



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
P.O. Box 3243

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE**

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**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT  
Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session  
3 – 5 June 1991  
Abuja, Nigeria**

**AHD/Decl. 1 – 4 (XXVII)**

**AHG/Res. 201 - 205 (XXVII)**

**DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
TWENTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF  
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

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**DECLARATION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON EMPLOYMENT IN  
AFRICA**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Twenty-Seventh Ordinary session of our Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1991, have undertaken a critical review of the Employment Crisis and Challenge Facing our Continent in the 1990s and beyond.
2. We have noted with deep concern that in spite of our strenuous and best efforts to promote development in our continent, and alleviate the employment crisis in our various countries, the urban and rural unemployment and underemployment rates have increased substantially throughout our continent during the 1980s. Besides the rising unemployment and underemployment, our human resources are also being lost, through the process of emigration and brain drain. We are aware that the increase in unemployment and underemployment have been associated with a decline in incomes and a general increase in the incidence of poverty.
3. We are conscious that the burden of the employment problem, has fallen disproportionately on our Youth in whom we have invested considerable resources in preparation for their full participation in our development process. We have also noted that the potential of our women, as important and active agents in socio-economic development, remains to be fully utilized.
4. We realize that the employment crisis is posing a serious threat to the future socio-political stability and development prospects of our various countries.
5. Fully mindful of our responsibilities to ensure accelerated development, maintenance of political and social stability and progress, and the safeguarding of a brighter future for our children and future generations, we rededicate ourselves to pursue vigorously needed policies, programmes and actions, to meet the African Employment challenge of the 1990s and beyond, so as to resolve the employment crisis in our continent.

6. We reaffirm our previous commitments to a determined implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), the African priority programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAFSAP), so as to ensure that the crisis of unemployment and under employment which looms in the 1990s will be confronted successfully.
7. More specifically, we commit ourselves to take necessary measures within the limits of our resources, to accelerate the rate of growth of our gross domestic product, to at least 5 per cent a year, as this is necessary to improve our employment situation. This growth objective may appear ambitious, when compared to our 2.3% per annum growth record of 1986-1990. However, a growth rate of 5% per annum could be attained especially if we persevere in our current economic reform efforts and programmes, and if our development partners in the industrialized countries intensify their efforts to substantially alleviate our external debt burden.
8. Our economic reform efforts and structural adjustment programmes in the 1990s, should depart in orientation from the orthodox adjustment programmes of the 1980s, as demonstrated in the African Alternative Framework on Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAFSAP), which we have already adopted and which we must implement more vigorously throughout the region.
9. We are aware that renewed economic growth will not be sufficient by itself to resolve the African employment crisis. Accordingly, our development strategy in Africa during the 1990s and beyond, will be more human centered, promote a democratic and participatory approach and be more environmentally sustainable. The development strategy will place a higher accent on the satisfaction of basic human needs and the restructuring of our production systems so as to meet these needs. Greater attention will be given to internal resource mobilization, fiscal discipline, a maintenance culture, and indigenous entrepreneurial development.
10. Our overall macro-economic and sectoral policies will be reviewed to ensure that our development projects, and the technologies we use, facilitate a much greater absorption of our abundant labour resources, while economizing on the use of capital and foreign exchange, which are in very short supply and constitute major constraints on our development efforts. Accordingly, in our allocation of resources, we shall accord higher priority to sectors and projects which generate more

employment. To this end, the rural sector, the urban informal sector, medium and small micro-enterprises, and employment intensive construction and production projects, will receive more attention than in the past.

