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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Seventy-second Ordinary Session/
Seventh Ordinary Session of the AEC
6 – 8 July, 2000
Lome, Togo

CM/Rpt (LXXII)

Report of the Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the OAU/Seventh Ordinary Session of the AEC Council of Ministers

REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Introduction

1. The Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers and the Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Economic Community was held at the Palais des Congres in Lome, Togo from 6 to 8 July, 2000. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho and Chairman of the Seventy-First Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

Opening Ceremony

2. After solemnly declaring open, the Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, the Chairman invited the guest of honour, H.E. Mr. Eugene Koffi Adoboli, Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo, to deliver his opening address.

Opening Address by H.E. Mr. Eugene Koffi Adoboli, Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo

3. In his opening statement, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo, H.E. Mr. Eugene Koffi Adoboli, on behalf of the Head of State, His Excellency, President Gnassingbe EYADEMA, the Government and the people of Togo, welcomed all the delegations and wished them a pleasant stay in Togo.

4. He then dwelt extensively on the political situation on the Continent which he described as worrying, owing to persistent conflicts which claim thousands of lives, lead to mass exodus of refugees and hamper the development efforts of African countries.

5. The Honourable Prime Minister underscored the need to put an end to those crises and wars, and to create conditions for genuine peace and stability, a prerequisite for durable social and economic development.

6. In this connection, he hailed the efforts and positive results achieved by the Current Chairman of the OAU, H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, that had culminated in the signing of a ceasefire agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia. He also lauded the on-going initiatives to restore peace and

security to the Great Lakes Region, and appealed to all the parties concerned to cooperate in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.

7. Recalling that sanctions imposed on some countries had seriously impacted negatively on innocent populations, the Prime Minister welcomed with satisfaction the lifting of sanctions imposed on Libya and the Sudan.

8. The Honourable Prime Minister underscored the need for African countries to demonstrate political will and commitment in order to grapple successfully with the phenomenon of globalisation. This should be demonstrated by an acceleration of the process of regional and continental integration. According to the Prime Minister, the holding of the First Session of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa, as well as efforts aimed at the establishment of the African Union were all geared towards that objective. Touching on issues of public health, the Honourable Prime Minister called for speedy implementation of the Summit recommendations on Malaria, as well as those of the meeting of Health Ministers on AIDS, two pandemics which claim more lives than all the wars and natural disasters on the Continent.

9. Recalling that the OAU has been the institutional framework on which the destiny of the Continent lay, the Prime Minister pleaded for the safeguarding of this African consultation framework and called for improvement in the financial situation of the Organization in order to endow the Secretariat with necessary resources for the attainment of the objectives assigned to it by Member States.

Reply by H.E. Mr. Santiago Nsobeya EFUMAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea

10. The response to the address of H.E. Mr. Eugene Koffi Adoboli, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo was given by H. E. Mr. S.N. EFUMAN, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of the 72nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. The Council, the Minister stated, was greatly honoured to be meeting in the beautiful city of Lome, at the historic moment in the life of the Organization.

11. He thanked the Prime Minister for his inspiring address and for finding the time to participate in the proceedings of the Council. He also

thanked the government and people of Togo, and particularly the President of the Republic, H.E. Gnassingbe Eyadema, for the typically African welcome and the facilities placed at the disposal of the meeting, and which would guarantee the smooth running and success the Session.

Statement by the Secretary-General of the OAU

12. The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity started his statement by welcoming all the Ministers to the 72nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. He then thanked the Prime Minister, Hon. Mr. Eugene Koffi Adoboli, and requested him to convey to the Government and People of Togo, Council's appreciation of the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations since their arrival in the city of Lome.

13. He recalled the numerous international Conferences and negotiations that had been held in Lome, thus making the venue for the present session of Council, a point of convergence for the continent's partnership. The Secretary General also paid tribute to the Outgoing Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Thomas Thabane, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho, for the skillful manner in which he had discharged his duties during his term of office.

14. Turning to the conflict situation that has continued to ravage the continent, the Secretary-General regretted that despite the existence of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, African peoples continued to suffer and die simply because of divergences in ideals, perspectives and differences in identities. He deplored the fact that due to the persistence of conflicts and anarchy in some of the societies, it would appear that people were beginning to lose the sense of sanctity of life, as innocent women and infants were being mutilated.

15. As to the level of poverty and the deteriorating economic and living conditions of the African people, which were further compounded by frequent recurrence of natural disasters, the Secretary-General lamented the inability of Member States to respond promptly and effectively in order to deal with the challenges posed.

16. On a positive note, Council was informed about the agreement reached on the cessation of hostilities in the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. While welcoming the good omen of the Agreement signed under the auspices of the Current Chairman of the OAU, President Abdelaziz

Bouteflika, the Secretary General underlined the determination of the General Secretariat to work with both Ethiopia and Eritrea, together with Africa's partners in the peace process to ensure that peace would be sustained and a comprehensive peace settlement concluded.

17. With reference to the conflict in Sierra Leone, he expressed appreciation for the collective efforts deployed by the leadership of ECOWAS in successfully dealing with the forces that had sought to undermine the Lome Agreement.

18. The Secretary-General noted that the recent conflicts between Rwandan and Ugandan forces in Kisangani, were most disturbing; he however, welcomed the agreement reached in Entebbe between Presidents Museveni of Uganda and Kagame of Rwanda. He expressed the hope that there would be no recurrence of fighting between those forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

19. Council's attention was drawn to one of the important items on its agenda which was the call for the creation of the African Union and the acceleration of the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, including the establishment of the African Parliament. In this connection, the Secretary General urged the Ministers to consider the recommendations arising from the Ministerial meeting held in Tripoli and the earlier meetings of Legal Experts and Parliamentarians, especially those on the outstanding issues like the transition period between the phasing out of the OAU Charter and coming into force of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

20. Before concluding his statement the Secretary-General dwelt on the devastating scourge of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic and its destructive effects, not only on the African population but on the socio-economic fabric of the countries as well. He, therefore, called for extra-ordinary measures to meet such an extra-ordinary challenge. In that regard, he was confident that the Lome Summit of the OAU would come up with practical measures involving every corner of the continent and all levels of societies in their struggle for survival.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

21. Mr. Amoako's Statement was read to Council, on his behalf by Mrs. Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECA. Mr. Amoako's statement touched on issues relating to peace, stability and the need to

deepen political and economic reforms as necessary conditions for Africa's development in the 21st Century. He focused specifically on the issue of investment in Africa's human capital which he stressed to be important in the promotion of regional integration and in exploiting opportunities provided by new information and communication technologies, as well as for achieving peace and security in the Continent.

22. He pointed out that the major UN Conferences just concluded, namely the World Education Forum in Dakar (April 2000), and the Fourth Conference on Women in New York (June 2000) had served as a reminder that no country that disinvested in its most precious resource, its people, could hope to prosper. To this end, he encouraged African countries to renew their commitments to a series of specific targets for placing people at the centre of development. Referring to the ECA Second African Development Forum (ADF 2000) in Addis Ababa in October, Mr. Amoako lauded the OAU initiative to feature a special session of the 2000 Summit on HIV/AIDS. He concluded by advocating a regional approach to help African countries revitalise the contribution of education to economic growth, poverty reduction and democratic and regionally integrated societies.

Statement by H.E. Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho and Outgoing Chairman of the Council

23. The Outgoing Chairman of the Seventy-first Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers started by thanking his fellow Ministers for the support he had received from them during his tenure of office. He stated that, though short, his tenure had witnessed a number of important events and initiatives. In this regard, he singled out the following: the first ever Africa-Europe Summit which was organized in April in Egypt; the first Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) which was held in May in Nigeria; and the peace agreement and cessation of hostilities which were successfully negotiated between Ethiopia and Eritrea under the leadership of H.E. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, the OAU Chairman.

24. Expressing concern on the situation in Sierra Leone, particularly as regards the abduction of UN soldiers and the attendant negative impact on peace-keeping operations worldwide, the outgoing Chairman informed Council that the OAU had worked closely with the ECOWAS leaders in the search for a lasting solution to the Sierra Leone problem. As regards the

Central African region, while fighting between the Rwandan and Ugandan forces in the Kisangani area of the DRC was regrettable, recent developments in Burundi were very encouraging. However, the situations in Angola, Somalia and the Comoros continued to be a cause for concern.

25. In the field of democracy and good governance, the outgoing Chairman noted that the OAU had participated in monitoring elections that had been successfully conducted in Senegal and Zimbabwe. On the economic integration front, he recalled the first meeting of Legal Experts and Parliamentarians on the establishment of the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament held in Addis Ababa in April which was followed by a Ministerial meeting in Tripoli in May/June, that had adopted the Draft Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Draft Protocol on the Pan-African Parliament.

26. The Outgoing Chairman then informed Council of the meeting of energy experts and technicians in May in Cairo, Egypt on the establishment of the African Energy Commission. The Draft Statutes adopted by that meeting would be considered by ECOSOC and the African Energy Ministers before being presented to Summit in 2001. On the issue of ECOSOC itself, he informed Council that its Fourth Ordinary Session had been postponed to a future date.

27. The Outgoing Chairman further informed Council that the outcome of the first Africa-Europe Summit was the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action, both of which aimed at strengthening relations between Africa and Europe, particularly as regards key issues in Africa's socio-economic development. He singled out for special mention the Follow-Up Mechanism which was established to ensure effective implementation of the Plan of Action.

28. Thereafter, the Outgoing Chairman thanked the host country for the hospitality extended to all delegations, and facilities put at the disposal of Council. He concluded by regretting that Africa had failed to secure the chance of hosting the Soccer World Cup Finals in 2006, stating that "the struggle will continue until the world notices that African is here to stay".

Statement by the Incoming Chairman of the Seventy-second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Mr. Kokou Joseph Koffigoh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Togo.

29. In his acceptance speech, the Incoming Chairman of the 72nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Kokou Joseph Koffigoh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Togo expressed satisfaction with the confidence reposed in him by the Council, by electing him Chairman of the current session. He expressed his gratitude for the trust, friendship and esteem shown to his country, adding that he was counting on the cooperation and support of all in order to carry out his new assignment in the interest of Africa, especially at the crucial moment when the Continent must find appropriate solutions to the numerous challenges facing it in the political, economic and social spheres.

