

**CONVENTION CREATING
THE PANAFRICAN AGENCY FOR THE GREAT GREEN WALL**

Bordering African States of the Sahel undersigned,

- **Burkina Faso;**
- **The Republic of Djibouti;**
- **Eritrea;**
- **The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;**
- **The Republic of Mali;**
- **The Islamic Republic of Mauritania;**
- **The Republic of Niger;**
- **The Federal Republic of Nigeria;**
- **The Republic of Senegal;**
- **The Republic of Sudan;**
- **The Republic of Chad;**
- **CONSIDERING** the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, signed in Rio de Janeiro, on June 05, 1992;
- **CONSIDERING** the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed in Rio de Janeiro on June 05, 1992;
- **CONSIDERING** the Convention of the United Nations on the Fight against desertification in the countries seriously affected by drought and/or desertification, in particular in Africa, signed in Paris on June 17, 1994;
- **CONSIDERING** declaration 137 (VIII) of the 8th ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government held on January 29, and 30, 2007 in Addis- Ababa (Ethiopia) approving the Initiative " Great Green Wall ",
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- **CONSIDERING** the Deed of partnership of the African Union, adopted in Lome on July 12, 2000 and new vision caused by the New Partnership for a Durable Development of Africa (NEPAD);
- **CONSIDERING** the need for gathering all forces of the bordering countries with the support of the international Community, to develop the

desert;

- **CONVINCED** that getting organized, and by using all the scientific and technical current knowledge, the global community can stop the progression of desert and develop natural resources;
- **CONVINCED** of the need for a new approach federating the efforts of African States, their populations and their partners in development to stop desertification;
- **CONCERNED** with the various challenges of durable Development that facing the Sahelo - Saharan community;
- **VIS-A-VIS** the multiple challenges of sustainable development and the pressing need for working out a strategic framework of actions, concerning the climate change, desertification, the biodiversity and sustainable development;
- **HAVING IN MIND** the goals assigned to the Sahelo Saharan States Community by the Consecutive Treaty of February 04, 1998;
- **REFERRING** to the idea of building a Great Green Wall from Dakar to Djibouti, approved by the Conference of Leaders and Heads of State members of the Community of the Sahelo-Saharan States (Cen-sad) during the 7th ordinary session held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in June 1st , and 2nd , 2005:
- **AWARE** that the sustainable economic growth, social development and the elimination of poverty constitute priorities for the sahelo - Saharan countries;
- **AWARE** of the importance of the initiative of the Great Green Wall to fight desertification and poverty, the restoration of degraded zones and mechanism of clean development.

Agreed on what follows:

Article first: Definitions

To the purpose of this Convention the terms hereafter mean.

- **Convention:** creating The Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall GGWA;
- **Sahelo-Saharan States:** Burkina Faso, The Republic of Djibouti, Eritrea, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, The Republic of Mali, The Islamic Republic of Niger, The Federal Republic of Nigeria, The Republic of Senegal, The Republic of Sudan, The Republic of Chad;

- **The Conference of Heads of States and Government:** Conference of Heads of States and Government of member States of the GGWA
- **Council of Ministers:** the Council of Ministers of Environment of members states of the GGWA;
- **Executive Secretariat:** Executive Secretariat of the GGWA;
- **Technical Committee of Experts:** The experts technical committee created under Article 6.4 of this Convention
- **Member State:** member of this Convention

Article 2: Principles

Member States reaffirm their commitment to the following principles:

- Sovereign equality of all member states;
- Non-interference in member states internal affairs;
- Mutual and equitable sharing of advantages generated by the cooperation within the framework of this convention.

Article 3: Creation

It is created, among the Sahelo Saharan States, an organization called Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall, GGWA.

The GGWA is a inter States organization established under the aegis of the African Union (AU) and Cen-sad and has legal international capacity and operational autonomy.

Article 4: MISSION

The GGWA aims at coordinating and the following-up of the realization of a green barrier of protection against the desert advancement; contributing to the durable development in the sahelian strip mainly between isohyets 100 and 400 mm, on a distance of 7000 km of length and 15 km wide, from DAKAR to DJIBOUTI.

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For this reason, it is in charge of relations with Member States, the African Union and the CEN – SAD:

- to coordinate, follow up and evaluate all activities relating to The Great Green Wall;
- to mobilize necessary resources.

Article 5: Implementation

Within the framework of the application of the Convention, GGWA is relayed on the level of each country by a national structure created in each State in accordance with its national legislation with the mission of undertaking the implementation of the Great Green Wall.

The implementation of the Great Green Wall is carried out in connection with institutions concerned with the durable management of lands and the environmental protection.

Article 6: Bodies

The GGWA includes four bodies:

- A Conference of Heads of State and Government;
- A Council of Ministers;
- An Executive Secretariat;
- A Technical Committee of Experts.

6.1 The Conference of Heads of State and Government

The Conference of Heads of State and Government is consisted of Heads of States and Government of the Member States of the GGWA.

It is the supreme body of the GGWA. It defines the orientations of the GGWA and appoints the Executive Secretary.

The Conference of Heads of State and Government meets at least once every two years. It informs the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union about its activities and decisions.

The decisions of the Conference are made by consensus.

6.2 The Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers is composed of Ministers in charge of Environment of Member States of the GGWA.

