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# Report of the Conference



Water for agriculture and energy in Africa: The challenges of climate change

Report of the ministerial conference - 15-17 December 2008 - Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

## Date and place of the Conference

The Ministerial Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 15 to 17 December 2008.

## Inaugural ceremony

**Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO**, welcomed the honourable delegates and observers, and expressed his profound gratitude to His Excellency Colonel Muammar el Gheddafi, Guide of the Revolution, who, well aware of the importance of agriculture, water and energy for the African continent, had kindly agreed to host this Conference in Libya. The Director-General also thanked the Libyan Government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the participants. He stated that five years after the 2004 Sirte Conference on integrated and sustainable development of agriculture and water in Africa, it was time to review progress made and to discuss the short, medium and long-term actions that were needed to ensure the food and energy security of the continent.

**His Excellency Abu Baker Al-Mansouri, Secretary of the General People's Committee of the Authority for Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Marine Resources of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**, welcomed all participants. He stressed the importance of water for food security and the need to develop the untapped hydroelectric potential of the African continent. Recalling the Maputo Declaration, he called for increased investment in water for agriculture.

**Her Excellency Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, African Union (AU) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture**, thanked the Government of Libya and FAO for the partnership with the African Union in convening this important Conference in a context of food insecurity, climate change, rising cost of energy and financial crisis. She indicated that the Commission was working through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat and with development partners on a number of initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of high food prices, and improving agricultural production, productivity and food security. Investments should develop water resources to enable community-based irrigation, modernize existing irrigation and drainage systems, and replace and augment storage capacity in reservoirs and groundwater basins.

**His Excellency Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Chairman of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)**, expressed his gratitude to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, AU and FAO for inviting AMCOW to be a member of the Steering Committee of the Conference. Recalling the successive declarations of AMCOW related to water supply and sanitation in Johannesburg, Brazzaville (2007), Tunis and Sharm El Sheikh (2008), he stressed the need to develop water resources for agriculture, energy and socio-economic development in Africa.

**Mr Aly Abou-Sabaa, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry of the African Development Bank (AfDB)** indicated the Bank's commitment to: i) increase irrigation and storage capacity by at least 8.5 billion m<sup>3</sup> over the period 2009-2013 and; ii) accelerate the development of hydropower by

pursuing multipurpose water resources development encompassing energy generation, flood control and drinking water supply.

**Mr Mohamad Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank**, gave an overview of the Bank's activities in Africa, in particular the construction of multipurpose dams in sub-Saharan Africa, and pledged its continued support to poverty alleviation and food security in the region.

On behalf of **Mr Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Mr Josu Dion, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development**, stressed the need for timely investment in water resources to unleash the full potential of the agriculture and energy sectors, as that would go a long way in accelerating broad-based socio-economic development, a sound pathway out of poverty and food insecurity. Yet, much remained to be done to translate previous commitments to develop water resources for agriculture and energy, from Maputo (2003) to Sharm El Sheikh (2008), into effective actions.

In his statement, **Mr Cheikh Mouhamady Cissoko, the Representative of Farmer Organizations**, emphasized the contribution of farmers to the agriculture-based development of most African countries. There was therefore a need for much greater investment in agriculture and in the development of farmer capacity, while conserving the natural resource base through its integrated management and paying due attention to indigenous know-how and the sustainable development of lowlands, aquaculture and river navigation.

The full texts of the statements delivered during the Inaugural Ceremony are included in Annex 1.

## Opening of the Conference

### Election of the chair and vice-chairs and appointment of the rapporteur

Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, declared the Conference open. He reported that consultations among the Delegations had resulted in unanimous consensus on the election, as Chair of the Conference, of Mr Abu Baker Al-Mansouri, Secretary of the General People's Committee of the Authority for Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Marine Resources of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The election was confirmed by acclamation.

The Chair reported that consultations among the Delegates had produced a consensus on nominations for the Vice-Chairs of the Conference and appointment of the Rapporteur. The Conference then approved by acclamation the election of the Vice-Chairs as follows:

His Excellency André de Jesus Moda, Vice Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Angola;  
His Excellency Yaya Dillo, Minister for Mines and Energy, Republic of Chad;  
His Excellency Mahmoud Camara, Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Guinea;  
Her Excellency Charity Kaluki Ngilu, Minister for Water and Irrigation, Republic of Kenya; and

His Excellency Abdelssalam Mansour, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Republic of Tunisia.

His Excellency Ayman Abou Hadid, Head of the Egyptian Delegation, was elected as Rapporteur.

## Adoption of the agenda and timetable

The Conference adopted the agenda and timetable as given in Annex 2.

## Establishment of the drafting committee

The Conference established the drafting committee and elected Mr Ali Rahuma (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) as chair of the committee. The full composition of the committee is given in Annex 3.

# Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole, which was open-ended, examined the following three themes, organized as follows:

### **Session 1 - Prospects for food and energy demands by 2015 and projections for 2030-2050 (Chair: The Honourable Mohammed Mahmood, Deputy Minister for Energy, Kenya)**

This session discussed the prospects for food and energy demand by 2015 and the projections for 2030 and 2050, based on the key drivers of population and income growth and under the threat of climate change. With a doubling of total population by 2050 and considering the economic growth of the continent, FAO estimated that food demand in sub-Saharan Africa alone would more than triple between 2000 and 2050. Regional trends in food import bills continued to rise to unprecedented levels, seriously affecting the balance of trade of most countries in the region, while sub-Saharan Africa was the only region of the world in which the number of people without access to electricity was projected to increase. The session discussed national strategies, performance of the agriculture and energy sectors, the relative contributions of rainfed and irrigated agriculture, and climate change adaptation strategies.

Recognizing that smallholders made up the majority of the population in most African countries, the session recommended that policy decisions and budget allocations prioritize assistance to farmers to adapt to climate change. Budgets also be made available for large-scale infrastructure support for irrigated agriculture and hydropower generation. Infrastructure should be designed to take account of the best estimates of predicted climate change.

Each country should develop policies to ensure cereal availability, whether under irrigation or rainfed conditions or imported from elsewhere. Regional approaches to problems should include integrated water resources management for transboundary rivers to make best use of available natural resources. The key consideration in all investments should be economic viability.

Agriculture should be adapted to the best estimate of climate change scenarios and countries that contributed more to climate change should contribute to funding such adaptation. Ministries of Agriculture and Energy should be involved in the climate change debate and agricultural research and extension priorities should be adapted to the changes expected from climate change.

## **Session 2 - Assessing investment requirements: defining investment envelopes for water control in Africa (Chair: H.E. Mahmoud Camara, Minister for Agriculture, Guinea)**

This session discussed the investment envelopes needed to address future food and energy demands. Based on preparatory work for the Conference, which collated ongoing and pipeline projects on water for agriculture and energy across the countries of the continent, and previous estimates by NEPAD-CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) and others, the session discussed current investment trends and strategies, priorities for investment and the structure of existing investment portfolios, their adaptation to future needs, and their impacts on poverty reduction and growth.

The session noted the significant irrigation and hydropower potential that existed in Africa and the fact that exploitation of this potential remained extremely low. It expressed its thanks to FAO for undertaking a preliminary estimate of investment needs for water control as a means of facing the challenges of higher food import bills and people's limited access to energy. As the information for certain countries was not up-to-date, the session asked FAO to consider the updated information provided by countries for inclusion in the final versions of documents.

The session recognized that poverty reduction was a prerequisite for increasing food production and recommended that smallscale farmers be given priority assistance, to also include provision of inputs and means of production. It further recommended that countries incorporate their agricultural water control investment envelopes in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and develop investment projects to the bankable stage through the African Water Facility to ensure better funding opportunities.

## **Session 3 - Financing mechanisms and implementation strategies (Chair: H.E. Mamadou I. Diarra, Minister for Energy, Water and Mines, Mali)**

This session addressed the financial mechanisms and implementation strategies needed to ensure sufficient investment in water for food and energy to meet demands. It discussed the roles of various sources of funding, including the potential of public-private partnerships, funding strategies and their adaptation to different categories of user and time frames, conditions for successful investment, and scope for enhanced regional integration in boosting investment in water. It made the recommendations given below.

While recognizing the importance of national financing and regional cooperation for implementing strategies to address country needs and boost food production, the session appealed to multilateral agencies for additional funding and called upon developed countries to allocate 0.7 percent of their GDPs as assistance as promised. It further recommended that countries' parliaments recognize the priority of agriculture and ensure that a significant budget is allocated to the sector, in consideration of the Maputo recommendation that 10 percent of national budgets be assigned to agricultural production.

The session stressed the need to adapt investment strategies to different types of farmers, taking into account their specific needs, including capacity building, and recommended the adoption of whole food chain approaches to infrastructure development. Noting the linkage between agriculture and energy and the fact that farming and agro-processing required cheap and reliable sources of energy, a proposal was made to establish an energy fund in African countries and to encourage private sector investment in hydroelectric energy.

The session recalled and supported the recommendations of the 2004 Sirte Conference to create an African agricultural development fund, an African investment bank, and a common market for Africa.

As regards public-private partnerships, the session recognized that the most important investors in agriculture were the farmers, who should be encouraged through adequate incentive packages, including subsidized loans. It also recommended that national and foreign investment be encouraged through favourable investment policies, including reform of land tenure policy, where necessary.

While traditional financing schemes such as grants and loans would continue to be important, in particular for lower income countries, such instruments should be used more strategically, with countries negotiating conditions that ensured economic viability.

The session recalled that peace and stability were preconditions for sustainable development and growth and for attracting investment, and recommended that every effort should be made in relevant fora to bring peace and stability to the continent.

