



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/ACSD/5/L
25 October 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth Meeting of the Africa Committee on
Sustainable Development (ACSD-5)/Regional Implementation Meeting
(RIM) for CSD-16
Addis Ababa
22-25 October 2007

FINAL REPORT

A. Attendance

1. The fifth Meeting of the Committee on the Sustainable Development (CSD-5) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 25 October 2007.
2. Representatives of thirty-six member countries attended the Meeting. These countries were: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, c, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Chad, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. African Union Commission was also represented at the Meeting.
4. The following United Nations bodies and organizations were represented at the Meeting: United nations Development Programme (UNDP), United nations environmental Programme (UNEP), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs ((UNDESA), United nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
5. Observers from the following countries and organizations also attended the Meeting: France, United States of America (USA), African Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (AWLAE), UK Department for International development (DFID), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Gratis Foundation, Green Earth organization, Heifer International, Stakeholder Forum for Sustainable Future, IUCN Tanzania office,

International Food policy Research institute (IFPRI), International Institute for Sustainable Development, Organization Internationale de la Francophonie, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Pan-Africa Head of Economic Justice, Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC), Union Economic et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA), and Women Organization for Change in Agriculture and natural Resources management (WOCAN).

B. Election of the Officers (Agenda item 2)

The following officers were elected by the Committee to form the Bureau of ACSD-5:

Chair:	Kenya
First Vice-Chair:	Namibia
Second Vice-Chair:	Democratic Republic of Congo
Third Vice-Chair:	Sudan
Rapporteur:	Senegal

C. Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work (Agenda Item 3)

The Committee adopted the following Agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

4. Progress Report on the Implementation of the FSSD's programmed activities 2006-2007
5. Overview of Sustainable Development in Africa: Transforming Agriculture and Rural Economy in Africa
6. Regional Implementation Review on Land
7. Report on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Outcomes: Regional Implementation Review on Africa
8. Regional Implementation Review on Agriculture and Rural Development
9. Regional Implementation Review on Drought and Desertification
10. Review of the Mandate of the ECA Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD)
11. Adoption of the Africa Statement for CSD-16
12. Theme, Dates and Venue of CFSSD-1
13. Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
14. Any Other Business
15. Closure of the Meeting

D. Account of Proceedings

Opening Addresses

The Chairman of the Bureau of ACSD-4

6. In his opening remarks, His Excellency Dr. Obioma Oparah, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and chairperson informed the Meeting that the Bureau and the Secretariat had met twice, in accordance with the decision of ACSD-3, to follow-up on the ACSD decisions with a view to fostering communication and interactions with the Member States.

7. The Ambassador then highlighted three activities carried out by the Bureau of ACSD-4 under his leadership, and which were related to (i) a “Trade and Environment Project”, (ii) a Land Policy Initiative for Africa, and (iii) an Agricultural and Rural Economic Transformation Study. Specific activities implemented in the context of the Trade and Environment Project included a regional workshop held in February 2006 to review the regional report prepared by the Secretariat on trade and environment and two training sessions organized in June 2006 for English and French speaking countries. The project on land policy was a collaborative initiative of ECA, AU and African Development Bank, that was designed to produce, among others, a Pan- African Land Policy Framework. The “Agricultural and Rural Economic Transformation Study” was initiated by the Secretariat with the view to using a regional and integrated commodity value chain approach to agricultural and rural development in Africa.

The representative of UNECA’s Executive Secretary

8. Speaking on behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), Mr. Josué Dioné, Director of Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of UN-ECA, welcomed all participants to the Meeting which he referred to as a forum where issues crucial to the socio-economic development of Africa would be discussed. He said that poverty eradication remains not only the greatest challenge facing Africa but also an indispensable requirement for sustainable development of the continent. He also said that while national governments continue to shoulder the primary responsibility for fighting poverty in their respective countries, concerted efforts were required at the regional and global levels to enable Africa achieve its poverty-related targets. He underscored the need to direct these efforts to agriculture and rural development, land, drought and desertification known to be among African key priorities.

