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AFRICAN UNITY

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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
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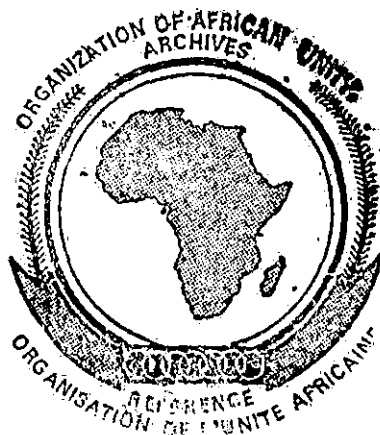
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session  
February 1975, Addis Ababa

CM/640/Rev.1 (XXIV)

REPORT ON THE DROUGHT IN AFRICA



CMO 640

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REPORT ON THE DROUGHT IN AFRICA

1. The Council of Ministers in Mogadishu passed Resolution CM/Res.336(XXIII) on the drought situation in Africa which called upon the Administrative Secretary-General to appoint a permanent representative of the OAU to the Inter-State Committee on Drought in Ouagadougou who would collect information that would help in drawing a policy to check the drought disaster in Africa.

The Resolution provided for setting up an emergency relief fund to be raised by obligatory subscriptions and voluntary contributions from African and non-african sources. Further, the Resolution set up a committee comprising Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Upper Volta and Zaire to work with the OAU Scientific Bureau and other competent bodies to carry-out detailed studies on the origin of the drought.

2. On the 27 November 1974, the General Secretariat sent a Note Verbal drawing the attention of Member States to operative paragraph 3 which called upon Member States to make contributions to the Relief Fund. The Resolution did not specify the amount which each Member State was supposed to pay. The General Secretariat had to use their discretion to assess Member States according to the 1973/74 budget. So far Libya has responded to the appeal and promised to transfer to the Relief Fund a sum of US.\$156,000. The other contributions so far received were prior to the passing of the Resolution CM/Res.336(XXIII) (see annex 1 and 2).

3. The Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters did not approve the request for the necessary funds made by the Administrative Secretary-General for the implementation of operative paragraph 2 of Resolution CM/Res.336(XXIII) which says "Invites the OAU Administrative Secretary-General to appoint forthwith a permanent representative of the Organization to be

Inter-State Committee on Drought in Ouagadougou with a view to collecting all necessary technical, economic and social information for the drawing up of overall policy to check the disaster and to better harmonize joint action".

The Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters maintained that the Drought Committee ought to meet first before funds can be made available for such an expert to be sent to West Africa.

4. The meeting of the Drought Committee took place on 20-21 January, 1975 in order to formulate ideas that could be given to the General Secretariat to implement the Resolution CM/336(XXIII). The Committee discussed and made the following recommendations:

1. The Committee requested the General Secretariat to collect all documents necessary for the study it has been requested to carry out both from the Inter-State Committee as well as from any country affected by drought and from any other competent bodies.
2. The Committee appeals urgently to all member States to honour their pledge to contribute to the fund set up for the fight against drought and its effects.
3. The Committee appealed to Member States with experts on drought problems to make them available to the OAU for the purpose of making specific research.
4. The Committee believed that since a comprehensive report on the problems of drought could not be made available to the 24th Council of Ministers, a meeting of the Committee could be convened as soon as the General Secretariat would make available to the Committee sufficient material on the matter.

5. The General Secretariat would like to remind Member States to contribute towards the Relief Fund as soon as possible. The serious drought situation in Africa cannot be resolved without the necessary Funds. The people are in need and the Continent should do its best to assist those in need.

Several methods of raising funds within Africa for the drought afflicted areas could be found. Some of these were suggested by the Administrative Secretary-General in his speech to the drought Committee.

The methods are inter-alia:

- (a) an Africa solidarity day to be recognized all over Africa on which funds could be raised;
- (b) badges could be printed and sold in all African countries; and
- (c) exhibitions, sports and cultural activities could be organized to raise funds for drought and other calamities victims. These activities could also serve the purpose of consolidating and solidifying the cause of African Unity.

Furthermore the Secretary-General has already undertaken to collect information on drought from the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, the Inter-State Committee and the Ethiopian Government. These documents will be put before the group of experts serving the Committee on drought.

The General Secretariat thinks that it is possible to present a comprehensive technical report to 25th Council of Ministers.

## 6. DETAILED REPORT ON THE DROUGHT SITUATION

### I. Drought in Africa

The Drought is caused by a scarcity of rainfall with its consequent fall in the level of waterways and its protracted duration has disastrous socio-economic effects:

- destruction of crops and decrease of harvests to such an extent that the very existence of the population is threatened as they are deprived of their most basic and essential need : food.
- between 60 and 80% of the entire livestock die from hunger and thirst.
- Influx of thousands of peasants to the urban areas in search of better living conditions with the result that Governments are faced with the serious problem of providing shelter, food and medical care.
- This year, the rainy season which appeared to be promising during the half of July suddenly stopped thus destroying new crops.

It should be stressed here, that the Governments concerned, in assuming their responsibilities, have utilized their modest means to assist the affected population and to study at the national and sub-regional levels, long-term measures capable of eradicating the phenomenon.

This is why an Inter-State Committee on Drought was set up. The Council of Ministers of the Member States concerned held a meeting in Ouagadougou from 7 to 10 September 1973 followed by the Conference of Heads

of State from 11 to 12 September 1973.

At the end of these meetings, a programme of action covering the entire drought-stricken area was drawn up. Everyone should endeavour to seek assistance from funding organizations for the implementation of this programme.

It should be noted that the drought which initially started in the Sahelian zone has now spread to the north, east, west and other regions of Africa.

## II. Current Situation in the Affected Countries

In 1974, the rains reappeared in most of the affected countries, occasionally even causing floods.

It is hoped that rainfall in 1975 will be satisfactory. According to information received from the Ouagadougou Committee, the 1975 harvest is expected to be better than in previous years.

However, despite this slight improvement, the basic problem still remains and for which a solution should be found by adopting a medium and long-term policy.

Without going into the technical details of this complex and gigantic undertaking, we will, nevertheless, mention the main objectives:

## III. Medium and Long-Term Policy

The distribution of food can only provide temporary relief. Radical measures should be adopted as part of a medium and long-term programme with a view to re-establishing normal, regular and continued productivity in all the affected areas.

Such measures will be focussed on the following:

- Harnessing of surface waters (rivers and streams) and underground waters by the construction of

hydro-agricultural dams and the sinking of wells to irrigate and fertilize vast stretches of arid lands.

- Reafforestation of the Sahelian Zone, mainly those areas bordering the Sahara Desert.
- This would not only make it possible to re-establish an ecological balance more favourable to human life, but also to check the rapid spread of the desert. Reafforestation could be effected by planting varieties of trees such as the eucalyptus or any other rapid-growing species.
- Development of road infrastructure and navigable waterways in order to open up those areas that are hemmed in and make them more accessible.
- Settlement of nomads and regrouping of the population without fixed abode into stable communities in areas where the necessary infrastructure will have been built.
- Establishment of food stocks. These stocks would be made up from the surplus produced during years of good harvest for use during less favourable periods.
- With regard to livestock, intensification of joint campaigns against animal diseases (rinderpest, pleuropneumonia, trypanosomiasis).
- Establishment of ranches to stop uncontrolled transhumance by the nomadic population.
- Maximum use of modern farming techniques and intensification of applied scientific research.
- Training of experts in the various disciplines such as pedology, cross-breeding, entomology, phytopathology, soil fertilization, etc.

This programme appears to be an ambitious one but only

through its implementation that a final solution will be found to the problems which now beset us.

