



**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**
Thirty-Fifth Ordinary Session of
OAU/Third Ordinary Session of AEC
12-14 July 1999
Algiers, Algeria

AHG/Decl. 1-2 (XXXV)
AHG/Dec. 132-142 (XXXV)
AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (III)

DECLARATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-FIFTH
ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

AHG/Decl.1 (XXXV)

ALGIERS DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organisation of African Unity, meeting in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 July 1999, solemnly declare as follows:

The end of the Second Millennium represents for Africa, the demise of an era characterised by colonisation and its tragic trail of domination, plunder and negation of the African personality. We welcome this development and affirm our resolve to strive towards ensuring that Africa and Mankind as a whole are never again subjected to such an experience so demeaning to the human dignity.

Through huge sacrifices and heroic struggles, Africa has broken the colonial yoke, regained its freedom and embarked upon the task of nation building. This achievement constitutes for us a source of profound and legitimate pride, as these struggles have not only crystallised the determination of our peoples, who made the greatest sacrifices to assert their existence and their legitimate rights, but also have contributed significantly in inculcating in the peoples and nations of the continent the universal principles of the right of peoples to be the architect of their own destiny, the right to self-determination and independence, as well as the principle of the sovereign equality of states and their right to development.

It is therefore with the most profound respect that we bow to the memory of all the martyrs of Africa whose supreme sacrifice has paved the way for the continent to regain its freedom and dignity. We pay tribute to the sons and daughters of our continent who laid down their lives for its political and economic emancipation, and for the restoration of its identity and civilisation, under conditions of extreme adversity.

This is evidenced by the legacy of conflict situations which like many time bombs, exist here and there on the Continent, coupled with problems arising from an economic infrastructure geared exclusively to satisfying the needs of the colonial metropolis, problems emanating from a political/administrative organisation rooted in authoritarianism and ethnic divisions, widespread illiteracy and extreme marginalization of the African peoples - so many problems

whose magnitude has been exacerbated by the climate of the cold war and the negative impact of a basically unfair international economic system.

All these problems constitute an unwieldy heritage whose cumulative effects have been, and continue to be, for the most part, the root cause of the numerous conflicts, crises, poverty and under-development weighing heavily on the overwhelming majority of the peoples of Africa.

We do not intend, by the aforesaid, to shirk our own responsibility for the problems and difficulties still bedeviling our countries and the continent in general; rather, we wish to underscore the immensity of the efforts exerted by our respective countries, individually and collectively, to overcome the problems inherited from colonisation, ensure peace and stability on the continent, consolidate the hard-won national sovereignty, establish stable state institutions and promote an equitable and fair economic and social development in our countries.

Inspired by its intrinsic ancestral values, Africa was able to muster the strength and determination to assert its existence and take up all these challenges. Equally inspired by this same spirit and these same values, we commit ourselves to face up to the new and formidable challenges which today confront our continent.

We are deeply convinced that the Organisation of African Unity has played an irreplaceable role in the, affirmation of political identity and the realisation of the unity of our continent. We hail the pioneering work of our Founding Fathers, and commit ourselves to further this accomplishment, and to continue to make the OAU the vital instrument of our collective action both within Africa and in our relations with the rest of the world.

Convinced that respect for the principle of inviolability of the borders inherited at independence contributed decisively to the preservation of peace and stability on our continent, we reaffirm its validity and permanence as a fundamental norm applicable in the settlement of border disputes.

We hail Africa's concerted action in ensuring that the process of decolonization of the continent is brought to a successful conclusion. In this regard, we reiterate our support for

the speedy implementation of the UN-led Peace Plan in the Western Sahara in cooperation with the OAU.

We also reaffirm our determination to promote the use of peaceful means in the resolution of conflicts, in conformity with the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference, non-recourse to threats or the use of force, and of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

In this respect, we believe that the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution is a valuable asset for our continent which must be nurtured and consolidated. This Mechanism which symbolises the concrete resolve of our continent to fully assume its responsibilities, does not exonerate the United Nations Organisation from its obligations under the UN Charter as far as the maintenance of international peace and security is concerned.

We believe that youth and women's commitment and participation can contribute towards creating an enabling environment which conduces towards a culture of peace and tolerance.

