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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Forty-Third Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa - Ethiopia
25 February to 4 March 1986

CM/1357 (XLIII)
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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON

AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ONAFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

1. The OAU Secretary-General reported to the Forty-second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 16 July 1985, on the activities carried out since the Forty-first Session (Document CM/1309 (XLII)). Following the presentation of that report, the Council of Ministers reiterated its attachment to Afro-Arab Cooperation and adopted an important Resolution, CM/Res. 1008 (XLII). By that Resolution, it reaffirmed its readiness to work towards the reactivation of the organs of Afro-Arab Cooperation and particularly towards the pursuit of the efforts for the reconvening of the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference which, due to some difficulties at the time, could not be held in April 1985 in Tripoli, Libya. The same Resolution requested the OAU Secretary-General, in cooperation with his colleague of the Arab League, to take the necessary measures for the regular functioning of the other organs of Afro-Arab Cooperation, particularly the Standing Commission, the next meeting of which was scheduled to be held in Damascus, Syria.

2. Since then, the OAU General Secretariat has taken every step to ensure the implementation of that resolution. It also undertook other activities already included in its programme for strengthening Afro-Arab Cooperation.

PREPARATION OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION
FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

3. Already during the Forty-second Session of the Council of Ministers, the OAU General Secretariat held consultations with the delegation of the Arab League on 15 July 1985. These consultations made it possible to draw up the many outlines of the draft agenda of the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission. Furthermore, the consultations enabled the two Secretariats to agree on the date of that session which they thought they could fix, in agreement with the host country, for 30 and 31 October 1985. Similarly, it was agreed that two Working Groups, one on Afro-Arab Trade, and the other on Afro-Arab Investments be convened early in December in Tunis.

4. Thus the two Secretariats held their first technical meeting in Addis Ababa from 23 to 26 September 1985, and prepared a number of working documents in accordance with the draft agenda already adopted in July 1985.

The consultations that ensued between the two Secretariats helped to consider the ways and means of making that session of the Standing Commission a success since the Joint Afro-Arab Conference of Ministers had been proposed sine die. It was then noted that the date proposed coincided with other important commitments of the Member States of the OAU and the Arab League. A number of African and Arab Heads of State and Government and their Ministers of Foreign Affairs were to participate in the Fortieth Session of the UN General Assembly and the celebration of the anniversary of that Organization. For that reason and in order to create the conditions which would guarantee a massive and effective participation of the members of the Commission, it was agreed that a new date be fixed.

5. The OAU Member States serving on the Committee of Twelve were informed of the outcome of the consultations. Consultations were also held between the two Secretariats and the authorities of the host country which were requested to choose the date convenient to them during the month of January 1986. At the end of those consultations the dates of 15 and 16 January 1986 were chosen for the holding of the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission which would be preceded by a meeting of the Coordinating Committee on 14 January 1986.

6. Having already decided to include the reports of the Working Groups on Afro-Arab Trade and Investments in the draft agenda of the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission, the two Secretariats prepared the meeting of these Working Groups whose terms of reference had been defined by the Seventh Session of the Commission held in Tripoli from 2 to 4 August 1984. In that connection, the two Secretariats agreed that the two Working Groups would each be composed of ten experts (5 Arab, 5 African) selected on their competence. They also provided the experts with the basic working documents and ensured the material and technical organisation of their meetings.

7. Thus the Working Group on Afro-Arab Trade Promotion met in Tunis from 5 to 7 December 1985 while the one on the Promotion and Guarantee of Afro-Arab investments was held from 9 to 11 December 1985 in the same city. The two Groups adopted each a report which, inter alia contained relevant recommendations on measures to be taken for the promotion of trade and investments between African and Arab countries. These reports were submitted to the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission.

8. At the end of the meetings of the two Working Groups, the two Secretariats held a second technical preparatory meeting from 12 to 13 December 1985 in Tunis to finalize and harmonize all the Working documents of the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission. The working documents were then sent to all the OAU Member States on the Committee of Twelve on Afro-Arab Cooperation, which in fact participated actively in the Damascus Session.

9. It should also be pointed out that the OAU General Secretariat jointly with the bodies of the Arab League, organized meetings in the field of culture and labour.

10. With regard to culture, the OAU General Secretariat in cooperation with the ALECSO organised, in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 October 1985, a meeting of the Committee of Experts (5 African and 5 Arab), charged with considering matters relating to the launching of the Afro-Arab cultural Institute. The report of that meeting was submitted to the Eighth Session of the Afro-Arab Standing Committee.

