



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
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联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
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pour
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l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER FOR AGRICULTURE
AND ENERGY IN AFRICA:
THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
15-17 December 2008**

DECLARATION

**DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER
FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY IN AFRICA:
THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

WE, the Ministers and Heads of the African States Delegations, meeting at the Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change” in Sirte, Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 15 to 17 December 2008;

Inspired by the Leader of the Great Revolution’s vision for a strong Africa capable of facing global challenges in a world of great aggregation;

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its programme NEPAD, aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and guarantee the well being of our future generations;

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Water Vision 2025 and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically those related to water and to the eradication of poverty and hunger;

Recalling the commitment of Heads of State and government contained in the Maputo declaration of 2003 on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, and in the Sirte declaration of 2004 on the challenges of implementing integrated and sustainable development on agriculture and water in Africa;

Recalling the African Union Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa of 2007;

Recalling the 2008 Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first Africa Water Week convened by the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and hosted by the African Development Bank in Tunis;

Recalling the Paris Declaration of 2005 on International Aids;

Recalling the 2008 Declaration of the “High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy”;

Recalling the 2008 11th African Union Summit on “Meeting the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation”;

Recalling the African Development Bank’s initiative to increase water storage in Africa by 1% over a six-year period in addition to reducing post-harvesting losses by 3% over the same period;

Recognizing that water is, and will remain, a key resource to economic, social and environmental development as well as to hunger and poverty eradication of Africa, and that water, sanitation and energy are prerequisites for the development of Africa’s human capital;

Recognizing the vulnerability of African economies and agricultural production systems to climate variability and climate change, and the challenges caused by environmental degradation;

Recognizing that the challenges faced by the continent concerning food security, achieving MDGs, increased energy demand, and combating climate change impact is greater than resources available to each individual country, and therefore require that the countries move jointly at sub-regional, regional and continental level;

Recognizing the important role played by family farmers in agricultural production and natural resources management;

Concerned by the progressive decline of the continent's agricultural productivity, increased negative impact of food import on commercial trade balance, vulnerability to food price shocks and low response capacities;

Concerned by the level of food insecurity and the implications of high and volatile food prices on the situation of the poor in Africa;

Concerned by the low level of the use of water and land potential in Africa;

Concerned by the current situation in Lake Chad, the resulting negative implications, and urgent need to intervene in order to avert human and environmental disaster;

Aware that the African agriculture has been under-funded for several decades and that water control projects for agriculture and energy have not been sufficiently developed;

Aware that accelerated investments in support to agricultural water development are needed to ensure agricultural growth, hunger and poverty eradication, foster socio-economic development, and increase employment;

Aware that enhanced agricultural productivity depends not only on improved water management, both in rainfed and irrigated agriculture, but also on the access and optimum use of other farm inputs, availability of services, access to markets and fair and stable prices for farm products;

Noting the progress made by the African Union and by establishment of its programme NEPAD, the on-going process of Africa's economic integration and the need for building mechanisms of cooperation and partnership in the agriculture and energy sectors in the struggle to free the Continent from the scourge of under-development and continued marginalization in a global world economy;

Acknowledging the continuous support of the regional and international partners to the water, agriculture and energy sectors in Africa, and urging development partners to engage further in supporting agricultural water development in Africa;

Recognising that further efforts need to be made to develop an enabling environment conducive to accelerated investments in the water sector;

Welcoming the proposal by FAO to convene a World Summit of Heads of State and Government on Food Security in 2009, with the objective to secure broad consensus on the rapid and definitive eradication of hunger from the planet by ensuring greater coherence in the governance of world food security and by finding USD 30 billion per year to invest in water and rural infrastructures and increase agricultural productivity in the developing world;

Determined to prioritize implementation of integrated water, agriculture and energy programmes to enhance sustainable development in Africa;

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1. **Adopt** sound policies and associated institutional reforms in support to water development at the national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels in order to fully exploit the potentialities of both the agriculture and energy sectors;
2. **Support** NEPAD in accelerating the implementation of pillar I of its Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) and carry out the new Agriculture Water Partnership (Agwa) to expedite the attainment of CAADP objectives toward the expansion of the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control;
3. **Call upon** states to accelerate the fulfilment of the commitments made in Maputo in 2003 on the allocation of 10% of our national budgets to boost agricultural production;
4. **Adopt** a comprehensive policy towards enhanced agricultural productivity that takes into account water, farm inputs, technical capacity, tenure, markets and a fair and conducive institutional environment in support to small farmers;
5. **Call upon** AMCOW to promote an integrated water resource management approach in the preparation of water resources policies and plans;

6. **Adopt** a pragmatic, demand-driven, participatory approach and stepwise framework for investment in water development in support to agriculture and energy which considers appropriate water control, improvement of existing water infrastructure and the development of large river basins;
7. **Sensitize** donors and development partners to support Africa in sustainable water development and management in agriculture and energy;
8. **Invite** development partners and institutions, like FAO, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and others, to strengthen countries capacity in project development in order to accelerate investment in water for agriculture and energy;
9. **Call-on** the African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank as well as the regional development banks in ensuring the financing of, *inter alia*, development projects in the field of water for agriculture and energy;
10. **Request** AMCOW, with the support of UN-Water Africa, to develop clear guidelines on the implementation on inter-basin water projects;
11. **Support** the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Regional Economic Organizations in their effort to enhance clean energy production in the continent, particularly in promoting the exploitation of the hydropower potential and in strengthening regional Power Pools;
12. **Encourage** bilateral and regional agreements on shared water resources and strengthen existing river and lake water basins organizations to promote sustainable water resources development and management in accordance with international law, including the agreements concluded among riparian States;
13. **Encourage** accelerated integration of the continent's power network, the development of water falls to provide electric power, and of small hydropower generation to speed up rural electrification;
14. **Develop** coherent policy framework for public-private partnerships that will attract increased private capital into agriculture, water and energy sectors;
15. **Call upon** the African Regional Economic Communities to develop and strengthen appropriate regional instruments on integrated water resources management and promote the strengthening of regional Centres of Excellence and networks for agriculture, hydropower generation, water management, climate change, desertification, drought, floods and environmental management;
16. **Establish**, with the support of FAO, an information system in the field of agricultural production for food security and the trading of commodities between markets and countries;
17. **Undertake** necessary national and regional capacity development efforts as an integral component of each national investment plan which should focus on the optimization of water resources use in support to enhanced food and energy security and poverty alleviation while underpinning the need to protect the environment;
18. **Create** high level executive bodies to address the integration of resources at the national and regional levels in Africa;

19. **Foster** and strengthen cooperation between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Regional Climate Centres, Regional Economic Organizations, the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development, research centers and other institutions on matters of climate variability and climate change to develop aid decision tools;
20. **Enhance** Early Warning Systems at national and regional level and their establishment where they do not exist as well as their coordination at continental level in order to minimize the negative impact of drought, desertification, floods and pests;
21. **Foster** research and development in renewable energy and agriculture in Africa to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change;
22. **Harmonize** climate change adaptation strategies, national and regional development policies, programmes and activities, with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
23. **Call upon** the Lake Chad Basin Committee member states to double their efforts and appeal to donors and development partners to provide immediate assistance toward saving Lake Chad and its basin from the looming human and environmental disaster;
24. **Call upon** the AU Commission to design a road map and a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this declaration, in close collaboration with FAO, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, NEPAD and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.