To that end, we reiterate our commitment to the Global Plan of Action on Youth and the African Platform for Action, which is an integral part of the Global Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women as an appropriate framework for creating a more egalitarian society.

We also reaffirm our determination to work relentlessly towards the promotion of the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and our commitment to combat all forms of child exploitation, and, in particular, put an end to the phenomenon of child soldier.

We believe that human rights have undergone major positive changes since the independence of African countries. The liberation movements of our peoples, the efforts of our countries and of the OAU to codify and implement these rights, as well as the current dynamic process of establishing new democratic spaces in Africa have contributed to a very large extent to these changes. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol on African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the Declaration and the Plan of Action, recently adopted in Mauritius, eloquently testify to Africa's contribution to the

promotion and protection of the noble cause of Human Rights. We, however, recognise that much remains to be done to bring these developments to the level of our own expectations and the legitimate aspirations of our peoples. We are aware of these limitations and are determined not to relent in our efforts to transcend them.

In this Spirit, we reiterate our commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We emphasise the indivisibility, universality and inter-dependence of all human rights, be they political and civil or economic, social and cultural, or even individual or collective. We call upon the international community to ensure that they are not used for political purposes.

We are convinced that the increase in, and expansion of the spaces of freedom and the establishment of democratic institutions that are representative of our peoples and receiving their active participation, would further contribute to the consolidation of modern African States underpinned by the rule of respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens and the democratic management of public affairs.

Despite the hopes generated by the end of the cold war and the attendant prospects of peace, development and integration in the world economy, we note that the Post-cold war era is fraught with new and grave uncertainties, serious risks of marginalization and new challenges that pose, numerous threats to our continent.

On the occasion of the Algiers summit, the last Summit of this Millennium, we would like to highlight the most important of these new challenges.

First, globalisation is undoubtedly the most widespread of these challenges. Ushered in with promises of progress and prosperity for all, it has today aroused fears, in that it poses serious threats to our sovereignty, cultural and historical identities as well as gravely undermining our development prospects. We believe that globalisation should be placed within the framework of a democratically conceived dynamics, and implemented collectively to make it an institution capable of fulfilling the hope for a concerted development of mankind and prosperity shared by all peoples.

Secondly, we note with grave concern, the growing marginalisation of the United Nations and its role under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of international cooperation for development. We declare that the unilateral use of force in international relations, outside the duly conferred mandate of the United Nations Security Council, opens the way to practices inimical to world peace and security.

We reaffirm our commitment to respect for the major role and responsibilities of the United Nations and its Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. In this connection, we, once again, call for a genuine democratisation of international relations based on the active participation and a balanced consideration of the legitimate concerns of all nations. We call, in particular, for the democratisation of the United Nations and its Security Council, and the recognition of Africa's legitimate place within this organ.

The need for democratisation equally applies to other international institutions including, particularly, the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Thirdly, we believe that the nuclear disarmament issue and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction remain a challenge and a crucial urgent problem facing the international community, and to which a definitive and lasting solution can be found only through general and comprehensive disarmament under strict and effective international control. Africa has always demonstrated its readiness to bring its contribution to bear on this process, as evidenced by the conclusion and implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. This important step taken by Africa should be complemented by the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East taking into account the inter-dependence between the security in both regions.

We believe that illegal movement, proliferation and trafficking of light weapons constitute another threat to the peace and security of the continent, and we commit ourselves to combat this scourge and lend our support to the regional and international mechanisms charged with preventing and combating this phenomenon.

Fourthly, we underscore the fact that new forms of threat to the stability of societies and the life of individuals such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and organised crime also dangerously

affect Africa and we call for a collective effort to address them. To this end, we call for the creation of appropriate mechanisms for the eradication of the phenomena of corruption, as well as arms and drug trafficking.

Indeed, terrorism, which is a transnational phenomenon, represents today a serious challenge to the values of civilisation and a flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also poses serious threats to the stability and security of states and their national institutions as well as to international peace and security. While reiterating our profound attachment to the struggle waged by peoples for freedom and self-determination, in conformity with the principles of international law, we call for an effective and efficient international cooperation which should be given concrete expression, under the auspices of OAU, through a speedy conclusion of a Global International Convention for the Prevention and Control of Terrorism in all its forms and the convening of an International Summit Conference under the auspices of the UN to consider this phenomenon and the means to combat it. Africa wants to make its full contribution by adopting its own Convention on this matter.

Fifthly, we note that the current trends in the World Economy do not augur well for Africa or for the great majority of developing countries.

Thus, despite the tremendous efforts invested by our countries to reorganise and restructure their economics at a very high social cost, our economies are increasingly facing a serious deterioration of the terms of trade, a decline in international development co-operation, a continuous fall in official development aid, an exacerbation of the external debt problem and the resurgence of protectionism on the part of the developed countries.

We, for our part, strongly believe that the promotion of economic co-operation and integration for the establishment of the African Economic Community as provided for under the Abuja Treaty will help consolidate the efforts being deployed by our countries to revive and develop their economies and to address the major problems facing Africa, notably problems of refugees and poverty, illiteracy and pandemics including the scourge of AIDS, as well as environmental problems, namely water and desertification related issues and threats to bio-diversity.

At the dawn of the Third Millennium, we the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Organisation of African Unity solemnly affirm our determination to fully assume our responsibilities to take up all these challenges. We recognise, however, that the solutions to these challenges depend, to a large extent, on the collective will and the pooling of efforts and resources of the entire International community.

In this connection, we call for a mutually beneficial and genuine international partnership; a partnership based on a balance of interests and mutual respect; a partnership, the most crucial and immediate ingredients of which are the genuine democratisation of international relations, the renewal of multilateralism and consolidation of its instruments, the reorganisation of international cooperation based on sustained inter-dependence and the decline in national egoism, and lastly the establishment of a security system designed and functioning with the participation and involvement of all nations.

While expressing satisfaction at the various co-operation initiatives and approaches in favour of Africa, we reaffirm our readiness and willingness to promote, with all our partners, a genuine partnership devoid of any selfish calculations for influence; a partnership that respects the unity of the continent and aims at the development of Africa, rather than using it as a mere reservoir of raw materials and market for manufactured goods; a partnership that enables Africa to achieve its integration, ensure its development for the benefit of its peoples and occupy its rightful place on the international scene for the mutual and inclusive benefit of the International Community as a whole.

Together, let us enter the Third Millennium with a genuine spirit of co-operation, with restored human dignity and a common hope in an interdependent future for mankind. In this process, Africa, which is prepared to be the master of its destiny, will shoulder its share of responsibility.

AHG/Decl.2 (XXXV)

**DECLARATION OF THE YEAR 2000 AS THE YEAR OF PEACE, SECURITY AND
SOLIDARITY IN AFRICA**

The Assembly,

1. **Recalling the Final Communiqué of the 27th OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU which, inter alia, acknowledge the link between security, development and co-operation in Africa;**
2. **Further Recalling the Kampala Document which proposed the convening of a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA);**
3. **Gravely concerned about the proliferation of armed conflicts and crises and their devastating impact on the stability, as well as on the economic and social development of Member States;**
4. **Recalling also the establishment in 1993 in Cairo, of the OAU Mechanism for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflict Situations on the Continent;**
5. **Noting the efforts being deployed by the various sub-regional organizations and leaders to successfully and peacefully resolve existing conflicts;**
6. **Determined to develop a new consensus and a shared vision of the future;**
7. **Declares the year 2000 as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa and INVITES the Current OAU Chairman, all African Leaders and countries to rededicate themselves to effectively eliminate armed conflicts in Africa by the end of that year.**

AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (III)

DECISION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

Considering the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity,

Considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, especially Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 thereof,

Considering further the Protocol on the Relations between the African Economic Communities and the Regional Economic Communities,

Having considered the report of the Council of Ministers and the recommendations of the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) held in Addis Ababa on 17 June 1999,

Expressing satisfaction at the positive developments regarding the revitalisation of ECCAS,

DECIDES:

1. REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Regulations CM/AEC/Regl.1 (IV), CM/OAU/AEC/Regl. 1 (V) and CM/OAU/AEC/Regl. 2 (V) of the Council of Ministers are hereby approved.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEC TREATY

- a) Note is taken of the end of the first stage of implementation of the AEC as provided for under the Abuja Treaty and Member States should intensify their efforts towards strengthening the existing RECs to which they belong;**

- b) Each REC is to submit to its policy organs an assessment of the progress made during the first stage, and inform ECOSOC of any additional requirements to be met for complying with the conditions needed to complete the first phase;
- c) The RECs should submit to the Fourth Session of ECOSOC their respective programmes for implementing the second phase and a progress report thereon, as well as prospects and constraints;
- d) The RECs, within the framework of the Specialised Technical Committees, should establish benchmarks for each sector to enhance assessment of the progress of integration, and regularly provide the OAU/AEC Secretariat with their sectoral work programmes in order to facilitate programme co-ordination and harmonisation;
- e) The Chairman of each REC is to submit a report to the Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the AEC Treaty;
- f) To reaffirm their commitment under the AEC Treaty, especially those regarding the implementation of the legally binding Decisions of the AEC Summit, all Member States are to set up the requisite national modalities and machinery to facilitate the incorporation of AEC decisions in their national legislation.

3. RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY

All Member States concerned are to take appropriate measures to ratify or accede to the AEC Treaty;

4. BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY

The Committee on Co-ordination, under Article 6 of the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and the RECs, should give priority to the preparation of the AEC budget, and the Secretariat is to intensify its efforts at mobilising extra-budgetary resources;

5. OAU-EU SUMMIT

Support is reiterated for the holding of the proposed Summit with the EU and while requesting the OAU Preparatory Committee to continue to overview the contacts with the EU, mandate is given to a Core Group of that Committee to undertake consultations with the relevant EU Group with a view to clearing all obstacles and determining the best ways and means for the convening of the Summit.

Done in Algiers, Algeria on 14 July, 1999

Abdellaziz BOUTEFLIKA

President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Chairman of the Assembly

DECISIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

AHG/Dec.132 (XXXV) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Ministerial Conference on the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism**

The Assembly:

- 1. TAKES NOTE of the Decision of Council on the Draft OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;**
- 2. ADOPTS the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;**
- 3. URGES Member States to sign, and subsequently ratify the Convention in order to ensure its speedy implementation;**
- 4. ENDORSES the convening of an International Conference at Summit level under the auspices of the United Nations to elaborate on the international strategy needed to combat terrorism and identify the necessary international instruments required by the international community to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism;**
- 5. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the considerable progress so quickly made by the Government and People of Algeria in the restoration of peace and stability and HAILS the courageous initiative of H.E. President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA to give concrete expression to these objectives and usher in permanent civil peace and harmony in Algeria.**

AHG/Dec.133 (XXXV) **Decision on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: Twelfth Annual Activity Report**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 12th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and commends the latter for the work accomplished during the past financial year;
2. **REQUESTS** the competent organs to continue to reflect over the possible ways and means of strengthening the operational capacity of the African Commission in order to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate;
3. **URGES** the States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to fulfil their obligations under this important instrument and to lend all the necessary assistance to the African Commission for the effective accomplishment of its mission;
4. **AUTHORISES** the publication of the 12th Annual Activity Report in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

AHG/Dec.134 (XXXV) **Decision on the Crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States and the United Kingdom**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION** over the courageous decision of the authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to encourage the two Libyan suspects to stand trial before the Scottish Court sitting in the Netherlands and over its positive response, and **SUPPORTS** the Jamahiriya's demand for adequate guarantees and conditions to ensure a just and fair trial for the two suspects;

3. **PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE to former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, the custodian of the two holy Mosques, King Fahad IBN Abdelaziz, President Blaise Compaore, Outgoing Chairman of the OAU and all the African leaders who have worked towards the implementation of the letter and spirit of the decision of the OAU Ouagadougou summit on the crisis;**
4. **FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION at the efforts of the OAU Committee of Five and the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States for their contributions in the search for a just solution to the crisis;**
5. **COMMENDS the African Group in New York for its role in resolving the crisis, and particularly for drawing the attention of the UN Secretary-General to the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had co-operated and fulfilled the requirements of UN Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992) 748 (1992), 883 (1993), 1192 (1998);**
6. **CALLS UPON the United Nations Security Council to immediately and permanently lift the sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;**
7. **REQUESTS the OAU Current Chairman to address letters to the UN Secretary-General and the Chairman of the UN Security Council to take appropriate measures to ensure the speedy and permanent lifting of sanctions;**
8. **REQUESTS the Committee of Five on the Dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States of America and the United Kingdom to continue its work until the definitive resolution of the dispute;**
9. **DECIDES to remain seized of this matter and to act as appropriate;**
10. **REQUESTS the Secretary-General to follow-up the implementation of this decision.**

