



AMCEN AU

Distr.: General
14 September 2012

Original: English

*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment***African Ministerial Conference on the Environment****Fourteenth session**

Ministerial segment

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 12–14 September 2012

Report of the ministerial segment held from 12 to 14 September 2012**I. Introduction**

1. The ministerial segment of the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre from 12 to 14 September 2012.
2. It was attended by representatives of AMCEN member States and of African regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various environmental conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The full list of participants may be found in document UNEP/AMCEN/14/INF/6.

II. Opening of the meeting

3. The opening ceremony began at 3.40 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 September 2012, with an introduction by the master of ceremonies and welcoming remarks by Ms. Samia Suluhu, Minister of State for Union Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, who welcomed the participants to the fourteenth session, acknowledging in particular the ministers of environment present for demonstrating their commitment to a better future for Africa, and expressed appreciation for the hard work of the outgoing president of AMCEN. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania.
4. The introduction, welcoming remarks and opening statements were interspersed with musical interludes featuring pupils of the Trust St. Patrick School in Arusha, who sang songs in Kiswahili, French and English.
5. Mr. Bilal welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania. He said that the presence of experts, politicians and decision makers demonstrated their continuing cooperation in resolving the critical issues facing Africa and was a reflection of their commitment to better environmental management for present and future generations. Outlining the many environmental and developmental problems confronting the continent, he said there was a need to move away from conventional responses and to address underlying challenges through modern, improved methods of production accompanied by policy responses that embraced broader participation, provided greater opportunities and empowered the poor in their own development process. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the urgency of addressing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, gave stimulus to the promotion and implementation of holistic, integrated policies and actions that would help address the interlinkages between climate change, energy, food and water. Any consideration of how to build a green economy should aim to achieve sustainable development, reduce poverty and build resilience of communities against the changing environment, while taking account of national economic and social objectives. The United Republic of Tanzania would continue to work with all partners in addressing environmental challenges. In conclusion, he declared the fourteenth session of AMCEN officially open.

6. Opening statements were made by Mr. David Sagara, the President of AMCEN and Minister of Energy and Environment, Mali; Mr. Alberic Kacou, United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative for the United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; Mr. Philippe Dongier, Country Director for Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, World Bank; Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility; Mr. Josué Dioné, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, on behalf of Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa; Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Convention on Biological Diversity; Mr. Robert Bakiika, representing civil society; and Ms. Issa Amina Ado, representing youth.

7. Mr. Sagara, in his statement, thanked African countries for supporting the Government of Mali during the recent political crisis in that country and throughout its presidency of AMCEN. The fourteenth session of the Conference represented an important opportunity for Africa to build on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; to consider its implications for Africa; to reflect on the status of AMCEN itself; and to determine the best approach and strategic framework for tackling environmental issues on the continent. Reviewing the work undertaken by AMCEN during the presidency of Mali, he said that solid and appropriate lobbying had assisted the achievements made in reinforcing the position of AMCEN itself, consolidating its position within the structures of the African Union, integrating environmental issues such as climate change, desertification and biodiversity, promoting the green economy and strengthening the leadership of AMCEN in respect of regional and global environmental initiatives. Previous meetings had not entirely met aspirations but AMCEN had created an appropriate environment for consolidation of the African position on sustainable development and commitment to change. Turning to climate change, he said that the Conference had reaffirmed the importance of adaptation as a priority for the continent and the need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of adaptation measures from mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund. A number of challenges were still facing AMCEN, notably a lack of financial and human resources, the impact of the global financial crisis and the non-ratification of regional conventions by member States. The task of AMCEN was to provide leadership in transforming the public will into political will to meet the challenges facing the continent and to explore innovative means of doing so.

8. In his statement, Mr. Kacou welcomed the current session as a timely and relevant opportunity to ensure collective agreement and guidance on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development relevant to Africa. Globally the Conference had achieved significant progress but for Africa more work was needed in the areas of climate change financing, institutional capacity and technology transfer, among others. The natural resources potential of the continent had not been fully explored, environmental challenges resulting from climate change were increasing and deforestation, loss of biodiversity and water scarcity were continuing problems. AMCEN had a critical role to play in securing social and economic development and food security and creating sound, sustainable policies to achieve those goals. Highlighting the achievements of AMCEN in environmental leadership on the continent, coordination among African Governments and support for their effective participation in international bodies and meetings, he expressed the belief that a green economy vision for Africa focusing on sustainable development and poverty reduction could be forged at the current session. He highlighted examples of key actions by United Nations agencies in support of the United Republic of Tanzania. He said that the United Nations system would continue to support AMCEN in its central role of facilitating Africa's responses to climate change.

9. Mr. Steiner, in his statement, said that the current session was taking place at an auspicious moment for Africa, following closely on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, where Africa as a continent – a collection of different but united vocal advocates of sustainable development – had demonstrated its ability to gain the world's attention. Recognition was growing that the articulation of a sustainable development agenda, specific to Africa yet located within the global context, was gaining momentum, and AMCEN was playing a critical role in driving the process forward. The commitment of Africa to environmental sustainability, and the unified voice with which it was expressing that commitment, had also become increasingly apparent in climate change negotiations, and representatives of Africa were at the forefront in demonstrating the price of inaction on environmental matters. Given the great body of evidence on the threats to the planet, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, deforestation and other factors compromising humanity's ability to meet the growing needs of societies, the response of the international community was still falling far short of what was required, despite the considerable efforts made at the Conference.

on Sustainable Development. The outcome document of the Conference did show, however, that there were many paths for remedial action, and there were reasons for optimism in the many initiatives that were emerging across Africa. African ministers and leaders still needed to be more vocal in expressing their environmental agenda, and upcoming meetings, including the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, and the United Nations climate change conference to be held in Doha in November 2012, presented further opportunities for their voices to be heard. In conclusion, he urged African leaders to be ambitious in bringing together the experience of the continent and framing it as a set of priorities at the international level that viewed the environment not as an obstacle to economic development but as an asset and an opportunity in moving towards a green economy.

10. In her statement, Ms. Tumusiime expressed support for the focus of the current session on sustainable development and the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which the united voice of Africa had featured strongly. The deep desire of African leaders to improve the livelihoods of their people, enhance peace and stability and promote harmony had been shaken by increased environmental threats and financial shocks, and how the environment was handled would determine the fate of African and global aspirations. The outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development were therefore of critical importance to Africa, and a coordinated approach was required to ensure that the many major programmes being implemented in Africa were mutually supportive and to devise mechanisms that increased the continent's capacity to deliver optimally in all priority areas. To support those endeavours and to strengthen the capacities of African institutions, the African Union Commission, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, had established a joint secretariat to guide the implementation of the Climate for Development in Africa Programme and to cooperate on other initiatives where the benefits of synergy could be maximized, including through the regional coordination mechanism. Other areas of cooperation and capacity-building in which the African Union Commission was engaged included the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative and access and benefit sharing for genetic resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also drew attention to several other initiatives worthy of support, including the revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention), Africa Environment Day and the commitment expressed by African parliamentarians in the Entebbe Declaration to mainstream multilateral environmental agreements into national plans and policies.

11. Mr. Dongier, in his statement, said that many African countries had made great progress in recent decades, with some achieving growth rates of more than 5 per cent before the recent financial crisis. In addition, across Africa advances had been made in reducing poverty and improving the quality of life, with several countries set to achieve many of their Millennium Development Goal targets. As in many parts of the world, however, progress had often been made at the expense of the environment, rendering long-term growth unsustainable. For example, research by the World Bank had shown that unsustainable farming practices accounted for the loss of 3 per cent of Africa's gross domestic product annually. Climate change and other environmental threats highlighted the extreme vulnerability of the continent. The Conference on Sustainable Development had refocused attention on how growth was taking place and the need for a green economy approach to ensure equitable and sustainable growth. Given the importance of agriculture to Africa, the adaptation of agricultural systems to climate change would be critical to ensure food security. In consequence, it was vital that the voice of Africa was clearly heard in the continuing negotiations on how adaptation would be financed in the future and that ministers put in place pipelines via which streams of climate funding could be accessed. He stressed that considerable progress had been made in sustainable development projects in Africa that yielded economic returns, many of which had the potential to be scaled up. Examples included sustainable land management, rainwater harvesting, reducing the carbon footprint of transport and development of renewable energy. In conclusion, he highlighted the strong commitment of the World Bank to work, in collaboration with other development partners, towards green economic growth in Africa.

12. In her statement, Ms. Figueres reflected on the achievements of the 2011 United Nations climate change conference held in Durban, South Africa, and its significance for the continent. Although the conference had not been perfect, it had been historic in terms of putting in place the necessary elements of a global response to climate change, which if successfully pursued could transform the future of Africa. She emphasized that implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change did not mean stunting industrial development and growth as many in Africa feared, but rather spurring resilience and economic growth. Concrete steps had been taken with regard to adaptation, the most urgent and relevant issue for Africa, although more remained to be done. She urged African countries to engage in the design and implementation of national adaptation plans to be tackled at the forthcoming United Nations climate change conference in Doha and to seek

clarity on financing for adaptation and a work programme for agriculture. While noting that industrialized countries needed to do more on mitigation, she urged African countries to develop their nationally appropriate mitigation actions as a means of achieving economic growth through carbon-efficient fuels and technologies. Africa had the opportunity to leapfrog a stage in energy infrastructure development by embracing its vast potential in renewable energy sources; several African countries were already moving in that direction but much more could be done with strong domestic policies that attracted serious investment. Applauding the efforts of AMCEN, she urged African countries to tackle the remaining challenges at the Doha conference and to ensure access to the benefits that the emerging climate regime was bringing.

13. Ms. Ishii, in her statement, expressed appreciation for the continuing engagement of AMCEN with the Global Environment Facility and for the Conference's insistence at its thirteenth session on the importance of embedding natural resource management in national development plans. Africa faced pressing environmental challenges in the coming decade, with the carrying capacity of ecosystems already reached or exceeded globally. The continent possessed nine of the world's 35 most important biodiversity hotspots, but the natural resource base of the region was sharply deteriorating, calling for a transformational change in global environmental management. AMCEN had recognized that development and the environment were inseparable and that natural resource management had to be at the core of development decision-making. She identified the leadership role of the Global Environment Facility in effecting transformational change by developing innovative ways of doing business and acting as a financial catalyst. Africa had made progress in promoting clean technologies in the energy sector and new approaches in protected areas management, as in the Great Green Wall, Congo Basin and Lake Chad initiatives, and the continent had a central role to play in implementing the vision of the Facility. In tackling the challenges, it was important to explore the value of regional approaches, as well as specific country-based action, and to engage with the private sector.

14. In his statement, Mr. Dioné emphasized the role played by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in partnership with the regional economic communities, UNEP and UNDP, at the Conference on Sustainable Development. The collective preparatory process had enabled the region to achieve consensus on Africa's sustainable development concerns and priorities and to effectively articulate them. He stressed, however, that Africa could not stop at that level of success: the ultimate measure of success lay in how well African countries organized themselves and marshalled resources for the implementation of the Conference outcomes. He noted the importance of the African regional implementation meetings to be held in Addis Ababa in October and November 2012 in preparation for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York in May 2013, which would feed into the General Assembly follow-up processes to the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. The Economic Commission for Africa also saw the Conference as a success in challenging the world on the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to development, both in conceptual and operational terms. In that vein, the Commission was engaging in internal deliberations on Africa's sustainable development priorities in all its divisions and in consultations with relevant African Union bodies and AMCEN on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in Africa, with a view to delivering as one in the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Conference outcomes.

15. Mr. Gbedemah, in his statement, said that the Convention on Biological Diversity and its two protocols – the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization – had reached a mature age. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, had resulted in the adoption of a number of key decisions, including those relating to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011–2020, and the Aichi biodiversity targets. Despite all efforts, however, biodiversity loss was continuing, and there was a considerable mismatch between commitments by parties and actual implementation. A pragmatic, multifaceted approach was required to mobilize resources and mainstream biodiversity into national development agendas; biodiversity should be viewed not as an obstacle to development but as an opportunity to enhance the social and economic spheres of societies. There was a need to operate strategically, prioritizing approaches and mechanisms, engaging the business sector, setting targets to reverse biodiversity loss and developing related monitoring systems, increasing capacity to improve implementation of goals and targets and promoting recognition of community-based approaches. In conclusion, he praised the efforts of Africa to support the development of the Nagoya Protocol, and he urged countries to ratify the Protocol and to incorporate its provisions into national policy frameworks.

16. In his statement, Mr. Bakiika said that at a recent meeting in preparation for the fourteenth session of AMCEN, representatives of civil society groups had discussed issues related to the environment, sustainable development and climate change and the failure of the global community to

find effective solutions to the major problems facing the planet. Several priority areas had been identified, including poverty eradication, access to education, sustainable agriculture, food security, gender responsiveness, resource mobilization and management and protection of the environment and ecosystems. The engagement of civil society was of crucial importance to Africa in implementing environmental programmes in the wake of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Transparency was vital to the process, and Governments consequently needed to ensure access to information and public participation. He urged AMCEN to develop guidelines for the constructive engagement of civil society so that their expertise could enhance programmes for sustainable development in Africa. He cited the newly launched Tanzania Environment Portal as a good example of how Governments could improve access to information and management of environmental data to facilitate decision-making. He called on Governments to adopt a bottom-up approach to environmental decision-making, ensuring that all stakeholders worked together to eradicate poverty, hunger and injustice in a sustainable manner, without disturbing the harmony between nature and humanity.

