

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



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

الوكالة الإفريقية للسور الأخضر الكبير

**7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION  
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
*Nouakchott, July 29, 2021*

**FINAL REPORT**

Regulation No 2021/001/CM/PAGGW/NKTT

MB



1. On July 29, 2021, the 7th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) was held under the presidency of Her Excellency, Mrs. Marieme BEKAYE, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, current President of the Council of Ministers.

2. The Session was attended by:

➤ **The Ministers of the PAGGW Member States:**

- For BURKINA FASO, H.E. Mr. Siméon SAWADOGO, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change ;
- For the Republic of CHAD, H.E. Mr. Mahamat Ahmat LAZINA, Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development ;
- For the Republic of MALI, H.E. Mr. Modibo KONE, Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development ;
- For the Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA, H.E. Mrs. Marieme BEKAYE, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development ;
- For the Republic of NIGER, H.E. Mrs. Garama Saratou Rabiou INOUSSA, Minister of Environment and the Fight Against Desertification ;
- For the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahmood ABUBAKAR, Federal Minister of the Environment ;
- For the Republic of SENEGAL, H.E. Mr. Abdou Karim SALL, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development ;
- For the Republic of SUDAN, H.E. Dr. Eltahir Ismail MOHAMED HARBI, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry ;
- For the Republic of Djibouti, Mr. Houssein RIRACHE, representing H.E. Mr. Mohamed ABDULKADER MOUSSA, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development ;
- For the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Adelfires WORKU, representing H.E. Prof. Fekadi BEYENE, Commissioner for the Environment ;

**Is absent:**

- For the State of ERITREA, H.E. Mr. Tesfai GHEBRESSELASSIE, Minister of Environment, Land and Water ;

➤ **Statutory Institutions members of the Technical Committee of Experts of the PAGGW:**

- For the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), H.E. Dr. Abdoulaye MOHAMADOU, Executive Secretary ;
- For the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), H.E. Mr. Nabil BENKHATRA, Executive Secretary ;
- For the African Union Commission (AU), Mr. Elvis Paul TANGEM, representing H.E. Mrs. Leonel Josefa Correia SAKHO, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment ;

**Is absent:**

- African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD);



➤ **International and regional partner institutions:**

- For the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Mr. Ibrahim THIAW, Executive Secretary ;
- For the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Dorsouma AL HAMDOU, Head of Climate and Green Growth Division ;
- For the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Ms. Juliette BIAO, Regional Director for Africa ;
- For the Accelerator: Mr. Philippe LACOSTE, Director, Sustainable Development, Ministry of Europe, and Foreign Affairs ;
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Mr. Adam LINTON, Executive Advisor ;
- For International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Mr. Chris MAGERO, Drylands program officer ;
- For Birdlife International, Mr. Geoffroy CITEGESTE, Program Manager\_



## I. OPENING CEREMONY

3. The opening ceremony of the Council of Ministers was marked by speeches by the following personalities:

- ☒ Welcome address by the Mayor of Nouakchott,
- ☒ A word from **Mr. Ibrahim THIAW**, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, representing the technical partners,
- ☒ Word of **Prof Abdoulaye DIA**, Executive Secretary of PAGGW,
- ☒ Opening speech by **H.E. Mrs. Marieme BEKAYE**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

The different speeches are attached to this Final Report.

## II. TECHNICAL WORK

### ITEM 01. VERIFICATION OF THE QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA, WORK PROGRAM AND APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD OF THE 7TH ORDINARY SESSION :

4. The President of the Council of Ministers of the PAGGW, having ascertained that there was a quorum, submitted to the Council for its consideration the draft agenda and work program as well as the draft composition of the Board of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.
5. The Council adopted the draft Agenda and Program and approved the draft composition of the Board of the Session as follows:
  - Presidency: Islamic Republic of Mauritania, **H.E. Mrs. Marieme BEKAYE**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development.
  - Vice-Presidency: Federal Republic of Nigeria, **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahmood ABUBAKAR**, Federal Minister of the Environment.
  - Reporter 1: Republic of Senegal, **H.E. Mr. Abdou KARIM SALL**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development.
  - Reporter 2: Republic of Niger, **H.E. Mrs. GARAMA Saratou Rabiou INOUSSA**, Minister of Environment and the Fight Against Desertification.

