

**RESOLUTION ON THE DECLARATION OF AN AFRICAN
YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its 25th Ordinary Session from 24 to 26 July, 1989 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Aware of the extreme gravity of problems related to the environment of the future of mankind and the survival of our societies,

Gravely concerned about the continuous degradation of the environment throughout the world in general and in Africa in particular, which has resulted in imbalances in the land , forest, coastal and maritime ecosystems, the warming of the earth, climatic changes with the dire consequences on the economic activities of world population and the destruction of the ozone layer,

Firmly convinced that to overcome the challenge posed by the ecological problems, there is need to pool all scientific, technical and financial resources possible only through international co-operation,

Recalling with interest that the Cairo Programme on Co-operation among African Countries in Environmental Matters adopted in December 1985 by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment contains the measures and solutions devised by Africa to solve the problems and challenges facing the Continent;

Further recalling that the aims and objectives of the Cairo Programme which aims at putting an end to the environmental degradation, developing the food crop production capacity of the continent, achieving energy self-sufficiency and restoring the balance between population and resources, constitutes a global plan which should be further considered to emphasize the major priorities taking into account the financial capabilities of our Member States,

Taking into account the Kampala Declaration on Lasting Development in Africa, adopted on 16 June, 1989, by African Ministers of the Environment, Planning and Education, in which the Ministers pledged that their countries would initiate “reforms

and innovations leading to development of policies and methods which would be ecologically sound, economically durable and socially acceptable”,

Fully aware that it is primarily incumbent on our countries to provide the financial resources required for the Cairo Programme and other responsibilities, before appealing for external assistance and taking advantage of the capital of good will of the international community,

Anxious to perpetuate the concept of environment in the economic, social and cultural development process of African nations, and to focus attention on the environment sector in relation to the other national sectors, and to establish links among all the Ministerial Departments, with a view to the environment in a determining position in the decision-making process,

Bearing in mind Resolution CM/1153 (XLVIII) on the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa and CM/Res. 1199 (XLIX) on the Global Convention on the Control of the Cross Border Movement of Hazardous Wastes:

1. **DECLARES 1991 the African Year of the Environment;**
2. **INVITES Member States to adopt the following measures:**
 - i. **At the National Level**
 - **set up a National Committee to organize the African Environment Year and involve all active sectors of the nation;**
 - ii. **At the Africa Level**
 - **to create an Advisory Working Party at the OAU comprising experts of various regions of the Continent to:**
 - a) **rationalize and co-ordinate all projects on the protection of the Environment included in the Cairo Programme;**
 - b) **assess the environmental risks inherent in the projects programmed,**

- 3. INVITES the OAU General Secretariat to collaborate in the execution of the projects proposed in this connection;**
- 4. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to present a report at the next Summit on the implementation of this resolution.**

1989

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