

**RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION
CM/Res. 1610 (LXII) – ON OAU ASSISTANCE TO PATU**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Having heard the statement by the delegation of Mali on the financial situation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union (PATU),

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1610 (LXII) – 95 on the financial situation of PATU,

Noting that despite the OAU resolution referred to above, the financial situation of the Union remains precarious owing to non-payment of contributions,

Deeply concerned by this situation which is highly detrimental to the smooth-running of the Union and its activities within the context of the programme of integration of telecommunications land networks by satellite and submarine networks in Africa,

Convinced that the high level of arrears of contribution owed by Member States seriously jeopardizes the implementation of the programme of activities of the Union and the on-going restructuring exercise aimed at better adapting the Union to the rapid developments in the global telecommunications environment,

Appreciative of the assistance provided by ITU, INTELSAT and IMMARSAT, as well as the pledges made by international banking institutions such as SF1, ADB and BOAD to contribute to the development of African telecommunications, especially the development of cooperation between PATU and the AT&T Company of the United States in the realization of the optic fibre submarine cable network code named “Africa One” where PATU plays a leading role within the project coordinating Committee,

Considering that this project which pertains to the laying of a 37 000 km cable linking the whole of Africa, will render PATU self-financial, thereby enabling it to acquire a semi-commercial status,

Desirous of making it possible for PATU to meet Africa's aspirations to become self-sufficient in the area of telecommunications:

- 1. COMMENDS Member States that have paid their contributions to the regular budget of PATU;**
- 2. URGES Member States which have not yet done so, to pay their arrears of contributions to PATU, the only OAU Specialized Agency in the area of telecommunications;**
- 3. RECOMMENDS that PATU's Member States lend their support to restructuring programme of the Union;**
- 4. INVITES the Advisory Committee to consider possible ways and means of providing assistance to PATU;**
- 5. ALSO INVITES the Secretary-General of OAU to initiate consultations with the sub-regional telecommunications organization in Africa with a view to convening at the OAU Headquarters, a meeting for the coordination of telecommunications activities on the continent;**
- 6. FURTHER INVITES the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.**

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