9. Mr. Dioné, indicated that to address the challenges of Africa's sustainable development in a way that provides employment and improves living standards for the majority of the people, we must adopt an integrated approach. The work of the United Nations Millennium Task Force shows that no "silver bullet" exists to reach any individual target, let alone the whole set of MDGs. We need to adopt an inter-linkages approach that recognizes the complexity of ecosystem dynamics and their interface with the equally complex social, economic and political dynamics inherent in human development and governance, particularly policies, laws and institutions. Such an approach stresses the importance of coordination of action across the relevant dimensions of sustainable development.

10. In concluding, Mr. Dioné, highlighted some of the key issues related to the cluster of issues to be discussed and invited the participants to consider them in reviewing the reports prepared by the Secretariat for the meeting. He

then, called for views, comments and additional inputs that would be most valuable in finalizing the reports and generating well-informed recommendations that would contribute quality inputs from Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General's Report and to the CSD-16 discussions.

Representative of AUC

11. Speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the AUC, Dr. Babagana Ahmadu, Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy of the AUC, expressed the interest of the AUC in the topic of the ACD-5 as this topic reflects the concern of ECA over the high likelihood that most African countries will fail to meet the MDGs and other internationally agreed development targets. He recalled the recent report released by the World Bank, in which the critical role of agriculture in spearheading sustainable development of Africa was underscored. He called upon the experts and stakeholders at the Meeting to come out with implementable decisions that will help trigger Africa's sustainable development agenda. He assured the Meeting that AUC is prepared to partner with all governments and stakeholders in the implementation of all the decisions taken by all the important forums on sustainable development of Africa, including those of the ACSD.

Representative of the Chairman of CSD-16

Speaking on behalf of H.E. Francis Nhema, CSD-16 Chair and Minister of Environment and Tourism of Zimbabwe, Ms. Margaret Sangarwe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Zimbabwe, stated that Regional Implementation Meetings (RIM) are critical components of the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), as they bring regional perspectives to a key global forum, and help identify region specific

barriers and advanced regional cooperation, thereby strengthening coordinated support for sustainable development at national, regional and global levels.

Ms Sangarwe highlighted some of the Africa's challenges related to the themes of CSD-16 and their inter-linkages and indicated the needs to tackle their environmental, social and economic dimensions in an integrated and balanced manner. She assure that the Chair will do his utmost to ensure that the RIM are integrated more fully into the work of the UNCSD, and outcomes of the discussions in ECA as well as for other UN regions will be incorporated into the work of the CSD-16. She then, expressed the hope that Africa RIM will result in an improved understanding of the priority concerns of the region in the thematic clusters to be discussed, catalyzing further action and making a significant contribution to CSD-16. She finally pledge to work toward real and concrete results in support of the sustainable development of Africa.

Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

12. Speaking on behalf of the State Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in his opening remarks, Dr. Bateno Kabeto, Head, Crop Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, underscored the importance of the theme of ACSD-5, and stressed that owing to population growth and the dwindling arable land, the agricultural sector alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of eradicating rural poverty and ensuring sustainable development. He called for the upgrading of the skills of farmers in order to promote non-farm activities, especially rural industrial activities. He also called for a triggering of the transformation of the African and rural economy so as to reduce food importation estimated at US\$ 25 billion and annual food aid of about US\$ 2billion per year and to improve the competitiveness of agricultural exports in a globalized world. He further called attention to the critical areas identified in the CAADP and which

include sustainable expansion of land; improvement of water control; rural infrastructure and market access improvement; support to the small farmers and women; and the enhancement of agriculture research and technology dissemination and application.

13. Dr Kabeto informed the Meeting that the Ethiopian Government had opted for agricultural - led industrialization aimed at transforming agriculture and rural economy. He mentioned several strategies that are underway to achieve this goal, including rural development strategy, food security strategy and sustainable development strategy. He said that, in addition to these strategies, the government of Ethiopia had undertaken several policy reforms to improve the environment within which its goal can be achieved. These policy reforms include decentralization, institutional changes, good governance, democratization, capacity building and privatization. He also said that these policy changes and strategies are yielding good results as evidenced by significant economic growth spearheaded by the agricultural sector during the recent years.

