

**APGMV**  
AGENCE PANAFRICAINNE  
DE LA GRANDE MURAILLE VERTE



**PAGGW**  
PANAFRICAN AGENCY  
OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL

**THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
***Second Extraordinary session***  
**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, Khartoum SUDAN**



# REPORT

**PAN-AFRICAN AGENCY OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL (PAGGW)**

*Second Extraordinary Session of the Ministers Council*  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 Khartoum SUDAN



# **REPORT**

1. A Second Extraordinary Session of the Ministers Council of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall was held on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 in Khartoum (Sudan), under the chairmanship of **Mr. MAHAMAT BECHIR OKORMI**, Minister for the Environment and Halieutic Resources of Chad, Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

2. **Were present:**

- **M. Djibo Laïty KA**, Minister of State, Minister for the Environment and the Nature Protection of Senegal,
- **M. ATO SILESHI GETAHUN**, Minister of State, Minister for the Agriculture of Ethiopia,
- **M. MAHAMAT BECHIR OKORMI**, Minister for the Environment and Halieutic Resources of Chad,
- **M. MOUBARAK MABROUK SULEIMAN**, Minister of State, Minister for the Environment, Forests and Urban Development of Sudan,
- **M ABDOULAYE BERTHE**, Secretary-general, Representing **M.TIEMOKO SANGARE**, Minister for the Environment and Cleansing of Mali,
- **H.E.M. Ambassador of Nigeria in Chad**, Representing **Ms HADIZA MAILAFIA**, Minister for the Environment and the Habitat of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- **M MALAM SULLY AZARA**, technical Adviser, Representing **ISSAKA ISSOUFOU**, Minister for Hydraulics and the Environment of NIGER,
- **M SHEIK ALAMOUSA TRAORE**, Technical Adviser, Representing Prof **JEAN KOULDIATI**, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of BURKINA FASO,
- **Mr. HOUSSEIN RIRACH**, focal Point GGW of Djibouti, Representing **H.E.M Hassan Omar MOHAMED**, Minister for the Environment of Djibouti,

3. **Were absent**

- **Mr. AMEDI CAMARA**, Minister Delegated to the Prime Minister, in Charge of the Environment and the Sustainable Development of Mauritania;
- **Mr. TESFAI GEBRESELISSIE**, Minister of Land, Toilets and Environment of the State of Eritrea

I **OPENING CEREMONY**

4. The opening ceremony was chaired by His Excellency, **Mr. MUBARAK MABROUK SULEIMAN**, Minister of State, Minister for the Environment, Forests and Urban Development of Sudan. Four (4) speeches were given;
5. **Mr. BABIKIR ABDALLAH IBRAHIM**, Secretary-general of the Ministry of Environment Forest, and Urban Development of Sudan welcomed the delegations of the Member States. He expressed the pleasure of the Government of the Republic of Sudan to host this extraordinary session and pointed out the commitment of Sudan in the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative. He gave a short report on the problems of the environment especially the desertification, the land degradation and deforestation in Sudan and insisted on the importance of the Great Green Wall initiative to face these plagues;
6. **Professor Abdoulaye DIA**, Executive Secretary of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall thanked on the behalf of the Member States and his own behalf, **His Excellency OMAR HASSAN ELBECHIR**, the Government and the People of Sudan to have agreed to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and for the cordial and fraternal reception which was reserved to the various delegations. He insisted

on the necessity to rely first on the own means of the Member States and to go forward quickly in the implementation by concrete actions in the Member States. He finally thanked experts from different countries for the efforts provided and requested more commitment of the Member States in the mobilization of the resources.

7. **Mr. MAHAMAT BECHIR OKORMI**, Chairman of the Council of Ministers gave the opening speech by thanking very sincerely the Sudanese Government and people for the conveniences which enabled delegations to be in the excellent working conditions. He made a short history of the process of the Great Green Wall initiative while greeting the efforts provided by the Member States. However, it announced that these efforts must be carried on especially by the ratification of the Convention and the setting up of national structures GGW by the Member States which did not do it yet and invited the States to discharge their statutory contributions to the budget of the Agency. He congratulated the **Professor Abdoulaye DIA** for the efforts made for the implementation of the Great Green Wall and all the experts for significant preparatory work provided. While declaring the session opened, he, once more thanked the Sudanese people for the fraternal reception from which the delegations have profited.
8. **Mr. MOUBARAK MABROUK SULEIMAN**, Minister of State, Minister for the Environment, Forests and Urban Development of Sudan welcomed on the Sudanese land to different delegations. He pointed out the commitment of his country for the implementation of the Great Green Wall and the necessity for strengthening the co-operation among the countries. He wished every successful work to anyone.
9. The participants list and the Agenda of the session are in the annex of this report.

## 10. II SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE WORK

11. Works were chaired by **Mr. MAHAMAT BECHIR OKORMI**, Chairman of the Ministers Council of the PAGGW. He opened works by thanking the Member States present and noted that on the eleven (11) Member States, nine (09) are present and that the quorum was greatly reached. He then submitted the agenda which was adopted after inscription to the various questions at the suggestion of Mr. Djibo KA, of a point relating to the intervention of the European Union in the Great Green Wall.
12. The session bureau, proposed by the Chairman of the Council was adopted as follows:

<b>Presidency:</b>	Republic of Chad,
a. <b>Vice-presidency:</b>	Republic of Sudan,
b. <b>1<sup>st</sup> Rapporteur:</b>	Burkina Faso,
c. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rapporteur:</b>	Republic of Niger.

13. The Chairman then subjected to the Council the points written down on the agenda.

### **Point 1: Report of the Experts Committee**

14. After reading the report of the preparatory meeting of experts by Mr. Hamit TAGA of Chad, President of the session, the Council after exchanges took note of the report attached in annex.

### **Point II: Examination and adoption of the report of the extraordinary session of Bamako**

15. The Minister of State Djibo Leyti KA of Senegal wondered why to submit again this report to the adoption whereas according to him it was already adopted in Bamako.
16. The Chairman of the Council has indicated that an adoption, six (6) months after a session is not appropriate. The representative of Niger wondered about the best formula for the adoption of the report during the session.
17. The representative of Burkina has indicated that on page 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, the description of the profile of the post of coordinator does not seem to him in conformity with the organization chart already adopted.
18. The representative of Niger has pointed out that *the Service of Information management, the Planning of the Follow-up-Evaluation and the Documentation* of the Scientific and Technical Department is very vast and should be divided into two (i) **Planning of the Follow-up /Evaluation** and (ii) **Information management and Documentation**. He also proposed the recruitment of a head of protocol at the executive secretariat.
19. The executive Secretary of the PAGGW has pointed out that this meeting of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 was initially scheduled for July and was then deferred in September and finally on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. However, the draft report was transmitted to the States as of the first convocation with the session scheduled on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. He in addition pointed out that in the facts, the discussed points were discussed by the Council but that the document of the written report was not made and should be presented to the Council for observation and formal adoption. He also indicated that the announced profiles are in conformity with the decisions of the session of Bamako and were settled.
20. The Council has adopted the report of the meeting of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 of Bamako (Mali).

### **Point III. Examination and adoption of the Five-year Action Plan**

21. The representative of Niger Mr. MALAM SULLY AZARA congratulated the executive Secretariat for the quality of the produced document. He suggested that the vision is noted in the duration and that there is a framing with the African Union following the example of NEPAD. The Minister of Ethiopia has also wished a framing with the African Union;

