

4256



CILSS

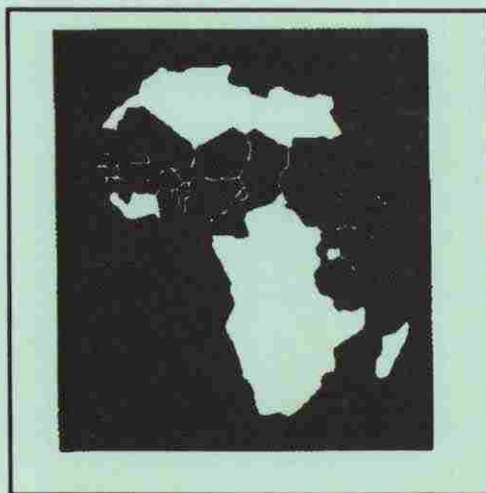


UNSO



IGADD

***Report Of The Second Consultative Meeting Of
Sudano-Sahelian Countries
In The Context Of UNCED 1992***



Cairo, 8-10 July 1991

***Report Of The Second Consultative Meeting Of
Sudano-Sahelian Countries
In The Context Of UNCED 1992***

Cairo, 8-10 July 1991

CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	4
II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING	5
A. Summary of Opening Statements	5
B. Officers	7
C. Agenda	7
III. INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS ON THE STRATEGIC CONCERNS OF THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF UNCED 1992.	8
IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON ITEM 3	9
V. OTHER ACTIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS.	13

ANNEXES

- I. List of Participants
- II. Opening Statements

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first consultative meeting of Sudano-Sahelian countries in the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Ouagadougou from 13 to 15 February 1991. This meeting decided, *inter alia*, to establish an Expert Group to assist in the identification of the substantive issues and concerns of the Sudano-Sahelian countries in the context of UNCED 1992, and propose appropriate negotiating strategies to be considered for adoption by the countries during the UNCED preparatory process with particular reference to the African Regional Preparatory Conference to be held in Cairo (11-16 July 1991) and the UNCED PrepCom meetings.

2. This second consultative meeting was organized in Cairo (8-10 July) on the eve of the African Regional Preparatory Conference as a follow-up to the recommendations of the first consultative meeting (see 1. above) and in particular to review the report of the Experts Group and work out the strategy and contribution of the Sudano-Sahelian countries to the African positions in the context of UNCED.

3. As with the first meeting, this second meeting was convened under the auspices of the Permanent Interstate Committee to Combat Drought (CILSS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO).

4. The three organizations (CILSS-IGADD-UNSO) working through a Joint Support Committee (JSC), continue to support the UNCED preparatory activities in the Sudano-Sahelian countries. Among the key actions being supported are: the consultative process through meetings of the 22 Sudano-Sahelian countries; the establishment and work of the national committees (NATCOMS) and the preparation of national reports; and the organization of information and sensitization activities on issues of particular interest to the Sudano-Sahelian countries.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Summary of Opening Statements

5. In his introductory remarks, the Deputy director of UNSO, Mr. Samuel Nyambi thanked the Government of Egypt for the occasion to hold this second consultative meeting of the 22 Sudano-Sahelian countries in their country. He outlined the background to the present meeting starting with the first consultative meeting; the recommendations that led to the present meeting; and the progress achieved since then, which included among others a greater understanding among the Sudano-Sahelian countries of issues at stake in the context of UNCED. He further drew attention to the forthcoming UNCED Preparatory Committee meeting to take place in Geneva in August, which he considered to be particularly important as it will deal with environmental concerns of direct interest to the Sudano-Sahelian countries, namely soil degradation, deforestation, desertification and drought. He informed the meeting that the main opening statement for this meeting would be delivered by Dr. David Muduuli, Executive Secretary of IGADD on behalf the JSC (CILSS-IGADD-UNSO)

6. On behalf of the CILSS-IGADD-UNSO Joint Support Committee, the Executive Secretary of IGADD, Dr. David Muduuli outlined the progress in the UNCED preparatory process in the Sudano-Sahelian countries, including among others the support to the establishment and work of the national committees, preparation of national reports, support to the consultative process between the countries (Ouagadougou, Cairo, informal consultations, etc.) and support to the countries to participate in UNCED preparatory meetings such as the PrepCom. He further went on to enumerate the three basic objectives of the present meeting which were to (1) review the various strategies, positions and approaches proposed by the expert group and adapt these as appropriate, (2) discuss and draw up a negotiating strategy for integrating the Sudano-Sahelian positions into the African positions and (3) review and agree on follow-up actions after the African Regional Preparatory Conference, with particular reference to Agenda 21. Dr. Muduuli emphasized the need for Africa and the Sudano-Sahelian countries in particular to actively participate in PrepCom III which was considered a crucial turning point in the UNCED preparatory process. Regarding issues at stake in the context of UNCED, Mr. Muduuli pointed out that the main causes of environmental degradation in Africa were already known and as such, broad statements on environment can no longer do. The real challenge therefore was how to address these problems in the 90's and beyond, and where the resources would come from. He pledged JSC's continued support to the Sudano-Sahelian countries in their preparations for the Brazil Conference and beyond.

7. On his behalf and that of Mr. Strong, the representative of UNCED, Mr. Arba Diallo, expressed gratitude for the substantial contribution that UNSO has brought to the preparatory activities of UNCED, which afforded the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian countries the opportunity to focus on their particular interests in the context of UNCED. He stressed that the Rio Conference will deal with environment and development but that emphasis will be on the latter; and that integration of environment and development was an urgent matter whose solution cannot be delayed until further progress is made. He reiterated that the countries of the Sahel were particularly vulnerable not only to the degradation of the environment which at the same time destroyed the natural capital but also to global risks

such as climate change. These countries have therefore greatest interest in achieving at once the transition towards sustainable development. He pointed out that sustainable development was necessary to check environmental degradation and that the effort of the entire international community was required in this regard. Nonetheless, Africa and the Sudano-Sahelian countries in particular were duty bound to contribute in protecting and improving the environment.

8. The Chief of the Environment Unit of the ECA, Mr. Lucas Tandap, on his behalf and that of Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, the Executive Secretary, praised the Sudano-Sahelian countries for taking the UNCED preparatory process as seriously as through their various activities, including the series of consultative meetings in preparation for their inputs to the African UNCED preparatory process. He observed that the strategic concerns of the Sudano-Sahelian countries in the context of UNCED 1992 were anchored in the problems of combating drought and desertification and environmental rehabilitation in their region; and that the Sudano-Sahelian countries had identified poverty as the principal concern that undermined their efforts towards environment and sustainable development. He praised the collaboration between ECA, CILSS, IGADD, SADCC under the tutelage of UNSO and hoped that this would continue and grow stronger.

Full statements are presented in Annex II.

B. Officers

9. Under Agenda item 3, the meeting proceeded to elect its Bureau by acclamation as follows:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|----------|
| - | Chairman | : | Tanzania |
| - | Vice Chairman | : | Sudan |
| | | : | Mali |
| - | Rapporteurs | : | Senegal |
| | | : | Kenya |

C. Agenda

10. The agenda was adopted as follows:

1. Introductory remarks
Opening statements
Election of the Bureau
2. Presentation of the Report of the Expert Team and of the strategic positions it proposes for the 22 Sudano-Sahelian countries in the context of UNCED.
3. Identification of issues of concern and of arrangements for contributions of the 22 Sudano-Sahelian group in the context of the Cairo Conference and also at the Third Preparatory Committee to meet in August in Geneva.
4. Other actions to be taken in preparation of UNCED 1992, including national reports.
5. Adoption of report and conclusions, closure of the session.

III. INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS ON THE STRATEGIC CONCERNS OF THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF UNCED 1992.

11. The leader of the Expert Group, Mr. John Tesha, presented the report titled "Report on the strategic concerns of the Sudano-Sahelian countries in the context of UNCED 1992" to the meeting. He highlighted in particular three main elements of the report, namely:

- The identification of substantive issues of specific concern to the Sudano-Sahelian countries, emphasizing in particular the poverty issue as it relates to the issue of environment and development.
- Proposals for a negotiating strategy, highlighting in particular the draft Sudano-Sahelian platform for action, a draft Earth Charter and procedural approaches to be considered by the Sudano-Sahelian countries with a view to having their contributions introduced into the African Regional Preparatory Process, the PrepCom as well as UNCED 1992 and beyond.
- Additional issues and arrangements for action, including the establishment of an inter-governmental negotiating machinery to back-stop the Sudano-Sahelian countries in their UNCED Preparatory process and the need for a concerted and cohesive approach to the various issues and positions through formal and informal consultative process.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. Under item 4 of the agenda the meeting deliberated on the report of the expert group and its recommendations including the Platform for Action and the Earth Charter.

13. The meeting commended the work of the experts which had resulted in a very satisfactory report as a basis for further deliberation by the delegates. The meeting then proceeded to discuss the document and the issues therein.

14. The meeting generally agreed with the issues identified by the experts and the priority setting. However, several sections and/or substantive issues were identified as inadequately addressed in the report.

These include:

- (i) Need for more emphasis on the particular characteristics of the region, particularly with respect to drought and desertification.
 - (ii) Some countries felt that the interest of coastal and marine environments were not adequately reflected in the report.
 - (iii) Issues of demographic trends and population were not reflected as a factor in environment and development.
 - (iv) Issue of poverty as a global environmental concern and the lack of proposals and strategies for eradication of poverty.
 - (v) Issues of climatic change and ozone layer are also of concern to Africa. Further elaboration on ongoing negotiations on these issues should have been highlighted.
 - (vi) Need to further elaborate on issues of food security, energy security, science and technology; and institution building and strengthening particularly in the context of Agenda 21.
- With respect to food security, main issues focused on:
- * Availability of resources to satisfy food inputs
 - * Access to existing stocks in and outside Africa
 - * Infrastructure development including storage and transport
 - * Technology to improve food production
 - * Programmes and policies for food security.

- Under energy security, issues of hydro-resources and mining (and its contribution to environmental pollution); effective and rational utilization of hydro-power and possible inventory of national and regional energy centres as well as their strengthening.
- The section on sustainable economic growth and employment was inadequately covered. The meeting was also of the view that the issue of integration of the environment into socio-economic planning was a major aspect of sustainability of economic growth. Additionally, issues of popular participation and women in development should also be included.

(vii) With respect to Agenda 21, members felt that the list was not exhaustive and should be open to additional proposals.

(viii) On the Earth Charter, the meeting expressed satisfaction and accepted the proposed text with only minor suggestions to emphasize drought and desertification in the preamble section of the draft charter.

15. The meeting set up a drafting committee to prepare a "Platform" paper to be presented to the African Regional Preparatory Conference. This document would constitute the Sudano-Sahelian countries' contribution to the African position with respect to UNCED 1992. The document would be based on the contribution from the report of the experts and the comments, suggestions and recommendations from the discussions at the meeting.

The final report was produced as a separate document titled "Draft Sudano-Sahelian Platform for Action on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Negotiations Process and Beyond: A Contribution to the African Position" which accompanies this report.

V. OTHER ACTIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS

16. The meeting further resolved and/or agreed, among other things:

(i) To participate actively and in a concerted manner during the African Regional Preparatory Conference, PrepCom meetings and the Rio Conference and beyond in the context of UNCED.

(ii) To intensify participation in the UNCED preparatory process and in this regard, the meeting requested the JSC, UNCED and the international community to assist with financial resources to allow at least two participants per country to be present at PrepCom meetings. It was clarified that UNSO and UNCED had already agreed to support one participant each (for a total of 2 per country) to the remaining PrepCom meetings. The meeting also requested JSC to provide a consultant during PrepCom meetings as an adviser during the negotiations. UNSO, on behalf of the JSC indicated it would consider this request favourably.

(iii) Further, the countries expressed the hope that other United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations would agree to support additional participants to the PrepCom meetings.

