



**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF  
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AHG/Decision 119 (XXXII)  
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**DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND DECISION ADOPTED BY THE  
THIRTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS  
OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

*AHG/Decl.1 (XXXII)*

**YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION ON POLIO ERADICATION IN AFRICA**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in our Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July 1996,

**Bearing in mind** Declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXIII) on Health, Basis of Development adopted by our Twenty-Third Session in Addis Ababa,

**Recalling** the major Resolutions adopted and/or endorsed by our Assembly, particularly, Resolutions:

- AHG/Res. 63 (XXIII) on Universal Immunization in Africa;
- CM/Res. 1230 (L) on the strategies of the Decade of the African Child (1990 - 2,000);
- CM/Res. 1290 (LII) and CM/Res. 1360 (LIV) on the implementation of the Decade for the Survival, Protection and Development of the African Child,

**Reaffirming** the Plan of Action for the implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children held in New York in September 1990,

**Recognizing** the seriousness of the Poliomyelitis situation as evidenced by the large number of Children affected by the virus in Africa and also by the fact that this disease continues to seriously undermine health and development efforts deployed towards the implementation of programmes and projects aimed at the survival, protection and development of the African child; a guarantee for the future of the Continent,

**Acknowledging** the invaluable technical and financial contribution provided to Member States of our Organization by all its partners especially Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (USA), IGOs and NGOs

from the USA, EU member countries, Nordic countries and Japan in their efforts to eradicate poliomyelitis.

**Mindful** of the current growing global movement for the eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2,000 as adopted in 1988 by the Forty-Fifth Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly:

**1. COMMIT OURSELVES to:**

- **Eradicate poliomyelitis in Africa as an urgent priority and confirm our strong determination to make Africa free of poliomyelitis;**
- **Fully support the implementation of the strategies recommended by the World Health Organization, including national immunization days;**
- **Allocate adequate human, financial and material resources, and mobilize other local resources including resources from non-governmental and the private sector, for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;**
- **Mobilize additional external resources from international agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other partners including private foundations, in support of poliomyelitis eradication activities in Africa;**

**2. CALL UPON all Member States to take immediate and concrete steps to:**

- i) **Urgently address the problem of poliomyelitis;**
- ii) **Give their full political support to actions aimed at preventing and eradicating poliomyelitis as a matter of top priority, and mobilize all national, local, traditional and religious leaders for the fight against poliomyelitis through vaccination and the provision of adequate local and external resources;**

- iii) **Develop mechanisms that will facilitate and ensure inter-sectorial and inter-country collaboration and coordination, as well as integration with other relevant health-related programmes for the long-term control of poliomyelitis;**
- iv) **Request the high-level Committee set up by the WHO Regional Directors for Africa, and Eastern Mediterranean region to speed up the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;**

**3. MANDATE the Ministries of Health, of OAU Member States in collaboration with other relevant sectors of Government to ensure that effective polio eradication strategies and activities recommended by the World Health Organization are included in the strategic Plans of Action of their national immunization programmes and appropriately implemented;**

**4. WELCOME**

- **The establishment by the WHO Regional Directors for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Region of a high-level Committee for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;**
- **The tremendous efforts deployed by WHO, Rotary International, UNICEF, USAID, Centres for Disease Control (USA), other international agencies, government and non-governmental organizations as well as other partners, to provide OAU Member States with the necessary technical, logistical and financial support for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa.**

**5. REQUEST WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, USAID and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations to step up their financial assistance and strengthen their input in favour of OAU Member States in order to mitigate the overwhelming health, social and economic consequences of poliomyelitis;**

6. **INVITE Government and other partners including multilateral and bilateral agencies to participate in the efforts deployed to eradicate poliomyelitis in Africa by the year 2000;**
  
7. **MANDATE the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to submit a progress report every year on the implementation of the present Declaration and ensure the implementation and evaluation of the Appeal for Action in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and other relevant Agencies.**

*AHG/Decl.2 (XXXII)*

**DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUG CONTROL ABUSE AND ILLICIT  
DRUG TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA**

The features of the Plan of Action elaborated herewith comprise five sections - Section I, Declaration; Section II, Main Orientations; Section III, the Role of Regional Economic Communities; Section IV, The Organization of African Unity, Section V, Sources of Finance; and Section VI; Final Considerations.

**SECTION 1: DECLARATION**

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

Aware that a variety of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are in illicit traffic in the continent of Africa and that large quantities of psychotropic substances are diverted into the countries of Africa;

Aware that drug abuse and illicit trafficking have become worldwide phenomena;

Aware that Africa is targeted by drug traffickers who are taking advantage of the socio-economic and political difficulties besetting our different countries and who are converting the continent into an extension of their worldwide network and are in the process developing markets for drug consumption wherever possible, on the continent;

Aware that drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking have increased significantly in the countries of African and that these problems require to be urgently addressed to prevent their further spread;

Aware that the drug abuse problem is multifaceted and requires a disciplinary approach for its resolution;

**Aware of the pervasiveness of drug abuse in many African countries and that abuse and misuse of drugs cut across social strata and that youth and school children are the most vulnerable members of our societies;**

**Aware that international cooperation and mutual assistance are veritable instruments in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking;**

**Aware that the international drug treaties are important instruments for effective drug control, that States should accede to these treaties as part of their commitment to effective international drug control efforts and that many States in Africa are yet to become parties to these international drug treaties;**

**Aware that sufficiently trained and motivated personnel are a prerequisite for introduction of effective drug control measures;**

**Aware that drug abuse and illicit trafficking constitute a major obstacle to the development of our societies to the fullest extent possible and that, furthermore, drug abuse and illicit trafficking affect the people of Africa by alienating human dignity and suppressing freedom of choice;**

**Recognizing that it is important for States that are parties to the international drug treaties to harmonize their drug laws with the international drug treaties and that States that are not parties to the international drug treaties are also required to harmonize their national drug laws with the international drug treaties in the interest of international drug control;**

**Recognizing that national drug laws are important instruments in the fight against illicit trafficking;**

**Recognizing that illicit drug trafficking is a crime against national and international drug laws and that there is a link between illicit drug trafficking and organized crime;**

**Recognizing that illicit drug traffic undermines civil authorities and governments and poses a threat to political stability;**

**Recognizing that preventive action against non-medical use, misuse and abuse of drugs is cost effective;**

**Concerned about the socio-economic consequences of drug abuse because of their particular burden on national development, productivity and social services as drug abuse affects the society, family and individual;**

**Concerned that the proceeds from illicit drug trafficking when allowed to flow into the national financial institutions can lead to a rapid increase in the money supply and thus put inflationary pressure on the economics of States;**

**Convinced that to address the suppression of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the continent requires a joint and concerted effort by all Member States so as to avoid any weak links in our collective endeavour to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking;**

**Convinced that the successful control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the continent calls for a coordinated, comprehensive and integrated approach as well as the commitment of governments at the highest level possible;**

**Acknowledging our indebtedness to the efforts of Member States thus far in combating the drug problem and convinced that a more systematic and collective effort is required in this regard.**

**We hereby agree to focus on the following:**

- (i) Ensuring coherence of our action in drug control at national, regional and continental levels;**
- (ii) Fostering cooperation among countries sharing the same problems, preferably in the same region;**
- (iii) Setting up appropriate institutions to address illicit drug trafficking and illicit drug demand in a balanced, integrated and timely manner;**



- (iv) **Assessing the drug problem in its two aspects of supply and demand of illicit drugs as well as ensuring the capacity of countries to address the problem;**
- (v) **Integrating drug demand reduction programmes into the national health and social policy and providing, where not available, infrastructures for treatment of drug addicts and their social integration;**
- (vi) **Adopting the international drug conventions and legal instruments to deal with the problem;**
- (vii) **Developing human resources;**
- (viii) **Evaluating periodically the programmes that are being implemented; and**
- (ix) **Mobilizing resources at national, regional, continental and international levels for carrying out the actions identified.**

**We also agree on the necessity to act on the basis of Plan of Action built around these key elements and which is aimed at the establishment of a framework for eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking,**

**To identify in concrete terms priority actions that Governments can take to eradicate drug abuse and illicit trafficking,**

**To develop cooperation among African countries on those priority actions so that a concerted and comprehensive approach to drug control can be adopted,**

**To mobilize the community and non-governmental organizations in eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Africa,**

**To provide a framework for a coordinated, comprehensive and concerted international approach to eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Africa, and**

To raise the commitment of Governments to addressing the drug problem.

## **SECTION 11. MAIN ORIENTATIONS**

We shall take steps to carry out drug control activities having in mind the main orientations elaborated below.

(a) **Political Will and Commitment**

We shall translate our political will and commitment by the active integration of drug control into national policies by allocating adequate resources for drug control activities;

This will entail the development, adoption and review of the adequacy of the administrative and regulatory mechanisms introduced for the prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

(b) **Assessment of the Drug Problem**

Mechanisms for the collection and analysis of the drug problem are introduced to improve formulation of policies. In addition, remedial measures are introduced to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to report adequately to the international organizations;

This will be achieved by collection and collation of data on drug seizures, drugs being abused, the extent of abuse, the trends in drug abuse and illicit trafficking and the profiles of illicit drug traffickers. The data obtained will be used in periodically reviewing measures that are introduced.

(c) **Institution Building**

National administrations or focal points for drug control are established or

strengthened and given adequate resources and authority for control of drugs in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

This will be achieved by establishing or strengthening national administrations for drug control and, where not possible, establish or strengthen inter-ministerial committees for coordinating and monitoring drug control activities. The national administrations, where and when established, are required to be adequately staffed with knowledgeable, competent and committed personnel. Where more than one agency or department exists for drug control activities, they will be encouraged to promote and faster inter/agency/inter/departamental cooperation in the control of drugs nationally. National administrations for drug control will be adequately equipped.

(d) **Human Resources Development**

National administrations for drug control will be staffed by competent, committed and motivated staff. The national administrations will also have a reservoir of manpower for drug control activities.

This will be achieved by providing training for drug law enforcement officers to detect and interdict drugs in illicit traffic using up-to-date-techniques, where possible. In addition, personnel for drug demand reduction programmes will be trained in all aspects of drug demand reduction, while recognizing the need for specialization. Also, the judiciary will be offered training on the laws specific to control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Furthermore, regular in-service training will be provided to personnel for updating of skills, knowledge and exchange of experience. It is desirable that personnel of national drug administrations are regularly screened for commitment to the goals of the drug administrations.

(e) **Suppression of Illicit Drug Traffic**

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking is achieved through the adoption and

enforcement of adequate national legal systems, providing adequate security throughout the country and establishment of adequately equipped forensic laboratory for identification of substances seized in illicit traffic.

Drug laws are enacted that are consistent with the international drug treaties, adequate number of personnel in drug law enforcement are employed, full time security coverage of ports, land borders and post offices are provided and the drug laws are enforced through arrests, prosecution of suspects and imposition of appropriate penal sanctions. The enhancement of the skills of drug law enforcement officers and the provision of adequate facilities to detect and interdict narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in illicit traffic are considered a priority. In addition, the capacity of the judiciary to deal effectively with cases of illicit drug trafficking will be improved.

(f) **Reducing Illicit Demand for Drugs**

Promotion of rational medicinal use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; adoption of measures for preventing drug abuse and misuse and the provision of treatment and social reintegration to drug addicts are given priority consideration.

This will mean the promotion of regulated drug distribution channels by introducing appropriate legislation and enforcing the laws. In addition, preventive education will be promoted through appropriately educating the public by mass education campaigns and the introduction of preventive education into the school curricula. Facilities for early detection of drug addicts, treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts are established.

(g) **International Cooperation**

Faster improved cooperation among States and between States and relevant international and inter-governmental organizations.

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements are entered into with one another and with inter-governmental and international organizations as well as regional

economic communities. Also, through cooperation agreements entered into technical assistance in respect of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can be sought.

(h) **Community Mobilization**

Mobilization of communities and non-governmental organizations in drug demand reduction programmes are achieved.

National non-governmental organizations are encouraged to become involved in drug demand reduction programmes and their capacities strengthened to complement Government programmes.

**SECTION IV. ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY**

The main orientations of the Plan of Action require to be translated into concrete actions. In this regard, Member States will need the support and cooperation of the OAU to achieve the desired goal, which is the reduction of vulnerability to the drug threat.

The OAU should take necessary steps to formally enlarge its mandate to include consideration of drug control activities in view of Article 72 (2)(9) of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, 1991, which states that the Community shall undertake to “harmonize their efforts to put an end to the illegal production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and formulate sensitization and rehabilitation programmes in this field”. A focal point shall be established at the Secretariat for the coordination and monitoring of drug control activities at the continental level and promotion of accession to the international drug treaties by Member States.

This focal point should either function as an independent unit or as part of an existing unit such as the ESCAS Department. The focal point, which shall be staffed by competent personnel, should liaise with the Secretariats of other regional economic communities in respect of drug control activities. The focal point will also have the responsibility of preparing and presenting annual reports of current drug situation on the continent to the

meetings of Foreign Affairs' Ministers and Heads of State and Government of the OAU. In addition, the focal point will be expected to review and make recommendations on the updating of plan of action for drug control.

The OAU Secretariat will be required to maintain an inventory of African experts in the field of drug control, collate information on institutions that provide relevant training in drug control and disseminate such information to Member States. In addition, it should promote the exchange of experts in drug control between Member States and whenever required, organize seminars/workshops for updating skills of personnel of Member States in drug control activities.

The OAU Secretariat should consider initiating discussions with international and inter-governmental organizations with a view to facilitate the exchange of information required for interdiction of drugs in illicit traffic on the Continent and for the arrest of suspected illicit drug traffickers.

The OAU will be expected to establish a forum for consultations by experts on drug demand reduction programmes as a way of improving knowledge and skills. The cooperation of international organizations such as the UNDCP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and the ILO may be required in this respect.

The OAU will consider using its facilities to promote international cooperation in the field of drug control. This can be achieved by the initiation and participation of the OAU at interregional and international meetings on drug control. The OAU can also promote cooperation for mutual assistance with other Member States, regional groupings outside Africa, and international and inter-governmental organizations. In addition, the OAU will be expected to cooperate and collaborate with the UNDCP, UNECA, UNAFRI and other UN Agencies. With respect to the UNDCP, the Organization of African Unity has signed a Memorandum of Understanding which laid down the grounds for collaboration and cooperation.

## **SECTION V. SOURCES OF FINANCING**

**Governments will make adequate budgetary allocation for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to reflect the priority they place in devising programmes in support of the Plan of Action.**

**Governments, regional economic communities and the OAU should examine existing external sources of funding.**

**Governments should produce a suitable framework for drug control, in line with this Plan of Action to enable them to seek assistance from these external sources. Based on the framework, the regional economic communities and the OAU can play the catalytic role in this regard.**

#### **SECTION VI. FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**The present Plan of Action covers the period 1997 -2001. The Secretariat of OAU is given the responsibility of monitoring its implementation and to report to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. As provided for in paragraph 31, the report should, if necessary, contain proposals to update the Plan of Action based on the experience gained from its implementation.**

**By endorsing this Declaration and Plan of Action, a milestone has been reached in effectively addressing the drug problem in Africa.**

*AHG/Decl.3 (XXXII)*

**YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION (AFRICA: PREPARING FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of our Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 3 to 10 July, 1996 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon have, in the light of the general situation prevailing in Africa at the close of this century, continued to reflect on ways and means of smoothly ushering Africa into the 21<sup>st</sup> century,

2. We have noted, at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, that of all the regions of the world, Africa is indeed the most backward in terms of development from whatever angle it is viewed and the most vulnerable as far as peace, security and stability are concerned,
3. We are resolved, at this dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to create, by the most appropriate means, conditions to enable Africa to take up the challenges facing it, which, if unresolved, could jeopardize the future of the continent for a long time to come.

**THE WORLD AND THE STATE OF AFRICA AT THE DAWN OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

4. Casting a retrospective glance into the past, we have noted that the world, which is about to enter the Third Millennium, has throughout the century that is drawing to a close, overcome major hurdles and experienced remarkable changes.

Today, the world is undergoing a far-reaching transformation:

- Since 1990, the international political system that prevailed during the second half of the century, has undergone fundamental changes;
- The world economy is dominated, as never before in the history of humanity, by a triad made up of Western Europe, North America and Japan. These regions possess both the greatest financial affluence and the main industrial conglomerates as well as the bulk technological innovations;



- **The growth of new communication technologies has accelerated the globalization process as far as large transnationals are concerned;**
  
  - **From specific development issues considered by the world conferences convened in the last five years, a series of formidable problems arising partly from these changes have emerged: the unacceptable dichotomy of extreme prosperity and abject poverty at the global level, the present alarming population explosion and its negative impact particularly on urbanization; the destruction of the ecosystems by the unrestrained utilization of national resources in developed countries and the prevalence of similar trend in developing countries;**
- 5. During this century Africa has faced a wide variety of difficulties, but has on the whole made significant strides:**
- **Thanks to the successes of science and medicine, among others, over major endemic diseases and infertility, the continent's population has increased so rapidly that its growth rate is now the highest in the world;**
  
  - **The significant achievements in education and training have reduced the rate of illiteracy and created professional and executive classes;**
  
  - **Our countries have continued to acquire various kinds of infrastructure and have become aware of the need to exploit the tapping of their immense natural resources;**
  
  - **Since their accession to independence, our States have sought to promote the socio-economic development of the continent by creating numerous specialized inter-African institutions;**
  
  - **The total political liberation of the continent has just been achieved. This has been followed today by a transitional period characterized by the end of the**

one-party rule, the onset of democratization, the emergence of the state of law and the restructuring of our economies.

6. Nevertheless, in the light of the general evolution of humanity during this century and especially when compared to the other developing continents, such as Latin America and Asia, Africa is lagging far behind and may even be the most under-developed continent of the world as we do admit in our 1994 Declaration on Population and Development in Africa:

Indeed, Africa has the lowest life expectancy, the highest infant mortality and illiteracy rates, the lowest GNP, in short, the lowest human development indicator.

Furthermore, close to half of its population lives in poverty and misery, while unemployment and underemployment have become endemic, especially in urban areas. Food production can no longer meet the increasing needs of an ever-growing population.

Environmental degradation is worsening due essentially to deforestation, drought, desertification and urbanization which, according to recent UNFPA estimates, is the fastest in the world.

Additionally, the entire African economy is declining and increasingly losing its place in the global economy. Cooperation and regional economic integration are marking time, while official development assistance is decreasing and the external debt burden is becoming heavier. Also, capital flight is coupled with real brain-drain which, each year, strips Africa of tens of thousands of its sons and daughters, professors, scientists and other highly qualified human resources, which escape to the North as the continent progressively loses its cultural identity in the face of dominant foreign cultures.

Lastly, Africa, at present, holds the record of inter-state wars and conflicts which produce influx of refugees and displaced persons, and result in economic devastation, enormous loss in human life and a drain on its meagre resources.

7. As we already stated in our 1990 Declaration “on Africa’s political and economic situation”, Africa’s plight is not, since independence, imputable to lack of ideas,

anticipation, proposals, individual and collective efforts on the part of our countries, plans, strategies as well as decades devoted to Africa by the international community. Rather it is largely attributable to the lack of an enabling environment, adequate development strategies and particularly to the failure of our countries to provide good governance and make proper macro-economic and sectoral options.

8. **Against the background of the aforementioned and other lessons drawn from modern history, and weakened by our inability to provide better living conditions for our peoples, we are convinced today that there is an urgent need to rescue the continent from decline and thus generate a new collective dynamism which can lead to a genuine, self-sustaining and self-reliant development.**
  
9. **In this context, Africa will basically have to meet not only the main challenges on which the international community pegs the survival of our planet and that of humanity, but also to solve other immediate and more specific problems, the prime responsibility for which lies first and foremost with our governments and peoples. The search for efficient means to meet these challenges and the implementation of the strategies formulated so far will depend largely on the place carved for Africa within the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

### **RESCUING AFRICA FROM DECLINE**

#### **Stemming the Debt Crisis**

10. **Despite the various and numerous initiatives taken by the international community to alleviate the external debt burden of Africa (bilateral, multilateral and private), the level of indebtedness remains one of the main obstacles to the recovery of our economies.**
  
11. **We hope our efforts in embarking on macroeconomic and political reforms geared towards achieving greater equilibriums and creating an enabling economic environment for both local and foreign direct investments would be supported by a substantial reduction in the debt and a major inflow of debt-free financial assistance.**

12. We wish to reiterate that the practical and durable solution to the debt crisis must henceforth be found through a systematic re-appraisal and review of all measures intended for its servicing and through a concerted search for new, appropriate solutions commensurate with an equitable promotion of economic and social progress in all parts of the world.

### **REGIONAL COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

13. Regional cooperation and economic integration constitute one of the basic key measures for the socio-economic development of our countries. They are equally very essential not only for the self-fulfilment of the continent but also for securing an appropriate place in a world economy characterized, inter-alia, by a generalized wave of fundamental economic restructuring of economic entities spaces, oriented towards achieving a real continentalization of markets, and intensification and liberalization of trade and commerce.
14. Since regional cooperation and economic integration help to promote the growth of economy of scale, they constitute the best means for Africa to regain its lost external competitiveness, to strengthen its capacity of negotiation in world affairs, to effectively open up its economies, to rapidly launch its industrial growth and enter the world market through diversification of exports, comparative advantages other than commodities and ultimately mitigate its marginalization.
15. In this regard, we reaffirm the pertinence of the Lagos Plan of Action, the April 1980 Final Act of Lagos and the Abuja Treaty as an appropriate framework for implementing the African strategy of economic, social and cultural integration.
16. We hail and support the measures taken by our Organization, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank to harmonize and coordinate their activities in order to foster integration.

17. Finally, we recognize the urgency for developing an integrated transport and communications infrastructure to speed up the continent's physical integration.

### **The State and Development**

18. While we acknowledge the benefits of market laws and mechanisms, as well as private initiative in the current context of profound economic changes in the continent, and in reference to the successful experiments in some South-East Asian countries, we uphold that the selective, guideline and encouragement measures by public authorities can, without necessarily departing from liberalism, be very instrumental to the development process. Any future development strategy should allow for a serious study of this issue.

### **Promotion of Sustainable Development**

19. Sustainable development aims primarily at ensuring a better standard of living for present and future generations, it is founded on democracy, human rights, good governance, human resource promotion, economic and social development, environmental protection, all with the human being, as the focal point.
20. Convinced that the human person should consequently, and at all levels, be the object of our preoccupations and initiatives in matters of sustainable development:
  - We reaffirm the relevance and currency of the analysis of the human and social situation on the African continent which we made at our 30<sup>th</sup> Summit in Tunis in June 1994 and was reflected in the “African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa”;
  - We also reaffirm the relevance of our analysis of the agricultural situation on the African Continent as reflected in the “African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development”;
  - We renew our African and international commitments on issues of social development as expressed respectively in our “Declaration on Social Development” appended to the “African Common Position on Human and

**Social Development in Africa” and in the “Declaration on Social Development” adopted in March 1995 at the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development;**

- **W call on our partners in the international-community to honour the commitments which they made at the World Summit on Social Development, particularly by mobilizing substantial financial support needed for promoting development and improving the quality of life in the world at large and in Africa in particular.**

### **Management and Conservation of the Environment**

21. **Environmental safety on our planet is the biggest challenge of the Third Millennium. Africa is playing an active role towards attaining this goal, as rational management has become a major component of development policies in Member States.**
22. **The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recognized the convergence between the need for environmental protection and equity in international economic relations. However, while solidarity between countries of the North and Member States is rather tepid as reflected by the sharp deadline in official Development Assistance as well as multilateral assistance to the financing of sustainable development, world economic imbalances continue to worsen. Hence, the need to honour the commitments made under the Rio Agreement and restore balance in international economic relations.**
23. **Concurrently, beyond the initiatives already undertaken by Member States, we must:**
  - **Pay special attention to the protection and sustainable management of biodiversity in Member States by adapting appropriate measures regulating access to and utilization and marketing of our biological resources;**
  - **Examine all aspects of the possibility of obtaining patents for our genetic resources by including therein the protection of traditional expertise;**

- **Formulate appropriate national legislation in order to protect our countries from the risk of biotechnological disasters, and lastly;**
  
- **Encourage regional cooperation in all areas pertaining to the environment as recommended in the Africa's Common Position on Environment and Development adopted in November 1991 at the Second African Regional Ministerial Conference held in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.**

### **Peace and Security**

24. **Peace and development are indivisible. Indeed, none is possible without the other.**
25. **We must release Africa's negative image as a hotbed of clashes and conflicts, and restore the lost dignity of our peoples by stirring to spare them the untold suffering brought about by conflicts. This is so because future generations and history will judge us very severely if, individually and collectively, we were to shy away all the time from our responsibilities in the face of escalating armed conflicts in Africa and at the same time lack the political will to respect cease-fire and peace agreements.**

**In this respect:**

- **We welcome the creation in June 1993 of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution which is already contributing significantly towards improving the Organization's capacity to prevent conflicts and maintain peace in Africa;**
  
- **We hail in advance the imminent institution within the said Mechanism of our early warning system (EWS) on conflictual situations in Africa, convinced that its establishment should be able to further improve the action of the Organization in the area of preventive diplomacy by making it possible, notably through pre-emptive action in gathering and analyzing pertinent data, not only to establish the existence of a threat to the peace, but also to look for a quick way to remove the threat. We exhort all potential data collectors to**

communicate same information in time and provide the OAU Mechanism regularly with any at their disposal on warning signs of imminent conflict.

- **Considering the urgent need to institutionalize the Mechanism as one of Permanent Organs of our Organization, we request the Secretary-General to propose to an appropriate Council Session in the nearest future the modalities of that incorporation;**
  - **We equally commit Member States to urgently examine all concrete, pragmatic and feasible recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at further strengthening the present operational capacity of the Mechanism; making its decisions more binding; providing it with adequate financial capacity; improving cooperation and coordination between the Mechanism and the UNO on the one hand, and African Sub-Regional Organizations on the other; codifying and subsequently using traditional African methods of conflict resolution; associating, where possible, the civilian society and its offshoots with the conflict resolution process, notably by systematic recourse to eminent African personalities.**
26. **As advanced under disarmament, we welcome with satisfaction the recent signing by African States of the “Pelindaba” Treaty Establishing an African Nuclear Free Zone. Similarly, we are committed to ratify it as we have quickly realized that its subsequent implementation will certainly be an important milestone in the disarmament and denuclearization process of Africa. We also express satisfaction with the fact that major nuclear powers are signatories to this agreement.**
27. **The progress accomplished in the denuclearization of Africa should also be pursued more than ever before in the limitation and reduction of conventional arms, according to the specific nature of our region. This is a prior condition and an important objective for a lasting solution to peace, security and stability. Consequently, we are determined to conduct an in-depth study of the question of reducing the armament burden in all its aspects, including the proliferation and dissemination (illicit and clandestine traffic of arms) of low-calibre war arms in the conflict zones and its vicinity. Our reflexion should also focus on the possibility of using a certain percentage**



of the deviants from this disarmament to increase the financial capacity of the Mechanism.

28. In order to initiate a regional dynamism to enhance mutual confidence and security through greater transparency in the international transfer of conventional arms, we have decided to set up within our Organization a Regional Register on the transfer of Conventional Arms.

#### **Promotion of African Culture and Cultural Industries**

29. Culture is one of the qualitative components of development and is complementary to such other quantitative components as those pertaining to the economic domain. It is therefore a truism to say that the kind of development we want for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will also depend on the dynamism of our continent's culture. Consequently, the continent's place in the concert of nations of tomorrow and beyond and the pull it will have on the other regions will depend on its cultural development; for there is no doubt that the continent's culture will go a long way to enable other peoples to better understand the African identity in all its dimensions and thereby change the negative image commonly portrayed of the continent.
30. The creativity of our peoples, the liveliness and richness of African cultural heritage and values should contribute to this development, especially by discarding the small-scale production methods currently in use and evolving towards the large scale production of the continent's cultural artefacts, improving their circulation and controlling their exploitation networks.
31. But the advent of the age of technological explosion, rapid computerization and the breath-taking advancement in communication industries bolstering the trend towards cultural hegemony have confronted Africa with the fundamental problem of aligning its culture with technological know-how.
32. We are convinced that the preservation of African traditional values is perfectly computable with the assimilation of advanced scientific and technological know-how. However, the perpetuation of these values is today threatened by the on-going process

of cultural standardization. We must therefore adopt appropriate strategies to safeguard Africa's traditional values.

The OAU very quickly gave this issue serious thought. For decades, it made and is still making tremendous efforts to foster the continent's cultural development dynamics. The Organisation's most significant initiatives in this area include the Cultural Charter of Africa and the Plan of Action of Cultural Industries adopted respectively at our Summits in Port-Louis, Mauritius in 1976 and Dakar, Senegal in 1992.

33. While reaffirming its relevance, we reiterate our support for the Dakar Plan of Action on Cultural Industries. At the same time, we request the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of setting up a pan-African Institute of Culture and Arts, with the double purpose of training experts for the management of cultural industries at all levels and serving as the centre of support for African Cultural Artistic Creation.
34. It is in only this way that Africa can survive culturally and continue to contribute to the culture and world civilization.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES AND BRAIN DRAIN**

35. We must formulate strategies to limit brain drain which greatly compromises, in the medium and long term, the continent's chances of achieving sustainable development and to encourage the return of the said human resources to Africa.
36. We mandate the Secretary-General to prepare, as soon as possible, an appropriate comprehensive report to enable us take relevant, well-informed decisions in this regard.
37. Owing to increasing world interdependence at the turn of this century, the world is bound to have one and the same future, and Africa and the other continents are compelled to share a common destiny.
38. The gravity of the economic crisis that Africa is now experiencing is an indisputable fact that gives no room for optimism. A large fraction of the international community is therefore justified in concluding that Africa is an afflicted continent. We however

**think that a positive and durable solution will be found to this transient situation at the beginning of the next century thanks to strict compliance with our commitment s during our most recent Summit, and more particularly those of this Summit which is holding in Yaoundé.**

- 39. Africa is indeed decided to meet the challenge of its own decline. This is Africa's greatest resolve today for the next century, after a resounding success in its total political liberation in half a century. It has abundant potentials for achieving this objective.**

*AHG/Decl.4 (XXXII)*

**DECLARATION OF THE YAOUNDÉ SUMMIT ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURE FOR A  
SECOND TERM AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN**

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

**Recalling Resolution AHG/Res.243 (XXXI) 1995 by which the Assembly of Heads of State and Government expressed its appreciation to Boutros Boutros Ghali for his initiatives at the helm of the United Nations Organization:**

1. **REAFFIRMS** the historic importance of the election of an African as Secretary-General of the United Nations, thus enabling Africa to significantly contribute to the attainment of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and promote multilateralism;
2. **WISHES** to underscore Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali's action at the head of the UN General Secretariat since his election in 1991;
3. **RECALLS** the tradition and the practice at the UN, which consists in re-electing the incumbent Secretary-General for a second term;
4. **In this regard, RECOMMENDS** that the necessary steps be taken by the Current Chairman with all the partners, members of the UN, to give Africa a second mandate, for the next five years, and **RECOMMENDS** the candidature of Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali for a second term as Secretary-General of the UN.

*AHG/Decision 119 (XXXII)*

**DECISION ON THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 8 to 10 July 1996,

**Having considered** Document CM/1953 (LXIV) containing the Report of the Experts relating to the First Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC),

**Considering** the entry into force, as of 12 May 1994, of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

**Aware** of the urgency of implementing the provisions of the Treaty, in particular its Article 6:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the first Expert's session of ECOSOC;
2. **DECIDES** that the Ministerial Session of ECOSOC should take place before the end of November 1996 in order to consider the draft recommendations of the meeting of Experts;
3. **URGES** all Member States to be represented at the Ministerial Session of ECOSOC by Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning or regional Integration, as specified in Article 15 of the AEC Treaty;
4. **URGES FURTHER** all Member States to give priority attention to the Draft Protocol on Relations between the African Economic Community and Regional Economic Communities so as to facilitate its consideration and approval by the Ministerial Meeting of ECOSOC.

**RESOLUTION ON REGULAR REPORTING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION  
STATUS OF OAU DECLARATIONS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA**

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

**Mindful** that it is already 4 years since the adoption of the Dakar Declaration and 2 years since the adoption of the Tunis Declaration on HIV/AIDS in Africa,

**Cognizant** that to date the implementation of these Declarations has been slow, while available information indicates that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has worsened in Africa and if left unchecked, the disease has a potential to negate most of the social and economic gains that Africa has achieved or is likely to achieve in the near future,

**Aware** that a lot has to be done urgently at the level of the Heads of State and Government to prevent further worsening of the HIV/AIDS epidemic:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General and the specific actions taken by countries on the implementation of HIV/AIDS Declarations and the lessons learned about the weakness of that implementation’
2. **REAFFIRMS** its personal commitment and that of their sectoral Ministries to continue to work with the Ministry of Health as to ensure that Member States fully participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS in their respective countries;
3. **URGES** the UNAIDS and International partners and donors to continue to assist Africa in its effort to face the challenges outlined in the Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up of OAU Declarations on HIV/AIDS in Africa (Doc. CM/1963 (LXIV));

4. **REQUESTS** all Member States to continue to report regularly to the Secretariat on the implementation of these Declarations, using the provided matrix format;
5. **FURTHER URGES** all Member States of the OAU to participate actively in the First African Youth Conference on Sexual Health under the theme, “The Youth and AIDS: Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, scheduled to be held in Accra, Ghana from 30 September to 4 October, 1996;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General with the support of UNAIDS and all relevant partners to continue reporting on the implementation of the Declarations and its progress every year to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

**RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN COMMON POSITION**  
**ON FOOD SECURITY AND THE PREPARATIONS**  
**FOR THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT**

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,

Recalling its Resolution AHG/Res.244 (XXXI) on Food Security and Agricultural Development, adopted at its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Recalling further the OAU Council of Ministers Resolution CM/Res. 1643 (LXIII) adopted at its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Recalling the outcome of the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for African that was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 16 – 20 April, 1996,

Aware that H.E. Mr Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Out-going Chairman of the OUA, sent a letter to all OAU Heads of State and Government inviting them to participate in the World Food Summit, to be held from 13 to 17 November, 1996 in Rome, Italy,

Mindful of the deteriorating food and agricultural situation in Africa,

Considering the risk of recurrent drought and other disasters as related to food and agricultural production,

Considering further the need to intensify food and agricultural production in order to confront the growing needs of African populations,



**Having considered Document CM/1954 (LXIV) entitled, “Report of the Secretary-General on the Preparations on the World Food Summit”:**

- 1. ADOPTS the African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development as Africa’s contribution to the World Food Summit;**
- 2. EXPRESSES ITS STRONG SUPPORT to the FAO, which has a crucial role to play in the development of the sector of food and agriculture in Africa;**
- 3. EXPRESSES FURTHER APPRECIATION to the Government and people of Burkina Faso for having hosted the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa;**
- 4. COMMENDS the efforts of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Out-going Chairman of the OUA, for inviting all OAU Heads of State and Government to participate in the World Food Summit;**
- 5. CALLS UPON all African Heads of State and Government, to participate actively, in the forthcoming World Food Summit;**
- 6. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS the participation of Women in the World Food Summit as they play a vital role in food production in Africa;**
- 7. REQUESTS the Secretary-general of OAU to transmit the African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development to the Director-General of FAO as an official document, as Africa’s contribution to the World Food Summit and to all member countries of the FAO;**
- 8. FURTHER REQUESTS OAU Member States, OAU General Secretariat and the African Group in Rome, to use the African Common Position on Food Security as an instrument of negotiation with the international community;**

9. **URGES** FAO to assist Member States and the OAU General Secretariat to develop and implement programmes for sustainable Food Security and Agricultural Development;
10. **CALLS UPON** the international community to accord special assistance to African countries to develop their food and agricultural sector;
11. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report, on the World Food Summit to the Sixty-Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and an evaluation report to the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

**RESOLUTION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE  
OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CONDITIONS OF THE  
OAU CONTACT GROUP ON AFRICA'S DEBT**

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 19 July, 1996,

**Recalling** Africa's Common Position on Africa's external debt crisis adopted by the Third Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Addis Ababa, from 30 November to 1 December, 1987,

**Further Recalling** Resolutions AHG/Res.219 (XXIX), 211 (XXVII), Decision AHG/1254 (LI) on the deliberations of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt,

**Gravely concerned** over Africa's increasing indebtedness, debt servicing burden and deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Africa,

**Recognizing** the need to re-energize the operations of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's debt,

**Noting with appreciation** the initiatives taken by H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and OAU Out-going Chairman, with the G7 at its meeting had in Lyons, France, from 27 to 29 June, 1996, to find a solution to the problems of Africa's debt,

**Recognizing** the need for an effective coordination, consultation and exchange of information and experience among African countries, and cooperation with the creditors as a way of finding just and lasting solution to Africa's debt crisis:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation and functioning of the Contact Group;
2. **COMMENDS** H.E. Mr Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, OAU Out-going Chairman and Chairman of the Contact Group for the relentless efforts deployed to sensitize and alert the international community to Africa's external debt crisis;
3. **RE-NEWS** the mandate of the Contact Group and **REQUESTS** it to pursue the on-going efforts and, in cooperation with the creditors, find every possible ways and means of resolving the external debt crisis;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Current Chairman of the OAU to take necessary measures to review the Chairmanship of the Contact Group as well as the composition of the Contact Group with a view of ensuring equitable geographical representation and the participation of all Groups of indebted countries;
5. **DECIDES** to enlarge the composition of the Contact Group from 12 to 14 members taking account the importance of the issues at state;
6. **REQUESTS** the Current Chairman of the OAU, Chairman of the Contact Group, to continue and intensify the sensitization efforts among Africa's creditors in order to persuade them to take an active part in the reason for a lasting solution to Africa's external debt crisis;
7. **REQUESTS** Member States of the Group to coordinate their activities at country level in order to facilitate the effective participation of Finance Ministry and Central Bank representatives in the activities of the Contact Group;
8. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to take appropriate budgetary and administrative measures to ensure that a meeting of the Contact Group is convened in the margin of Council of Ministers sessions;

9. **CALLS ON African countries to set up mechanisms at country level to facilitate cooperation in the area of exchange of information and experience in debt management and international negotiation;**
10. **REQUESTS the Contact Group to meet at the level of African Ambassadors in Addis Ababa in order to prepare the Ministerial Session of the Group;**
11. **REQUESTS the Secretary-General of OAU, in collaboration with ADB and ACMS to take necessary steps to ensure implementation of this resolution and to submit an appropriate report thereon to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU.**

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**RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN COMMISSION**  
**ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

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,

**Considering the Ninth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,**

**Recalling that the African Charter of Human and Peoples; Rights came into force on 21 October 1986, and that 50 Member States of the OAU are parties to the Charter,**

**Further recalling that, in accordance with Article 25 of the said Charter, the States parties are committed to recognizing and promoting the rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in the Charter, and have undertaken to adopt appropriate measures to give effect to them,**

**Considering** that the report on the implementation of the Charter indicates, in particular, that very few States have submitted their periodic reports on the legislative and other measures taken with a view to giving effect to the provisions of the Charter, as stipulated in Article 62 thereof,

**Also considering** the human and people's rights situation in Africa, and the absolute need to endow the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights with the human, material and financial resources necessary for its effective functioning,

**Further considering** the appeal made by the said Commission to all the States Parties to celebrate with fanfare the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which comes up on 21 October 1996 and coincides with the opening date of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Commission scheduled to take place in Grand Bay, Mauritius,

**Finally considering** that, pursuant to Resolution AHG/Res.230 (XXX), government experts have elaborated a draft text on the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and plans to consider the matter in depth in the coming days,

