



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat
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Annex

CMAC/Res.1 - 27 (I)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
FORTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION
ADDIS ABABA- ETHIOPIA
21 - 25 JULY 1986



RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF CULTURE

RESOLUTION ON CULTURAL COOPERATION AMONG STATES

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Recalling that cultural cooperation is a right of and duty for all the peoples and nations which should share their learning and knowledge (Article V of the UNESCO Declaration on Principles of International Cultural Cooperation,

Recalling that cultural cooperation will be carried out for the mutual benefit of all the nations practising it and that the exchanges which it will generate will be organized in a vast spirit of reciprocity (Article VIII of the said Declaration);

Recalling that cultural cooperation should contribute to establish stable and lasting relations between peoples, avoiding tensions which would emerge in international relations (Article IX),

Deeming that cultural cooperation should lead to the development of African societies and ensure the future of Africa in the face of other cultural, economic and political entities of the world,

Considering the place given to bilateral and regional cultural cooperation between African States and Institutions in the proposals and suggestions contained in the "Pan-African Cultural Manifesto" of Algiers (1969),

RECOMMENDS to Member States:

- to take every step to develop cultural cooperation not only between neighbouring States but also with all the other States of the Continent;

- to take all the necessary measures so that the OAU General Secretariat could ensure the coordination of their cultural activities and follow the development of bilateral, regional and Pan-African cultural cooperation, particularly by:

- a) communicating, regularly, information and documents on this cooperation to the OAU Department concerned;
- b) requesting, for this purpose, the specialised offices of cultural cooperation of their Ministry of Culture to transmit this information to the OAU;
- c) ensuring the implementation of OAU resolutions and programmes;

- to encourage cooperation between cultural institutions and support their programmes;

which have not yet done so, to ratify the Cultural Charter for Africa, as soon as possible, so as to enable its implementation.

REQUESTS the OAU:

- a) to pursue its efforts with Member States for the ratification of this Charter;
- b) to ensure collection and processing of data from the Member States and establish, at the level of the OAU, a cultural data bank on Africa;
- c) hold consultations with the Member States with a view to establishing a cultural-statistical data bank;
- d) to implement the ways and means which facilitate a better circulation of cultural information among Member States.

RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering that regional cultural cooperation in Africa is the corner stone of both the assertion of cultural identities and participation in the cultural life,

Deeming that the rapprochement between geo-cultural regions and sub-regions in Africa should be effected through the encouragement of inter-regional cooperation,

Recalling that for the training, retraining and advanced training of cultural action staff, Member States have established a certain number of regional and sub-regional cultural institutions,

Recalling that the OAU signed a Cultural Cooperation Agreement with UNESCO in 1968 and ALECSO in 1986,

Concerned about increasing support to Southern African countries faced by cultural and military acts of aggression of the racist regime of Pretoria and continuing the support for the national liberation struggle led by the PAC, ANC and SWAPO:

1. RECOMMENDS the Member States and the OAU:
 - a) to pay particular attention to regional and sub-regional cultural institutions, especially to those which face difficulties with a view to finding solutions to them;
 - b) to strengthen regional cooperation.

2. REQUESTS the OAU:

- a) to ensure the coordination between African and regional cultural institutions;
- b) to articulate regional cultural cooperation on the basis of development areas;
- c) to intensify cooperation with the UNESCO and ALECSO.

For this purpose, the OAU will strive to coordinate the participation of Member States in the activities of these Organizations and submit to the General Conferences of these Organizations the programmes and plans as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Culture.

RESOLUTION ON PAN-AFRICAN CULTURAL COOPERATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering that cinema is a specific cultural phenomenon and an effective means of communication,

Considering that the invasion of African cinema screens by films which condition negatively our peoples and impair their ability to assume fully the responsibility of their own cultural development,

Considering the vital need of the peoples to watch films reflecting their own concerns, aspirations, and realities,

RECOMMENDS THE OAU to:

1. pay a greater attention to the promotion of African films,
2. give support to Pan-African film festivals organised on the continent,
3. cooperate more closely with the Pan-African Federation of Film Producers (FEPACI),
4. show greater concern for training of Staff in the audio-visual field.

RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Delighted at the institutionalisation of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture and the adoption of a Cultural Development Plan,

Having taken note of the establishment of an Afro-Arab Cultural Institute and the project of the World Decade for Cultural Development to be proclaimed by the UNO as from 1988,

Convinced that all these prospects require adequate coordinating and executing agencies in order to obtain the expected results,

Noting the existence of numerous African sub-regional, regional and/or Pan-African institutions as well as the difficulties faced by several of them due to the present economic crisis affecting the world in general and African countries in particular;

RECOMMENDS to the OAU:

- a) to re-adjust its policy as regards African Institutions by stressing the pooling of limited means;
- b) to play the role of general coordinator of African Cultural Institutions and make necessary provisions for it to carry out this role;
- c) to convene a panel of experts representing all the African regions and to which the regional centres and Pan-African institutions established at the initiative of the OAU or Member States will be invited.

RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A UNIVERSITY OF AFRICAN UNITY

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering the recommendations of the Monrovia Symposium on particularly a "New Pedagogy Geared to African Unity",

Considering the Declaration on the Cultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action, adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (AHG/Decl.2 (XXI),

Recalling the ideals that guided the Founding Fathers of the Organization:

1. RECOMMENDS the establishment of a University of African Unity, centre for exchange between researchers, teachers, etc... whose vocation would be to maintain and develop the Pan-Africanist ideology;
2. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to take the necessary steps to carry out preliminary consultations with Member States and finalise a study for the establishment of a University called: "University of African Unity".

RESOLUTION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Delighted at the cooperation established between African institutions on the one hand and those of the Arab world on the other,

Recalling the Declaration on Afro-Arab Cooperation adopted by the Summit Conference of Cairo in July 1977,

Concerned about giving a new impetus to the cultural aspect of this cooperation:

1. ENDORSES the recommendations of the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation on cultural cooperation.
2. APPEALS for the holding of the joint conference of African and Arab Ministers of Culture, as soon as possible.
3. REQUESTS the OAU General Secretariat to associate cultural organizations or events established at the initiative of African and Arab Communities with Afro-Arab Cultural Cooperation.

RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering the importance of international cultural cooperation links for the promotion of peace, friendship among peoples and social advancement,

Expressing satisfaction at the cooperation between the OAU and the international partners such as the UNDP, UNESCO, ACCT, ALECSO, the League of Arab States and ISESCO,

Concerned about extending this cooperation to other institutions or regions,

RECOMMENDS:

- (a) the OAU General Secretariat to take the necessary initiatives for this purpose;
- (b) the African media to sensitize the public opinion about the importance of international cultural cooperation for the promotion of peace, friendship between peoples and the advent of social advancement.

RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OAU
AND AFRICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Recalling the existence of cultural institutions of several categories in Africa,

Noting that some of them have expressed the wish to harmonise their activities with those of the OAU for greater effectiveness,

Expressing its appreciation for the initiatives taken to promote a cultural development consonant with the Lagos Plan of Action:

RECOMMENDS the OAU:

- a) to define, before the Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture, the criteria according to which the OAU grants an observer and specialised institution status;
- b) to draw up a policy, making it possible to derive the maximum benefit from the infrastructures and experiences of some regional or sub-regional Organizations, whenever possible,
- c) to cooperate with Member States concerned and international Organizations so as to provide Southern Africa with a coordinating structure for cultural development;
- d) to issue a newsletter so as to facilitate in making better known the activities of African cultural institutions.

RESOLUTION ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OAU AND UNESCO

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Recalling that the OAU and UNESCO signed an agreement of cooperation in 1968,

Considering that a Joint Cooperation Commission was established within the framework of this agreement,

Considering the active participation of UNESCO in the execution of cultural and scientific development projects of the OAU,

Referring to the decisions of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, in July 1985 and particularly the Declaration on the Cultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action and the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Considering the determining role of African States at the Twenty-third Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in Sofia, in October-November, 1985,

Considering the remarkable action of the UNESCO in favour of the promotion of African languages and cultures, in particular its substantial contribution to the preparation and publication of "The General History of Africa", the base for the African cultural identity:

1. REAFFIRMS its adherence to the ideals and aims of the UNESCO as well as its support for its cultural and scientific development Programmes, particularly the World Decade for Cultural Development;
2. REAFFIRMS its support to the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, whose dynamism and effectiveness have contributed to the universal influence of this organization;

3. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Director-General for the decisive impetus he has given to the promotion of African cultures, particularly by establishing regional research centres for oral traditions and the development of African languages, and by preserving its cultural heritage;

4. HAILS with appreciation the efforts made by UNESCO for the realisation of "The General History of Africa" particularly through the publication of books relating to this History in several international and African languages;

5. STRONGLY APPEALS to all Member States to ensure a wide dissemination of this book and its actual use at all levels of the educational system;

6. DRAWS the attention of the UNESCO Director-General to the Cultural Development Plan adopted by the OAU and WISHES that considerable assistance be given to ensure its implementation in the context of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF CULTURE

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Recalling the objectives of the Cultural Charter for Africa,

Convinced of the opportuneness to establish within the framework of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, an organ for consultation between African Ministers of Culture,

Determined to participate fully in the efforts made by the OAU to integrate socio-cultural factors into the development process,

Expressing satisfaction at the Declaration of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Cultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action and the World Decade for Cultural Development

1. RECOMMENDS that a Conference of African Ministers of Culture (CMAC) be established within the Organization of African Unity;
2. ADOPTS the Rules of Procedure attached hereto;
3. RECOMMENDS that the OAU be provided with the necessary means to enable it follow up the decisions adopted, particularly through the appointment of working group composed of members of the Bureau of the Conference, which in between the Sessions must, in consultation with the OAU Secretary-General, prepare rationally and effectively the deliberations of the Conference of Ministers;
4. REQUESTS Member States to take every step for the preparation and success of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

RESOLUTION ON THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
PLAN CALLED "THE PORT LOUIS PLAN"

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering the particular care taken by the OAU General Secretariat in the preparation of Document CMAC/005 (I) which is comprehensive, detailed and clear,

Having considered in depth the document in question,

Having taken note of the various observations made during the discussions:

1. DECIDES to adopt it as a basic document for the preparation of a final document to be captioned as "The Port Louis Plan";
2. CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary-General to identify the national, sub-regional, regional or Pan-African institutions likely to cooperate for the implementation of the Port Louis Plan;
3. REQUESTS the Member States to inform the Secretary-General of the fields of activities and projects corresponding to the Port Louis Plan so as to facilitate the dissemination of information in this matter.

RESOLUTION ON THE TRAINING OF CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT STAFF

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Recalling Recommendations Nos. 34 and 35 on the pilot cultural development staff training centres, adopted at the AFRICACULT Conference in 1975,

Recognising the growing needs of Member States in specialised staff in the different sectors in charge of creation, preservation, dissemination, administration and promotion of culture,

Considering in other respects, the need to sensitize the heads of the different economic and social sectors about the cultural dimension of their functions:

1. RECOMMENDS the OAU:
 - a) to include among the priority objectives of its cultural programme of action the training, retraining and advanced training of Cultural Officers and the sensitization of Officers of other economic sectors to the cultural dimension of development;
 - b) to give all the necessary material and technical assistance to the development of existing training Centres or Institutions.
2. RECOMMENDS the International Cultural Organizations:
 - a) to intensify their activities in training, retraining and advanced training of cultural staff in Africa;
 - b) to give, to this end, priority to training in their draft programme and budget.

RESOLUTION ON THE PROMOTION OF ENDOGENOUS
CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering that the technological mechanisms of production and dissemination of works of intellectual and artistic creativity, particularly the radio and television programmes, films and books, offer unprecedented possibilities for the promotion and dissemination of African Cultures,

Considering the baneful effects of a mass importation of foreign cultural property on the life style and behaviour of the people,

Conscious of the fact that cultural industries need huge human resources and infrastructures, far exceeding the financing capacities of developing countries:

1. RECOMMENDS the Member States

- a) to draw up a co-production and co-edition policy to increase the production capacities for cultural property;
- b) to strengthen the exchanges of radio and television programmes, and books between African countries;
- c) to promote the distribution of African films and their screening;
- d) to encourage the promulgation of legislation with regard to copyright and related rights;

2. RECOMMENDS the OAU

- a) to prepare a list of priority cultural products which must benefit from a special system of liberalisation of trade between African countries or within the framework of agreements in force in the sub-regional economic cooperation organisations;

- b) to carry out, in cooperation with the ICA, ALECSO, UNESCO and FEPACI, and all the other regional and sub-regional institutions, an inventory of the existing production centres of cultural property at the industrial scale in the countries on the sub-regions;
 - c) to seek the means enabling the strengthening and expansion (sub-regionalisation or regionalisation) of identified centres;
 - d) to request earnestly, for this purpose, the assistance of development project financing organizations, particularly the UNDP and EEC within the purview of the OME III Convention.
3. RECOMMENDS the UNESCO to intensify its programme of assistance to African countries for the development of their cultural industries.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering that handicraft bears witness to the wealth of the cultural heritage and the ingeniousness of the people while being a sector of activities suitable to generate economic and cultural added-values,

Considering that the promotion and development of handicrafts require a systematic knowledge of national small-scale production, the establishment of national structures for the organization of small-scale production,

Recalling Resolution 3.314 adopted by the Eighteenth Session of the UNESCO General Conference on the establishment of Inter-State Centres for the Promotion of Handicraft, Art and Cultural Tourism (CIEPAT),

Deeming that by its pilot and sub-regional nature, the First Inter-State Centre established in Abomey, People's Republic of Benin, by the African Cultural Institute (ICA) is called upon to have multiplier effects in Africa:

RECOMMENDS the Member States to carry out a systematic inventory of the handicraft creation centres and the most significant handicraft models with a view to establishing or strengthening national or sub-regional structures for the promotion of traditional handicrafts.

RECOMMENDS the OAU

- a) to sensitize the sub-regional economic cooperation organizations (CEAO; ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADCC) about the need to provide material and financial assistance for the execution of national or sub-regional handicrafts promotion projects.

- b) to request the Intergovernmental Financing Organizations particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Development Bank (ADB) to welcome the requests which Member States of Africa or their specialized institutions may address to them in matters relating to handicrafts.



RESOLUTION ON CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April, 1986,

Considering that the cultural development projects contained in the PORT LOUIS PLAN are of an emergency nature,

Considering the need to stress the cultural dimension of development and noting that, in this connection, there are inadequacies at the level of African economic institutions and national development plans:

1. APPEALS to all economic cooperation organizations in Africa to take into account the cultural dimension of development and to work in close cooperation with the OAU in that perspective;
2. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to negotiate with all the organizations likely to contribute to the execution of the Port Louis Plan;
3. APPEALS to all OAU Member States on the one hand and people of good will on the other to contribute to the to the Inter-African Cultural Fund;
4. ADOPTS the proposals made by the meeting of Experts held in Addis Ababa from 7 to 9 August, 1984 for the launching of the Inter-African Cultural Fund, particularly:

(a) Production of "Paper-back Series"

Under the auspices of the Inter-African Cultural Fund with the object of popularizing the works of African authors as well as the publication

of books at moderate cost. African authors whose works would be published in this series, would contribute one percent of their royalties to the Cultural Fund;

- (b) establishment under the aegis of the Fund of clubs for readers, publishers and distributors of African books published in the above series.

It is proposed that each Member State should mount a stand in its bookshops, at its cultural centres and airports, etc... for the sale of these books. These clubs will also deal with African literature written in Spanish and Portuguese. The establishment of these clubs are indeed in keeping with the commitment of African Governments under Article 22 of the African Cultural Charter;

- (c) Publication of text-books and Works of African Authors under the auspices of the Fund

These would no longer be under contract with any publishing house and the "copyright" would be the property of only the authors. These works would foster the "adaptation of teaching curricula to development needs and to national and African socio-cultural realities." These works (text books, story books, novels, comics) would be sold in all Member States. Part of the income thus generated (30%) would go to the Fund with the understanding that royalties would be paid to the authors. The experts requested the OAU General Secretariat to establish a list of these works through contacts with African writers. They noted with satisfaction the proposal by Mr. Olympe Bhely Quenum, one of the participants, to place his book entitled "Un enfant d'Afrique" at the disposal of OAU Member States;

- (d) Organization of cultural events in Member States to commemorate African Day, the anniversary of OAU. The participants requested that 25 May be declared a paid holiday in all Member States and that part of the income generated by cultural events organized on that occasion should go to the Cultural Fund;
- (e) Creation of an African film library within OAU constituted by a certain number of famous African films over the last twenty years. Revenue accruing from the use of these films would go to the Fund;
- (f) Production of films on African art to be shown during the next Africa Day (25 May, 1986). These films would end with an appeal by the OAU Secretary-General for contributions to the Fund. They would be distributed to all Member States;
- (g) Creation of writers union and unions of African artists whose activities fall within the context of the Fund. Furthermore, for the first time through the Fund, OAU awarded a prize to the Pan-African Film Festival. It also participated in the Mogadiscio Festival. It granted a subvention to the African Cultural Institute for the training of cultural promotion workers, etc....

RESOLUTION ON THE ADOPTION OF KISWAHILI
AS AN OAU WORKING LANGUAGE

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its first ordinary session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Noting the development of Kiswahili as a language of communication in African and some parts of the world,

Noting with satisfaction its utilisation as a working language at, among others, the Conference on the women's Decade held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985,

Recalling the provisions of Article XXIX of the Charter of the OAU on the working languages of the Organization.

PROPOSES to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to consider adopting kiswahili as one of the working languages of the Organization.

RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OAU
AND THE AFRICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA)

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its first ordinary session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Considering the cultural charter for Africa,

Considering the numerous achievements of the ICA in the field of Cultural Development of Africa particularly by:

- the promotion of cultural and handicraft industries,
- the training of staff for cultural action,
- Pan African and international cultural co-operation,

Considering that, in this capacity, the ICA is already carrying out satisfactorily on the field an action which is in line with the concerns of the present conference on the cultural dimension of development:

1. REAFFIRMS the relevance of the Cultural Charter for Africa which, more than ever, preserves all its reality,
2. PAYS TRIBUTE to the ICA for its role of precursor in the preparation of the cultural Charter for Africa and the institutionalisation of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture,
3. CONGRATULATES the ICA on its efforts to maintain, in a certain way, Cultural cooperation among African States.

4. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the complementarity of the action of ICA and the OAU proposed cultural programme,
5. RECOMMENDS the OAU to associate ICA with the implementation of the cultural programme adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Culture.

RESOLUTION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURES

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Considering the role played by the First World Festival of Black Arts organised in Dakar in 1966, the Pan African Festival of Algiers in 1969 and the FESTAC in Lagos in 1977 in the development of policies and industries of culture, arts and handicrafts,

Considering the support given to the proposed Pan African Festival of Arts and Cultures by His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, OAU Current Chairman and President of the Republic of Senegal and by his colleagues:

1. SUPPORTS the project of the Pan African Festival of Arts and Cultures;
2. REQUESTS all OAU Member States and African Cultural institutions to contribute to its preparation and success;
3. RECOMMENDS the establishment, under the aegis of the OAU, of a Committee on the Pan-African Festival of Arts and Cultures, composed of African Ministers of Culture, constituting the Executive Committee and charged with planning the Festivals.

RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its first ordinary session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Recalling the Declaration on the Cultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, from 18 to 20 July 1985,

Recalling in particular that by this Declaration the Heads of State and Government of the OAU:

- (a) declare that they wish to facilitate the taking into account of human factors, cultural realities and the value systems by development strategies;
- (b) recognize the need to give political support to the success of the forthcoming World Decade for Cultural Development;

Recalling Resolution 11.10 adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its Twenty-third Session, by which it approved the general outline and major orientations of the draft programme of action of the Decade;

Expresses its satisfaction at the agreement between the principal objectives of the Decade and those of the Pan African Cultural Manifesto of Algiers and of the Cultural Charter for Africa;

1. RECOMMENDS to the Member States:

- (a) to ensure the inclusion of social and cultural parameters in their development plans;
- (b) to set up national committees responsible for coordinating participation in the various activities and events which are scheduled within the programme of action of the Decade;

(c) to make their populations aware of the objectives of the Decade, especially by ensuring the largest possible dissemination of the programme of action.

2. RECOMMENDS to the OAU to take all the necessary measures to enable it participate actively in the implementation of the programme of action of the Decade.

RESOLUTION ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE AFRICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its first ordinary session in Port Louis, Mauritius from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Conscious of the importance of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by UNESCO in 1972,

Considering that the preservation of the African Cultural Heritage is a priority within the framework of the search of the cultural identity of the Continent,

Considering the appeals made on 20 September 1980 and 16 February 1985 by the UNESCO Director General in favour of the Island of Goree, Senegal and the Chinguetti, Ouadane, Oualata and Tichill towns of Mauritania respectively:

1. NOTES that a certain number of African monuments appear on the list of the World Cultural Heritage;
2. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION AT the appeals made by the UNESCO Director General;
3. REQUESTS the OAU to help, by providing the necessary assistance, the States, which so wish, to identify and/or restore the most significant monuments of their heritage;
4. RECOMMENDS the OAU and UNESCO to launch adequate campaigns particularly through appeals to the International Community to mobilize the necessary resources for the preservation of the wealth of the African Cultural Heritage;
5. RECOMMENDS the OAU:
 - to intensify its action in favour of the preservation and the safeguarding of the African cultural heritage;

- to strive actively to ensure the return of African Cultural property and archives to their country of origin;

- to intensify particularly its activities in:

(a) making an inventory of all the objects of cultural heritage;

(b) preserving and safeguarding all the objects of historical importance of the African Cultural Heritage;

6. CALLS UPON the Member States to take the necessary measures to control effectively the illegal transfer of cultural property and to ratify the UNESCO Convention of 1970 relating to it.

RESOLUTION ON THE LANGUAGE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Recalling the provisions of the Cultural Charter for Africa concerning the promotion of African Languages,

Convinced of the irreplaceable role they play in the preservation, development and dissemination of African Cultures,

Further convinced that the promotion of these languages contribute to the assertion of the cultural identity, the strengthening of national independence and the building of African Unity:

1. ADOPTS the Language Plan of Action for Africa prepared by the meeting of Experts convened by the Inter-African Bureau of Languages (OAU/IBL) in Kampala, Uganda, in June 1985, and attached hereto;
2. RECOMMENDS the Member States to draw inspirations from it for their policies and programmes of development of African Languages;
3. FURTHER RECOMMENDS the experts concerned to establish a Pan-African Language Association.

N.B. (Attach the Language Plan of Action for Africa to this Resolution)

RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CIVILIZATION
OF JERUSALEM AND THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Organisation of African Unity on the question of Palestine and Jerusalem,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by UNESCO on the protection of the cultural heritage and civilization of Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian territory;

Further Recalling the 1954 Convention and Protocol of the Hague on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,

Aware of the great importance that mankind attaches to the protection of civilization and cultural heritage,

Conscious of the unique role and status of Jerusalem since the dawn of History as the Holy City of the three monotheist religions which make Jerusalem a universal heritage to the entire humanity and a symbol for the search of International Peace,

Concerned about continued manoeuvres of the Israeli occupying forces which persistently seek to change the historical, cultural and demographic characteristics of Jerusalem,

Deeply concerned about the repeated acts of oppression perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian Universities, educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories and against Palestinian students, teachers and other personnel of these institutions, and thus in flagrant violation of human rights and international law:

1. **WARNS** against the dangers emanating from the continuation of the military occupation of Jerusalem which threatens the spiritual, cultural and historical values of this Holy City and seeks to change its civilization and cultural identity;
2. **CALLS UPON** all the Member States of the OAU to intensify their efforts through the UNESCO and other fora for the preservation of the antiquities of the Heritage and other specificities of the city of Jerusalem;
3. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the oppressive racist measures adopted by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian Universities and educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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RESOLUTION ON THE AWARDING OF THE NELSON MANDELA PRIZE

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius from 14 to 15 April 1986.

Considering the situation obtaining in Southern Africa;

Anxious to give all its support to the people struggling against the racist regime of Pretoria;

Indignant at the arbitrary imprisonment of Nelson Mandela by the racist regime of Apartheid;

1. REAFFIRMS its solidarity with the struggle of the South African people;
2. PAYS TRIBUTE to Algeria for its initiative to establish a "Mandela Prize" to reward research work carried out in any field concerning the liberation struggle in Africa;
3. CALLS UPON Algeria to contact the OAU General Secretariat so as to determine the criteria and modalities for awarding the "Mandela Prize" and to inform all Member States about them.

RESOLUTION ON LOGISTIC SUPPORT
FOR CULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Aware of the role which cultural action can play in enhancing the activities of Liberation Movements recognised by the OAU;

Conscious of the contribution which existing cultural institutions in independent Africa can make by providing various kinds of training to the cadres of Liberation Movements;

Desirous of contributing in this way to the advancement of the liberation struggle and enrichment of its cultural dimension;

1. URGES Member States of the OAU to provide for seats in their institutions for the training of cultural cadres of the Liberation Movements;
2. ENCOURAGES those Member States which have not yet considered doing so to take the necessary measures enabling the cultural cadres to obtain a certificate for the training received in their institutions.

RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by UNESCO on the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention),

Aware that military aggressions are an important factor of cultural heritage destruction,

Concerned about the continued acts of aggression of the South African regime against neighbouring States that destroy economic and Social infrastructures which are cultural property of their peoples,

Concerned about the continued practices of criminal and racist oppression of the people of South Africa and occupation of Namibia by the apartheid regime which seeks to change the historical and cultural heritage of all the peoples of Southern Africa;

1. WARNS against the destructions and losses of cultural heritage monuments resulting from the South African regime acts of aggression and occupation of neighbouring countries in the Southern African sub-region;
2. CONDMENS the acts of aggression of South Africa against the neighbouring countries,
3. URGES the Republic of South Africa to stop destroying cultural heritage property in Southern Africa,

4. CONDEMNS the apartheid policy as responsible for the state of war in the sub-region which impedes cultural development in the region,
5. CALLS UPON all African States to sever sports links with South Africa and to boycott artists and authors who have links with the apartheid regime,
6. CALLS UPON African States to intensify their support by offering scholarships and educational facilities to the students of the Liberation Movements of Southern Africa recognized by the OAU.

RESOLUTION ON THE AGGRESSION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST LIBYA

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture meeting in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Considering that resorting to force for the settlement of international conflicts is contrary to morality and the International Law,

bearing in mind the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Seriously concerned about the act of aggression perpetrated on 14 April 1986 by the United States of America against a Member State of the OAU, under the circumstances Libya:

1. EXPRESSES its solidarity with the government and People of Libya;
2. STRONGLY CONDEMNS the act of aggression of the United States of America against Libya.

