



**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT
Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session/
Second Ordinary Session of the
African Economic Community
8 - 10 June, 1998
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

**AHG/Decl.1 (XXXIV)
AHG/Dec. 124-131 (XXXIV)
AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (II)**

**DECLARATION AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-FOURTH
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in our 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June, 1998:

- ▶ Reaffirming the values and ideals of solidarity, unity, freedom, justice, independence, peace and the objectives of security, stability and development enshrined in the OAU Charter by the Founding Fathers;
- ▶ Noting that despite the end of the Cold War and gradual reduction in the conflicts it generated, conflicts in Africa remain a serious factor which impede the development of the Continent;
- ▶ Aware of our responsibility to deal with the present economic, cultural and political difficulties and the conflict situations prevailing on the Continent;
- ▶ Noting further that conflicts originate from such external factors as the sequels of colonization and foreign interferences;
- ▶ Aware of our special responsibility in the persistence of these conflicts which are also and especially caused by such internal factors as increase in poverty, adverse exploitation of the diversity and cultural and religious specificities;
- ▶ Deeply concerned over the continuous fall in Africa's share and participation in international economic exchanges and trade;
- ▶ Deeply concerned also over the debt burden on the economies of our countries and the reduction in international financial flows to Africa;
- ▶ Assessing the negative impact of social scourges such as malnutrition, AIDS pandemic, Malaria inadequate health and educational infrastructure on the populations of our Continent;
- ▶ Recognizing the inevitable place and role of women in the political, economic and cultural development of the Continent and their commitment in this process;
- ▶ Imbued with our common desire to steer Africa out of its precarious and externally dependent economic situation, as proven, among other things, by the drafting of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and the Cairo Declaration which set up the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;
- ▶ Convinced that only a concerted action will make it possible to strengthen Africa's position in the new world order;
- ▶ Reaffirming our genuine desire to enter the third millennium in "unison";

DECIDE:

1. At the Political Level

To make the search for peace, security and stability our primary concern and, to this end:

- ▶ **recognise unequivocally that political issues are primarily national;**
- ▶ **work towards the establishment and consolidation of effective democratic systems, taking into account the socio-cultural realities of our States, with the of all actors of the civil society;**
- ▶ **give special attention to the establishment of a system of government based on permanent social dialogue and the search for political consensus;**
- ▶ **work towards the establishment and consolidation of a credible and independent justice accessible to all;**
- ▶ **ensure respect for human rights and fight impunity;**
- ▶ **abolish exclusion and, in this regard, involve all and sundry without discrimination in the management of public affairs;**
- ▶ **create or strengthen in each of our States an organ to deal with peace or conflict related issues;**
- ▶ **create or strengthen within our respective States, structures charged with combating illicit arms circulation, drug trafficking, terrorism and the emergence of transborder criminality, and ensure coordination of these efforts by the OAU;**
- ▶ **strengthen the Central Organ of the OAU Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanism established in Cairo in June 1993, and coordination of the efforts deployed by the OAU and sub-regional organizations a factor which constitutes one of the corner stones of success of the mechanism;**
- ▶ **ensure necessary cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in the field of conflict prevention, management and resolution.**

2. At the Economic and Social Cooperation Level

- ▶ **endeavour to make of our continent a homogenous political force in international fora such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the African-Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), and ensure that the specific concerns and interests of our States are taken into account;**

- **make the debt question an issue for common action;**
- **operationalize sectoral policy coordination systems taking the private sector on board;**
- **devote energies towards strengthening the process of sub-regional integration taking into consideration macro-economic policy monitoring, and involving both the private sector and the civil society;**
- **reinforce inter and intra-regional trade as a way of speeding up the integration process on the continent;**
- **strengthen the development of inter-and intra-regional communication facilities and transport infrastructure;**
- **exert effort to endow the continent with the New Information and Communication Technologies and make of those technologies a tool for Africa's progressive and harmonious insertion into the third millennium;**
- **reiterates the importance of intensifying cooperation among Member States in the field of Malaria Prevention and Control. In this context, the Assembly welcomes the convening of the African Ministers of Health in Cairo from 13 - 15 June, 1998;**
- **eliminate all forms of discrimination against women to enable them play fully their role as development actors which can only be achieved through equal access to education and resources;**
- **reinforce protection of the Rights of the Child and increase the resources and facilities for the child's development;**
- **work for the assertion of our cultural identities, recognition of our specific cultural values and their incorporation into our development strategies.**

3. In the Institutional Level

- **endow our Organization with structures capable of meeting the dynamics of changes unfolding in our societies and worldwide through increased coordination of the activities of sub-regional organizations, coordination of the continent's sectorial policies and implementation of the decisions of the Specialized Commissions.**

**MALARIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AFRICA'S
ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Assembly,

1. **REAFFIRMS** the pledges and requests made in 1997 in the Harare Declaration on Malaria
Prevention and control in the context of African Economic Recovery and Development (AHG/DECL.1 (XXXIII),
2. **WELCOMES** the technical and financial support provided to Member States of our Organization by all its partners, especially AusAID, DFID, GTZ, Belgian Cooperation, Italian Cooperation, JICA, UNICEF, USAID, the World Bank and WHO,
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the initiative and critical role played by WHO in 1997, specifically the generous assistance provided by the Director-General through the accelerated programme of malaria control in Africa, the actions taken to develop strong community-based approaches to ensure sustainability of control and the continuing support in 1998;
4. **APPRECIATES AND SUPPORTS** the development of a field-demand driven, multinational, multi-agency and multidisciplinary African initiative for malaria control;
5. **WARMLY WELCOMES** the global 'Roll Back Malaria' initiative of the Director-General elect of WHO which will use the African initiative as its spearhead;
6. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the concerted efforts of the endemic countries for their political commitment and investment of human and financial resources towards malaria prevention and control.
7. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to:
 - i) **commit** additional human and material resources for malaria prevention and control,
including disease surveillance and research, in line with the development of health sector reform;
 - ii) **develop** strong community-based approaches to ensure effectiveness and sustainability;
 - iii) **mobilise** all partners, public and private, local and foreign, to support the execution
of malaria prevention and control activities as part of the economic recovery and development;

- iv) take vigorous action against malnutrition and the major endemic diseases, particularly, HIV/AIDS, and Malaria within the framework of a cooperation with specialized agencies and bilateral cooperation;**

8. REQUESTS the WHO to continue working closely with the OAU to coordinate efforts aimed at the eradication of malaria from the African continent and to increase its level of support in that respect.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN FUND FOR AIDS CONTROL

The Assembly,

1. **REAFFIRMS** the decisions made in the "Dakar Declaration on the AIDS Epidemic in Africa (1992) and the Tunis Declaration on AIDS and the Child in Africa (1994);
2. **REQUESTS** the International Community to adequately consider Africa in the global resources available for HIV/AIDS in order to facilitate prevention and wider accessibility to current research findings, especially on drugs and other medicines necessary in the overall responses to this infection. To that effect:
3. **CALLS UPON** the International Community, especially the pharmaceutical companies manufacturing Anti-retroviral and other drugs necessary in the management of HIV/AIDS patients to consider wide accessibility to those drugs by lowering their retail price;
4. **APPRECIATES** and **SUPPORTS** the proposal by the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to establish a Solidarity Fund to help treatment of patients from Africa;
5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary of the OAU to pursue this proposal with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and concerned agencies and report to the Thirty-fifth Summit.

**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES'
RIGHTS**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction of the Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and **COMMENDS** it for the quality of work accomplished during the period under review;
2. **ENCOURAGES** the African Commission to pursue its activities for the protection and promotion of Human and Peoples' Rights;
3. **REQUESTS** the African Commission, for reasons of efficiency, to review its criteria for granting observer status and to suspend further granting of observer status until the adoption of the new criteria;
4. **REITERATES** its earlier decisions concerning the means for the functioning of the Commission and **REQUESTS** the Advisory Committee and the General Secretariat to endeavour to provide the African Commission with the adequate resources as early as possible to enable it discharge its tasks satisfactorily and independently;
5. **URGES** Member States to honour their obligations enshrined in the African Charter and to lend the African Commission the full support and the cooperation needed for the efficient accomplishment of its mission;
6. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to convene, in cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, a high level meeting of Experts to consider ways and means of removing obstacles to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including fight against corruption and impunity and propose appropriate legislative and other measures;
7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the African Commission to finalize the Protocol to the African Charter, relating to Women's Rights as early as possible;
8. **REQUESTS** the African Commission to conduct the necessary consultations with the competent organs and OAU Member States to ensure a rapid implementation of the present decision and to report thereon to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

**THE CRISIS BETWEEN THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB
JAMAHIRIYA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED
KINGDOM**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 - 10 June, 1998,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's Report on the dispute,

Having heard the report of the OAU Committee of Five following its mission to Britain and meeting with the British Foreign Secretary,

Expressing profound gratitude to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the position it has adopted and the positive initiatives it has taken in order to resolve the dispute peacefully,

Welcoming the judgement announced by the International Court of Justice on 27 February 1998 confirming its competence to look into the dispute,

Welcoming also the positive response of the families of victims to the efforts aimed at the speedy settlement of the dispute,

Expressing its deep concern over immense human and material losses to the Libyan people and nationals of other OAU Member States,

Expressing its regret for lack of positive response by the United States of America and the United Kingdom to the International and Regional initiatives and efforts aimed at finding a solution to the dispute based on the principles of the international law and within the framework of understanding and constructive dialogue:

1. **CALLS UPON** the Security Council to adopt a resolution on suspending the sanctions imposed on Libya under Resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) until the International Court of Justice pronounces its verdict on the issue;
2. **DECIDES** not to comply any longer with Security Council Resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) on sanctions, with effect from September 1998, if the United States of America and the United Kingdom refuse that the two suspects be tried in a third neutral country pursuant to the verdict of the International Court of Justice by July 1998, date on which the sanctions will be due for review, owing to the fact that the said resolutions violate Article 27 paragraph 3, Article 33 and Article 36 paragraph 3 of the United Nations Charter, and the considerable human and economic losses suffered by Libya and a number of other African peoples as a result of the sanctions;
3. **DECIDES** on moral and religious grounds and with immediate effect that the OAU and its members will not comply from now on with the sanctions imposed against Libya

related to religious obligations, providing humanitarian emergencies or fulfilling OAU statutory obligations;

- 4. ENJOINS the OAU Committee of Five to continue with its task;**
- 5. MANDATES the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereupon to the next Session of the Council.**

CULTURE OF PEACE

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim the year 2000, International year of the Culture of Peace;
2. **CONSIDERS** the International Year as a propitious occasion to substitute the culture of war and violence which characterized the lost millennium of human history with a culture of peace by promoting values, attitudes and compartments which constitute the foundations thereof.
3. **CALLS ON** Member States to set up national committees comprising all sectors of society to implement activities in respect of the International Year aimed enhancing reconciliation and national unity through the culture of peace;
4. **CALLS ON** the Secretary General in cooperation with the Director General of UNESCO and all other concerned institutions, to coordinate their efforts with the view to implementing the International Year of the Culture of Peace;
5. **FURTHER CALLS ON** the Secretary-General, in concert with the Director General of UNESCO and all other concerned agencies and institutions to promote within Member States, activities to celebrate the Year 2000 as the International Year of the Culture of Peace and **COMMENDS** the Director General of UNESCO for this laudable initiative.

**MODALITIES OF ROTATION FOR TWO SEATS BEING CLAIMED BY AFRICA ON
THE ENLARGED SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June, 1998,

Considering its Declaration AHG/Decl. 3 (XXXIII) of 4 June 1997 on the reform of the UN Security Council;

Having considered the follow-up report of this Declaration presented by the African Group at the United Nations and the proposals contained therein:

DECIDES to adopt the following modalities of rotation for the two seats Permanent Members being claimed by Africa on the enlarged Security Council:

- Nomination of candidates in each of the five African sub-regions;
- Drawing up of a list of candidates from the candidatures thus submitted to it;
- Preparation of a basket from which the Heads of State and Government will select two candidates to occupy the two seats. The two candidates should belong to two different sub-regions to be designated by the Heads of State and Government;
- Adoption of the same process of selecting African candidates for the subsequent elections in the remaining sub-regions;
- Determination, by the Heads of State and Government, of the duration of the mandate of the two candidates elected as permanent members of the enlarged Security Council.

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June 1998, examined the on-going crisis between Ethiopia and Eritrea. At the end of the deliberations, the Assembly:

EXPRESSED DEEP concern over the escalation of the conflict;

- ▶ **ENDORSED** the relevant resolution of the 68th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the crisis between Ethiopia and Eritrea and urgently appealed to the two parties to, concurrently and simultaneously, put an end to all hostilities, accept and implement the recommendations of the Facilitators;
- ▶ **DECIDED** to send to Ethiopia and Eritrea a delegation of Heads of State and Government of the Central Organ, to be led by the Current Chairman.

AHG/Dec. 131 (XXXIV)

DECISION ON WESTERN SAHARA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June, 1998, reviewed the situation in Western Sahara and DECIDED to refer the matter to the Sixty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in February 1999.

DECISION ON AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government:

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity.

Further considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, in particular, Articles 7,8,9 and 10,

Having examined the Report of the Council of Ministers and the recommendations of the Second Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC), held in Cairo, Egypt from 23 to 24 April, 1998.

DECIDES:

1. REGULATION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Regulation of the Council of Ministers is hereby approved.

2. ACRONYM OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

“AEC” should be the acronym of the African Economic Community, applicable to all its working languages.

3. BUDGET OF THE AEC

- (a) In confirmation of our commitment to establish the African Economic Community, a minimum of 10% (ten per cent) of the regular budget of the OAU should be set aside to finance the activities of the community;**
- (b) In the above regard, the General Secretariat should prepare a detailed budget in accordance with ECOSOC work programme, and submit same for consideration by the policy organs of the OAU which have the responsibility for**

approving the budget;

(c) The General Secretariat should, in addition:

- (i) Take account of the on-going restructuring of the OAU and streamline the activities of the Community as a way of achieving efficiency in resource utilization;
- (ii) Maintain close cooperation with the ECA, ADB and the RECs in order to pool resources and enhance cost-effectiveness; and
- (iii) Undertake a study, in cooperation with the ECA, ADB and the RECs on self-financing mechanism for the AEC and the RECs.

4. CONSULTATIVE FORUM FOR AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The General Secretariat should take requisite measures in cooperation with the Union of African Parliamentarians (UAP) to establish a Consultative Forum of African Parliamentarians, in anticipation of the Pan-African Parliament provided for under Article 14 of the Abuja Treaty and submit a report thereon to the next session of the Assembly.

5. FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

The Secretariat should prepare an appropriate plan that will lead to complete freedom of movement of persons throughout the Community, taking on board various on-going experiences on the Continent. Freedom of movement of persons should, from the onset, be envisaged in two stages, namely: at regional level in the first instance, and then at Continental level. In the interim, and with immediate effect, officials of the RECs and the African Economic Community, holders of the official travel documents of these institutions, should be exempt from visa requirements during travels within Member States.

6. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY, THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECs) AND MEMBER STATES

- (a) **The General Secretariat should:**
- (i) **Take steps to ensure greater coordination between the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities, on the one hand; and among the Regional Economic Communities, on the other, with a view to putting to maximum use the complementarities existing among them through the pooling of the resources of the Joint Secretariat and those of the RECs;**
 - (ii) **Explore the possibility of utilizing the resources of the EDF to finance the regional projects of the RECs; and**
 - (iii) **Get Member States involved in future activities between the Community and the RECs;**
- (b) **Member States should ensure the effective implementation of the programmes of the Regional Economic Communities as a way of facilitating the attainment of the objectives of the African Economic Community;**
- (c) **Member States of the Regional Economic Communities should also speed up the ratification and implementation of the protocols and decisions of these Communities;**
- (d) **The Regional Economic Communities, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Community, should harmonize the format for the presentation of their activity report.**

7. FUNCTIONING OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

- (a) **The General Secretariat should take appropriate measures to convene, during the 1998-2000 biennium, the meetings of the following Specialized Technical Committees:**
- * The Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters;**
 - * The Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs;**
 - * The Committee on Education, Culture and Human Resources;**

- * The Committee on Rural Economy and Agricultural Matters;
- * The Committee on Transport, Communications and Tourism.

- (b) The Joint Secretariat and the RECs should prepare, organize and service the meetings of the Specialized Technical Committees, invite the private sector to participate in them and ensure the follow-up activities.

8. INDUSTRIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:

- (a) All Member States and RECs are called upon to ensure the harmonization of their industrial development plans with the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization. In this connection, UNIDI and the Joint Secretariat should cooperate with Member States and the RECs to achieve the said harmonization; in this connection:
- (i) The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire assumes the Presidency of the Group of Patrons on Africa's Industrialization;
- (ii) The Patron's Group on the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization will be composed of the Heads of State and Government of the following countries:

West Africa

Cote d'Ivoire
Ghana
Nigeria
Senegal

East Africa

Ethiopia
Sudan
Uganda
Eritrea

Central Africa

Cameroon
Republic of Congo

Gabon

Southern Africa

Zimbabwe

Botswana

Namibia

Lesotho

North Africa

Tunisia

Libya

- (iii) **Note is taken of the arrangements for the first meetings of the Steering Committee and the Patron's Group as well as of Donors for the programmes of the Alliance.**

(b) Member States are also requested to:

- (i) **Create or strengthen consultative mechanisms between the government and the private sector with the view to formulating industrial development policies and strategies in line with the objectives of their economic and social development plans as well as programmes for regional and sub-regional economic integration and cooperation;**
- (ii) **Also create favourable conditions which will enable the private sector in Africa to play a more important role in the industrialization of African countries by providing the necessary guidelines, advice and assistance;**
- (iii) **Restructure the public sector to enable it, inter-alia, improve its performance, modernize its management and stimulate competitiveness in order to be in position to assist the private sector in its industrialization endeavour;**
- (iv) **Implement industrial development, cooperation and integration policies and strategies in Africa at national, subregional and regional levels;**

(c) OAU/African Economic Community, in close cooperation with the regional economic communities, ECA and ADB should assist Member States in

implementing industrial development cooperation and integration policies and strategies in Africa;

- (d) International organizations, such as UNDP, UNIDO, ADB, IBRD, and BADEA are requested to offer material, technical and financial assistance to African States for the attainment of their industrial development, cooperation and integration objectives;**
- (e) The OAU/AEC General Secretariat, in cooperation with ECA, ADB and RECs should continue to keep ECOSOC informed, through regular reports, of developments in the industrialization of the African countries and industrial integration of the continent.**

9. ENERGY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:

The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should:

- (i) Take every necessary measure to complete the pre-feasibility study on the establishment of the African Energy Commission; and**
- (ii) Enter into consultations with the regional economic communities, ECA, ADB and international energy institutions, so as to ensure that the policies and strategies of cooperation in the area of energy are finalized and implemented.**

10. POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Joint OAU/ECA/ADB and RECs should adopt a common approach to the development partners in order to mobilize the necessary resources for financing infrastructural projects;**
- (b) ADB is urged to increase the level of financing of regional infrastructural projects, including the use of ADF resources to finance the feasibility studies undertaken by the RECs.**

11. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

(a) ACP-EU relations:

- (i) Africa reaffirms its full support for the orientation contained in the Libreville Declaration for the next negotiations on the ACP-EU Convention as defined by the First ACP Summit. While underscoring the need to maintain and strengthen the unity and solidarity of the ACP Group, it requests that the new agreement take into account the regional specificities of each component of the Group, more particularly the imperatives of economic integration as spelt out in the Abuja Treaty.**
- (ii) It further requests that the negotiation scheduled for 30 September 1998 focus on all the areas of ACP-EU cooperation, and should not be restricted to the generalities.**
- (iii) The joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat is mandated to set up a group of experts / advisors to assist the African negotiators during the ACP-EU negotiations; more particularly in the areas of preferences and the formulation of an alternative proposal aimed at defining a transparent and democratic mechanism for management and allocation of financial resources, which should involve the beneficiaries and take into account the development priorities of African States.**

(b) Assessment of TICAD I and preparation for TICAD II.

- (i) The joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat and Member States of the preparatory committee should continue to participate actively in the activities of the preparatory committee of TICAD II, particularly in the elaboration of the agenda for action;**
- (ii) The General Secretariat and Member States should actively work to make sure that TICAD II agenda for action is based on the Cairo Agenda for Action and include infrastructural and industrial development among the priority areas for Asia/Africa cooperation in addition to the other areas agreed on so far in the preparatory committee;**

- (iii) **TICAD II agenda for action should include concrete actions for resolving of Africa's debt problems which should go beyond debt rescheduling and the HIPC's initiative;**
 - (iv) **The TICAD II agenda for action should include modalities for monitoring the implementation process while guaranteeing the participation of African countries in the monitoring process;**
 - (v) **The Co-organisers of TICAD II should invite all African States to the forthcoming Conference. To this effect, the OAU/AEC General Secretariat should carry out the necessary consultations with the co-organizers of TICAD II, and assist Member States to prepare for the Conference.**
- (c) **Negotiations within WTO.**
 - (i) **The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should facilitate the coordination of the negotiation positions of the African groups in Geneva, Brussels, New York and Washington;**
 - (ii) **Governments of Member States should strengthen their Missions in Geneva and countries that do not have a mission should consider opening one;**
 - (iii) **Member States should conduct studies in order to identify their respective national interests so as to better respond to their obligations and opportunities under WTO;**
 - (iv) **Member States are urged, if they have not yet done so, to establish national focal points on WTO matters with the view to stimulating national interests in trade policy matters, to be formulated and implemented. These focal points should be equipped with adequate staff and necessary resources to enable them lend the requisite assistance and ensure coordination at the level of the Missions based in Geneva and Brussels as well as that of the Committee in-charge of trade, customs and immigration matters at continental level;**

- (v) **The OAU/AEC General Secretariat is mandated to mobilize resources for assisting the African negotiators in the defence of Africa's interests within WTO. Additionally, it should conduct studies, formulate and coordinate negotiation positions in the areas of common interest for Africa;**
- (vi) **The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should also strengthen its technical presence in Geneva so as to back African diplomatic representations and assist Member States not represented;**
- (vii) **Member States should take the necessary measures, more particularly through their diplomatic representations in Geneva, to obtain as early as possible, observer status for the OAU/AEC;**
- (viii) **Africa's development partners are invited to support the Continent's application for observer status at the WTO. The General Council and Director-General of that Organization are also invited to take the necessary steps in that regard;**
- (ix) **WTO should examine the multilateral regulations relating to regional integration in order to facilitate and encourage the participation of developing and least developed countries in such systems;**
- (x) **The proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) can only be supported if it takes Africa's concerns into account. In this regard, the OAU/AEC General Secretariat should monitor developments on this issue and report thereon to the competent bodies of the Community;**
- (xi) **Representatives of OAU/AEC Member States in Geneva should take all necessary measures to ensure a better representation of Africa in the top structure of the WTO, particularly during the consideration of the terms of office of the Director-General of the WTO and his Deputies in May 1999.**

12. INITIATIVES IN FAVOUR OF AFRICA

- (a) The initiatives, though positive and laudable, should be developed in a way to meet the fundamental needs and priorities of Africa;
- (b) The General Secretariat should coordinate all the initiatives in favour of Africa;
- (c) The proposal for an OAU/EU Summit in the year 2000 was accepted, and in this regard, the offer by the Government of Egypt to host it was welcomed. The proposed Summit should lead to concrete results and actions aimed at Africa's development. In this connection, the following main themes should constitute the agenda items:
 - (i) political matters;
 - (ii) socio-economic matters.

A follow-up mechanism should also be put in place to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions that will be taken at the Summit.

13. AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

The General Secretariat should convene as early as possible the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt to deliberate among other things on the initiative in favour of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC's). It should also take the necessary steps to convene an international conference on Africa's External Debt.

14. DECADE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA (1997 - 2006)

- (a) Member States and the General Secretariat should take urgent steps to implement as soon as possible the Decade's Programme of Action;
- (b) The General Secretariat should:
 - (i) In cooperation with ECA, ADB, RECs, UNESCO, ADEA, UNFPA, UNDP, the World Bank and other concerned partners within the UN System as well as all other relevant institutions, make every effort to assist in the preparation of Joint National Programmes of Action as well

as Regional and Continental Programmes towards the implementation of the Decade;

- (ii) Put in place, as early as possible, coordination, follow-up and evaluation mechanisms;
- (iii) Convene before the end of 1998, a Conference of Ministers of Education to decide on the major guidelines for the implementation of the Decade.

15. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Member States are called upon to sign and/or ratify all the African and international conventions on environment if they have not yet done so;
- (b) The General Secretariat should:
 - (i) Review and actualize the African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in line with the Rio family of Conventions, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (ii) Encourage Member States to establish effective and efficient National Commissions on Sustainable Development where it does not exist, and to strengthen those which have already been established;
 - (iii) Convene, in cooperation with UNEP, ECA, ADB and other relevant institutions working in the area of environment and sustainable development, an All African Conference on Environment before the beginning of the 21st Century, to assess and evaluate the status of implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio family of Conventions.
- (c) RECs should take the necessary steps to put in place environmental and development policy coordination and harmonization mechanisms.

16. PARTICIPATION IN ECOSOC MEETINGS

- (a) **The General Secretariat should transmit invitations to attend ECOSOC meetings to Member States in time;**
- (b) **Member States are invited to take the necessary steps to be represented at ECOSOC meetings at ministerial level.**

Done at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
On 10th June, 1998

Blaise Compaore
President of Burkina Faso
Chairman of the Summit

1998

Declaration And Decisions Adopted By The Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session Of The Assembly Of Heads Of State And Governme

Organisation of African Unity

Organisation of African Unity

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