hazardous waste into Africa. A very high degree of attention should be accorded to the implementation of this Convention.

Activity

Promotion of the implementation of the Bamako Convention.

Expected outcome

Increased ratification and implementation of the Bamako Convention.

Subprogramme 5. **Environmentally sound management of marine and coastal areas, including island ecosystems**

Orientation and development objectives

This subprogramme aims at enhancing the role of environmental management of coastal and marine resources in national economies; promotion of the implementation of the four regional seas programmes covering Africa (the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, West and Central Africa and Eastern Africa), especially measures to protect the marine ecosystems from land- and marine-based pollution and unregulated dumping of dangerous wastes, coastal erosion and the over-exploitation of coastal resources; participation in the establishment of an integrated marine pollution monitoring and assessment programme; environmental economics: application of environmental economics based on natural resources accounting for coastal areas.

Activities

1. Promotional activities within the framework of the four regional seas programmes.
2. Mobilization of African countries for the signing and ratification of the relevant conventions.
3. Assistance to African countries in activities relating to integrated management and sustainable use of coastal and marine areas; implementation of integrated coastal and marine management in sustainable development plans.

Expected outcome

1. Ratification by African countries of the relevant conventions on the regional seas programme in Africa.
2. Effective participation of African countries in the four regional seas programmes.
3. Trained African nationals in the protection and better management of coastal areas.

Subprogramme 6. Promoting human welfare, environment and development

Orientation and development objectives

1. The challenge to African Governments is to identify population interventions which they can afford. The interventions used in the 1960s and 1970s are no longer recommended; they should focus on the ultimate causes of environmental degradation. Population policies should aim at providing lasting solutions to poverty and environmental degradation. They are unlikely to deliver long-term improvements in the environment or prospects for self-reliance and sustainable development unless they are implemented simultaneously with measures to tackle the root causes.
2. The overall human settlement objective is to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor. Such improvement should be based on technical cooperation activities, partnerships among the public, private and community sectors and participation in the decision-making process from community groups and special interest groups such as women, indigenous people, the elderly and the disabled. These approaches should form the core principles of national settlement strategies.
3. This priority area should therefore focus on:
 - (a) Managing demographic change and population pressures;
 - (b) Development of human settlements, planning and management;
 - (c) Poverty eradication.

Programme element 6.1. Managing demographic change and population pressures

Activities

1. Promotion of environmentally sound population policies through appropriate demographic change and population distribution and redistribution.
2. Development of a relevant database.

Expected outcome

1. Relevant reports.
2. An operational database within the AMCEN secretariat.

Programme element 6.2. Development of human settlements, planning and management

Activities

1. Promotion of the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure in human settlements, planning and development.

2. Promotional activities within the framework of HABITAT-II Conference.

Expected outcome

1. Effective participation of African countries in HABITAT-II Conference activities.
2. Relevant reports.

Subprogramme 7. **Managing the environmental impacts of climate change and climate variability**

Orientation and development objectives

The objective is to identify and to carry out regional assessment of the impacts of climate variability and change on people and the environment and enumerate the range of response options for adapting to or mitigating the adverse effects and to increase awareness of the implications of climate variability and change through education, training and public awareness programmes. This will require intra-programme cooperation and coordination to reflect the cross-sectoral nature of the issue.

Activities

1. Promotional activities for the ratification by African countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
2. Assistance to African countries within the framework of the Convention.
3. Monitoring, assessment, evaluation and reporting of the environmental impacts of droughts in the region.
4. Consolidation of climate change and climate variability impact databases.
5. Relevant seminars and workshops for policy and decision makers and implementors.

Expected outcome

1. Effective participation by African countries in the Convention.
2. Ratification of the Convention by African countries.
3. Reports of country studies on the impact of climate change and the environment and development.
4. Consolidated databases developed.
5. Human resources capacity developed.