Progress Report on the Implementation of FSSDD's Programme of Activities, 2006-2007 (Agenda item 4)

14. The Director presented the programme of activities under the ECA Subprogramme "Fostering Sustainable Development" with the goal of improving national capacities for formulating and implementing effective policies and programmes towards sustainable development of member states. The Director explained that as a result of the restructuring of the Division during the biennium, the program was finally undertaken jointly by the current FSSDD, ACGSD, ISTD and NRID. The activities undertaken included servicing Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies, Producing Recurrent and Non-recurrent publication, Undertaking interagency meetings, training and

technical cooperation. Two field projects on PEDAs and women's reproductive health that depend on extra-budgetary resources could not be undertaken for lack of resources. The Director highlighted several programmed activities that have had impacts on member States and concluded that by the end of the biennium, at least 85% of the planned activities would have been completed.

15. During the discussions that followed the presentation, an IUCN delegate underscored the progress made through collaborative efforts between ECA, IUCN, CLEAA and other partners in promoting the use of, and capacity building for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as an important tool in planning for sustainable development in Africa. In pursuance of these efforts, ECA and partners organized a Pan-African Experts Workshop on the Effectiveness of EIA Systems in Africa. The key recommendations of the workshop are included as an information note in the delegates' documentation package. ECA, CLEAA, IUCN and other partners are kindly requesting ACSD-5 meeting to take note of the information, take cognizance of the efforts for promoting EIA tool in Africa and support implementation of the workshop recommendations as part of ECA's future programme of work.

Overview of Sustainable Development Report in Africa: Transforming Agriculture and Rural Economy in Africa (Agenda item 5)

16. The Secretariat presented the report entitled "Overview of Sustainable Development Report on Africa: Transforming Agriculture and Rural Economy in Africa". The presentation highlighted the central role of agriculture in stimulating economic growth and achieving the MDG's, particularly those related to poverty alleviation. In particular, with the majority of Africans living in rural areas and depending on agriculture as their major livelihood, the presentation noted that the structural transformation of African economies

depends on a vibrant agriculture sector that focuses on improving, not only the farm sector, but all the stages of the agricultural product value chain, including research and technology development, input markets, farm-level production, processing, storage, transport and distribution and output markets.

17. The report outlined some challenges that need to be addressed in order to revitalize African agriculture. Among these challenges are high levels of poverty that result in low internal effective demand, poor access to external markets, poor mechanisms for climate adaptation, poor access to technology, low human capacity and poor service delivery. Pointing to the need for agricultural value chain development within the CAADP framework, the report recommended a regional approach using Africa's strategic commodities as entry points and, in particular, allocating adequate financial resources, promoting public-private partnerships, developing agricultural research and extension and fostering market integration and agribusiness.

18. Following the presentation, the Meeting commended the Secretariat for focusing on agriculture and for highlighting the need for a value chain development as well as the key role of livestock in Africa's agriculture. Several interventions were made as follows:

- i. It was suggested that the report highlight rural-urban linkages since agricultural market access (for both inputs and outputs) is tied to urban centers. Indeed, urban centers should be considered engines of agricultural and rural transformation
- ii. Given the importance of climate and weather to African agriculture, participants proposed that the report recognizes the importance of climate adaptation to lower the risks of drought, thereby reducing

transaction costs. In addition, they proposed that the sustainability dimension be further highlighted in the report given the contribution of poor agricultural practices to land degradation and desertification.

- iii. Concerned that the market-led approach to agricultural-led development poses the risk of natural resource degradation, participants pointed to the need for investments in sustainable agricultural practices in line with UNCCD-Cop 8 (Madrid 2007). They further called for a long-term perspective in land use planning in support of agricultural development, drawing lessons from Asian economies.
- iv. While acknowledging the importance of global trade, the Meeting noted with concern that WTO rules continue to impede the growth of African agriculture, highlighting the need for capacity building to improve understanding of the complex rules governing bilateral and multilateral trade, including: Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) provisions of the WTO; the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union; the US Farm Bill; as well as trade with Brazil, China and India.
- v. The Meeting suggested that the report provides a closer examination of the role of women in African Agriculture, and noted the need for increasing awareness of stakeholders in this regard. In particular, participants called for the integration of women issues and increasing capacity in gender related issues especially by collecting gender-disaggregated data and building gender-based databases to facilitate sound analysis. They also asked for a review of gender budgeting and expenditures and called for technical training of women in areas such as agro-processing to increase their chances for employment. The Meeting recommended that more emphasis be made on harnessing and releasing Africa's innovative capacity for agricultural development, for instance,

by setting stakeholder platforms around the strategic commodities and within a value chain approach. Reference was made to the failure of many efforts in promoting research and development in agriculture, for example, due to the shortage of adaptation of crop varieties to ecosystems characteristics. The situation is compounded by new challenges posed by climate change. Participants suggested that lessons be drawn from trials of low cost and adaptive R&D, for instance those conducted in Mali, by the World Meteorological Organization.

- vi. While commending the report for highlighting the inflow of US\$2 billion in food aid into Africa, the Meeting recalled the resolutions of the Abuja Summit on Food Security in Africa calling for a reduction of increasing reliance on food imports and aid in commodities that could be produced competitively on the continent. The Meeting recommended that food aid be procured locally as a concrete mechanism to enhance access to markets for African farmers.
- vii. Noting with satisfaction that the report mentions the role of livestock, participants called for more emphasis on livestock and pastoral issues because of their important contribution to the livelihoods of African people, and their role in combating land degradation/desertification and in climate change adaptation. Indeed, the Meeting suggested that livestock and pastoralism were key to African agriculture.
- viii. Commending the Secretariat for taking note of the critical need for a regional approach to agricultural development, participants further called for closer collaboration with existing initiatives in Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with a view to building synergies and coherence to catalyze implementation of programmes.

African Review Report on Land (Agenda item 6)

19. The Secretariat presented the report entitled “African Review Report on Land” which emphasized the importance of addressing land related issues for Africa’s political, economic, socio-cultural, and sustainable development at national and regional levels. The presentation highlighted the major land-related issues including, land tenure security, unequal land distribution and conflicts, weak capacity of land administration, sustainable natural resource management, land tenure and gender relations, land poaching, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The presentation further elaborated on some concrete actions being taken to address land issues in Africa, at national and sub-regional levels. The presentation also pointed to some challenges that need to be addressed, including building capacity for land administration, land implementation and civil society involvement. Pointing to some lessons learned, the presentation noted the need to re-evaluate the role of the State in land ownership and administration, review of the progress being made in documenting alternative systems of land rights, including the recognition of customary of land rights; decentralization of land governance, development of appropriate land dispute mechanisms, and stakeholder engagement in policy formulation and implementation. On the way forward, the presentation pointed to the potential for value-addition in developing an Africa-wide approach to addressing land related issues and pointed to the need for the development of a pan-African land policy framework.

20. During the discussions that followed the presentation, participants stressed the need to develop strategies to enhance the role of women with regards to land rights, in particular participatory law and policy reforms in a holistic manner, linking laws and policies related to rural and urban land, housing, water, credit, marital property, inheritance and gender in general. In

addition, the need for technical capacity building on gender-inclusive adjudication; innovative, affordable and flexible land tenure systems were highlighted. Participants further called on the Secretariat to address women issues in the context of rural, urban and peri-urban areas, particularly women's access and ownership of land in rural and urban areas; gender budgeting on land issues; and prioritization of women land issues in continental initiatives such as the AU led AU-ECA-AfDB land policy initiative.

21. They called for the inclusion of urban and peri-urban issues in the report in view of the clear linkages between rural and urban areas in the context of agriculture and rural development. They recommended the incorporation of land related conflicts and land in post-conflict contexts (e.g. DRC, Somalia and Rwanda). They also urged that the report be complemented with inputs from key partners working on urban related land issues, e.g. UN-HABITAT, and that specific reference be made to the AUC/ECA/ADB land policy framework for Africa in view of the significance of this initiative to sustainable development in Africa.

22. Participants called for the revision of the report with a view to including the economic cost of ignoring gender in land policy issues using, for instance, available research findings from ECA, the World Bank, and AfDB.

23. Participants emphasized the need to address social inequalities in technical land reform activities at the sub-regional and regional levels, with a special focus on skill oriented capacity building, including the social dimensions of land administration. They pointed to the crucial role of lessons learning and sharing in order to catalyze land reform on the continent. They suggested, for instance, that a review of on-going processes of land distribution in countries in Southern Africa be carried out to draw lessons on mechanisms that would facilitate land distribution, restitution, appropriate land

tenure and administrative reforms. They said that land reform should be a multi-faceted process aiming at creating sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainable land resource management and as such should involve all stakeholders, including farmers, civil society, the private sector and the agricultural business sector among others

24. The Meeting called for the recognition of the variation of land related issues in Africa, pointing to examples in North Africa where issues of land reclamation and fragmentation of land areas as a result of the heritage of Islamic regulations are critical. It stressed the need to address water related issues since water is critical to land productivity and since land and water rights are linked. It also highlighted the need to harmonize land and other related policies such as agricultural policies, calling for an examination of the role of local and foreign investors in areas such as forestry.

Report on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Outcomes: Regional Implementation Review on Africa (Agenda item 7)

25. The Secretariat presented the Africa Report on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). This report reviews the progress made in the implementation of commitments, goals and targets agreed upon at the WSSD, identifies the constraints and challenges and highlights the lessons learnt. It covers the broad areas of sustainable development governance, poverty eradication and socially sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production, natural resource base of economic and social development, means of implementation and harnessing the inter-linkages.

26. In the discussions that followed the presentation, many participants stressed the need to produce and make available to the participants the French and Arabic versions of the report. The Meeting recommended that the gaps between and within countries be identified and elaborated on in the report. The Meeting also recommended a better coordination of the various clusters under peace, security and human rights and the bringing of the RECs into the fold.

27. Participants expressed their concern over the relationship between NEPAD and the AU and related implications for the implementation of WSSD outcomes. They underscored the need to optimize programs under NEPAD and individual countries on the one hand and to harmonize the political relationship between NEPAD and the AU on the other hand. .

28. Participants recalled that past strategies and policies such as those of SAPs and the first generations of PRSPs, and related policies of wholesale privatizations and removal of subsidies from social sectors have harmed most African countries. Using the example of privatizations of utility sectors and particularly the telecommunication sectors, they argued that underlying strategies and policies have not led to increased service delivery quality nor have they generated consumer price reductions. These policies and strategies have rather resulted in large unemployment even among university graduates and increased poverty in many countries. Moreover these policies and strategies have not helped the private sector that they were supposed to boost and have not allowed this sector to emerge as a strong sector to lead the Private-Public partnership very much needed for Africa's sustainable development. The Meeting recommended that policies be formulated which would truly ensure the sustainable development in African countries

29. The meeting underscored the need to stress the importance of education as a means to properly address sustainable development issues. It recommended that quality of the education prevail over the number of educated Africans because, in the long run, it is quality and not the numbers that will ensure Africa's sustainable development.

30. The issues of sustainable urbanization and the constraint of its financing, the new Durban initiative of sustainable NEPAD cities, the challenges of achieving Goal 7, Target 11 of the MDGs by 2020 and slum upgrading were underscored. The Meeting pointed out that a special attention should be paid to women needs when financing slum upgrading. Participants recommended that decongesting cities through evictions should be considered carefully since this action should be meant to assist and not to hurt the people who must be at the center of development. They also recommended that governments effectively address the issue of security, safety and crime in cities in order to achieve sustainable development in these cities.

31. The Meeting called for the identification and sustainable management of both surface and underground water resources, aquifers and of shared water basins such as the Northern Sahara Aquifer System and the aquifer system shared by Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. It recommended that activities of AMCOW in providing support to research and advancement of water agenda in Africa be intensified and that the work of GEF- sponsored projects on the Niger River through the World Bank and UNDP be highlighted.

32. Participants recommended that African countries urgently assess the cost of the utilization of their natural resources since a major aspect of sustainable development is about sustainable natural resources utilization. In this regard, they stressed the need for capacity building in environmental

economics and inclusion of this discipline in the curricula of African universities.

33. Participants also recommended that the report address the constraints and challenges in agricultural production, processing and marketing since agriculture is the backbone of Africa's economy. They called for an assessment of the commitments made by African governments for the development of the sector. In particular, they recommended that the extent to which governments are implementing the CAADP commitment of allocation of at least 10 percent of country's budget to agriculture be assessed. To enhance efforts directed to meeting this commitment, the Meeting recommended that a mechanism be developed and implemented. This mechanism must underpin and support the adopted Agricultural Expenditure Tracking System and ensure that countries provide data for the system to correctly track the commitment.

