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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session

23rd - 28th February 1976

Addis Ababa.

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CM/717

REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE OAU AD HOC  
COMMITTEE ON DROUGHT IN AFRICA



CM/0717

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REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE OAU AD HOC  
COMMITTEE ON DROUGHT IN AFRICA.

1. Drought, which is basically a hydrogeological as well as a meteorological problem, has been raging in the countries of the Sahel in addition to parts of West and East Africa.

2. Since the sixteenth century, the Sahel had been subjected to 22 droughts; six of those droughts lasted for one year each, eight for two years, two for three years, one for four years, four for five years and one for eighteen years.

3. The advance of this natural disaster has become the plague of our time in Africa; and it occupies a large part of the Continent. Over 20 Member States had been affected in varying degrees, 11 of them seriously affected by drought.

4. There had been considerable losses in human lives and livestock. Crops had been destroyed in proportions varying between 50 and 100%, depriving peoples of their main sources of food and the rural masses of nearly all their sources of revenue.

5. The drought stricken countries have undergone some change; but still the measures taken to combat drought are inadequate.

6. Since April 1974, the OAU General Secretariat had periodically been submitting problems connected with drought to the policy-making bodies of their Organization.

7. A certain number of resolutions had been adopted, more particularly CM/Res.336 (XXIII), CM/Res.406 (XXIV) and CM/Res.450 (XXV).

(a) The ad hoc Committee on drought (composed of: Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Upper Volta and Zaire) had been set and had already met thrice (Rapporteur's report on the Third Session is annexed).

- (b) An emergency relief fund had been created and a special account for it (A/C 616) had been opened with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. The contribution of eight OAU Member States and six individuals to the emergency relief fund amounted to US \$ 424,555.98 [minus US \$ 20,000.00 sent to the Government of Cape Verde Islands to be used for its urgent drought assistance needs, in compliance with Resolution CM/Res.450 (XXV)].
- (c) Setting-up a section, within the OAU General Secretariat, to deal with drought and natural disasters in Africa. The OAU Advisory Committee on financial matters approved the setting-up of the said section, which will be composed of one Officer and a bilingual Secretary. The OAU Recruitment Board will consider the application of candidates for this section before the end of March 1976.
- (d) The drawing of the hydrogeological map of the Continent. The OAU Advisory Committee on budgetary and financial matters was requested to arrange for the budgetary provisions for holding an African experts meeting to deal with the drawing of the hydrogeological map for the Continent.
- (e) Holding a symposium on "Drought in Africa" before the end of 1976. The OAU Advisory Committee on budgetary and financial matters was requested to arrange for budgetary provisions for inviting some African experts to participate in the symposium under reference.
- (f) Establishment of sub-regional specialized research institutes for the prevention and control of natural disasters.
- (g) The celebrations of the OAU Thirteenth Anniversary to be centred on assistance to the drought-stricken countries.

8. The OAU ad hoc Committee on drought, in its third session, made the following recommendations:

- (i) The Committee decided to send, out of the Emergency Relief Fund, US.\$ 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand US. Dollars) to the Government of Cape Verde Islands to be used for its urgent drought assistance needs, in accordance with Resolution CM/Res.450 (XXV). The sum of money was transferred to the Government of Cape Verde Islands on 2/1/1976. The Committee has also requested detailed information on the state of drought from the Government of Cape Verde Islands for a better knowledge of the phenomenon of drought and for the purpose of mitigating drought in Cape Verde Islands.
- (ii) The Committee recommended that OAU Member States should periodically inform the General Secretariat on the state of drought and natural disasters in their respective countries. This will allow the General Secretariat to collect and up-date their information on drought and natural disasters, and will also help the OAU ad hoc Committee on drought to assess the magnitude of aid required to each affected Member State.
- (iii) Member States affected by the drought and natural disasters should make available to the OAU General Secretariat all their needs and requirements so as to bring to the knowledge of all Member States the magnitude of the assistance required.
- (iv) The Committee feels that it should be given the mandate to look into other natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and earthquakes, and thereby the composition and number of the Committee should be increased for the appropriate coverage of drought and all natural disasters in Africa. The followings were proposed by the ad hoc Committee to be the additional members: Cameroon, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan.

- (v) The obligatory contribution of each OAU Member State to the Emergency Relief Fund should be  $\frac{1}{15}$ th of its contribution to the OAU Ordinary budget. The suggested contribution will cover a period of five years starting from January 1976.
- (vi) Setting-up of four sub-regional bodies, on the basis of geo-political division, and having at each sub-regional level a specialized research institute for the prevention and control of natural disasters.
- (vii) OAU Administrative Secretary-General should personally visit all OAU Member States for collecting both voluntary and mandatory contributions to the Emergency Relief Fund.

