

## *WELCOME TO THE FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS Abuja, Nigeria, 21 - 22 September, 2006*

Excellencies,

The UNIDO Director General, His Excellency Dr Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella will welcome you formally during the Opening Ceremony to this First Meeting of the Committee of Ministers responsible for the project taking place in the beautiful city of Abuja, Nigeria.

For now, it is both my privilege and honour to say an initial welcome to you via the medium of this Special Edition of the Newsletter to the first high level meeting of the project. This issue brings to you snippets of the old (those who signed the Abuja Declaration, 1998) and the new (those gathering to sign the Abuja Declaration, 2006)

With the so many high level meetings going on this week from New York to Malabo, your choice to be at the GCLME meeting in Abuja is both humbling and inspirational to me and all those associated with the project.

As I welcome you, I wish to recognize your individual and collective genius; I wish to pay tribute to your wisdom; I wish to salute your tenacity. Deriving from my personal interactions with you, I wish to tell you how lucky I feel to be associated with your Excellencies and how I am encouraged to give the best I can in an effort not to disappoint the expectations which you have so often reiterated to me at our several meetings both in your countries as well as at many international fora.

As we begin our march at this meeting towards the long term sustainability of the results and expected outcomes of the GCLME project through the creation of an Interim Guinea Current Commission (later, the Guinea Current Commission), I wish to re-dedicate myself to the tasks ahead. I am joined in this determination by my staff at the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) which is to become the Executive Secretariat and by the National Project Directors and their retinue of Experts.

Together with all other stakeholders in the project, including the Private Sector and non-governmental Organizations, as well as the UN and non-UN Organizations, the will to succeed has never been stronger.

I am pleased to acknowledge the personal attachment of the UNIDO Director General to this project. It derives from a long association with, and intimate knowledge of, the project dating back to the Gulf of Guinea LME pilot phase.

I wish to end by expressing gratitude to our host, the Nigerian Minister of Environment Chief Mrs Helen Esuene and to the UNIDO Project Manager, Dr Chika Ukwe whose commitment and untiring energy ensured that we are able to gather in Abuja 21-22 September 2006.

Accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration

**Prof Chidi IBE,**

**Regional Director, GCLME**



# MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENT IN THE GCLME COUNTRIES



HE. Salomao Xirimimbi  
Angola



HE. Okoulou -Kachati Issifou  
Togo



HE. Shernoh Jalloh  
Sierra Leone



HE. Deolindo Costa de Boa  
Sao Tome & Principe



HE. Fodee Kromah  
Liberia



HE. Jean Pierre Babatunde  
Benin



President of Nigeria  
Chief Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo  
Chief Host



HE. Aristides Ocantas da Silva  
Guinea Bissau



HE. Pierre Helle  
Cameroon



HE. Mamoudou Keita  
Guinea



HE. Henry Djombo  
Congo



HE. Kandeh Yumkella  
Dir. Gen., UNIDO  
Host



HE. Helen Esuene  
Nigeria  
Host



HE. Vicente Rodriguez Siosá  
Equatorial Guinea



HE. Jacques Andoh  
Côte d'Ivoire



HE. Anselme Enerunga  
D. R. Congo



HE. Georgette Koko  
Gabon



HE. Stephen Asamoah Boateng  
Ghana

*From the Archives !*  
**ACCRA DECLARATION - 1998**

**First Meeting of the Ministerial Committee**

Upon invitation from the Government of Ghana through Honourable J.E. Afful, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana, the first meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the GOG-LME Project was convened at the Accra International Conference Centre on 9th and 10th of July 1998.

The meeting was chaired by Hon. I.K. Adjei-Mensah, Ghana's Minister of Works and Housing, who noted his own Ministry's interest in the project, in relation to activities on Coastal Erosion. His introductory remarks were followed by welcome words from Hon. J.F. Afful, Ghana's Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, who underlined the need for integrated coastal zone management strategies at the national and sub-regional levels, and the important role of the Project therein.

Mr. A. Janneh, UNDP Representative, thereafter reiterated his satisfaction with the progress made by the project, and confirmed the commitment of UNDP and GEF to continue to offer their support.

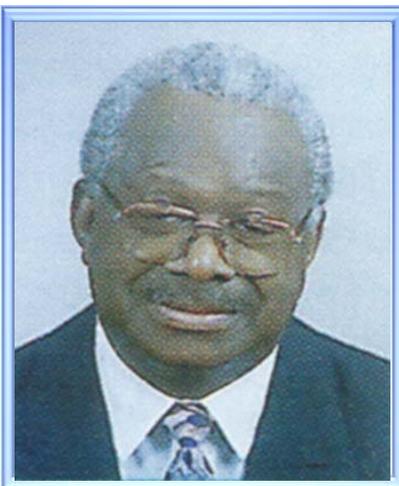
Official opening of the meeting was by His Excellency, the Vice-president of Ghana, Prof. J.E.A Mills, who stressed the importance of the project as an instrument for regional cooperation.

The Committee of Ministers reviewed the key results obtained by the project, upon presentation of the project progress and highlights by the Regional Coordinator, Prof. Chidi Ibe. Dr. Zoltan Csizer, Director of the Cleaner production and Environmental Management Branch of UNIDO, in turn, presented the deliberations and recommendations of the Tripartite Review and Steering Committee Meeting, which after a short deliberation received the official approval by the Ministerial Committee.

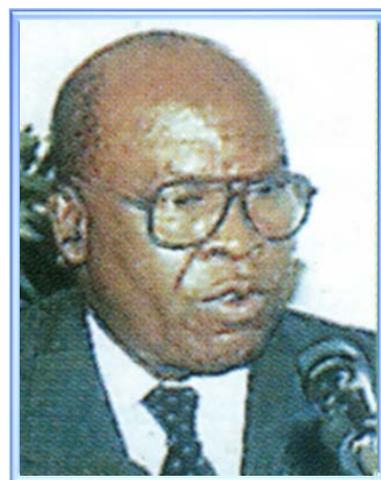
After Dr. Csizer's presentation, Mr. C.T. Sakho, UNIDO Representative in Cote d'Ivoire, introduced the Draft of the Accra Declaration and letter to the UNDP Administrator and CEO of GEF. Through signing of the Declaration, the GOG-LME Project was guaranteed the needed political direction for it to proceed. A final resolution put emphasis on some key directions for the future:

- # The project should be extended to the other countries bordering the Guinea Current.
- # Priority attention should be given to the coastal erosion problem.
- # The Ministers should be kept well informed, e.g. through submission of six-monthly progress reports directly to the Ministers.

*GOG LME Ministers Responsible for the*  
**ACCRA DECLARATION - 1998**



*HE Sylvain Akindes,*  
*Benin*



*HE J.E. Afful,*  
*Ghana*



*HE Sylvestre Naah Ondo,*  
*Cameroon*



*HE Dr. Adewole Raphael,*  
*Nigeria*



*HE Albert Kakou Tiapani,*  
*Côte d'Ivoire*



*HE Koffi Sany Santy Adade,*  
*Togo*