



Niamey Declaration

**on the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in the sectors of Agriculture,
livestock and forestry
Niamey, April 28th 2015**

I) Considerations

1. Considering that the rhythm and level of Climate disturbance becomes severe and hinders the Development projects of our countries ;
2. Taking note of the consensus on the development way to follow in order to assure a below 2°C Global warming average ;
3. Concerned by the fact that this objective is not sufficient to limit significantly Climate Change impacts in Africa for ,it is an increase average of above 3°C for the major part of West Africa ;
4. Considering that the Adaptation remains the first priority and is relevant for Africa in general and ECOWAS and CILSS member countries in particular ;
5. Considering that those countries have more and more , immediate need of sustainable and adequate support to adapt to negative effects of Climate Change
6. Aware that the cost of those needs is above the capacity of our countries ,even if the global warming is below 2°C;
7. Knowing that transfer and access to technologies ,capacity-building ,sharing of tools and necessary solutions to combat Climate change are priorities for developing countries in general and African countries especially
8. Taking into account the specificities of CILSS/ECOWAS member countries ,where sectors of Agriculture, livestock and forestry play a key role in food security ,carbon adaptation and sequestration ;
9. Supporting that appropriate adaptation and large scope measures should be implemented to assure resilience in those sectors of CILSS and ECOWAS member countries meeting climate change ;
10. Convinced that Intended Nationally Determined Contributions ,is for African countries in general and CILSS and ECOWAS member countries especially ,an opportunity for a clear vision and the way to follow for a low carbon development and climate resilience ;
11. Considering the declaration of African head of States on agriculture's growth and accelerated transformation in Africa for a shared prosperity and better living condition, adopted by the African Union Conference during the twenty-third ordinary session ,held in Malabo on June 26 and 27 ,2014 ;
12. Considering the Cairo declaration of African Ministerial Conference on Environment held in March 2015 on the management of natural capital of Africa for sustainable development service and poverty eradication ;
13. Considering the interest to include in the new agreement issues related to losses and damages ;
14. Considering the necessity to mainstream gender into Climate change adaptation ;
15. Considering the interest of the sustainable management of water resources in the context of adaptation ;

II) Reminders

1. Reminding the interest of the major adaptation initiatives at African scale ,namely the Great Green Wall, the G5-Sahel,the organisation for the Development of the Senegal River ,the Lake Chad Basin Commission ,The Niger Basin Authority ,the Volta Basin Authority ,the Organisation for the Development of the Gambia River .
2. Reminding the final document of the United Nation Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),entitled « l’avenir que nous voulons »,reaffirming specifically that we should react immediately to inverse land degradation process ,in the framework of objectives prescribed by the United Nation convention to combat desertification ;as well as the proposal of Sustainable Development objective n°15-3 that schedules by “2020,to combat desertification wherever it may come from ,restore degraded lands and soils, namely lands that are impacted by desertification , drought and floods ,and establish a world where soil degradation is no more a problem ” ;
3. Reminding that land restoration permits to conjugate development priorities , food security, climate change mitigation ;
4. Reminding the Lima’s call for Action on Climate ,inviting each party country to communicate to the secretary of the convention its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions in order to meet the ultimate goal of the convention ;

III) Commitments

- **We, Ministers in charge of Environment from the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ,**
- **Met in Niamey on April 28th 2015 during the Regional workshop on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions organized by the Government of the Republic of Niger, CILSS, French Cooperation and the Research Institute for Development**

We agree to commit all the member states to:

1. Defend effectively and efficiently, and at all stages, the African common position of Climate negotiation during the 21st Conference of Parties on climate (COP21) that will be held in Paris (France) in December 2015.
2. Reaffirm the priority that is the adaptation in negotiations ,as expressed by the African group of negotiators and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and namely in the INDCs ;
3. Create favorable conditions for the adoption during COP21 of , a protocol, another legal instrument, or a concerted solution having juridical force according to the convention applicable to all parties, ambitious ,fair and equitable
4. Elaborate as quick as possible the Intended National Determined Contributions “fair and equitable” including ambitiously the sectors of Agriculture, Livestock, and Forestry ;
5. Support to include in the agreement of Paris , the issue of Land Use , due to the importance of carbon sequestration potential in land restoration ;
6. Support in the agenda of solutions the scaling of innovating Climate Change Adaptation practices ,namely the ones of Smart Agriculture meeting climate ,and development of Early Warning Systems ;

7. Strengthen existing observation networks or to be created ,intended for integrated approaches in terms of Climate Change and Sustainable Development
8. Ask to parties and other donors ,the respect of their commitment taken vis-à-vis the Green Climate Funds on the one hand and set up a flexible mechanism to access the fund on the other hand ;
9. Ask the Secretary of the Green Climate Funds ,to accelerate the preparation of our countries to access quickly those funds and assure the allocation of consequent resources of the Green Climate Fund for the sectors of Agriculture, livestock and forestry
10. Support politically the preparation of Sub-regional countries to take benefit of fundings and opportunities in order to implement the REDD+ initiative ;
11. Encourage the civilian society to support the dynamic created since the summit on climate held in September 2014 in New York and participate fully to Climate negotiations in 2015

IV) Aknowledgements

1. Warmly greet the Government of Niger ,France, the UNDP,CILSS,IRD that organized this workshop and exhort them to kindly submit the text of this declaration and the action framework to the international community namely during important meetings such as COP21
2. Gratefully aknowledge the Secretariat of the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification ,advice and technical methodological assistance to countries to facilitate the effective consideration of carbon sequestration potential by lands through restoration of degraded lands and sustainable Land management;
3. Finally, gratefully appreciate the Government of Niger for the warm welcome and excellent organisation of the meeting as well as its contribution to the INDCs process

Adopted by acclamation in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on April 28th 2015.