



AGENCE PANAFRICAINNE DE GRANDE MURAILLE VERTE
PAN-AFRICAN AGENCY OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL
الوكالة الإفريقية للسياج الأخضر الكبير

THIRD ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Nouakchott (Mauritania) on August 19, 2014

REPORT

August, 2014



1. On Monday August 19, 2014, the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) was held in Nouakchott in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, under the presidency of **H.E. Mr. Amédi CAMARA**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, acting President of the Council of Ministers.

2. **Member States who took part to this session :**

- For the BURKINA FASO, **Mr. Salifou OUEDRAOGO**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development;
- For the Federal and Democratic Republic of ETHIOPIA, **Mr. Belete TAFERE DESSA**, Minister of Environment and Forests;
- For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, **Mr. Amedi CAMARA**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development;
- For the Republic of NIGER, **Mr. Adamou CHAÏFOU**, Minister of Environment, Urban Salubrity and Sustainable Development;
- For the Republic of SOUDAN, **Mr. Hassan ABDELGADIR HILAL**, Minister of Environment, Forests and Sustainable Development;
- For the Republic of DJIBOUTI, **Mr. Houssein RIRACHE ROBLEH**, Représentant le Ministre de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement;
- For the Republic of MALI, **Mr. Allassane BONKANA Maiga**, Representing the Minister of Environment, Water and Sanitation ;
- For the Republic of SENEGAL, **Mr. Matar CISSE**, Representing the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development;
- For the Republic of CHAD, **Mr. Zougoulou ABAKAR MAHAMAT**, Representing Mrs. the Minister of Agriculture and Environment.

3. **Member countries which did not participate :**

- Eritrea (excused) ;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (absent).

4. **Countries invited as observers:** the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Benin, The Republic of Centrafrique, the Libya, the Republic of Gambia, the Togolese Republic. They were not able to attend the session.

5. **Institutions members of the Technical Committee of the GGW's Experts invited**

Have attended :

- For The African Union Commission, **Mr. Elvis PAUL TANGEM**, Representing the Commissioner in charge of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union;
- For the CILSS, **Mr. Ibrahim Lumumba IDI-ISSA**, representing the Executive Secretary of the CILSS,

Did not attended :

- the Secretary General of the Community of Saharan and Sahelan States (CEN-SAD),
- the Secretary General of de Intergovernmental Authority of Development of Eastern Africa (IGAD),
- the Executive Secretary of the Agency of Planning and Coordination and the New Partnership For Africa Development (ANPC),
- the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Research for Development (IRD),
- the Executive Secretary of the Observatory of Sahel and Sahara (OSS);
- the Executive Secretary Commission of Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC).



6. Organizations invited:

- For the United Nations Program for Environment (UNPE), **Mr. Samba HAROUNA THIAM**, Chief of the Liaison Office before the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (CEA) and Ethiopia, representing the UNPE's Executive Director;
- For the Arab Organization For Agriculture Development (AOAD), **Mr. Ahmed Salem Ould Ahmed**, Expert at the Office of the General Director of AODA, Representing the General Director.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

7. The opening ceremony of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Council of the Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall was held in the Palais des Congrès under the presidency of **Mister Sidi OULD TAH**, Minister of Economic Affairs, Representing **Dr. Moulaye OULD MOHAMED LAGHDAF**, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
8. The following addresses were pronounced during this ceremony:
 - Welcoming speech of the President of Nouakchott Urban Community, Mrs. Mati Mint HAMADI ;
 - Address of the representative of the African Union Mr. Paul ELVIS TANGEM ;
 - Address of the Residing representative of the UNDP in Nouakchott, Dr. Coumba Mar GADIO, Coordinator of the Organizations of the United Nations system in Mauritania;
 - Introductory speech of Mister the Executive Secretary of the PAGGW, Prof. Abdoulaye DIA;
 - Discourse circumstance of Mr. Amédi CAMARA, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mauritania, President of the Council of Ministers;
 - Opening address of Mr. Sidi OULD TAH, Minister of Economic Affairs, Representing the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Dr. Moulaye OULD MOHAMED LAGHDAF.

The different allocutions cited are joined to this report.

II. DEROULEMENT DES TRAVAUX

9. The President of the Council of Ministers of the PAGGW, H.E. Mr. Amédi CAMARA, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mauritania noticed the quorum and proposed a bureau which was adopted as follows:

Presidency: Islamic Republic of Mauritania,

Vice Presidency: Republic of Sudan;

Rapporteur 1: Federal and Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Rapporteur 2 : Republic of Niger

10. After the bureau's installation, the President of the Council of Ministers submitted the draft agenda which was adopted without modifications (cf. annex) .

2.1. Examination of the Report of Technical Committee of Experts

11. The President of the Technical Committee of Experts presented this report while focusing on the points registered in the agenda insisting on the Experts' recommendations.



12. After this deep examination of different points of this report, the Council of Ministers valued the report's quality and takes note. The report is put in annex.