### ITEM 02. READING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPORT

6. After reading the Report of the Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) by the President, the Council commended the Committee for the quality of the Report and took note of it.

### ITEM 3: REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS, BUDGETS, IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- 3.1. **Approval of the 2019 and 2020 financial years budgets and the 2019 financial year Budget Implementation Report.**
7. The Council, after the presentation by the Executive Secretariat of the reasons for the delay in the submission of the documents for the fiscal years 2019 and 2020, took note of them and left their approval to the President of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 39 of the Agency's Rules of Procedure.
8. The Council requested the review of Article 39 of the PAGGW's Rules of Procedure to refine the Agency's fiduciary procedures. It also urges the Executive Secretariat to submit from now on the draft technical activity programs and budget for the year n+1 before the end of November and to hold before December 31 of the current year an extraordinary session virtual format for their examination and approval.



### **3.2 Review and adoption of the Draft Technical Activity and Budget Implementation Report for the 2020 fiscal year.**

9. The Council of Ministers, after reviewing the Technical Activity and Budget Implementation Report, noted the consistency in the results-based approach and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, which has greatly reduced the implementation activities of the Technical Activity Program and consequently the level of execution of the 2020 budget estimates.
10. The Council adopted the Technical Activity and the Budget Implementation Reports for the 2020 fiscal year, commended the Executive Secretariat for the quality of the planning documents submitted, nevertheless requested the Executive Secretariat and the Member States to improve reporting, coordination, and monitoring of achievements on the ground and analysis of their impacts.

### **3.3. Approval of the Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2018**

11. The Council, after hearing the reading of the Auditor's Report (CAC) on the 2018 fiscal year, approves the accounts and Financial Statements for the 2018 fiscal year of the Agency and gives discharge to the Executive Secretary for its management.
12. The Council takes note of the expiration of the second term of office of the Ba Samba DIOM firm acting as PAGGW's Statutory Auditor and requests the Executive Secretary to promptly proceed with the selection of a new Auditor, in accordance with the procedures in force in this regard to the Agency.

### **3.4. Review and approval of the draft Special Technical Activities Program (STAP) and Budget for the year 2021**

13. After the presentation by the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW of the Special Technical Activities Program (STAP) and the 2021 Budget submitted, it was noted that they are in line with the logic of giving impetus to the new dynamic of actions from 2021 onwards in order to consolidate the current momentum of the Great Green Wall Initiative.
14. The Council adopts the Agency's Special Technical Activities Program (STAP) and Budget for fiscal year 2021 and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure their proper implementation.

### **3.5 Review and Approval of the 2021-2030 Decennial Priority Investment Plan Draft (DPIP)**

15. The Council notes the relevance of the 2021-2030 Decennial Priority Investment Plan and the inclusive dialogue around its co-construction but questions the capacity to absorb the funding required by Member States and the harmonization of the 2021-2030 DPIP portfolios with the programmatic funding pillars of the technical and financial partners.
16. The Council adopted the 2021-2030 Decennial Priority Investment Plan (DPIP) and requested the Executive Secretariat to incorporate the observations and recommendations made and to ensure the mid-term review during each five-year cycle and make the necessary corrections.

### **3.6. Review of the 2021-2030 Roadmap draft of the Executive Secretariat of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall**

17. The Council of Ministers reviewed the structure and content the Executive Secretariat roadmap for the period 2021-2023 and submits it to the high attention of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, subject to the guidelines developed, in particular, the financial instruments and tools relating to the GGW Carbon Bank and the Fund for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change and Local Economic Development (FARCEDEL).





### **3.7.Resource Mobilization: Contributions from Member States and Technical and Financial Partners.**

18. The Council encourages the mobilization of domestic resources and the strong involvement of the local private sector in the financing and implementation of the Great Green Wall.
19. With regard to technical and financial partners, the conclusions of the Forum on the investments of the Great Green Wall, held at the Elysée Palace in France on January 11, 2021, on the sidelines of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the "One Planet Summit" were recalled, particularly the pledges of financial commitments by the partners and the establishment of a GGW Accelerator entrusted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in relation with the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall for the follow-up with the partners of the said pledges.
20. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD briefed the Council on the role and activities of the Accelerator and provided some available data on the follow-up of the pledges being finalized and the structuring of the US\$19.681 billion in pledges over the period 2021-2025: US\$4.052 billion in grants and donations, US\$9.240 billion in concessional loans/investments and US\$6.389 billion in country-allocated funding.
21. The Ministers of the Member States raised several questions, in particular the lack of clear information on the actual structuring of the financial pledges, the process of accessing the resources and the urgent need for reliable information for the beneficiary countries. In this regard, the Council recommends that a ministerial meeting in virtual format be promptly held between the Ministers of the Member States and the Technical and Financial Partners involved in the pledging of financial commitments.