## Round tables

### Saving Lake Chad

This round table was attended by Ministers and many other delegates and observers from the Lake Chad Basin and beyond. The participants emphasized the impact of water scarcity resulting from climate change and uncontrolled human activity. The drastic shrinkage of Lake Chad would be an imminent disaster if no early action was taken. Lake Chad could only be saved through combined action to reverse the degradation and re-establish its former levels and related wetlands, while adhering to the integrated management of the Basin's water resources.

Subject to appropriate feasibility studies, transboundary water transfer from the Oubangui River to Lake Chad was considered an important intervention which would improve base flow and channel storage, prevent groundwater recession, enhance groundwater recharge and permit the reinstatement of traditional activities such as recession farming, fishing and animal husbandry.

All positive and negative impacts had to be considered at the earliest stage, even before the feasibility studies. It was important to consider the water resources of the donor basin, based on past, present and anticipated hydrological data, in order to avoid the emergence of water scarcity in associated basins.

The following recommendations were made:

- an international committee should be created to monitor the transboundary water transfer project.
- an observatory for the Lake Chad Basin should be created;
- several scenarios should be considered for water transfer and alternative measures; and
- donor basin and beneficiary basin stakeholders should be involved in all phases of project preparation and implementation.

## Partnership for financing water and energy in Africa

In Africa there is low agricultural productivity in both the rainfed and the irrigated sectors. Around 97 percent of agriculture is rainfed and there are techniques to improve productivity with soil moisture management. The irrigated area is low compared to other regions and there are low levels of water storage on all scales, making Africa vulnerable to climatic shocks.

There is a major funding gap for agriculture and water projects but there is a commitment to increase investment by 6 percent per year to reach an estimated US\$10-12 million. One way to close the funding gap is through the many models of public private partnership (PPP). Different types of partnership are needed to fund investment for subsistence and commercial agriculture and for power generation. A significant part of any investment (perhaps 20 percent) needs to be set aside for management and maintenance of infrastructure.

The private sector will always try to minimize costs and maximize benefits from their involvement so PPP needs to be properly structured and regulated. All potential beneficiaries of a scheme should be identified and appropriate ways should be devised for them to participate in the funding. Farm level profitability is vital to attract investment even if governments decide to subsidize some of the capital costs.

Countries need to develop policies and strategies to encourage private investment. The general business environment must be structured so that it encourages companies to get involved in PPP. Apart from issues such as taxation and customs regulations, this could include the overall governance and security situation.

## Parallel events

Four parallel events were organized during the Conference:

1. AfDB Strategic Approach on Water for Agriculture and Energy.
2. Food Crisis in the States of CEN-SAD (Community of Sahel-Saharan States): Emergency Actions and Sustainable Perspectives.
3. AgWA (Agriculture Water Partnership): A New Partnership for Agricultural Water in Africa.
4. ADEA (Association for the Development of Energy in Africa): Technology Transfer in Water and Energy Sectors in Africa.

The reports of the parallel events are given in **Annex 4**.

# Adoption of the Declaration on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of Climate Change

The Conference adopted by acclamation the Declaration on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change, as contained in the Appendix to this chapter.

## Participation

The Conference was attended by more than 400 participants, including 37 Ministers, from 48 African countries, 54 representatives of intergovernmental organizations, 34 representatives of civil society organizations, and 10 representatives from six organizations of the United Nations system.

## Closure of the Conference

The Ministerial Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change, concluded its work and was declared closed on 17 December 2008 at 18.00 hrs.



# Annex 1. Full texts of the statements delivered during the inaugural ceremony

## Statement of the Director-General of FAO, H. E. Jacques Diouf

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

It is an honour and a great pleasure for me to be with you today in this fine city of Sirte, celebrated birthplace of the African Union.

I should like, first and foremost, to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency Colonel Muammar el Ghaddafi, Guide of the Revolution, who, well aware of the importance of agriculture, water and energy for the African continent, kindly agreed to host this Conference in Libya. I should also like to thank, on behalf of FAO and all of you, the Libyan government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Almost five years ago, in 2004, the African Heads of State and Government gathered here, in Sirte, to adopt measures for the integrated and sustainable development of agriculture and water in Africa. Five years later, it is necessary to review progress made and to discuss the short-medium-and long-term actions that are needed to ensure the food and energy security of the continent.

This prestigious assembly should make it possible to move from rhetoric to action. Together, we must find concrete and effective measures to address the issue of water in Africa, in a spirit of shared responsibility and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders, including governments of African countries, donor countries, regional and international organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society.

### The world food crisis

Much has changed since 2004. The world today is in a crisis. The severe financial and economic crisis was preceded by a food crisis that disrupted the international agricultural economy and highlighted the fragility of world food security. It also showed us that reviving agricultural production in poor countries is the only viable and lasting solution to the fight against hunger. We must therefore invest more in agriculture.

The last three years have witnessed a rapid increase in food prices. The FAO food price index initially rose by 9 percent between 2005 to 2006, then by 24 percent the next year, and by 40 percent during the first months of 2008. In July, good prospects for world production led to a decline in the prices of major cereals. Food prices have indeed fallen by 25 percent, but the food price index in October 2008 was still 30 percent higher than it was in October 2006. Input prices have doubled, even tripled, and have become inaccessible to small farmers.

This unprecedented situation has had serious economic, social and political consequences. In 2007, mainly because of soaring food prices, the number of hungry people in the world rose by 75 million, instead of declining by 43 million to achieve the commitment of the 1996 World Food Summit. In 2008, a further increase of 40 million people is expected. In total, the world therefore

has today 963 million undernourished people. This means that almost one billion people out of the 6.5 billion world population suffers from hunger.

### State of agriculture and food in Africa

Agriculture accounts for 17 percent of Africa's GDP, 57 percent of its employment and 11 percent of its exports. Its population, which this year reached 967 million inhabitants of which 53 percent are under the age of 20, will reach 2 billion in 2050. Agriculture and related industries are essential to economic growth in Africa, and to a reduction in poverty and food insecurity.

In 2003-2005, 24 percent of Africa's population, or 218 million people, still suffered from chronic undernutrition. In 2007, the food crisis added a further 24 million people to the number suffering from chronic hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, today 70 percent of its poor people live in rural areas.

Despite the importance of agriculture to society and the economy, its performance has remained below expectations in recent decades. Growth of agricultural production has lagged behind population growth.

Over the past 30 years, Africa's per capita grain output only increased by 0.14 percent per year (0.07 percent in sub-Saharan Africa), triggering a rise in imports of 136 percent, amounting to 56.4 million tonnes in 2008.

There are several reasons behind these results. The use of modern inputs is insignificant. Africa only uses 23 kg of fertilizer per hectare of arable land, compared to 151 kg in Asia. The level is even lower in sub-Saharan Africa which uses only 9 kg per hectare.

Use of selected seeds that made a success of the Green Revolution is very low in Africa: only one-third of seeds are subject to a control system. Transport infrastructure as well as storage and packing facilities are lacking, especially south of the Sahara. Africa's rural roads are where India's were in the early 1970s. Harvest losses are as high as 40 to 60 percent for certain agricultural products.

The consequences are tragic for the continent. Of the 36 countries affected by food crises in the world, 21 are African. Africa's food imports were valued at 49.4 billion United States dollars in 2008, including US\$22 billion dollars for grains against US\$0.5 billion in 2005.

### Energy security

Africa also faces a serious energy deficit. In sub-Saharan Africa, 74 percent of the population had no access to electricity in 2002. In some countries, only 5 percent of the population have access to energy, and the figure drops to 2 percent in some rural areas.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world in which the number of people without access to electricity is rising. The number is expected to reach 660 million by 2030, or 50 percent of the total population. Yet the continent has considerable potential for hydroelectricity and solar energy.

At the same time, Africa's demand for energy will double between 2000 and 2030, rising from 500 million to 1 billion tonnes of oil equivalent, due to strong economic growth.

## Climate change

Africa must also address the challenges of climate change, notably higher temperatures, greater variability of rainfall and more frequent extreme events, such as floods and droughts.

Climate change will reduce water availability and will lead to an increase in animal and plant diseases.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly stated, in its fourth assessment report published in 2007, that global warming and extreme weather events will affect the world's poorest regions most. In sub-Saharan Africa, rainfed crop yields could fall by half between now and 2020. The mitigation of these impacts is going to depend on the investments that will be made in water control, irrigation, storage facilities, rural roads, seed production and multiplication and conservation agriculture.

## The role of water

Irrigated agriculture, which occupies 20 percent of the world's arable land, accounts for more than 40 percent of total agricultural production. Irrigated agriculture is much less vulnerable to climate variability and other changes than rainfed agriculture. Yields from irrigated agriculture are three times higher than those from rainfed agriculture.

Unfortunately, in Africa, only 7 percent of arable land is irrigated, with an even lower 4 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 38 percent in Asia. The continent only uses 4 percent of its water reserves (less than 3 percent in sub-Saharan Africa), against 20 percent in Asia. That means that on 93 percent of Africa's agricultural land, the population has to rely on rainfall to live or rather to survive; and rain is becoming increasingly unpredictable on account of climate change.

Sustainable social and economic development in Africa has to be driven by the development of its agricultural sector, which is the mainstay for 70 percent of its population and 80 percent of its poor. Under such conditions, significant efforts are clearly needed to make African agriculture more productive and more efficient, but also more resilient to climate change. That calls for better control of production factors, especially water. Water control is the key to food security.

## The framework for action

It was with this firm conviction that, back in 2003, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) selected water as the central pillar of its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). According to the CAADP, the many measures needed to promote agricultural and rural development also require an annual investment of US\$4.9 billion in water control and land management to shelter agriculture from the mercy of unpredictable rainfall.

As part of the measures to promote agricultural and rural development, the Blair Report recommended that Africa double its irrigated farmland by 2015, focusing on small-scale irrigation. The cost of such irrigation was estimated at US\$2 billion US dollars per year.

Several types of intervention are needed according to specific national and regional contexts. In the short term, small water harnessing, irrigation and drainage works, implemented by and for rural communities, are a priority. These are inexpensive investments involving simple, easy-to-maintain technology. Involving beneficiaries in the design and delivery of such interventions will foster the sense of ownership that facilitates sustainable participatory management.

In the medium term, emphasis must be placed on better utilization of existing large-scale hydro-agricultural works, which required significant investment but which often operate well below capacity for technical and economic reasons, but also for institutional and social reasons.

In the longer term, action should centre on the development of large river basins. Such programmes require integrated management of water resources and identification of major synergies, especially between irrigation and hydro-electric power. Such investment can also target inter-basin transfers and stronger technical and financial mechanisms and coordination policies for better management of water resources.

The resources should first come from national budgets. In Maputo, in July 2003, the African Heads of State and Government pledged to significantly increase national budget allocations to agriculture to at least 10 percent in the following five years. Agriculture must be a priority in investment for development.

Then, in conformity with the commitments of Monterrey, the World Food Summit of 1996 and the second Summit of 2002, Official Development Assistance should be raised. The downward trend in agriculture's share of development aid must be reversed. The same applies to funding from regional and subregional banks and bilateral aid.

Finally, private sector investment in agriculture must be encouraged. The partnership between the private and public sectors must be strengthened.

At the High-Level Conference on World Food Security that was organized by FAO last June, the delegates of 181 countries – including 43 Heads of State and Government and more than 100 Ministers – reaffirmed the need to produce more. The Conference declaration made clear that investment in agricultural production was the only basis for a lasting solution to the food crisis and that adequate resources should be made available.

During this Conference, you will have the opportunity to discuss the results of the preparatory work which gave a detailed table of projects and programmes of investment in water control for agriculture and energy for each country, with a total budget of US\$65 billion spread over twenty years. This is the first time that a short, medium and long-term assessment has been made so thoroughly and so precisely, considering investment in water control at the level of villages, extensive irrigation systems and major river basins, both for agriculture and for hydro-electric power generation.

This work, which was made possible by the collaboration of government services of all African countries and the valuable assistance of regional entities of the African Union, is unique in nature. It was conducted in the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to better take into account the directly expressed needs of countries.

## Action at the global level

Besides boosting investment in water control, rural infrastructure and agricultural services in Africa, we must work together at the international stage to forge broad consensus on the final and rapid eradication of hunger from the world. Thus, it is essential to improve the conditions under which farmers work and trade.

That is why I proposed the convening in 2009 of a World Summit on Food Security to ensure greater coherence in the governance of global food security. This Summit should lay the foundations of a new system of agricultural trade that offers farmers in developed and developing countries alike, the opportunity to earn a decent living. They should earn comparable incomes to workers in the secondary and tertiary sectors of their respective countries, if they are to remain engaged in rural activities. To this end, we must have the intelligence and the imagination to devise agricultural development policies, rules and mechanisms that will give us an international trade regime that is not only free, but also fair.

The Summit should also have to find US\$30 billion per year to build rural infrastructure and increase agricultural productivity in the developing world. In the immediate term, an Early Reaction Fund should also be considered to revive local agricultural production in the case of crisis, particularly in low-income and heavily food-importing countries.

The time for talk has long passed. The events of the last two years have reminded us just how urgent a massive acceleration of investment in agriculture has become. It is the duty of all parties – governments, regional and international institutions, technical and financial partners, the private sector and civil society – to build the conditions for the economic, social and environmental viability of such investment and for water resources to be developed for the agricultural, economic and social benefit of the continent.

FAO assisted in the preparation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme within the framework of NEPAD. FAO is at the disposal of African States to continue to support them in the preparation of continental, regional and national programmes and in the implementation of promising projects.

Thank you for your kind attention

## Statement of the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Marine Resources H.E. Abu Baker Al-Mansouri

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

It is my pleasure to convey to all of you the greetings of the Leader of the Great First of September Revolution, Muammar Al-Gaddafi, and his best wishes for the success of this Conference, which would not have convened were it not for his support and encouragement. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to invite his Excellency, speaking on your behalf and in my personal capacity, to grace this conference by his presence, in order to listen to his valuable advice and

guidance which forever aim at the progress and advancement of Africa and its great peoples. Let me also welcome you in the name of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and in the name of my colleagues in the General People's Committee for Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Marine Resources. I would like to express my appreciation for your presence here and for taking part in the proceedings of the High-Level Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of Climate Change, which we feel honoured that it has been convened in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. I would like to extend our sincere wishes for the success of the Conference, and wish you a good, enjoyable and fruitful stay among us.

The main objective of this Conference is to assess water resources in Africa in the light of the rapid increase in the demand for water in the agriculture and energy sectors. The Conference will primarily focus on investment needs and on improving management in order to make use of water resources in rural areas and to expand major hydro-agricultural projects, in addition to developing and building infrastructure along major rivers with the aim of achieving sustainable development in Africa. This is in addition to assessing the challenges facing the agriculture and energy sectors in light of the problem of global food shortage. In addition, the Conference aims at underscoring the importance of accelerated investments for bringing about food and energy security in all African states, and at specifying the necessary funding mechanisms to achieve such objective in the medium and long term, when the population of the continent will have reached 2 billion. In doing so, the Conference will take into consideration the impact of climate change, and will focus on specific programmes with cost estimates, both for undertaking feasibility studies and for their actual implementation.

This Conference takes place amidst a water crisis in most African states, with the increase of demand on water and the accrued severity of droughts and desertification due to climate change worldwide and substantial progress in the various areas of development with direct impact on water and increased losses in water. The issue of water is particularly important, not only as concerns its management, costs or exploitation mechanisms, but because it is so inextricably linked to the availability of food. This makes it an alarming issue of great concern, especially given the major increase in population and in rural-urban migration and the increasing risks arising from environmental degradation, and in particular water, soil and arable land pollution and the decrease in their areas, as well as their implications on the availability of food.

As you all know, Africa is facing a real problem of increased demand for food and the limited area of irrigated land in the continent, no more than 7 percent of arable land, coupled with a steady decline in agricultural investment. The FAO estimates that the demand for food will triple during the period from 2000 to 2050 due to population growth and the rise in living standards. This problem is exacerbated by climate change, which will result in a decline in food production in several African states by about 50 percent by 2020, threatening the already fragile food security in the continent.

Climate change also has negative impacts on the availability of water resources, arable land, forests and biodiversity. Such impacts are expected to increase in severity in the future threatening the food security of the whole continent by increasing water stress. It is expected that those persons living under water stress will reach between 27 and 250 million by 2020 due to the decline in river water flow and land degradation. This will have an impact on rainfed agriculture and livestock breeding, therefore affecting 180 million people in Africa, and causing an increase in migration, let alone its negative impacts on the energy sector.

Water is considered to be the main resource that determines the level of sustainable development, and the balance between the requirements and the available amounts, especially since rainfall varies widely across the different regions of the continent.

Africa has great potential for expanding the use of water resources for agriculture. It possesses enormous, and as yet untapped, potential in terms of renewable and non-renewable energy. Moreover, Africa's hydraulic energy capacity is considered to be the appropriate option to cover future needs, especially in the Nile and Congo basins, as it represents only 5 percent of the energy available in the continent which is currently being developed and exploited. The current limited energy supplies are a factor restricting the expansion of agriculture and food production, particularly given that Africa's energy needs are expected to double by 2030. The rise in the prices of energy and food constitutes an incentive to developing alternative energy sources, hydraulic in particular, in order to double the area of irrigated land in Africa.

This Conference also takes place in the shadow of the greatest achievement that Africa has made in the new millennium, namely the establishment of the great African Union, such a historic achievement that crowned the efforts of the Libyan Leader towards unity. The African leaders responded to these efforts convinced that the best alliance for Africa is that amongst its countries, and that Africa can enjoy no progress without unity and the integration of efforts in the realms of development and progress in order for the continent to occupy its due place in the present era.

The cooperation between the Jamahiriya and a number of African states has increased significantly: the Jamahiriya undertook the drilling of a number of productive wells in several African states, in addition to projects for soil and water research and advocating the use of the waters of major rivers to fill the water deficit gap and extend agricultural areas. Moreover, the Jamahiriya has made contributions to assist in combating desertification and desert locust, and in providing agricultural machinery such as tractors. The cooperation with African states also included holding periodic meetings through joint committees, with input from specialized regional and international organizations, and the establishment of joint bodies with the neighbouring countries that share with Libya major groundwater basins, with a view to the efficient management and the good use of such basins. I hereby call for putting into effect the initiative of the Leader of the Libyan Revolution encouraging the African states to establish higher African organizations to supervise the provision and making good use of water resources in the continent, and likewise to encourage the production of food through organizations for the production and improvement of seeds and for the development of livestock and fishery wealth.