2.2. The Report of activities 2013 and the Program of activities 2014:

13. The Executive Secretary presented the elaborated document subdivided in two parts relating to the report of activities 2013, on the one hand and to the program of activities 2014 on the other hand. This paper reports on: (i) the status of implementation of the roadmap at the institutional level and major actions of the program of activities in 2013, (ii) the promotion, coordination and monitoring by the PAGGW, (iii) monitoring of the recommendations and resolutions of previous sessions, (iv) the status of implementation of GMV in the Member States.
14. The Executive Secretary also announced the implementation of the recommendation on the establishment of the African Carbon Bank proposed by Sudan..
15. The Council of Ministers considered that there are no notable changes in the model of presentation compared with reports from previous Sessions. The Council takes note of the documents and recommends to the Executive Secretariat to submit that document into two separate documents, and to prepare for the 2013 activity report a summary table showing the planned actions, achievements, constraints and recommendations.
16. The Council after hearing and receiving a conceptual note on the project of African Carbon Bank presented by the Sudanese minister noted and recommends the reflection's continuation.

2.3. The Financial Issues :

- 17 **a. Financial Report for 2013:** The Council of Ministers takes note of the report and recommends to the Executive Secretariat to improve the presentation in accordance with accounting standards and recruit an Administrative and Financial Director, at the earliest. It also authorized the appointment of an External Auditor in accordance with regulatory texts of the Agency and instructed the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers to initiate the process.
- 18 **b. Pay scale and benefits of staff PAGGW:** After discussion, the Council of Ministers mandated the President (Mauritania) and Vice President (Sudan) of the Council of Ministers to propose a salary scale, within two months, taking into account the Agency's regulatory texts, the practice in comparable institutions and the Agency's capacities in collaboration with other members of the Council who shall have one week to respond to the proposal.
- 19 **C. Draft Budget 2014:** The Council of Ministers, after a thorough discussion took note of the draft budget 2014 and recommended to the Executive Secretariat to improve the presentation in accordance with accounting standards. It also recommended a summary table for easy reading. The Council also recommended that only mandatory expenses be covered.

2.4. The status of implementation of the Great Green Wall in the members States

20. The Council of Ministers recommends the consolidation of activities' reports of member countries on the basis of an outline highlighting the following points:
- The institutional issues (ratification of the convention, creation of the National Agency, payment of the statutory contribution, etc.) ;



- Operational activities (reforested areas, restored surfaces, activities of agro forestry and forests' protection);
- Actions of Community Development and local Governance (generating incomes, familial agriculture, education, health, etc.);
- Funding gotten or going on, coming from the State or the private sector and technical and financial partners.

The Council also invites Member States to transmit regularly to the Executive Secretariat reports that countries should prepare and submit every semester.

The Council of Ministers also encourages amplifying transborder activities.

2.4. Any Other Business

21. Under any other business the Executive Secretary presented to the Council a model of statutory flag for the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall. The Council adopted the model of the flag presented by recommendation to increase gold yellow area representing desertification in order to emphasize the intensity of the impacts of desertification in the Sahel before the implementation of the Initiative GGW.

2.5. Adoption of the Report and Regulations of the 3rd Session of the Council of Ministers

22. The Council of Ministers adopted the Final Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held on August 19, 2014 in Nouakchott and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare related regulations that are annexed to the final report.
23. The Council of Ministers expressed its gratitude to all the members who have brought statutory contributions to support the establishment and functioning of the Agency and urge other countries to follow their example. It also expressed thanks to the Mauritanian Government and people for all the efforts made in the framework of the execution of the African Initiative of the Great Green Wall and implementation of the PAGGW.

2.6. The Recommendations R

24. The Council of Ministers also formulated the following Recommendations (R) :

- R.1: Each country member through its national structure, send a semiannual report to the PAGGW's Executive Secretariat under the basis of a harmonized framework to enable better coordination and better monitoring of field operational achievements;
- R.2: The PAGGW's Executive Secretariat produce semi-annual and annual reports to be sent to the members of the Council and the Commission of the African Union to enable them to better monitor the progress of the GGW's implementation;
- R.3: Giving a mandate to the President and Vice President of the Council of Ministers of PAGGW to ensure the settlement of the question of the pay scale on the basis of prior learning obtained, including alignment with one of the structures Similar within the African Union;
- R.4: Establish a permanent funding mechanism enabling the PAGGW's Executive Secretariat to ensure some strategic expenses, including payments to counterparties in international programs and projects;



- R.5: Exploit the current opportunity offered to PAGGW with the Presidency of the African Union ensured by HE Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to enhance the implementation of the political anchoring of PAGGW in the African Union,
- R.6: Request to the Executive Secretary of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) to acquire expertise in the elaboration of financial and accounting documents,
- R.7: Prepare and issue a call for applications for the recruitment of an external auditor;
- R.8: Seizing the opportunity offered by the China-Africa Cooperation in mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of environmental conventions;
- R.9: Create a national alliance in member countries of the GGW in order to enhance synergy among institutions and other stakeholders.

Done in Nouakchott, on August 19, 2014

Prof. Abdoulaye DIA
Executive Secretary of the PAGGW



For the Council
H.E.Mr. Amedi CAMARA,
Minister of Environment and
Sustainable Development of Mauritania
President of the Council of Ministers

