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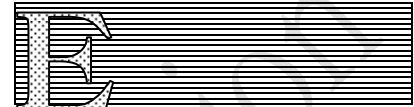
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



AFRICAN UNION

Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-7) and The Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

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Acronyms

ACMAD	African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development
ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APRM	Africa Peer Review Mechanism
APRM	Africa Peer Review Mechanism
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CFSSD	Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
CFSSD-6	Sixth Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
CFSSD-7	Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community for West African States
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FSSDD	ECA Food Security and Sustainable Development Division
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HDI	The Human Development Index
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IEG	International Environmental Governance Systems
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LPI	Land Policy Initiative

MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NCSDs	National Councils for Sustainable Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NSSDs	National Strategies for Sustainable Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
Rio+20	Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP- RBA	United Nations Development Programme – Regional Bureau for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/ROA	Regional Office for Africa of UNEP
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNLO-AU	United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-7) took place from 20 to 23 October 2011 at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The session provided a platform for the Expert Segment Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

2. The objectives of CFSSD-7 were twofold: to review the implementation of the 2010/2011 work programme of the ECA Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) and provide guidance on further work during the 2012/2013 biennium. The Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was organized by ECA jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC) and African Development Bank (AfDB), and in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

II. ATTENDANCE

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of 51 member States, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) participated in the deliberations. Seven out of the eight African Union-recognized

Regional Economic Communities (RECs), namely; Arab Maghrib Union (AMU), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) also took part in the deliberations of the Committee. Furthermore, all nine major groups recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, namely; Business and Industry, Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, NGOs, Scientific and Technological Community, Women, as well as Workers and Trade Unions were actively engaged in the discussions.

5. Observers from the following member States of the United Nations were present: Brazil, France, the European Union, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, League of Arab States, l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the United States of America.

6. Observers from the following United Nations Agencies were present: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union (UNLO-AU), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP).

7. The complete list of participants can be accessed at http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/sdd/events/Rio20/CFSSD7.asp

III. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. Opening statements were made by Mr. Tlou Ramaru, Senior Policy Advisor on Sustainable Development and Trade Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, and Chairperson of the CFSSD 6 Bureau, Ms. Jennifer Kargbo, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Director, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Environment Programme; Ms. Gelila Terrefe, Advisor on Climate change, United Nations Development Programme; and Mr. Abdirahanan Beileh, Acting Director for Agriculture Development, African Development Bank; Mr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission. H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment, Republic of the Congo delivered a keynote address and opened the meeting.

9. In his opening remarks, Mr. Tlou Ramaru, Senior Policy Advisor, the Chairperson of the Bureau of CFSSD-6, stated that given the importance of food security to Africa and the fact that progress had been undermined by the food crisis, climate change and the financial meltdown, the Committee of Experts should work towards ensuring that agriculture remained at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda in Africa. He noted that the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference would provide an opportunity for Africa to shape and articulate its sustainable development agenda in support of the continent's economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication priorities.

10. Ms. Jennifer Kargbo, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, welcomed participants to the meeting. She recalled that the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) were to renew political commitment to sustainable development, to assess progress and implementation gaps, and to address new and emerging challenges. The key themes would be the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The First Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference and the Meeting of the Committee on Human and Social Development would provide key inputs, which, together with deliberations on statutory matters and presentations of a range of reports on progress towards the Rio+20 objectives, would assist the experts in drafting an Africa Consensus Statement. She

therefore urged the delegations to ensure that they were represented in the open-ended drafting group.

11. In the face of increasing food insecurity, climate change, financial and economic crises and escalating social unrest, an integrated approach to the three pillars of economic growth, social development and environmental protection was of the utmost importance. In the absence of such an approach, gains made in relation to one pillar could undermine the others, as seen in the fact that countries in sub-Saharan Africa had failed to translate continuous positive economic growth into lower unemployment and poverty reduction, as well as progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Planning ministries and other government departments had therefore to strive to ensure the desired level of integration, and the deliberations and outcomes in Rio de Janeiro had to serve to bridge the implementation gap and translate political commitment into concrete action on the ground.

12. In his remarks, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Regional Director and Representative, United Nations Environment Programme, said that the world, notwithstanding its many strategies, policies and action plans, was still grappling with intractable challenges to sustainable development; that there were still gaps and shortcomings in the implementation of international commitments towards the sustainable development agenda; and that the commitments of African countries had only been partially met.

13. A green economy development path could help those countries make economic and social gains on several fronts. Africa's substantial natural assets could provide investment opportunities in more sustainable agriculture leading, among others, to increased food productivity, cleaner and more efficient production, and job creation. A recent African Union summit of Heads of State and Government had called for UNEP's transformation into a specialized institution dedicated to addressing the structural changes needed in Africa in the areas of the environment, sustainable development and climate change. The assembled experts should provide analysis and recommendations on the best way forward for implementing that decision.

14. In her remarks, Ms. Terrefe, United Nations Development Programme, described the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro as a historic opportunity to promote sustainable development. UNDP would work with the entire United Nations system to support developing countries in their transition to a more sustainable future via a low-emission development path and the safeguarding of essential environmental resources and ecosystems. A green economy agenda alone would not lead to sustainable development and required appropriate policies. For low-income countries, the challenge of the green economy and sustainable development would be to maintain their ecological footprints while accelerating sustainable growth and human development.

15. In his remarks, Mr. Beileh, Acting Director for Agriculture Development, African Development Bank, reiterated two of the key objectives of Rio+20: to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development; and to assess the progress and implementation gaps in efforts to meet agreed commitments, while addressing new and emerging challenges. Africa had to strive, first and foremost, to strengthen the institutional framework in order to achieve sustainable development targets. Progress at present is mixed in different countries as reflected, among others, in inadequate allocation of resources, which called for renewed commitment and re-energized resource mobilization.

16. While Africa faces new challenges, including the negative impacts of climate change, its rich and extensive natural resources gave it the potential to move forward. The innovative mechanisms and initiatives developed through sustainable land and water management, renewable energy use, improved energy efficiency, biofuels and ecosystem-service revenues should be fully exploited. The African Development Bank, for its part, had integrated sustainable development into all programmes and projects it was financing in regional member countries in the areas of transport, energy, water, agriculture, natural resources and social sectors. It sought to ensure that investment in those countries provided clear public benefits by improving growth, productivity, employment opportunities and access to markets and essential services. In conclusion, he reiterated the Bank's commitment to continued support for African countries and institutions in preparing for effective participation at the Rio+20 Conference the following year.

17. Mr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, speaking on behalf of H.E. Ms. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, drew attention to the fact that Africa is lagging behind in its efforts to achieve its goals in, among other fields, poverty reduction and social development; financing and trade; and implementation of Rio Conventions and Agenda 21. A candid assessment and evaluation was therefore needed of the achievements made, challenges faced, lessons learned and action to be taken in the area of sustainable development. An effective regional preparatory process for Rio+20 should include efforts to articulate a common position representing the collective aspirations of African countries.

18. The experiment of negotiating from a common position had enabled Africa to be taken seriously, thereby facilitating productive engagement in strategic partnerships. A single African voice on climate change would help to shape the climate change negotiations in Durban, and the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government had urged member States to work together to develop a common position for Africa at the Rio Conference. Describing the present meeting as a critical step towards adopting a draft Africa consensus statement for the Conference, he expressed his appreciation to the Republic of the Congo for having taken up the challenge of coordinating the efforts to that end.

19. In his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry and Environment, Republic of the Congo, said that the whole world was looking forward to a tangible outcome to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. Like the Asia and Pacific region, Africa must speak with a single voice in order to develop a coherent institutional framework integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. Hence, the decision at the Malabo summit to turn UNEP into a specialized environmental institution to be based in Nairobi, and that of the recent Bamako Conference of African Environment Ministers on international environmental governance describing the characteristics of that body with a view to enabling the present Preparatory Conference to develop a common position for Africa at Rio+20.

20. The successful emergence of a green economy in Africa was crucial to providing the institutional framework with solid foundations. He therefore urged the experts not to waste time on

confusing definitions but to focus on making the concept visible, building on the concrete projects already underway in a number of African countries where examples of a green economy could be seen in such fields as sustainable forest management, waste management, biodiversity use, enhancement of ecosystem services, renewable energies and sustainable fisheries. Efforts to that end were currently undermined, among others, by a lack of adequate technologies, local capacities, funding and political will. Hence there is need for a new paradigm in Rio de Janeiro.

21. Africa, with its vast reserves of natural resources and a population of around one billion, still faced enormous economic, social and ecological challenges. The assembled experts therefore were needed to come up with concrete answers to the questions of what Africa expected from Rio+20 and how to achieve those expectations, including the elements of an Africa Consensus Statement that would enable the continent to play a major role in Rio de Janeiro and to show that it was capable of organizing efficiently and influencing the international debate.

22. In conclusion, the experts should maintain a focus on the objectives of the Conference: renewing political commitment to sustainable development and assessing the progress made and the remaining gaps. They should furthermore explore the concept of a green economy in the context of the three pillars of sustainable development and poverty reduction, with a particular emphasis on its potential value added; on experience gained to date and how to capitalize on promising results; on the obstacles to be overcome and opportunities to grasp; and on possible points of convergence to be included in the draft Consensus Statement. Finally, they should strive to set the priorities and come up with proposals for strengthening each of the three pillars at the local, national, regional and global levels, together with the kind of governance architecture to be established. International governance would be the responsibility of a revived UNEP in a newly defined role as a specialized United Nations institution for the environment.

23. He declared the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for Rio+20 open and wished the experts success in their work.

IV. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

A. Election of the Bureau

24. The Committee elected the following countries to constitute its Bureau on the basis of rotational subregional representation:

Chairperson:	Republic of the Congo
First Vice-Chair:	Somalia
Second Vice-Chair:	Botswana
Third Vice-Chair:	Benin
Rapporteur:	The Sudan

25. In addition, the Committee agreed that African Representatives of the Rio+20 Bureau would participate in the CFSSD-7 Bureau.

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

26. The Secretariat presented the programme of work, pointing out that it had been amended so that all statutory matters would be dealt with on the first day of the expert segment and the rest of the meeting could focus on discussion of preparations for Rio+20. Food security and other statutory matters would therefore be discussed on the first afternoon. A drafting group would start to meet from the second day to produce a draft of the Africa Consensus Statement for presentation to the Ministerial Segment. The Statement would encapsulate the concerns Africa wanted to see addressed at Rio + 20 and reflected in its outcomes. The final session would review the Statement.

27. The Chair of the newly elected Bureau then called for consideration of the draft agenda. In the absence of any comments or objections, the agenda was adopted.