The particular nature of the availability and distribution of water resources, whether surface or groundwater, in terms of quantity and sources, as well as the steady decline of the per capita water share, places the issue of sustainable management of such resources, both in quantity and quality, at the top of the priorities of organizations concerned with water issues. The impact of climate change on the availability and the ways of using water are among the topmost factors that need special attention, given the serious imbalance that may accrue from them due to the misuse of water, especially in agriculture. Accordingly, this calls for establishing a fruitful cooperation between the African states to control and redistribute the available resources, and to adopt modern scientific practices for optimizing the sustainable management of water resources, reversing the food shortage trend suffered by most African peoples, and providing the means of dignified living in Africa and reducing immigration from the continent.

As you are all aware, the First of September Revolution and its Leader Colonel Muammar el Gheddafi have attached great importance to the issue of water. As such, substantial investments were made to overcome the problem of water shortage, which included transporting freshwater for thousands of kilometres through giant pipelines from the depths of the desert to cities and coastal plains in the greatest project of its kind, namely the Great Man-Made River. This project aims at doubling production, achieving food security and providing the drinking water that coastal cities need and were still lacking not too long ago, despite the establishment of many desalination plants and water well fields. Such a gigantic epoch-making project will provide a temporary solution for the water shortage problem along the coastal areas north of Libya. Yet, as the Leader of the Revolution noted, it is not a final solution but a final attempt to save life in North Africa, and hence it is imperative to synergize efforts and intensify the search for economical alternatives in order to provide the water required continuously. Foremost among such alternatives is inter-basin water transfer. The attempt to divert water from the Oubangi River in order to save Lake Chad is undoubtedly a good example of integration between the African states.

Seriousness and effective participation in drafting the recommendations of this Conference are of utmost importance to serve the interests of the African states and their peoples. It is also incumbent upon us to work towards implementing the recommendations of previous summits and meetings in relation to investment in agriculture and energy and specify a clear methodology for their implementation.

I do not want to keep you long. It just seems to me appropriate on such a distinguished occasion to repeat the words of the Leader of the Great First of September Revolution in one of his statements on Africa: The great continent of Africa is the land of unlimited potential, wealth and bounty. Africa is the unlost paradise, the earthly paradise, the world's heaven. Great Africa is a paradise that extends 30 million square kilometres of pineapple, oil palm, cocoa, coconut, bananas, mangoes and all the fruit of the world. The rivers of the great continent of Africa extend for 20 thousand kilometres with running, flowing water. Imagine such a great length of fresh and sweet waters running uninterruptedly. Imagine 20 thousand kilometres of uncorrupted water, of copious and abundant water, of water springs. This is a blessing that God has given to Africa in His mercy to the black race. God has blessed Africa with spreading shade and gushing waters. God has blessed and dignified the black race and to them gave the great continent of Africa, a continent that is unequalled in bounty, potential, capabilities and wealth.

Allow me to extend my utmost thanks and gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its effective contribution in organizing this Conference under its auspices and for its earnest calls for holding it in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the international organizations and financial institutions that sponsored this Conference. My utmost thanks go as well to everyone who participated in the preparations for the Conference.

I would also like to extend my thanks to this great number of officials from the water, agriculture and energy sectors from the different African states, who had to endure the difficulties of travel over here in the hope of achieving important results, recommendations and decisions that would serve the interests of the African peoples and realize their hopes of a dignified living.



This Conference would not have succeeded were it not for the continuous and arduous efforts of the different committees in preparing and organizing it.

And last but not least, let me extend my thanks to the various media that gave this event the attention it deserves.

I wish you all a good stay in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and ask God to bless our efforts with success.

Thank you. And peace be upon you all.

## **Statement of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, African Union**

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

I feel honored to be here and to participate in this important Conference at this critical time of sharply fluctuating food prices and global financial crisis that have adversely affected many of our countries. I would like to first of all register appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to myself and members of my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Sirte, in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. I would in particular like to thank the Government of Libya and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for the partnership with the African Union Commission and all the special efforts and hard work involved in convening this important conference. Truly, this conference is taking place in a complex and difficult time, when water scarcity, food insecurity, and unsustainable agriculture and energy production - all these, in the context of climate change and financial crisis, can cause social, economic and political instability.

The African Union Commission remains at the service of all African countries in advancement of the continental agenda on all social, economic and political issues of common interest. The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture which I head at the Commission covers environment and climate change in addition to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, land, water and forestry, among others. We, therefore, take great interest in this Conference. We are optimistic that the recommendations and decisions from this conference will renew our commitment and concerted resolve to seize opportunities for sustainable development across Africa.

It is a known fact that water is a limited resource that must be carefully managed for the benefit of humanity and our environment. The overall purpose is to ensure food security for all African populations today and future generations while safeguarding environmental sustainability. However, with the global food crises and the growing population continent-wide, more food is required for the 200 million people malnourished across Africa and the one billion more people expected by 2050.

Africa's share of global freshwater resources, at 10 percent, closely matches its share of world population at 12 percent. However, more than 20 percent of the African countries are considered water-poor. The problem stems from the uneven distribution of rainfall, and from the fact that, for the African continent as a whole, 85 percent of water withdrawals are directed towards agriculture and this percentage is even higher in the arid and semi-arid part of Africa. However, increasing demands for limited freshwater resources, without putting in place the right incentives for agricultural production, may be a serious hindrance to meeting the future demand for food. Sixty percent of food production is from non-irrigated agriculture. A sizeable part of irrigation potential is already used in North Africa (where water is the limiting factor), but a large part also remains unused in sub-Saharan Africa. Water for irrigation is a high priority for economic development and stability. However, few countries in Africa can afford the financial investment in efficient irrigation systems

Over-exploitation of water and forest resources mainly for agriculture and other uses has, on the other hand, contributed to environmental disasters. In addition, global warming and climate change have generated drought and floods. Pests and diseases have undermined agricultural production. Rising food prices; shortage of energy; political and civil strife have affected many parts of the continent.

You will agree with me that African countries have never lacked agricultural policies whether at national, regional and/or international levels. Indeed, several countries are currently engaged in long-term planning and strategy formulation for sustainable agricultural development. The major problem, however, has been the low level of implementation of these policies and strategies. We are feeling the impact today. Food consumption exceeded domestic production by 50 percent in the drought-prone mid-1980s and more than 30 percent in the mid-1990s. Africa's dependence on cereal imports is expected to continue to grow, with a widening net trade deficit. Food production capacity and productivity is further weakened due to widespread HIV/AIDS in Africa.

However, if the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) adopted at the AU Summit in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003 had been implemented across the continent, increased budgetary allocations, at least 10 percent, would have led to the desired agricultural growth of minimum 6 percent annually and we would be in a much better situation than we are today.

With growing awareness of food production challenges and climate change concerns in Africa, reforms need to be brought about to provide incentives in the agriculture sector, revitalizing productivity and attracting new investments. A number of countries have already embarked on this and are commended to stay the course and others urged to follow suit. In addition, reforms to support effective management of water resources and agriculture systems have began and are encouraged to continue. These include managing water demand, enhancing productivity of water for agriculture, and increasing storage, harvesting, and reuse of water. Less conventional approaches are also adopted continent wide, including lower cost desalination and the development of more salt-tolerant crop species.

Institutional and other reforms are also directed at more sustainable water use. Awareness raising and information systems for water and soil conservation, protection of water resources, better irrigation practices, and adaptation to the effects of climate change are widespread at all

levels, community to regional. It is extremely important to use the scientific knowledge you have to map out water availability in terms of how much each member state receives from rain, what is in the underground and its relations with population growth, urban placement, irrigation and industry. This is the way to go.

Climate, water resources, biophysical and socio-economic systems are interconnected in complex ways, so a change in any one of these induces a change in another. Anthropogenic climate change adds a major pressure to African nations that are already confronting the issue of sustainable water use. Water and its availability and quality will be the main pressures on, and issues for, societies and the environment under climate change; hence it is necessary to improve our understanding of the problems involved.

Significant changes in climatic conditions will affect food security through their impacts on all components of global, national and local food systems. Climate change is likely to make access to food more difficult for the vulnerable people and other low-income consumers, whether because of reduced production, loss of employment opportunities as farm and non-farm production patterns shift, or lower purchasing power due to rising market prices for food.

In addition, the rising cost of energy and the need to reduce consumption of fossil fuels have given rise to a new calculus - that of food miles - which should be kept as low as possible in order to reduce emissions. The combination of all of these factors could result in a reversion to more local responsibility for food security in the future.

Although the debate about biofuel/food security trade-offs has so far focused mainly on how to manage competing demands on scarce productive resources, it is equally important to focus on energy saving and efficient energy use that will contribute to reduced demand for energy, including bio-energy. However, the need to secure stable and affordable energy supplies remains a priority as does the need to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy. Similarly, it is necessary to make a realistic balance on all fronts to ensure that Africa's population has access to affordable food, energy and water.

There exist opportunities for increasing water productivity in both rainfed and irrigated agriculture and on increasing the availability of affordable, environmentally acceptable water that generates maximum socio-economic returns. Similarly, harnessing new water supplies, expanding storage capacity, empowering communities and user groups, ensuring access to food, reforming water management institutions, qualified, skilled people are needed to develop and run these institutions, making needed investments.

Investments should develop water resources to enable community-based irrigation, modernize existing irrigation and drainage systems, and replace and augment storage capacity in reservoirs and groundwater basins particularly in water-scarce countries. Groundwater recharge programmes should be initiated to help restore groundwater tables. In addition, environmental regulations and parallel investments in municipal and industrial waste treatment are needed to improve the quality of river water, reducing dilution requirements and increasing supplies.

The prepared National Investment Briefs (NIBs) of the African countries, that estimated investment needs in water for agriculture and energy, based on investment projections at both country

and river basin levels, need a clear action-oriented vision and partnership agreements that might lead to adoption of concrete mechanisms for making such investment a reality, and this is our responsibility!

Having looked at the various challenges before us and the opportunities available, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the collective actions counteracting the different challenges faced by our continent. The AU Commission with partners is working on actions that will calm markets with market-oriented regulation of speculation, shared public grain stocks, strengthened food import financing, and reliable food aid; promote investment in social protection involving cash transfers, pension and employment programmes, and preventive health and nutrition programmes; and scale up investments for sustained agricultural growth.

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), the Commission is currently working, through the NEPAD Secretariat and with development partners, on a number of initiatives that aim to mitigate the effects of high food prices and also improve agricultural production, productivity and food security. These include: the African Common Market for Food Products; the Pan-African Land Policy Initiative; the Framework for African Food Security and the Pan-African Nutrition Initiative; the promotion of African farmers organizations; the early warning systems; as well as improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access.

As a result of the consultation process, which started in early 2000, the African Union passed a resolution during its Eighth Summit in January 2007, endorsing the Climate for Development Program (ClimDevAfrica). The African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), within the framework of a Joint Secretariat (JS) arrangement subsequently embarked on a process of defining and mobilising funds for the ClimDevAfrica Program, for a timely implementation. The ClimDevAfrica as designed provides a strategic framework for the first phase of a long term, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, demand-driven process of adaptation to climate variability and change for the most sensitive developmental sectors in Africa, including water, agriculture and energy, under the leadership of the JS.

In addition, the African Union, through RECs, is implementing another project called African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) whereby the European Union (EU) provided 21 million. This programme aims at boosting the capacity of AU Member States Meteorological Stations to be able to download from the European Meteorological Satellite (EUMETSAT) to inform sound policies by increasing the information management capacity of African regional and national institutions mandated with responsibilities in environment and climate-related sectors.

The African Union is also developing the Great Green Wall initiative for the Sahara-Sahel region from Senegal to Djibouti so as to put in place environmental conservation measures including afforestation, to forestall the advancement of desertification.

Institutionalizing the Ministerial Special Technical Committees like the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on environment and AMCOW on water, among others, into the African Union as directed by the AU Summit is a crucial step to enhance our concentrated efforts towards sustainable natural resources development in Africa. This process is almost

complete and is expected to be adopted by the 2009 January Summit and will pave the way to closer collaboration on sectoral issues.

A number of partnerships and initiatives, with the appropriate financing instruments, are emerging from the current debate at both the continental and international levels. In this respect, I believe it is vital to adopt harmonized approaches to orchestrate the move of Africa towards a well-aligned agriculture sector, sound food security strategies, skillful human resources in the Ministries of water, agriculture, and energy and for clear future directions for African agriculture.

To conclude, I would like to say that for agriculture to feed the at least 1.8 billion people in Africa in 2050, water allocated to agriculture must be used more efficiently and new water resources developed. In order to meet our water needs, our organizations and institutions will have to choose water use and development priorities, and carefully consider the difficult trade-offs between water for agriculture and water for the environment. Moreover, new approaches for financing water related projects should be explored, tested and adopted.

I would also like to reaffirm the AU Commission's commitment to enhancing collaboration with regional and international communities to achieve our continent's common goals.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you for your kind attention.

## **Statement of the Chair of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua**

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

1. The Lake Chad situation needs to be upgraded to urgent world catastrophe and disaster. It is desirable that an international committee be established for the promotion of Lake Chad.
2. We welcome the initiative of the Supreme Guide of the Libyan Revolution which follows the recommendations of the last Summit of Heads of State and Government in Egypt and addressed the Lake Chad situation.
3. AMCOW prepared that Summit and supports all actions and advocacy in favour of Lake Chad. To that end, it can call on its various partners: EU, G8, United Nations agencies (UN-Water Africa, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), etc.). It can draw upon documentation that can be prepared and introduced by the Vice-Presidency of AMCOW Central Africa, currently held by Chad.
4. On behalf of the water donor countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Congo and Central African Republic (CAR)) and at the highest level (i.e. Heads of State), Economic Community of Central States (ECCAS) has agreed in principle to the launching of a feasibility study on the transfer of water from the Oubangui to Lake Chad, with certain recommendations:

- i. that the Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Obangui-Sangha (International Commission on the Congo-Obangui-Sangha Basin) (CICOS) is mandated to talk on behalf of the water donor countries and therefore ECCAS;
  - ii. that the environmental impact study be launched simultaneously and as part of the study of project impact on the water donor basin; and
  - iii. that an urgent plan be launched to conserve water resources for both Lake Chad and for the Oubangui and the Congo.
5. Two actions are needed during the lead time for the transfer project:
- a. an urgent plan to resolve the negative effects, with measures for adaptation, integrated and sustainable management, change in behaviour and technologies; and
  - b. analysis of developments with the rapid introduction of:
    - i. an observatory;
    - ii. modelling; and
    - iii. prevention (adaptation, preservation, ).
6. It is important to consider the fragile state of the donor basin and sub-basins (Congo and Oubangui) and the interrelationship that the transfer will inevitably create. Hence the need to accelerate good management of the Congo basin and to take all necessary measures for the two basins, to avoid creating a subsequent catastrophe from efforts to deal with the present catastrophe.

Remember: the Congo Basin is:

- the world's second lung!
- Africa's foremost water and forest basin which needs to be preserved not only for Africa but also for the world.

7. Conclusion: There is an urgent need to save Lake Chad and the Supreme Guide should continue to lead the advocacy campaign for Lake Chad.

## Statement of the Director of the Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department of the African Development Bank Mr Aly Abou-Sabaa

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

The African Development Bank Group is very honoured to have been associated with this high level conference on the theme 'Water for agriculture and energy: the challenges of climate change'. On behalf of the African Development Bank Group, I wish to thank the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the FAO for their concerted efforts to bring this important event into reality.

The support of the Libyan Jamahiriya and its Leader, Colonel Muammar el Gheddafi, underscores the considerable support the continent continues to receive especially on issues related to water and energy development.

May I also thank Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO for the constructive way in which his institution has worked, with the AfDB and others, on this event.

This is a truly continental effort towards addressing the critical challenges posed by the harnessing and management of water resources for agriculture and energy in Africa.

Water resources development has always been at the core of the AfDB strategic focus. In 2000, AfDB developed an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) policy, which drew from its experience in this sector. This policy inspired several major initiatives with the most important being the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) and the African Water Facility (AWF). The Bank has also been involved, in collaboration with FAO, in the operationalization of NEPAD's Pillar 1 (Land and water management) of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of NEPAD.

As emphasized by earlier speakers, many countries faced with soaring import bills for oil and food had no choice but to adopt measures which are not always fiscally sustainable. The ADB is prepared and will be providing support to ensure that our regional member countries maintain progress. The Bank has already restructured some US\$200 million worth of our agricultural portfolio, in order to provide a rapid reactive mechanism for resources required to accelerate agricultural production in the short term, purchase of fertilizers and inputs. We are very much aware that in a rain-dependent agriculture, such food issues may and will arise in the future, which is why we are calling for increased joint investments in water for agriculture and energy. The Bank is currently busy elaborating a business plan to further develop the water storage in Africa to increase water storage by 1 percent over the next six years. This effort along with other needed inputs including the reduction of post harvest losses, establishment of the African Fertilizers Financing Mechanism will contribute to increasing agricultural production in Africa and contribute to mitigate the impacts of climate change. In terms of its own contribution, the Bank is in the process of investing US\$1 billion in the agriculture sector bringing its portfolio to US\$4.8 billion before the end of 2010.

Climate change has become a major impediment to development in Africa, threatening the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its impacts on water are severe, with strong negative implications for household water access, energy and agricultural production. The latest IPCC report projects that up to 250 million additional people in the continent could be exposed to increased water stress by 2020. Declining rainfall could severely exacerbate food insecurity, with production expected to halve by 2020. The projected rise in temperature will lead to a decrease in water flows, further constraining hydroelectric energy production. During meetings on climate change which took place last week in Warsaw and Poznan, it was emphasized that the current financial crisis should not derail global efforts to deal with climate change issues and difficult decisions associated with the negotiation process. It is important that Africa has a unified view and position early next year to contribute meaningfully to the process.

The ADB Group has geared up and retooled to play a significantly greater role as part of the solution. The Bank recognizes that river basins are important geographical units for considering the management of water resources to meet agricultural and energy needs in the face of a

changing climate with added emphasis on clean energy. Besides implementing climate risk due diligence in Bank operations, the Bank is supporting the implementation of the Niger Action Plan for the Niger River Basin, which includes major storage infrastructure components. The Bank is also supporting the Lake Chad Basin Commission to define the appropriate solutions in the drive to reverse the near disappearance of this important lake. Furthermore, the Bank is also supporting the riparian countries of the Congo River basin to establish a river basin organization for integrated water resources management. A number of other important interventions include: the Bank support to the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) and ClimDev-Africa.

With regard to the use of water resources for power generation, Africa is endowed with an important hydroelectric potential. Unfortunately this potential remains largely untapped. Less than 5 percent of economically exploitable hydroelectric energy is mobilized.

