

DAKAR DECLARATION FOR ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
INITIATIVE OF NEPAD

We, African Ministers of Environment and our development partners, meeting at the second Partners Conference for the implementation of the action plan for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Dakar, Senegal from 15 to 16 March 2005, in response and with appreciation to the proposal to convene a second Partners Conference, which was initially made by the Republic of Senegal during the first Partners Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in December 2003;

**Recalling** the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000 and the commitments to assist African countries to promote sustainable development;

**Recalling** also the Johannesburg Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular, and its chapter 8 on sustainable development for Africa;

**Recalling further** the Algiers Declaration for a global partnership on the environment initiative of NEPAD adopted by the first Partners Conference on the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative held in Algiers on 15 and 16 December 2003;

**Recalling also** the Sirte Declaration on the environment and development adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), at its tenth regular session held in Sirte, Libya on 29 and 30 June 2004;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the objectives stated in the Action Plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD, aimed at complementing the relevant African processes in order to improve environmental conditions in Africa and contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty eradication;

**Recognizing** the need to enhance the capacity of African States to implement the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD at the country level;

**Welcoming** the outcome of the Conference of Ministers on resource mobilization mechanisms for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD held in Dakar, Senegal from 12 to 14 October 2004;

**Noting** the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers on resources mobilization held in Dakar, Senegal in October 2004;

**Noting** the progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD and the on-going process to enhance its implementation and the need for developing viable financial mechanisms for the implementation of the Action Plan;

**Emphasizing** the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenges of meeting basic needs in the process of developing national , sub-regional and regional activities in Africa under the 10 Year Framework Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

**Noting** the various ongoing projects of the environment initiative of NEPAD and the need to share and coordinate information flow;

**Noting** the crucial roles of national, sub-regional and regional bodies as well as development partners in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD;

**Noting** the key role women play in the protection of the environment and the need to involve women at all levels of decision making and implementation;

**Noting** the limited capacity in Africa to meet the conditionalities and procedures for accessing available financial mechanisms;

**Recalling** the adoption of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) by the second ordinary Assembly of the African Union held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003 and its subsequent opening for signature and ratification by all African States;

**Realizing** that achieving the Millenium Development Goal of ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa by 2015 will be challenging,

*Hereby declare our resolve to:*

1. Recommit ourselves to ensuring a successful implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD;
2. Reaffirm that the international support for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD is essential and in this regard express our appreciation to Africa's partners that have already demonstrated their support, and call on other Africa's partners to demonstrate their effective support for the implementation of the Action Plan;
3. Request and urge African Governments to ensure sustained implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD;
4. Request African Governments to integrate environmental concerns into national pursuits of economic development in Africa, and at the same time take into account the priorities of the continent for sustainable social, economic and human development, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

5. Request all African countries that have not yet signed or ratified the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to do so as a matter of urgency;
6. Recommit ourselves to supporting the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) process and the AEO report as a tool for monitoring sustainable development in Africa, strengthening linkages between policy and science in environmental assessment and accessing reliable environmental data and information;
7. Acknowledge the progress made in preparing the second AEO report for its release in 2006, and urge governments to develop mechanisms for ensuring its wider use as an information support tool for sustainable development planning;
8. Urge the integration of the objectives of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD into national and sub-regional development plans and strategies including those of the Regional Economic Communities;
9. Strengthen cooperation with development partners and all regional and subregional bodies in the pursuit of a successful implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD and keep its implementation under review;
10. Reaffirm that the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions and other Regional Seas Conventions are the appropriate regional mechanisms to develop and implement projects and programmes in the marine and coastal areas in collaboration with relevant UN and other Agencies, private sector, NGOs and civil society;
11. Recommend that in the context of the implementation of the action plan special attention must be given to integrating gender mainstreaming in the environment, especially empowering the women and the girl child, and establishing women and environment networks at a national, sub-regional and regional level;
12. Encourage and welcome the implementation of the capacity building programme of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD as well as the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology support and capacity building in Africa while taking advantage of opportunities and planned initiatives offered by the international decade of education for development;
13. Request African Governments to make available their capacity building needs and offers for exchange of experience to the Secretariat of AMCEN;
14. Commit our Governments to make every effort to implement the priority projects selected by AMCEN and presented to the first Partners Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in December 2003;

15. Call upon the Commission for Africa, which is being spearheaded by the United Kingdom, and similar bodies to support the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD;
16. Call upon our development partners to support an enhanced implementation of the priority projects contained in the Action Plan and efforts aimed at forging appropriate partnerships.
17. Further call upon our development partners to provide concrete support to the activities and programmes based on the outcome of the Second African Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production under the framework of the AMCEN work plan on sustainable consumption and production;
18. Acknowledge the important contribution the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) can make to the implementation of the action plan and endorse the incorporation of those relevant GISP activities into the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD;
19. Request all African countries and partners to support the implementation conference on the invasive alien species programme of the action plan that South Africa intends hosting in June 2005;
20. Urge African countries to honour their offer to provide in kind and in cash contribution for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD, particularly its programme on capacity building and the priority projects selected by AMCEN;
21. Adopt the proposal for the creation of an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank, the utilisation of the existing financial mechanisms within Subregional Economic Communities and other subregional organisations, and the utilisation of inter-state mechanisms for the implementation of joint programmes where appropriate;
22. Call upon the President of AMCEN to urgently commission, in collaboration with the ADB and UNEP, a study on modalities for the creation of such an African Environment Facility as a potential mechanism for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD;
23. Request AMCEN, the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Regional Economic Communities and the Interim Secretariat of the Environment Component of NEPAD, to

- develop proposals for other resource mobilization and allocation mechanisms for the funding of priority projects and programmes of the Action Plan;
24. Call upon the African Development Bank to increase its financial resources allocated to the environment sector;
  25. Further call upon the other international and subregional Development Banks to allocate or increase their financial resources to the environment sector;
  26. Urge Africa's development partners to adopt a more flexible arrangement to facilitate speedy access to funds for the implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan.
  27. Request H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, as coordinator of the NEPAD environment initiative, to present the Dakar Declaration for enhanced partnership in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD and the status report on the implementation of the action plan to the Heads of State Implementation Committee of NEPAD, the Summit of the Heads of State and Government to be held in Egypt in April 2005 and to all relevant international sustainable development forums and to Africa's development partners;
  28. Request H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal to submit the proposal for the establishment of the Africa Environment Facility to the African Development Bank;
  29. Express our gratitude to H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, and to the Government and people of Senegal for hosting the Second Partners Conference on the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD.