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Addis Ababa * * * * * أديس أبابا

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session
Port-Louis, Mauritius, 24-29 June 1976

CM/744(XXVII)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION



CM 0744

20p

MICROFICHE

The joint ministerial meeting of the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity which adopted a Draft Declaration and Programme of Action to be submitted for the consideration of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference is the result of a long process.

It would be recalled that Resolution ECM/Res.20(VIII) adopted by the Eight Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers recommended the establishment of economic cooperation between the Member States of the Arab League and the Member States of the Organization of African Unity, and placed it on the Secretary General of the OAU in consultation with the Secretary General of the Arab League, to create an appropriate machinery to promote this cooperation.

This Resolution also called for regular consultations between the Arab League and the OAU to guarantee continuity in this cooperation.

At its Twenty Third Ordinary Session the Council of Ministers of the OAU adopted Resolution 337(XXIII) requesting the Secretary General to "establish contacts with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States in order to study the holding of an Afro-Arab Conference at ministerial level, to discuss the possibilities and fields of cooperation for which joint efforts will be made, especially regarding cooperation for development and to drawing up of an Afro-Arab strategy for development".

The Arab Summit meeting at its Seventh Session in Rabat was to go further to propose an Afro-Arab Summit, to be preceded as it should be, by a ministerial meeting.

The Council of Ministers of the OAU at its 24th Ordinary Session adopted Resolution 395(XXIV) which took note with satisfaction, of the resolutions of the Rabat Arab Summit Conference,

expressed its convictions about Afro-Arab cooperation, and decided to enlarge the membership of the Committee of Seven which thus became the Committee of Twelve with the responsibility of acting as the Coordinating Committee for Afro-Arab Cooperation, of exploring new avenues for such cooperation and to prepare the convening of an Afro-Arab Summit Conference.

The OAU Committee of Twelve and the General Secretariat started work since February 1976 to prepare a pre-draft document laying down the main principles for the institutionalisation of Afro-Arab Cooperation.

Following its adoption on the 8th of June 1975 at the level of the OAU Committee of Twelve, this pre-draft was discussed in Cairo on the 9th and 10th of July 1975 at a joint meeting of the ministerial Committees of Twelve of the Arab League and the OAU.

This meeting produced a pre-draft of the "Declaration and Programme of Action on Afro-Arab Cooperation".

This pre-draft, pursuant to Resolution AHG/Res.73(XII) of the Twelfth Summit held in Kampala was communicated to all Member States for observations and possible amendments.

Although a time limit of two months had been decided for observations and comments, Member States were able to submit draft amendments up to the time of the joint ministerial Conference in Dakar.

The adopted draft (Annex I) is therefore the outcome of in-depth consultations. It is however worthwhile to stress the position of the Ivory Coast delegation on Article 16 of the draft. whilst it approved the Declaration on Afro-Arab Cooperation as a whole, the delegation of the Ivory Coast notified the Secretary General, in a verbal note, of its reservations on Article 16. The verbal note appears in Annex II.

It is also to be noted that for every unclear reasons the final communiqué which was drawn up as the official conclusions of the First Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference was not adopted because certain delegations argued that the draft communiqué in reality contained the essential provisions of the draft Declaration, and that such would be a discourtesy to the Heads of State who had priority to the draft.

The Joint Ministerial Conference was unable to name the dates and the venue for an Afro-Arab Summit Conference. The Secretaries General of the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity have been requested to make consultations on this question.

It should also be noted that alongside the Conference the question of assistance to Mozambique was raised within the framework of Afro-Arab cooperation. Upon recommendation of the Committee of Twelve of the OAU, the Secretary General wrote to the Secretary General of the Arab League to secure a loan of 6 million United States dollars to be drawn from the second instalment of the Emergency Oil Fund for immediate assistance to the Peoples Republic of Mozambique.

