

**HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON “MIGRATION, LAND DEGRADATION, AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SAHEL COUNTRIES “**

25 – 27 July, 2019,

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

(In commemoration of the African Union Year of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons: Towards Sustainable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa)

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

**OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENT OF G5 SAHEL AT THE
END OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON
“MIGRATION, LAND DEGRADATION, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

July 2019

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

**OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE OF G5 SAHEL
ON MIGRATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HELD IN OUAGADOUGOU
FROM 25 TO 27 JULY, 2019**

We, the Ministers in charge of Environment of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, Madam Commissioner in charge of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission in the presence of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources and of the Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of Burkina Faso, meeting in Ouagadougou under the chairmanship of Honorable Minister **Alpha BARRY**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, representing **His Excellency Mister Christophe Joseph Marie DABIRE, Prime Minister**, and within the framework of the High Level Policy Dialogue of G5 Sahel on Migration, Land Degradation and Sustainable Development;

Welcoming the Report of the preliminary deliberations on the High Level Policy Dialogue on Migration, Land Degradation and Sustainable Development, produced by the meeting of Experts of G5 Sahel countries, of the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat, of the African Union, the African Union Mission for Mali and Sahel (MISAHEL), UNCCD, UN Environment, IOM, FAO, CORAF and Wetlands International, held in Ouagadougou on 25 and 26 July, 2019;

Approve and validate the said Report of Experts subject to the inclusion of the observations and amendments made;

Considering the recommendations emanating from the said Report of Experts;

Welcoming the previous commitments and initiatives of G5 Sahel countries aimed at heightening efforts against land degradation and desertification, and Environment management in the Sahel Sub-Region of Africa, more particularly:

- At the global level, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 3 United Nations Conventions (the Convention to Combat Desertification) (CCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement).

- At the continental level, the African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa 2006(MPFA), the African Agenda 2063, with its seven(07) aspirations; the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods; the TerrAfrica Global Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa; the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI); the triple S initiative “sustainability, stability and security”.

Recognizing that sustainable development leads to multiple gains such as: food security, rural employment and livelihoods, growth in our rapidly transforming economies, a significant contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, peace, security, stability as well as natural resource-related conflict and migration prevention;

Further acknowledging the efforts made by many countries, the successes achieved, and the plans under preparation with the aim of scaling up actions;

Recognizing that an integrated range of interventions in natural resource management, notably in the environmental, agricultural, livestock and fish resources, water and forest domains, can significantly reduce the scope of the problem, and that such interventions are effective and affordable;

Recognizing the need to further improve effectiveness and sustainability, better promote youth and women's participation in these interventions through enhanced knowledge and innovation.

Acknowledging the leadership and continuous support provided by the African Union Commission, and the other African institutions involved;

Recognizing the support that development partners have been providing in terms of capacity building and large-scale investments in sustainable development programmes

We, Ministers in charge of Environment of G5 Sahel countries, **hereby commit ourselves to undertaking the following:**

- ✓ To review and align the national environmental policies and their investment plans with the international, continental and regional initiatives relating to land degradation and migration;
- ✓ Improve the policy and regulatory environment for leveraging private sector financing and investment;

- ✓ Improve, in collaboration with CSO networks and other development partners, youth and women's participation in planning and implementing different programmes related to Migration and sustainable environmental management;
- ✓ Promote the competitiveness of the related ecosystems, based on integrated promotion of landscape resilience, natural resource management, and their respective economic opportunities;
- ✓ Avail a reliable and accessible data collection and capitalization system on environmental migration;
- ✓ Promote the creation of green jobs for vulnerable groups through land restoration in order to combat the root causes of migration;

We call upon the African Union Commission, other African organizations and Technical and Financial Partners to provide their respective support to our countries;

We request the Chair of G5 Sahel to forward the present ministerial Declaration to the AU Commission for acknowledgement;

We hereby thank the Government of Burkina Faso and the African Union Commission through its Specialized Technical Office SAFGRAD for all the arrangements made for the holding of this high level policy dialogue.

Finally, we express our great appreciation to His Excellency Rock Marc Christian KABORE, President of Faso, incumbent Chair of G5

Sahel, and through him, the people of Burkina Faso for the brotherly welcome extended to us, and for the legendary hospitality received during our stay in Burkina Faso.

Done in Ouagadougou, 27 July, 2019

Signed by:

<u>Mister Batio BASSIERE</u> Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Burkina Faso	<u>Mister Almoustapha GARBA</u> Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Niger
Minister in charge of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	<u>Mister Athanase COULIBALY</u> Acting <i>Chargé d’Affaires</i> of the Embassy of Mali to Burkina Faso, Representing the Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Mali
<u>Madam DJERANG SAGLAR</u> Legal Adviser, Representing the Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries of Chad	<u>H.E. Madam Josefa C. SACKO</u> Commissioner in charge of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission