

# ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY



***AFRICAN DECLARATION  
ON CO-OPERATION,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE***

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The African Ministers, meeting at Abidjan from 9 to 13 May 1973 on the occasion of the African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems, organized jointly by the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, and the Twenty-First Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 23 May 1973.

Recommend the adoption of this African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence at the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1973 on the occasion of the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the foundation of the Organization of African Unity.

## PREAMBLE

We the Heads of State and Government of African countries assembled in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1973 on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity;

Reaffirming the principles and objectives laid down in the Charter of 25 May 1963 establishing the Organization of African Unity;

Reaffirming the total commitment of our States to the provisions of the Algiers Charter, to the Declaration of Lima, to the African Declaration on Industrialization, to the OAU Declaration on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and to the African Development priorities as defined by the Addis Ababa memorandum;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank;

Considering the profound and legitimate aspirations of our peoples;

Concerned by the ever-deteriorating economic and social position of the developing countries in relation to the developed countries and convinced of the constantly widening gap between the developed and developing countries;

Believing that the continuance of such a state of affairs generates a deep feeling of frustration with predictably serious consequences for peace and international security;

Concerned by the ineffectiveness of the measures adopted during the past decade to combat under-development and by the inability of the international community to create conditions favourable for the development of Africa;

Convinced that the mobilization of the continent's immense human resources in order to stimulate and orientate the the creative spirit of Africans can lead to a rapid transformation of our economies and raise our peoples' standard of living;

Convinced that the effective mobilization of the vast natural resources of the continent will be greatly facilitated by a high degree of economic integration; that regional co-operation is not only an indispensable instrument of regional integration but provides a means of co-ordinating and strengthening the position of African countries in their relations with the outside world and thus enables them to play an effective role in influencing the international context so as to foster the creation of conditions more favourable for development;

Believing that neither language differences nor differences of economic size or structure constitute insurmountable obstacles to economic co-operation and regional integration, and that all barriers to intra-African co-operation, especially those which are remnants of colonialism or by-products of the vertical relations of dominance exercised over Africa by the developed countries, can be eradicated;

Believing that the prospects of far-reaching changes in the international environment, the important events taking place in the world and the efforts being made to find durable solutions to long-standing problems offer African countries an exceptional opportunity to establish a concerted approach and to participate fully in the establishment of a more equitable international order in the economic, and monetary fields;

Aware of the serious threat arising from the constant wish of the developed countries to reserve themselves, particularly in Africa, spheres of influence that are not only political but also economic, and determined to defend the economic independence of Africa;

Convinced that the developing countries, by strengthening their common front, are capable of achieving their development targets;

Solemnly proclaim our firm determination to achieve the economic independence and development of the continent through the effective mobilization of its immense human and cultural resources;

Decide, therefore, to adopt the present Declaration setting out the basic principles of collective and individual action by all African countries on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence.

## **AFRICAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES**

A.1 The Governments of African countries, with a view to making maximum use of Africa's potential human and natural resources, undertake to:-

### **Human Resources**

A.2 Guarantee to the entire population the right to education and training based on African realities and provided in a form suited to Africa's need and development objectives and take all necessary measures to respect this right;

A.3 Direct university and higher education programmes to the training and research needed to ensure Africa's scientific and technological independence (as towards an applied research that will be required) and to effect radical changes in the economic and social environment in the interest of development;

A.4 Facilitate the free movement of persons essential for the exchange of ideas and economic integration and give priority to co-operation in the exchanges of profes-

sional manpower and skilled and unskilled labour among African countries;

- A.5 Take appropriate measures to put an end to the brain-drain from Africa and to prompt qualified Africans living abroad to return, with a view to the rapid phasing-out of technical assistance from outside Africa;
- A.6 Accelerate the implementation of an Africanization policy in each country and ensure effective and equitable African representation in international organizations and the United Nations agencies in Africa;
- A.7 Give full support, through their representative States and the Organization of African Unity, to the programmes of the Association of African Universities and other institution for the fostering of co-operation in particular areas of training and research, most especially the teaching of African and relevant foreign languages, the extension of training facilities to meet specific shortages of middle and high-level African personnel, the investigation of economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological problems that are of particular importance for African developments, and the exchange of University teachers and students;

#### Natural Resources

- A.8 Undertake a systematic survey of all Africa's resources, with a view to their rational utilization and joint exploitation, where appropriate, in order to accelerate the continent's developments;
- A.9 Defend vigorously continually and jointly, the African countries' inalienable sovereign rights and control over their natural resources;
- A.10 Intensify co-operation in the multinational exploitation of rivers and lakes and basins;

- A.11 Promote the exchange of information concerning the exploitation and use of water for supplying towns and industries;
- A.12 Exploit, for development purposes, Africa's hydro-electric potential on a multinational, sub-regional and basis, wherever possible,
- A.13 Intensify the use of other sources of energy such as solar and thermal energy whose utilization can be progressively substituted for that of wood and help to halt the process of land being transformed into desert and the increased incidence of drought in Africa;
- A.14 Protect Africa's sea and ocean resources coming within national jurisdictions effectively and jointly from international over-exploitation (by the developed countries),
- A.15 Rationally harness, on a continental basis, the research of the sea-bed and ocean floor outside national jurisdiction for the benefit of Africa's development and of its peoples and ensure full participation of the African landlocked countries;

## II - Agriculture

Promote the modernization of African agriculture through the introduction of modern and advanced techniques in the fields of production, distribution and storage; achieve the gradual replacement of the traditional peasantry by farmers trained in modern methods; and strengthen African co-operation in this sphere with a view to exchanging experience;

- A.17 Promote efforts to ensure a rapid and substantial increase in Africa's food production;



- A.18 Make special efforts to expand rural infrastructure and improve the conditions in rural areas in order to raise the standard of living of the rural populations;
- A.19 Provide rural extension service so that small-scale farmers can be helped to produce surpluses that can be used for the financing of processing industries;
- A.20 Take necessary steps to ensure that African products are processed to the greatest possible extent in Africa prior to exportation;

### III Transport and infrastructure

- A.21 Accelerate the creation of a modern infrastructure of roads, railways, airlines, inland waterways and the like which constitute the fundamental basis for development and intraregional co-operation;
- A.22 Establish, as a matter of priority, links between national roads systems and the junction between these areas and the sea ports in order to facilitate the rapid transport of persons and goods, the opening up of isolated areas in each country and providing access to landlocked countries;
- A.23 Eliminate all forms of obstacles to the regular movement of vehicles especially by simplifying formalities at the frontiers and harmonizing highway codes and transit regulations;
- A.24 Take the necessary steps to establish consortia of African shipping companies which will enable them to operate with greater efficiency share the use of terminal and maintenance facilities, and explore in common the possibilities of technical innovation in the transportation of African exports;
- A.25 Adopt a common stand in favour of early negotiations

so as to obtain favourable freight rates and exert an influence on freight rate level, in respect of maritime and coastal shipping services;

- A.26 Take all necessary measures to establish shippers councils in Africa and to associate landlocked countries with them as much as possible;
- A.27 Set up adequate freight systems designed to promote intra-African trade and African exports;
- A.28 Effectively strengthen co-operation between African airline companies with a view to the rationalization of the continent's air services, particularly as regards the harmonization of time tables, the setting up of special reduced rates, exchanges of air traffic rights, the standardization of aircraft used, the sharing of aircraft repair and maintenance facilities and joint organization of research and personnel training;

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A.29 Intensify efforts towards the implementation of the Pan-African telecommunications network, including the eventual installation of a Pan-African satellite, and take steps to secure the standardization of equipment, the improvement and co-ordination of operational arrangements and the provision of appropriate personnel training facilities;
- A.30 Define common general policies on all questions relating to intra-African postal communications problems and policies, particularly as regards the standardization and co-ordination of postal procedures and practices, and the establishment of vital intra-African postal systems;

## V - INDUSTRIALIZATION

- A.31** Promote the industrialization of Africa, in particular by the expansion of national markets and accelerating the development of technology, taking due account of the growing importance of transnational companies in this field;
- A.32** Identify the industrialization of Africa, in particular a systematic development of the entire continent through regional planning with national planning on a rational basis; and identify areas of common interests, so as to promote their development through planning and programming,
- A.33** Take adequate measure to ensure rational industrialization, within the context of subregional and continental economic entities, on the basis of an equitable sharing out of costs and benefits by co-ordinating industrialization policies and harmonizing development plans, paying special attention to the problems of the least developed and landlocked countries;
- A.34** Organize exchanges of information among African countries on matters pertaining to industrialization, promote co-operation and assistance by competent international institutions, and take adequate steps to put an end to practices of foreign transnational companies that are contrary to Africa's interests;
- A.35** Call upon the developed countries, with a view to promoting African industries, to apply the generalized system of preferences in a loyal and non-discriminating manner and to abolish effectively all tariff and non-tariff barriers and restrictive business practices;
- A.36** Promote co-operation between developing regions, with special regard to the export of processed and semiprocessed products, in order to change the vertical structure which dominates relations between developing countries and developed countries;