The President of the Arab Bank for Development in Africa which is henceforth responsible for managing the Emergency Fund, has been instructed to give favourable consideration to this request. The loan agreement was to be signed in Khartoum between the 23rd and the 28th May 1976.

The Council is informed that the decision of the Arab League to open an office in Addis Ababa for a closer cooperation with the Secretariat of the OAU has been implemented since the beginning of May. The officer responsible for this office has settled in Addis Ababa since the 3rd of May 1976.

The Council of Ministers of the Arab League meeting in Cairo from the 15th to the 18th of March 1976 decided to henceforth entrust the management of the Emergency Oil Fund to ABEDA. However the definition of the criteria for the distribution of the Fund is naturally left to the OAU.

In other words the second instalment of the Fund will not be distributed as long as the Committee of Twelve has not reviewed the criteria for the distribution of the Fund. It is hoped that in the course of July the Technical Committee responsible for establishing the criteria and proposing modes of distribution will be able to meet.

In conclusion, we are resolved to make all efforts for the success of Afro-Arab Cooperation and the attainment of the objectives contained in the Declaration and Programme of Action.

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

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

I. PREAMBULE

1. We, the Kings and Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and of the League of Arab States, meeting in..... from..... to.....

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

3. Recalling the decisions taken and the resolutions adopted, at various levels, particularly at the 8th Extraordinary Session, the 23rd and 24th Ordinary Sessions of the OAU Council of Ministers as well as the 6th and 7th Arab Summit Meetings and at the 62nd and 63rd Ordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States with a view to strengthening co-operation between the States;

4. Conscious of our multiple ties and interests and by reason of geography, history and 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;

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

6. 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;

7. Determined to strengthen the ties between our States and peoples by establishing common institutions;
8. Considering the common interests and aspirations of the African and the Arab peoples;
9. Convinced that 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 intensify efforts to establish a new, fairer and more equitable international economic order;
10. Determined to harness our natural and human resources for the general progress of our people in all spheres of human endeavour;
11. 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 Declarations, Resolutions and Programme of Action for Economic Co-operation of the Fourth Summit of Non-Aligned Countries, the economic and decolonization provisions of the Declaration of the Lahore Islamic Summit and of the Solemn Declaration of the Summit of the Kings and Heads of State of the Member States of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries, the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations 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;
12. Hereby decide to adopt this Declaration and Programme of Action defining the principles and framework of collective and individual action by African and Arab countries for Afro-Arab Co-operation.

II. PRINCIPLES

13. Political and economic co-operation between African and Arab States shall be founded in particular on the following principles:

- a) Respect for the sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and political independence of all our States;
- b) Equality of all States;
- c) Permanent sovereignty of States and peoples of over their natural resources;
- d) Non-aggression and inadmissibility of occupying or annexing territories by force;
- e) Non-interference in the internal affairs of other States;
- f) The safeguarding of mutual interests on the basis of reciprocity and equality;
- g) Peaceful settlement of differences and disputes in spirit of tolerance;
- h) Joint struggle against domination, racism and exploitation in all their forms to safeguard world peace and security.

III. FIELD OF CO-OPERATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A. Field of Co-operation

14. 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:

- a) Political and diplomatic;
- b) Economic and financial;
- c) Commercial;
- d) Educational, cultural, scientific, technical and information.

B. Political and Diplomatic Co-operation

15. African and Arab countries reaffirm their adherence to the policy of non-alignment, an important factor in the struggle for:
- a) The freedom and independence of nations;
 - b) The establishment of world peace and security for all States;
 - c) The universal application of the principles of peaceful co-existence;
 - d) The democratisation of international relations;
 - e) Equal rights in co-operation;
 - f) Economic development and social advancement.
16. Condemn imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, apartheid and all other forms of racial and religious discrimination and segregation particularly in Africa, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories;
17. Reaffirm their support for African and Arab causes and undertake to co-ordinate their action at the international level, in particular, at the United Nations, on questions of common interest. To this end, African and Arab Groups in international bodies shall establish close co-operation;
18. The two parties shall continue to give their political, diplomatic, material and moral support to African and Arab national liberation movements recognized by both the OAU and the League of Arab States;
19. The Member States of the two parties shall endeavour to establish and strengthen their diplomatic and economic representations in each others countries and shall promote contacts between their similar national, political and social institutions;

C. Economic Co-operation

20. Desirous of realizing the widest economic co-operation, the two parties resolve to expand, strengthen and intensify co-operation in the following fields:

- a) Trade;
- b) Mining and industry;
- c) Agriculture and animal husbandry;
- d) Energy and water resources;
- e) Transport, communications and telecommunications; and
- f) Financial co-operation.

Trade

21. The two parties decide to take the necessary measures to:

- a) Establish direct commercial relations;
- b) Supply on a priority basis, as far as possible their respective markets;
- c) Facilitate direct African and Arab trade including the establishment of preferential trade regimes;
- d) Encourage and promote co-operation between trading organizations and business enterprises and participation in Trade Fairs;
- e) Establish co-operation between African and Arab banking institutions and African and Arab insurance and re-insurance companies.

22. To this end, request the Administrative Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to prepare, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, studies of African and Arab markets with a view to encouraging Afro-Arab trade;

Mining and Industry

23. In conformity with the policy pursued by the two parties with respect to control by States over their natural resources and the realization of optimum value for their raw materials, the two parties decide to :

- a) Co-operate in a systematic survey of their natural resources with a view to developing their rational utilization and exploitation;
- b) Intensify industrialisation through the exploitation, marketing and transportation of their mineral and raw material and encourage investment ventures in those fields;
- c) Develop financial and technical co-operation, encourage research in all industrial and mining fields and agree on the adequate conditions of this co-operation through the establishment of joint enterprises or the granting of donations and loans.

Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry

24. The two parties decide to:

- a) Develop agriculture through the introduction of modern and advanced techniques in the fields of production, distribution and storage;
- b) Promote the modernization of animal husbandry and the improvement of breeds and animal production;
- c) Ensure the rapid and substantial increase in food production through direct investment, joint ventures and other methods of co-operation in the fields of animal and food production as well as the exploitation of forestry and the marketing of timber products;

- d) Exchange information and research results aimed at improving the living conditions of rural populations with special emphasis on rural infrastructure;
- e) Take necessary steps, within an acceptable framework to assist African and Arab countries in the maximum processing of their raw materials prior to exploitation;
- f) Agree on modalities for financial and technical co-operation for the realization of joint action for the development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries.

Energy and Water Resources

- 25. The two parties decide to ensure effective control by each State of its own energy resources;
- 26. States or competent national African and Arab institutions agree to :
 - a) Promote prospecting operations of all sources of energy including oil, their exploitation, transportation and storage and to work to develop investments in these operations;
 - b) Exchange information, experiences and technology in the field of energy;
 - c) 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 of appropriate methods concerning the exploitation of rivers, lakes, basins and ground water resources;
 - d) Co-operate for development purposes, within a mutually acceptable arrangement, in the exploitation of hydroelectric and other forms of energy on a regional basis wherever possible;

- e) Intensify the use of other sources of energy such as solar, thermal, nuclear 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 soil erosion and combating the incidence of drought in Africa.

Transport, Communications and Telecommunications

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

- a) 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;
- b) Establish on a priority basis, links between national road, rail and airlines networks in order to facilitate the rapid and economical transport of people and goods in accordance with bilateral or multilateral agreements;
- c) Undertake studies with a view to establishing 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 communications;
- d) Effectively strengthen co-operation between airline companies with a view to enhancing the expansion and rationalization of air services;
- e) Improve existing postal and telecommunications networks and expand them on a priority basis;
- f) Co-operate in the implementation of sub-regional and continental projects in the fields of telecommunications, road and rail projects.