Regional Implementation Review on Agriculture and Rural Development (Agenda item 8)

34. The Secretariat presented the paper entitled "Regional Implementation Review on Agriculture and Rural Development". The presentation highlighted the following: (i) the purpose and objectives of the report as well as the selected commitments to be reviewed considering the multiplicity of declarations and engagements related to the African agriculture and rural development; (ii) the role of agriculture in Africa's economies and livelihood; (iii) the review of commitments, the progress made so far and the on-going initiatives as well as the lessons learnt; and (iv) the major constraints and challenges to Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Africa.

35. During the discussions that followed the presentation, the Meeting recommended that the report emphasize the need to fill the gaps in the use of Science and Technology for Agricultural and Human Development and to highlight the role of private sector in the agricultural Transformation process.

36. The Meeting also called for an improvement of the links between the production and the consumption. It stressed the need to develop nutritional adaptation schemes coupled with awareness building in order to improve household food security through the consumption of food products that are new to the communities.

37. Participants recommended that fishery and forestry be covered in the report along with opportunities provided by eco-tourism and other environmental- based products and services. They also recommended that the role or impact of private sector and community participation in agricultural and rural transformation be highlighted.

38. Participants stressed the need to give a special attention to water resources given that agriculture uses 80% of available quantity of these resources. They called for a better water management and irrigation – related capacity building . They also called for the identification and sharing of experiences and best practices from African countries such as Morocco.

39. Participants underscored the role that poor agriculture performance plays in the rural–urban migration and urged African countries to give a particular attention to agriculture and rural development. They also urged them to create off-farm and non-farm employment opportunities in secondary cities and towns in the region.

40. The Meeting called upon the Secretariat to go beyond the presentation of HIV/AIDS as a constraint to sustainable agriculture and rural development in Africa and to emphasize the opportunities offered by agricultural transformation in damping the effects and the pace of the pandemic

African Review report on Drought and Desertification (Agenda item 9)

41. The report highlighted the overview of Drought and Desertification in Africa. It reviewed the progress and achievements accomplished in combating drought and desertification at national, sub regional and regional levels and identified challenges and constraints to meeting agreed goals and targets. Lessons learnt, recommendations and conclusions were highlighted by the presentation.

42. During the discussions that followed the presentation, the Meeting stressed the need to emphasize, in the report, the highly participatory approach in formulating national action plans under the UNCCD. It was noted that all the African sub-regions have finalized their plans for combating drought and desertification. The African regional plan is being formalized based on six themes.

43. The Meeting also stressed the need to incorporate, in the report, the role of South-South cooperation in combating drought and desertification as Africa is engaged in interregional cooperation with Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The donation by Venezuela of \$1 million for the creation of jobs for the youth in combating drought and desertification was cited as one successful example of the underlying cooperation.

44. The Meeting noted that GEF has initiated pilot partnerships for the mobilization of material, technological and financial resources. The partnerships initiated by Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Namibia have been successful. It was underscored that countries had problems in setting up these partnerships and that this explained the delay in implementing the action plans.

45. The Meeting appreciated the funding provided by the GEF but stressed that this funding was very inadequate when compared to that which is devoted to the biodiversity and climate change conventions. The Meeting also stressed that the criteria for accessing the funds were too stringent. To access the GEF funds, countries must have built strong capacities to define projects and secure the 90 percent co-financing needed. The African CSD was called upon to tackle the issue of the low level of funding for UNCCD and capacity building in African countries in order to access the funds.

46. The need to build synergy between the Climate Change Convention, the Convention on Biodiversity and the UNCCD at the country level was strongly advocated in order to leverage other funding mechanisms, minimize costs and maximize returns. The synergy will be strengthened at the country level when the collaboration between the focal points for the three conventions are encouraged and promoted.

47. The Secretariat of the UNCCD informed the Meeting that the Convention worked at national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. The Secretariat of UNCCD further informed the Meeting that the 8th Conference of Parties that took place in Madrid in 2007 adopted a ten-year strategy that calls on countries to re-align their national plans on the new strategy. It was further stressed that this is the only convention that was

adopted through the initiative of Africa and that Africans should strongly support it to achieve the required level of success.

48. Participants called for a strengthening of the participation of stakeholders, especially the poor, women and grass roots in the design and implementation of plans and programmes to combat drought and desertification.

