

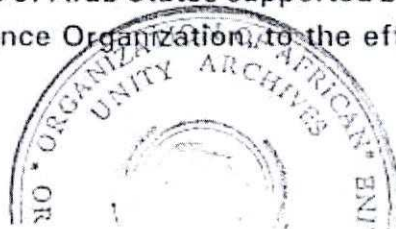
**DECLARATION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE**  
**OAU ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**  
**ON THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE LIBYAN ARAB**  
**JAMAHIRIYA AND THE UNITED STATES OF**  
**AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in our Thirty-third Ordinary Session in HARARE, ZIMBABWE, from 2 - 4 June, 1997 exhaustively discussed the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand, and the United States of America and the United Kingdom on the other. In examining this problem, we were guided by the principles enshrined in the United Nations and OAU Charters respectively, requiring Member States to settle their differences by peaceful means, through dialogue, negotiation and legal procedures, to respect the independence of all Member States and refrain from any threats to their sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of their nationals.

2. After considering the Secretary-General's report and that of the OAU Ministerial Committee on the dispute, we took note of the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had fully met the requirements demanded by the UN Security Council as contained in Resolution 731 (1992). As a matter of fact, Libya had unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms as well as all those perpetrating or encouraging it, and had made clear her readiness to give all necessary cooperation to the international community with a view to eradicating that heinous phenomenon. However, Libya had found it impossible to extradite its two nationals allegedly implicated in the bombing over Lockerbie in 1988.

3. We, regretting the continued sanctions imposed on the country, expressed our deep concern over the human and material deprivations to which the Libyan people have been subjected. We wish to emphasize that these obnoxious sanctions affect not only the Libyan people, but also the neighbouring countries as well as African workers from other countries of the continent.

4. We were once again informed that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was willing to cooperate fully in any regional or international effort aimed at resolving the crisis. In this connection, we take note of the fact that the Government of Libya has accepted the initiative of the League of Arab States supported by the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization, to the effect that



countries to devise other means of sparing the Libyan people future suffering. In this respect, we mandate the Secretary-General of the OAU to prepare a practical plan of action.

7. We, Heads of State and Government commend the efforts made by the two committees set up, respectively, by the OAU and the League of Arab States on the dispute, and encourage them to proceed with the implementation of the Plan of Action agreed upon by the two committees with a view to reaching an acceptable solution of the dispute. At the same time, we appeal to the International Community and the Security Council, in particular, to heed the support given to the Libyan position, by regional Organizations and numerous States. We also call upon the Security Council, to envisage as a prelude to the lifting of sanctions imposed upon the Libyan Jamahiriya - provisions for exempting from the embargo such flights as may be run by the Libyan Airlines for a humanitarian purpose, including assistance in kind to some African countries; for promoting the role played by the Libyan Jamahiriya in the African context as well as flights for religious purposes.

8. We, Heads of State and Government appreciate the support given by the African States, individually and collectively to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with a view to mitigating the negative impact of the embargo.

9. Lastly, we Heads of State and Government appreciating the efforts made by the Secretary-General, call upon the latter to follow the implementation of the present declaration and report thereon to our next session.

1997

Declaration of the thirty third Ordinary  
Session of the OAU Assembly of  
Heads of State and Government on  
the dispute between the Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya and the United States of  
America and Great Britain

---

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/854>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*