C. Introduction and objectives of the meeting

28. Under this agenda item, the secretariat made a brief presentation on the introduction and objectives of the meeting. It provided an overview of the meeting format, the expected outcomes and outputs, guided by the objectives of the meeting. The presenter indicated that this meeting will consist of two main parts: (1) the seventh session of the Committee of Food Security and Sustainable Development; and (2) Africa Regional Preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20. The presenter urged participants to complete the evaluation form to enable the Secretariat to determine the extent to which the meeting objectives and expected outcomes had been met, in order to improve on the organization and servicing of meetings, and to serve the Committee better.

29. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and adopted the objectives and expected outputs without amendment.

D. Statutory and legislative aspects

Implementation of the 2010/2011 work programme of the ECA Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development

30. Mr. Josué Dione, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, recalled that the subprogramme was expected to achieve improved capacity at national, subregional and regional levels for designing and implementing effective policies, strategies and programmes aimed at achieving food security and sustainable development. He went on to outline achievements made and work in progress in the areas of agriculture and food security, including access to markets, food security policies and the study of: the economic and social costs of hunger; land policy; water; capacity-building for risk assessment; climate change; and the Sustainable Development Report on Africa. He concluded by recalling that there had been recruitment challenges during the biennium and an overload of outputs, and that resources had been overstretched. Lessons had been learned within the framework of both collaboration between divisions and institutions, and partnership between the African Union Commission and African Development Bank.

31. The Committee thanked the Director for his enlightening presentation and expressed some concerns. The first concern relates to the apparent conflicting objectives of biofuel production and food security as countries that had opted for biofuel expansion have sacrificed food-producing lands therefore jeopardizing national efforts aimed at enhancing food security and sustainable development. The Committee also noted the importance of promoting microcredit schemes for women, together with highlighting women's role in enhancing food security and agricultural development. It noted as well was the importance of conservation and processing of agricultural produce for achieving food security and reducing rural poverty. The Committee highlighted the need for ECA to enhance the awareness of member States on the African Land Policy Initiative as well as all other technical assistance available under the ECA subprogramme on food security and sustainable development.

32. In his response, the Director of FSSDD, indicated that the report presented was meant to give an overview of the Secretariat's work and a summary of progress made pointing out that questions and issues raised by the Committee would be addressed in greater detail in subsequent presentations.

Presentation on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Highlights of the Fourth Issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa

33. The Secretariat made a presentation based on the fourth edition of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa. The report reviewed trends and progress towards sustainable development based on an integrated set of indicators. Africa's efforts to that end had been hampered by conflicts, insufficient investment, limited market access and supply-side constraints, together with declining overseas development assistance and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Economic growth had come at the expense of the natural resource base, while not bringing about the desired social improvements, yet significant progress had nonetheless been made. She went on to give an overview of the themes covered in the report: forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountain ecosystems.

34. More attention should be paid to the need for water storage capacity in low-rainfall and mudslide-affected regions, and to the fact that significant investment was required in rural

infrastructure, especially better roads to enhance trade between different countries and subregional trading blocs. A greater focus was needed on the contribution of trade to poverty alleviation, and the fact that the terms of trade did not always work in Africa's favour.

35. Other requirements included a breakdown of the aggregate figures on tourism into domestic and foreign tourism; information on the challenges and progress made in the critical area of combating drought and desertification; an emphasis on microcredit schemes for women should be provided, together with a report on women's role in enhancing food security; and data on the social and economic problems associated with climate change-related migration.

36. A few speakers deplored the lack of any mention of the progress made within the framework of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), or the significant number of plans and programmes African countries had implemented in the area of food security. Others called for a reference to the efforts African countries had been making to integrate sustainable development strategies into their policymaking and planning.

37. One representative noted that Africa's progress in ensuring that sustainable -development efforts took into account the links between economic, environmental and social areas had not been reflected; – nor had the need to integrate the three pillars into a single framework.

38. Other areas requiring coverage in the reports included specific reference to Africa's key contribution to the drafting of the protocol to be adopted at the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties in Durban; and consideration of other areas relevant to sustainable development such as energy, including the use of alternative fuels in agriculture.

39. Several participants drew attention to the lack of examples of subregion and country-specific problems. There should be a focus on illustrating, among others, ECA's contribution to local land-policy initiatives; on; the issue of land loss due to climate change-related events such as forest fires in the Sahel; and on that of the dwindling youth workforce in agriculture. North Africa was a particular subregion for which there had been scant coverage.

40. Responding to the various points raised, the presenter stressed that the intention of the presentation was to highlight progress in key areas and indicated that other documents that the meeting would be discussing already addressed some of the concerns raised. The document would be enriched with the comments made by the Committee and future versions of the report would reflect these inputs, especially on issues relating to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Presentation on Food Security in Africa: challenges, opportunities and policy options

41. The Secretariat highlighted food security as a core dimension of sustainable development and underlined its critical role in ensuring human development and social stability. The presentation noted the increasing number of food insecure people and Africa's high degree of prevalence of undernourishment in the context of maintained high and volatile food prices, uncertain degree of transmission of rising fuel prices into feed and food markets. The presentation also underscored the increasingly high degree of correlation emerging between food and fuel, financial and other markets suggesting the need for state of the art analytical tools to analyze and anticipate shocks from global to affect regional and local food markets, poor rural and urban economies.

42. The likely non-attainment of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 due to persistent rise and volatility in fuel, feed and food prices calling upon countries to address the high degree of vulnerability of the region to these shocks.

43. The Secretariat highlighted the challenges posed and opportunities opened up by the climate change for agricultural production systems and called upon Africa to:

(a) Tap into opportunities offered by the green economy and biotechnology, increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and explore new frontiers for rapid economic growth opportunities if the right policies and actions are taken now;

(b) In the short run, strengthen the emergency and humanitarian interventions through an innovative reform of the food aid system;

(c) Address the current high post-harvest losses and post consumer wastes by investing massively in rural infrastructure, including cross-border infrastructure to help countries assist each other in moving food from food-surplus areas/countries to food-deficit ones;

(d) Increase public investment in agriculture through the implementation of the Maputo declaration while putting in place a conducive business environment to attract private investment into the sector;

(e) Put in place and/or strengthen the institutions and solidarity arrangements aimed at stabilizing agricultural and food prices as well as farm income;

(f) Establish food data banks at the national, subregional and regional levels to address the issue of recurrent famine and achieve food security and poverty reduction; and

(g) Revisit the premises upon which food security policies are built in order to reduce the persistent reliance of the region on increasingly costly, risky and uncertain food imports and food aid by promoting local agricultural and food production capacities within a framework of agricultural and rural transformation, effective common food market initiatives, well functioning, competitive and remunerative strategic commodities and food supply and value chains.

44. The Committee noted that it was important to document and share further information on existing successful food security interventions tackling food security more effectively and stressed the need to consider the following:

(a) Enhancing political will towards implementing existing regional food and nutrition security related decisions and resolutions;

(b) Promoting the creation of regional food banks;

(c) Further putting the emphasis on most vulnerable communities, including women and children in food and nutrition security policymaking;

(d) Linking food security and agriculture issues with market infrastructure development;

(e) Promoting technology transfer, research and development to address Africa's current lack of adequate scientific and technological expertise; and

(f) Developing seed production and gene banks at national level.

45. In conclusion, the Committee called for further guidance in ensuring that agriculture and rural transformation is being exerted with increasingly high local content in the interests of Africa and its growing youth population.

46. In response, the Secretariat noted the existence of well thought-out strategies, vision, and good practices in fostering food security in Africa and reiterated the need for strengthened political will in learning lessons from countries in Africa and elsewhere that had consistently succeeded in reducing and stabilizing the number of food insecure people. The need for giving more impetus to regional dimension while reducing barriers to intra food trade in tackling food security was also emphasized. In conclusion, the Secretariat cautioned that suggesting that continued exports of low value, raw produce and non-renewable finite natural resources without adding any value is growth volatility and poverty perpetuating.

Presentation on development of strategic agricultural commodity value chains for Food security and Sustainable Development in Africa: an overview

47. The Secretariat made a presentation on the ECA initiative on regional value chains development in Africa emphasizing the strategic role of agriculture as the backbone of the region's economy. The presentation underlined that agricultural value chains in Africa are mainly national-based and emphasized the need to promote a regionally-integrated value chain approach for strategic commodities and food products.

48. The Secretariat underscored the need to create and promote agricultural preferential zones and regionally-oriented cross border investment initiatives aligned with the different pillars of the CAADP. It was clearly noted that regional value chains will not only promote employment, especially for the vulnerable people, but also foster value addition with increased local content to Africa's products, efficiently linking farmers to both input and output markets while strengthening intra-African food and agricultural trade.

49. The Secretariat presented the key features of the initiative as follows:

- (a) Policy and regulatory framework to promote transnational African companies investing in agriculture;
- (b) A multi-institutional, multi-stakeholder and holistic approach to increase awareness of policymakers on the benefits of developing well integrated, competitive regional commodity and food value chains;
- (c) Capacity-building and mainstreaming of the regional value chains approach into the regional and national agricultural and food security related development strategies; and
- (d) RECs owned and led process initiated with two pilot schemes involving ECOWAS and COMESA due only to resource constraints but to be expanded to others.

Presentation on the Land Policy Initiative

50. The Secretariat made a presentation on the AUC/ECA/AfDB Land Policy Initiative (LPI) focusing on the need to implement the commitment of the AU Heads of State and Government on land issues recalling the paramount role land resources management play in economic, social and environmental development in Africa. The presentation highlighted the achievements of the LPI in terms of strengthening capacity, promoting policy dialogue and disseminating information on land issues in the region noting that the ECA-AfDB-AU joint Secretariat of the initiative was already in place.

51. However, it was noted that the LPI was facing challenges in terms of enhancing the capacity of its own Secretariat, developing new partnerships, strengthening coordination between the key partners involved in the context of increased political instability, electoral uncertainties and ongoing conflicts.

52. The Secretariat emphasized the need to build and strengthen consensus on land policies to be aligned with the development strategies at local, national, subregional and regional levels, to put in place clearly defined monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as well as strong political will to implement them fully in line with the AU Heads of State and Government commitment.

53. The Committee emphasized the need for African countries to build on lessons learnt and available good practices in sustainable land management and land policy reforms in developing their own land policy arsenal. The Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) could be used as a key tool to enhance the learning process. The Committee also recognized the emerging challenge of land related commercial pressure aimed to primarily serve agribusiness purposes instead of food security. The Committee also pointed to pressure on land generated by population growth, rapid urbanization and unsustainable land management practices.

54. In response, the Secretariat mentioned that it is crucial for African countries to develop and implement in a participatory manner, land policies that are aligned with Africa's strategic development objectives.

Presentation on Climate Change and Development in Africa

55. The Secretariat noted that the warming of the climate was unequivocal based on scientific evidences and empirical observations in Africa and elsewhere. The presentation highlighted the vulnerability of the continent to the phenomenon based on its economic structure and level of development. Mitigation mechanisms were still slow and sparse urging the continent to move towards low carbon and climate resilient development path.

56. The work programme of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) was presented highlighting the participatory approach used for its elaboration to ensure involvement of all concerned major African institutions. Countries were urged to learn and draw lessons from each other and strengthen their political will towards promoting mitigation and adaptation initiatives in Africa putting development first.

57. The Committee recognized the importance of strengthening drought early warning systems as experienced already in North Africa as well as long-term drought management in Eastern Africa building on existing frameworks such as the Nairobi Action Plan and ongoing work at the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

58. The Committee noted the shortage and poor dissemination of climate data and encouraged the ACPC to continue their support to countries in order to bridge existing data gaps for a smooth development of climate change strategies. The Committee also pointed to the need to focus on climate and development linkages as well as to the following areas for consideration:

- (a) Development of national climate change baselines;
- (b) Increasing opportunities for African countries to tap into the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);
- (c) Provision of user-friendly climate data to policymakers in Africa;
- (d) Strengthening of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and related harmonization of rules and procedures in Africa;
- (e) Consideration of 'territorial climate change plans' taking into account specific spatial and geo-climatic features; and
- (f) Establishment of weather index based insurance schemes for farmers to address their production and post-harvest losses.

59. In response, the Secretariat reminded the participants that what was presented was not an exhaustive report on climate change in Africa but more a presentation on key related topics aimed to inform discussions. It was also mentioned that ACPC was cooperating with various African institutions and assistance was provided locally where resources so permitted.

E. Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for Rio+20

Presentation and discussion on the Africa Regional Review Report for Rio+20 (Implementation of Sustainable Development Commitments in Africa)

60. Mr. Genevesi Ogiogio, ECA Consultant stressed that the current version of the Africa Regional Review Report for Rio+20, *Implementation of Sustainable Development Commitments in Africa*, was a working document that would be amended and completed in light of the ensuing discussions. It provided a conceptual overview, a decade-by-decade review of performance since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and a look at the challenges and constraints in the

implementation of commitments, the key ones being a weak institutional framework and a related environmental bias, together with inadequate financial resources.

61. Conclusions and recommendations were grouped under the following headings: institutional and policy framework for sustainable development; leadership and political commitment; governance, processes and programmes; human and institutional capacity framework, which included the recommendation that UNEP be strengthened and transformed into a fully-fledged regional institution to provide technical guidance on sustainable environmental development; financial resources; partnerships and shared responsibilities; and integration, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and performance, which outlined a set of tasks for ECA, and called for its strengthening in that regard. He suggested that governance be considered as a separate pillar since sustainable development would not be achieved unless it was improved.

62. In the ensuing discussions, representatives said that the report should tackle the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, and that it should include strategies for promoting social development; the social pillar, which was especially crucial in the context of recent popular uprisings on the continent, for example, had been underreported in comparison to the others.

63. It should furthermore consider proposals to set up an African sustainable development fund because a relatively small number of countries were receiving the bulk of development finance, while the majority received none; most foreign direct investment was being channelled into the extractive sectors; and few African countries were benefitting from overseas development assistance. It should include the recommendation that profits from mining be invested in other sectors.

64. In view of the fact that sustainable development-oriented legislation, plans and strategies had only been partially – if at all – implemented, the report should present what had not been done and for what reasons in order to determine the action to be taken. Sustainable development as a policy should be evaluated at the subregional level, with a greater emphasis on the need to increase collaboration between landlocked countries within the same subregion. It should recommend

incorporating national sustainable development strategies into a comprehensive global, long-term perspective; and capacity-building for the production of reliable data for policymakers.

65. Overall, far less of the report should be devoted to introductory and conceptual aspects, and far more to the actual body of the report. Furthermore, institutional aspects should be linked to action; MDGs should be examined in order to identify those that could be implemented and those that could not; recommendations should include the underlying arguments; concerns on means of implementation, especially financing should be included; and it should set priorities for action. Clarification was required of the challenges before proposals could be made as to how to overcome them. A more participatory approach should be adopted in compiling future reports.

66. Regarding the environmental pillar, clarification was requested in view of the fact that the international community was questioning development strategies in the light of environmental issues. It was suggested that greater prominence be given to desertification, especially since the United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification (UNCCD) was the most under-resourced of the three environment-specific instruments. A more extensive account should be provided of ecosystem services and their linkages. Participation in all aspects of sustainable development should include public consultation before the approval of any construction programmes likely to have an impact on the environment.

67. Clarification was requested on the transformation and strengthening of UNEP. Language: it was to be transformed into a specialized institution for the environment: the decision had been taken by African Union Heads of State and Government, and it was not within the mandate of the Committee to change those terms.

68. At the institutional level, the report should recognize the substantial contribution being made by community-based resource management programmes; and consider the fact that governance at the national level should be the responsibility not of environment ministries but of the national councils for sustainable development (NCSDs). It was important to come up with strategies for strengthening NCSDs as they were key to coordinated implementation of Rio+20 outcomes on the ground.