**Aware** of the absolute need to strengthen the African mechanism for the promotion and protection of Human and Peoples' Rights:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH IMMENSE SATISFACTION**, of the Ninth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the said Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the African Commission for the remarkable work it accomplished during the financial year just ended;
3. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the activities of the African Commission aimed at promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed under the Charter;

4. **HIGHLY COMMENDS AND ENCOURAGES** the States Parties which submit their periodic reports regularly, cooperate with and provide assistance to the Commission towards the execution of its mandate,
5. **CALLS ON** the States Parties to take concrete measures to implement effectively the provisions of the Charter and, in particular, cooperate further with and step up assistance to, the Commission to enable it accomplish its mission;
6. **MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL** to Member States of the OAU to ratify the Charter as early as possible if they have not already done so;
7. **URGES** all the State Parties to take appropriate steps, to celebrate with fanfare the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on 21 October, 1996;
8. **ALSO APPEALS** to the State Parties to submit their periodic reports in conformity with Article 62 of the Charter, of they have not already done so;
9. **CALLS ON** the Secretary-General of the OAU to forge ahead with the elaboration of the draft instrument establishing the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
10. **FURTHER CALLS ON** the Secretary-General of the OAU to take necessary measures through the appropriate organs to endow the African Commission as early as possible, with the requisite human, material and financial resources to enable it carry out its mission effectively, and to submit an appropriate report to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

**RESOLUTION ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE**  
**DECADE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA**  
**(1997 – 2006)**

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 considered** the statement of the representative of Mali relating to the Decade of Education in Africa presented by the Government of the Republic of Mali,

**Recalling** Resolution CM/Res.1603 (LXIV) by which the Sixty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers declared 1996 the “Year of Education in Africa (YAE)”,

**Further recalling** the need to consolidate the tremendous achievements already made in the area of the Year of Education particularly the Segou Prospects Observatory which have recorded results in West and Central Africa,

**Aware** of the urgent necessity to mount a relentless campaign in order to overcome all the obstacles hampering progress towards education for all, and, to that end, the need for the rapid implementation of the twelve (12) recommendations of the Pan-African Seminar on the Launching of the Year of Education in Africa held in Bamako from 5 to 7 October, 1995 on the theme “Towards Education for All”,

**Also Aware** that the overhaul of African educational systems and the emergence of a New African Educational System would determine not only the success of development efforts but also the consolidation of the democratization process,

**Convinced** that only a strategy articulated at the level of the entire Continent will make it possible to take up the challenges posed by education:



1. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the positive results already achieved by Member States within the framework of the Year of Education in Africa and **REITERATES** the urgent need for sub-regional and regional cooperation in order to harness the potentials and experience of Member States in the area of education;
2. **DECLARES** the period “1997 – 2006 Decade of Education in Africa” on the understanding that its main objective would be to remove obstacles to progress towards education for all;
3. **REQUEST** the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Ministers of Education in order to launch the Decade and to formulate its Programme of Action;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Sixty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council on the implementation of this resolution.

**RESOLUTION ON THE OAU ANTHEM**

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,

**Strongly committed** to the provisions of the Charter and Rules of Procedure of the Organization of African Unity;

**Resolutely committed** to strengthen the unity, the independence, the sovereignty, peace and solidarity of the African continent,

**Seriously determined** to ensure the success of the African integration in all its entirety,

**Bearing in mind** the Abuja Treaty as a privileged instrument of the African integration,

**Convinced** of the imperative need for Africa to express solemnly its solidarity and its attachment to Africa values and cultural heritage:

1. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to pursue further consultations with a view to proposing the ways and means of arriving at an acceptable decision on the matter.

**RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING OF UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND UNITED NATIONS  
CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS – UNCHS (HABITAT)**

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

**Recalling decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which the Governing Council, reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalyzing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of environment within the United Nations,**

**Recalling further decision 16/1 of 31 May 1991, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in which the Council expressed its support for retaining at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi the programme activity centres already located there, decided that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, would be centred principally at Nairobi,**

**Noting paragraphs 38.21 and 38.23 of Agenda 21, in which it was stated that there would be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council, that, *inter alia*, the regional officers of the Programme should be strengthened without weakening the headquarters.**

**Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/174 of 21 December 1993, by which the General Assembly, among other things, acknowledged the grant from the Government of Kenya of an additional forty acres of land for expansion of office facilities and the improvement of the commutations network, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that programming of meetings related to the Programme is rationalized to facilitate economy and more effective capacity utilization at the headquarters of the Programme,**

**Recalling also** United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/176 of 21 December 1993, which the General Assembly, *inter-alia* requested the Assembly to ensure that in the restructuring of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNHS (Habitat) is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements and that its institutional capacities are strengthened at its headquarters,

**Noting with appreciation** United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/214 of 23 December, 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December, 1994 on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990's the thrust of which was to secure a central focus and attention for Africa in the United Nations throughout the decade,

**Recognizing** that environmental and human settlements issues occupy a crucial place in the development endeavours of countries of the African region,

**Aware** that the presence of the two United Nations institutions in Africa has had a positive impact on the level of awareness, interest and programme activities in environmental and human settlements matters amongst countries of the region,

**Concerned** that there is currently a decline in political and financial support from the international community to the United Nations Organization and its subsidiary bodies, including the two institutions headquartered in Nairobi, coupled with global economic patterns that generally marginalize the continent of Africa.

**Noting with concern** that the headquarters of the two institutions in Nairobi are being weakened by the impact of certain measures, notably the location of United Nations Environment Convention Secretariat and regional offices for both United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements away from headquarters, and the unabated tendency of holding important meetings and conferences related to United Nations Environment Programme away from headquarters,

**Concerned** that the representation of Member States of the United Nations Organization in Nairobi, ie, 80 countries, out of which Africa has only a total of 19 representative missions, is minimal,

**Convinced** that the survival and optimal delivery of the two United Nations institutions would depend to a large extent on the efforts of the African countries,

**Commending** the resounding success of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlement – HABITAT II – held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June, 1996 which instituted a new kind of partnership between Government responsibilities, local authorities, civil society, NGOs, academics and Research Centres, as well as UN Agencies and Institutions to set the priorities of the sustainable development of human settlements in a world undergoing urbanization:

1. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya who ably represented Africa at HABITAT II by presenting the region's common position;
2. **COMMENDS** Dr Wally NDAW, Secretary-General of the Conference and his entire team as well as the host Government for the flawless organization of this meeting on the future of towns and cities at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
3. **URGES** the Member Countries of the Organization of African Unity to:
  - a. **send representative missions to United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), where such missions are not in existence;**
  - b. **take into consideration the technical nature of the work of United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) when considering the posting or representatives to Nairobi so as to ensure appropriate and adequate representation to the two institutions;**
  - c. **strengthen coordination between capitals and African missions to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement;**

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4. **URGES** the host country, Kenya, to continue in her efforts of mobilizing support towards the strengthening of the two institutions' headquarters using political and diplomatic instruments in her bilateral and multilateral contracts in the global, regional and sub-regional context;
5. **CALLS UPON** the regional bodies in Africa such as ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, UMA, ECCAS East African Cooperation (EAC), ADB, PTA Bank, IGAD, CILSS, UN-ECA and Shelter Afrique to work closely with Member States and with the Organization of African Unity in ensuring sustained efforts at strengthening United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Headquarters;
6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Chief Executives of the regional and Sub-regional institutions: ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, UMA, ECCAS, EAC, IGAD, CILSS, UN-ECA the ADB, PTA Bank and Shelter-Afrique.