Subprogramme 8. Securing greater energy efficiency and sufficiency**Orientation and development objectives**

1. The existing energy patterns and trends in Africa are unsustainable economically, socially and environmentally. A transition to sustainable energy systems is inevitable but could be chaotic with severe social and economic disruptions and irreversible environmental damage. Such an occurrence maybe pre-empted through a planned transition pursued with strong national and international commitment. Implementation of Agenda 21 towards socially equitable, economically and technologically sound and environmentally sustainable development in African countries would crucially depend on greater energy security and self-sufficiency.

2. The lack of energy security, one of the five priority concerns singled out in the African Common Position of the African Environment and Development Agenda, is a crucial variable in environment and sustainable development. Enhanced energy security and self-sufficiency would over time improve per capita energy access for satisfaction of essential needs for survival and raise the availability of efficient energy service for development and economic growth.

Activities

1. Promotional activities within the framework of the African energy programme of the African Development Bank.
2. Preparation of guidelines on biomass energy usage in Africa.
3. Promotion of training activities.
4. Promotion of information exchange on alternative and renewable energy sources.

Expected outcome

1. Reports/briefings on the African Development Bank energy programme.
2. African nationals trained in alternative and renewable sources of energy.
3. Increased information exchange.

Subprogramme 9. Monitoring and assessing the state of the African environment**Orientation and development objectives**

The objective of this programme area is to review regularly the state of the African environment at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Activities

1. Preparation of scientific reports, assessments and environmental data compilations on topics such as deserts and arid lands; forests and woodlands; river and lake basins; island ecosystems; seas; biodiversity;

energy; non-renewable resources; socio-economic aspects of environment and development; impacts of structural adjustment programmes.

2. Review of the state of the African environment at the subregional and regional levels.
3. Preparation of regional and subregional state-of-the-environment reports.
4. Promotional activities for the establishment and or strengthening of information networks; environmental information systems (EIS); geographic information systems (GIS) at the national and subregional levels.

Expected outcome

1. Scientific reports on the state of Africa's natural resource base.
2. Subregional and regional reports on the state of the environment.
3. Established information networks, EIS and GIS.

Subprogramme 10. **Promotion of subregional and regional cooperation**

Orientation and development objectives

This programme will promote the integration of environmental dimensions into subregional and regional economic integration organizations, including relevant treaties, conventions, agreements and protocols. Special attention will be given to the protocol on the environment of the African Economic Community.

Activities

1. Promotional activities within the framework of the protocol on the environment of the treaty that established the African Economic Community.
2. Promotion of the activities of the programmes of the subregional and regional organizations (SADC, PTA, ECOWAS, IGADD, UMA, ECCAS, CILSS, IOC, ADB, African Centre for Integrated Rural Development).

Expected outcome

1. Increased support by AMCEN to the implementation of the protocol on the environment of the African Economic Community.
2. Enhanced subregional and regional cooperation.
3. Increased support to the environmental programmes of the subregional organizations and the African Economic Community.

Subprogramme 11. Promoting the role of major groups in Africa's environmental management

Orientation and development objectives

1. The African Common Position and Agenda 21 on capacity-building are unanimous that there is the need to improve or restructure the decision-making process so that consideration of socio-economic and environmental issues are fully integrated and a broader range of public participation assured.

2. One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, in the more specific context of environment and development, the need for forms of participation has emerged. This includes the need of individuals, groups and organizations to participate in environmental impact assessment procedures and to know about and participate in decisions, particularly those which potentially affects the communities in which they live and work. Individuals, groups and organizations should have access to information relevant to environment and development held by national authorities including information on products and activities that have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment. The objective of the programme is, therefore, to promote the participation of the major non-governmental organizations in environmental activities at all levels.

3. It has been underscored that poverty is one of the major causes of massive global environmental degradation. The situation is that poverty has perpetuated the under-development of resources, low levels of technological development and, consequently, low production in all sectors leading to the exacerbation of environmental degradation. There is therefore the need to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of environmental and development programmes within the context of Agenda 21.

