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أديس أبابا

ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
Eleventh Session  
Mogadiscio, 12 - 15 June 1974

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-SECOND  
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Third Ordinary Session  
Mogadiscio, June 1974

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SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
KAMPALA 1 - 4 APRIL 1974

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The Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers which was officially opened on 27 March 1974 by His Imperial Majesty Haile Sel ssie I of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa and adjourned at the request of the Imperial Ethiopian Government, resumed its proceedings on 1 April 1974 at the invitation of the Uganda Government which was accepted by the majority of OAU Member States in conformity with the provisions of the Charter and Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers.

The Bureau of the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers elected in Addis Ababa was composed of the following:

1. Chairman: The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burundi
2. First Vice-Chairman: The Minister for Foreign Affairs of The Gambia
3. Second Vice-Chairman: The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia
4. General Rapporteur: The Minister of Health of Mauritius.

The Council of Ministers appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the following countries: Zambia, Zaire, Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Algeria, Egypt, Swaziland, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

The Drafting Committee elected as Chairman, the Representative of Sierra Leone, Ambassador Shirley Gbujama.

In addition to the Plenary, the Council of Ministers set up two Committees, namely Committee A, in charge of political matters and presided over by the First Vice-Chairman, and Committee B, in charge of matters relating to inter-African co-operation in the economic, social, educational, scientific, technical and cultural fields.

## I PLENARY

The agenda of the plenary which was presided over by H.E. Artemon Simbananye, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burundi and Chairman of the Twenty-Second Session of the Council contained the following items:

1. Consideration of the Report of the Administrative Secretary-General for the period from June 1973 to February 1974;
2. Consideration of the Report of the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters;
3. Consideration of the Financial Report for the 1972/1973 Financial Year;
4. Consideration of the Statement of Contributions to the Budget for the Financial Year 1973/1974;
5. Consideration of the Report of the Board of External Auditors on the Accounts of the OAU for the Financial Year 1972/1973 and the General Secretariat's Comments on that Report;
6. Consideration of the Budget for the Financial Year 1974/1975;
7. The Report of the Chairman of the Committee of Seven Responsible for Contacting Member Countries of the Arab League in connection with the Effects of the Oil Embargo on African States and Related Problems;
8. Situation in the Middle East;
9. Closure of the Publications Bureau in Niamey and Assimilation of the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition; the projected Integration of the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition with the OAU General Secretariat;
10. Recommendations of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Sale of OAU Tenth Anniversary Medals;
- 11.

10. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau;
11. Recommendations of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Sale of OAU Tenth Anniversary Medals;
12. Candidature of Mr. M'Bow to the post of Director-General of UNESCO;
13. Candidature of Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Sabli to the post of Director-General of the Universal Postal Union and Other Candidatures Submitted by Mauritania and Tunisia;
14. The Sixth Pan-African Congress;
15. The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
16. The Indian Ocean as a Peace Zone;
17. Date and Venue of the Twenty-Third Session of the Council.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT AND REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL BOARD OF AUDITORS

After hearing the report introduced by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters, several delegates criticized the frequency of over-expenditure and unauthorized expenditure by the General Secretariat as stated in both the report of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters and the Report of the Board of External Auditors.

They deplored certain discrepancies in the management of accounts and certain irregular payments made by the Headquarters, the regional and sub-regional offices. The Council demanded that measures be taken to have these sums refunded immediately.

The Council reminded the General Secretariat that the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters was the only body empowered to authorize over-expenditure, if deemed necessary, as well as non-budgeted expenditure.

The Council further requested the General Secretariat to prepare a concrete work programme and draft budget for each of the resolutions with financial implications so as to enable the Council to establish an order of priority.

The General Secretariat was also requested to pay due regard to the policy of austerity and the financial difficulties of Member States in the financial management of the Organization.

The Council then adopted the recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee and the Board of External Auditors on the management of the Organization and earnestly called on the General Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Auditors.

During the discussion on these reports, several delegates complained about the Organization's administrative output and its methods of appointment. The General Secretariat was advised to take into consideration the criteria of efficiency, qualifications, respectability as well as equitable geographical distribution to ensure the necessary balance which must be maintained in the recruitment of staff from Member States.

Lastly, the General Secretariat was asked, in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee adopted by the Council of Ministers on financial matters, to amend the Organization's Financial Rules and Regulations and submit a report on the matter to the next budget session of the Council of Ministers.

The Council took note of the reports submitted by the General Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and the Board of External Auditors. It congratulated the members of the Advisory Committee and the Board of External Auditors on the thorough and excellent work they had done.

#### BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1974/1975

After an in-depth discussion of the Advisory Committee's report introducing the budget estimates for the financial year 1974/1975, during which several delegations expressed the view that the budget increase of 37% as compared to the 1973/1974 budget was exorbitant, the Council of Ministers adopted the draft budget as submitted by the Advisory Committee and the OAU General Secretariat.

Nevertheless, the Council decided that the General Secretariat, in co-operation with the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters should cut down or make savings from the 1974/1975 budget to the tune of US.\$450,000 derived from budget items 200, 300, 600 and 900.

This sum of US.\$450,000 should be given as aid to Guinea Bissau.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

Since the Members of the Committee of Seven appointed by the Eighth Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers responsible for contacting Member Countries of the Arab League in connection with the effects of the oil embargo on African States and related problems could not reach an agreement on the contents of the report to be submitted to the Council of Ministers, they decided to submit an interim report to the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers pending the submission of a more substantial report.

Several delegations pointed out the inadequacy and omissions in the interim report submitted by the representative of the Chairman of the Committee of Seven and deplored the fact that the report did not contain sufficient elements to enable the Council to assess a problem as important as the energy crisis and its manifold consequences on the economies of Member countries.

In connexion with the report of the Committee of Seven, the Council of Ministers studied the Lonrho affair in detail.

At the end of a most heated debate on the report of the Committee of Seven, the Council of Ministers requested the latter to pursue its work and submit a more comprehensive report to the twenty-third session of the Council of Ministers.

#### SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

After hearing the statement of the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Council adopted a resolution, attached hereto, stating, among other things, that in ensuring a just and lasting peace in the Middle East the following basic principles should not be overlooked:

- (a) the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967;
- (b) the liberation of the city of Jerusalem;
- (c) the exercise of the right by the Palestinian people to self-determination.

This resolution calls on the OAU Secretary-General to follow closely the development of the situation in the Middle East and to submit a report to the twenty-third session of the Council of Ministers.

CLOSURE OF THE PUBLICATIONS BUREAU IN NIAMEY AND INTEGRATION OF THE CENTRE FOR LINGUISTIC AND HISTORICAL STUDIES BY ORAL TRADITION WITH THE OAU GENERAL SECRETARIAT

By a decision of the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and with the approval of the Government of Niger, the Publications Bureau in Niamey was closed and the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition was integrated with the OAU General Secretariat.

The details are furnished in the resolution adopted in this connexion.

AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Republic of Senegal included an item in the agenda of the Twenty-Second Session on the candidature of Mr. Mahtar M'Bow for the post of Director-General of UNESCO and Egypt included that of Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Sabli for the post of Director-General of the Universal Postal Union.

The Council of Ministers decided to support Mr. Mahtar M'Bow and Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Sabli as the only African candidates for the post of Director-General of UNESCO, and Director-General of the Universal Postal Union respectively. Moreover, the Council of Ministers took note of the candidatures submitted by Mauritania and Tunisia.



SIXTH PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS

This item was introduced by the Head of the Tanzanian delegation.

The Council of Ministers unanimously decided that OAU should sponsor the Sixth Pan-African Congress scheduled to be held in Dar-es-Salaam.

ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA BISSAU

After taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on immediate and long-term assistance to Guinea Bissau and the statement by H.E. Victor Maria, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, the Council of Ministers decided to endorse the decision of the Advisory Committee on the granting of £200,000 or US.\$438,600 to Guinea Bissau as immediate aid and to establish a special fund for aid to Guinea Bissau.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers took note, with satisfaction, of the Libyan Government's decision to donate the sum of US.\$500,000 as aid.

The details regarding this matter are contained in the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers to this end.

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON RAW MATERIALS

This item was included in the agenda of the Twenty-Second Session at the request of the Algerian delegation. After taking note of the memorandum submitted by Algeria and the statement by the Head of the Liberian delegation on the unintended difficulties as a result of the recent increase in the price of oil, the Council of Ministers discussed this matter in detail and the up-valuing of the price of the raw materials.

The delegations unanimously acknowledged the need for the African and Non-Aligned countries to form a common front during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and to disassociate the problem of the increase in the price of oil from that of raw materials and primary commodities.

At the end of the debate, the Council of Ministers adopted two resolutions: one submitted by Liberia on the unintended difficulties of the recent increase in the price of oil and the other, co-sponsored by Egypt, Madagascar, Mauritania, Zaire and Algeria.

In the first resolution, it was decided that a Fund should be established out of a levy from the sale of oil in or to both developed and developing countries. The Fund thereby created from a levy from the sale of oil in or to both developed and developing countries should be distributed to the developing countries in accordance with the proportion that the amount of oil purchased by any developing country in 1973 bears to the total amount purchased by all developing countries for that year.

In the second Resolution, the Council

1. INVITES Member States to act in concert with the Non-Aligned and other developing countries with a view to presenting a united front in order to safeguard effectively their vital interests;
2. REQUESTS therefore all Members to do everything possible to instruct their delegations to the Special Session to implement fully all the decisions and resolutions adopted by all the developing countries with a view to ensuring the full exercise of the rights of each State over its natural resources;
3. APPEALS to all Member States to make the Special Session a decisive phase of their economic liberation and the up-valuing of their natural resources to ensure a rapid economic and social development;
4. RECOMMENDS that all Member States take part in the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the highest political level possible. It further requests the OAU Secretariat to be represented at this session.

#### ASSISTANCE TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA

The Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters proposed that the Office in Malabo be closed down in the absence of experts whose activities the Bureau was responsible for co-ordinating. In his statement, the Head of the delegation of

Equatorial Guinea told the Council of Ministers that his Government had already informed the General Secretariat that it wanted the Bureau to be maintained since it still needed technical assistance from OAU Member States in various fields and, in particular, in the medical field. The representative of Equatorial Guinea said that his country had handed over to the OAU office a list of its technical assistance requirements and that if this information had not been communicated to Member States, one should not arrive at the conclusion that the OAU Office in Malabo was no longer needed.

Following this statement, the Council of Ministers requested the Administrative Secretary-General to consult with the Government of Equatorial Guinea to evaluate the additional needs of this sister country and to report to the twenty-third ordinary session of the Council.

We are submitting herewith the resolutions and decisions adopted by the plenary of the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.



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# Recommendations of the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers

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