Financial Co-operation

28. The two parties decide to:
- a) Take all necessary measures that will promote effective financial co-operation on terms that would provide security and guarantee through:
 - 1. Bilateral direct long-term loans, on the most favourable terms possible for the two parties, direct investments as well as joint financial ventures;
 - 2. Multilateral long-term loans, on the most favourable terms possible, for the financing of projects, including feasibility studies;
 - 3. Afro-Arab participation in international financial consortia for the financing of joint projects in Africa and the Arab world.
 - b) Facilitate mutual preferential access, both of African and Arab financial institutions to each other's capital markets, in compliance with rules and regulations prevailing in each country;
 - c) Invite the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity to co-operate with the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and other specialized institutions in the search for an adequate formula for closer economic, financial and technical co-operation, in particular through the setting up of Afro-Arab financial institutions and the drawing up of an Afro-Arab agreement governing investments;
 - d) Invite the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA) to co-ordinate their investment activities and to engage in the joint financing of multinational African projects.

D. Educational, social and cultural co-operation

29. With a view to achieving better understanding between African and Arab States and peoples, the two parties agree to reinforce educational, social and cultural contacts through the signing of appropriate agreements on:

1. Cultural missions and festivals;
2. Scholarships, training programmes and sports;
3. Labour and trade union activities;
4. Co-operation in the information media such as the press, news agencies, communication satellites, radio and television;
5. The exchange of appropriate information and experiences and assistance in the solution of social problems such as the settlement of nomads.

30. In view of the human and cultural role played by tourism in the promotion of better understanding, the two parties, also agree 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

31. The two parties agree to:
- a) Promote and co-ordinate research activities through the exchange of scientific and technical information and studies;
 - b) Establish joint consultancy services and specialized training institutions;

- c) Provide direct technical co-operation involving the provision of training grants and fellowships in the field of science and technology;
- d) Develop technical co-operation to ensure the availability of experts.

IV. INSTITUTIONS

32. 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, the two parties decide:

- a) To establish a joint Standing Commission, at ministerial level to follow up periodically and ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Declaration and to explore new horizons of co-operation;
- b) To grant each other observer status at the meetings of their respective organizations when matters of common interest are to be discussed;
- c) That the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States shall establish, as soon as possible, representation to the respective Secretariats of both Organizations with a view to maintaining close and continuous working relationships for the implementation of Afro-Arab co-operation;
- d) To invite corresponding African and Arab institutions, in all fields, to take all necessary measures to establish close working relationships that would facilitate co-operation and the co-ordination of their activities.

33. This Declaration was published on..... The Arabic, English and French texts are equally authentic.

In witness whereof, we have appended our signature:



REPUBLIC OF IVORY COAST
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Abidjan, 21 April 1976.

NOTE VERBALE

Ref. Doc "AL" OAU/CM 2 Rev.1

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ivory Coast presents its compliments to the General Secretariat of the OAU and has the honour to inform it of the following:

The Government of the Republic of Ivory Coast approves the Dakar Declaration and Programme of Action on Afro-Arab Cooperation on the whole with the exception of Article 16. It has explicit reservations on this Article.

Pending the decision of the institutions which, according to the Constitution of Ivory Coast, would have to authorize the President of the Republic to ratify these two texts, the Ivory Coast Government considers that Article 16 should be worded as follows:

"Condemns Colonialism, Apartheid and all other forms of discrimination, racial and religious segregations, particularly, in Africa, Palestine and the occupied Arab Territories".

The Ivory Coast Government does not therefore accept the interpretation of zionism as a form of racism. This stand does not, in the least, affect the determination of the Ivory Coast Government to continue its struggle for the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights and for the recovery of the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

The Government of the Republic of Ivory Coast requests the General Secretariat to circulate this note to all Member States of the OAU and the Arab League.

It avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Secretariat the assurance of its high consideration.

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