IV. What OAU has done to assist the drought-stricken countries

- Although through bilateral arrangements and individual efforts OAU member countries have assisted their brothers as much as possible, we must nonetheless deplore the fact that generally speaking our efforts to systematize and co-ordinate our aid have been practically nil.
- At the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Kampala, a document containing concrete proposals was submitted by the Secretariat under symbol no. CM/583...
- Similarly, during the Summit Conference in Mogadishu, Zaire formally requested that an item on the drought be included in the agenda and following the inclusion of this item, resolution 336 was adopted (see Annex).
- The Secretary-General has already appointed an officer to liaise between the drought-stricken countries and the Secretariat. However, this officer was unable to collect all the necessary data from the countries concerned for financial reasons.
- Furthermore, the Secretary-General convened a meeting of the Committee provided for under Resolution 336 but the work of this committee was paralyzed because all the necessary data had not been compiled to give the exact picture of the situation in the affected countries.



Annex I

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all Member States and, within the framework of the implementation of Resolution CM/Res.336(XXIII) on the drought in Africa, adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Mogadishu from 6 to 11 June 1974, has the honour to draw their attention to the operative paragraph of the said Resolution which:

"Decides in favour of the setting up of an emergency relief fund raised by obligatory subscriptions and voluntary contributions both African and non-African to be used to finance immediate action to alleviate the suffering of the afflicted peoples; this fund would be different from that deposited with the African Development Bank and designed to finance medium and long-term operation."

The General Secretariat would be very much obliged if all Member States would kindly send their obligatory contribution as indicated in the attached table, as well as their voluntary contribution, before 31 January 1975.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

Addis Ababa  
27 November 1974

Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs  
of all Member States

CONTRIBUTIONS BY COUNTRIES AND  
INDIVIDUALS TO RELIEF FUND A/C NO. 293  
COMMERCIAL BANK

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>AMOUNT US \$</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. TANZANIA	20,289.86	March 1974
2. GHANA	52,200.00	November 1973
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>72,489.86</u>	
	<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>	<u>NAMES</u>
3. NIGERIA	150 For ET 150 For WA Nov.1973	Tope ADEWUSI
4. NIGERIAN	50 For ET 250 For WA Jan. 1974	Tope ADEWUSI
5. AMERICAN	500	Feb. 1974 African Student Union in Alabama
6. AMERICA	50	" " Julia ARNOOLD, Cleveland, OHIO
7. IRAN	10	" " TYLER BALDWIN(Miss)
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,060.00</u>	
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>73,549.86</u>	

N.B.

Libya has promised to contribute US.\$156,000.00.

THE PRESENT SCALE OF OBLIGATORY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER  
STATES TO OAU ORDINARY BUDGET

Nos.	Member States	Scale of Assessment	Amount U.S.\$
1.	Algeria	5.71	259,561.58
2.	Botswana	0.50	22,728.69
3.	Burundi	0.62	28,183.57
4.	Cameroon	2.35	106,824.82
5.	Central African Republic	1.47	66,822.33
6.	Congo-Brazzaville	0.50	22,728.69
7.	Dahomey	1.06	48,184.81
8.	Egypt	9.28	421,844.39
9.	Equatorial Guinea	0.50	22,728.69
10.	Ethiopia	2.81	127,735.21
11.	Gabon	4.93	224,104.83
12.	Gambia	0.76	34,547.60
13.	Ghana	4.73	215,013.36
14.	Guinea	1.23	55,912.57
15.	Ivory Coast	4.02	182,738.65
16.	Kenya	2.21	100,460.79
17.	Lesotho	0.67	30,456.44
18.	Liberia	2.84	129,098.63
19.	Libya	7.40	336,384.34
20.	Madagascar	1.61	73,186.57
21.	Malawi	0.68	30,911.63
22.	Mauritius	0.50	22,728.69
23.	Morocco	5.98	271,835.07
24.	Nigeria	6.99	317,747.05
25.	Rwanda	0.62	28,183.57
26.	Sierra Leone	1.89	85,914.43
27.	Somalia	0.76	34,547.60
28.	Sudan	3.42	155,464.20
29.	Swaziland	0.50	22,728.69
30.	Tanzania	1.97	89,551.02
31.	Togo	1.25	56,821.71

32.	Tunisia	2.67	121,371.18
33.	Uganda	1.75	79,550.40
34.	Zaire	3.07	139,554.13
35.	Zambia	3.11	141,372.42
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	TOTAL	90 36%	4,107,527.95 =====

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Annex IV

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drought

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. At 4 p.m. on 20 January 1975 there took place in the Conference Hall of the OAU General Secretariat the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drought (CM/Res.336 (XXIII)).

THOSE ATTENDING

2. Taking part in this meeting were delegates from Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco and Zaire.

Upper Volta was not represented at this session.

The UNDP was present and the ECA was absent.

THE AGENDA

3. The proposed agenda was as follows:

- a) Opening of the session by the Administrative Secretary-General;
- b) Election of Officers: Chairman and Rapporteur;
- c) Organization of work;
- d) Any Other Business.

OFFICERS

4. At the proposal of the Ambassador of Algeria, the Committee elected Ethiopia Chairman and Zaire Rapporteur.

THE DEBATES

5. In his statement, the OAU Administrative Secretary-General, H.E. William Eteki Mboumoua, outlined the tragic situation prevailing in the Sudano-Sahelian States as a result of the persistent drought, which was now spreading to other areas of Africa.

He stressed the urgent need for OAU Member-States to send in both their obligatory subscriptions and voluntary contributions to swell the emergency relief fund designed on the one hand to finance immediate action in the affected areas and on the other to finance in-depth studies to be undertaken by the Committee in pursuance of Articles 3 and 4 of the enacting terms of the aforesaid Resolution.

In view of the fact, that the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters has not approved the request for additional funds submitted by the Secretariat to implement Article 2 of the enacting terms of Resolution CM/Res.336(XXIII) "inviting the OAU Administrative Secretary-General to appoint forthwith a permanent representative of the Organization to the Inter-State Committee on Drought in Ouagadougou with a view to collecting all the necessary technical, economic and social information", the Secretary-General expressed his regret at this change of procedure, which had prevented him from placing the appropriate working documents at the Committee's disposal.

Moreover, he pointed out that the steps he had taken with a view to obtaining from the Secretariat of the Inter-State Committee on drought in Ouagadougou the information needed for the work of this meeting had so far been unavailing.

The Secretary-General then suggested several factors which could serve as references for the Committee in its deliberations.

6. Taking the floor, the Chairman commended the Secretary-General for his statement. He went on to thank the members of the Committee for the honour done to his country by appointing it to Chair this Committee, and assured them that his Government and delegation would do everything possible to be worthy of this confidence.

7. The representatives of Algeria, Morocco, Zaire and Kenya intervened during the debate on the Organization of work, laying special stress on the indispensable necessity for the Committee to dispose of clear and precise working documents, the funds needed to implement the resolution and finally, the qualified experts to be appointed by Member-States.

Having considered the matter, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

1- THE COMMITTEE INVITES THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO COLLECT ALL THE DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE STUDY THAT IT HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO MAKE FROM BOTH THE INTER-STATE COMMITTEE AND ALL DROUGHT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS FROM ALL OTHER COMPETENT BODIES.

2- IT URGENTLY APPEALS TO MEMBER-STATES TO HONOUR THEIR COMMITMENT BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE FUND SET UP TO COMBAT THE DROUGHT AND ITS EFFECTS.

3- IT CALLS UPON MEMBER-STATES TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO IT QUALIFIED EXPERTS IN THE SPHERES OF SPECIFIC STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE DROUGHT.

4- SINCE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT WAS INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS OPENING OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO MEET AS SOON AS THE SECRETARIAT HAS AVAILABLE ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION ON THE SUBJECT.





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