- A.37 Promote, through a policy of training, guidance and extension services, the involvement of Africans in the industrial sector;
- A.38 Adopt suitable measures to encourage the rapid transfer of appropriate techniques to Africa both from the developed market-economy countries and from the Socialist countries and their incorporation in production processes, and set up continent-wide institutions capable of promoting applied scientific research and the use of techniques resulting from local research; eliminate middlemen in the realm of imports in order to reduce the high-cost of imported products;

#### **MONETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- A.39 Take all necessary measures to promote effective monetary co-operation among African countries especially by;
- (I) Organizing mutual consultation on monetary matters between African countries,
  - (II) Giving a more important role to African currencies in intra-African payments,
  - (III) Instituting payments arrangements among African currencies in Intera-African payments,
  - (IV) Setting up at the regional or subregional level, one or more payment unions with an African external settlement fund; to this end study in a concrete manner all possibilities of financing the fund in collaboration with appropriate international institutions.
- E. Rapidly strengthen effective financial co-operation in Africa by setting up subregional capital markets, and by inviting ADB to give priority to the financing of multinational projects and those which foster Afri-

## ENVIRONMENT

- A.40 Take all necessary measures for the protection of nature and the environment which constitute one of Africa's irreplaceable resources, and to counteract the effects of natural disasters of which other countries are constant victims,
- A.41 Adopt a common front to combat drought, which constitutes a threat to the entire continent,
- A.42 Take all steps to ensure that tourism policies do not result in the destruction of the environment and nature in Africa, since any damage done is irremediable;
- A.43 Ensure that the problems of environmental protection are seen within the context of the economic and social development of the African countries whose development policies should accordingly pay greater attention to questions of natural resource conservation and management, the improvement of physical and human conditions in urban and rural areas, and the eradication of endemic diseases which have been extensively eliminated in many parts of the world,
- A.44 Ensure that African countries are always guided by the principles adopted by the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment.

## TOURISM

- A.45 Set up joint organizations for the promotion of the tourist trade through such measures as joint advertising, the establishment of agreed tariffs for excursions and holiday travel, and the simplification of frontier formalities to facilitate inter-State tours.

## **TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCING**

### **B.1 INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE**

- I. a) intensify efforts to establish procedures and mechanisms for co-ordinating trade policies;
  - b) intensify efforts to promote co-operation in the field of the general integration of economic infrastructure, particularly through the restructuring of production structures distribution systems and market integration on a subregional basis;
  - c) establish common trade and development institutions to consider, co-ordinate and supervise, where necessary, the implementation of agreements and arrangements among African countries on co-operation, trade and development.
- II. Adopt modern marketing techniques in respect of African products with a view to promote intra-African trade;

### **B.2 INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

1. Take the necessary precautions in international negotiations to ensure that they take place within international institutions, and that, whether they concern relations between Africa and groupings of developed countries or simply, relations with these countries individually, they are in no case treated as a pretext to subject Africa to any foreign economic power.
2. Concert and organize plan action, in advance of all negotiation with the developed countries, and in order to assess all the implications which the proposed agreements might have on the future of their economic independence, (regarded as an inviolable principle).
3. Act collectively in multilateral trade negotiations in

order to safeguard the following objectives:

- I The adoption of effective concerted measures a definite and to the constant deterioration in the terms of trade of African countries;
- II The adoption of effective measures for the stabilization of relative prices of African commodities and for the dynamic stabilization of export earnings, in the light of increasing needs of African countries for development financing,
- III The adoption of effective measures designed to lead to the vertical diversification of production so that the African countries can process their products through as many stages as possible before exporting them, it being considered that horizontal diversification consisting of the substitution of a number of primary products for a single one merely postpones the day of reckoning without solving any of the real problems;
- IV The abolition by the developed countries of all tariff and non-tariff barriers, and the restrictive trade practices which those countries have hitherto placed in the way of the penetration of their markets by products from the African countries;
- V Non-reciprocity in trade and tariff concessions accorded to African countries by the developed countries;
- VI The adoption and effective implementation by all the developed countries of the generalized system of preferences, the suppression of all escape clauses, the extension of the system to cover all escape clauses, the extension of the system to cover all African exports and its adoption by all countries that have not yet done so;

- VII the conduct of negotiations by groups of products and not individual product;
- VIII the completion of negotiations within a reasonable period.

