

RENEWED POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND POLICY CHANGE

1. Our countries are already confronted by many problems of environmental pollution and depletion of natural resources resulting from our own national as well as international policies and pressures. This cumulative environmental degradation, in combination with our increased external indebtedness, declining terms of trade and other adverse international economic conditions, has already undermined our capacity and potential to meet the needs of our people today and of our children tomorrow.
2. We therefore resolve to speed up the process of change and innovation towards development policies and practices that are environmentally sound, economically sustainable and socially acceptable.
3. We undertake to integrate environmental concerns into all existing and future economic and sectoral policies to ensure that they protect and improve the environment and natural resource base on which the health and welfare of our people depend. We must also begin to implement new sustainable development programmes that increase our possibilities for meeting the pressing needs of our people today without compromising the prospects of future generations.
4. We therefore resolve to ensure that institutions charged with the responsibilities of environmental resource management have the required legal statutes, administrative authority and supportive mechanisms for co-ordination to fulfill those responsibilities, and to building new institutions where required.
5. We further resolve to develop African strategies and technologies for production, preservation, storage, distribution and consumption which will stimulate sustainable economic growth and secure livelihoods in the rural areas where the majority of our populations live. We should at the same time adopt common strategies concerning imported technologies which could adversely affect our environment.
6. In the context of reviving economic growth with greater equity and meeting the essential needs for food, water, energy and jobs for our people, we resolve to take immediate action on the following priority issues and goals for achieving sustainable development in our countries and continent.
 - Managing demographic change and pressures
 - Achieving food self-sufficiency and food security
 - Ensuring efficient and equitable use of water resources
 - securing greater energy self-sufficiency
 - Optimizing industrial production
 - Maintaining species and ecosystems
 - Preventing and reversing desertification.