## **ITEM 4. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**

### **4.1. Exchanges on the Governance of the PAGGW and the GGW national structures**

22. Given the current challenges in the implementation and mobilization of funding, it is necessary to strengthen the skills and improve the institutional and organizational governance of the Regional Agency and the national structures of the GGW. As part of this, a draft revision of the Pan-African Agency's organizational chart, providing for new strategic positions through the technical directorates and the office of the Executive Secretary, including an Audit Committee and a Resource Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships Platform, has been submitted to the Council for consideration.
23. The Council, after discussions, requested the Executive Secretariat to first conduct the planned Organizational and Technical Audit of the Agency and then to submit the draft modification of the PAGGW organizational chart.
24. For the Member countries, it is recommended that each GGW national structure has a functional Monitoring & Evaluation Department with the necessary human and logistical resources and that collaboration between the GGW national structure and the other Focal Points at the national level be strengthened.



#### **4.2. Review of innovative financing and advocacy tools projects**

25. As part of mobilizing additional sustainable financing, the Executive Secretariat submitted to the Council the examination of the orientation documents on the GGW Carbone Bank (GGWCB), Fund for the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience and Local Economic Development (FARCDEL) and the Economic Forum of GGW Outputs (FOREP) regarding their operationalization.
26. The Council welcomes the opportunity of innovative instruments, approves the orientation note on FOREP and urges the Executive Secretary to work on the organization of the 1st edition and requests more information on the operationalization of the GGWCB and FARCDEL.

#### **4.3. Functioning of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall**

27. The Executive Secretariat has submitted, as part of the improvement of the personnel career plan, intends to revise the salary scale and to set the retirement age for category II and III personnel.
28. The Council authorizes the calculation of personnel salaries and emoluments at the parity of one (1) American dollar for 540 CFA francs, pending the review of the salary scale scheduled after the submission of the conclusions of the Agency's organizational and technical audit.
29. The Council sets the retirement age at sixty-five (65) years for Category II personnel and sixty-two (62) years for Category III and amends Article 68 of the Personnel Regulations as follows: Activity is the position of the official who performs the duties pertaining to the job that has been assigned to him/her and in accordance with the need of the Agency. During the period of activity, the retirement age limit is set at sixty-five (65) years for Category II personnel, relating to professional personnel and sixty-two (62) years for Category III, relating to General and Auxiliary Services personnel.

#### **ITEM V. ORGANIZATION OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION**

30. The Council of Ministers endorsed the candidacy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

#### **ITEM VI. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION**

31. At the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the Council adopted the following Recommendations (Rec.):
  - Rec.1: Adopting the Report of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW),
  - Rec.2: Approval of the Budgetary Execution Report for fiscal year 2019, the Budget and the Technical Program of Activities for fiscal year 2020 of the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW,
  - Rec.4: Examining and adopting the draft Technical Activity Program and Budget for fiscal year N+1,
  - Rec.5: Approving the financial statements for fiscal year 2018,
  - Rec.6: Recruitment of a new Auditor,
  - Rec.7: Clearing the arrears of statutory contributions and the payment of the contribution on due date by the Member States,