49. Participants also recommended that the report give due consideration to the effects of drought and desertification on biodiversity. They requested that the issues of carbon sequestration and climate change, and the need to develop tourism, biodiversity, trade and markets for products of dry lands be highlighted in the report.

50. Participants also requested that success stories such as the Abuja AU Summit on fertilizers and the related financing mechanism be highlighted in the report. They called for a sub-regional cooperation to address issues related drought and desertification, a trans-boundary phenomena, so as to avoid duplication of efforts.

51. The meeting identified the lack of relevant data and information as a major constraint to the UNCCD especially in getting information from countries. The need to build capacity at the national, sub-regional and regional levels was, therefore, advocated. The meeting urged countries to adequately report on progress accomplished in implementing their plans.

52. The need to sustain the research capacity on the issue of drought and desertification in Africa was strongly advocated. In this regard, WMO highlighted its experience in data collection and informed the Meeting that it

has, for the past ten years, established drought-monitoring centers in the sub-regions.

53. The current OSS effort to include drought and desertification engagement in the list of MDGs was recognized. The Meeting was informed that the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has produced a report called “Climate Change is With Us Now”.

54. The meeting was informed that the Ouagadougou Declaration adopted by African Ministers of Environment has recognized Terr`Africa as the platform for policy harmonization and the exclusive conduit for funding all the environmental projects within the region.

55. Participants recommended that the report prioritize the actions needed to be undertaken in order to avoid dispersion of the limited resources available. They stressed the need to build public awareness about good agricultural practices, use of renewable energy, water harvesting, dams, etc. as means of mitigating drought and desertification effects.

56. The importance of the issue of drought and desertification for the Sahel countries was emphasized. The meeting noted that these phenomena are not only affecting the agricultural GDP but the overall sectors of African economies. It called up on ACSD to advocate on the global interdependence of the problem and push for the Kyoto Protocol ratification by the reluctant industrialized countries.

Mandate of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSDD) (Agenda item 10)

57. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the mandate of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSDD). The adopted mandate is presented in Annex I.

Africa statement for CSD-16 (Agenda Item 11)

58. The Africa Statement for CSD-16 was reviewed and adopted by the Meeting. It is presented in Annex II The Meeting reviewed and adopted the Africa Statement for CSD-16. The adopted Statement is presented in Annex I.

Theme, Dates and Venue of CFSSD-1 (Agenda Item 12)

The theme

59. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that the theme of CFSSD-1 should be in line with the cluster of items to be considered by the Eighteen Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18). These items are related to transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the ten-year framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. The Secretariat also informed the participants that consultations are being undertaken in order to propose an appropriate theme and requested from the Meeting authorization to submit the proposed theme to the ACSD-5 Bureau during its next meeting. This was approved by the Meeting.

Dates

60. The Meeting decided to hold the CFSSD-1 in October 2009. The Secretariat will propose the exact dates taking into account the schedule of other major events if any.

The Venue

61. The Secretariat recalled the conditions in which a member State could host the Meeting in conformity with United Nations Rules and Regulations. It was decided that the Meeting would be held at the Headquarters of the Secretariat in absence of invitation from member countries.

Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting (Agenda Item 13).

62. The Chairperson of ACSD-5 presented the report, as contained in the document E/ECA/ACSD/5/L, for consideration and adoption by the Meeting. He indicated that the report summarized well the major issues discussed and recommendations agreed upon by the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the report with few amendments.

Any Other Business (Agenda item 14)

63. The issue of membership of the CSD-16 and the role of sub-regional, regional and international institutions was raised by the participants. The Secretariat and the representative of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provided the Meeting with the necessary explanation.

A participant requested to know the reason for replacing “African Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD) with “Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSDD)”. He also wanted to know about the relationship between the new name of the Committee and the name of the

Division of Food Security and Sustainable Development of ECA. The Secretariat provided the necessary clarification based on the resolution 853(XL) related to “Review of the Intergovernmental Machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa”, and adopted by the Fortieth Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

64. A participant made a general comments on the economic development of Africa and the difficulty to address the continent sustainable development issues. He underscored the importance of domestic resources for the attainment of sustainable development in Africa and called for rethinking the development of the continent.

Closure of the Meeting (Agenda Item 15)

65. The Meeting strongly requested that the Secretariat translate the documents of the Meeting in Arabic, French and English and submit on time these documents to member countries and other participants. The Meeting also requested that an informal e-group discussion on sustainable development issues be established in order to foster dialogue and exchange of information between participants.

