

RESOLUTION ON FOOD SECURITY
AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Considering that food security is one of the key problems facing the African continent, and constitutions a core objective of development,

Bearing in mind the agricultural and food situation in Africa, characterized by slow growth of production and productivity, as well as insufficient food availability caused by the combined effect of increased demand and high population growth,

Noting that the majority of the African population suffers from malnutrition,

Considering the heavy external debt burden of African countries which contributes to the worsening of the food deficit by depriving the agricultural and food sectors of the investments needed to procure equipment and means of production.

Observing that food security in most African countries continues to be predicated on food importation and food aid,

Convinced that food security in Africa is first and foremost the responsibility of Africans themselves and is an achievable objective, given the enormous natural and human potentials of the African continent, and that Africa could attain a sufficient level of food security, through rational, judicious and clear-sighted use of these immense potentials,

Recalling the various commitments made by African States to ensure economic development in Africa, attain national and collective self-sufficiency, and harmonize policies, programmes and projects of OAU Member States in the areas of food and agriculture (Harare

Highlighting the need to adopt a common African position in anticipation of the World Summit on Food Security which the FAO intends to organize in November 1996,

Taking note of the outcome of the Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Africa held in Tunis from 15 to 18 April 1995:

REITERATES the commitment of African States to strive individually and collectively towards food security in the continent through a number of ways, including increased food production, inter country trade and attaining food self-sufficiency;

RECOGNIZES the need for Africa, through the forthcoming OAU Summit, to adopt a Common African Position on food security and agricultural development, which reflects the concern of the continent, in anticipation of the World Summit planned by the FAO on the same theme;

UNCERSCORES the need to include the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1993 – 2003) in the Common African Position as mentioned in the paragraph above;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the appropriate agencies, to take necessary measures for the preparation and adoption of the Common African Position before the World Summit.

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