30. The Honourable Minister underscored the conditions for success in the search for such solutions, namely peace, mutual understanding and solidarity which, as in other parts of the world, would enable African countries to effectively wage the battle for economic and social development.

31. To this end, he welcomed the declaration of the Year 2000 by African Heads of State and Government as the "Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa". He also lauded the holding of the First Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa.

32. The Honourable Minister called on Council to pursue and intensify, as a matter of priority, its deliberations with a view to recommending to the forthcoming OAU Summit bold and innovative solutions to enable Africa to grapple with the challenges of the day and adapt to the changes taking place in the world. In that regard, he emphasized that the OAU should remain the most appropriate framework to help steer Africa out of its current problems. He further stated, that it was necessary to renew and consolidate the resources available to the OAU, thereby enabling the Continent to fully assume and effectively play its role in the world.

33. At the political level, the Honourable Koffigoh cited the Sirte Declaration as a decisive step towards the consolidation of African unity of action and a demonstration of a common resolve to make Africa a center for development and progress for all.

34. In the economic field, the Chairman highlighted the importance and relevance of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty as instruments whose effective implementation would make it possible to address the numerous challenges facing the Continent and provide a new impetus to the economies of African countries. In that regard, the Honourable Minister expressed satisfaction with the relative dynamism of African regional and sub-regional economic organizations, whose activities must, however aim, first and foremost, at the establishment of the African Economic Community, more so as the impact of globalisation was likely to lead to further marginalisation of Africa. Hence, the imperative need to seize the opportunity offered by the new orientations in Afro-American and Euro-African relations in order for the Continent to brace itself, map out priorities with commitment to concretize these priorities through a collective and decisive action.

35. On the social plane, the Honourable Minister emphasized that the OAU must play a prominent role in combating AIDS, malaria and drug trafficking, the disastrous effects of which were impacting negatively on Africa's human capital and posed a serious threat to the Continent's development. In that regard, the Honourable Minister hailed all the initiatives taken on the Continent aimed at eradicating these scourges, particularly the Libreville Summit on Poverty Reduction, the Abjua Meeting on the Roll-back Malaria Campaign and the Ouagadougou Ministerial Conference on AIDS Control.

36. Concluding, the Honourable Minister stressed that the fundamental objectives of the OAU remained peace, security, stability and unity whose attainment was the only way of enabling Africa to steer itself out of marginalization by purposefully relying on itself, thereby taking its destiny in its own hand, as well as to make itself heard and respected, and assume its place and role in the international community.

Election of the Bureau

37. On the recommendation of the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Addis Ababa, the Ambassador of Senegal, Council elected the Bureau and the Members of the Drafting Committee of the 72nd Ordinary Session as follows:

Bureau

-	Chairman	-	Togo
-	lst Vice Chairman	-	Republic of Congo
-	2nd Vice Chairman	-	Tanzania
-	3rd Vice Chairman	-	Tunisia
-	Rapporteur	-	South Africa

Drafting Committee

- Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Zambia.

38. Council also accepted the recommendation tabled by the Dean that Equatorial Guinea and Madagascar should reply to the opening address by the representative of the host country and move the vote of thanks at the end of the session, respectively.

Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 72nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Minsiters

39. The Agenda was adopted as submitted:

I. a) Opening Ceremony

b) Election of Officers

c) Organization of Work

d) Adoption of the Agenda

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2000:

1. Headquarters — **CM/2161 (LXXII) Part I**

2. Regional and Sub-Regional Offices — **CM/2161 (LXXII) Part II**

III. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIRTE DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE FOURTH EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON 9 SEPTEMBER, 1999:

1. Report of the Ministerial Meeting on the Draft Treaty establishing the African Union and the Draft Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, relating to the Pan-African Parliament, held in Tripoli, Libya, 27 May to 2 June 2000 **CM/2162 (LXXII)**

2. Report of the Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA), held in Abuja, Nigeria, 5 – 9 May, 2000 **CM/2163 (LXXII)**

IV. POLITICAL QUESTIONS

1. Report of the Secretary-General on:

   a) Angola **CM/2164 (LXXII)-a**
   b) Burundi **CM/2164 (LXXII)-b**
   c) Comoros **CM/2164 (LXXII)-c**
   d) Democratic Republic of Congo **CM/2164 (LXXII)-d**
   e) Sierra Leone **CM/2164 (LXXII)-e**
   f) Somalia **CM/2164 (LXXII)-f**

2. Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons **CM/2165 (LXXII)**

3. Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Algiers Decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers on Unconstitutional Changes of Government **CM/2166 (LXXII)**

4. Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine **CM/2167 (LXXII)**

5. Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East **CM/2168 (LXXII)**

6. Report of the Secretary-General on developments in the dispute between Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, USA and Great Britain **CM/2169 (LXXII)**

7. Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace Fund **CM/2170 (LXXII)**

8. Report of the OAU Commission on Refugees on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa **CM/2171(LXXII) Rev.1**

V. ECONOMIC , SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MATTERS:

1. Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community: **The Way Forward** **CM/2177 (LXXII)**

2. Report of the Yamoussoukro Conference on the Liberalisation of Access to Transport Markets in Africa **CM/2178 (LXXII)**

3. Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Decisions and Regulations adopted by the Algiers Summit and Council of Ministers **CM/2179 (LXXII)**

4. Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth Conference of African Ministers of Health (CAMH6) held in Cairo, Egypt, -21 October, 1999 **CM/2173 (LXXII)**

5. Report of the Secretary-General on the

Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Algiers, Algeria, 16-21 April, 2000 **CM/2174 (LXXII)**

6. Report of the Secretary-General on the Special Session of the OAU Ministers of Health on HIV/AIDS in Africa held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 7-9 May, 2000 **CM/2175 (LXXII)**

7. Report of the Secretary-General on the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute **CM/2176 (LXXII)**

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS AND OTHER PLENIPOTENTIARIES

VII. ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBER STATES

Item proposed by the African Group in New York **CM/2152 (LXXII) Add.6**

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 36TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

IX. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Organization of Work

40. The meeting adopted the following hours for its work:

10.00 a.m.	-	13.00 p.m.
16.00 p.m.	-	19.00 p.m.

Agenda Item II: **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2000 - DOC. CM/2161 (LXXII) PART I & PART II**

41. All delegations that intervened under this item expressed appreciation to the Togolese Government and people for the cordial welcome and warm hospitality extended to them since arrival in Lome. They also commended the Secretary-General for a comprehensive report of high quality, on the activities of the General Secretariat.

42. The situations of conflict on the continent were the focus of much attention during the Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's report.

43. Council welcomed the successful conclusion of an Agreement in Algiers between Ethiopia and Eritrea on cessation of hostilities and expressed optimism at the re-establishment of fraternal relations between the two countries. Council expressed special appreciation to the Current Chairman and to the Secretary-General of the OAU, for the remarkable achievement. It called on all Member States and Africa's friends to assist in the consolidation of peace. It also expressed its appreciation to the UN, EU and the USA for the support they had extended to the OAU efforts.

44. Regarding the situation in Sierra Leone, Council commended the efforts of ECOWAS leaders that had led to the Lome Peace Accord, but warned that recent events, including the kidnapping of UN peacekeepers by the RUF, could lead to a further deterioration of the situation in that country. Council held the RUF responsible for the deterioration of the situation in Sierra Leone. Council also reviewed developments in the Great Lakes Region including the DRC, and emphasized the need for effective implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.

45. Special recognition was accorded by Council to the current initiatives aimed at tackling conflicts in certain regions in the continent, such as those in respect of Sudan and Somalia. Council stressed the need to ensure the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of these countries, as part of any further solution to deal with the problems.

46. On the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons, support was expressed for the convening of the proposed conference in Mali. It was proposed that the Conference should be held later in the month of November 2000.

47. Besides the issues of conflict, the Council also reviewed other challenges in the Continent, in particular the social economic situation, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic in respect of which it was decided to transmit the report of the Ouagadougou Ministerial Conference to the Lome Summit of the OAU. Council welcomed the conclusion of the First Africa-Europe Summit held in Cairo from April 3rd to 4th 2000 under the aegis of the OAU and the EU, and expressed its appreciation for the African solidarity that had constituted a major contributory factor in the success of the Summit, especially in tackling issues of critical concern to Africa's development.

48. Council also accepted the proposal from Togo that a decision should be adopted calling for the cessation of all hostilities by all parties involved in conflicts during the 2000 Olympic games, by linking the games to the promotion of dialogue among all the parties during that period.

49. The Head of delegation of Nigeria informed Council of Nigeria's offer to host the headquarters of the Centre for Disaster Management and Coordination in Africa.

50. The Head of the SADR provided supplementary information on developments in his country including the visit of Mr. James Baker, Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, to the region. He regretted the fact that the visit did not bring about any progress in the efforts to implement the UN Plan for Western Sahara, including the holding of the proposed referendum in Western Sahara. He attributed this to the obstacles placed by other parties.

51. The Head of the delegation of the SADR, confirmed his government's rejection of the third option currently being canvassed by some governments and which were aimed at blocking the holding of the proposed Referendum.

52. In drawing attention to the prospects for a resumption of conflict in the region, the Minister appealed to the OAU and the UN as moral guarantors to the UN Peace Plan for Western Sahara, to exert more efforts to provide momentum for the implementation of the Plan.

Agenda Item III: **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIRTE DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON 9.9.99. – (CM/2162 (LXXII), CM/2163 (LXXII)**

1. Report of the Ministerial Meeting on the Draft Treaty establishing the African Union and the Draft Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, relating to the Pan-African Parliament, held in Tripoli, Libya – 27 May to 2 June, 2000

53. The Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sirte Declaration was presented by the Assistant Secretary-General in-charge of Political Affairs. In his presentation, the Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the activities undertaken to implement the aspects of the Sirte Declaration relating to the establishment of the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament. In that regard, he briefed the meeting on the outcome of the two meetings of Legal Experts and Parliamentarians held in Addis Ababa and Tripoli from 17 to 21 April, 2000 and 27 to 29 May, 2000, respectively, as well as the Ministerial Conference held in Tripoli, from 31 May to 2 June, 2000. He recalled that the Ministerial Conference had benefited from addresses by the Leader of the Libyan Revolution and the leaders of Mali, Ghana, Liberia, Sudan and Senegal, who had stressed the historic significance of the meeting and the need for an institutional framework which would advance the unity and solidarity of the African people.

54. In the general debate that followed, 26 delegations intervened in the deliberations of this important agenda item. Most delegations commended the quality of the work done by the Ministerial Meeting in Tripoli and, in particular, the Committee chaired by H.E. Mr. Modibo Sidibe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mali, and subsequently by the General Secretariat under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

55. During the discussions, two major trends emerged.

56. The first major trend comprised interventions that called for more time to be accorded for the consideration and finalization of the Draft Constitutive Act. It was felt that the reality of the African situation required appropriate measures to be taken to bring African societies

together and to take African populations along in the common endeavour to establish the African Union. In support of that argument, it was stated that the final texts emanating from the Tripoli meeting had not been circulated to Member States well in time to facilitate adequate consideration. It was further argued that the African Union has grave and complex implications which called for a steady and slow pace of implementation. This approach was seen as enabling all Member States to be brought on board and ensuring a smooth transition from the OAU to the African Union. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the time-frame of implementation should be realistic so that the final outcome would not remain a mere technical document that would not reflect the common will of all stake-holders.

57. To that end, it was suggested that if more time was required, Council should put a proposal to the Assembly to that effect and avoid sending a half-baked document to the Summit. It was also suggested that the final legal text should be the result of consensus in order to ensure its effective implementation. Some delegations also underlined the need to build and strengthen democratic institutions in all Member States as well as consolidate the Regional Economic Communities, before establishing the African Union. It was proposed that focussed attention be given to areas of common interest, such as eradicating poverty, combating drought and desertification, water and sanitation, fighting diseases, etc. Finally, delegations underscored the need for a common vision, mutual trust and unity of purpose in dealing with an issue of such importance and complexity as the establishment of the African Union, in order to ensure that a proper foundation was laid for it. To that end, they stressed the need to avoid division on the Continent at all costs.

58. The second major trend was to the effect that a lot of work had been accomplished by the previous Ministerial Meeting in Tripoli. Consequently, Council was called upon to build upon that achievement rather than start its work afresh. It was indicated that the best approach was rather for Council to continue from where the Ministerial Meeting had left and examine the bracketed articles in the Draft Constitutive Act establishing the African Union and the Draft Protocol relating to the Pan-African Parliament. Furthermore, it was argued that the time-frame stipulated by the leaders in the Sirte Declaration had to be respected by the Ministers. It was suggested that the present Session of Council should concentrate on issues of form, to see if the legal text conformed to their wishes since the Ministerial meeting had come out with a consensus document.

59. In that regard, it was observed that Africa was a theatre of fifteen civil wars, some of which had more or less led to the collapse of some States. It was underscored that disunity was the cause of poverty and state failure and that the solution was to unite for the well-being of the peoples of the Continent. Furthermore, it was stressed that unity could only be achieved through ambitious and courageous decisions in the same vein as the Sirte Declaration. In the view of these delegations, the spirit of consensus reflected in the text adopted by the Ministerial Conference in Tripoli should not, therefore, be put to jeopardy.

60. On the Pan-African Parliament, it was proposed by one delegation that the Draft Protocol should be referred for further examination by a meeting of African Parliamentarians convened for the purpose. The same delegation recalled that it had made the same proposal in Tripoli and was under the impression that it had been accepted by the Ministerial Meeting. A contrary view was expressed that the Draft Protocol presented no problems and should be approved by Council and submitted to the Summit for its consideration and approval.

61. In summing up the debate, the Chairman noted that 26 delegations had taken the floor and had reiterated their support for the Sirte Declaration and the establishment of the African Union. He further noted that some delegations had continued to underline the need to tread carefully, and hence the need for more time. Other delegations had expressed the view that there was need to consider the two texts. The Chairman proposed that, in view of the sensitivity and importance of the issue, deliberations on the matter should be adjourned to allow for more consultations in order to find a level ground and make progress. On the Pan-African Parliament, Council agreed to refer the Draft Protocol to a meeting of African Parliamentarians for further examination before submission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government through the Council of Ministers.

62. At the end of the consultations, it was agreed that the Committee chaired by Mali, and which had examined the Draft Treaty in Tripoli in detail, should be reconstituted to examine the legal text and to report back to the Plenary.

63. In addition to the original members of that Committee, members of the Bureau of the Seventy-second Ordinary Session of Council were also invited to participate in the consultations. The Committee subsequently

submitted the amended Draft Constitutive Act to Council for its consideration. The Committee was composed as follows:

1. Mali (Chair)
2. Libya
3. Lesotho
4. Ghana
5. Uganda
6. Congo Republic *
7. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
8. Nigeria
9. Chad
10. Equatorial Guinea
11. Gabon
12. Mozambique
13. South Africa *
14. Algeria
15. Gambia
16. Mauritius
17. Togo*
18. Tanzania*
19. Tunisia *
20. Sudan
21. Ethopia

* *Member of the Bureau of the Seventy-second Ordinary Session of Council*

2. Report of the Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA), held in Abuja, Nigeria, 5-9 May, 2000 (Doc. CM/2163 (LXXII)

64. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs introduced the Report of the First Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (CSSDCA). He recalled that the convening of the Conference in Abuja, the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 8 to 9 May, 2000, was in pursuance of the mandate contained in the Sirte Declaration of 9.9.99 adopted by the Fourth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sirte in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

65. The Assistant Secretary-General informed Council that the Abuja Conference was officially opened by H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who recalled the history and strategic vision behind the initiative, as well as its continued relevance as a framework for providing a comprehensive and integrated continental response to the challenges of peace and development in Africa.

66. Council was informed that the deliberations at the Conference were preceded by presentations of the thematic topics of Security, Stability,

Development and Cooperation, by four Experts and Resource Persons drawn from different parts of the Continent. Thereafter, the Conference had discussed in an in-depth and frank manner, the multifaceted challenges confronting the African Continent related to the areas covered in the CSSDCA Calabashes – Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa.

67. Council was further informed that the meeting adopted a final document incorporating a Declaration of Principles, a Plan of Action and an Implementation Mechanism for Advancing and Sustaining the CSSDCA process. Council was further informed that the Conference made the following recommendations for adoption by Council and for endorsement by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government:

a) Establish a Standing Conference which should meet every two years during our Summit. Provision should be made for African Parliamentarians to make their contributions to the Conference through the Pan-African Parliament, while representatives of the civil society may forward their views and recommendations to the Standing Conference through the OAU General Secretariat;

b) Convene Review Meetings of Plenipotentiaries and Senior Officials of OAU Member States to monitor the implementation of the CSSDCA decisions, in-between Sessions of the Standing Conference. To this end, the Secretary-General is to work out the modalities and financial implications for realizing this objective;

c) Incorporate CSSDCA principles and guidelines in national institutions that would have responsibility for helping in the monitoring of the implementations of CSSDCA activities;

d) Request the Secretary-General to initiate internal administrative arrangements for designating, within the OAU Secretariat, a Unit to coordinate CSSDCA activities;

e) Take necessary measures to ensure that detailed discussions are undertaken on the various Calabashes in order to implement the CSSDCA process. In this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to coordinate the consultations with a

view to ensuring the convening of the meetings on the Calabashes.

68. In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary-General informed Council that the Secretariat had worked out budget estimates for the setting up of the Coordination Unit within the General Secretariat and other activities to follow up the implementation of the Initiative. He stated that the financial implications for the initiative were estimated at US$779,747.00 for an initial period of three years. He also stated that the Secretariat was undertaking consultations with OAU Member States regarding the convening of the meetings on the four Calabashes.

69. In the ensuing debate, the delegations that took the floor, expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far in the implementation of the Sirte Declaration's mandate to convene an African Ministerial Conference on the CSSDCA.

70. Delegations paid tribute to H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the initiative to launch the CSSDCA process. They emphasized the link between development and security and urged that the two were inseparable. It was observed that at a time when the Continent was engulfed in conflicts, it was imperative that matters of security, stability, development and cooperation be given a high priority. Delegates also emphasized the need to take decisive measures to ensure a speedy implementation of the CSSDCA process, especially as the year 2000 had been declared as the year of peace, security and solidarity in Africa, by the Algiers Summit.

71. The Head of the delegation of Lesotho informed the Council that given the importance of the CSSDCA process, his country was exploring the possibility of hosting one of the meetings on the Four Calabashes. The delegation of Libya called upon Member States to make voluntary contributions for the implementation of the CSSDCA process. He also urged Member States to contemplate the possibility of making provisions for statutory budgetary allocations for the CSSDCA process to complement the extra-budgetary resources that were to be mobilized.

72. At the end of its deliberations, Council took note of the Report and decided to submit the Report and the CSSDCA draft Declaration to the 36th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption.

Agenda Item IV: POLITICAL QUESTIONS

a) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Angola - Doc. CM/2164 (LXXII)-a

73. The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Political Affairs presented the Report on Angola, which reviewed, on a case by case basis, the military and humanitarian situation in that country, as well as the extent of implementation of sanctions imposed by the Security Council on UNITA, and supported by the OAU.

74. With particular reference to the latter issue, he drew the attention of Council to the contents of the report of the group of experts of the UN (Fowler Report) Sanctions Committee and to Security Council Resolution 1295 of 18 April, 2000, which established a mechanism to monitor the application of sanctions against UNITA. The Assistant Secretary-General pointed out that the very existence of the Fowler Report had enabled States and companies within and outside Africa to take measures aimed at strengthening sanctions against UNITA. Finally, he drew the attention of Council to the recommendations made in that Report.

75. Opening the debate in his capacity as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Central African States (ECCAS) and by virtue of the mandate invested in him by the ECCAS Member States at their meeting held in Libreville on 22-23 June, 2000, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea expressed the serious concern of the countries of his region over the situation in Angola, which had not only undermined the development efforts of that country for the past 40 years, but had also constituted a threat to the peace and security of the entire Central Africa Region.

76. He intimated that the situation in Angola had persisted for long because of the reprehensive behaviour of the UNITA leader, Mr. Jonas Savimbi, and the violation by several States and companies of the sanctions imposed on UNITA by the Security Council, as described in the Fowler Report. The Honourable Minister appealed to African States to be united in their actions in order to demonstrate their active solidarity with Angola, and take appropriate measures against Mr. Jonas Savimbi so as to isolate him completely. In that connection, the Honourable Minister stated that a draft decision would be presented to Council on the matter.

77. Other ECCAS Member States and those outside the Region took the floor during the debate. They all held the view that the situation in Angola was becoming increasingly alarming and called for the total isolation of Mr. Savimbi who, by his conduct, had made himself an outlaw. They urged that henceforth all African States should resolve to implement the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on Mr. Savimbi and his movement. Finally, they pledged their support to the resolution which would be tabled on this matter.

78. In view of the humanitarian tragedy which Angola has been confronted with on account of the continued prosecution of the war, the speakers appealed to Member States and the international community to provide the necessary emergency assistance to Angola.

b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Burundi – Doc. CM/2164 (LXXII)-b

79. The Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. It was his view that recent developments in Burundi had given rise to hopes for the attainment of lasting peace in the country. This was reflected in the disposition of the Government and other parties to continue with the peace process, despite the continuing violence perpetrated by those that had chosen to stay out of the negotiation process. Such violence he stated, has continued to cause a serious humanitarian crisis in Burundi, thus aggravating an already difficult economic situation. The assistant Secretary-General also briefed Council on the tireless efforts of Mr. Nelson Mandela, Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process strongly supported by the international community. He expressed the hope that the Burundian Parties seize the golden opportunity for peace and continue to fully cooperate with the Facilitator.

80. During the deliberations of Council on this issue, the Head of the Burundian delegation paid tribute to the memory of the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the Former Facilitator of the peace process. He also commended the current Facilitator for the considerable moral authority he had brought to the process through his new and dynamic approach of engaging Burundian citizens inside and outside the country. He also highlighted what his Government considered to be crucial aspects in the negotiations, including the fact that certain armed groups had yet to participate in the Arusha process, giving rise to concerns over a reversal of the peace process, as well as the fact that the national army and the

armed opposition groups had still to agree on a demobilization and comprehensive integration plan for the Armed Forces.

81. The Head of the Burundian delegation also appealed to the international community for the resumption of international development assistance to his country, as it was going through a critical phase of conflict resolution. He stressed the need to obtain the commitment of the Burundian people to the peace process through the sensitization of the army, the judiciary, religious and civil society associations. That approach, according to him, was critical for the consolidation of the peace process.

82. Finally, he reiterated his hope that a peace Accord could be signed soon but insisted on the need for a prudent handling of the following issues:

- disarmament and demobilization and integration of armed groups into Burundian societies;
- the political transition towards post-conflict society;
- amnesty and pardon; and
- the need to provide guarantees that would ensure that all parties would abide by the terms of the Peace Agreement now being negotiated.

83. At the end of the deliberations, Council took note of the Report of the Secretary-General on Burundi and the recommendations contained therein.

c) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Comoros – Doc. CM/2164 (LXXII)-c

84. The Report of the Secretary General on the situation in the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General Political. The Assistant Secretary General recalled the decisions of the 71st Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the twofold mandate given to the Secretariat to deal with the situation in the Comoros, i.e. the restoration of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros by ending the Anjouanese Separatist crisis; and the return to constitutional order in the country. He also briefed Council on the latest

efforts deployed by the countries of the Region, the OAU Troika and the General Secretariat to enforce the measures approved by the Council in March 2000 against the Anjouanese Separatists, and the engagement of the Comorian Authorities to encourage the military regime to return to constitutional order in compliance with the 1999 Algiers Summit Decision on the unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

85. Council was informed that the first two sets of measures it had authorised in March 2000 against the Anjouanese Separatists were already being implemented and the Secretariat had requested all partners of the OAU to assist in the implementation of the measures in order to isolate the Separatists leadership and exert maximum pressure on them to work for a peaceful and lasting resolution of the problem. With respect to the restoration of constitutional order in the Comoros, the Assistant Secretary General informed Council that the President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, had dispatched a Special Envoy to Col. Azali conveying to him the position of the OAU on the modalities for the return to constitutional order. In order to follow up on President Mbeki's initiative, the Secretary-General dispatched a delegation comprising representatives of the countries of the Region and the Secretariat, led by his Special Envoy to the Comoros, Mr.Francisco Madeira, to the Archipelago from 25 June to 1st July 2000.

86. The delegation met with the Comorian authorities and was able to engage them on issues relating to the return to constitutional order. The delegation also met with Comorian opposition groups, and succeeded in convincing both Parties of the need to engage in direct talks aimed at resolving the current political crisis. The delegation also met with the leadership of the Anjouanese Separatist Movement, following indications that they were disposed to consider signing the Antananarivo Agreement. Despite the efforts of the OAU Team, the Anjouanese Separatist delegation did not sign the Agreement.

87. Finally, the Assistant Secretary General briefed Council on the meeting of the Ministers of the Region and the OAU Troika that had taken place earlier in the day, on the visit of the OAU delegation to the Archipelago. He then submitted for consideration of Council, two major recommendations unanimously agreed upon by the countries of the region and the OAU Troika as follows:

a) **On the Separatist Crisis:**

It was recommended that the military-related measures already adopted by the Ministerial meetings of the countries of the Region and the Troika, and endorsed by the 71st Ordinary session of the council of Ministers, be reaffirmed by Council and proposed to the Assembly of Heads of state and government for consideration and adoption.

b) On the Return to Constitutional Order:

It was recommended that the ongoing efforts should be pursued and intensified, in the light of the initial reaction of the Comorian parties to the proposals submitted by the OAU and of the dialogue already initiated among the concerned Parties.

88. During its deliberations on the issue, Council recognized that the political situation in the Comoros constituted a serious challenge to the cherished OAU principle of respect for the unity and territorial integrity of all Member States. Council also stressed the need to preserve the credibility of the OAU by taking decisive actions in support of the efforts of the countries of the region and the Secretariat.

89. Some delegations, while reiterating their condemnation of the Anjouanese Separatist Movement, expressed their concern over the use of military-related measures to achieve OAU objectives in the Comorian archipelago. Calls were made for further clarification and wide consultations prior to the implementation of the next phase of measures adopted by Council during its 71st Ordinary Session. They stressed therefore the need to extend further the implementation of the current measures, before moving to the stage of military related sanctions.

90. Other delegations, however, took the floor in support of the implementation of the last set of measures i.e. the military-related sanctions. It was felt particularly, that the OAU had done all it could to help the Anjouanese Separatists to comply with the decisions of the OAU and to sign the Antananarivo Agreement and that quick and decisive actions are required to put an end to the crisis and the suffering of the Comorian people.

91. Finally the Secretary General provided a clarification on OAU's decision regarding the participation of Comoros in the Lome meeting. He

stressed that this decision was in compliance with the Algiers Decision on unconstitutional changes, whereby the Heads of State and Government decided not to allow any government that came to power by unconstitutional means, after the Harare Summit, to attend meetings of OAU's Policy Organs. The Secretary General reminded Council that of the three Member States affected by the Decision, two had since reverted to constitutional order. He further indicated that the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros was not the only country affected by the Decision and that he had on several occasions conveyed the position of the OAU regarding the Summit Decision to the Comorian authorities.

d) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo – Doc. CM/2164 (LXXII)-d

92. Presenting the report on the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Political Affairs underscored the efforts deployed by the parties, the OAU and the UN towards implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. He made reference to the work accomplished by the Joint Military Commission and the Political Committee, as well as to the efforts invested by the Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue to prepare the grounds for this dialogue. The Assistant Secretary-General further stated that in the present circumstances, developments in the peace process were not very encouraging owing to repeated violations of the ceasefire, the stalling of the process of National Dialogue, the doubts cast on the person of the Facilitator by the government of DRC and clashes between Rwandan and Ugandan forces in Kisangani.

93. In the ensuing debate, delegations expressed support for the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement as the only negotiated framework accepted by all the parties. They also deplored the fact that, although the Agreement had been signed nearly a year ago, a comprehensive solution to the crisis in the DRC was yet to be found. These delegations therefore called on the parties to respect the Ceasefire Agreement and implement it in good faith.

94. The same delegations expressed the view that all the components of the peace process in the DRC which had been negotiated and embodied in the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement were inter-dependent. They therefore indicated that the National Dialogue, as provided for under the Ceasefire Agreement, was a key element of the peace process.

95. All the delegations which took the floor deplored the fact that the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was no longer cooperating with Sir Ketumile Masire whereas he had been unanimously chosen by the Congolese Parties as Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue. In this connection, they reaffirmed their confidence in Sir Ketumile Masire while recognizing his competence and qualities as a Statesman.

96. The Ugandan and Rwandan delegations briefed Council on the clashes that had occurred in Kisangani between their forces, which they described as "unfortunate". They confirmed that their troops had been withdrawn from the city as provided for in the agreement signed by the two countries. The Ugandan and Rwandan delegations also assured Council that steps had been taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

97. Other delegations which took the floor also deplored the recent clashes between Rwandan and Ugandan troops in Kisangani, more so as such hostilities had taken place on the territory of a sovereign country which is a member of the OAU and the UN. Another delegation demanded that Uganda and Rwanda withdraw their troops from the DRC without delay.

98. Some delegations felt that the sustained efforts deployed at the level of the region, particularly the meetings between the leaders, should make it possible to create an atmosphere conducive to consolidate the implementation of the peace process. In that connection, the meeting between Presidents Laurent Desire Kabila of the DRC and Paul Kagame of Rwanda at Eldoret on 3 June, 2000, was an encouraging sign.

99. Some delegations were of the opinion that deployment of the UN peace-keeping force had now become an urgent necessity if the situation in the DRC was to evolve positively.

100. Lastly, all the delegations which took the floor paid tribute to the leaders of the region, particularly H.E. Frederick Chiluba, President of Zambia and Chairman of the Regional Initiative for Peace in the DRC, H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Current Chairman of the OAU, and commended the Secretary-General for their sustained efforts to find a solution to the crisis in the DRC.

e) **Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Sierra Lone – Doc. CM/2164 (LXXII)-e**

101. The Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Sierra Leone was introduced by the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs. He highlighted the main issues contained in the document and provided an extensive update on the evolution of the situation in that country, since the Report was prepared. To that end, he referred to the problems encountered in the implementation of the Lome Peace Agreement signed in Lome on 7th July 1999, which difficulties included the taking of UN personnel as hostages, the seizure of arms from the Guinean and UN Kenyan contingents by the RUF and its refusal to disarm in large numbers. In the light of that situation, the Current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Alfa Omar Konare, had convened a series of meetings in an effort to break the deadlock. The situation had, however, deteriorated further, culminating in the seizure by RUF of about 500 UNAMSIL personnel, arms and equipment in May 2000. However, following the intervention of President Charles Taylor of Liberia, acting under a mandate conferred on him by ECOWAS Heads of State, a large number of the peacekeepers had been released.