11. As regards cooperation in the field of labour, the OAU Secretariat kept alive its consultations with the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) culminating in the holding of a meeting between the two sides in Baghdad, Iraq, from 11 to 14 November 1985 to prepare the session of the Ministerial Committee of Eleven charged with organizing the First Conference of African and Arab Ministers of Labour.

THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

12. As agreed, the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation was held in Damascus from 15 to 16 January 1986. It was preceded by the meeting of the Coordinating Committee and of the African and Arab Groups on 14 and 15 January 1986. The Standing Commission adopted the following recommendations:

JOINT AFRO-ARAB MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

13. Following the renewal by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of its invitation to host the Ministerial Conference, the Commission unanimously agreed that it should be convened as soon as possible in order to make it possible to hold the Second Session of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference.

14. In that regard, the Standing Commission recommended the establishment of a Committee composed of the two Current Chairmen of the OAU (Senegal) and the LAS (Bahrain), the two Secretaries General and the host country (Libya) to undertake consultations and examine the appropriate conditions for convening the Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference before the end of 1986. Furthermore, it recommended that the Second Afro-Arab Summit Conference be held after the Ministerial Conference and that it should coincide if possible, with the Tenth Anniversary of the First Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo in March 1977.

REPORT ON THE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
AND SOLIDARITY TO ACHIEVE COMMON OBJECTIVES

15. Following an exhaustive debate, the Commission among others recommended the adoption of the following measures within the framework of solidarity and cooperation at the various bilateral, regional and international levels:

- to render political, moral, financial and military support to the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine in order to enable them, under the leadership of their respective national liberation organizations, regain their their ununsurped rights, especially their inalienable rights to self-determination;
- call on the Security Council to adopt a resolution calling for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa;
- reaffirm support for the UN plan for the Independence of Namibia as stipulated in Security Council Resolution 435 (1978);
- deploy all efforts to ensure the convening of the World Conference on Sanctions Against South Africa called for by the OAU, UN and Non-Aligned Movement;
- support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish an independent State in Palestine, under the leadership of the PLO;

- support the struggle of the Arab States to liberate their lands that are still under Israeli occupation;
- Support the holding of an international conference under the auspices of the UN, to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine Question in the Middle East problem;
- coordinate efforts on the international plane in order to force Israel to pull out of South Lebanon and thus safeguard Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity;
- exert efforts in order to seek a just and lasting solution to the Iran/Iraq war, based on principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

16. The Commission also discussed the current state of affairs in US/Libya and South Africa/Lesotho relations and adopted the following two declarations:

- Declaration of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation on the measures taken by the United States Administration against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
- Declaration of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation on the measures taken against Lesotho by the Racist regime of South Africa.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARAB AND AFRICAN SPECIALIZED
INSTITUTIONS IN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND
CULTURAL FIELDS

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

17. The Commission considered four separate documents under this item - Economic and Financial; Drought, Desertification and Famine in Africa; Cartography and Cultural Affairs and adopted the following recommendations:

- The need to emphasize the mechanism of joint ventures as a way to develop integration among Arab and African economies;
- Encourage Arab and African financing institutions to undertake joint investment projects especially those which are likely to contribute to the promotion and development of trade exchanges between the two parties;
- Intensify cooperation between ADB, BADEA and ECA with regards to joint financing, consultations, joint development activities, programme coordination and the establishment of close working relations;
- the establishment of a joint coordinating committee comprising of the African Development Bank (ADB) the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the General Secretariats of the OAU and the LAS.

DROUGHT, DESERTIFICATION AND FAMINE

18. The Commission commended the African and Arab governments and donor organizations for the assistance rendered towards alleviating drought and famine in Africa and urged them to continue to extend aid to the drought-stricken countries.
19. It stressed the importance of solving the problem of drought through an increased focus on the agricultural sector and the proper implementation of Afro-Arab joint projects in the areas of cereal production and animal husbandry in order to ensure food self-sufficiency.
20. It recommended the convening of a seminar to discuss ways and means of intensifying Afro-Arab Cooperation in the field of food security, and to discuss the methods leading to complementarity in the field of production and exchange of food commodities between the two regions.

CARTOGRAPHY

21. The Commission examined the "Joint Project" for making maps of natural resources and water submitted by the Arab Centre for Studies of Dry areas and Arid Lands and the African Cartographical Society and recommended the following:

- That in view of the importance of the project and owing to the fact that it relates to efforts exerted by both the Arab and African regions to combat desertification and drought, to increase cultivated areas and to develop livestock, it called upon the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the African Development Bank to contribute to the financing of the project on equal basis.

