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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention
on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary
Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa
Second meeting**
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
30 January–1 February 2018

Decision 2/1: “The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa”

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 30 January 2018, on the occasion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa under the theme of “The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa”,

Appreciating the hospitality and generosity extended to delegations to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties by the host country, namely, the Government and the people of Côte d'Ivoire,

Having reviewed a number of issues pertaining to the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention, decisions adopted at its first meeting, held in Bamako in June 2013, as well as those adopted at its informal consultative meeting, held in Nairobi in June 2016, and further underlined the importance of the Bamako Convention for Africa and reaffirmed our commitment to its implementation,

Recalling the Bamako Declaration on Protecting Africa against Illegal Dumping of Hazardous Wastes of 26 June 2013,

Welcoming the note by the secretariat entitled “Twenty years of the Bamako Convention: a time for more effective implementation” and the contents thereof including the recommendations made,

Welcoming with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Mali to host the secretariat of the Bamako Convention and noting that the Government of Mali has consistently repeated that offer since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in June 2013, including at the informal consultative meeting in Nairobi in June 2016 and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2018,

Welcoming also with appreciation the role that has been and continues to be played by the United Nations Environment Programme in providing the needed secretariat support and services to the Bamako Convention,

Bearing in mind that in 2018 the Bamako Convention is celebrating 20 years since it entered into force in 1998, which is an appropriate time to review progress made in its implementation, its effectiveness, challenges faced and its readiness to address the management of emerging and more complex hazardous wastes,

Taking into account that the review process will lead to the repositioning of the Bamako Convention and ensure that it aligns itself appropriately with relevant existing chemicals-related instruments, such as chemicals- and waste-related conventions and frameworks such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session,

While appreciating that some progress has been made in the implementation of the Bamako Convention, expressing concern on the limited progress made thus far in its implementation by most of the parties as well as the lack of resources from the parties to support and facilitate its implementation at the national and regional levels,

Noting with concern the content of the note by the secretariat on its report on the status of implementation of the Bamako Convention as well as past decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties indicating that no resources have been made available by the parties for the implementation of the approved costed programme of work, thereby leading to poor implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Acknowledging the organic relationship between the Bamako Convention and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and considering the magnitude of the challenges caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes within Africa and the opportunities that exist to enforce the ban on the import of hazardous wastes into Africa and thus protect human health and the environment, while contributing to the sound management of chemicals and wastes in Africa,

Recognizing the need for global awareness of the purpose and intent of the Bamako Convention to ban the import of all forms of hazardous and radioactive wastes into the African continent,

Noting that the Amendment to the Basel Convention, which is fully compatible with and reinforces the Bamako Convention, currently lacks some four more ratifications or accessions by the parties to the Basel Convention for it to enter into force,

Welcoming the outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in December 2017 under the theme “Towards a pollution-free planet”, which is directly relevant to the theme of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention, “The Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa”,

Welcoming also the adoption of eleven resolutions and a negotiated ministerial declaration by the Environment Assembly, all of which provide adequate scientific tools and a framework for developing national policy and legislative instruments to deal with various forms of, inter alia, ocean pollution, as well as inclusive approaches to protect the planet from pollution and prevent or avoid activities that generate pollution which threatens humanity and the planet and has a negative impact on the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Recalling decision 16/2 of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, adopted at its sixteenth session, held in June 2017, in which the Conference urged non-parties to the Bamako Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention and requested parties to the Bamako Convention that had not yet informed the secretariat of the designation or establishment of their competent authorities, focal point and dumpwatch to do so as soon as possible and to nominate competent experts to the Legal and Technical Working Group and to the Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Liabilities and Compensation,

Acknowledging that while the objectives, aspirations and actions for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention go beyond those of the related global Basel Convention, promoting cooperation, collaboration and synergies with the Basel Convention as well as other chemicals-related conventions will nonetheless further foster and promote the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Welcoming the convening of the Third Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, to be held in Libreville in 2018, for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, aimed at catalysing the policy, institutional and investment changes required to reduce environmental threats to human health,

Welcoming also the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa to support the effective implementation at the national, subregional and regional levels of mechanisms for enforcing compliance with international conventions and national regulations to protect populations from health

threats related to the environment, including accession to and implementation of the Bamako Convention by those countries that have not yet done so,

Welcoming with appreciation the role played and work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in continuing to serve as the secretariat of the Bamako Convention and supporting its effective implementation as well as the implementation of the decisions adopted by its governing body and other bodies of the Convention,

Welcoming also with appreciation the financial and technical support and assistance received from the United Nations Environment Programme as well as from the donor community for the implementation of the Bamako Convention,

Agreeing to take the necessary measures and actions as soon as feasible to guarantee the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention, of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting and at its informal consultative meeting as well as during the present second meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Reaffirms* and renews through its actions the political commitment made towards a platform for a pollution-free Africa through support for the implementation of the Bamako Convention as the parties' contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

2. *Also reaffirms* its ambition, proclaimed on 26 June 2013 at its first meeting, to protect vulnerable groups including children and poor communities from the negative impacts resulting from unsafe chemical use and unsound waste disposal, and to take action to prevent Africa from becoming a dumping ground for toxic wastes through the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;