The Council of Ministers has as for mission:

- to take care of the implementation of the orientations defined by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government;
- to adopt the strategic framework and global actions plan of the GGWA;
- to adopt the budget of the Executive secretariat and the capital spending program of the Executive Secretariat;
- To help the Executive secretariat in mobilizing resources;
- to adopt the technical and financial activities reports of the Executive Secretary;
- to approve the agreements and technical and financial conventions of co-operation binding the GGWA to an international organization;

- to approve the chart, the rules of procedure and the handbook of procedures of the GGWA.

The Council of Ministers meets once per annum in ordinary session on convocation of its President or in extraordinary session on request of the 2/3 of its members.

Decisions are made by consensus or failing this, in the majority of the member states.

The presidency is assured by the Minister of the host country.

6.3 The Executive Secretariat

The Executive secretariat is in charge of:

- Implementing decisions of the Council of Ministers;
- Drafting project proposals and conventions that the decisions and recommendations, the Council of Ministers requires;
- Drafting, identifying and ensuring coordination, follow up and evaluation of programs and projects of the GGWA;
- Assuring the secretariat of the Council of Ministers;
- Executing other function instructed by the Council of Ministers.

Thus the Executive secretariat is in charge of:

- Executing the budgeted;
- Execute the decisions of the Council of Ministers;
- Preparing jointly with the Technical Committee of the Experts, the Conference of the Heads of States and Government and the Council of Ministers.
- Assuring the secretariat of the conference of the Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers.

6.4 The Technical Committee of the Experts:

The Technical Committee of the experts has the role of assisting the Executive Secretariat in:

- the examination of the work plan and the budget of the GGW to be submitted to the approval of the Council of Ministers;
- preparation of the meetings of the Council of Ministers;
- the examination of contracts and agreements submitted to the GGW

The Technical Committee of the Experts is also charged to give technical and scientific opinions on all questions which are submitted by the Executive Secretary.

The Technical Committee of the Experts can also submit proposals to the Executive Secretariat.

The Technical Committee of the Experts is composed of the following members:

- Heads of the national structures of the Great Green Wall;
- Directors of the services in charge of Forests;
- Experts appointed by States, one by country;
- One representative of the African Union Commission;
- One representative of The NEPAD
- One representative of the Secretariat-general of the CEN - SAD.

The representatives of the Organizations hereafter are also members of the Technical Committee of Experts:

- The Inter States Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS);
- The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC);
- The Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD);
- The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

The Technical Committee of the experts can associate, in an advisory capacity, persons or entities because of their technical skills as well as representatives of the technical and financial partners.

The Technical Committee of Experts meets at least once per annum and each time of need, on convocation of the Executive Secretariat of the GGWA.

Article 7: Financial Resources

The financial resources of the Agency come mainly from:

- statutory and voluntary contributions of States;
- contributions of the technical and financial partners;
- Donations, legacy, subsidies, financial support of African or foreign persons or entities.

African Union, the Cen-sad and the NEPAD or any other solicited partner, support the GGWA near the bilateral and multilateral partners, in the research and the mobilization of necessary funds to the financing of its activities.

ARTICLE 8: Privileges and Immunities

The government of host state grants to the GGWA and its personnel, privileges and immunities to help them in the achievement of their activities.

ARTICLE 9: Commitments of Member States

Member states undertake to grant to GGWA and its personnel privileges and immunities to achieve their mission and tasks in their respective territories.

Article 10: Rule of procedures and manual of procedures

A Rule of procedures and a handbook of procedures are prepared for the operation

of the GGWA and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 11: Entry into force

This Convention will come into effect thirty (30) days after the submission of the fourth instrument of ratification.

Article 12: Settlement of disputes

Any disagreement between the Member States in the framework of the application and interpretation of the provisions of this Convention is settled amicably.

In default of an amicable settlement, disagreements are carried before the Court of Justice and Human rights of the African Union.

Article 13: Amendments

Any Member State can propose amendments to this Convention. Proposals for an amendment are submitted to the appreciation of the other Member States through the Executive Secretariat.

Amendments come into effect under the same conditions as the Convention.

Article 14: Denunciation

Any Member State can denounce this Convention as from its date of entry into force.

Denunciation is done in the form of a written notification addressed to the Government of the State agent of the instruments of ratification of this Convention which acknowledge reception of it and inform the other Member States.

Denunciation takes effect one year after the date of reception unless it was not withdrawn before.

Article 15: Headquarter

The GGWA Headquarter is decided by the first Conference of Heads of State and Government.

It can be transferred in any place by the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

Article 16: New membership

Convention is opened to the other States which wish it. To this end, any request for membership is submitted in writing to the approval of the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

For the new member States, Convention come into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the concerned State.

Article 17: Authentic texts and Government agent

The original of this Convention whose French, English and Arabic texts are equally authentic is deposit near the Government of the Headquarter country of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall, which gives certified copies to the other Member States, it notifies them of the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification and membership and records this Convention near the African Union and the United Nations.

Done in N'Djamena, on.....

In witness whereof, signed this Convention:

- 1) For Burkina Faso:**
- 2) For the Republic of Djibouti:**
- 3) For Eritrea:**
- 4) For the Federal and Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:**
- 5) For the Republic of Mali:**
- 6) For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania:**
- 7) For the Republic of Niger:**
- 8) For the Federal Republic of Nigeria:**
- 9) For the Republic of Senegal:**
- 10) For the Republic of Sudan:**

11) For the Republic of Chad: