

First Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the GCLME

Introduction



The Meeting was attended by Ministers of Environment from Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo and the Ministers of Fisheries of Angola, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Also in attendance were Representatives of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America (US-NOAA), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as well as representatives of the Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Goodwill messages were received from UNDP, UNEP, GEF, US-NOAA, NEPAD, FAO, UNIDO and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Nigeria. A brief documentary "From Accra to Abuja: The Journey So Far" was projected to show the evolution of the GCLME Project from inception to date. The documentary was well

received and applauded by the Ministers. The Director General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, commended the 16 project countries for the demonstration of collective will to seek concerted solutions to common problems and for putting in place, policies and strategies for moving the project towards the achievement of defined objectives and targets.

The address by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, was presented on his behalf by Mr. Obong Ufot Ekaette, Secretary to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Mr. S. O. Adekunle gave the vote of thanks. The Abuja Declaration was presented to the Committee of Ministers. After extensive discussions the Ministers unanimously adopted the Abuja Declaration, which established the Interim Guinea Current Commission.



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