## **RESOLUTION OF BIOETHICS**

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,

**Bearing in mind** that a recognition of the intrinsic dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family constitutes the bedrock of freedom, justice and peace in the world in general and in Africa in particular,

**Recalling** the ideals of the free human being liberated from fear and misery as recognized by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the international instruments on human rights, and bearing in mind the determination to preserve the dignity and integrity of the human being.

**Also recalling** that the inviolability of the human person and the right of every human being to respect for his/her life and for the physical and moral integrity of his/her person have been formally reaffirmed in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in its Eighteenth Ordinary Session in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 1981,

**Further recalling** the right of the individual to the benefits of scientific progress as well as application thereof, as recognized by the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and **bearing in mind** the advantages resulting from the encouragement and development of international cooperation and contacts in the field of science,

**Recognizing** of the rapid progress achieved in the area of life sciences, and the dangers which could be posed to the dignity and integrity of the individual by certain practices,

**Determined** to ensure that scientific progress benefit the individual human being and is achieved under condition of respect for fundamental human rights, and stressing the need

for international cooperation in order to enable humanity as a whole benefit from the achievements of the science of life and obviate any use thereof for purposes other than the promotion of humanity's well being.

Aware of the seriousness of the stakes involved, the complexity of scientific and human problems, the limitations of everything human being, and the need to contribute to the triumph of life:

1. **DECIDES** that giving priority and urgent attention to issues pertaining to Bioethics have become an absolute necessity to all societies be it in the South or in the North;
2. **ENDORSES** the ideas of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights which prohibits the subjection of any person without his/her freely given consent to medical or scientific experiment, and to the principles of medical ethics applicable to health personnel especially doctors, in the area of protection of prisoners and detainees from torture and other forms cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment as contained in Resolution 37/194 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 18 December 1982;
3. **PLEDGES** to promote within the Continent the following universal rights and principles under conditions of respect for cultural, social and religious values:
  - a. **access to health care for all;**
  - b. **inviolability of the human body and of the genetic heritage of the human species;**
  - c. **inalienability of the person which prohibits the subjection of the human body, its components particularly the human genes and the sequences thereof to commercial and property rights purposes;**



- d. the anonymity of both the donor and the beneficiary of human organs and human products, subject to the exceptions spelt out in the legal codes of Member States;
  - e. the obligation to obtain the free and enlightened consent of any one to submit himself/herself to bio-medical research, and the definition of rules to protect vulnerable populations, the incapacitated, persons deprived of freedom as well as the sick under emergency conditions;
  - f. supervision of research facilities on embryos especially those produced as a result of medical procedures offering assistance towards procreation and the attendant application of such procedures, so as to obviate selective eugenic by-products particularly those relating to sex considerations;
  - g. the right to benefit from scientific progress and application thereof without any discrimination whatsoever;
  - h. the right of everyone, especially children, to protection from all forms of trade and exploitation;
4. **PLEDGES** to take legislative and other measures to give effect to this resolution, and to set up consultative bodies at both country and inter-African levels to promote the exchange of experience obtained, among such bodies;
5. **APPROVES** Resolution 1995/82 of the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted in Geneva on 8 March 1995, as well as Resolution CONF/93/4-DR.21 of 1 April, 1995 adopted in Madrid at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Bioethics.

**RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE  
COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE**

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,

**Considering** the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OAU Charter relating to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States,

**Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the OAU on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, particularly, Resolution AHG/Res.193 (XXVI),

**Reiterating** the legitimate claims of the Comorian Government regarding the reintegration of the Comorian Island of Mayotte within the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros,

**Bearing in mind**, Resolution CM/Res.496 (XXVII) establishing the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

**Aware** of the fact that only dialogue and consultation in an atmosphere of mutual trust can lead to a just and definitive settlement of the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte:

1. **REAFFIRMS** that the referendum of self-determination of 22 December 1974 remains the only valid consultation applicable to the entire Archipelago;
2. **REAFFIRMS ALSO** the sovereignty of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros over the Comorian Island of Mayotte;
3. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS ITS SOLIDARITY** with the Comorian people in their determination to recover their territorial integrity;

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the new measures taken by the Comorian Government to improve relations with France and to find ways and means of reaching a just and definitive solution to the conflict;
5. **CALLS ON** Member States to support individually and collectively, the approach accepted by the Comorian authorities, based on mutual understanding relations between the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and the Republic of France;
6. **MANDATES** the OAU *Ad Hoc* Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte and the OAU Secretary-General to remain in contact with the Comorian Authorities in order to monitor the developments in the situation and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
7. **REITERATES ITS DECISION** to place on the agenda of all Sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte until the Island is returned to the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

**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 65<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.**

## **RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI**

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 1-10 July, 1996,

**Considering** the deteriorating political and security situation in Burundi,

**Noting** the consistent efforts of our Continental Organization and the International Community to contribute to efforts aimed at restoring peace, security and national reconciliation in Burundi,

1. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** at the situation of generalized insecurity that continues to prevail in Burundi in defiance of all the efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country;
2. **AFFIRMS** that OAU's concerns and efforts in Burundi, as well as those of the countries of the region, can in no way be considered as an interference in the internal affairs of that country, but flows from a fraternal and genuine concern to prevent yet another African tragedy of epic proportions and similar to those witnessed in Rwanda in 1994;
3. **REAFFIRMS** support for the Mwanza Peace Talks under the facilitation of the former President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere and encourages him to continue with his efforts based on and incorporating the principles sustainable democracy and security for all the people of Burundi and an all-inclusive negotiation process;
4. **DECLARES** full support for the outcome of the Arusha Summit of 25 June, 1996, especially the acceptance of the request by the Government of Burundi for Security Assistance in order to complement and reinforce the Mwanza

**Peace Talks as well as creating conducive security conditions for all the parties to free participate in the Mwanza process;**

- 5. APPEALS to the International Community especially the United Nations Security Council to provide all the necessary financial, logistical and other material assistance to the countries which will be involved in providing the requested Security Assistance;**
- 6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General and the Central Organ to continue to follow very closely the implementation of this Resolution and to take action as appropriate.**

1996

# Declarations, Resolutions and Decision adopted by the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government

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