Activities

1. Promotion of the establishment or strengthening of a regional and or subregional African NGO network on the environment.

2. Promotional activities within the framework of the World Conference on Women.

3. Preparation of criteria for the accreditation of major groups to the Conference.

Expected outcome

1. Established or strengthened regional and or subregional African NGO network on the environment.

2. Assistance to African countries within the framework of the World Conference on Women.

3. Accredited major groups to the Conference.

Subprogramme 12. Mobilization of support for the implementation of Africa's environment programme at the national subregional and regional levels

Activities

1. Review and preparation of a report on the major sources of funding of environmental programmes (national, subregional and regional levels).

2. Review of positive developments and initiatives regarding financial commitments to Agenda 21, particularly international development assistance (IDA), the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and regional banks, debt relief, bilateral donor funding, United Nations agency allocations, United Nations Development Programme Capacity 21 funds, etc.

3. Promotional activities for the mobilization of resources for Africa's environmental programmes.

Expected outcome

1. Reports and assessments of the sources of funding of Africa's environmental programmes.
2. Recommendations for the mobilization of resources for Africa's environmental programmes.

Appendix**INDICATIVE PROGRAMME BUDGET 1994-1995: SUMMARY OF THE BUDGET**Introduction

1. Unless otherwise agreed, each Government shall bear the cost of implementing the national activities under each subprogramme area.
2. The proposed subregional activities should be the responsibility of the subregional organization with all possible support from the Conference, its cooperating partners and member States.
3. The secretariat of the Conference in order to discharge its responsibilities will require \$US 2,526,000 for the 1994-1995 biennium.

	<u>1994</u>	<u>Year 1995</u>	<u>Total for two years</u>
<u>Core activities of the secretariat</u>			
(a) Technical assistance			
(b) Relevant advisory services			
(c) Mobilization of resources			
(d) Data collection and information exchange			
(e) Environmental awareness			
(f) Coordination			
	500 000	500 000	1 000 000
<u>Conference</u>			
Sixth session of AMCEN			
- conference facilities		120 000	120 000
<u>Bureau</u>			
Bureau meeting			
- conference facilities	20 000	20 000	40 000
<u>Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG)</u>			
IAWG meeting			
- conference facilities	10 000	10 000	20 000
<u>Technical Group of Experts meeting</u>			
(in conjunction with sixth session of AMCEN)			
- Travel for 52 members	66 000		66 000
- Per diem for 52 members	36 000		36 000
		102 000	102 000
<u>Subregional consultations</u>			
West Africa meeting (16)	68 000	68 000	
Central Africa meeting (10)	40 000	40 000	
East Africa meeting (11)	44 000	44 000	
North Africa meeting (5)	24 000	24 000	
Southern Africa meeting (10)	36 000	36 000	
			212 000

	<u>1994</u>	<u>Year 1995</u>	<u>Total for two years</u>
<u>Secretariat</u>			
(a) Secondment of staff by UNEP, ECA and OAU			
(b) Staff time by UNEP, ECA and OAU			
(c) Secondment of staff by African countries			
Consultants - external + local - (unspecified) to undertake special assignments as indicated by the Conference, Bureau, etc.	60 000	60 000	60 000
Travel of the secretariat staff to attend meetings or undertake missions in selected countries	44 000	44 000	88 000
Stationery materials		4 000	4 000
Communications (telex, telephone and postage charges)	5 000	5 000	10 000
Hospitality	3 000	3 000	6 000
<u>Networks</u>			
Support to each of the 8 Networks (8 x 50 000 = 400 000)	400 000	400 000	800 000
GRAND TOTAL	1 546 000	1 480 000	2 526 000

N.B. The AMCEN secretariat will hold consultations with African organizations, institutions, United Nations bodies and international agencies with a view to reaching agreements on modalities for their contributions, technical and/or financial, in the implementation of the Conference programme.