(iv) In order to substantively participate and contribute more effectively to discussions at PrepCom meetings, the countries considered various options and arrangements, including a proposal to assign specific countries to follow closely on specific issues and propose positions on behalf of the rest of the countries. These options will be explored further during the PrepCom meeting.

17. Concerning other arrangements and actions to be taken in the context of UNCED 1992 preparations, the group of the 22 agreed to strengthen contacts with other sub-regional groupings with a view to sensitizing them on issues of concern to the region. In this regard SADCC promised to liaise with UNSO in order to coordinate informal contacts and exchange ideas on issues during PrepCom meetings.

18. The meeting also noted that most of the countries were in their final stages of finalizing their national reports and that some still had the opportunity to incorporate ideas from this meeting into their national strategies for UNCED.

SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF
SUDANO-SAHELIAN COUNTRIES
IN THE CONTEXT OF UNCED 1992

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANTS	TITLE
BENIN	M. Barthélémy Otchoun	Conseiller Technique Aménagement Territoire et Environnement Ministre du Développement Rural et de l'Action Coopérative
BURKINA FASO	M. Boubié Jérémy Bazyé	Directeur de la Prévention des Pollutions et Nuisances Ministère de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
CAMEROON	M. Roger Tonleu	Chef de Service Adjoint de l'Environnement Ministère du Plan et de l'Aménagement du Territoire
CAPE VERDE		
CHAD	M. Mahamat Ali	Directeur des Forêts et de la Protection de l'Environnement, Membre du ComNat Ministère de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
DJIBOUTI	M. Ali Mohamed Abdallah	Chef du Service Environnement Ministère du Tourisme et Secrétariat Technique du ComNat
ETHIOPIA		
THE GAMBIA	Ms. N'Dey Isatou NJie	Principal Environment Officer Environment Unit Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

GHANA	Mr. Samuel Ernest Anku	Programme Officer Environmental Protection Council (E.P.C.)
GUINEE	M. Djiba Kane	Directeur Adjoint de l'Environnement et Coordonnateur, ComNat
GUINEE BISSAU	M. Carlos Rui C. Ribeiro	Coordonnateur, ComNat
KENYA	Mr. Georges O. Ondenge	Senior Ecologist Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MALI	M. Nampaa Sanogho	Conseiller Technique Ministère du Développement rural et de l'Environnement
	M. Bassirou Ba	Conseiller Ambassade du Mali au Caire
MAURITANIE	M. Ahmed Aidara	Coordonnateur ComNat
	M. Mohamed M. O. El Ghaoutch	Premier Conseiller Mission Permanente de la Mauritanie auprès des Nations Unies New York
NIGER		
NIGERIA	Mr. Maiwada M. Omar	Chief Environmental Scientist Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA)
	Prof. Anthony Imevbore	Consultant, FEPA
SENEGAL	Mme Fatou BA	Secrétaire Permanent, CONACILSS Ministère du Développement rural et de l'Hydraulique
SUDAN	Mr. El Tahir Suliman Aidam	Senior Planning Inspector Ministry of Planning, NatCom Member

TANZANIA	Mr. G. L. Kamukala	Director General National Environment Management Council
TOGO	M. Komla Emoe	Conseiller Technique et Point Focal CNUED Ministère de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
UGANDA	Mr. Thaddeus Olai Acere	Commissioner for Environment Protection Ministry for Energy, Minerals and Environment Protection

OBSERVER COUNTRIES

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANTS	TITLE
COTE D'IVOIRE	M. James Kouakou Koffi	Ministère de l'Environnement de la Construction et de l'Urbanisme
SIERRA LEONE		

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION	PARTICIPANTS	TITLE
OAU		
ECA	Mr. Lucas Tandap	Chief, Environment Unit
SADCC	Prof. Paul S. Maro	Technical Adviser
PTA	Ms. Juliet Chadzingwa	Energy Expert
CEAO		
ECOWAS/CEDEAO		
UMA		

Note:

SADCC: Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference

PTA: Preferential Trade Area

CEAO: Communauté Economique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

ECOWAS/CEDEAO: Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

UMA: Union du Maghreb Arabe

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION	PARTICIPANTS	TITLE
ENDA-Tiers Monde	M. Taoufik Ben Abdallah	Chargé de Recherches
AFARD/AWORD Dakar, Sénégal		
FEMNET Nairobi, Kenya		
PUST Accra, Ghana		

Note:

ENDA-TM: Environment et Développement du Tiers-Monde

AFARD/AWORD: Africa Women's Development and Communications Network
Association des Femmes Africaines pour la Recherche et le Développement

FEMNET: Africa Women's Development and Communications Network

PUST: Panafrican Union for Science and Technology

SECRETARIAT

ORGANIZATION	PARTICIPANTS	TITLE
CILSS	Dr. Amadou Tijan Jallow	Directeur Général INSAH
	M. Haroun Abakar	Chef de Cabinet du Secrétaire Exécutif
	Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye	Directeur du Département d'Ecologie
IGADD	Dr. David Muduuli	Executive Secretary
	Mr. Mohamed Musa Awaleh	Director of Operations
	Mr. Maina Karaba	Research and Operations Officer
UNSO	Mr. Samuel Nyambi	Deputy Director
	Mr. Augustin N. Mandeng	Chief, UNSO Regional Office for Western Africa Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
	Ms. Suzanne Drouilh	Chief, UNSO Regional Office for Eastern Africa Nairobi, Kenya
	Mr. Winston Mathu	Senior Technical Advisor Focal Point - UNCED
	Mr. Moustapha Soumaré	Technical Advisor, Forestry
	Ms. Carline Jean-Louis	Bilingual Secretary
UNCED	Mr. Arba Diallo	Special Representative of the Secretary General of UNCED

UNEP	Ms. Maria de Amorin	Representative and Regional Director for Africa
	Mr. Hassan Gudal	Coordinator, AMCEN, Secretariat
	Mr. Halifa Omar Drammeh	Environmental Affairs Officer
	Dr. Paschal Khimulu	Programme Officer Consultant
UNDP	Mr. Taoufik Ben Amara	Resident Representative, a.i.
	Ms. El Heneidy	UNDP, Cairo
REGIONAL ADVISORY TEAM		
	Mr. John Tesha	Team Leader

OPENING STATEMENTS

A. STATEMENT BY DR. DAVID MUDUULI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF IGADD ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE, CILSS/IGADD/UNSO

On behalf of the JSC of CILSS/IGADD/UNSO, I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to the authorities of the Egypt country, for hosting this meeting and other UNCED conferences of a regional nature.

This second consultation of the "Group of 22" is held at a time when all countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region are actively preparing for UNCED. Therefore, please allow me to mention some of the important activities undertaken since the First Consultation of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in February 1991.

- national committees have been set up in almost all Sudano-Sahelian countries to coordinate and ensure, at national level, the preparatory activities to UNCED;
- national reports have been drawn up in almost all the countries of the subregion. Eighteen reports have been completed or are currently being finalized;
- delegates from those countries have participated regularly in the various meetings convened within the context of UNCED. Thus, a considerable number of Sudano-Sahelian countries attended the second preparatory conference (PrepCom) held in Geneva during March last. Informal meetings organized by the Joint Committee whenever the occasion presented itself have made it possible to start a highly important exchange of view points without the Preparatory Conference proper;
- last June, an informal consultation meeting was held in Nairobi involving a large number of African intergovernmental organizations within the framework of the UNCED negotiation process. That meeting gathered, for the first time, organizations engaged in environmental matters as well as economic and social development ones: OAU, IGADD, CILSS, SADCC, ECOWAS, PTA, ADB/ADF. It was attended by UN agencies: ECA, UNEP, UNSO, AMCEN;
- it is also noteworthy that the majority of the countries present here have had the opportunity of expressing themselves on the UNCED preparatory process at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and at UNEP Governing Council.
- the recent OAU Summit, after stressing the importance of UNCED framework has just adopted a resolution urging the participation of the heads of states and government at the Conference in Brazil.
- finally, a regional meeting will be held this week to sum up African position.

These activities, certainly not exhaustively listed, would show if there was still any need, and the importance of the process started one year ago which will enable, without any doubt, to reach a common African position.

It is also within this context of preparation of the African position that lies the interest of the present consultation which has, as an ultimate objective, to consolidate priorities of the subregion so as to facilitate the development of a negotiating position first at the African level, and second, at world level.

It is therefore envisaged that the present meeting has as its first objective to review the document prepared by the expert group, finalize it and then adopt it. Special attention should be paid to the proposed action plan that could constitute the strategic position of the Sudano-Sahelian countries for UNCED 1992.

Secondly,

Once the framework has been adopted, it will be necessary to draw up the strategy that would enable an integration of that position with the African one. The latter will be discussed at the next preparatory conference of UNCED organized by ECA due to be held here in Cairo from 11 to 16 July 1991. That stage would be decisive in the consolidation of efforts exerted in the region.

Third objective

It will be necessary to review action to be taken after the Cairo meeting, in the prospect of a better negotiation of the African position. The step appears to be the most decisive one as, from it, will depend the inclusion of African concerns in general and those of the Sudano-Sahelian region in particular into what is generally entitled "Agenda 21".

It is in this context that I should like to draw attention to the third session of the preparatory conference which will take place in Geneva in August, a session which will specifically deal with environmental priorities of African countries and Sudano-Sahelian in particular, i.e. soil degradation, deforestation, desertification and drought.

Without minimizing all the other preparatory activities of UNCED, this third session of the Preparatory Committee would appear to be from a strategic point of view the most important. It will precede the final session scheduled for New York and will culminate, from the point of view of decisions on selected themes in: conventions, Earth charter, transfer of technology, financial resources, and so on.

It is therefore highly desirable that all of Africa and the Sudano-Sahelian region, in particular, be present at this important forum to design the future. It also required that they be prepared for this issues to be discussed for full participation. Issues must be clearly identified, presented, and practical means of implementation articulated. Broad statements on environment can no longer do. We know the causes of environment degradation in Africa, the issue is how do we address them in the 90's and beyond, and where are the resources coming from?

In summary we must address the following issues:

1. The present state of our region and why it is so.
2. The state of other regions and why.
3. The relationship or lack of it, between ourselves and others.
4. What state we want to move to, and the time frame.
5. What it requires to achieve the change.
6. Establish negotiating and implementing instruments for the means to achieve our targets.

Therefore the process is not simple and needs determination and being prepared.

I would like to reiterate the fact that the JSC is prepared to support, to the extent of its means, the whole process leading the Sudano-Sahelian countries to Brazil and indeed beyond that.

I wish all success to the second consultation of the Twenty Two and I thank you very much.

B. STATEMENT BY MR. ARBA DIALLO, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Allow me first to tell you how much I am honoured to have been graciously given the opportunity to participate in the proceedings of the second consultative meeting of the twenty-two Sudano/Sahelian countries in the context of the UNCED Conference.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express the gratitude of Mr. Strong, Secretary General of UNCED for the substantial contribution UNSO has brought to the preparatory activities of UNCED. In organizing the current meeting, UNSO affords the countries concerned the opportunity to focus their attention on their particular interests in order to better identify the proper approaches designed to bring a satisfactory solution to their requirements within the framework of the current global negotiations.

The document submitted to the attention of your meeting includes all the necessary elements for analysis. It is up to you to offer the proper choice so that the forest might not hide the tree.

The debate would give us the opportunity to review some particular items in the document. Indeed, it is on these items in particular that the contribution of the countries of the Sahel would play a paramount role in the deliberations of UNCED.

I beg your indulgence to stress a highly important point that should be instrumental in bringing about a correct understanding of the stakes of the Rio Conference.