102. The Assistant Secretary General noted that against the background of increased hostilities and, indeed of the resumption of armed conflict between a coalition of pro-government forces and the RUF, ECOWAS had intensified efforts to resolve the crisis and put the peace process back on track. For its part, the OAU had acted largely in support of those efforts by ECOWAS, including the despatch by the Secretary General of a mission to Sierra Leone during the initial phase of the hostage crisis.

103. He also informed Council that on 12 June 2000 the Secretary General announced the appointment of the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the OAU, as his Special Envoy to Sierra Leone, to strengthen the efforts already being deployed by the Organisation, together with the rest of the international community, to bring about a solution to the conflict.

104. The introduction of the Report by the Assistant Secretary General, was followed by a statement made by the Head of the delegation of Sierra Leone, who noted that the Council was meeting exactly one year since the signing in Lome of the Peace Agreement, negotiated under the chairmanship of the Foreign Minister of Togo. He expressed appreciation to the Member States of ECOWAS, the OAU and UN for the support they

had given to the peace process in Sierra Leone and the heartfelt sympathy of Sierra Leonans to all the countries that had contributed troops for ECOMOG and UNAMSIL's operation in Sierra Leone, including Kenya, Guinea, Zambia and Nigeria, over the loses of men killed as a result of the activities of the RUF.

105. The Head of the delegation of Sierra Leone also thanked President Charles Taylor of Liberia for his personal efforts in securing the release of the peacekeepers taken hostage by the RUF. He expressed his country's support for the Resolution of the Security Council of the UN, which placed a global embargo on the illegal trade in Sierra Leonean diamonds.

106. In conclusion, the Sierra Leonean delegation noted that much work remained to be done to resolve the conflict in Sierra Leone, and that, accordingly, the Government of Sierra Leone continued to count on the OAU and its Member States for their assistance to bring the conflict to an end. In that regard, he welcomed the decision by the Secretary General, to appoint a special Envoy to Sierra Leone.

107. In the ensuing debate, Council expressed appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to strengthen the collaboration between the OAU and ECOWAS. The view was expressed that the appointment of a Special Envoy by the Secretary-General would facilitate closer contacts and co-operation between the two Organisations and strengthen the efforts to deal with the conflict in Sierra Leone.

108. Council also welcomed the recent activities by ECOWAS, including the visit to New York by a delegation of Ministers of the Region, to hold discussions with the United Nations. The need for the cease-fire to be agreed upon as a pre-requisite for relaunching the peace process was emphasized. It was underlined that securing peace in Sierra Leone was, indeed a priority for ECOWAS, the OAU and the wider International Community. In that regard, Council expressed sympathy and solidarity with the people and government of Sierra Leone, and condemned the inhuman and atrocious activities of the RUF, including its amputation of the limbs of innocent women and children, as well as the killings and destruction of infrastructure.

109. Council also considered the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping in Sierra Leone, and elsewhere on the Continent. It noted that the problems experienced in deploying and sustaining peacekeeping operations in Africa by the UN had often tended to produce the negative

effects of emboldening some of the protagonists to a conflict who in turn, would take actions which could end up creating difficulties for the United Nations Security Council.

110. Against such a back drop, the need for the mandate of UNAMSIL to be changed from peace keeping to peace enforcement to enable UNAMSIL to address the problems posed by the RUF in a more robust manner, was underscored.

111. Before concluding its deliberations on this item, Council welcomed the recent actions by the UN Security Council, including the adoption of the Resolution that placed a global ban on the illegal trading in Sierra Leonean diamonds.

f) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Somalia – Doc. CM/2164 (LXXII)-f

112. The report of the Secretary General on the situation on Somalia was introduced by the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, who informed Council that the report dealt mainly with the initiative of President Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, to re-launch the peace process in Somalia through the convening of a Somali National Reconciliation Conference, which initiative had been announced during the last session of the United Nations General Assembly in September, 1999.

113. The Assistant Secretary General noted that the conference which was still in session even as Council was meeting, had been quite successful and there was the hope that even greater success might be achieved.

114. He pointed out that some Somali Parties had, however, refused to participate in the Conference. He informed Council that the General Secretariat had received a communication to the effect that the President of Djibouti would brief his colleagues during the session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, on the progress being made in the conference.

115. In a brief intervention, the Head of the delegation of Djibouti confirmed that his President would be making a statement on the subject during the Summit. On behalf of the Government of Djibouti, he thanked all those who had made contributions in support of the efforts to find a

solution to the conflict in Somalia including the Current Chairman and Secretary General of the OAU.

116. In the discussion that ensued, Council expressed support for the on going efforts to end the Somali conflict and to ameliorate the plight of the Somali People who continue to experience much suffering and deprivation as a result of instability and war. In this regard, Council expressed its full support for the initiative of President Guelleh of Djibouti, which offered prospects for a solution to an intractable and complex problem.

2. Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation for the Ministerial Conference on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons – Doc. CM/2165 (LXXII)

117. The Report of the Secretary-General on the Preparation of the Ministerial Conference on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. He recalled that the issue was first given impetus during Council's meeting held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 1998, on which occasion Council raised the need for inter-African Cooperation to find a lasting solution to the problem of the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa. In 1999, Council and Summit adopted a Resolution requesting the Secretary-General to prepare for a Ministerial Conference in Bamako, Mali, to elaborate an African common position for the UN 2001 Conference on this issue.

118. The Assistant Secretary-General informed Council that in the implementation of these decisions, the Secretariat had worked in close collaboration with UN Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies, to convene the first African Experts meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Convened in Addis Ababa, from 17 to 19 May 2000, that meeting was enriched by the participation of Experts from OAU Member States, and Sub-Regional organizations, as well as members of the Eminent Persons Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Experts meeting was followed by an international consultation on the same issue held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 23 June, 2000, with UN Agencies and selected participating African regional and non-governmental organizations. Secretary-General expressed appreciation to OAU partners and donors, including, in

particular, the Governments of Sweden, the Netherlands and Switzerland for providing the funding that facilitated the convening of these meetings.

119. He informed Council that the Secretariat would use the outcome of the Experts meeting and the international consultation in the preparation of the documentation for the Bamako Conference scheduled for November 2000, and invited Member States to participate fully in that conference and at the appropriate level. Finally, he informed Council of the Second meeting of States Parties to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Bon Treaty) scheduled to be held in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000. He recalled the lead role played by the OAU in the efforts that had culminated in the signing of the Ottawa Convention on Landmines, and appealed to Member States who had not yet done so, to sign and/or ratify the Convention. He appealed to them to participate fully in the Geneva meeting.

120. The Head of the delegation of Mali reaffirmed to Council that the Bamako Conference would be held at the end of November 2000, on dates to be announced by the Secretariat after consultations.

121. Council took note of the Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Continental Conference on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

3. Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Algiers Decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers on Unconstitutional Changes of Government – Doc. CM/2166 (LXXII)

122. The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Political Affairs introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Algiers Decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. He recalled the efforts that had been deployed since 1995 in the aftermath of the coup d'Etat in the Comoros, to address the resurgence of the phenomena of coup d'Etat in Africa. He recalled that during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Harare, the African Continent had expressed its determination and commitment to put an end to the prevalence of coup on the Continent.

123. He specifically recalled the coup d'Etat in Sierra Leone, which had taken place on the eve of the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. He stated that the coup in Sierra Leone had precipitated the move by the Assembly to unreservedly and totally reject the phenomenon of coups in Africa. He said that the subsequent coups in Niger and Guinea-Bissau had reinforced the determination of African leaders to put an end to this problem. It was against that background that Council had adopted its decision which, **inter-alia** mandated the Central Organ to reactivate, as a matter of urgency, its Committee on Unconstitutional Changes. The Committee was to finalize its work in the light of the Harare discussions, and in particular, to elaborate the measures to apply in situations of unconstitutional changes in OAU Member States.

124. The Assistant Secretary-General informed Council that in pursuance of its decision, the 59th Ordinary Session of the Central Organ held in Addis Ababa, on 1st October 1999, had decided to reactivate its Sub-Committee on Unconstitutional Changes. He pointed out that since its reactivation, the Sub-Committee had held several meetings and elaborated measures to deal with unconstitutional changes on the Continent. Council was further informed that the Sub-Committee meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Emmanuel Mendoume-Nze, Ambassador of Gabon to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the OAU, had worked assiduously and reached a consensus on actions that could be considered as constituting unconstitutional changes.

125. With regard to the measures to be taken by the OAU in response to unconstitutional changes, the Assistant Secretary-General stated that the Sub-Committee had recommended that the OAU should be able to apply carefully selected and appropriately targeted sanctions, elaborated in the Report of the Secretary-General.

126. He drew the attention of Council to the Framework for an OAU response to unconstitutional changes of government. He pointed out that the framework contained common values, the principles for democratic governance, a definition of the notion of unconstitutional change of government, proposal for OAU's response to unconstitutional changes and an Implementation Mechanism. He presented the elements contained in the proposed Framework.

127. Regarding the Algiers Summit Decision on the issue, the Assistant Secretary-General recalled that at its March 2000 Session, Council had

been informed of the positive evolution of the situations in Guinea-Bissau and Niger, which had culminated in the holding of democratic elections. He pointed out that Comoros and Cote d'Ivoire were yet to comply with the letter and spirit of the Algiers Summit Decision.

128. In the ensuing debate, Council expressed satisfaction with the proposals submitted by the Sub-Committee. The report was found to be comprehensive and well articulated. The delegations observed that the decision by Council and the work of the Sub-Committee of the Central Organ were very timely and had to be pursued with greater determination and rigour. Furthermore, delegates observed that unconstitutional changes posed a serious threat to peace and security in Africa. Delegations expressed the view that coups d'Etat had become a major source of conflict and contributed to the distortion of African economies. It was also observed that African politicians needed to cultivate a culture of accepting defeat after elections. Furthermore, Council observed that coups d'Etat had robbed African citizens of their rights to participate in democratic processes as well as to be involved in national building.

129. Most of the delegations that took the floor paid tribute to Niger and Guinea-Bissau for having conducted elections in conformity with the Algiers Decisions on Unconstitutional Changes. It was emphasized that the Comoros and Cote d'Ivoire needed to emulate the examples of Niger and Guinea-Bissau.

130. Some delegations, while commending the comprehensiveness of the Report and the viability of the proposed Framework, felt that some of the recommendations of the framework for an OAU Response to unconstitutional changes needed to be reexamined. It was observed that the recommendation on the "Yellow Card" was not in conformity with the spirit and letter of Council decision on unconstitutional changes. Those delegations held the view that the "Yellow Card" was not meant to be a permanent feature as a measure to address unconstitutional changes in Africa. According to those delegations, there should simply be no "Yellow Card". Instead delegates advanced the argument that the "Red Card" was the correct procedure and a more effective way of dealing with unconstitutional changes. Therefore, there was no need to give six months grace period to perpetrators of coups d'Etat.

131. Other delegations cautioned against the practice of some military officers who would try to circumvent the OAU's response to unconstitutional change by transforming themselves into civilians,

creating political parties and calling for elections and therefore assuming leadership by default. The issue of destabilization and undermining of the democratic process in African countries through, among other things, the provision of funds to opposition parties, was also raised. A view was expressed that such a practice was undemocratic and should be considered as having the potential to bring about unconstitutional changes in Africa. With respect to specific comments on the recommendations, one delegation felt that there were some gray areas, which needed further reflection, as they could create serious difficulties in their implementation. Specific reference was made to the definition of unconstitutional change as "any form of election rigging and electoral malpractice, duly confirmed by the OAU or ascertained by an independent and credible body established for that purpose". The delegations expressed doubts as to the viability and applicability of these particular elements of the framework.

132. On the situation in Cote d'Ivoire, the Senegalese delegation proposed that a mission of Heads of State and Government of the OAU visit that country to encourage the authorities in their implementation of the relevant decisions of the Algiers Summit. The mission would take the opportunity to extend fraternal support to the political class and the people of Cote d'Ivoire in their search for a framework to get out of the crisis, thereby enabling them to preserve social peace and stability in the country. While endorsing this proposal, Council expressed the view that a similar mission should also visit the Comoros.

133. Earlier, the delegation of Niger expressed appreciation to the OAU, and to other Organizations and governments that had supported his country during its transition to democratic governance, particularly in the conduct of the elections. The delegation appealed to the OAU to urge the wider international community to provide financial and material support for post-conflict reconstruction and development in Niger.

134. At the end of the deliberations, the Secretary-General provided additional information on the initiatives he had taken with respect to the situation in the Cote d'Ivoire and the outstanding issues that could complicate the efforts to return that country to constitutional rule. He underscored the need for Cote d'Ivoire to return to its well known tradition of accommodation and peaceful coexistence, which policy had contributed to the country's stability and development in the past. Subsequently, Council took note of the Report of the Secretary-General on unconstitutional changes and decided to submit the Framework for an

OAU response to unconstitutional changes of government, to the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for consideration and adoption.

4. Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine – Doc. CM/2167 (LXXII)

5. Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East

135. The two reports were presented concurrently by the Assistant Secretary General in charge of Political Affairs.

136. With regard to the question of Palestine, the Assistant Secretary General underscored the signing on 4 September 1999 of the Sharm El Cheik Agreement in which the Palestinians and the Israelis reaffirmed their commitment to fully apply all agreements previously signed. He disclosed that very little progress had been made in the implementation of the memorandum, and that it was common knowledge that Israel did not honour all its commitments. He called on council to express its traditional position and principle of support for the just Palestinian cause and for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Concerning the situation in the Middle East, the Assistant Secretary General informed Council that the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria was considered as a milestone in the peace process. Similarly the withdrawal in last May, from south Lebanon by the Israel forces also constituted a positive move towards peace. According to the Assistant Secretary General however, there were still obstacles to the attainment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

137. In his presentation, the representative of Palestine informed Council of the following:

- that the Palestine issue was going through a difficult period due to the stalking of the peace process by Israel;
- that the transition period had expired without the withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories;
- that all vital institutions were sill under Israel control;

- that the proclamation of the sovereign state of Palestine will become effective on 13 September 2000, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

138. The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its part urged Africa to continue to lend its support to the Palestinian people by getting Israel to implement fully and scrupulously all the agreements signed so that the proclamation of the State of Palestine would become a reality on 13 September 2000.

139. He further stated that the Middle East region was threatened by the Israeli nuclear programme which has not been subjected to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA. He also requested Council to call upon Israel to adhere to the NPT with no further delay.

6. Report of the Secretary-General on developments in the Dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, USA and Great Britain – Doc. CM/2169 (LXXII)

140. Introducing this report, the Assistance Secretary General in charge of Political Affairs highlighted not only the co-ordination of efforts between the OAU and the League of Arab States but also the intervention of African Heads of State in the settlement of the dispute. He recalled the actions undertaken by the OAU Current Chairman with the President of the Security Council and the UN Secretary General in accordance with the mandate entrusted to him by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Algiers with a view to securing the immediate lifting of the sanctions against Libya. He also recalled the actions of the OAU Secretary General in the appointment of the OAU Observer who is also the observer of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries.

141. Lastly, he informed Council that since the suspension of the sanctions by the United Nations, several Western countries had resumed diplomatic and trade relations with Libya and that it would like this momentum to continue.

142. In the ensuring debate, the Libyan delegation reiterated his country's gratitude to Member States for their support and solidarity with Libya. He informed Council that Libya had prepared a draft decision on the matter which would be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

143. Council was briefed on the satisfactory and adequate conditions in which the two Libyan subjects were being held.

144. Council was also told that the two suspects had at their disposal facilities for contacting their relatives and friends abroad.

7. Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace Fund - CM/2170 (LXXII)

145. The Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace Fund was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

146. While paying tribute to OAU Member States who had made or increased their voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund, the Assistant Secretary-General informed Council that nearly two-thirds of Special Contributions came from sources outside the Continent. Such a situation he stressed, posed a serious problem for OAU's ability to undertake peace operations and confidence building measures. Additionally, externally mobilized funds have continued to dwindle and have been increasingly limited to equipment procured from donor countries. Where cash is remitted to the Organization, it was usually earmarked for specific projects and activities. The lack of flexibility that resulted from such a situation seriously has affected the capacity of the OAU to undertake critical activities and operations to prevent , manage or resolve conflicts.

147. In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary-General invited Member States to make voluntary contributions to the OAU Peace Fund and to assume greater responsibility for peace-related initiatives and operations in Africa by the OAU. He informed Council of the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to mobilize resources from within the Continent by tapping into non-traditional sources including the African private sector and business communities.

148. Council took note of the Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace Fund.

8. Report of the OAU Commission on Refugees on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa – Doc. CM/2171 (LXXII) Rev.1

149. Introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary General in charge of Political Affairs underscored the seriousness of the problem of refugees,

returnees and displaced persons in Africa and the importance of the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problem in Africa, the 30th Anniversary of which was celebrated in 2000. He also referred to the OAU/UNHCR meeting of governmental and non-governmental experts held in Conakry, Guinea, from 27 to 29 March 2000 on the occasion of that anniversary, adding that the meeting had adopted a Plan of Action designed to strengthen the international refugee protection system.

150. The Assistant Secretary-General drew the attention of Council to the inadequacy of the assistance granted to African refugees in comparison to that accorded refugees in other parts of the world. He briefed Council on the proposal of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees aimed at declaring 20 June each year the World Refugee Day, and requested Council to approve the said proposal.

151. The Assistant Secretary-General further drew the attention of Council to the natural disasters that hit some African countries in the past year, resulting in the destruction of property, loss of human lives and displacement of people. He pointed out that the issue of prevention of and response to natural disasters should be followed by the OAU with a view to ensuring coordination of efforts in that regard.

152. The Chairman of the OAU Commission on Refugees indicated that the Assistant Secretary-General had underlined the salient points contained in the report under consideration by Council. He further stated that the Commission's recommendations on the refugee problem were reflected at the end of the report and called on Council to endorse them.

153. The delegations that took the floor pointed out that the problem of refugees and displaced persons in Africa was challenge to the Organization of African Unity. They acknowledged the fact that refugees constituted a heavy burden on host countries, which were compelled to share their meager resources with these disadvantaged people. They stressed that refugees were often the cause of environmental degradation in host countries, adding that they constituted a danger to the security of these countries.

154. Some delegations provided data on refugees in their countries by highlighting the scale of the problem posed by the massive presence of refugees in such countries. Others described the behaviours of refugees

who use host countries as transit points, to demand resettlement in other countries outside the Continent by resorting to hunger strikes.

155. One delegation observed that the apartheid era was considered as being the cause of the refugee problem in Africa. However, since the eradication of apartheid, the number of refugees had continued to increase. The same delegation emphasized the fact that Africans were solely responsible for that situation, and should take responsibility for halting the exodus of populations.

156. Another delegation drew Council's attention to the proclivity for discrimination in some host countries where preference was shown for refugees considered as useful, while those deemed to be a liability or infected with AIDS were abandoned to their fate.

157. At the end of the debate, Council lauded the efforts made so far by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. SADAKO OGATA in extending assistance to African refugees.

158. Council took note of the report.

Agenda Item V: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MATTERS

1. Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community: The Way Forward – Doc. CM/2177 (LXXII)

159. The Assistant Secretary General in charge of Economic Co-operation and Integration introduced this item. He indicated that the Secretariat had carried out an in-depth evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community with a focus on issues and concerns to be addressed as a priority. He pointed out that the weaknesses could be situated at three levels; namely, within the OAU/AEC Secretariat due to the ongoing structural reorganisation; at the level of RECs through insufficient information exchange both between RECs and the OAU/AEC Secretariat and among the RECs themselves; it was not also evident whether the RECs had in general perspective the objectives set by the Abuja Treaty while formulating their programmes and thirdly at the level of Member States in relation to the non implementation of decisions taken both at Council and Summit levels. He deplored the fact that these issues could not be debated at ECOSOC level before submission to Council, due to the

post-ponement of the ECOSOC meeting on account of the ACP/EU Meeting held in Cotonou in the same period.

160. The Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the assistance provided to the RECs in the field of monetary policies and trade liberalisation through the Policy Analysis Support Unit (PASU). Such assistance which was demand-driven had only been requested so far by two RECs. He therefore stressed the need for further harmonisation of policies and programmes. He added that, although two Committees, namely the Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee of Secretariat officials, had been created under the Protocol regulating the relations between the AEC and the RECs, some RECs were still not attending all such meetings which have as their objective the harmonisation and rationalisation of policies and programmes.

161. Finally, he reiterated the need to ensure that RECs participate in OAU/AEC meetings, that OAU/AEC be involved in both statutory and sectoral meetings of the RECs, and that there be a better exchange of information among the RECs to ensure harmony of objectives.

162. In its intervention, one delegation deplored the fact that RECs were not consistent in attending meetings regularly and frequently among themselves. The delegation admitted that there was no provision for example at the level of SADC for a mechanism to allow the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers of the various RECs to meet at Ministerial level and set an example for the Secretariats of the RECs to meet at their own level. It therefore proposed a recommendation to that effect.

163. The representative of ECOWAS informed the Council that, at the 25th Anniversary of ECOWAS in May 2000, the various RECs had met under the Chairmanship of the OAU/AEC to exchange views and review their progress, difficulties and prospects. She recommended that such meetings be recurrent.

164. Council took note of the report and endorsed the recommendations contained in the Document CM/2177 (LXXII) as well as the recommendations made during the discussions on this item.

2. Report of the Yamoussoukro Conference on the Liberalisation of Access to Transport Markets in Africa – Doc. CM/2178 (LXXII)

165. In introducing this agenda item, the Assistant Secretary-General responsible for Economic Cooperation and Integration, recalled the joint effort deployed by the OAU and ECA Secretariats in conjunction with the RECs and relevant African institutions to accelerate the development of the air transport industry in Africa through fostering cooperation among Member States. In this regard, he indicated that in 1988, the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy was adopted by the Ministers responsible for civil aviation and that subsequent to the assessment of that Declaration in 1997, it was decided to speed up its implementation. A Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation was organized in November, 1999 in Yamoussoukro (Cote d'Ivoire). That Conference adopted the Decision to liberalise the access to the air transport market in Africa. He also highlighted the fact that the Decision was placed within the framework of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

166. After the presentation of the agenda item, some Member States took the floor to underline the importance of the Decision and indicated that it constituted a concrete and encouraging step in fostering the integration of the Continent. They, however, drew attention to certain important elements of the Decision which needed to be taken into account during its implementation phase especially the need to look into some technical and legal aspects of the Declaration, at the level of the relevant Committee of the Conference of Ministers of Civil Aviation. It was also emphasized that in that context, adequate attention should be given to the progress made in Information Technology so that airlines could align themselves to the developments in that field. The delegate of AFCAC made a short intervention supporting the presentation made by the General Secretariat of the OAU while drawing attention to the issue of air safety and security in civil aviation matters.

167. The ECA representative supported the intervention of the Assistant Secretary-General and indicated that it was of utmost importance that the Decision be maintained in an African context.

168. The Assistant Secretary-General in response to the comments made from the floor indicated that the Monitoring Body set up by the Decision was charged with the responsibility for looking into all legal, technical and

operational aspects for the smooth implementation of the Decision. He also recalled that the Cairo Plan of Action which was agreed upon at the Africa-EU Summit held in Cairo, 3-4 April, 2000, had an action oriented provision on the issue of air safety and security in civil aviation matters.

169. In concluding its debate on the issue, the Council took note of the report of the African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation and:

- **decided** to recommend the Decision to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for approval;

- **urged** Member States to:

  i) adopt measures for the speedy implementation of the Decision;
  ii) enhance cooperation among them with a view to facilitating the development of air transport industry in Africa.

- **requested** the Monitoring Body to provide Member States with the necessary support in the implementation of the Decision.

3. Report of the Secretary General on the Implementation of the Decision and Regulations adopted by the Algiers Summit and Council of Ministers (Doc. CM/2179 (LXXII) Rev.1)

170. In introducing the above agenda item, the Assistant Secretary General (Economic Co-operation and Integration) informed the Council that Doc. CM/2179 (LXXII) had been withdrawn and replaced by Doc. CM/2179 (LXXII) Rev.1. The document was then presented section by section, emphasising actions taken to implement the Decisions and Regulations of the Algiers Summit and of Council related to the popularisation of the Treaty, the ratification/accession to the AEC Treaty; implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action adopted by the Africa-Europe Summit and the promotion of co-operation with RECs including in relation to the functioning of the Specialized Technical Committees, sectoral activities, external debt and international negotiations.

171. Council took note of the report in Doc. CM/2179 (LXXII) Rev.1 and appealed to all Member States to attach importance to the implementation

of all decisions of the AEC Summit, in view of their binding nature, and provide the General Secretariat with information on actions taken thereon.

4. Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth Conference of African Ministers of Health (CAMH6) held in Cairo, Egypt, 18 – 21 October, 1999 – (Doc. CM/2173 (LXXII))

172. Before making the substantive presentation of the outcome of the above meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General (ESCAS) briefed the Council on the organizational structure of the Conference of African Ministers of Health, the opening arrangements of the Cairo Conference, as well as the level of attendance and participation, all of which indicated the seriousness that Member States placed on health issues. The Assistant Secretary-General then reviewed the cluster of some of the major topics discussed at the Conference where the challenges of HIV/AIDS and malaria on the socio-economic development of Africa were emphasized. The Conference had also discussed the impact of globalization on the health sector in Africa. In most cases such impact could be negative. He informed Council that one of the best strategies by which to cope with the impact of globalization was regional cooperation and integration. Additionally, the Conference had called for closer inter-African cooperation in dealing with challenges such as tobacco, drugs, anti-personnel landmines, conflicts and their associated health risks; access to affordable essential drugs and the improvement of health infrastructure for the whole continent.

173. As a compliment, the Chairman of Council expressed appreciation to Egypt for hosting the Conference and its willingness to share medical personnel with other African countries such as Togo. The report was unanimously endorsed by the Council.

5. Report of the Secretary-General on the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission – Doc. CM/2174 (LXXIII)

174. This item was presented by the Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of ESCAS Department of the General Secretariat. He provided detailed information regarding the level of participation, the composition of the bureau and national delegations, and the high personalities that had attended the Opening Ceremony, including H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

175. The Assistant Secretary General then briefed Council on the recommendations which were adopted in Algiers, which related to the need to: reinforce the Commission in order to enable it to play a more effective role in Africa's development; put in place mechanisms for facilitating the effective involvement and participation of all segments of society, including youth and women in the labour sector; address the worst forms of child labour as well as trafficking in children; establish a strategic framework for dealing with the brain and skills drain from Africa; and linking drugs to labour and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. With specific reference to the issue of HIV/AIDS, the Assistant Secretary General highlighted the Algiers Appeal for the Intensification of AIDS Control in Africa, and the related Plan of Action. He concluded by informing Council that the 24th Ordinary Session of the Commission would be held in Libreville, Gabon, at the kind invitation of the Government of Gabon.

176. In the ensuing discussion, the delegation of Gabon highlighted issues of trafficking in children, trade in children, sexual exploitation of children and use of children as soldiers, as had been previously underlined by the Gabonese Minister of State in charge of Labour, Employment and Training at the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Commission. The delegation drew Council's attention to the fact that, despite the many initiatives and interventions deployed to arrest and reverse the scourge, the problem was in fact becoming more prolific. The delegation called for a resolution requesting all Member States to adopt national legislation which would criminalize trafficking in children, trade in children, sexual exploitation of children, as well as use of children as soldiers. It was agreed to add that recommendation to those proposed in the Report of the Secretary-General.

177. Council took note of the Report and endorsed the recommendations.

6. Report of the Secretary-General on the Special Session of the OAU Ministers of Health on HIV/AIDS in Africa – Doc. CM/2175 (LXXII)

178. The item was presented to Council by Assistant Secretary General in charge of ESCAS He informed the Council that the Special Session in Ouagadougou was a follow-up to the implementation of the decision of the Seventieth Ordinary Session of the Council in Algeria in July 1999.

179. The Assistant Secretary General commended the organizational logistics of the meeting and expressed gratitude to Burkina Faso for having organised the Special Session so successfully.

180. Attendance included 32 Member States with the participation of all international partners who also played a major role in helping to plan and organize the meeting.

181. The main purpose of the Session was to review the constraints being faced in the implementation of OAU Declarations (Dakar 1992, Tunis 1994) on HIV/AIDS in Africa; and the actions to be taken in order to redress the constraints.

182. After long and intensive discussions, the Special Session produced the "Ouagadougou Commitment For Action for the Implementation of the Declarations, Decisions and Recommendations of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU aimed at strengthening HIV/AIDS Control in Africa".

183. During the discussion in plenary, Uganda's Minister informed the Council of his country's successful experience in controlling further spread of HIV/AIDS. The main strategies in Uganda included openness in talking about HIV/AIDS from the President of the country to the grassroots. Additionally HIV/AIDS is not perceived as a health problem only, but as a socio-economic one. Furthermore as a result, stigmatization has declined and people feel courageous to go voluntarily for medical check-up. Those testing negative then feel encouraged to find coping mechanisms for longer life. In his conclusion, the Ugandan delegate strongly recommended that alleviation of poverty was a major strategy in fighting against HIV/AIDS.s

184. Additionally, Swaziland and Burkina Faso called for total mobilization of the Continent, based on war model, as one way of combating the pandemic. Furthermore, Madagascar called for concerted efforts in conducting research on traditional plants which may hold potential for drugs and vaccine against HIV/AIDS.

7. <u>Report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cultural Institute – Doc. CM/2176 (LXXII)</u>

185. This report was presented by the Assistant Secretary-General in-charge of Finance and Coordination. During the presentation, he gave a

historical overview of Cultural Cooperation between Africa and the Arab world.

186. He briefed Council on developments in that regard since the adoption of the Statutes of the Institute in 1985, particularly the consultations undertaken regarding the choice of headquarters and appointment of the Deputy Director-General of the Institute. The Assistant Secretary-General then further briefed Council on the outcome of the consultations, adding that the Republic of Chad had accepted to withdraw its candidature in favour of Mali.

187. With regard to the post of Deputy Director-General, the Member States which had presented candidates, namely, Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Cote d'Ivoire, were in agreement that Chad should occupy the post.

188. The Assistant Secretary-General indicated that agreement was one concrete achievement by the OAU General Secretariat which had facilitated the consultations by the concerned Member States.

189. Following the presentation, Council approved by acclamation the choice of Mali to host the headquarters of Afro-Arab Cultural Institute, while the post of Deputy Director-General would be held by Chad.

190. Taking the floor, the representative of the Republic of Chad, on behalf of his country, and on his own behalf, thanked all Member States that had presented their candidatures for their cordial disposition and for the brotherly atmosphere that had prevailed during consultations on the above matters. The Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Chad also expressed gratitude to Council for endorsing the results of the consultations.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS AND OTHER PLENIPOTENTIARIES

191. The report of the Committee of Ambassadors and Other Plenipotentiaries was introduced by the Ambassador of Lesotho, Chairman of the Committee. He led the Council through Doc. CM/ 2176(LXXII) while highlighting the main items and pointing out those issues requiring either Council's approval or further consideration.

192. Among matters referred by the Committee of Ambassadors to Council for consideration was an item that had been introduced by Chad on the signing of the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and RECs by the Community of Sahelo-Saharian States (CEN-SAD). For the benefit of Council, the Chadian delegation explained the rationale for creating the CEN-SAD, which so far consist of twelve OAU Member States. The delegation then called on Council to give its approval for CEN-SAD to sign the Protocol and hence facilitate Member countries to contribute fully towards the integration of the continent.

193. On the explanation and reasons that had prevented the Committee of Ambassadors from taking a decision on the matter, Council was referred to paragraph 80 of the Report, calling for more information on the mode of accession to CEN-SAD, the composition of the Organization, the extent of its geographical space and the effect of multiplicity of membership of RECs on existing organizations. In that respect, Council was informed that all the required information was contained in the Treaty and Constitutive texts of CEN-SAD regrouping countries of Sahelian and Saharan areas. Regarding the multiplicity of membership, the case of COMESA was referred to, as a successful example. As for the financial implications related to membership, it was stated that it remained a sovereign decision for Member States belonging to the Organization to determine.

194. Council then called upon the Secretary General of the OAU who had participated in CEN-SAD's recent meeting held in Ndjamena to share his observations. He stated that members of CEN-SAD were well organized, cooperated closely among themselves and were committed to work with the OAU as a regional grouping. He observed equally that COMESA had membership from North, East, Central and Southern Africa, but that at the end, it was for Council to decide.

195. One delegation pointed out that the CEN-SAD countries had some common problems such as drought and movement of people, and that there was need to pay tribute to their initiative in trying to solve problems in unity.

196. In conclusion, Council decided that CEN-SAD was an intergovernmental organization made up of OAU Member States that wanted to demonstrate their commitment by signing the Protocol with the OAU and should not be prevented from doing so. The General Secretariat

of the OAU and the Secretariat of CEN-SAD were therefore requested to work out the modalities for cooperation and coordination between them.

Agenda Item VII: ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBER STATES

Proposals on the Concept and Modalities of Rotation and its Application to the two Permanent Seats for Africa in the Security Council – Doc. CM/2152 (LXXII) Add.6

197. Introducing this item, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations and Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Reform of the Security Council, set up by the African Group in New York, recalled that the document on the Concept and Modalities of Rotation had been twice considered by Council.

198. According to him, the study proposed in the document covered all aspects of the mandate given by the Harare Summit namely:

- concept and modalities of Rotation of the two Permanent seats which Africa is demanding in the reformed Security Council;
- criteria for eligibility to the two permanent seats; and
- duration of the mandate.

199. The Permanent Representative then recalled the amendments made to the above proposals in Ouagadougou which are:

- Cancellation of the eligibility criteria, and;
- Determination of the duration of the term of office by the Heads of State and Government;

200. The Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee concluded that the Committee had completed its assignment unless Council gave another mandate.

201. Finally, he urged Council to come up with a decision on the proposals concerning the <<**Concept and Modalities of rotation of the two Permanent Seats which Africa is claiming**>> in order to enable the African Group to defend them within the United Nations Working Group as the African position on the rotation.

202. Following the introduction, one delegation took the floor to deplore the fact that work at the level of the Ad Hoc Committee of the African Group had slowed down considerably, with only two sessions held since January whereas the United Nations Working Group had held 60 sessions.

203. According to the delegation, the Ad Hoc Committee of the African Group was the hostage of a report submitted in Ouagadougou and resubmitted to council every year in the same form without any attempt at improving it.

204. Continuing, the same delegation stated that dialogue on the enlargement and reform of the Security Council had been in progress in New York for the past eight years and had recently gathered momentum ahead of the Millennium Summit. That development was out of step with a static Committee which continued to submit to Council the same incomplete report, full of contradictions, shortcomings and omissions and incapable of presenting a complete African position as set forth in the mandate given by the Assembly of heads of State and Government.

205. Concluding, the delegation proposed that Council should urge the Ad Hoc Committee to resume its work and update and finalize its report.

206. In the ensuing debate, nine delegations took the floor to support the proposal regarding the request to the African Group in New York to review the document and improve upon it.

207. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee took the floor again to request clear and precise information from Council on the aspects of the document which needed to be improved. That request for clarification generated another debate during which:

1. Several delegations affirmed that the African Group in New York must fulfill all aspects of its mandate under the Harare Declaration of 1997 in full.

2. One delegation advocated that the African Group in New York should no longer consider the issue of eligibility criteria because that issue had been resolved in Ouagadougou. It was further stated that the matter should be discarded completely since all 53 Member States are eligible and that the duration of

the mandate had also been resolved since it had been decided that the matter be left to the Heads of State for consideration.

3. One delegation stressed the fact that the African representative in the Security Council should be in a position to defend, not the interests of his country, but those of the Continent as spelt out by the OAU Summit.

208. In his conclusion, and as proposed by the OAU General Secretariat, the Chairman urged the African Group in New York to resume consultations on a broader basis, to reconsider all the aspects of the report which were likely to generate controversy and to submit a clearer and more comprehensive report to a future session of Council.

Agenda Item IX. Date and Venue of the Seventy-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers

209. Council decided to host its Seventy-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa at a date to be fixed after consultations.

Agenda Item X: Any Other Business

210. The Head of delegation of Mali informed Council of the convening in Bamako in the last quarter of 2000 of a Regional Seminar on the universalization and implementation in Africa of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines. This Franco-Canadian initiative with which Mali is associated aims at a series of targeted actions to address the problems militating against the ratification of the said Convention in Africa. The Seminar will also afford participants the opportunity to examine areas relating to legal expertise, administrative support and assistance in the destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

211. Council favourably welcomed the initiative.

212. Within the context of strengthening democracy in Africa, the delegation of Benin informed Council of the holding of the 4th Conference on New and Established Democracies in Cotonou from 4 to 6 December 2000, under the theme: Peace, Security, Democracy and Development. During the Conference, participants will make an appraisal of democratic processes in the Continent.

213. The delegation also requested Council to enlist the support of the Heads of State for its declaration on the holding of a seminar in Dakar on the role of the United Nations and the potentials of the OAU. The following themes would be discussed at the Seminar:

ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

ORGANIZAÇÃO DA
UNIDADE AFRICANA

ORGANISATION DE
L'UNITE AFRICAINE

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Seventy-second Ordinary Session/
Seventh Ordinary Session of the AEC
6 – 8 July, 2000
Lome, Togo

CM/Rpt (LXXII)

(Corrigendum)

Report of the Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the OAU/Seventh Ordinary Session of the AEC Council of Ministers

Para. 215 (last sentence to be replaced by the following:

.....In this connection, it invited all Member States to attend the above Summit to support Namibia which will co-chair the Session, and contribute to the reformulation of the new African vision in the current world order.

- Fight against endemic diseases including HIV/AIDS;
- Creation of an African technology institute;
- Assessment of the damage caused to Africa by slavery;
- Julius Nyerere Leadership Award.

214. The delegation of Senegal, for its part, announced the decision to relaunch the Africa-Help-Africa project which consists in pooling resources to help the countries deal with natural disasters befalling Africa. It proposed that a presidential delegation should proceed without delay to Abidjan after the Summit for talks with the Ivorian authorities with a view to averting a civil war in that country.

215. Still under any other business, the delegation of Nigeria drew Council's attention to the convening in New York of the 4th Summit of the Millennium slated from 6 to 8 September, 2000. In this connection, it invited all Member States to attend the above Summit to support the vice-chairmanship to be held by Namibia and contribute to the reformulation of the new African vision in the current world order.

216. Lastly, the head of delegation of Zimbabwe thanked the OAU for honouring his country by sending observers to the recent general elections. He expressed satisfaction at the peaceful conduct of the elections and the results obtained, despite the smear campaign orchestrated by the Western media.

217. Council decided to pass a resolution to endorse the elections and to request Great Britain to help resolve the land distribution problem.

218. Council adopted its report with a few amendments.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

219. Throughout its deliberations, Council was updated on the latest position regarding payments of contributions made by Member States from 1 June to 8 July 2000, as follows:

No.	Country	Amount US$	Financial Year
1.	Mozambique	298,080.00	2000/2001
2.	South Africa	3,003,679.17	2000/2001
3.	Cameroon	150,000.00	1999/2000
4.	Libya	1,606,843.23	1999/2000
5.	Djibouti	207,000.00	1999/2000
6.	Botswana	317,700.00	2000/1 &2001/2
7.	Malawi	488,869,79	1990/9 & 1999/2000
8.	Equatorial Guinea	207,000.00	Arrears

9.	Sudan	1,000,000.00	Arrears
10.	Chad	210,000,000.00 (CFA)	Arrears
11.	Mauritania	203,540.00	Arrears
12.	Burundi	287,377.00	Arrears
13.	Swaziland	207,000.00	2000/2001
14.	Rwanda	168,273.00	Arrears
15.	Algeria	238,257.00	2000/2001
16.	Madagascar	201,426.00	1999/2000 & 2000/1
17.	Uganda	390,404.76	Arrears
18.	Zambia	265,355.00	1999/2000
19.	Cape Verde	260,000.00	Arrears
20.	Togo	211,856.00	1999/2000
21.	Guinea	300,000.00	Arrears

220. In taking note of this information, Council:

a) Commended all those Member States who continue to deploy their efforts to pay up all their financial obligations;

b) Appealed to all Member States with outstanding contributions to take appropriate measures to settle at least partially, their financial commitments.

2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE LIBYAN PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIVE ACT OF THE AFRICAN UNION.

Organisation of African Unity

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