11. We are convinced that, the expansion of employment opportunities in the rural areas, which we shall make fore attractive, will contribute to the increased welfare of the majority of our people, lead to the attainment of our objectives of food self-sufficiency and stem the tide of rural to urban migration. We shall, therefore, take the necessary measures to accord higher attention to rural employment promotion – through increased agricultural production, as stipulated in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final act of Lagos APPER and AAFSAP. We shall also improve rural employment prospects by promoting rural non-farm employment through an increased support of rural agro and cottage industries, the rural services sector and infrastructural development. We shall also encourage in general, rural medium, small and micro-enterprises and ensure the fuller integration of rural non-farm activities with national production, especially agricultural production and urban informal sector output.
12. We note that our formal sector has been making only limited contributions to employment creation for our ever increasing labour force. Our efforts towards the accelerated growth of our economies, testify to our desire to increase the employment contribution of the formal and modern urban sectors. Accordingly, we shall continue to explore every possible avenue to realize a faster pace of productive labour absorption in our formal sectors, in support of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.
13. We realize however, that the informal sector will continue to contribute to employment opportunities in the urban sector in the foreseeable future. We shall, therefore, intensify our efforts to increase productivity and incomes in this sector. To this end, we shall endeavor to facilitate greater access of operators in the informal sector, to the means of production such as land, capital and improved management, technology, and training and facilitate the marketing of their products. We shall improve and enhance their entrepreneurial capabilities, without dampening their spirit of self-reliance. We shall also improve the general enabling environment for this sector.

14. In our continuous efforts to promote employment, we are aware that all segments of our population need an improvement in their employment situation, and we shall strive to meet their needs. However, our special attention on this issue will go to the target group of the Youth, who constitute the bulk of the unemployed in Africa. Accordingly, we undertake to strengthen our specific policies and programme of employment promotion for this category of the population. Such policies will be increasingly based on providing training, credit facilities, supportive fiscal policies, and access to land, as well as technical and administrative support from our Governments.
15. Another aspect of policy support in favour of youth employment will be the elaboration and implementation of a more effective policy on education and training to ensure a better linkage between education and training on the one hand and the requirements of the labour market and nation-building, on the other. Our education and training policies will also be geared acquisition and strengthening of the entrepreneurial spirit.
16. Another target group, which deserves our special attention in our efforts to promote employment, consist of women, who constitute more than 50 per cent of our population. Although we have made much progress in our efforts to promote women's employment, and their contribution to economic production, we are aware that they still remain gravely disadvantaged when compared to their weight in society. We therefore, reiterate our resolve in the Lagos Plan of Action to give women's employment the priority it deserves. We shall also intensify efforts towards a more vigorous implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and the 1989 Abuja Declaration on Women in Development. as well as other relevant resolutions of the OAU and United Nations System.
17. Disabled persons also constitute a target group that has always engaged our attention. Accordingly, we shall intensify our efforts to respond to the needs of these vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and include them in the mainstream of our strategies for resolving our employment crisis.
18. We realize that the size and gravity of our employment crisis is closely related to the rapid rate of growth in our labour force which is three times the level in the industrialized countries, and about twice that of other developing countries. We,

shall therefore, review more carefully our population policies with a view to relating our labor force growth to the capabilities and growth rates of our economies, as well as according higher priority to improving the health status of our population, especially through primary health-care programmes.

19. We recognize the need to pay more attention to the possibilities of intra African cooperation in resolving our national employment problems. In this regard, we shall encourage greater labour market integration within the context of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community which we have signed.
20. We reaffirm our responsibility to resolve our employment crisis largely within our own resources. A higher priority to resolving our employment crisis, to which we have committed ourselves, will be translated into more resource allocation out of our own national budgets, for employment promotion activities. This will also require the strengthening of institutions charged with these issues, or the creation of such other institutions as may be necessary.
21. We request our development partners, both multilateral and bilateral, to reflect our priorities, as identified in this Declaration by increasing their support for human resources development and employment promotion programmes and projects. We appeal in particular, to such institutions as the African Development Bank, other African regional and sub-regional financial institutions, the World Bank and the UNDP, to increase their financial support to our human resources development and employment promotion efforts. finally, we further appeal to the United Nations institutions in general, and the ECA, the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and the UNFPA in particular to play an important role individually, in concert and in close collaboration with the OAU Secretariat, in the implementation of this Declaration.

**DECLARATION OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY  
ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL  
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in our Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Abuja, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 3 to 5 June 1991, recall our resolution on the participation of Africa in international negotiations, which we adopted in Lagos, the Federal Republic of Nigeria during our second Extra-ordinary Session held from 28 to 29 April 1980 alongside the Lagos Plan of Action for the economic development of Africa (LPA) and the Final Act of Lagos , (FAL).
2. The unprecedented collapse of the prices of Africa's commodities and the consequential deterioration in its terms of trade as well as the mounting protectionist measures in the markets of the developed countries against exports from Africa and restrictive business practices area among the major external causes of Africa's external debt. We have reiterated this fact in the African Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis, which we had adopted in our Third Extra-Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa from 30 November to 1 December 1987,
3. We have been following closely the trend of the Uruguay Round negotiations since 1986 consistent with our commitments to the objectives and general principles governing the negotiations, as stipulated in the Punta del Este Declaration. We note with concern the difficulties facing African negotiators in the Round as have been amply brought to our attention in the report of the Eleventh Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade and hereby declare as follows:
4. In the course of the Uruguay Round, African participants have made submissions through statements and specific proposals expressing their common concerns on various issues under negotiations. They have joined other developing countries at various stages of the negotiations to raise specific matters of interest and concerns to them. Despite all these efforts, these concerns have not been met. Prominent among them are issues related to improved market access conditions for products of interest to African countries and the inadequate treatment of the development



dimension in the new areas of trade related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS), trade related investment measures (TRIMS) and trade in Services.

5. On the other hand, demands being made on African countries for reciprocity on a number of negotiating issues have become a common feature in the negotiations contrary to the general principles and objectives for the negotiations that have been stipulated in the Punta del Este Declaration, in particular, special and differential treatment for developing countries. What is worse, the ability of African countries to influence the course of the negotiations has further been impaired by the lack of adequate transparency in the negotiating process despite their unrelenting efforts at participation in the Round.
6. At this very critical and decisive phase of the Round, we cannot but view with great concern the insensitivity of our major trading partners to these legitimate concerns. We have anxiety over the manner of conducting the negotiations and the profiles of the emerging results. We stress that all participants must be given equal opportunity to shape the final outcome of the Round if that outcome is to be balanced and acceptable to all.
7. We reiterate that with respect to the final results, the concerns of Africa have to be taken on board, and we should not be presented with a situation of “fait accompli” and be made to accept a ready-made package agreed among major trading partners, as a way of salvaging the Uruguay Round on their own interest. Indeed in the new area, therefore, we seek clear and unambiguous recognition of our development policy objectives and that any new multilateral rules and disciplines in those areas must promote rather than hinder the achievement of such objectives. They should in particular, ensure the unimpeded transfer of technology and provide for national capacity building in all sectors of critical importance to our development process.
8. The credibility of the trading system rests upon the reduction of barriers to trade and allow for the integration of the marginalized small trading nations such as ours into the international trading system. However, the durability of the system depends on the other hand, on its ability to provide benefits to all trading partners. Thus it is of the utmost importance that attention be paid by all participants in the Round to the concerns and problems of African countries. The final stage of the Uruguay

Round negotiations provides the last and a unique opportunity for responding appropriately and adequately to these concerns.

**9. In participating in the Round African countries were inspired by four major perceptions:**

**Firstly**, greater trade liberalization which takes into account, the special needs of developing countries would result in their increased participation in world trade, offering them the best possible means to grow out of the marginalization to which they have been subjected by an asymmetrical world economic and trading system.

**Secondly** the strengthening of an open multilateral trading system based on equitable, transparent and predictable rules and disciplines would be in the interest of African countries, the weakest member of the world trading community.

**Thirdly** the unprecedented complexity and scope of the negotiations would have far reaching impact on the international economic and trade relations of all countries, particularly, those in Africa whose integration into the world economy would be taking place at a time of rapid structural change.

**Fourthly** in a world fast evolving into regional trading blocks, no continent needs the multilateral system more, than Africa, as the only guarantee for maintaining an open trading system.

**10. In the light of these perceptions, African countries attach the greatest importance to the successful outcome of the Round. The outcome we seek, however, has to be compatible with these perceptions. Such outcome must include, inter-alia:**

- improved market access conditions in all products of interest to African countries;
- more vigorous application of the principles of special and differential treatment for African countries in all areas because of their particular vulnerability and structural handicaps;
- adequate flexibility in all the various agreements to ensure the unhindered pursuit of development policy objectives and provide for specific commitments

by developed countries in those agreements aimed at facilitating the achievement of such objectives.

- no additional obligations on African countries without additional offsetting rights to safeguard the existing balance in GATT rights and obligations;
- provisions for free and unrestricted access to markets for goods and services from African Least Developed Countries, without demanding reciprocity.

11. Proposals for a multilateral trade organization must be studied thoroughly, at the appropriate time, in cooperation with the other bodies of the U.N. System, and in accordance with the Havana Charter, of which some provisions of interest for African countries have remained neglected over the last forty years.

12. Finally, we undertake to do the utmost in the remaining period of the negotiations in order to secure the success of the Uruguay Round on the basis of a balance between rights and obligations of all trading partners. In order to do this, we seek maximum transparency in the negotiations at all levels during the final and decisive phase of the Round.

**DECLARATION ON THE CURRENT AFRICAN HEALTH CRISIS**

- 1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Abuja, from 3 to 5 June, 1991, have recalled the pertinence of the Declaration we adopted in Addis Ababa on “Health Foundation for Development”.**
  
- 2. We bear in mind the expansion of health services, increase of human resources for health and success in the control of epidemics in the decades of the sixties and seventies. We are convinced that these development were made possible because member governments allocated substantial resources to health which was accepted as critical for development.**
  
- 3. We realize that the current economic recession, the debt crisis and the consequent financial constraints have resulted in significant reduction in health budgets in many countries. Similarly the negative impact of the economic crisis on the social and related sectors such as housing, water supplies, food security, education and employment have also aggravated the health crisis.**
  
- 4. We feel deeply concerned of the foreseeable trend in the health crisis due to:**
  - uncontrolled AIDS pandemic;**
  
  - resurfacing with increased frequency of epidemics such as malaria, cholera, plague, meningitis and yellow fever;**
  
  - insufficient organization of local communities for their full participation in health and development.**
  
- 5. In the light of the afore-mentioned observations, we therefore, commit ourselves to continue to strengthen national health systems and decide to resolve the health crisis by :**

- **adapting national health policies, strategies and action plans to community health priorities;**
- **ensuring that carefully planned and approved health care programmes are effectively implemented to the benefit of the clients;**
- **adopting and strengthening and organizational framework for the allocation of tasks and responsibilities to ensure effective implementation;**
- **strengthening health management structures at all levels and ensure their improved functioning;**
- **supporting the implementing institutions with adequate resources;**
- **training and making effective use of health and related manpower and ensuring their equitable distribution at all levels and ensuring that economic structural adjustment programmes do not impair their functioning;**
- **making full use of national expertise for planning, implementing and evaluating technical cooperation programmes;**
- **establishing mechanisms for ensuring that technical cooperation programmes are gradually absorbed into the national health development framework;**
- **strengthening national AIDS control and prevention programmes with particular attention to their management capacity and integration with other health programmes such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, maternal and child health, family planning and health education programmes; and ensure that National AIDS Control Programmes focus their activities at the local community levels, thus improving programme effectiveness and sustainability;**
- **promoting a multisectoral approach to AIDS prevention and control by calling on different ministries such as planning, finance, education, social affairs, agriculture, industry and information, to work together with a view to reduce the pandemic's impact on development in general;**

- **establishing guidelines and procedures for self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the national health system at all levels as well as using simple community health indicators for monitoring progress towards health for all.**
- 6. We commit ourselves to promote inter-African cooperation in the field of health by adopting the following measures:**
- a) Facilitating people to people cooperation in health through reinforcing:**
- **community health organizations, community health and development activities and community health revolving funds;**
  - **community health initiatives and support to district health systems;**
  - **exchange of experiences and cooperation between health districts at country, regional and inter-regional levels.**
- b) Intensify their current cooperation with governments through:**
- **adopting people-centered, community-orientated policies, strategies and action plans and encouraging exchange of exchange of experiences and health information between countries;**
  - **promoting the exchange of students of health sciences, their teachers and other senior health professionals within Africa;**
  - **promoting inter-country cooperation in health sciences and technology especially cooperation in specialized and expensive tertiary care among African countries.**
- c) Accelerating and sustaining technical cooperation activities in integrating health and development through assisting selected districts to:**
- **undertake planning, management implementation monitoring of joint health and development activities with the cooperative support of the appropriate agencies and extending these experiences progressively to other districts;**

- **undertake major expansion of their revolving funds, through the provision and cost recovery of supplies of essential drugs (Bamako Initiative) or of other marketable goods and services of the health sector, as an initial step towards a national health financing programme;**
  
- **undertake a major effort in community-based home care of AIDS patients and other chronic health diseases.**

**7. We direct our Ministers of Health to report on the implementation of this Declaration through the Secretary-General of the OAU by 1995.**

**ABUJA DECLARATION ON SOUTH AFRICA**

Adopted at the OAU Twenty-seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government :  
Abuja, Nigeria : June 3 – 5 , 1991.

1. From its foundation, the OAU, acting in support of the People of South Africa, led by their National Liberation Movements, had been engaged in the struggle to end the apartheid crime against humanity.
2. As long as apartheid persists, it continues to be a grave affront to all peoples, in particular those of Africa and the black diaspora, who have been victims of slavery, colonialism and racialism.
3. It has taken the lives of many people both in South Africa and other countries of Southern Africa, destroyed means of livelihood for millions, dehumanized and degraded entire peoples.
4. Because of all this and more, it has posed a challenge to all people of conscience to act in a manner consistent with love of freedom and understanding of the import of the principle that all persons are born equal.
5. As we meet in Abuja, we are inspired with renewed confidence that, as a result of struggles that have been waged by the people of South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world, the scourge of apartheid will soon be a thing of the past.
6. The outcome, for which millions of people on our continent and the rest of the world have striven, will make a decisive contribution to the universal effort to end racial oppression and prejudice, wherever they may occur, and to assert the dignity of every human being. regardless of color, race or gender.
7. Coming at this time in the history of Africa, the liquidation of the system of Apartheid will be an important signal of the commitment of our continent to its renewal as a zone of freedom, respect for human and peoples rights, justice, prosperity, peace and stability.



8. As part of that commitment, we reiterate our long-held preference for the transformation of South Africa into a united democratic and non-racial country by peaceful means.
9. We reaffirm our conviction that implementation of the provisions contained in the Harare Declaration and the General Assembly Declarations on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted at its Sixteenth Special Session in December 1989 would lead to such a peaceful resolution of the South African question.
10. The people of South Africa have an urgent need to live together in conditions of justice, peace, prosperity and friendship among themselves. We believe that to achieve this, the steps visualized in these Declarations should be carried out expeditiously.
11. The very success of the future process of reconstruction required that South Africa proceeds as quickly as possible, to transform itself into a non-racial democracy.
12. This is also imperative for the future of all the countries of the region of Southern Africa to enable them to cooperate among themselves as equals for the upliftment of all their peoples.
13. We are also convinced that a liberated South Africa will make an important contribution to the critical efforts of the peoples of Africa to create a political and social order which will guaranteed all the peoples of our continent human rights, peace, security, stability an development.
14. For all these reasons, it is vital that we, the peoples of Africa, continue to wage a united struggle against apartheid and persist in our support for the South African Liberation Movements until the abhorrent system of racist, white minority domination is totally abolished.
15. Accordingly, we reaffirm our support for the constitutional principles contained in the Harare and UN Declarations which provide the basis for the transformation of South Africa into non-racial democracy and would, once implemented, make for an internationally acceptable solution of the South African question.

16. We urge the people of South Africa and all their political parties and organizations themselves to accept these principles. Abandoning all notions of racial and ethnic fragmentation of the population, so as to establish the conditions for speedy movement towards the adoption of a democratic constitution.
17. To create the climate conducive to negotiations, we call on the South African Government to implement all the preconditions stipulated in the Harare and United Nations Consensus Declarations on South Africa and the agreements it has entered into under the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes and desist from any further resort to delaying tactics.
18. We are also gravely concerned at the current organized and orchestrated violence which has already claimed the lives of too many black people. This violence has itself emerged as a major obstacle to the process of negotiations.
19. We demand that the South African Government act immediately to end this violence and enter into firm public commitments to do everything in its power to protect the lives and property of all the people of South Africa.
20. We also urge all political and other public organizations to stop fratricidal conflict which could delay the process towards the elimination of apartheid; to agree to and abide by a code of conduct aimed at ending all violence among their members and supporters.
21. We wish to impress on the South Africa Liberation Movements the strategic importance of the unity of all anti-apartheid forces in the continuing struggle to liberate their country. We commend the decisions and steps that have been taken in this regard and urge them to pursue this objective with all necessary vigour. On our part we stand ready to assist the democratic forces of South Africa to achieve this unity.
22. We acknowledge that there have been some positive developments in South Africa. Accordingly, we encourage the South African Government to pursue its efforts and to take further measures to accelerate the process for the elimination of apartheid. However, the preconditions set out in the Harare and United Nations Consensus

Declarations and the Grootte Schuur and Pretoria Minutes have not been fully met. In these circumstances all sanctions must remain in place. We further reaffirm the decisive importance of sanctions in moving South Africa forward towards a non-racial democracy and are convinced that it will be necessary to continue to use this form of pressure until the system of apartheid has been ended.

23. Bearing in mind the positive developments made so far inside South Africa and the general international reaction thereto, we mandate the current Chairman of the OAU, in consultation with the Frontline States and the National Liberations Movements, and within the framework of the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa to continue to monitor and review the situation in South Africa, taking into account concrete steps undertaken by South Africa to remove all obstacles to genuine negotiations as stipulated in the Harare and the UN Consensus Declarations, as well as putting an immediate end to the on-going violence.
24. Should the South African Government adopt measures which lead to positive, profound and irreversible change toward the abolition of apartheid, we commit ourselves to review the question of sanctions with a view to re-admitting South Africa into the international community.
25. We reiterate our support for the South African Liberation Movements and other democratic forces that have been in the forefront of struggle to abolish the system of apartheid.
26. Accordingly, we therefore commit ourselves to continue to provide these fighters against apartheid for a democratic South Africa with the necessary financial and material assistance to enable them to carry out their historic mission of liberating their country.
27. Let all the peoples of the world reaffirm their resolve to act in concert to assist the people of South Africa to regain their liberty without further delay. Let all our actions be guided by this noble objective, knowing that our own freedom will remain circumscribed as long as the people of South Africa are not free and knowing that our own actions can make a decisive contribution to the speed with which the final liquidation of the system of white minority rule on our continent is achieved. Let all

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**of us walk the last mile together and together arrive at the common destination of the liquidation of the system of apartheid and the transformation of South Africa into a non-racial democracy.**

**RESOLUTION ON THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 3 to 5 June, 1991,

**Considering** the report of the Chairman of the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte, (CM/1660 (LIV) PART 1,

**Bearing in mind** resolution CM/Res. 496 (XXVII) establishing the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

**Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the OAU on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte particularly resolution AHG/Res. 193 (XXVI),

**Recalling further** the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States, on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

**Considering** the fundamental principles of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity relating to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States,

**Reiterating** the legitimacy of the claims of the Comorian Government with respect to the re-integration of the Comorian Island of Mayotte into the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros,

**Recalling** the Programme of Action Recommended by the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Seven contained in Doc. Cttee 7/Mayotte/Rec. 1-9 (II) adopted in Moroni in November 1981:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte;
2. REAFFIRMS the sovereignty of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros over the Island of Mayotte,

- 3. REAFFIRMS ITS SOLIDARITY** with the people of Comoros in their determination to recover the political integrity of their country to defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity;
- 4. LAUNCHES AN APPEAL** to the French Government to meet the legitimate demands of the Government of the Comoros in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the OAU, the UN , the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States;
- 5. CALLS UPON OAU Member States** to do everything possible individually and collectively to alert the French and international public opinion to the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte and to compel the French Government to put an end to the occupation of Mayotte;
- 6. APPEALS** to all OAU Member States and the international community to condemn and reject outright any form of talks which could be organized by France in the Comorian Island of Mayotte on the legal international status of the Island since the referendum on self-determination held on 22 December, 1974 remains the only valid consultation on the Archipelago;
- 7. FURTHER APPEALS** to all OAU Member States and the international community to condemn any initiative by France to make the Comorian Island of Mayotte participate in any event as a separate identity from the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros;
- 8. MANDATES** the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte and the General Secretariat to resume dialogue with the French Authorities in their continued effort to ensure the return of the Comorian Island of Mayotte to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros as soon as possible;
- 9. REQUESTS** that the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte be maintained on the agenda of all the meetings of the OAU, the UN, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Islamic Conference and the League

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**of Arab States until the Comorian Island of Mayotte in re-integrated into the  
Federal Islamic of the Comoros;**

- 10. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU to monitor the  
developments on the issue and to submit a report thereon to the next Session  
of the Council of Ministers.**

**RESOLUTION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 3 to 5 June, 1991,

**Having considered** the annual report on the activities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights submitted by its Chairman, Prof. V.O. UMOZURIKE, in conformity with Article 54 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

**Recalling** that the current Session marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption in Nairobi, in June 1981, of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which came into force on 21 October, 1986,

**Considering** that pursuant to Article 1 of this Charter, Member States of the Organization of African Unity, parties to the present Charter shall recognize the rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in this Charter and shall undertake to adopt legislative or other measures to give effect to them:

1. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction of the report on the activities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for 1990 – 1991 and **AUTHORIZES** its publication;
2. **REAFFIRMS** its position declared during the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session held in July, 1989 stating that the promotion and protection of human and people's rights are essential factors for the progress of African citizens and **CONSTITUTES** a significant contribution to the attainment of their aspirations for development;
3. **APPEALS** to Member States to accede to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights if they have not yet done so;
4. **CALLS ON** Member states, parties to the Charter to submit regularly, periodic reports on legislative or other measures taken with a view to giving



**effect to the rights and freedom recognized and guaranteed by the present Charter, in accordance with its Article 62;**

- 5. RECOMMENDS that Member States of the OAU celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force of the charter, on 21 October of every year by organizing activities aimed at promoting human and peoples' rights.**

**RESOLUTION ON GLOBAL COALITION FOR AFRICA**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 3 to 5 June, 1991,

**Recalling** their previous Resolution (AHG/Res. 8 (XXVI) of July 11, 1990) concerning the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA),

**Convinced** that events on the international scene since the adoption of this resolution have underlined the need for an initiative such as the GCA providing the framework for a partnership for a high political level dialogue between Africa and its development partners on the crucial development issues facing the continent,

**Noting** with satisfaction the progress report presented by His Excellency President Dr. Q.K.J. Masire of Botswana, Co-Chairman of the GCA on efforts towards the establishment of the GCA to date:

1. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to His Excellency President Q.K.J. Masire and his Co-Chairman for the initiatives they have taken to establish the GCA;
2. CALLS ON the African continental Organization and Africa's development partners to strengthen their support for and cooperation with the Global Coalition for Africa in pursuit of African development.

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONDITIONS OF  
IMMIGRANT AFRICAN WORKERS IN EUROPE**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 3 to 5 June, 1991,

**Bearing in mind** the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU on Employment Crisis in Africa, which underscores inter alia the rational development and utilization of human resources,

**Considering** that the entry into force of the SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT in January 1993 will have social, cultural and political implications for the immigrant African workers,

**Concerned** by the fact that the SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT contains some legal and social clauses which contravene the provisions of Annexes V and VI of the Lome IV Convention,

**Concerned** by the fact that the provisions of the SCHENGEN and TREVI Agreements relating to the right of asylum, visa and entry residence and movement conditions of foreigners in EEC countries, threaten the future of the younger generations of immigrant African workers,

**Concerned** also by African “brain drain” and illegal emigration of young Africans to Europe:

1. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the interest which the Secretary-General of the OAU has in the disturbing condition of immigrant African workers in Europe;
2. STRESSES the need for Member States to henceforth show special interest in the problems of the African immigrant workers in Europe;

- 3. REQUESTS the General Secretariat of OAU to undertake, in collaboration with the General Secretariats of ACP, ILP, IMO, OATUU, FETAF and the major immigrant African workers to carry out a study on African immigration within the context of the Lome Convention with a view to establishing a true status of the immigrant African worker;**
  
- 4. REQUESTS the OAU Labour Commission to report through the Secretary-General to the next Summit on the implementation of this resolution.**

**RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 3 to 5 June, 1991,

**Recalling** its solemn commitment in the Lagos Plan of Action and particularly, in its Final Act, to establish an African Economic Community, so as to ensure the economic, social and cultural integration of the African Continent,

**Recalling further** its earlier resolutions on the establishment of the African Economic Community, namely Resolution AHG/Res. 190 (XXV),

**Reaffirming** its determination to mobilize and co-ordinate collective efforts and resources of the OAU Member States for the attainment of the economic and social integration through harmonization and rationalization of the activities of the various African Inter-governmental Organizations at all levels,

**Having considered** the conclusions and recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee as endorsed by the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, on the establishment of the African Economic Community:

1. **WELCOMES** the signature of the Treaty and **URGES** Member States to make the required arrangements for its early ratification and for the establishment of national follow-up mechanisms responsible for Community matters;
2. **DECIDES** to establish a Committee composed of the Secretary-General of the OAU, the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Communities to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the African Economic Community and **REQUESTS** the ADB, ECA and UNDP to provide the required technical support.
3. **CALLS UPON** all the Member States of the Respective Regional Communities and the other relevant Inter-governmental Organizations, to

**lend full support and cooperation to ensure the necessary rationalization, coordination and harmonization activities and projects of the African Inter-governmental organizations at regional and continental levels, in keeping with the objectives of the Treaty of African Economic Community and the recommendations of the Permanent Steering Committee;**

- 4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU, in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and the President of the ADB, to accelerate the preparation of the Protocols particularly that on the relations between the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities, and CALLS UPON the Regional Economic Communities to lend their full support in this important exercise;**
  
- 5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to convene as soon as possible, a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the OAU Charter Review in order to finalize the review of the OAU Charter taking into account the relevant provisions of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and decisions on the merger of the OAU and the Community;**
  
- 6. URGES the International Community, the UN System, UNDP and other multilateral funding Agencies and institutions to lend their full technical and financial support to the establishment of the African Economic Community.**

1991

# Declarations And Resolutions Adopted By The Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session Of The Assembly Of Heads Of State And Government

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