

AGENCE PANAFRICAINNE
DE LA GRANDE MURAILLE VERTE
APGMV



PAN-AFRICAN AGENCY
OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL
PAGGW

الوكالة الإفريقية للسور الأخضر الكبير

**9TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE PAN-
AFRICAN AGENCY OF THE GREAT GREEN
WALL (PAGGW)**

Abuja, November 24, 2023

FINAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023



1. On Friday, November 24, 2023, the 9th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The session was presided over by H.E. Mr. Balarabe Abbas LAWAL, Federal Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the current President of the Council of Ministers of the PAGGW.

2. Participants in this session included:

- Ministers in charge of the Great Green Wall (GGW) from the member states of the PAGGW:
- For Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Roger BARO, Minister of Environment, Water, and Sanitation.
- For the Republic of Djibouti, Mr. Houssein RIRACHE, representing H.E. Mr. Mohamed ABDOULKADER MOUSSA, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Djibouti.
- For the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Yalemsew ADELA, representing Mr. Ato Kebede YIMAM, Director General of Forests.
- For the Republic of Mali, Mr. Mamadou HAIDARA, representing H.E. Mr. Mamadou SAMAKE, Minister of Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development.
- For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, H.E. Mrs. Layla Aly KAMARA, Minister of Environment.
- For the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Balarabe Abbas LAWAL, Federal Minister of Environment.
- For the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Oumar Abdoulaye BA, representing H.E. Mr. Alioune NDOYE, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Ecological Transition.
- For the Republic of Chad, H.E. Mr. Mahamat Abdelkerim HOUNO, Minister of Environment, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development.

Notably absent were:

- The State of Eritrea.
- The Republic of Niger.
- The Republic of Sudan.

The opening ceremony was also attended by international and regional partner institutions, including:

- H.E. Alain-Richard DONWAHI, President of COP 15,
- Mrs. Louise BAKER, Director-General of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, and Mrs. Birguy LAMIZANA DIALLO, Senior Program Officer,
- Mr. Lamin BARROW, Director-General of the Country Office of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for Nigeria,
- Mr. Adamou BOUHARI, Coordinator of the GEF Project of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- Mr. Thomas PITHAUD, Technical Advisor, Regional Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- Mr. Adamou OUNTEINI ISSAKA and Mr. Alemu GEBRE, Regional Resilience Advisors of the World Food Programme (WFP),
- Mr. Djibril DIALLO, Biodiversity Program Manager at BirdLife International.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

3. The Opening Ceremony of the 9th Session of the Council of Ministers unfolded as follows:
- Welcome address by the Host, H.E. Dr. Iziaq Adekunle SALAKO, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria,
 - Address by Dr. Brahim SAID, Executive Secretary of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall,
 - Address by H.E. Alain-Richard DONWAHI, President of COP 15,
 - Address by Dr. Lamin BARROW, Director-General of the Country Office of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for Nigeria,
 - Address by Mrs. Louise BAKER, Representative of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD,
 - Address by Mr. Adamou BOUHARI, Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
 - Address by H.E. Mr. Balarabe Abbas LAWAL, Federal Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and President of the Council of Ministers,
 - Launch of the Green Women's Platform by the wife of the Vice President Mrs Nana KASHIM SHETTIMA on behalf of H.E. Oluremi TINUBU, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
 - Opening speech by H.E. Iman Ibrahim SULAIMAN, Minister of Police Affairs, representing H.E. Bola TINUBU, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Opening Ceremony continued with the following two events:

- Award presentation to the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Oluremi TINUBU represented by Mrs. Nana Kashim SHETTIMA, Wife of H.E. the Vice President of Nigeria,
- Exhibition of forest and agricultural products in the Pavilion of the Green Women's Platform.
- The different speeches are attached to this report.

II. PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings took place behind closed doors under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Balarabe Abbas LAWAL, Federal Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and President of the Council of Ministers.

2.1 QUORUM VERIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The President conducted a quorum verification, which was significantly met with eight (8) countries represented out of eleven (11).

Following the quorum verification, the President called for the adoption of the proposed agenda. Two (2) major amendments were made:

- Mr. Oumar Abdoulaye BA, the Representative of the Minister of Senegal, noted that the points listed had been thoroughly examined by the experts with very precise recommendations.
- H.E. Mrs. Lalya Aly Kamara, Minister of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, explained that the proposed amendment allows the Council of Ministers to directly analyze the recommendations made by the experts.

2.2 READING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPORT

The report of the Technical Committee of Experts was presented by its Chairperson, Mrs. Habibah Usman Lau Ibrahim, acting Director of the Department of Planning Policy, and Coordination at the National Agency for the Great Green Wall of Nigeria. She was assisted by the two reporters: (i) Mr. Nabasngoro Roch PANANDITIGRI, Coordinator of the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel of Burkina Faso, and (ii) Mr. Yelly DIAWARA, Deputy Director-General of the National Agency of the Great Green Wall of Mauritania.

2.3 EXAMINATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2.3.1 Technical and Financial Activity Reports

- Technical activities require the Operational Programme to focus on key strategic directions.

2.3.2 Statutory and Voluntary Contributions

- The Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW has been instructed to provide an update on statutory contributions. The overall sheet presenting these statutory contributions has been shared. Based on this:
 - The Republic of Djibouti proposed that, to address the delay in payment of its contribution, the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall and the current Presidency conduct an official mission to Djibouti. This idea was accepted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
 - The Republic of Mali clarified that the mandates for the two years of arrears were issued in September 2023.
 - For all outstanding contributions from countries in terms of statutory contributions, the Executive Secretariat is instructed to send official letters through the current Presidency to the concerned countries before the next Conference of Heads of State and Government proposed for April 2024 in Nigeria.

2.3.3 Mobilization of Exogenous Resources

- For the mobilization of exogenous resources, it was requested that the mechanisms proposed by the Agency, notably the creation of the GGW Carbon Bank, the Adaptation and Resilience Fund for Climate Change and Local Economic Development, and the Economic Forum on Great Green Wall outputs, which have been well thought out, undergo thorough scrutiny by the PAGGW for operationalization.
- The PAGGW must prepare and present a detailed report on the level of mobilization of exogenous resources and the implementation of financing instruments before the next session of the Council of Ministers.

- Ministries responsible for the GGW are requested to prioritize support for the development and implementation of the participatory FEM8 program in their allocations.

2.3.4 Auditor's Report

The Auditor presented the annual financial statement and cash flow for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. The annual financial statements are verified, sincere, and reliable in accordance with the Agency's rules and standard financial and accounting norms. For all the years, there are no significant observations from the auditor.

2.3.5 Process and Mandate of the Accelerator Transfer:

The balance of the GGW accelerator, whose main mission is to support the mobilization of resources pledged during the One Planet Summit, was reviewed. It appears that after three years, the results do not meet the expectations of the countries. Its mandate has not been clearly defined over time for its transfer to the PAGGW and member states. Based on this, clarification of the roles and responsibilities of institutional actors is essential.

It is urgently requested that the Accelerator, the PAGGW, and member states conduct joint missions in the future. This is to strengthen the leadership and capacities of the PAGGW and national structures for better capitalization of achievements and opportunities and to develop incentive mechanisms for the private sector.

The Board wished to have a detailed report on the activities of the accelerator to enable it to decide on the mandate and the process of transfer to the APGMV.

For appropriation of this mechanism, the transfer should take place before the end of the five-year cycle 2021 - 2025.

2.3.6 Institutional, Organizational, and Technical Audit of the PAGGW

The PAGGW presented the current state of the process of the Institutional, organisational and technical audit. It appears that funding has been secured through support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), and at this date, all essential stages of financing and the development of the study are underway. In accordance with the procedures of the AfDB and those of the PAGGW, the result of the study is expected within 90 days after the Final Non-Objection Notice.