AHG/Dec.135 (XXXV)

Decision on the “First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction”

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the relevant information contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the "First Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction", held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 3 - 7 May, 1999;
2. **RECOGNIZES** that the issue of antipersonnel mines constitutes a major public health threat and a source of concern in the international political agenda, requiring a global approach in order to address the negative effects of these deadly devices;
3. **COMMENDS** the rapid entry-into-force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction;
4. **FURTHER RECOGNIZES** that the proliferation of anti-personnel mines constitutes an issue of insecurity which affects free circulation of people and goods in affected countries;
5. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** for the devastating effects of anti-Personnel mines on human lives and their negative impact on the country's economic development;
6. **COMMENDS** all States Parties to the Convention;
7. **CALLS UPON** all countries which have not done so to sign and ratify the Convention;
8. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the outcome of the Maputo meeting;

9. **SUPPORTS FIRMLY** the objectives and purposes enshrined in the "Maputo Declaration";
10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue to sensitize Member States to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention.

AHG/Dec.136 (XXXV) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF 1) and the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF 1) meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 15 to 19 March, 1999;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa and of the Mechanism for its implementation, as well as the components thereof, as approved by the Conference of Ministers of Education;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Kampala Declaration and Framework of Action on the Empowerment of Women through Functional Literacy and the Education of the Girl Child;
5. **URGES** Member States to put in place all the necessary national structures as recommended in the report for the effective implementation of the Decade and the Harare Programme of Action;
6. **ALSO URGES** Member States to continue to give priority to education, more particularly basic education, as pillar of development and generator of human resources, in all their National Development Plans;

7. **INVITES** Member States as well as technical and financial partners to leave no stone unturned in monitoring, particularly at the national level, the synergy of all the on-going initiatives on the continent, with a view to coordinating and harmonizing the various programmes;
8. **FURTHER URGES** the Regional Economic Communities to take the necessary steps to implement the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action in consultation with the OAU General Secretariat, the countries and the competent regional organizations;
9. **CALLS ON** the OAU Secretary-General to:
 - a) put in place the Decade Secretariat;
 - b) set up the Decade Steering Committee;
 - c) release as early as possible the necessary resources for the launching of the Decade coordination activities;
 - d) convene every two years the Conference of African Ministers of Education;
 - e) convene in 2002, on the occasion of the mid-term review of the Decade, a Summit on Education.
10. **APPEALS** to African and International Agencies and Institutions, as well as NGOs and donor countries, to lend their technical and financial support to the implementation of the Decade Programme of Action both at national and continental levels.

AHG/Dec.137 (XXXV)

Decision on the Illicit Proliferation Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Assembly:

- 1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;**
- 2. ADOPTS the proposals contained therein;**
- 3. HAILS the Declaration on the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons adopted in Abuja on 31 October, 1998 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);**
- 4. WELCOMES the appeal contained in the said Declaration calling on the OAU to support implementation of the moratorium and to encourage similar initiatives in other regions of the continent;**
- 5. WELCOMES ALSO the initiatives being undertaken by Member States and regional organisations concerning the question of small arms, in particular the ECOWAS moratorium on small arms, the destruction of surplus and obsolete small arms in South Africa and the destruction of illicit weapons in Mozambique;**
- 6. FURTHER WELCOMES the work of the United Nations, through its Group of Experts on Small Arms and the draft Protocol on the Illicit Manufacturing, circulation and proliferation of as well as illicit trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions and other related Materials, supplementary to the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime; the European Union, through its Joint Action on Small Arms and the Organisation of American States, through its Convention against the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, circulation and proliferation of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related Materials;**
- 7. APPEALS to the International Community to render to the affected African countries all necessary assistance to enable them implement programmes to effectively deal with the problems associated with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;**
- 8. REITERATES the urgency and the need for inter-African co-operation in addressing the problems associated with the illicit use, transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons and EMPHASISES the primary role the OAU can play in co-ordinating actions in those affected areas;**