CULTURAL FIELD

22. The Commission examined the activities report in the cultural field, including the observations of the expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute and recommended the following:

- to encourage the establishment and the consolidation of cultural and professional Afro-Arab institutions and associations, such as universities, film makers, linguistics, etc.;
- facilitate exchange of professors, students and scholarships;
- establish departments of African and Arab Studies in the universities;
- promote the use of African languages in the regional and continental institutions;
- organize seminars and conferences on specialized subjects of cultural and social Afro-Arab relations.

23. The Commission also recommended that the financing of the proposed Joint Conferences of the African and Arab Ministers of Education and Culture be charged to the budget of the Special Fund on Afro-Arab Cooperation.

THE PROMOTION OF AFRO-ARAB TRADE EXCHANGE

24. The Commission noted the report and recommendations submitted by the Working Group of African and Arab Experts on Trade Promotion between African and Arab Countries which had met in Tunis from 5 to 7 December 1985 and adopted the following recommendations:

- It noted that although potentialities for Afro-Arab trade extension existed, yet the recommendations of the study report did not contain sufficient, practical and implementable modalities;
- It accepted the Secretariats' proposal that the institutional framework proposed by the experts be called "Afro-Arab Preferential Trade Area" and took note of the offer to Saudi Arabia to assist the two Secretariats of the OAU and LAS to work out the appropriate modalities for implementation.
- It furthermore, took note of the study on trade exchanges and recognized the need to up-date it and enrich it with practical proposals capable of ensuring the promotion of trade exchange between the two communities.

PROMOTION AND GUARANTEE OF AFRO-ARAB INVESTMENTS

25. The Commission was presented with a report prepared by the Working Group of African and Arab Experts on the Promotion and Guarantee of Afro-Arab Investments which met in Tunis from 9 to 11 December 1985. Following discussions on the various proposals, the Commission made the following recommendations:

- to speed up the preparation of the joint legal framework to protect, guarantee and encourage investments between the African and Arab Countries with a view to contributing to their development;
- to benefit from the African and Arab bodies concerned with insuring investments against non-commercial risks in order to promote Afro-Arab Cooperation, and in addition, to explore the possibility of benefitting from MIGA (Multilateral Investments Guarantee Agency) for the same purpose;
- call for the convening of a joint conference of African and Arab investors in order to identify available investment opportunities and the legislative atmosphere for investments in various Arab and African Countries;
- to utilize the efforts of the existing African and Arab development institutions including funds, banks, investment and insurance companies and develop their role in activating investments, particularly with respect to the private sector;

- to give utmost attention and contribute to the investment and production projects that would enhance the production base of the Arab and African regions and provide the base for trade exchanges between the two regions, so as to reduce their reliance on triangular trade.

DRAFT BUDGET OF THE SPECIAL FUND ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

26. The Commission considered the draft budget submitted by the two Secretariats of the OAU and the LAS and approved the sum of US\$ 1,025,983.00 to be shared equally (50% contribution) by both parties.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION
FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

27... The delegation of Burkina Faso renewed its invitation to host the Ninth Session of the Standing Commission.

28. The Commission expressed its appreciation and requested the two Secretariats and the host country to hold consultations with a view to fixing a date for the Session.

29. Finally, at the end of the Eighth Session of the Standing Commission, the two Secretaries-General of the Organization of african Unity and the League of Arab States signed a General Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the LAS and another Cooperation Agreement in the field of sanctions against the racist regimes in South Africa and Occupied Palestine. At the same time, a Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and ALECSO in the cultural field was signed by the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Director General of ALECSO.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Forty-third Ordinary Session
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CM/1357 (XLIII) Annex I.

NOTE ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF 'TWELVE'

ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

(From March 1977 - Cairo Afro-Arab Summit)

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ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

(From March 1977 - Cairo Afro-Arab Summit)

1. The first Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo, Egypt, in March 1977 decided to establish a STANDING COMMISSION as one of the important joint executive organs for the implementation and monitoring of the Declarations, Decisions and Programme of Action adopted at the Joint Summit.

2. The Afro-Arab Summit decided that the STANDING COMMISSION would be composed of 24 Member States, 12 of which would represent OAU Member States and 12 LAS Member States.

3. Since March 1977, the composition of the OAU Committee of Twelve has been as follows:

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| <p>I. <u>Feb. 1975.</u>
 <u>Res. CM/395 (XXIV)</u>
 <u>Addis Ababa</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algeria 2. Botswana 3. Cameroon 4. Burundi 5. Egypt 6. Ghana 7. Mali 8. Senegal 9. Sierra Leone 10. The Sudan 11. Tanzania 12. Zaire | <p>II. <u>June/July 1977</u>
 <u>CM/Res. 576 (XXIX)</u>
 <u>Libreville</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Togo 2. Niger 3. Liberia 4. Nigeria 5. Comoros 6. Kenya 7. Cameroon 8. Gabon 9. Mozambique 10. Botswana 11. Algeria 12. Egypt | <p>III. <u>July 1979</u>
 <u>CM/Res. 721 (XXXIII)</u>
 <u>Rev. I</u>
 <u>Monrovia</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algeria 2. Egypt 3. Gambia 4. Guinea Bissau 5. Liberia 6. Niger 7. Gabon 8. Rwanda 9. Kenya 10. Madagascar 11. Lesotho 12. Mozambique |
| <p>IV. <u>June 1981</u>
 <u>CM/Res. 862 (XXXVII)</u>
 <u>Addis Ababa</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Angola 2. Gambia 3. Guinea Bissau 4. Kenya 5. Liberia 6. Madagascar 7. Morocco 8. Mozambique 9. Niger 10. Rwanda 11. Swaziland 12. Tunisia | <p>V. <u>February 1984</u>
 <u>CM/Res. 933 (XL)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angola 2. Congo 3. Ghana 4. Guinea 5. Burkina Faso 6. Morocco 7. Mauritius 8. Mozambique 9. Sierra Leone 10. Swaziland 11. Tunisia 12. Tanzania | |

4. PROCEDURE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
OAU COMMITTEE OF TWELVE FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

At its 29th Session held in Libreville from 23 to 30 June 1977, the Council of Ministers adopted the following modalities for the renewal of the membership of the Committee:

- (a) The principle of renewing members of the Committee every two years;
- (b) Principle of renewing members of the Committee by rotation; taking into account OAU regional representation;
- (c) Principle of rotative continuity, in other words, renewal of half of the members of the Committee and retaining the remaining half.

NB:

Prior to the establishment of the OAU Committee of Twelve as an institution, the African Group responsible for monitoring Afro-Arab Cooperation's matters was known as the Committee of Seven. It was composed of Cameroon, Ghana, The Sudan, Zaire, Tanzania, Mali and Botswana.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Forty-third Ordinary Session
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CM/1357 (XLIII)
Annex II.

DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON
AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
15 TO 17 JANUARY 1986, DAMASCUS, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

DRAFT AGENDA

OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON

AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

15 TO 17 JANUARY 1986, DAMASCUS, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of the Bureau and Drafting Committee
3. Adoption of the Draft Agenda (OAU/LAS/ST. COM.1(VIII)) Rev. 2
4. Organization of Work
5. Report of the Coordinating Committee (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.2(VIII)) Rev. 2
6. Report on the Activities of the Two Secretaries General (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.3(VIII)) Rev. 2
7. Report on the Means of Strengthening Political Cooperation and Afro-Arab Solidarity to Achieve Common Objectives (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.4(VIII)) Rev. 1
8. Report on the Activities of the Specialized Arab and African Institutions in the Economic, Financial, Technical and Cultural Fields (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.5(VIII)) Rev. 1
 - PART I - Report of the Specialized Institutions in the Economic and Financial Fields (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.5 PART I (VIII)) Rev. 1
 - PART II- Report on Drought, Desertification and Famine in Africa (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.5 PART II(VIII))Rev. I
 - PART III- Report on the Joint Project for the Drawing of Water and Natural Resources Charts (OAU/LAS/ST. COM. 5 PART III (VIII))Rev. 1
 - PART IV- Report on Activities in the Cultural Field (OAU/LAS/ST. COM. 5 PART IV (VIII))Rev. 1
9. Report of the Working Group on the Promotion of Afro-Arab Trade (OAU/LAS/ST. COM.6(VIII)) Rev. 1
10. Report of the Working Group on the Promotion and Guarantee of Afro-Arab Investments (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.7(VIII)) Rev. 1
11. Draft Budget of the Special Fund for the Functioning of the Organs of Afro-Arab Cooperation for the Financial Year 1986/87 (OAU/LAS/ST.COM.8(VIII)) Rev. 1
12. Date and Venue of the Ninth Session of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation
13. Any other Business.



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