- 22. Mr. BABIKIR ABDALLAH IBRAHIM, Representative of the Minister of Sudan** has raised the question of the translation from French to English which is not very correct and asked that a final solution is found.
- 23. The executive Secretary of the PAGGW** has explained the development process of the consolidated document of the 2011-2015 five-year Action plan (CFAP 2011-2015), produced from the documents of the National Action Plans (PORTFOLIOS) of the States submitted under various formats, which made the consolidation relatively difficult. The five-year cycle envisages a review halfway and possibly a revision every two (2) years. He has also recalled what follows:
- the Document of the CFAP 2011-2015 was not to be assimilated to a document-project but rather as a document of strategic orientation and planning of the GGW implementation in the five next years,
  - the identified programs from the pillars programming are indexed and classified in four (04) portfolios of programs exact to the four (04) Major Strategic Axes (MSA). However, the exploitation of the PORTFOLIOS did not allow including the estimated costs of programs and portfolios. He asked the States to provide further information as soon as possible to enable him to finalize the document before the end of the year,
  - in the road map of the CFAP 2011-2015, two major events set by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States are to be taken into account. It is especially about the organization of a round table of the scientific, technical and financial partners and about the second Summit of the Heads of State and Government in the current of 2012.
- 24. The Representative of Niger** has insisted on the financial estimates and proposed to ask the Member States to do it within a reasonable time. He informed the Council that Niger already had an adopted NAP at the national level what should allow Niger providing the budgetary evaluations as soon as possible. He also suggested to take into account scheduled international events in June 2012 for the organization of the second Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the GGW;
- 25. Mr. Minister of State Djibo Laïty KA** of Senegal has informed that the document of Senegal is already ready. He pointed out that the organization of the round table of technical partners requires many preconditions and it is compulsory to give oneself necessary time for his preparation. He proposed to consider the organization the aforementioned round table at the end of the year 2012 or as soon as possible in October 2012, because he declared, "if we do not prepare well, the consequences could be disastrous".
- 26. The Representative of Niger** pointed out that the essence is to promote the Initiative by a good strategy of communication and in various international meetings.
- 27. The Minister of Ethiopia** has explained that there are many financial mechanisms such as the green economy, the funds of adaptation to the climate changes and that a strategy and an action plan prove to be necessary to develop further the process.

28. **Mr. Almami Dampha representing the African Union** has also congratulated the PAGGW to have produced in little time this significant document and has emphasized the constraint to take into account national programs in the consolidated document.
29. **The representative of Nigeria** has emphasized the importance of the initiative and accomplished work as well as the commitment of his country. He then informed that Spain is very interested by the Great Wall Green initiative and that we must come closer to it.
30. The Council of Ministers authorized the recruitment of a translator English/French/English for 06 Months/Man to solve the problem of the English translation. At the end of the examination of the main document of the five-year Action plan 2011-2015 submitted by the executive Secretariat, the Council has adopted the Nap the five-year Action Plan 2011-2015 subject to the integration of amendments and complementary data of the Member States.

### **Point III: Financial report of managements 2010 and 2011 and Draft budget 2012**

#### **3.1. Financial report of managements 2010 and 2011**

31. The executive Secretary has indicated having requested voluntary contributions to the countries for an initial donation to ensure the basic investments necessary to the setting up of the Agency structures. The document subjected to the examination gives the detail on the voluntary contributions agreed by a limited number of the Member States. This initial donation was used for the arrangement and the furniture of the seat and for the operating expenses of the executive Secretariat and the organization of the statutory meetings since the creation of the Pan-African Agency so far.
32. The Council after the examination of the document has approved the financial report of managements 2010 and 2011 of the Agency Executive Secretary.

#### **3.2. Financial report of managements 2010 and 2011**

33. The Executive Secretary of the PAGGW in his presentation of the draft budget 2012 has indicated that no Member State has contributed yet for 2011 and that operating expenses of the Agency were supported by the initial donation supplied by the few voluntary contributions. The expected takings of the budget 2011 are primarily the statutory contributions of the Member States for 2011 and 2012; one hundred (100) Million FCFA or two hundred and twenty thousand (220,000) US dollars per country and in transfer of the initial donation. The 2012 Budget balances in takings and expenses **at 1, 2 billion FCFA approximately 2, 640, 000 US dollars.**
34. He has also informed that the recruitment calendar of the international civil servants of the Agency, envisaged after the announcements for the application to carry out the selection of the civil servants and to their startup in January 2012. However, while waiting for the availability of the budget headings with the effective setting up of the budget, he has suggested postponing the process of recruitment in accordance with the job announcement.