9. **URGES** the Secretary-General to further seek the views of Member States on the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, in particular, to seek their views on actions to be undertaken;
10. **CALLS** for a coordinated African approach to the problems posed by the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms, under the OAU, taking into account the regional experiences and activities in this matter;
11. **STRESSES** the impact of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of light weapons on the increased involvement of children as soldiers and the psycho-social trauma thereof and the need to comply with the African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
12. **FURTHER APPEALS** to all Member States and to the International Community to assist in the psycho-social rehabilitation of children who have been affected by the trafficking, circulation and the proliferation of light weapons;
13. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretariat to organize, to that effect, a ministerial preparatory conference on this matter, prior to the International Conference scheduled for the year 2001 and to seek the support of the relevant UN agencies and other actors concerned, so as to evolve an African common approach;
14. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.

AHG/Dec.138 (XXXV)

Decision on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made since its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in efforts to consolidate the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the appointment by the UN Secretary-General of a Director for the Centre;
3. **REAFFIRMS ITS UNWAVERING SUPPORT** for the revitalization of the Centre and underscores the need to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to consolidate its activities and implement its programmes;
4. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS** the need to establish close collaboration between the Centre and the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution on the one hand, and, on the other, between the Centre and the sub-regional organizations working for peace, security and development;
5. **ONCE AGAIN INVITES** the General Secretariat to establish close cooperation with the Centre;
6. **URGES** Member States and the International Community to support the Centre by making financial contributions to it and assisting it in any other way likely to help in the promotion of its activities and effectiveness;
7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report to its 36th Ordinary Session.

AHG/Dec. 139 (XXXV)

**Decision on the ILO Convention on the Banning of the Worst
Forms of Child Labour and Immediate Action for their
Elimination**

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1990, by the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

2. **FURTHER RECALLS** the unanimous adoption in Geneva, Switzerland on 17 June, 1999 of the ILO Convention on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Immediate Action for their Elimination, by the Eighty-seventh Ordinary Session of the International Labour Conference;
3. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission (Windhoek, Namibia: 22 - 23 April, 1999) pertaining to the proposed ILO Convention (Doc.LSC/9 (XXII));
4. **REQUESTS** all Member States to ratify the Convention as a matter of urgency preferably before the Thirty-sixth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government scheduled to take place in the year 2000;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the International Labour Office (ILO) to Provide Member States with necessary technical assistance to back their efforts towards ratification and implementation of this Convention.

AHG/Dec. 140 (XXXV)

Decision on the Convening of an Extraordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in accordance with Article 33 (5) of its Rules of Procedure

The Assembly:

Having heard the intervention of H.E. Col. Muamar Gaddafi, Leader of the Great First of September Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya during the discussion of the item on collective security and conflicts on the continent,

Having also heard his intervention on the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in the Jamahiriya, from 6 - 9 September, 1999 to discuss ways and means of making the OAU effective so as to keep pace with political and economic developments taking place in the world and the preparation required of Africa

within the context of globalization so as to preserve its social, economic and political potentials:

DECIDES to accept the offer of H.E. Col. Muamar Gaddafi to host an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the aforementioned proposed date.

AHG/Dec.141 (XXXV) **Decision**

The Assembly:

1. **REAFFIRMS** the provisions of the OAU Charter;
2. **REAFFIRMS FURTHER** the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and in particular Article 13;
3. **RECALLS** the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st Session in Cairo, on 16 September 1997;
4. **RECALLS FURTHER** the spirit of the Harare Decision on unconstitutional removal of Governments;
5. **RECOGNISES** that the principles of good governance, transparency and human rights are essential elements for building representative and stable government and contribute to conflict prevention.

AHG/Dec. 142 (XXXV) **Decision**

The Assembly:

Determined to promote strong and democratic institutions that will safeguard the principles mentioned in the decision above,

- 1. DECIDES that Member States whose Governments came to power through unconstitutional means after the Harare Summit, should restore constitutional legality before the next Summit;**
- 2. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to be actively seized of developments in those countries and to assist in programmes intended to return such countries to constitutional and democratic governments;**
- 3. CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary-General to report to the Ordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Thirty-sixth Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the progress made in this regard.**

1999

Declarations And Decisions Adopted By The Thirty-Fifth Assembly Of Heads Of State And Government

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