

**DECLARATION ON THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN
AFRICA MADE BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AT
THE TWENTIETH ORDINARY SESSION OF THEIR ASSEMBLY
HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA FROM 12 TO 15
NOVEMBER, 1984**

PREAMBLE

We the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 – 15 November 1984, for the 20th Ordinary Session of our Assembly,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General a.i. on the African Economic Situation in Document AHG/110 (XX) and its Annexes.

Most greatly concerned by the deteriorating and alarming economic and social conditions of our countries, and in particular, the unprecedented effects of the persistent drought, which have caused untold misery in most of our Member States, to the extend that 27 of them are currently dependent of food aid,

Recognising that the poor performance of our economies is due, on the one hand, to such external factors as declining export prices of Africa's major exports, drastic drop in the level of official development assistance in real term, mounting external debt and persistent balance of payments deficit, and on the other hand, to weak economic structure and to certain aspects of domestic policies that our countries have been compelled to adopt partly in response to external economic situation,

Greatly disturbed by the strong possibility of further deterioration in our economies if the current situation is allowed to continue,

Determined to adopt effective policy measures at the national, sub-regional and continental levels of the improved performance of our economies,

Further determined to take concerted action and adopt measures to readdress the external dependence and orientation of African economies and to achieve self-reliance and self-sustainment in our economic development efforts, in accordance with our strategy for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and the Final Act of Lagos (FAL),

Noting with deep satisfaction the efforts so far deployed by African Governments to implement structural adjustment measures and to further strengthen economic co-operation and integration,

Conscious of the fact that owing to the scale and complexity of the African economic problem, there is an urgent need for massive assistance on both short and long-terms, from the international community to complement and supplement our individual and collective efforts in dealing with the problem,

Noting with satisfaction the action by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a temporary United Nations Liaison Office in Nairobi for the purpose of monitoring the critical economic situation facing African countries, and keeping the international community regularly informed of this condition and priority needs and the positive response from Organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors to the critical economic situation in Africa,

Aware of the fact that the provision of food aid, while it is appreciated, is not the solution to the African food problem,

Solemnly proclaiming our firm determination to achieve accelerated economic development and independence of Africa, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the OAU Charter and the Lagos Plan of Actions and the Final Act of Lagos through the effective mobilization of our countries' immense human and material resources:

DECLARE as follows:

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

At the national level we pledge to direct as a priority, our resources to the urgent needs in all areas, especially to the rehabilitation of productive sectors of food and agriculture and industry.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

We request the Secretary-General of the OAU, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and other relevant international and African inter-governmental organizations to devise all necessary measures for the promotion of sub-regional and regional co-operation in the above areas.

At the international level, the main efforts should concentrate on alleviating externally-induced constraints which would increase African countries' capability to mobilize more resources for relief and emergency needs of the stricken population.

LONGER-TERM DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Beyond the emergency and rehabilitation needs outlined above, the very roots of Africa's development perspectives are mainly structural. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to the measures and guidelines as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, and to complement national, sub-regional and regional measures with adequate international support in the inter-related areas of primary commodity export, industrial promotion, external debt and financial flows.

To this end, we support the decision and recommendations of our Ministers in their respective sectorial conferences, and endorse the following:

- a) the recommendations of the Second Session of the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food;
- b) the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and the recommendations of the 7th Conference of African Ministers of Industry, in particular Resolution I (VII) on the Implementation of the Programme for the IDDA;

- c) the assessment by the Third Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance of the results of the Sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in June 1983;
- d) the decisions of the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the Second Phase of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa..

INTERNATIONAL MEASURES

While we are determined to mobilize all our resources for the above sectoral measures, we also call upon the international community to support our efforts. In this regard we endorse fully:

- i. the Special Memorandum by the ECA Conference of Ministers on African Economic and Social Crisis, adopted at the 19th Session of the Commission, in Addis Ababa;
- ii. the Addis Ababa Declaration of Africa's External Indebtedness adopted by the African Ministers of Finance at their meeting held in Addis Ababa, in June 1984; and
- iii. the draft Declaration on the critical economic situation in Africa, presented to the 39th Session of the UN General Assembly.

We welcome the proposal contained in the recent World Bank report entitled “Towards Sustained Development of Sub-Saharan Africa: A Joint programme of Action.” calling for an additional bilateral and multilateral disbursements of about US\$2 billion yearly for sub-Saharan Africa. We therefore appeal to all donor countries to respond positively and speedily to the above proposal as most of our countries rely exclusively on multilateral concessions of finance and since the seventh replenishment of IDA did not bring about the expected result. Consideration should therefore be given by the World Bank to establish special facilities for the realization of these objectives.

While regretting the failure of the previous Conventions to meet the aspirations of the ACP Status, we urge the parties to the negotiation of the Third Lomé Convention

between the EDC and the ACP countries, in particular the European Economic Committee Members, to ensure that the new Convention is endowed with adequate provisions, particularly in the areas of financial resources and ACP trade access to the EEC, to enable it fulfill its objectives and thus contribute to the development efforts of our countries.

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

- a) We request the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and other relevant international and African Organizations to monitor closely, the implementation of this Declaration and to submit a progress report on to the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, along with the progress report on the implementation of the LPA and FAL as called for in our Resolution AHG/Res. 114 (XIX) of June 1983.
- b) We direct our ministerial conference to undertake within their respective area of competence a careful review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos in view of the deteriorating socio-economic conditions in Africa that have impeded our national and collective efforts to implement that Plan and the Act and to submit concrete recommendations based on their appraisal and the underlying strategy of the Plan and Act on how the objectives of the LPA and of FAL can best be realized.
- c) We entrust the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of ECA, with the task of urgently contracting the other regional groupings of the Group of 77;
- d) CONVINCING the developed countries to resume the UN Global negotiations on the world economics crisis and the New International Economic Order, with effect from 1985;
- e) CONVENING a Special Session of the group of 77 to formulate a new negotiation strategy which will constitute the process for the preparation toward the global negotiations.

Declaration On The Critical Economic
Situation In Africa Made By The Heads
Of State And Government Of The
Organization Of African Unity At The
Twentieth Ordinary Session Of Their
Assembly Held In Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia From 12 To 15 November, 1984

Organisation of African Unity

Organisation of African Unity

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/573>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository