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**AFRICAN UNITY**

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Addis Ababa

**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT**

**Sixteenth Ordinary Session  
Monrovia, Liberia  
17 to 20 July 1979**

**AHG/ST. 3 (XVI) Rev. 1  
AHG/ST. 4 (XVI) Rev. 1  
AHG/Res. 96 (XVI) Rev. 1  
to  
AHG/Res. 97 (XVI) Rev. 1**

**DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
SIXTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF  
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

**DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SIXTEENTH  
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF  
STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

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**MONROVIA DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF THE HEADS  
OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN  
UNITY ON GUIDELINES AND MEASURES FOR NATIONAL AND  
COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC ORDER**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

**Recalling** our resolution CM/ST/ 12 (XXI) endorsed by the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Organization of African Unity held in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1973 containing the African Declaration of Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence;

**Recalling** the recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU on Economic Development and cooperation held in Kinshasa in December 1976;

**Having taken note** of the Interim Report of the Secretary-General on Development and Economic Integration of African contained in Doc CM/983 (XXXIII) including its annex I – Colloquium of the prospects for Development and Economic Growth in Africa especially to the year 2000 - and annex II – Development strategy for Africa for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

**Aware** of the fact that Africa is a vast continent amply endowed with natural resources of all kinds, provided with a potentially rich human resource base and capable of a rapid transformation of its economies and improvement in the standard of living of its peoples,

**Determined** to ensure that our Member States individually and collectively restructure their economic and social strategies and programmes so as to achieve rapid socio-economic change and to establish a solid domestic and intra-African base for a self-sustaining, self-reliant development and economic growth;

**Realizing** that the political regime which protects basic human rights and democratic freedom is essential for mobilizing the creative initiative of our people for rapid economic development including scientific and technological innovation;

**Recognizing** the need to take urgent action to provide the political support necessary for the success of measures to achieve the goals of rapid self-reliance and self-sustaining development and economic growth;

**HEREBY DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to promote the social and economic development and integration of our economies with a view to achieving an increasing measure of self-reliance and self-sustainment;
2. That we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Government and peoples to promote the economic integration of the African region in order to facilitate and reinforce social and economic intercourse;
3. That we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to establish national, sub-regional and regional institutions which will facilitate the attainment of objectives of self-reliance and self-sustainment;
4. That, more specifically, we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to:
  - a) Give an important place to the field of human resources development by states to eliminate illiteracy;
  - b) Put science and technology in the service of development by reinforcing autonomous capacity of our countries in this field;
  - c) Self-sufficiency in food production and supply;

- d) **Complete implementation of the programme for the United Nations Transport and communications Decade for Africa;**
  - e) **Sub-regional and regional internally located industrial development;**
  - f) **Co-operation in the field of natural resources control, exploration, extraction and use for the development of our economics and for the benefit of our peoples and the setting up of appropriate institutions to achieve these purposes;**
  - g) **The development of indigenous entrepreneurial, technical manpower and technological capabilities to enable our peoples to assume great responsibility for the achievement of our individual and collective development goals;**
  - h) **Co-operation in the preservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment;**
  - i) **Ensure that our development policies reflect adequately our socio-cultural values in order to reinforce our cultural identity;**
  - j) **Take into account the dimension of the future in the elaboration of our development plans including studies and measures aimed at achieving the rapid socio-economic transformation of our states.**
5. **We hold firmly to the view that these commitments will lead to the creation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels of a dynamic inter-dependent African economy and will thereby pave the way for the eventual establishment of an African Common Market leading to an African Economic Community,**
6. **Resolving to give special attention to the discussion of economic issues at each annual Session of our Assembly, we hereby call on the Administrative Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary-General of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to draw up annually**

**specific programmes and measures for economic co-operation on sub-regional, regional and continental basis in Africa.**

**DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE**  
**OF THE AFRICAN CHILD**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixteenth Ordinary Session of Monrovia, Liberia from 17 to 20 July 1979,

**Considering** the provisions of the Charter of the OAU affirming the responsibility of Member States to harness the natural and human resources of the continent for the total advancement of the peoples in all spheres of human endeavors;

**Recalling** various United Nations pronouncements, especially the 1959 Declaration on the Rights of the Child and resolution 1/31/169 of the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming 1979 as the International Year of the Child;

**Conscious** of the appeal by the said resolution for increased national, regional and international actions aimed at guaranteeing the rights and promoting the welfare of the Child;

**Determined** to implement at national, sub-regional and regional levels and together with the national and international organizations the programmes undertaken to promote child welfare by providing facilities in the fields of education, medical care, nutrition and other basic services;

**Convinced** of the need for Member States to take effective measures such as the development of simple and appropriate technologies in order to curb unnecessary child labor;

**Aware** of the deep concern of African States about the future of African children as inheritors and keepers of African cultural heritage;

**Bearing in mind** that the welfare of the African Child is inextricably bound up with that of its parents and other members of its family, especially the mother;

**DECLARES that:**

- 1. In order to focus attention on the problems of the child to make easier the co-ordination of efforts and mobilization of resources and for performing the advocacy role for the child on a permanent basis, Member States consider the desirability of making respective national commissions or machineries for IYC a permanent organ given the necessary legal powers;**
- 2. Member States should undertake or continue their efforts to review the current legal codes and provisions relating to the rights of children, particularly by taking into account the UN Declaration of 1959 on the rights of the Child and by paying particular attention to the unequal status of female children in some parts of Africa;**
- 3. Member States should thoroughly examine cultural legacies and practice that are harmful to normal growth and development of the child such as child marriage and female circumcision, and should take legal and educational measures to abolish them;**
- 4. All Member States should take advantage of the deliberations on the IYC in the UN General Assembly to urge organizations of the UN system to intensify their co-operation and encourage them to continue carrying out those activities which have positive bearing on the situation of the child in Africa;**
- 5. International and non-governmental organizations should actively participate in the activities undertaken by Member States at national level and strengthen and develop their own activities in co-operation with national organs set up in the framework of the IYC;**
- 6. Those Member States who have not yet done so, should:**
  - a) formulate and implement programmes in the field of health, nutrition and education as part of national development plans with a view to making**



these services universally accessible to all children within the shortest possible time;

- b) give priority to the most deprived and vulnerable children, paying particular attention to disabled children in the expansion of essential services;
  - c) expand day-care facilities with priority in the most needy and economically disadvantaged families;
7. Where education services through conventional school system cannot be provided, alternative strategies for establishing educational facilities for African children should be explored and non-formal and out-of-school opportunities be exploited, based on the principle of self-reliance as far as local manpower, skills, resources and materials permit;
  8. The OAU Secretary-General should, in collaboration with all UN Agencies, give Member States all necessary assistance to promote activities in favor of children and to implement their respective national programmes;
  9. Member States, who have not yet ratified the International Labor Convention No. 138 concerning minimum age for admission to employment, should do so;
  10. Efforts should be made to preserve and develop African arts, languages and culture and to stimulate the interest and appreciation of African children in the cultural heritage of their own countries and of Africa as a whole;
  11. Member States should lay emphasis on the principle of meaningful participation of local communities and beneficiary populations in planning and management of basic services and programmes for children;
  12. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of refugee and displaced children and that immediate measures should be taken to improve their lot.

**RESOLUTION ON HOLDING AN EXTRA-ORDINARY  
SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF AFRICA**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixteenth Ordinary Session of Monrovia, Liberia from 17 to 20 July 1979,

**Noting with grave concern** that Africa remains the least developed region of the world;

**Convinced** that the time has come when close attention should be paid to the problems of socio-economic transformation of Member States of the Organization with a view to raising the living standard of the peoples of Africa;

**Further convinced** that the rapid economic development of Member States will also enhance their political stability;

**Re-affirming** the determination of the leaders of Africa, in the present circumstances of world economic system, to achieve the objectives of socio-economic transformation of Member States of the Organization, through well-articulated programmes of collective self-reliance;

**Recalling** resolution CM/ST.12 (XXI) endorsed by the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Organization of African Unity held in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1973 containing the African Declaration of Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence;

**Considering** the necessity of translating the ‘Monrovia Strategy for Economic Development for Africa’ into reality;

1. **DECIDES** to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Nigeria before the next Ordinary Session of the Summit or as soon as possible thereafter, devoted exclusively to the consideration of the economic problems facing Africa;

- 2. DIRECTS the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization, in close co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Ministers of Member States responsible for Economic Development, to prepare the grounds for the proposed Extra-ordinary Session so as to facilitate a fruitful discussion of the economic problems of Africa by the heads of State and Government.**

**RESOLUTION ON THE ETHIOPIA/SUDAN DISPUTE**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixteenth Ordinary Session of Monrovia, Liberia from 17 to 20 July 1979,

**Having heard** the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone;

**DECIDES**

1. to take note of with satisfaction, the report of the Ethiopia/Sudan **Ad Hoc** Mediation Committee;
2. to request the **Ad Hoc** Mediation Committee to continue its efforts to mediate between the two sister-states.

**VOTE OF CONGRATULATION AND APPRECIATION EXTENDED TO**  
**GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, HEAD OF STATE AND**  
**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL**  
**REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixteenth Ordinary Session of Monrovia, Liberia from 17 to 20 July 1979,

**Considering** the exceptional qualities of Statesmanship of General Olusegun OBASANJO, Head of States and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

**Further considering** the distinguished services he rendered to Africa;

**Noting with high appreciation** his immense contribution to the cause of liberation of the African Continent and towards peace in Africa as well as in the world;

**Having heard,** with emotion, the speech delivered at the opening ceremony of the Sixteenth OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in which he announced his imminent handing over of powers;

**Also considering** that, throughout the years of his office as Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Olusegun Obasanjo never ceased deploying sustained and permanent efforts so that Africans could solve their own problems themselves and that Africa may assert itself in all its entity and authenticity in the world,

**Considering finally** the far-sighted vision, a special quality of General Olusegun Obasanjo, whose dedication, sense of responsibility and strong commitment are well known and appreciated by all:

1. **ADDRESSES** its warm thanks to General Olusegun OBASANJO, worthy and brilliant son of Africa;

- 2. COMMENDS General Olusegun OBASANJO for all his achievements as Head of the Nigerian State, not only for his own country but for the entire African Continent;**
  
- 3. ASSURES him of the unanimous appreciation of his colleagues and the participants of the Sixteenth OAU Assembly.**

1979

# Declaration And Resolutions Adopted By The Sixteenth Ordinary Session Of The Assembly Of Heads Of State And Government

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