- Rec.8:** Adopting the 2021-2030 Decennial Priority Investment Plan (DPIP) of the Great Green Wall Initiative,
- Rec.9:** Adopting the Special Technical Activity Program and the 2021 Budget of the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW,
- Rec.10:** Adopting the 2021-2023 Road Map of the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW to be submitted to the Summit of Heads of State and Government,
- Rec.11:** Adopting the orientation note and holding the first edition of the Economic Forum on the Outputs of the Great Green Wall,
- Rec.12:** Adopting and operationalizing the GGW Carbone Bank, the fund for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience and Local Economic Development (FARCDEL),
- REC.13:** Carrying out the Organizational and Technical Audit of the PAGGW and submission of the draft revision of the organization chart of the Pan-African Agency,
- REC.14:** Holding a Virtual Ministerial Meeting involving Ministers of Member States and Technical and Financial Partners for better ownership of the pledges and the role of the GGW Accelerator in resource mobilization,
- REC.15:** Updating the dollar/CFAF parity rate to 540 FCFA for the calculation of salaries and emoluments of PAGGW personnel,
- REC.16:** Fixing the retirement age limit for the permanent personnel of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) and revising article 68 of the Personnel Regulations,
- Rec.17:** Designating the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers,
- REC.18:** Submitting the Recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session held on June 30, 2018, in Nouakchott and the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of July 29, 2021, to the Heads of State and Government, which are as follows:
- (i) *Designation of the host country for the organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government,***
  - (ii) *Appointment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the current President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall for a two (02) year term,***
  - (iii) *Approval of the 2021-2023 Roadmap of the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW,***
  - (iv) *Appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the PAGGW,***
  - (v) *Revision of the amount of the annual statutory contribution of the PAGGW Member States,***
  - (vi) *Call for voluntary contributions from Member States and technical and financial partners for the mobilization of funds for the construction and equipment of the headquarters.***





32. At the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the Council of Ministers adopted the following Regulations (Reg):

- Regulation No 2021/01/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption of the Report of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW),
- Regulation No 2021/02/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the approval of the Budget Implementation Report for the 2019 fiscal year, the Budget and Technical Program of Activities for the 2020 fiscal year of the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW,
- Regulation No 2021/03/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption of the 2020 budget implementation and technical activity reports of the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW,
- Regulation No 2021/04/CM/PAGGW/NKTT: On the examination and adoption of the draft Technical Activities Program and Budget for the year N+1,
- Regulation No. 2021/05/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the approval of the financial statements for the 2018 fiscal year.
- Regulation No 2021/06/CM/PAGGW/NKTT: On the recruitment of a new PAGGWs Auditor.
- Regulation No 2021/07/CM/PAGGW/NKTT: On the settlement of arrears of statutory contributions and the payment of the contribution on the due date by the Member States,
- Regulation No 2021/08/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption of the 2021-2030 Decennial Priority Investment Plan (DPIP) of the Great Green Wall Initiative,
- Regulation No 2021/09/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption of the Special Program of Technical Activities and the 2021 budget of the Executive Secretariat of the Pan- African Agency of the Great Green Wall,
- Regulation No 2021/10/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption of the 2021- 2023 Roadmap of the Executive Secretariat of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall,
- Regulation No 2021/11/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the review of the organization chart of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW),
- Regulation No 2021/12/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, authorizing the updating of the US dollar/CFAP parity rate to 540 CFAP in the calculation of the salaries and emoluments of the Agency's personnel,
- Regulation No 2021/13/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, adopting the orientation note and organizing the first edition of the Economic Forum on the Outputs of the Great Green Wall,
- Regulation No 2021/14/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, establishing the retirement age limit for the permanent staff of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) and revising Article 68 of the PAGGW Personnel Regulations,
- Regulation No 2021/15/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, appointing the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers,
- Regulation No 2021/16/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption and operationalization of the GGW Carbone Bank and the fund for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience and Local Economic Development (FARCDEL),
- Regulation No 2021/17/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the implementation of the Organizational and Technical Audit of the PAGGW,
- Regulation No 2021/18/CM/PAGGW/NKTT, on the adoption of Recommendations to be submitted to Head of States and Government during their 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session.



### III. CLOSING CEREMONY

33. The Expression of gratitude was read by H.E. Mr. Modibo KONE, Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Mali. The Council, meeting on 29 July 2021 in Nouakchott at Mauritania, expressed its heartfelt Acknowledgements to the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, H.E. MOHAMED OULD CHEIKH EL GHAZOUANI, current President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government for his commitment and leadership in the implementation of the GW.

The document of the vote of thanks is enclosed to the Final Report.

34. H.E. Mrs. Marieme BEKAYE, current President of the Council of Ministers, closed the 7th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall by thanking all the participants and in particular the Ministers and technical and financial partners who kindly made the journey to attend. She also highlighted the importance of the Resolutions taken and the Recommendations developed to the High Attention of the Heads of State and Government.

Done at Nouakchott on July 29, 2021

For the Council of Ministers  
The President



H.E. Mrs. Marieme BEKAYE  
Minister of the Environment  
and Sustainable Development  
of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