RAPporteur's REPORTINTRODUCTION

The OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Drought and Natural Disasters met at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 17 - 18 December 1975.

1. Those attending were Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zaire. Morocco and Upper Volta were not represented at the meeting.
2. The following basic documents, reproduced in Annex to the present Report, were prepared for the meeting:

- Provisional agenda;
- Draft Resolution CM/Res.450 (XXV), on Drought and Natural Disasters in Africa;
- Resolution CM/Res.336 (XXIII) on Drought;
- CM/673 (XXV) - Report on Drought and Natural Disasters in Africa;
- List of paid contributions by countries and persons to the Emergency Relief Fund to combat drought;
- Geo-political Division of Africa;
- List of annual contributions by Member States to the Emergency Relief Fund to combat drought.

THE DEBATES

3. The meeting was opened by the representative of the OAU General Secretariat and the Chairman, the High Commissioner for the Relief and Rehabilitation in Ethiopia. In their opening addresses, they brought out the drought problems that would be considered by the Committee and the necessary search for solutions to the problems arising from Drought.

4. The Committee agreed on the Provisional agenda reproduced in annex 1.

5. The Committee adopted the following time-table:

- Morning : from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Afternoon : from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. With regard to working procedure, it was agreed that there should be a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion of Resolution CM/Res. 450 (XXV) on Drought and Natural Disasters in Africa, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in its Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, from 18 to 25 July 1975.

Paragraph 3

7. Having considered the state of Member State's contributions to the Emergency Relief Fund to combat the Drought, the Committee decided:

- (a) that the assessment of contributions by Member States to the Relief Fund should be 1/15 of the normal contributions of O.U. Member States;
- (b) that contributions to the Relief Fund should be made annually over a period of five years, namely from 1st. January 1976 to 1st. January 1981;
- (c) that an active international publicity campaign should be waged on drought in general and the Relief Fund in particular;
- (d) that the O.U. Secretary-General should personally head an official mission composed of O.U. Ministers, which would visit all Member States in order to collect both voluntary and mandatory contributions to combat the drought.

Paragraph 4

8. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee agreed to urgently recommend this part of the Resolution to the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters for the immediate setting up of a section within the General Secretariat to deal with all problems connected with drought and natural disasters in Africa.

Paragraph 5

9. The Committee suggested that paragraphs 5 and 6 be merged in a single paragraph, and that this should also be done with paragraphs 7 and 8, since they were complementary and dealt with the same thing.

10. The Committee recommended the establishment of 4 sub-regional bodies on the basis of geo-political division, having at each sub-regional level a specialized research institute for the prevention and control of natural disasters.

11. The Committee suggested that other disasters be included in their terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee. These would consist of cyclones, floods and earthquakes.

12. The Committee agreed that part of the Relief Fund should be employed by the General Secretariat with a view to collecting all the necessary information for the implementation of the project for the hydrogeological map of the Continent.

Paragraph 9

13. The Committee confirmed the need to convene a preparatory symposium of Experts to meet in August/September 1976 with a view to harmonising the African stand before the meeting of the United Nations on drought scheduled to be held in 1977. It was, moreover, agreed that this meeting of the United Nations should be held on the African Continent by reason of the impact of the drought and its socio-economic consequences for the Continent.



Paragraph 10

14. The Government of Cape Verde Islands informed the OAU General Secretariat that the drought situation had changed a little following recent rains. Fogo and Brava Islands had 90% normal harvest, Santiago 50% and six islands 5%. Based on this information the Ad Hoc Committee on drought transferred, out of the Emergency Relief Fund, the sum of US \$20,000.00 to the Government of Cape Verde Islands for urgent drought assistance needs. The Committee requested from the Government of Cape Verde Islands more detailed information on the situation of drought.

Paragraph 11

15. The Committee agreed to inform the International Community of the drought situation and the work of the OAU in the campaign against drought, and recommended increased assistance to the drought stricken countries.

16. The Committee suggested in view of the magnitude of the tasks it had to accomplish within the framework of its terms of reference, that Senegal, Somalia, Cameroon and Sudan be included as members to improve contribution in the field of drought and natural disasters in Africa.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DROUGHT  
THIRD SESSION

(Addis Ababa, 17 December 1975 at 10.a.m.)

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Organization of work
4. Implementation of Resolution CM/Res.450 (XXV) adopted in Kampala at the 25th Session of the OAU Council of Ministers - Resolution on Drought and Natural Disasters in Africa
5. Any other business
6. Adoption of the Rapporteur's report and decisions of the Committee.

RESOLUTION ON DROUGHT AND  
NATURAL DISASTERS IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its 25th Ordinary Session in Kampala, Uganda, from 18 to 25 July 1975,

Having studied the detailed and comprehensive report CM/673 (XXV) submitted by the General Secretariat on drought in Africa and its alarming effects,

Considering the dangerous and rapid spread of this disaster to areas hitherto unaffected,

Convinced of the urgent and pressing need to formulate a global strategy and take immediate and decisive remedial measures,

Considering that the steps of far taken are not commensurate with the seriousness of the situation,

Having heard the statement by the Malagasy delegation on the periodic cyclones in the Indian Ocean Islands,

Having considered the report submitted by the same delegation CM/652/Add.4,

Considering the exceptional situation in the Cape Verde Islands,

Having taken note of the statements made by representatives of the following International Organizations: ADB, FAO, IFP and WHO,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res. 336 (XXIII) establishing an emergency Relief Fund, adopted in Mogadishu,

1. **COMMENDS** the General Secretariat on its detailed report and the action already taken;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the above mentioned documents;
3. **REITERATES** its appeal to member States to pay their voluntary contributions and **REQUESTS** the Administrative Secretary-General to make proposals for the assessment of mandatory contributions;
4. **URGES** the Administrative Secretary-General to set-up immediately, within the General Secretariat a section to deal with all problems connected with drought and natural disasters to ensure better harmonisation and coordination of future operations;
5. **RECOMMENDS** that member States establish sub-regional co-operation bodies similar to the Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel based in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta;
6. **CALLS** for the establishment of sub-regional specialized research institutes, for the prevention and control of natural disasters;
7. **AUTHORIZES** the Administrative Secretary-General, in consultation with the Ad hoc Committee, to use the Relief Fund for emergency operations, studies and compilation of all the data required for the control of the disasters;



8. INVITES the Administrative Secretary-General to ensure the implementation and co-ordination of the project for the hydrogeological map of the continent;
9. REQUESTS the Administrative Secretary-General to convene a preparatory symposium of Experts in 1976. This symposium should meet in collaboration with the Inter-State Committee on Drought control based in Ouagadougou to harmonise the African stands before the meeting of the United Nations on drought scheduled to be in 1977 as recommended by the Fifth Session of the Scientific Council for Africa. The Administrative Secretary-General should ask the UN Secretary-General to hold this meeting in Africa if possible;
10. RECOMMENDS that urgent steps be taken to assist the people of Cape Verde Islands seriously affected by drought for more than seven years, a situation which has been aggravated by the difficult circumstances;
11. APPEALS to the International Community in particular to the specialized Organizations and Agencies to do everything within their power to assist OAU Member States in their effort to control the drought and other natural disasters.
12. RECOMMENDS to the Heads of State that the celebrations of the Thirteenth anniversary be centred on assistance to the drought-stricken countries.

RESOLUTION ON THE DROUGHT

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Twenty-Third Ordinary Session in Mogadiscio, Somalia, from 6 to 11 June 1974,

Having Heard the comprehensive statement by the Head of Zaire delegation, H.E. Mr. UMBA DI LUTETE, Commissioner of State for Foreign stricken countries and the measures which should be taken to ease the effects of this scourge and potential,

Considering the statements made by the various delegations and in particular the views expressed by the delegations of the affected countries,

Considering the dangerous proportions of the disaster and the unfortunate plight of thousands of citizens of Member States of our Organization,

Mindful that various disasters can at any time befall different regions of our continent,

Convinced that in these difficult moments Africa should stand on its own feet,

Convinced of the need to draw up a comprehensive strategy at the continental level,

1. CONGRATULATES the delegation of Zaire on its commendable initiative;

2. INVITES the O.U. 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 for the drawing up of an overall policy to check the disaster and to better harmonize joint action at the continental level;
3. 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 operations;
4. DECIDES to set up a committee which would, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the O.U. Scientific Bureau and all other competent bodies to carry out detailed studies on the origin of the drought, its geographic spread and all other geoclimatic factors that may help to give a better knowledge of the phenomenon so as to be able to combat it more effectively. This committee would be composed of the following countries: Upper Volta, Morocco, Kenya, Zaire, Ethiopia and Algeria. Studies should be financed from the relief fund mentioned in article 3;
5. WELCOMES the Inter-State Committee on Drought set up by countries of the Sahel; and
6. HOPES that other African countries affected by drought will establish at sub-regional level a body similar to the Inter-State Committee set up by countries of the Ouagadougou group with a view to jointly combating the phenomenon;
6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to keep the drought problem on the agenda of future sessions of the Council of Ministers and submit comprehensive reports and formulate recommendations for each of these sessions.

