

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Twenty-first Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 to 20 July, 1985, notes that the 1970 UN Declaration on Friendly Relations Among States provides inter-alia that:

Recalling its decision, in Resolution AHG/Res132 (XX) to discuss the African development issues at the Twenty-first Assembly, and to set up a Steering Committee of seven Member States to prepare basic economic documents for the Twenty-first Assembly,

Having considered the recommendations of the Steering Committee on concrete measures to deal with the critical economic situation in Africa, enriched by the contributions from African and non-African organizations as well as the recommendations of the Eleventh ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic planning in Africa;

Conscious of the need for a constant and sustained application of our total effort to tackle the serious economic problems facing the Member States of our Organization, and convinced of the necessity to strengthen the capacity of the various organs of our Organization, including especially the General Secretariat, so as to provide effective support to Africa's collective effort in this regard.

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the final Act of Lagos;

Emphasizing the responsibility of the Assembly of dealing with the economic development and related issues as they affect our Member States, and the need for effective support for all African Organizations, institutions and sectoral ministerial conferences:

1. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Steering Committee as amended by the Forty-second Session of the Council of Ministers on measures and programmes for tackling the current economic crisis, and commends the committee for the quality of work accomplished;

2. **URGES every Member State of the OAU to establish or strengthen national follow-up mechanisms at high level responsible for sub-regional, regional and continental co-operation projects and programmes.**
3. **INVITES regional economic groupings to extend, on the basis of their respective experiences, co-operation among the Member States through the conclusion of agreements in agriculture, transport and communication, trade and finance, industry, science and technology, and human resources;**
4. **DECIDES to establish a Steering Committee responsible for:**
 - **following-up the decisions of the Twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU on economic issues and monitoring the implementation of the Declaration and Resolutions of the Twenty-first Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, and the priority programmes for the economic recovery of Africa (1986 – 1990);**
 - **considering any other matters that may be referred to it by the Current Chairman of the Council of Ministers;**
 - **co-ordinating the positions of Member States in anticipation of major international negotiations;**
 - **formulating practical modalities at all levels before the Forty-third Council of Ministers;**
5. **DECIDES that the Steering Committee shall be composed, up to the Twenty-second Assembly of Heads of State and Government, by the members of the present Steering Committee to which the Member States of the Bureau of the Twenty-first Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government would be added. Starting from the Twenty-second Assembly of Heads of State and Government the Member States of the outgoing and incumbent Bureau would compose the Steering Committee;**

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of OAU, the Executive Secretary of ECA, African economic organizations and others including the relevant institutions of the United Nations System to provide all possible assistance to the Steering Committee;
7. **DECIDES FURTHER** to request for the convening of a special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa and **URGES** the Current Chairman to initiate the necessary contacts with a view to convening the special session as early as possible;
8. **REQUESTS FURTHER** the Secretary-General in co-operation with the ECA Executive Secretary, to initiate the necessary preparations for the special Session of the UN General Assembly;
9. **URGES** all OAU Member States to set up or strengthen their representation to the multilateral institutions (in Addis Ababa, Brussels, New York, Geneva, Vienna, Rome, Paris, Washington DC, Nairobi) and **DIRECTS** the OAU Secretariat to assist in organizing and in the provision of technical, administrative and logistic support to the African Groups at these centers;
10. **DIRECTS** the OAU Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, and the Ad-Hoc Committee on Structural Review to accord priority to strengthening the technical capacity of the General Secretariat, especially its Economics Department, so as to enable the General Secretariat to cope with its increased workload and added responsibility;
11. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to present a progress report on the implementation of the resolution to the Twenty-second Session of the Assembly.

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