### **B.3 DEVELOPMENT FINANCING**

- I Mobilize Africa's domestic resources rapidly and effectively so as to serve as the main basis of African development;
- II Encourage, in every way, efforts directed towards African participation in investment in all sectors, so as to ensure effective national control of the economy; take direct charge of the creation and development of key sectors of the economy to ensure their effective control in the interests of national development;
- III promote the establishment of continent-wide insurance and reinsurance institutions and a Pan-African Insurance and Reinsurance Company;
- IV take measures to ensure that foreign private investment respects national priorities drawn up by the African States;
- V Co-ordinate national legislations in the field of investment policy to avoid competition among African countries in offering foreign investors conditions for establishment and tax concessions that are liable to be prejudicial to African economies with the aim of preparing the elements for a single investment code for all African countries;
- IV Take measures to reduce expenditure on research and studies provided by the developed countries which



absorb a very large proportion of foreign aid and ensure that the costs of such studies are borne by donor countries and not counted as part of the credit element of the aid granted.

- VII To participate actively and directly in the research currently being conducted on the reform of the international monetary system with a view to establishing a more equitable international monetary system designed to provide African countries with resources for development in addition to international liquidities;
- VIII Promote measures through general or specific agreements to limit the harmful effects of monetary developments outside the continent on African economies and, where possible, seek compensation for resultant losses by African countries and at the same time strengthen intra-African monetary co-operation to counteract the harmful effects of external monetary developments;
- IX Defend a common African stand in all international economic and monetary negotiations.

## C.1 INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Take all necessary measures, side by side with efforts at the international level, to promote intra-African co-operation within the context of a strategy for development which should be the primary responsibility of the African peoples themselves.

## C.2 AFRICA'S RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD

- I Constant consolidation of the front formed by the

Group of 77 in order to defend the principles laid down in the Algiers Charter and the principles of action in the Lima Declaration;

- II Constant harmonization of the positions of developing countries within the common institutions they have established for the defence of their common interests;
- III Encouragement by all possible means, of the exchange of information on development and scientific and technical co-operation between developing countries and between their respective national or regional institutions;
- IV Encouragement of the associations of producers in developing countries, for the defence of their common products.

### **C.3 RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES AND THEIR ECONOMIC GROUPINGS:**

- I Co-ordination and harmonization of their stand during all negotiations in order to safeguard the interests of African countries and refraining from actions prejudicial to African economies and inter-African co-operation;
- II Conclusion of trade agreements on the basis of mutual interest and the assistance duly made available to Africa by the developed market economy countries and their economic groupings;
- III Taking all necessary measures to ensure that no special form of relationship with the developed market economy countries, or their economic groupings are an impediment to access to financial and technical aid,

- IV Ensuring that multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance agreements are adapted to the development requirements of African countries;
- V Taking concrete measures to regulate the repatriation of profits which considerably reduces the investment resources of African countries and limits the positive effects of aid to Africa;
- VI Taking measures to facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology to African countries on easy terms, and to control the restrictive practices which militate against such transfers;

#### C.4 RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

- I Co-ordination of the stand and information on the possibilities for trade, co-operation and assistance between African countries and the Socialist countries;
- II Promotion of all measures to intensify trade and facilitate payments between African countries and the Socialist countries;
- III Taking steps to encourage the Socialist countries to facilitate the mobilization of credits granted to African countries, in particular as regards the use of such credits to finance the local cost component of projects and to purchase goods from other Socialist country;
- IV Taking steps to facilitate the sale of African products in Socialist countries within the framework of long-terms agreements at contractually negotiated and periodically readjust prices to take account of the changes in market conditions;
- V Intensification of industrial scientific and technical co-operation between African countries and the

Socialist countries, and measures to facilitate the transfer of technology from such countries to the African countries.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, We, African Heads of State and Government call upon African governments, African economic co-operation organizations, African institutions and African representatives in all international organizations, institutions and bodies to be guided in their actions by the provisions of the present Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence;

TO WHICH WE have appended our signatures :

ALGERIA	MADAGASCAR
BOTSWANA	MALAWI
BURUNDI	MALI
CAMEROON	MAURITANIA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	MAURITIUS
CHAD	MOROCCO
CONGO	NIGER
DAHOMEY	NIGERIA
EGYPT	RWANDA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	SENEGAL
ETHIOPIA	SIERRA LEONE
GABON	SOMALIA
GAMBIA	SUDAN
GHANA	SWAZILAND
GUINEA	TANZANIA
IVORY COAST	TOGO
KENYA	TUNISIA
LESOTHO	UGANDA
LIBERIA	UPPER VOLTA
LIBYA	ZAIRE
	ZAMBIA

DONE at Addis-Ababa, 25 May 1973

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