35. **The Chairman of the Council** has noted that the statutory contributions are commitments and obligations of the States for the correct operation of the Agency and has invited the Member States to discharge that and in the fallen term. **The Minister of State Djibo Laity KA**, Minister of State Minister for the Environment and the Protection of Nature of Senegal has also reiterated the pressing need for discharging contributions and proposed to once more request the support of the President-in-Office of the Agency near his pars on the financial issues, particularly the mobilization of the contributions.
36. **Representatives of Niger and Mali** ensured that regarding their countries, the process will be accelerated as of their return. **The representative of Djibouti** proposed to insist near the States so that the contributions of 2011 and 2012 are paid at the latest, in January 2012 to allow the Agency to better function;
37. **The representative of Burkina** has wished that the 2012 budget is more detailed in particular on pages 10 and 13 for a better comprehension;
38. **At the end of the examination of the draft budget 2012, the Chairman of the Council** has thanked the States for their relevant contributions and proposed its adoption. The Council of Ministers has adopted the 2012 budget of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall.

#### **Point IV Various issues**

##### **4.1. Extension of the detachment of Mr. Abakar Mahamat Zougoulou, assisting Expert of the Executive Secretary**

39. **The executive Secretary of the PAGGW** requested from the Council that the detachment of Mr **Abakar Mahamat Zougoulou** is extended; assisting Expert of the Executive Secretary whose contract is coming to the end in December 2011. Mr. Zougoulou performs with responsibility his tasks and gives full satisfaction, declared the Executive Secretary. **Mr. Minister of State Djibo Laity KA** of Senegal emphasized that he knows very well Mr. Zougoulou, skilled and helpful and requested that one can maintain him in his duties **until December 2012** by maintaining his wages at the current level;

##### **4.2. Intervention and position of the European Union in the implementation of the GGW**

40. **The Minister of State Djibo Laity KA** of Senegal raised the problems of the intervention of the African Union in the Great Green Wall and indicated in substance:

- The European Union finances a project of support to the GGW of 1.400.000 Euros with FAO as organization of execution. FAO has recruited within this framework, a Principal Technical Adviser who is based in Addis Ababa under the aegis of the African Union»
- the European Union and FAO under the cover of the African Union create a parallelism in our process, by integrating by itself countries other than the eleven (11) designed in the Convention of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall. The Convention remains open to the Sahel-Saharan States and those interested must respect the



provisions laid down in Convention. The African Union for needs of harmonization and coordination must facilitate the task of the Pan-African Agency of the GGW,

- It would be good that the African Union ensures a good coordination between the different initiatives around the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall only indicated by the Heads of State and Government of the States of the Great Green Wall as the only structure in charge of the Coordination and the mobilization of the resources with the support of the African Union ".

41. **The Chairman of the Council** as a response to this reaction, supported the intervention of the Minister of State of Senegal and declared that the ideal would be to take into account the whole Africa but by realism and in accordance with the wishes of the Heads of State, it is necessary to go by step. There are countries which are most vulnerable; they are those of the Sahel Saharan zone he continued. Then, the project being under the supervision of the African Union, the moment of integrating other countries will come. He finally emphasized that the project is Pan-African and that we must all including the African Union as supervision, be in phase to develop the process and that any action relating to the Green Wall must pass by the PAGGW;
42. The Council, on a proposal of the Minister of State, **Djibo Laity KA** has asked to the Chairman of the Ministers Council of the Agency to request the intervention of H.E. Mr. **Idriss Deby ITNO**, President of the Republic of Chad, Chef of the State, near his pars on these issues and those of the contributions to the budget of the Agency. **The Chairman of the Council** took note of this proposal.
43. The Agenda being exhausted, the Chairman closed at 16H, the second Extraordinary Session of the PAGGW by thanking the members for the Council and the Executive Secretariat for the fantastic work and by reiterating the thanks to the Government and people of Sudan.

**Done in Khartoum, on**

## **Annexes**

**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

**ANNEX 2: Agenda of the second extraordinary session of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 in Khartoum**