69. ECA had to work to ensure that NCSDs could act independently, with a broader mandate and adequate capacity. They furthermore needed to receive inputs from the increasing networks and partnerships that had emerged in Africa since the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Finally, the report should address how systemic, institutional progress could be harnessed to push forward sustainable development on the ground.

70. Mr. Ogiogio, responding to the comments and queries said that the report was continental in scope and that data on individual countries could be derived from the charts and figures. More broadly, it was hard for such a wide-ranging report to cover all issues comprehensively, and more detailed information could be obtained by linking it with the other thematic and sub-regional review reports.

71. On the question regarding UNEP, he clarified that he meant that UNEP/ROA should become a properly resourced, and an enhanced agency capable of focusing more on Africa. Its operations must be decentralized to enable it to work at the country and regional levels.

72. The Chairperson of the Bureau pointed out that governance being the foundation of sustainable development is overarching rather than considered a fourth pillar of sustainable development.

73. The Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts stressed the need to step up the sharing of best practices on sustainable development.

Presentation and discussion on New and Emerging Challenges

74. Mr. Ken B. Johm, Manager, Natural Resources and Environment Management Division, African Development Bank, made a presentation based on the report, Africa Report on New and Emerging Challenges. He outlined the targets, status and achievements related to each of the challenges presented in the report: biodiversity and ecosystem loss; climate change; water scarcity; the food crisis; desertification; the energy crisis; youth unemployment; and the financial and economic crises.

75. The key message was that mixed progress had been made in achieving sustainable development goals in the context of poverty reduction. Improved progress required additional resources to meet targets; coordinated and harmonized approaches in order to focus efforts and avoid duplication; integrated approaches and leveraging across sectors; reaffirmed commitment; capacity at various levels; and effective monitoring and sharing of experiences. The recommendations contained in the report were aimed at addressing those needs and shortfalls.

76. In the ensuing discussions, some participants called for the report on new and emerging challenges to highlight the issue of trafficking and piracy, especially in East Africa, and its effects on fishing, tourism and trade. More awareness on the subject would drive home the need for international efforts to combat the menace. It should furthermore address the issue of low penetration of information communication technology services; the role of urbanization and its impact on job growth; and the need to develop better disaster-response mechanisms.

77. Consideration should be given to the issue of migration resulting from the effects of climate change, drought desertification and conflicts. Attention should also be devoted to the need for more funding to strengthen the UNCCD, with one representative calling for a focus on strengthening the linkages between the three environment-related conventions. The report should also discuss the issue of genetically-modified crops in connection with food security and the long-term effects on the environment, and the development of agricultural mechanisms promoting the use of arable land, which touched on gender issues given that more efficient use of farmlands would enable girls to attend school: a matter that also pertained to the green economy. Also more information should be provided on technology transfer, climate change and access to biodiversity-related benefit-sharing.

78. Responding to the various points raised, Mr. Johm said that the data requested had not been available at the time the report was being prepared, and would be taken into account in a revised version. He noted, in particular, requests to consider issues relating to genetically-modified products, piracy and trafficking in the revised version. A more detailed version of the green economy report would be released in due course.

The Africa Report on Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

79. Ms. Dora Nteo of South Africa made a presentation based on the Africa Report on Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication: What are the Implications for Africa? She described the green economy as an economy that resulted in increased human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity. It was a vehicle for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty and, as far as Africa was concerned, an agenda for growth, poverty reduction and employment creation.

80. The report outlined pathways for transition to a green economy in Africa: building on natural capital assets, identifying green opportunities for industrial growth, and harnessing Africa's clean energy potential. It went on to discuss enabling policies and institutions; policy and regulatory frameworks; access to and transfer of technology; financing; and the means to trade opportunities. A number of Africa success stories were described.

81. With regard to the presentation on the green economy, the discussions noted that it was still a new concept that required solid principles and policy space. Furthermore, the report should address social equity issues related to green growth and include a reference to green growth activities in North Africa. Attention should be paid to the roles of various sectors in the transition to a green economy; to the changes required to facilitate adjustment not only of transport, waste management and other infrastructure, but also of standards and mindsets. The implications of Africa's transition called for further consideration, as did proposals for a transition-specific financing mechanism.

82. The report should also focus on issues relating to gender and vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, which impeded progress towards boosting the Human Development Index and achieving sustainable development goals in Africa. In this context, some participants suggested that the United Nations 10-year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) should form the basis for the report. It was further suggested that a special session be held to share the findings of subregional reports.

83. Responding to the points raised on the green economy, Ms. Nteo clarified that all sectors (other than energy) were very important in realizing the goals of the green economy and such sectors will be reflected in the report. The final report would also make the linkages between poverty eradication and green economy more explicit. She emphasized that poverty eradication and realization of the MDGs will be the cornerstone of the green economy action plans.

The Africa Report on Institutional and Strategic Frameworks for Sustainable Development

84. Mr. Omar Alieu Touray, ECA Consultant made a presentation on institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development. He said that the report had set out to assess how institutional and strategic frameworks promoted integration of the three pillars of sustainable development; enhanced institutional linkages; encouraged multi-stakeholder participation and decentralization; and catered, among others, for inter- and intra-generational equity.

85. He went on to present the main findings pertaining to the wide range of regional, subregional and national institutions covered in the report, noting the progress made, the challenges and a number of recommendations covering capacity-building on National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) and National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSDs), as well as sustainable development governance.

86. Reforms being considered at the global level included such steps as transforming Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) into a sustainable development council; reviewing the mandate of UNEP within its current structure; the strengthening of UNEP through its elevation to specialized institution status; ; and the establishment of a world environmental organization under the auspices of the United Nations.

87. In the ensuing discussions, one participant requested that the World Bank and the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie be mentioned in the report, in view of their significant contributions to towards sustainable development, including the assistance provided to countries in setting up sustainable development institutions. The report should furthermore recommend the mainstreaming of sustainable development into the policies of every international

and regional financial institution to ensure that strategic frameworks and institutions had the necessary means.

88. Resource use and management were particular issues that needed to be taken into account within the institutional framework for sustainable development; many conflicts in Africa were due to the scarcity of resources. The framework should also embrace traditional means of conflict resolution, and empower African countries to express and confront the challenges they faced in that and other areas: natural disasters, for example, and health issues such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which were another neglected core aspect of the social pillar.

89. Some participants drew attention to the danger of governance issues being sidelined in efforts to address apparently more pressing matters. Governance reform had to take into account the global dimension and international cooperation within the framework of Agenda 21; and the division of labour between UNDESA and regional economic commissions should be better coordinated. It was suggested that an open-ended group be set up to discuss the matter of governance.

90. Clarification was sought as to whether the recommendation on ECOSOC would involve amendments to the United Nations Charter and, if so, how such a proposal would be received by member States.

91. The representative of the Secretariat pointed out that ECA had a mandate to promote the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced manner at the subregional and regional levels drawing on national level experiences. Organizations such as UNDESA are looking at institutional set ups at the global level.

92. The Secretariat drew attention to its contributions to the environmental, economic and social pillars, together with those of UNEP and UNDP. The World Bank and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie had not been mentioned in the report because the scope of the report is limited to African regional and subregional organizations and key UN institutions with Africa-level mandate such as UNECA, UNEP-ROA and UNDP-RBA.

International Environmental Governance

93. A representative of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) made a presentation on the options for strengthening UNEP in the context of International Environmental Governance Systems (IEG). The presentation stressed that such an organization would respond to concerns that existing institutional structures did not address Africa's needs in matters of the environment and sustainable development, and take on board the Malabo Decision of AU Heads of State and Government and the outcomes of the fourth special session of AMCEN. An alternative solution would be to set up a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. Either option would lead to the strengthening, consolidation and transformation of UNEP, although they would differ in shape and in terms of the implications. The report also outlined proposals for reform at the regional and subregional levels.

94. Strengthening international environmental governance alone would not suffice for the purposes of sustainable development. The social, economic and environment pillars had to be balanced if the related goals were to be achieved.

95. Several participants were concerned that the report placed far too great an emphasis on the environmental pillar and too little on the economic and social. All three pillars had to be addressed in the context of the institutional framework, and the overriding challenge was to ensure their integration. A number of participants said that the environmental pillar had to be addressed first because it was the weakest of the three not only in Africa but also globally. Others said it would be hard to integrate the three pillars in every institution and international organization. The question was raised as to whether the strengthening of UNEP would enable it to deal with all three or whether other agencies and organizations should be called upon to tackle issues to do with employment and human rights. It was suggested that an open-ended working group be established to discuss UNEP's transformation.

Presentation and discussion on means of implementation: Bridging the gap

96. Mr. Kasirim Nwuke, ECA Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management, presented the report on means of implementation. The presenter drew attention to a range of

commitments made at conferences and meetings over the previous 20 years in the fields of financing sustainable development; aid and development effectiveness; technology transfer; capacity-building; globalization and trade; regional integration and South-South cooperation. He went on to outline the actions taken and progress made, together with the constraints and challenges, lessons learned and the way forward with regard to their implementation.

97. Few commitments had been met, and African countries needed to work with their development partners to scale up action and meet their sustainable development targets. They were responsible for driving their sustainable development agenda, and their success depended on aggressive action in areas such as domestic resource mobilization and capacity-building; the strengthening of the African Union as the voice of Africa; regional and subregional integration; the harnessing of economic interdependence between African countries; science, technology and information for sustainable development; diversification of national economies; and participation in multilateral organizations and institutions.

98. In the discussions that followed, several participants underscored the importance of regional integration and cooperation, and called for a greater emphasis on regional economic communities (RECs). The report, however, focused on regional fragmentation and failed to refer to harmonization. Common infrastructure and programmes could provide RECs with access to more diversified funds. It should furthermore recognize achievements in subregional cooperation including in the area of free trade.

99. On funding, it was suggested that the report draw attention to ways of ensuring that African countries more effectively used the funds secured through negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – rather than through institutional mechanisms – for work on the ground. It should stress the need for Africa to take on board the principles of South-South cooperation as set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Clarification was required as to how to provide African countries with better access to funding mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Meanwhile, the report should recognize the importance of mobilizing resources for the sustainable development agenda from

diaspora communities through trade, investment and technology transfers. The report needed a more country-specific focus to reflect the fact that situations varied from one country to the next.

100. Responding to the various points raised, Mr. Nwuke said that the present report had focused on the commonalities among the eight RECs but that it had been impossible to provide individual breakdowns; such information could be found in other ECA publications. On the matter of funding, individual countries were responsible for mobilizing their own resources for their sustainable development agenda; those sourced from diaspora communities could be diminished as a result of double taxation and corruption. On the need for more country-specific focus, the scope of the report was not national, but regional, and to a certain extent sub-regional.

101. The Chairperson said that Africa needed to look to its own resources instead of relying on others, and that regional cooperation could result in open borders, liberalized trade and the free movement of people.

F. Statements by major groups

102. Under this agenda item, the representatives of the nine major groups: Business and Industry, Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Scientific and Technological Community, Women as well as Workers and Trade Unions, conveyed their statements in plenary by highlighting a number of critical facts pertinent to sustainable development and appealed for their reflection in the Africa Consensus Statement.

103. Among the main recommendations, the nine groups called for an enhanced partnership between major groups and governments since such partnerships as acknowledged at the WSSD in Johannesburg, are crucial in implementing sustainable development, including national development, reducing poverty and moving toward a green economy.

104. They highlighted that poverty hampers considerably development and societal organizations such as Business and Industry, Farmers, etc. can make significant contribution in lifting living

standards and eradicate poverty by delivering jobs, investments, technologies, products and services that drive the changes and innovations needed to move towards a green economy.

105. They also called for a summit that would renew political will and that would go beyond a declaration by ensuring that governments and civil society leave Rio+20 with decisions that will be implemented from day one. They for instance mentioned among many other issues, nationally-based targets not only on green economy but also on decent and green jobs, a commitment to kick-start the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative in the poorest countries and a decision on a Financial Transactions Tax, to be used, among others, to support climate action, social protection and development.

106. They called on African governments to advocate at Rio+20 for enhanced consideration for the people and made several social recommendations on job creation, and decency of employment, on the consideration of the youth in policymaking. Some recommended initiatives include: Country-by-country self-identified targets on decent and green jobs to be reached in the next 5-10 years, accompanied by a package of decent work policies to secure job quality, the integration of green economy and sustainable development education into schools curricula to improve capacity, knowledge, personal developmental skills of young people at all levels.

107. The groups expressed their commitment to promote innovations that will develop a green economy that results in the eradication of poverty and ultimately sustainable development. They warned governments that little progress has been made in implementing Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation mainly due to lack of political will on the part of African leadership and recommended that the increasing gap and disorientation between the African economic policies and sectoral policies need to be bridged namely in the agricultural sector, where African states need to align their economic policies with their agricultural policies if sustainable agriculture and food security must be achieved.

108. They also called for an in depth consideration of a number of issues by member States towards Rio+20 which include disaster risk reduction and management, development of self-powered citizens, the establishment of an International Convention for the evaluation of new

technology, sustainable production and consumption paths and a green economy that entails citizen participation, social justice and equity and gender equality, protection of ecosystems; creation of economic sufficiency, and that aims for the core idea that green economies enhance sustainable development and prosperity of all nations; ensure the wellbeing of all people; respect the rights, cultures, languages and wisdom of indigenous peoples and local communities; safeguard animal welfare and conserve biodiversity for future generations, while stressing that green economy does not replace sustainable development.

109. They also expressed their belief that there is a need for local solutions to the global challenges faced such as local political awareness on sustainability and linking local action to the achievement of global goals and targets resulting from the family of the Rio Conventions. Planning and financing urban development was seen by some as a priority that presents a major opportunity to structure growth with high employment elasticity, secure ecosystem services, delivering affordable public services and thus catalyzing the green economy.

110. African states must undertake and equally enjoin the international community to promote well-planned human settlements and to catalyze green-based urban growth for the realization of sustainable urbanization. Thus, Rio+20 would need to acknowledge this fact and create local sustainable development financing mechanisms to support necessary urban green growth.

111. It was also stated that there is a need to develop more appropriate sustainable development indicators that would allow for more nuanced performance measurement. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the most widely used way to measure the economic performance of a country. However, GDP takes into account only specific economic factors and no other indicators of for example social or environmental nature.

112. The Human Development Index (HDI) and other alternatives have existed for a long time. More recently Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Index and the Organisations for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Better Life Index among others have also gained some recognition. It is possible to move to a better indicator of national well-being than GDP, and Rio+20

should take the decision to make this change. The Group welcomed and supported the recent efforts made to seek more nuanced measurement of performance beyond GDP.

113. They also urged African leaders to recognize the prominent role of science, engineering and technology as an enabler of sustainable development and in building green societies for future generations. It also urged the international community to support and enhance the science, engineering and technology capabilities of Africa as a priority in strategies that target successful implementation of agreements and action plans from Rio+20.

114. The individual statements and the summary report of all the statements can be accessed at http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/sdd/events/Rio20/CFSSD7.asp

G. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20

115. The Committee considered the draft Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20. Delegations made comments, observations and proposed amendments to the document. The Committee adopted the draft Statement as amended.

H. Adoption of the report of the meeting

116. The Committee considered the draft report of its meeting. Delegations made comments, and proposed amendments to the report. The Committee adopted the draft report as amended.

I. Theme, dates and venue for CFSSD-8

117. On this agenda item, the Secretariat requested for flexibility to hold this discussion with the Bureau of CFSSD-7 at its first meeting to be held in the first quarter of 2011. The Committee unanimously agreed to the submission and entrusted the Secretariat to consult with the Bureau on the theme, dates and venue for CFSSD-8.

J. Any other business

118. No other business was raised by the Committee.

K. Closing of the meeting

119. The Chairperson thanked all delegations for their active participation and useful contributions. He informed them that the draft Consensus Statement as refined by the experts would be tabled at the ministerial segment for consideration and adoption. He then declared the meeting closed.

Advance Unedited Version