CONTRIBUTION BY COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO  
THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

## A - Countries

<u>Country</u>	<u>Amount in US.\$</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Ghana	52,200.00	November 1973
2. Tanzania	20,289.86	March 1974
3. Mauritius	22,728.69	May 1975
4. Kenya	16,852.77	June 1975
5. Somalia	34,547.60	July 1975
6. Botswana	2,864.23	July 1975
7. Mali	2,245.45	August 1975
8. Morocco	<u>271,835.07</u>	December 1975
Total	<u><u>423,563.67</u></u>	

## B - Individuals

1. Nigerian	150.00 for J.A. - Nov. 1973	Tope Acoqui
2. Nigerian	250.00 for J.A. - Jan. 1974	Tope Adewusi
3. American	500.00 - Feb. 1974	African Students Union in Alabama
4. American	50.00 - Feb. 1974	Julia Arnold
5. Iranian	10.00 - Feb. 1974	Tylor Baldwin (Miss)
6. Mauritius	32.31 - Aug. 1975	Socialist Working Youth League of Mauritius
Total	<u><u>992.31</u></u>	

Grand Total = US.\$ 424,555.98

BILATERAL AID TO THE SISTER COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

<u>Country</u>	<u>Amount in US.\$</u>	<u>Kind of aid</u>
A. Nigeria	5,655,144.00	In cash
B. Algeria	4,000,000.00	In the form of food aid.
C. Morocco	1,669,571.00	In the form of food aid
Total	<u><u>11,324,715.00</u></u>	



THE GEO-POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF AFRICANorth Africa

1. Algeria
2. Egypt
3. Libya
4. Tunisia
5. Mauritania
6. Morocco

Central Africa

22. Chad
23. Gabon
24. Burundi
25. Rwanda
26. Zaire
27. Congo
28. Equatorial Guinea
29. Cameroon
30. Central African Republic
31. Sao Tome e Principe

Eastern Africa

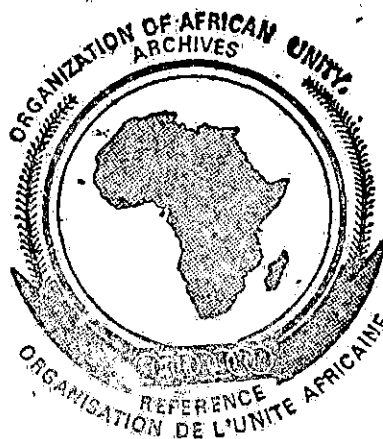
7. Madagascar
8. Comoro Islands
9. Lesotho
10. Swaziland
11. Botswana
12. Mauritius
13. Mozambique
14. Malawi
15. Tanzania
16. Zambia
17. Kenya
18. Uganda
19. Somalia
20. Ethiopia
21. Sudan

West Africa

32. Nigeria
33. Niger
34. Benin
35. Togo
36. Ghana
37. Ivory Coast
38. Liberia
39. Guinea
40. Sierra Leone
41. Senegal
42. Mali
43. Upper Volta
44. Guinea Bissau
45. Cape Verde
46. Gambia

The scale of the annual obligatory contribution of Member States to the Drought Emergency Relief Fund starting from January 1976 and up to January 1980 - the obligatory contribution is 1/15th of Member States contribution to OAU Ordinary Budget.

Nos.	Member States	Amount U.S.\$
1.	Algeria	17,304.11
2.	Botswana	1,515.25
3.	Burundi	1,878.90
4.	Cameroon	7,121.65
5.	Central African Republic	4,454.82
6.	Congo-Brazzaville	1,515.25
7.	Benin	3,212.32
8.	Egypt	28,122.96
9.	Equatorial Guinea	1,515.25
10.	Ethiopia	8,515.68
11.	Gabon	14,940.32
12.	Gambia	2,303.17
13.	Ghana	14,334.22
14.	Guinea	3,727.50
15.	Ivory Coast	12,182.58
16.	Kenya	6,697.39
17.	Lesotho	2,030.43
18.	Liberia	8,606.60
19.	Libya	22,025.64
20.	Madagascar	4,879.09
21.	Malawi	2,060.73
22.	Mauritius	1,515.25
23.	Morocco	18,122.34
24.	Nigeria	21,183.13
25.	Rwanda	1,878.90
26.	Sierra Leone	5,727.63
27.	Somalia	2,303.17
28.	Sudan	10,364.28
29.	Swaziland	1,515.25
30.	Tanzania	5,970.07
31.	Togo	3,788.11
32.	Tunisia	8,091.41
33.	Uganda	5,303.36
34.	Zaire	9,303.61
35.	Zambia	9,424.83
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273,435.20</b>



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