Based on this, the Council instructed the prompt completion of this study, which will be presented at the next session of the Council of Ministers.

2.3.7 Multi-State Integrative Program (MSIP)

The multiplicity of interventions by partners on the Great Green Wall has led the Council of Ministers to instruct the development of a Multi-State Integrative Program (MSIP) to provide a framework for coherence of programs and projects in accordance with the portfolios of the Ten -year priority investment programme. With the support of UNDP, studies have been conducted, and the final report has been validated. The next step in the process is direct support to countries to develop the adaptation of this MSIP to national contexts.

2.3.8 Accession of New Countries to the PAGGW

The accession of countries to the PAGGW is a statutory provision (Article 16 of the Convention). The PAGGW explained that at this stage and in accordance with current texts, three (3) countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, and Somalia) are in the final phase as they have officially written to the current Presidency of the Conference of Heads of State and Government. Others (Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, and Togo) are also in this process. The Council instructed the PAGGW to expedite the process for completion at the next Conference of Heads of State and Government.

2.3.9 Relations Between Structures

In the governance of the Initiative, real dysfunctions between different stakeholders (African Union - PAGGW - Member States and Partners) are observed. To address this challenge, it was requested that the institutional, organizational, and technical audit take into account this very important aspects.

Following the review of the recommendations, the following regulations were enacted:

- **Reg. 01:** Regulation No. 2023/01/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, adopting the Report of the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the APMV
- **Reg. 02:** Regulation No. 2023/02/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, adopting the 2022 Technical Activities Report (TAR);
- **Reg. 03:** Regulation No. 2023/03/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, adopting the 2022 Budget Execution Report;
- **Reg. 04:** Regulation No. 2023/04/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, adopting the Technical Activities Program for 2023;
- **Reg. 05:** Regulation No. 2023/05/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, adopting the 2023 Budget;
- **Reg. 06:** Regulation No. 2023/06/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, adopting the 2023-2025 Operational Program;
- **Reg. 07:** Regulation No. 2023/07/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, approving the financial statements for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 of the PAGGW;
- **Reg. 08:** Regulation No. 2023/08/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, renewing the mandate of the Auditor of the PAGGW;
- **Reg. 09:** Regulation No. 2023/09/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, redefining the strategic orientations of the PAGGW and National Agencies to achieve overall objectives;
- **Reg. 10:** Regulation No. 2023/10/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, issuing a joint mission letter to the PAGGW, Member States, and the Accelerator for monitoring funding announcements;
- **Reg. 11:** Regulation No. 2023/11/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, addressing the incentive tool to be developed for the operationalization of the financial mechanisms of the PAGGW and private sector investment in GGW implementation.

- **Reg. 12:** Regulation No. 2023/12/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, addressing the ministerial support for the application of Regulation No. 2022/08/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA on the institutional anchoring of national coalitions on GGW and their operationalisation.
- **Reg. 13:** Regulation No. 2023/13/CM/OPAGGW/ABUJA, addressing the support for the ministries responsible for GGW in monitoring the GEF8 participatory programme
- **Reg. 14:** Regulation No. 2023/14/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, on strengthening the leadership and persuasive capacities of the PAGGW and the National Structures, to better capitalise on the opportunities of the GGW initiative at national, sub-regional and international meetings.
- **Reg. 15:** Regulation No. 2023/10/CM/PAGGW/ABUJA, designating the host country for the tenth (10th) ordinary session of the Council of Ministers

2.4 DATE AND LOCATION OF THE TENTH (10TH) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Republic of Mali has been designated to host the tenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the PAGGW.

III. CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Balarabe Abbas LAWAL, Federal Minister of Environment of Nigeria. On behalf of his country, he commended all the ministers for their respective contributions to the success of this important statutory meeting.

Done in Abuja, November 24, 2023

H.E. Mr. Balarabe Abbas AWAL,
Federal Minister of Environment