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN CULTURAL COMMON MARKET

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Session, in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 14 to 15 April 1986,

Considering the major role of culture in the development process, as defined by different declarations and conferences organised in Africa, particularly with the assistance of UNESCO,

Considering the still relevant nature of the Pan African Cultural Manifesto of Algiers (1969), resolutions of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa (Accra, 1975) and of the Cultural Charter for Africa (Port Louis, 1976),

Considering the present availability of varied and multiple forms of cultural infrastructures in Africa,

Considering the urgent need for Africa to establish an intergrating Pan African Cultural structure so as to bring to successful issue, sub-regional, regional and Pan African Cultural projects for the harmonious and integral development of the African continent,

Considering the historical scope of the message of the President of the Gabonese Republic addressed to the first session of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture and attached hereto:

1. DECIDES to adopt the message as a working document of the Conference;
2. RECOMMENDS that the conference, in cooperation with the OAU General Secretariat, consider concretely, with all the sub-regional and regional African Cultural Structures, the possibility of establishing an African Cultural Common Market during the World Decade for Cultural Development.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC TO THE
FIRST CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICA

UNITY

Honourable Ministers,

At the solemn opening of Your Conference and on behalf of my colleagues, the Heads of OAU Member State, may I first of all hail, on this occasion, the memory of a great man and pay a sincere tribute to one of the Founding Fathers of the OAU, Sir SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM, tireless artisan of dialogue between ethnic groups, races, religions and peoples. I convey to you also Mr. Prime Minister ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH and your beautiful country, crossroads of civilisations, my brotherly greetings. You are aware how proud the Gabonese people are of being the friends of Mauritian people.

Your Excellency the OAU Secretary General and dear friend, through this conference, you will have made memorable your election as the Head of the Secretariat of our Organisation but also and at the same time the history of the OAU, which remains the mediatory body of our collective destiny.

This First Conference of Ministers of Culture of the Organization of African Unity is being held at a time when Africa suffers, more than ever, at the end of the twentieth century, the damaging effects of the world crisis which are for us, African and Third World Countries, growing indebtedness, constant fall in agricultural production, chronic slump in raw and strategic materials on the world market. As a result, our societies become more fragile and vulnerable.

It is, consequently, the moment to strengthen, by all means, African unity and solidarity, by carrying out joint, more concerted and more integrated actions.

Today, it appears imperative that we bravely take into account our cultural values from which we shall draw the necessary force to overcome, together, the present situation and build, despite everything, the future. In fact, the human being, wherever or whatever he is, conquers himself first, the moment he wants to act and live without giving up his own personality.

In Africa, there is no shortage of texts for general orientation in the field of culture: the Pan African Cultural Manifests of Algiers in 1969, the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa held in Accra in 1975, the Cultural Charter for Africa, adopted here in Port Louis in July 1976.

Ten years after the Cultural Charter for Africa, it seems to me that the idea of an African Cultural Common Market is necessary now and could constitute the Cultural Plan of Action for the future.

In the North, South, East and West of the African Continent we have magnificent cultural institutions, major publishing and printing houses, beautiful information structures, rich libraries, cultural property of all sorts. All these could be better inventoried, better known and better integrated to help the African peoples live the pedagogy geared to African Unity.

An African Cultural Common Market could rightly be the Pan-African integrating structure. The African Cultural Common Market would enable, constant exchanges and distribution of African cultural property in Africa and the rest of the world. The African Cultural Common Market seems to be the governing idea after so many declaration and conferences on African culture.

Our responsibility is historical for our peoples' expect that their cultural identity could be integrated into the development process and at the world level, we expect that Africa, surely, could contribute new values. Lomé III has clearly stressed the importance of cultural dynamics in development.

It is on the basis of this established fact and particularly the need for an African Cultural Common Market that we requested our brother and friend, His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairman of the OAU, to carry out the reorganization and restructuring of the African Cultural Institute which has already rendered so many major services to Africa.

It is still within the same framework of major concern about the cultural future of Africa that three years ago I took the initiative, with my colleagues of Central, East and Southern Africa, to establish the International Centre for Bantu Civilisations (CIC IBA).

This Centre intends to be, for the overall Bantu cultural area, a venue for scientific, artistic and cultural research and creation, meetings and information.

The platform of values and ideals, shared by the peoples of the Bantu language and cultural space, appeared like a great need for a deliberate and concerted cultural action.

Like the CICIBA, African countries should revitalise and mediatize their cultural resources by enhancing and integrating their heritage in the development process. It is this that we should be able to ensure for our continent the increase in its communication, creation and management capacity.

I strongly wish that this spirit of Inter-African Cultural Cooperation thus shown in all our sub-regional and regional institutions, established almost always with the irreplaceable support of UNESCO, this new spirit could guarantee to the African Man the necessary conditions for the assertion of his genius and the development of the continent.

Today we have to deal concretely with the cultural issue in Africa for our peoples expect from us, political leaders and cultural technicians,

- that our music be recognised and dissiminated everywhere in the world;
- that our so varied culinary art be developed in the hotel distribution network;
- that our dresses be revived through a new modelling adapted to modern conditions;
- that our architecture become the soul of our cities again;
- that our ancestral literature be the backbone of our dramas through dance, plays and films;
- that our traditional technology be the base for the resurgence of our industries and that our medicine and our phramacopoeia make today the expected contribution to the medicine of the world.

This concrete step, nourished by analysis of theoreticians and guided by so many basic texts, is, according to me, the only one which is worthwhile for launching genuinely an African Cultural Common Market : I submit the idea to you for the weal of our peoples.

May the First Conference of Ministers of Culture of the OAU deliberate effectively and go beyond the usual declarations and wishes! It is the sense of the whole trust and real hope which we, OAU Heads of State place in your Conference.

Long Live Mauritius!

Long Live African Unity!

El Haj Omar Bongo

VOTE OF THANKS

The Conference of African Ministers of Culture, meeting in its First Ordinary Session, in Port Louis, Mauritius, on 14 and 15 April, 1986, appreciating very much the warm welcome accorded it by the Government and people of Mauritius, requests His Excellency, Mr. A. Parsuramen, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, to convey to His Excellency the Governor General, the Honourable Prime Minister and his Government, the expression of its deepest gratitude and brotherly thanks.

The Conference, as a token of recognition and fidelity to the Cultural Charter, signed in Port Louis, unanimously wishes that the Bureau requested to follow up its deliberations be hosted by this beautiful country which witnessed the birth of this Charter.

The Conference would like to thank warmly all those, including the staff of the Secretariat, who so generously and devotedly contributed to the success of its deliberations.

Done in Port Louis, 15 April, 1986

CMAC/007(I)

CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
OF CULTURE
Port Louis (Mauritius)
7 - 15 April, 1986

DRAFT

LANGUAGE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA

1986

The main objective of the Inter-African Language Bureau, ILB/OAU based in Kampala, Uganda, is to help draw up and co-ordinate African language policies.

2. It was within this context that an international meeting of African and foreign experts was held at the Headquarters of this Regional Office from 11 to 13 June 1985. The meeting was also attended by a representative of the ESCAS Department, of the OAU and observers from the Technical and Cultural Co-operation Agency (TCCA) and the Summer Institute of Linguistic (SIL).

3. The meeting was to examine a draft language plan of action. The participants also seized the opportunity to propose the establishment, in the near future, of a Pan-African Language Association.

4. There are four major reasons underlying the need to draw up and implement a language plan of action:

- i) ensure cultural independence and development of African countries through the use of African languages;
- ii) promote African Unity by developing regional languages as a medium of expression and helping to break language barriers;
- iii) contribute to endogenous development efforts by involving the people in these efforts and explaining to them in their own languages development implications and problems;
- iv) maintain the links between Africa and the rest of the outside world through widely spoken major foreign languages and by defining their importance in relation to African languages.

5. In this connection, Article XXIX of the OAU Charter constitutes a whole programme: "The working languages of the Organization and all its institutions shall be, if possible, African languages, English, French and Portuguese". Indeed, the use of African languages in all sectors of activity is possible. However, steps should be taken to ensure its concrete realization through the definition of a master plan.

6. The Plan of Action submitted for consideration provides the major guidelines in this regard. Each country or group of countries or each institution can adapt it to its own realities.

7. After consideration and adoption, the draft will later be submitted to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU for appraisal.

8. The idea of establishing a Pan-African Language Association could be discussed by the Conference and suggestions and recommendations made thereon.

9. The meeting of experts recommended that ILE and OAU should establish contact with existing national and regional associations and convene the constituent assembly as early as possible.

10. In any case, the creation of such an association would contribute to the implementation of the Language Plan of Action. It would further promote African cultural co-operation.

THE LANGUAGE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA

PREAMBLE

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in our Ordinary (Special) Session, in from 19....

GUIDED

By the Organization of African Unity Charter,
By the Pan-African Cultural Manifesto of Algiers (1969),
By the Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa organized by UNESCO in Accra 1975 in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity,
By the Cultural Charter for Africa, with Special reference to Part I Article 1 (a) and (b), Article 2 (a), Part III Article 6 1(a), 2(b) and Part V Articles 17-19,
By the OAU Lagos Plan of Action (1980) for the Economic Development of Africa,
By the Final Report (27th April, 1982) of UNESCO'S Meeting of Experts on the 'Definition of a Strategy for Promotion of African Languages':

CONVINCED

That language is at the heart of a people's culture and further convinced that, in accordance with the provisions of the Cultural Charter for Africa, the cultural advancement of the African peoples and the acceleration of their economic and social development will not be possible without harnessing in a practical manner indigenous African languages in that advancement and development;

CONVINCED

That, as in other spheres of her national life, African needs to assert her independence and identity in the field of language:

AWARE

That, up to the present, the majority of Member States have not taken the necessary practical steps to accord their indigenous languages their rightful official role as provided for by the Cultural Charter for Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action and other related resolutions of the Organization of African Unity;

RECOGNIZING

That each sovereign state has the right to devise a language policy that reflects the agricultural and socio-economic realities of its country which is consonant or in close harmony with the needs and aspirations of its people;

CONVINCED

That the adoption and practical promotion of African languages as the official languages of the state is dependent primarily, and as a matter of absolute imperative on the political will and determination of each sovereign state:

CONVINCED

That the adoption and practical promotion of African languages as the official languages of the state are certain to have great advantages over the use of non-indigenous languages in democratizing the process of formal education and involvement of the African populations in the political, cultural and economic affairs of their country;

AWARE

That, illiteracy is an obstacle to the economic, cultural and social development of African countries and that mass literacy campaigns cannot succeed without the use of indigenous African languages;

AWARE

That, in recognition of the ever-growing interdependence and interaction at all levels of human endeavour and brotherhood of man, communication with the outside world beyond the boundaries of the African continent is inevitable and ought to be provided for or reflected in the language policies to be devised and implemented by each sovereign state;