17. Ms. Amina Ado, in her statement, highlighted the plight of children suffering from the effects of climate change, for example around Lake Chad, from displacement by foreign investors and from illnesses caused by toxic waste, among other things. Young people had drawn attention to the degradation of the planet at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and they deplored the fact that that situation had not improved. They were appealing to AMCEN to clarify the role of young people and other groups in their deliberations and appealed for the question of future generations to be included in the discussions. They also called for the establishment of a high-level adviser for future generations.

III. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

18. The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau of AMCEN for the period 2012-2014:

Subregion	Country	Position
Central Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Vice-President
Eastern Africa	United Republic of Tanzania	President
North Africa	Egypt	Vice-President and Rapporteur
Southern Africa	Botswana	Vice-President
West Africa	Sierra Leone	Vice-President

19. Ms. Terezya Huvisa, Minister for the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania, on assuming the presidency, congratulated Mr. David Sagara on his hard work as President and added that her quest was to build on his achievements in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, and health and environment so as to move the AMCEN vision forward. She said that concerted efforts were urgently required to build the adaptation capacity of local communities and thereby save the people of Africa from the catastrophic impacts of climate change. AMCEN would therefore continue to play a central role in international and regional negotiations to tackle the effects of climate change in Africa.

20. She stressed the importance of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa in dealing with the many health challenges on the continent. She also emphasized the important role of the proposed African group of negotiators on biodiversity as a platform for forging common African positions on the issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol. She drew attention to the 2 billion people living in dryland areas, who depended heavily on environmental resources to feed themselves and their livestock, underlining the urgent need to halt and reverse land degradation in Africa. She added that Africa would need to develop important strategies to implement the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including the transition to a green economy, with policies tailor-made to the requirements and priorities of each country to avoid the blanket implementation of discriminatory policies.

21. All of those challenges needed to be tackled within the limits of available financial resources, with the aim of transforming the will of the public into concrete action through regional flagship programmes and North-South and South-South cooperation. In conclusion, she thanked all AMCEN partners, especially UNEP, for their invaluable support.

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

22. The representatives adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (AMCEN/14/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Consideration of the report of the meeting of the expert group.
4. Ministerial policy dialogue:
 - (a) African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Preparations for the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
5. Matters related to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN):
 - (a) AMCEN in the context of the specialized technical committees of the African Union;
 - (b) AMCEN trust fund.
6. Consideration of priority regional programmes, declaration, decisions and key messages.
7. Venue for the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
8. Adoption of the report of the ministerial segment.
9. Other matters.
10. Closure of the session.

C. Organization of work

23. The President of AMCEN introduced the draft programme of work and the list of documents for the ministerial segment contained in annexes I and II to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/AMCEN/14/1/Add.1).

IV. Consideration of the report of the expert group segment

24. Mr. Amadou Maiga, Chair of the expert segment, presented the report of the segment, contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/14/6. Outlining the report, he drew attention to the draft Arusha Declaration and the set of draft decisions prepared by the experts and submitted for consideration and possible adoption during the ministerial segment.

V. Ministerial policy dialogue

25. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment of the Congo gave a presentation on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable development, at which Africa had negotiated with one voice to express its common goals and priorities in order to make sustainable development a reality for the continent by tackling such issues as poverty eradication, food security, water, sanitation and the effects of climate change. He stressed that AMCEN and its partners must guide Governments in the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. AMCEN should also prepare a plan of action for negotiations at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, where Africa should continue to speak with one voice through its diplomats in New York. He added that financial resources were limited, creating a need for diverse sources of funding. He requested that the outcome document be used as the basis for the ministerial discussions under agenda item 4, focusing on three main points: the African negotiation strategy for the General Assembly; mobilizing regional and international partnerships to accelerate the transition to a green economy with regard to funding and technology

development and transfer; and supporting the regional flagship programmes in implementing the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development.

A. African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

26. During the ensuing discussion, those present commented on a number of issues raised under agenda item 4 (a) on the African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Many representatives highlighted the wide range of environmental challenges facing Africa, including climate change, desertification, land degradation and loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, against the backdrop of increasingly daunting social and economic problems. Nevertheless, there was a mood of optimism and a determination that the growing confidence of the African voice in international forums, and the promising results emerging from the coordinated efforts across the continent, were powerful factors in dealing with those challenges and paving the way to poverty eradication, conflict resolution and sustainable development.

27. The value of coordination and cooperation was recognized by a number of representatives, with several drawing attention to the progress that had been made as a result of the considerable efforts to develop a unified African position for recent and forthcoming negotiations on major global issues, including sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity. Several representatives said that AMCEN had played a central role, and should continue to do so, in formulating common African positions on matters relating to the environment. The upcoming sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly was viewed as a major opportunity for African countries, through their diplomats and missions, to again take a central role in ensuring that African priorities were given full consideration. Several representatives stressed the importance of further enhancing cooperation with various actors, including the African Union, the African Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility and United Nations entities (in particular UNEP), as well as national Governments.

28. There was considerable discussion of the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development and the themes and proposals contained therein. One representative said that it was still unclear whether the Conference had achieved success, and there had been criticism of certain elements, including whether clear goals had been set, whether a proper timeline had been established for the transition to a green economy and whether the focus had been sufficiently global in scope. It was also unclear what implications the establishment of sustainable development goals would have for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, around which much national planning was centred. Some representatives said that while global objectives were important, it should be recognized that all countries had the right to pursue their own development agendas according to their own needs and aspirations. One representative drew attention to the special needs of small island developing States.

29. Regarding the response of Africa to the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, several representatives praised the inclusion in the 2013–2014 work programme of AMCEN of a number of key regional flagship programmes to support African countries in the implementation of the key substantive outcomes of the Conference. One representative said that the programmes were a significant step towards the achievement of sustainable development and the implementation of the green economy on the continent and that the ultimate objective was to have those programmes effective throughout all African countries. Several representatives noted that the concept of sustainable development was not new to Africa, and a wide range of relevant initiatives were already in place that held promise for scaling them up to the regional level. One representative said that in moving towards a green economy, Africa should ensure that it took advantage of its particular attributes, such as the huge potential for solar power.

30. One representative said that AMCEN should not lose sight at the current session of the analysis contained in document AMCEN/14/3 of the implications for Africa of the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development. That analysis highlighted seven key processes of significance for Africa and the related time frame for their completion, which could form a useful framework for an African action plan based on the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development.

31. Regarding the transition towards a green economy, several representatives said that it was important to keep in mind that the main aim of a green economy was poverty eradication. One representative said that the promotion of green jobs should be a major component of the transition, in particular given the high levels of unemployment in many parts of the continent, and that innovative approaches would be required to achieve that aim. Another representative said that it was critical for Africa to design a regional framework on the green economy, while avoiding a “one size fits all”

approach. The framework should build collaboration between key stakeholders and provide a blueprint for the engagement of international partners.

32. Several representatives commented on the tools and resources that would be needed to implement activities based on the outcomes of the Conference on Sustainable Development, including technology transfer, capacity-building measures and new and dependable streams of funding. A number of representatives welcomed the proposal in the Conference outcome document to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly to, among other things, assess financing needs with a view to developing an effective sustainable development strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources. Representatives noted the advantages to be gained from early African engagement in that process, both to shape the sustainable development agenda and to be open to innovative means of financing in the transition to a green economy. Several representatives said that efforts should be made to pursue alternative mechanisms for funding to embark proactively on green economy activities rather than waiting for international discussions to run their course. Another representative said that African countries should ensure that they fulfilled their own funding commitments to regional and subregional organizations before requiring assistance from others. Some representatives noted the need for institutional capacity-building and realignment to accommodate a new agenda that required a more integrated approach to the environmental, social and economic pillars of development. Also of importance were information exchange and partnership building, involving both private and public sectors, and involving both North-South and South-South cooperation.

33. Another issue viewed as important was the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP at its headquarters in Nairobi, and several representatives stressed the urgent need to move that process forward, including through lobbying at the General Assembly and ensuring that African views on the matter were clearly articulated.

34. Another issue highlighted was the need for peace and stability in order to create an environment conducive to progress and development.

B. Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

35. Introductory statements under the item were delivered by Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Mr. Emmanuel Dhlamini and Mr. Seth Osafo, chair of and legal adviser to the African group of negotiators, respectively.

36. In her statement, Ms. Figueres highlighted the main challenges facing African negotiators at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. To begin with, they had to decide how to ensure the transition to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and that they were not locked into committing to an excessively long time frame. Secondly, they needed to terminate the negotiating track under the Ad Hoc Working Group for Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and to decide on ways of reallocating the unresolved issues to other processes without jeopardizing the achievements of that track, especially with regard to establishing a definitive framework of financial and technical support for capacity-building in developing countries. The matter of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action was relatively less pressing and could be left until the following year. Expressing cautious optimism in the prospects for success in Doha, she stressed the importance of taking the outcomes of the Durban climate change conference to the next level in Doha.

37. In his statement, Mr. Dhlamini stressed the need to build on the multilateral process maintained

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_16121