3. *Commits* to contributing to the agreed budget for the implementation of the approved costed programme of work for the Bamako Convention;

4. *Accepts and welcomes with appreciation* the offer extended by the Government of Mali, through its minister, to host the secretariat of the Bamako Convention at Bamako;

5. *Requests* the Government of Mali and the current secretariat of the Bamako Convention to develop a road map, with inputs from the parties, for the establishment of the secretariat at its new location in Mali and to report on its status at the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 6 of the rules of procedure of the Bamako Convention, in Khartoum in early 2019;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Mali and the current secretariat to ensure that the secretariat functions and activities for the implementation of the Bamako Convention make the transition as soon as feasible to the new location of the secretariat in Bamako;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue in the meantime to provide the secretariat support and services it has been providing as requested and authorized by its governing body;

8. *Commits* to ensuring that the secretariat is endowed with adequate human and financial resources required to support and accelerate, in collaboration with the parties, the effective implementation of the approved costed programme of work;

9. *Calls upon* the parties to pay their agreed assessed contributions to the budget for the implementation of the Bamako Convention and to ensure that accrued arrears are paid in full and on time;

10. *Also calls upon* the parties to take concerted measures individually as parties and jointly with other parties to fundraise for the prioritized activities for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention, and to that end:

(a) *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with the parties, to develop a fundraising strategy to be used by both the secretariat and the parties to raise funds for the national and regional activities necessary for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;

(b) *Requests* the parties to ensure that the Bamako Convention is well repositioned to meet its current challenges and, in that regard, requests the Executive Secretary of the current secretariat to nominate and/or designate a dedicated focal point to work and collaborate on a regular and continuous basis with the parties, non-parties and partners to support the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;

11. *Requests* the parties to guarantee and secure through their national legal, institutional and administrative systems a total ban of imports of hazardous chemicals and wastes into Africa and the control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;
12. *Urges* those countries that are not yet parties to the Bamako Convention to consider its merit and ratify or accede to it as soon as feasible so as to join hands in taking action for the total ban of imports of hazardous chemicals and wastes into Africa;
13. *Encourages* all parties - current and future - that have not already done so, in an effort to further strengthen the Bamako Convention, to ratify or accede to the Basel Convention and the Basel Ban Amendment as a matter of urgency and develop and/or update national implementing legislation to domesticate those instruments;
14. *Requests* the Bamako Convention secretariat, in cooperation with the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to provide assistance to the parties that may be experiencing difficulties in achieving the desired ratification or accession to those instruments as well as corresponding national domestication of those instruments;
15. *Requests* all the parties to provide a progress report to the Bamako Convention secretariat on the status of and progress in the implementation of the present decision and provide information, if any, on any obstacles that may be encountered in the ratification or accession process as well as on the implementation of the instruments described in paragraph 13;
16. *Also requests* the parties to develop and/or review and update national strategies and policies, and legal, administrative and institutional frameworks as well as action plans necessary for the domestication and effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
17. *Appeals* to the parties to designate and/or nominate, if they have not yet done so, national focal point(s) for the implementation of the Bamako Convention as well as national experts to serve in the different subsidiary bodies established by the Conferences of the Parties for specific purposes and to inform and update the secretariat of such designations or nominations or any changes to existing focal points;
18. *Calls upon* the parties, the secretariat and partners to promote coherence and synergies between the Bamako Convention and other chemicals- and hazardous waste-related conventions, in collaboration with relevant secretariats, to conduct joint capacity development and capacity-building activities including training, research programmes and awareness-raising;
19. *Invites* the parties and the secretariat to enhance, advocate and promote cooperation as well as develop stronger partnerships with relevant partners, such as the regional economic communities and Basel Convention regional centres, for the effective implementation of the Bamako Convention;
20. *Urges* the parties to engage with relevant global initiatives for the sound management of chemicals and waste and intensify efforts to achieve by 2020 the goal of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle, with the Bamako Convention serving as an implementation tool for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment in Africa as underlined in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
21. *Calls upon* the parties to undertake the concrete actions and measures needed for the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and calls for their adequate and coherent implementation;
22. *Decides* to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties before its third meeting, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 6 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure, to reposition the Bamako Convention in order to enable its rigorous implementation as well as to discuss and agree on a road map for the establishment of the secretariat for the Bamako Convention in Bamako;
23. *Also decides* to accept and thank the Government of the Sudan and the Government of the Congo, through their ministers, for their offers to host the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in early 2019 and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020, respectively, on the dates to be determined in due course;
24. *Calls upon* the secretariat to support the parties in their execution of the necessary national and regional action and activities for the implementation of the present and other decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting;

25. *Invites* the parties and partners to cooperate with each other, bilaterally and/or regionally, in the implementation of the activities envisaged under the present and other decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting;

26. *Requests* the relevant international and regional donor communities to support the action of and activities by the parties for the implementation of the present and other decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting;

27. *Calls upon* the parties to collaborate with relevant international, regional and national organizations and other stakeholders to advance the theme of the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, namely “Bamako Convention: a platform for a pollution-free Africa”;

28. *Requests* the parties to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision in their national reports, through the secretariat, to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.