66. The representative of the Chair of CSD-16 informed the Meeting that she has taken note of all the concerns raised by the participants. She said that raising the concerns has helped to articulate the African Statement. She pledged to take them very seriously into consideration.

67. In his closing remarks Mr. Josué Dioné, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, thanked participants for their high quality inputs and hard work under difficult conditions. He said that the tasks ahead at CSD-16 is

expected to be difficult because the international community was counting on the review of Africa, which the Committee had prepared. He promised that the Secretariat will ensure that the translation of relevant documents is done and that these documents are timely submitted. He also said that the repositioning of ECA had rendered knowledge management a key pillar of the Commission's mandate and that the proposal to carry out an e-group discussion on sustainable development issues will be given a special attention.

68. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the Meeting expressed appreciation for the support of the Secretariat, Bureau members and participants. He acknowledged the high quality of discussions and thanked participants for giving him the opportunity to chair the meeting of ACSD-5. He then, declared the fifth session of the African Committee on Sustainable Development closed.

Annex I. Mandate of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD)

I. Background

The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development adopted Resolution 853 (XL) in April 2007, related to the review of the intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa, through which the Ministers structured new organs to deal with development issues facing the region. Among these organs and subsidiary bodies, the Ministers established the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD).

The Conference agreed with the need to align the subsidiary bodies with the approved programme structure of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It was also agreed that the terms of reference of each committee would be defined during their first meeting. Accordingly, the Constitution and Functions of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development are as follows:

II. Composition and Functions

CFSSD is composed of high-level experts from governments, academia, R&D institutions, the private sector and civil society of ECA member States. It meets on a biennial basis and serves as a forum for the promotion of cooperation, exchange of information and sharing of experiences in the areas of sustainable development with focus on food security, agriculture, human settlements and, environment, among African countries. It provides advice in those fields to the member States and to ECA on ways to strengthen its support to member States. It also provides a platform for advocacy and for assessment of follow-up activities by African governments to global plans of action, especially the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21, the World Food Summit Programme of Action and, the Habitat Agenda.

III. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the CFSSD are:

- (a) Undertake periodic review of the implementation of global programmes of action such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21, the World Food Summit and the Habitat Agenda;

- (b) Consider and make recommendations on a multidisciplinary approach to implementation of the relevant programmes of action;
- (c) Promote the formulation of policies and measures on sustainable development with focus on food security, environmental protection, improved human settlements, and cooperation among African countries in natural resources management;
- (d) Provide a forum for exchanging information and sharing experiences in these areas;
- (e) Advise the Commission on the formulation of programmes and activities for supporting member States in food security related issues, and integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into national development policies and strategies and;
- (f) Serve as the Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

IV. Operational Guidelines

The Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development will:

- (a) Consider special and burning food security and sustainable development concerns of member States and make related policy recommendations for use by African policymakers and their counterparts in the development cooperation community;
- (b) Monitor and review activities undertaken and progress made in the implementation of the global plans of action mentioned above and recommend further actions based on the experiences of member States through national reports submitted to the ECA Secretariat; and
- (c) Provide guidance to the work of ECA by reviewing the existing programme of work and examining proposed programmes and priorities of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the Commission.

V. Relationship of the CFSSD with UN Commission on Sustainable Development

- (a) The Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development will serve as Africa's regional forum of government experts from ECA member States, with Major Groups as observers, that deals with all the fields mandated by the UN General Assembly to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (b) It will also serve as the regional advisory arm of the Commission on Sustainable Development on cross-sectoral activities in Africa as well as on proposed activities and follow-up actions in the implementation of international programmes; and
- (c) The periodic reporting of CFSSD follows the established procedures and practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

VI. Relationship between CFSSD and other institutions

The Committee will cooperate with:

- a) The similar committees on food security and sustainable development committees in the other Regional Commissions and will liaise with them to enhance cooperation in the global field of sustainable development;
- b) The six other technical committees under the auspices of ECA and will promote regular liaison and communication with these committees;
- c) The appropriate intergovernmental structures at national, sub-regional and regional levels; and
- d) The appropriate structures of the Commission of African Union.

Annex II. The Africa Statement for CSD-16