



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFICAINE**

Secretariat
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DRAFT DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION
ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

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ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

I. PREAMBLE:

WE Kings the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the OAU and the Arab League meeting in from to

Considering the Charters of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States;

Recalling the decisions taken, at various levels, in order to establish closer co-operation between the Member States of the Organization of African Unity and the Member States of the Arab League, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the Eighth Extraordinary Session and the Twenty-Third and Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity; the decisions of the Sixth and Seventh Arab Summits as well as the Sixty-Third Session of the Arab League Council;

Conscious of our multiple ties and interests and by reason of geography, history, culture, and our desire to promote co-operation in the political, economic and social fields, and by reason of our joint struggle against domination and exploitation in all their forms;

Appreciating the ties of friendship, brotherhood and good neighbourliness existing between African and Arab States;

Guided by a common will to strengthen understanding among our peoples and co-operation among our States so as to fulfil the aspirations of our peoples for the consolidation of Afro-Arab brotherhood;

Determined to strengthen the ties between our States and our peoples by reinforcing existing common institutions and, if necessary, by creating new ones;

Considering the common interests and aspirations of the African and the Arab peoples;

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Convinced that regional Afro-Arab Co-operation falls within the framework of common action by all developing countries in order to increase co-operation among themselves, on the one hand; and on the other to strengthen their action to establish a more equitable and balanced new international economic order;

Determined to harness our natural and human resources for the general progress of our peoples in all spheres of human endeavour;

Bearing in mind the principles and provisions of the Algiers Charter, the Lima Declaration, the African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence, the Declaration, Resolutions and Programme of Action for Economic Co-operation of the Fourth Summit of Non-Aligned Countries, the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the Sixth Special Session of UN General Assembly, the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Dakar Conference on Raw Materials and Development,

Hereby decide to adopt this Declaration and Programme of Action defining the principles and framework of collective and/or individual action by African and Arab countries for Afro-Arab Co-operation.

II. PRINCIPLES

Political and economic co-operation between African and Arab States shall be governed, inter alia, by adherence to the following principles:

- (a) Respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,
- (b) Complete equality of States,
- (c) Permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,
- (d) Non-aggression,
- (e) Non-interference in internal affairs,

- (f) Non-acquisition of territory by force,
- (g) Safeguard of advantages and mutual interests on the basis of reciprocity and equality,
- (h) Spirit of tolerance;
- (i) Peaceful settlement of disputes;
- (j) Joint struggle against domination and exploitation in all their forms and for international peace and security.

III. FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION AND PROGRAMME
OF ACTION

A. FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION:

African and Arab countries undertake to develop their relations at both the bilateral and multilateral levels on a comprehensive and long-term basis of co-operation in the following fields:

- Political and diplomatic
- Economic and Financial
- Commercial
- Cultural, scientific, technical and information.

B. POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CO-OPERATION

African and Arab Countries,

Reaffirm their adherence to the policy of non-alignment, an important factor in the struggle for:

- the freedom and independence of nations;
- the establishment of world peace and equal security for all States;
- the universal application of the principles of peaceful and active co-existence;
- the democratisation of international relations;
- a general and equal rights in co-operation;
- economic development and security as well as social advancement.

Condemn colonialism, apartheid, Zionism and all other forms of racial and religious discrimination and segregation.

Reiterate their support for African and Arab national causes and undertake to co-ordinate their action at the international level, in particular, at the United Nations, for questions of common interest. To this end, African and Arab Groups in international bodies shall establish close co-operation.

The two parties shall continue to give their total political, diplomatic, material and moral support to African and Arab national Liberation Movements recognized by both the OAU and the Arab League;

At the bilateral level, the two parties shall establish and strengthen their diplomatic and economic representations in each other's countries and shall promote contacts between their national, political and social institutions.

C. ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:

In order to promote wider economic integration, the two parties:

Resolve to expand, strengthen and intensify co-operation in the following fields:

1. Trade,
2. Mining and Industry,
3. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry,
4. Energy and Water Resources,
5. Transport, Communications and Telecommunications, and,
6. Financial Co-operation

1. Trade:

Considering the complementarity of their economies the two parties:
Decide to take the necessary measures in order to:

- establish direct commercial relations;
- supply on a priority basis, as far as possible, their respective markets;
- eliminate all tariff and non-tariff barriers impeding direct Afro-Arab Trade;
- establish preferential trade regimes;
- encourage and promote co-operation between trading organizations and business enterprises and the participation in Trade Fairs;

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- establish collaboration between the African and Arab banking, insurance and reinsurance institutions responsible for the financing of exports and imports;
- requests the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to prepare studies of African and Arab markets in collaboration with ADB, ABEDA and ECA.

2. Mining and Industry:

In conformity with their policy of control and realization of optimum value for their raw materials,

Decide to:

- undertake a systematic survey of natural resources with a view to their rational utilization and joint exploitation,
- intensify industrialization through the exploitation, marketing and transportation of their mineral and raw material resources and the encouragement of investment ventures in these fields,
- develop financial and technical co-operation and encourage research in the fields of heavy industry, metallurgical, chemical and petro-chemical as well as manufacturing and food industries,
- agree on adequate financial and technical co-operation modalities for the realization of these projects particularly by creating joint enterprises and the granting of loans.

3. Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry:

Promote the modernization of agriculture through the introduction of modern and advanced techniques in the field of production, distribution and storage.

Promote the modernization of animal husbandry and the improvement of breeds and animal production.

Ensure the rapid and substantial increase in food production through direct investment, joint ventures and other methods of co-operation in the fields of crop and animal production as well as in the exploitation of forestry and the marketing of timber products.

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Exchange information and research results aimed at improving conditions in rural areas in order to raise the standard of living of rural populations with special emphasis on rural infrastructure.

Take necessary steps, within an acceptable framework, to assist African countries in the maximum processing of their raw materials prior to exportation.

Agree on modalities for financial and technical co-operation for the realization of joint action for the development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and animal husbandry.

4. Energy and Water Resources:

Assume effective control of all their energy resources.

Promote and invest in the exploration, exploitation, transportation, storage and the marketing of petroleum and allied sources of energy.

Exchange information, expertise and technology in the field of petroleum industry.

Promote the exchange of information and make use of acquired experiences and appropriate technology, in order to improve climatic and desert conditions as well as appropriate working methods concerning the exploitation of rivers, lakes, basins and ground water resources.

Co-operate for development purposes, within a mutually acceptable arrangement, in the exploitation of hydroelectric and other forms of energy on regional basis wherever possible.

Intensify the use of other sources of energy such as solar, nuclear, thermal and other sources of energy as well as research in this area with a view to accelerating economic development, halting the process of desertification and combating the incidence of drought in Africa.

5. Transport, Communications and Telecommunications:

With a view to facilitating communications between African and Arab States the two parties resolve to:

- accelerate the development of modern infrastructure of roads, railways, airlines, inland waterways and shipping which constitute an important basis for the development of Afro-Arab Co-operation;
- establish, on a priority basis, links between national road, rail and airline system in order to facilitate the rapid and economic transport of people and goods, the opening up of isolated areas and the provision of access to land-locked countries;
- take necessary steps to establish consortia of shipping companies which will enable them to operate with greater efficiency, share the use of terminal and maintenance facilities, and explore the possibilities of technical innovation in transport and communication;
- effectively strengthen co-operation between airline companies with a view to enhancing the expansion and the rationalization of air services;
- improve existing telecommunications and postal networks and expand them on a priority basis;
- co-operate in the implementation of sub-regional and continental projects in the fields of telecommunications, road and rail projects.

6. Financial Co-operation:

Take all necessary measures that would promote effective financial co-operation on terms that would provide security and guarantee through

- (a) bilateral direct long-term loans, on the most favourable terms possible, direct investments as well joint financing ventures;

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- (b) multilateral long-term loans, on the most favourable terms possible, for the financing of projects, including feasibility studies;
- (c) Afro-Arab participation in international financial consortia for the financing of joint projects in Africa and the Arab world.

Facilitate mutual preferential access, both of African and Arab institutions in each other's capital markets.

Invite the OAU and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with ADB, ABEDA, as well as other relevant institutions, to search for an adequate formula for close economic, financial and technical co-operation and particularly the possibility of creating an Afro-Arab investment fund, an Afro-Arab Loan guarantee fund and an Afro-Arab investment code.

Invite the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa (ABEDA) to co-ordinate their investment activities and to engage in the joint financing a multi-national African project.

D. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CO-OPERATION:

With a view to achieving better understanding between African and Arab States and peoples,

Agree to reinforce cultural and social contacts through the signing of appropriate agreements on:

- cultural missions and festivals,
- scholarships, training programmes and sports,
- labour and trade union activities,
- co-operation in the information media such as the press, news agencies, communications satellites, radio and television,
- the exchange of appropriate information and experiences , and assistance in the solution of social problems such as the settlement of nomads.

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In view of the human and cultural role played by tourism in the promotion of better understanding,

Agree also to encourage and facilitate tourism and to enhance co-operation in this field, in particular, through investments and joint ventures in the tourist industry.

E. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Promote and co-ordinate research activity through the exchange of scientific and technical information and studies.

Establish joint consultancy services and specialized training institutions.

Provide direct technical co-operation involving the provision of training grants and fellowships in the field of science and technology.

Develope technical co-operation in the provision of experts.

Provide appropriate working conditions that would encourage the return of African and Arab experts living abroad and the retention of skilled African and Arab nationals.

Give Priority, to this end, to African and Arab experts over others of equal qualifications and competence in the field of employment.

IV. INSTITUTIONS

With a view to enhancing closer co-ordination of Afro-Arab co-operation activities and to assist in the implementation of the present Declaration and Programme of Action;

Decide that:

1. The OAU and the League of Arab States shall establish as soon as possible representation to the respective Secretariats of both Organizations for the maintenance of close and continuous working relationships in the implementation of Afro-Arab Co-operation.
2. Grant each other observer status at the meetings of their respective organizations when matters of common interest are to be discussed.

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