It is a conference that will deal with environment and development and the stress will be on development. This in no way diminishes the importance of the environmental aspects of that conference. In truth, it is intended to recognize the fact that it is essentially through the process of development that the protection of the environment can be considered. Any development that could destroy or impair the environment and the basic foundations of the resources on which further development would lay can neither be lasting nor successful. Moreover we believe that the integration of environment and development is not a problem of which the solution can be delayed until further progress is achieved. It is rather indispensable preamble to start off again the process of development. It is such countries as those of the Sahel which have the greatest interest in achieving at once the transition towards lasting development for they are the most vulnerable. They are vulnerable to the degradation of the environment which destroys the natural capital. They are also vulnerable to global risks such as the change in climatic conditions. To be vulnerable to the environment aggravates economic vulnerability and makes it more complex.

For these reasons we believe that lasting development, which is necessary to check the degradation of the environment, requires on the part of the whole international community a strenuous effort. To be sure, those responsible for pollution must of necessity be those who shoulder the expenses in view of their responsibility in degrading the environment.

Nevertheless, in this global effort, Africa and indeed the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region are duty bound to contribute in protecting and improving the environment, due account being taken of their ability to do so.

What we really need are the concerted efforts of all the members of the international community. None can succeed alone whatever his height. We might fail together but it is only together that we could win. Such is the challenge to which the Rio Conference invites us to take up.

I wish you all success in your proceedings.

C. STATEMENT BY DR. LUCAS T. TANDAP, CHIEF, ENVIRONMENT UNIT, ECA

On behalf of Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive secretary of ECA, and on my behalf, I have the pleasure of joining my colleagues of UNSO in welcoming you to this consultative meeting. As you are well aware, this meeting is an integral part of activities leading to the UNCED African Regional Preparatory Conference which will be held here in Cairo from 11 to 16 July 1991. The other important activity will be the ECO'92 Public Forum which is being organized by the Centre for Our Common Future on 9 and 10 July.

The significance of your meeting lies in the fact that it is the continuation of a series of meetings that you have been having in readiness for the Sudano-Sahelian sub-regions inputs into the African UNCED preparatory process. It is, therefore, evidence of the importance you attach to your contribution (to the solution of the environmental problems of your sub-region, particularly the countries covered by CILSS and IGADD - to those of the region) and the whole global environmental management process. It is evidence of how seriously you are taking the UNCED 1992 preparatory process and the high expectations you have of the outcome and follow-up to the UNCED Agenda 21.

The strategic concerns of the Sudano-Sahelian countries within the context of the UNCED 1992 are anchored in the problems of combating drought and desertification and environmental rehabilitation in the sub-region. You have placed this within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980, the Bamako commitment of January 1991, and, implicitly, the Kampala Agenda of Action for Sustainable Development in Africa of June, 1989. More important still, you have identified poverty as one of the catastrophes that have continued to plague member States and consequently limited the capacity and capability to implement sustainable programmes that would mitigate against those problems.

The problems of food security, energy security, sustaining economic growth, securing financial resources and improving living conditions are all linked to the capacity to exploit the existing resource endowments of the sub-region which your document very well spells out. Important among the resource endowments is that of human resources. The integral link between population resources and environmental degradation or its conservation is well recognized. In as much as over-population exerts severe pressure on natural resources so also does under-population limit the capacity to exploit and utilize the available resources for sustainable development. Unless, therefore, the technological capacity is developed to respond to the two situations, poverty will remain for a long time the hazard that our countries will have to face. Our population policies must therefore take into account this delicate equilibrium between environment, population and development.

The UNCED process has provided the opportunity for the rethinking of the strategies for addressing the problems of drought and desertification. One of the areas that must be explored is that of research into development and conservation of desert biological diversity and ecosystems, alternatives both for energy and land use. The Sudano-Sahelian countries have enormous resource reserves which can and must be exploited. This demands strong political will and a policy framework that will make full use of all national resources, human, financial and others.

We do hope that the close collaboration that has gone on between ECA on the one side and CILSS, IGADD and, no less SADCC, under the guidance of UNSO, on the other will continue to get stronger and that your meeting will provide a key contribution to the UNCED African Preparatory Conference and the UNCED 1992 process as a whole.

I thank you for your kind attention.