CONVINCED

That the promotion of African languages, especially those which transcend national frontiers, is a vital factor in the cause of African Unity;

RECOGNIZING

That, within Africa itself, the existence side by side in almost all African countries of several languages is a major fact of life and the knowledge that, because of this, multilingualism (i.e. the mastery and use of several languages by individuals for purposes of daily communication) is an equally dominant social feature of life in these countries, should induce Member States to make the promotion of multilingualism in their countries a prime consideration in the evolution of an appropriate language policy;

AGREE

To adopt the Language Plan of Action for Africa as set out below:

PART IAIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

The aims and objectives of this Plan of Action are as follows:

- (a) To encourage each and every Member State to have a clearly defined language policy;
- (b) To ensure that all languages within the boundaries of Member States are recognized and accepted as a source of mutual enrichment;
- (c) To liberate the African peoples from undue reliance on the utilisation of non-indigenous languages as the dominant, official languages of the state in favour of the gradual take-over of appropriate and carefully selected indigenous African languages in this domain;
- (d) To ensure that African languages, by appropriate legal provision and practical promotions, assume their rightful role as the means of official-communication in the public affairs of each Member state in replacement of European languages which have hitherto played this role;
- (e) To encourage the increased use of African languages as vehicles of instruction at all educational levels;
- (f) To ensure that all the secrets of the political and socio-economic system of each Member State is mobilized in such a manner that they play their due part in ensuring that the African language(s) prescribed as official language(s) assume their intended role in the shortest time possible;
- (g) To foster and promote national, regional and continental linguistic unity in Africa in the context of the multi-lingualism prevailing in most African countries;

PART II

PRIORITIES

(a) Policy formulation

Whether at the national, regional or continental levels, the selection and prescription without undue delay of certain viable national, regional or continental indigenous African languages as the official languages to be used for the formal official functions of the State, regional grouping or the OAU.

(b) Implementation and Promotion

The subsequent implementation of the language policy adopted and the incorporation of the official African languages in the political, educational, social, cultural and economic lives of the people.

(c) Modernization

The modernization as necessary and by any means required of the indigenous African languages selected and prescribed as official languages.

(d) Mobilization of Resources

The mobilization of financial, human and other resources and all relevant public and private relevant institutions in the practical promotion of the chosen official languages.

PART III

PROGRAMME OF ACTION (METHODS AND MEANS)

In order to fulfil the objectives set out in Part I, the African States solemnly subscribe to the following programme of action:

- (a) At continental level and as a concrete expression and demonstration of the OAU's seriousness of purpose, the adoption without undue delay by the Organization of African Unity and the regional associations, Organizations or institutions affiliated to it of viable indigenous African languages as working languages;
- (b) To encourage regional associations, organizations or institutions already accorded or those applying for observer status to the OAU to adopt indigenous African languages as their working languages;
- (c) At regional level, the adoption by regional groupings of viable, regional indigenous African languages as official or working languages;
- (d) At national level, the imperative need for each OAU Member State to consider it necessary and primary that it formulates, with the minimum of delay a language policy that places an indigenous African language or languages spoken and in active use by its peoples at the centre of its socio-economic development;
- (e) In order to fulfill the objective in (d), the need by each Member State to establish a national language council, where none exists, or to strengthen it, where one already exists, as a national sounding board for the formulation of an appropriate national language policy;
- (f) The absolute necessity that each Member State, as a matter of supreme practical importance, follows up the formulation of an appropriate national language policy with an adequate and sustained allocation of the necessary financial and

material resources to ensure that the language or languages prescribed as official language(s) achieve(s) a level of modernisation that meets the needs of administering a modern state;

- (g) In recognition of the negative estimation in which indigenous African languages are generally held in Africa by the general public, the necessity for each Member State, as part of its national programme of promoting those African languages duly prescribed as official languages, to mount a sustained campaign of educating or re-educating the national population about the inherent or potential practical utility of African languages to counter the present widespread negative attitudes in Africa towards these languages;
- (h) In recognition that the formal national education system plays a key role in the practical use of any language, the need for each member State to ensure that all the sectors (i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary) of the national education system are pressed as appropriate in the service of the practical promotion of the indigenous language(s) selected and prescribed as (an) official language(s)
- (i) Aware that African universities, research institutes and other institutions concerned with the study and promotion of African languages have a unique role to play in strengthening the role these languages play in the daily lives of the African peoples, the need for these institutions to strike a proper balance in future between the scientific study of the African languages and their actual use and practical promotion;
- (j) In connection with (i) above, the need for each Member State to render its national universities and other research and related institutions a primary instrument for the practical promotion of African languages as regards such critical promotional activities as the compilation of technical and general dictionaries, the writing of textbooks on useful subjects, the training of teachers of language translators, interpreters, broadcasters and journalists, the production of useful books and other types of literature relevant to the lives of the contemporary African and the up-dating of vocabulary in African languages;

In recognition of the fact that to impart formal or other types of knowledge the vehicle of instruction or communication should be a language familiar to the learner, the absolute necessity that each Member State should, as an essential part of its educational policy, prescribe as media or vehicles of instruction those indigenous African languages that best and most effectively facilitate the learning process;



- (1) In recognition of the singularly strategic role widespread literacy among the national population plays in the socio-economic development of a country, and recognizing further that literacy education will be greatly facilitated and speeded up if languages familiar to the national population are employed, the advisability of using indigenous African languages as media of instruction in national literacy campaigns mounted by Member States.

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