The Bank is playing a catalytic role in financing multinational energy related projects. Over the last two years the Bank has contributed substantial resources for hydropower and associated interconnection projects in Africa. The Bank Group also envisages participating in funding of future hydropower projects and associated works such as: Gibe 3 Hydropower Project in Ethiopia; OMVG Energy Project in West Africa; and Rusumo Fall hydropower project in Eastern Africa with estimated resources to the sector in excess of US\$3 billion. The Bank is also assisting the river basin organizations (Nile Basin Initiative, Gambia River Basin Development Organization, Niger River Basin Authority), Regional Economic Communities as well as individual countries. It is worth mentioning the approval by the Bank this year of a grant of US\$14 million for the financing of the study on the development of the Inga hydropower site and associated interconnection. This study is one of the ten flagship projects of the Short Term Action Plan of the NEPAD prepared by the Bank at the request of NEPAD.

This morning and over the next two days, Africa's leading water specialists will be revisiting these broad issues surrounding the appropriate use of water for agriculture and energy. Perhaps nowhere in the developing world are these issues more pertinent than on our continent today. This is why the Bank is organizing a Parallel Event devoted to the augmentation of the Continent's per capita water storage as a strategic intervention that will enhance opportunities for food production and power generation while at the same time responding to the challenges of climate change. The Bank is committed to helping its regional member countries to increase their water storage capacity by at least 8.5 billion m<sup>3</sup> over the period 2008-2013.

The private sector arm of the Bank is also gearing up to scale up its support to agriculture as well as energy production.

I am very confident that this Conference will identify clear ways of progress in boosting food security and energy for socio-economic development for Africa.

I wish you the best of success in your deliberations.

Thank you.



## Statement of the President of the Islamic Development Bank Mr Mohamad Ali

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

The hosting of this meeting by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is clear evidence of the great attention that the leadership of the First of September gives to joint African action, to supporting economic and social development and to the reduction of poverty in this continent that owes you a debt of gratitude.

I am sure I will be speaking for all the participants when I extend heartfelt thanks and gratitude through you to the Leader of the First of September Revolution and to the dear people of Libya, for the care we are enjoying in your midst. Also, I cannot but praise the Leader's decision for choosing you for the opening of the Conference, and to commend the excellent preparations to ensure its success, God willing, and to note the warm reception and generous hospitality afforded to everyone. This is not strange coming from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, as it has always lent generous support to joint African action, and has bestowed great care upon the Islamic Development Bank.

Profound thanks are due to the FAO for organizing this important Conference, which reaffirms the vital role that the Organization plays and the special attention it gives to the issues affecting the Dark Continent. I would also like to thank His Excellency, Dr Jacques Diouf, for giving the Islamic Development Bank the opportunity to take part in such an important event.

Everyone hopes for the success of the Leader's strategic vision for the continent and for raising the international stature of Africa. The economic performance of Libya in recent years gives significant indications of leading growth in the continent. Likewise, the feverish activity of reconstruction and development that is currently taking place in an atmosphere of economic openness is an important indicator of attracting investment, that will link the Jamahiriya's present with its great past to be a wide bridge for the exchange of culture, knowledge and trade between Africa and the rest of the world.

You have done well by choosing the subject and the timing of this highly attended Conference, as half the population of the continent are drowned in poverty, and lost in the labyrinth of want and malnutrition. The holding of this conference indicates that you wish them to see on the horizon a glimpse of hope for a dignified life, a hope that they direly need.

Indeed, you have done well by dedicating the first theme of your Conference to alerting to the danger that will threaten the poor in Africa and the world in general because of the food crisis. Consecutive crises roll back hundreds of millions of people, and push back tens of millions of Africans into the claws of poverty and indigence.

The IDB answered the call to attend this meeting because we felt in such an invitation a sincere desire to help Africans face a number of urgent and important issues in a systematic manner, and because we found a strong determination by the organizers to examine and deal with certain issues that had been subject for decades to neglect and shortsightedness, causing the loss of millions of lives.

This august congregation is evidence that by your call for facing the challenges collectively and your insights into the heart of matters, you can rightly read history and help the coming generations avoid facing the tragedies of the recent past caused by hunger and disease and their ilk.

Only recently, some member states of the Bank have been trying to convince leaders of international financial institutions with this or that dam project, but their arguments fell on deaf ears that would not hear the reasons for making rewarding investment in electricity and water. At that time, the Islamic Development Bank and sister institutions in the Steering Group were keen to listen to their voice, and give it the attention it deserved. Hence it was the Song Loulou dam in Cameroon, which came as the auspicious start of all the Bank's operations. It was followed by the great Manantali and Djama dams on the Senegal River, and others followed. The Steering Group, which included the IDB, the Arab Funds and the OPEC Fund, did well to have stood firmly behind the member states of the Senegal River Basin Organization in support of building those two dams despite the objections of other financial institutions at the time. Having worked on erecting dams on the rivers of the continent, the IDB is glad that today the approach based on taking care of water is receiving increased attention.

After the times of turning a deaf ear, we find that the poor, who paid the price of decades of neglecting water and agriculture infrastructure, are looking forward today to the results of a serious consideration of investment in agricultural water facilities in Africa. They hope that the Conference will provide answers to a number of questions that have preyed on the mind of those states. These have been long denied funding by major financial institutions, and want to be reassured by a smooth flow of resources in the medium and long terms in order to support agricultural development and food security.

This assembly provides ample opportunity for examining and reflecting on the results of the choices made in the recent past, when long-term investments in agriculture were tightly restricted and the mere consideration of its principal method was considered a mortal sin.

It is unfortunate that, at this stage in particular, no sooner had the food crisis made clear the lessons of the past that the financial crisis followed, which gave a pretext for some to decrease their aid for the reduction of poverty in Africa. This is despite the fact that they are able to garner hundreds of billions in a short time to save the banks of the rich, leaving those for whom food is a matter of life or death to the sway of the crises.

We have no excuse today not to respond widely to the necessity of doubling food production in African countries, whether through government support to development or through direct foreign investment. And, in this latter, there are virtually inexhaustible sources of profit. We are aware of how meagre the funds required for such investments are, compared to the financial support farmers receive in some advanced countries, let alone the sums spent on purchasing arms and instruments of war that cause nothing but poverty and hunger.

The Islamic Development Bank will contribute as much as possible, and with a sense of responsibility, along with the Steering Group, towards meeting such vital demands. The IDB is calling today for forging an investment partnership between countries which God has endowed with natural resources (water and soil), and those with the know-how and advanced experience in the techniques of agriculture, and those with markets and capital.

The IDB believes that the time is more suitable now than it ever was or will ever be for the success of such a partnership. The IDB will, as a matter of priority, allocate resources under the Jeddah Declaration initiative to support around twenty of the least developed member states in Africa.

However, we should not feel complacent when this, or any other, conference calls for accelerating investment in the agricultural sector in African countries and for placing this sector at the heart of the development agenda to halve the number of hungry by 2015.

We have to move to a higher level – a level where plans are devised to face the challenges, and where attention is focused on building actual capacities in order to achieve our goal.

We have to use a new language – the language of achievement and implementation, no matter how much know-how, skills and good practices this takes. All efforts should come together with a view to providing whatever is necessary for production: installations, facilities, roads or ways to market products. Governments in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that depends heavily on agriculture for achieving overall growth, have no excuse not to allocate 10 percent of public expenditure on that sector.

The most important actions that the world could do to show its earnest desire to reach a permanent solution for the problem of hunger are to encourage social justice within the present world order; to reject wars, occupation and humiliation; and to stop generating, nurturing and fomenting conflicts. What have the people of Darfur done to deserve their plight when water becomes scarce and herding becomes a contest, when weapons speak and well drilling machines fall silent? What have the Somalis done?

Then what are we doing about Lake Chad when the forces of nature are taking it away from us before our very eyes?

Let us all work together to support the capacities of scientific research, to streamline resource management in agriculture, to provide financial lines to agricultural projects, to organize conferences to encourage business people to invest, and to forge partnerships that would allow agriculture to flourish and pave the way to cut free from the claws of poverty. Let us indeed work towards such great deeds!

Let me end by extending in your name, once again, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome afforded to all participants. Finally I pray to God to guide us all towards what is good for Africa, her progress and welfare.

## **Statement of the Director of Food Security and Sustainable Development at the UN Economic Commission for Africa Mr Josu Dion**

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

I bring you warm greetings from Mr Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, who had planned to be here in person but regrets not being able to do so because of a last minute major constraint. He sends his appreciation for the holding of this important conference and reiterates ECA's full commitment to supporting the implementation of its outcomes.

This Conference is indeed crucial as it brings us to address a critical nexus for Africa's sustainable development, namely, the Water-Agriculture-Energy nexus. This nexus is critical in that one could argue that moving agriculture in Africa depends doubly on water: water directly for increasing and stabilizing productivity and production at the farm level, and water for energy to move the food and agriculture system up the value chain ladder, especially through agro-industry development.

The Conference is also timely as it aims to provide a more action-oriented follow-up to a series of African Ministerial Conferences and Heads of State and Government Summits on those critical sustainable development challenges at a time when the continent is grappling with the hardships of an intricate set of global-level crises, including the food crisis, energy crisis, financial crisis and climate change. If most of these crises may be seen as new at the global level, none of them is really new for Africa.

The recent soaring food prices have only compounded further an already dire state of structural food insecurity throughout Africa. Even before the global food crisis, extreme poverty and chronic hunger affected more than 40 and 25 percent respectively of the total population of the region. Also, this has happened despite increasing commercial imports of food and food aid. FAO estimates tell us that the global food crisis has contributed to adding 24 million to the number of hunger-stricken Africans.

The same goes for energy. With more than 14 percent of the world's population, Africa accounts for only 3 percent of world modern energy consumption. The continent has the lowest electrification rate of all major world regions. Only 25 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa, and less than 20 percent of the rural population of the continent, have currently access to electricity. Moreover, it is projected that, in a business-as-usual scenario, half of the population of Africa will still be without electricity by 2030.

Coupled with high energy costs, increasing food import bills and the costs of the related coping fiscal measures further curtail the capacity of African countries to save, mobilize and invest their own resources to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in general, and the poverty and hunger MDG in particular.

Without decisive and sound adaptation actions, we know that climate change will seriously add to this gloomy picture. It will severely constrain agriculture in Africa, by contracting the area suitable for farming, shortening crop-growing periods and reducing yields from rainfed agriculture. It would also increase energy constraints through a combination of reduced water flows to hydropower dams and worsening depletion of biomass energy resources and, therefore, further impede industrial development, especially agro-industry development in Africa.

This dim picture of the state and fate of agriculture and energy is strongly rooted in achievements so far and future commitments towards harnessing and developing Africa's considerable water resources for agriculture and energy. In this regard, we all agree that the record so far is way below what is both needed and possible. With only 4 percent of the continent's available water resources being currently exploited, less than 10 percent of agricultural land is irrigated, and only 7 percent of the hydropower potential of the region is tapped. There is clearly ample room for action here.

For sure, high-level political commitments to developing Africa's water resources, agriculture and energy resources have recently been made and repeated; for instance, Maputo in 2003, here in Sirte in 2004, Johannesburg in 2005, Abuja in 2006 and Sharm El Sheikh in 2008. Yet, there is much to do in following up and translating those commitments into effective actions. Very eloquent in this regard is the finding of a recent report by the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agriculture Unit that, in 2007, only seven countries had met the Maputo commitment to allocating, by 2008, at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources for agricultural and rural development.

Stretched very thinly in pursuit of all MDGs and sustainable development imperatives, it is understandable that budgetary resources of African countries are subject to extremely difficult allocation exercises. Yet it should be stressed that timely investment in water resources to unleash the full potential of the agriculture and energy sectors would go a long way in accelerating broad-based economic growth and employment and, therefore, providing African people with a sound pathway out of poverty and food insecurity.

This is an area where regional cooperation and integration could help a lot to address the challenge. Indeed, as adopted at the Abuja Food Security Summit, federating and articulating efforts around the systematic development of regionally integrated value chain of strategic food and agricultural commodities would add great value to the implementation of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme (CAADP). Likewise, public-private partnership efforts at developing Africa's shared water and energy resources naturally lend themselves to improved regional cooperation and integration. Devising and implementing effective mechanisms and actions to realize the full potential of regional integration therefore deserve particular attention in the way forward.

To complement Africa's own efforts at mobilizing and investing greater domestic resources in water for agriculture and energy, it is imperative that development partners also make it a priority to deliver on their commitments to the continent. In this regard, deeds unfortunately lag far behind words.

As you are aware, ECA is committed to contributing the fullest possible support to Africa's quest for sustainable development. Water, agriculture and energy have been constant priorities in this regard. Currently, we are engaged in partnerships, especially with FAO and UNIDO, to help African countries and their Regional Economic Communities develop and implement the technological, infrastructure, institutional and policy requirements of a regional approach to developing the value chains of strategic food and agricultural commodities.

To help address the challenge of climate change we have, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, developed and engaged in implementing a comprehensive Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme. This Programme sets out to scale up the capacities of key African institutions and stakeholders to improve climate-related data and observation, information services, policies and risk-management practices in climate-sensitive sectors, with major focus on water, agriculture and energy. To deliver on the policy component and the management of ClimDev-Africa, ECA has also embarked on establishing an African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) to assist African countries mainstream climate change concerns in their development policies and frameworks and guide the related investment process.

To conclude, allow me to stress once again that the focus of this High-level Conference on action-oriented outcomes towards decisive progress in water development for agriculture and energy in Africa is both crucial and timely. We at ECA look forward to fully supporting the implementation of these outcomes.

Thank you.

## Statement of the Representative of Farmer Organizations Network of Peasant Farmers and Agricultural Producers Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA) Mr Cheikh Mouhamady Cissoko

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

After the Forum on Land in Porto Allegre, here we are gathered in Africa to discuss the continent's water resources.

I should like to thank FAO, the African Union and Libya for including the African Peasants Forum in this important meeting. Peasant farmers still predominate in Africa, south of the Sahara, and are consumers of water for their personal needs (drinking, hygiene and cleanliness) and to produce food.

This vital resource comes directly from captured rainfall or is recovered from ground and surface waters. The abundance of water has given us a popular credo: water management is the responsibility of God or the Ancestors or some crises are punishments for our errors ...

Scientific information increasingly available to African institutions and our researchers tells us that:

1. Rainfall is becoming more erratic and sparse (see annual precipitation irregularities (%) on earth from 1900 to 2005: Courtesy Amadou, Th. Gaye, 2008 Projected Patterns of Precipitation Changes, same authors - Indice Pluviométrique au Sahel 1905-2005 (Agrigmet data) Courtesy: Abdou Ali and Thierry Lebel).
2. Rainfall impacts on water resources and is a key cause of erosion (Courtesy: 2006 Annual Rainfall Index).
3. Africa's water resources from river basins will be insufficient towards 2025 (see Sharma *et al*, 1996).
4. Several sub-Saharan countries could lose their watercourses unless we take preventive action, as in the case of Lake Chad Atlas of our Changing Environment, UNEP Grid Arendal.
5. Our wise men and elders speak of the imminence of threats and periodically refer to falling water levels and the clear association that exists between rainfall, quality and quantity of arable land and availability of forest resources.

Doubts and concerns are palpable in our villages and communities and among researchers and decision-makers.

The trend is not ending and African peasant organizations note with bitterness and great anxiety that:

- the reduced flow of our major watercourses could continue;
- accelerating siltation is eliminating thousands of hectares of lowlands, backwaters and rivers each decade;
- inland wetlands are endangered;
- water tables are plummeting;
- water quality is deteriorating; and
- access to productive natural resources will be the greatest challenge in managing the risk of conflict among a population of over 1.5 billion in 30 years time.

All of this leads us to conclude that our dear Africa seriously risks being very exposed to variability and change of climate, especially because of our limited capacity to adapt and anticipate.

Is that therefore the end of our adventure? By no means. We can act and react.

I believe that the commitment of the Heads of State to mobilize for the benefit of our water resources and energy production are two programmes that will oblige investment and a close look at our waterways.

Fish farming and irrigation are two measures to better manage and protect resources; and the development of rice and maize cultivation requires the protection of our lowlands.

These are three out of many options, but I believe the key to the success of whatever we do is to inform and mobilize the people, to support research, action and multidisciplinary analysis, to foster the indicators of creation of wealth, to encourage clean energy and to carefully plan the resources needed to marshal Africans into meeting the challenges and the opportunities of their time and their future.

The peasant farmers organizations of Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa, intent on building a continent-wide organization of peasant farmers, extend a greeting to the peasant farmers of Libya and the Maghreb, commend FAO on its actions of intervention and exchange, thank the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa for their mobilization and encourage the Heads of State to shape the course of history by deciding what can be done and what should be done.

Thank you for your attention.

## Annex 2. Adopted Agenda and Timetable

### Monday 15 December

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**09:30 13:00 hrs**

#### Plenary

##### Opening of the Conference

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and appointment of the Rapporteur (1)

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (2)

Establishment of the Drafting Committee for Conference Declaration and other arrangements (3)

- Address by the Host Country
  - Address by the Director-General of FAO
  - Address by the African Union
  - Address by the African Ministers Council of Water
  - Address by the African Development Bank
  - Address by the Economic Commission for Africa
  - Address by the Islamic Development Bank
  - Address by Representative of Farmers Organizations
  - Statements of Heads of Delegations
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#### Lunch break

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**14:30 18:30 hrs**

#### Plenary

Statements by Heads of Delegations

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**14:30 16:30 hrs**

#### Parallel Event

AfDB: Strategic Approach on Water for Energy and Agriculture

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**16:30 18:30 hrs**

#### Parallel Event

1. CEN-SAD: Food Crisis in the States of CEN-SAD: Emergency Actions and Sustainable Perspectives
  2. AgWA: A New Partnership for Agricultural Water in Africa
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**20:00 22:00 hrs**

Conference Official Dinner

### Tuesday 16 December

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**10:00 12:30 hrs**

#### Committee of the Whole (Session 1)

Prospects for food and energy demands by 2015 and projections for 2030-2050 (4.1)



**10:00-12:30 hrs**

**Drafting Committee**

Review of the draft text of Declaration

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**Lunch break**

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**14:30 16:30 hrs**

**Committee of the Whole (Session 2)**

Defining investment envelopes for water control in Africa (4.2)

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**16:30 18:30 hrs**

**Committee of the Whole (Session 3)**

Financing mechanisms and implementation strategies for water control in Africa (4.3)

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**14:30 17:30 hrs**

**Drafting Committee**

Review of the draft text of Declaration

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**Wednesday 17 December**

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**09:30 11:30 hrs**

**Round table Discussions**

Saving Lake Chad (5.1)

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**11:30 13:00 hrs**

**Round table Discussions**

Partnership for Financing Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa (5.2)

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**11:30 13:00 hrs**

**Parallel Event**

ADEA: Technology Transfer in the Water and Energy Sectors in Africa

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**Lunch break**

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**15:00 16:00 hrs**

Adoption of the Report and Final Declaration (6)

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**16:00 16:30 hrs**

Closing Ceremony

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**16:30 17:30 hrs**

Press Conference

## Annex 3. Composition of the Drafting Committee

### Chair-Libyan

<b>Arab Jamahiriya:</b>	Mr Ali RAHUMA
<b>Algeria:</b>	Mr Omar BOUGUERA Directeur de l hydraulique agricole, Ministère des ressources en eau
<b>Congo:</b>	Mr Charles NGANGOUE Président, AMCOW-TAC
<b>Guinee:</b>	Mr N Famara CONTE Directeur National du Génie Rural, Ministère de l agriculture
<b>Kenya:</b>	Mr Daniel Kdwoli BARASA General Manager, National Irrigation Board
<b>Lesotho:</b>	Mr Mohale SEKOTO Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Mr Bataung LELEKA Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources
<b>Morocco:</b>	Mr El Mahdi ARRIFI Ingénieur Principal, Administration du Génie Rural, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime
<b>Mozambique:</b>	Mr Delario SENGO Head of International Rivers Office
<b>Tanzania:</b>	Mr Mbogo Paul FUTAKAMBA Director of Irrigation, Ministry of Water and Irrigation
<b>Zimbabwe:</b>	Mr Conrade ZANRI Deputy Director, Minister for Agriculture

## Annex 4. The reports of the parallel events

### a) AfDB: Strategic approach on water for energy and agriculture

The panel of this parallel event was chaired by Dr Aly Abu Sabaa, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry (AfDB) with the participation of Madame Rhoda Peace Timusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union; Dr Bruno Itoua, Chairman of AMCOW (Minister of Energy and Hydraulics, Republic of the Congo); and Dr Alex Bleriot Momha, Lake Chad Basin Commission.

Three presentations were made by the Experts of the AfDB respectively on: (i) the Bank's strategy on water and energy sectors; (ii) the support to planned and on-going projects on hydro-power development in Africa; (iii) and the multipurpose use of water. The presentations underlined the following key issues:

- The AfDB is establishing strategic interventions over the next three to six years to mobilize US\$10-11 billion in infrastructure including water for agriculture and energy of which 15-20 percent will go through existing regional frameworks including NEPAD.

- The AfDB has mainstreamed climate change impacts assessment as a requirement for the funding of projects on infrastructures.
- The strategy adopted in the Medium Term (2008-2012) is to promote growth in agriculture as an efficient means to reduce poverty in rural areas.
- Increasing of water storage capacity by 1 percent over the next six years within the Water Development Plan and operationalization of the Africa Fertilizers Mechanism are part of the priority areas of the Bank's intervention.
- A number of priority countries in the domain of Water for Agriculture for an envelope of 2 225 billion were identified for support.
- The AfDB is playing a catalytic role to attract other investors including Public, and Private Partnerships in resource mobilization for hydropower development in Africa. The Inga hydropower dam planned in DR Congo to provide energy for neighbouring regions was presented as an illustration of the Bank's support to the development of power pools.
- The AfDB is currently planning US\$4 billion worth for the Hydro Electric Power (HEP) programme to provide around 20 percent of project funding. States could borrow but they must have energy development as a national priority.
- Successful projects should have many purposes and division of both costs and benefits should be considered from the start. The design should include control and jurisdiction aspects (sovereignty issues, shareholding, etc.).

The discussions stressed the need for urgent actions to address the crucial rural needs in energy and inputs for the agricultural sector. The issue of ownership and countries' own budgetary investments based on defined priorities in the domain of water, energy and agriculture were underlined as well as the need to take into account the changing financial environment with the intervention of new players such as China, Brazil and India who are interested in the agricultural sector.

## **b) Food crisis in the states of CEN-SAD: emergency actions and sustainable perspectives**

Spurred by member states, the African Union and their partners, several initiatives are underway to stem the sense of insecurity due to rising food prices. These initiatives, taken at all levels, aim at providing emergency assistance to farmers and the establishment of agricultural investment policies in both the medium and long term.

The objective of this event is to mobilize more actors to better coordinate efforts and identify actions to improve the effectiveness of interventions to vulnerable populations. The actions taken so far to attain this were presented by different agencies, as described below.

- The PowerPoint presentation made by Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) summarized the activities undertaken to address the food crisis. Agricultural problems in Africa are of a structural nature, rather than conjunctural nature. There is need for data for indicators and the need to strengthen capacity.
- The FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) has two phases: 1) Emergency assistance; and 2) Stabilization of the situation by reducing the vulnerability and augment the resilience, while not only looking at the agricultural production itself but also at issues such as roads, markets, etc.

- AfDB has been: 1) providing seeds and fertilizer; 2) planning to increase water storage by 1 percent in the coming years; 3) implementing a programme aimed at improving cereal production, starting with rice (New Rice for Africa (NERICA)); 4) providing resources to improve project management through training in the different ministries; and 5) giving more priority to projects that are involved in agricultural production.
- AU-NEPAD emphasized the need to refocus on agriculture, to harmonize donor interventions to strengthen the capacity and reduce the knowledge gap within farmers organizations and NGOs.

It was recommended that:

- AU and CEN-SAD should arrange for experience sharing on water control between sub-Saharan Africa and North African countries where a lot of good experience has been gained. AfDB was asked to assist with the preparation of a coordinated technical assistance programme. Attention should be paid to comparative advantages of each sub-region. In this respect, the collaboration between CEN-SAD and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) was mentioned.
- The importance of sub-regional integration should be stressed as well as collaboration on river basin level, electrification and food trade.
- The subsidy programme being implemented in Malawi to help farmers access agricultural inputs has generated much interest and many lessons can be learned from it. The Moroccan experience of modern agriculture and social agriculture can also be emulated.
- The political instability, economic and legislative instability were considered as major constraints to sustainable agricultural development and political will was called upon for the creation of the conducive political, legislative and economic environment.

### c) AgWA: a new partnership for agricultural water in Africa

The report on the AgWA partnership was presented by the consultant. There has been recently increasing recognition of the importance of agricultural water for economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. Both national governments and international development agencies are refocusing their activities on agricultural water and seeking new ways to bring it into the mainstream of political and development action. A major step in this direction was taken in Tunis during the first African Water Week in March 2008 with the formation of a new partnership for agricultural water in Africa (AgWA).

AgWA aims to re-engage development partners and political decision-makers in water for agriculture. It is an instrument for mobilizing political will for scaling up investments in water for agriculture. The principal components of AgWA include:

- advocacy to disseminate positive and coherent messages about agricultural water.
- promoting resource mobilization for pipeline development and investments.
- harmonizing partner programmes and approaches on a country by country basis.
- knowledge exchange and learning.

While some partners have submitted their potential contributions to AgWA (AfDB, FAO, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), IWMI, World Bank, NEPAD and IFAD), others are still to provide the requested information. Participation remains open. It was agreed that the Secretariat of AgWA would be hosted by AfDB and would become operational as soon

as possible. The next meeting of AgWA will be held on the occasion of an international event such as the World Water Forum V.

#### **d) ADEA: technology transfer in the water and energy sectors in Africa**

Around 50 persons attended the event that took place on the very last day of the Conference. Six African Ministers joined the discussion and, in particular, His Excellency Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Chair of AMCOW.

During the conference, the African Development Bank pointed out the weak absorption capacity of countries concerning investment (in particular the lack of human capacities). Mr Itoua said: Consequently, one challenge is now to help the African private sector to emerge to bridge the gap ,

The ADEA association (based in France) has been established to facilitate the mobilization of European small and medium enterprises and industries (SME/SMI) in Africa. Around fifty companies are members of ADEA, helping the local private sector in order to promote local permanent collaboration. Three enterprises of the ADEA cluster made presentations on their own experience:

- The Compagnie Nationale du Rhne (CNR) which is specialized in river management (navigation, hydropower generation and irrigation). CNR focuses on the Rh ne river basin but has been working on the transfer of knowledge to the Senegal river basin.
- Michaud Export: This company works on the development of small-scale rural electrification (small systems range between 20 to 500 W with limited distribution). Congo, Guinee, Madagascar and Mali have adopted these systems (the so-called Aladin ).
- Sylene: This company focuses on the automation for water supply and irrigation systems. They expanded their experience to Mali (with 100 percent Malian technicians).

Three main questions were raised during the parallel event:

- (i) Can we request the private sector from the North to have long-term engagement with specific objectives to transfer technologies to the South?
- (ii) How can we promote the intervention of SME/SMI?
- (iii) Are the existing funding mechanisms adapted to these SME/SMI?

The parallel event was concluded with an official invitation from the Director-General of FAO to attend the next EURAFRIC Forum in October 2009 in Lyon, France.

## Appendix: The Conference adopted Declaration

**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 Eleventh 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 percent over a six-year period in addition to reducing post-harvesting losses by 3 percent 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 farms 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;

**Recognizing** 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 US\$ 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:**

**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;

**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;

**Call** upon states to accelerate the fulfilment of the commitments made in Maputo in 2003 on the allocation of 10 percent of our national budgets to boost agricultural production;

**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;

**Call upon** AMCOW to promote an integrated water resource management approach in the preparation of water resources policies and plans;

**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;

**Sensitize** donors and development partners to support Africa in sustainable water development and management in agriculture and energy;

**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;

**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;



**Request** AMCOW, with the support of UN-Water Africa, to develop clear guidelines on the implementation on inter-basin water projects;

**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;

**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;

**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;

**Develop** coherent policy framework for public-private partnerships that will attract increased private capital into agriculture, water and energy sectors;

**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;

**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;

**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;

**Create** high level executive bodies to address the integration of resources at the national and regional levels in Africa;

**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;

**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;

**Foster** research and development in renewable energy and agriculture in Africa to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change;

**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;

**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;

**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.