



DECLARATION
on the
ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA
adopted by the
TWENTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION
of the
ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
of the
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

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Addis Ababa

I. DECLARATION ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 to 20 July, 1985 for the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of our Assembly have devoted our discussion mainly to economic issues, in the course of which we have critically reviewed the economic and social crisis which confronts virtually all our countries.

2. We have examined, in detail, the recommendations of the Seven Member States Steering Committee which we set up to prepare the basic documents on economic issues for our current Session, and the valuable contribution to the Committee's Report made by the Council of Ministers. We express to the Committee our appreciation for the quality of work done which has facilitated our deliberations.

3. We also express our appreciation to the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning whose recommendations made at its Eleventh Meeting were conveyed to the Steering Committee and which enriched the recommendations of the Committee. We further express our appreciation to African and International Organizations for their valuable contributions which facilitated the work of the Committee.

4. We are most gravely concerned by the continuing deterioration of our economies which have been severely affected by the deep world economic recession and penalized by an unjust and inequitable international economic system. This situation has been aggravated by unprecedented severe and persistent drought and famine and other natural calamities, such as cyclones and floods. These developments, added to some domestic policy shortcomings, have brought most of our countries near to economic collapse.

5. We welcome the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa and the Plan of Action of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries to meet the critical situation in Africa.

6. We reaffirm that the development of our continent is the primary responsibility of our Governments and peoples. We are, therefore, determined to take concrete actions and measures individually and collectively for the achievements of the economic development of our continent in unity and solidarity of African peoples and Member States.

7. While reiterating our full commitment to the principles and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, which are more valid today than ever before, we have focused our discussions at the present Summit on a priority programme that we will concentrate on during the next five years so as to pave the way for national and collective self-reliant and self-sustained growth and development in our continent. The programme consists of:

1. measures for an accelerated implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

ii. special action for improvement of the food situation and the rehabilitation of agricultural development in Africa;

iii. measures for alleviating Africa's external debt burden;

iv. measures for a common platform for action at sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels; and

v. measures for action against the effects of the destabilization policy of South Africa on the economies of Southern African States.

While according special attention to the priority areas, we recognize the need for parallel and effective support action from all the other sectors, especially transport and communications and industry in order to achieve the immediate objectives that we have set for our countries.

8. Agriculture, which is the dominant sector in our economies, has rapidly deteriorated in recent years. The already declining trend in the production and productivity of the sector, which was noticeable since the beginning of the 1970s, has been dramatically aggravated by drought and natural calamities compounded by the problem of refugees and displaced persons, thus making almost half of the Member States of our Organization dependent on food aid.

9. We wish to express our profound gratitude to the international community particularly to the United Nations System and hundreds of voluntary organizations and agencies and to millions of people, all over the world, who have contributed so generously to Africa's relief. We reiterate our call to the international community to continue to provide adequate humanitarian assistance for the people in the affected countries. We strongly appeal to the international community, especially the World Bank, and the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations System as well as all donor countries to channel funds for African Drought, Famine and Economic Recovery through existing sub-regional and regional groupings such as the River Basins and those involved in multi-national cooperative efforts in agriculture and food production. We believe that such direct assistance will eliminate need for further feasibility studies and additional staff recruitment and deployment. Support for on-going projects and programmes already designed and approved by these sub-regional groups will eliminate further delay in getting international assistance directly to the people.

10. We, however, wish to stress that the current battle to save lives and to reduce the impact of hunger and famine should not be the only focus of international support and cooperation. Otherwise, the international community will be unwittingly contributing to making the emergency a permanent phenomenon. On our part, we are determined not only to cope more efficiently with current and future emergencies but are also determined to go beyond emergency and get to the root of Africa's food and agriculture crisis. We recognize that effective mobilization and judicious exploitation of our national and collective potentials, on the basis of well-formulated development strategies and plans, are vital to the eradication of famine and for the control of drought and desertification and for the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa.

11. In this regard, we commit our countries to the gradual increase in the share of agriculture in national total public investment of between 20 and 25 percent by 1989.

12. The dramatic increase in the volume of Africa's external debt, and the heavy debt service burden is another source of our profound concern, especially since it represents a heavy drain on the meagre foreign exchange resources of our Member States. Indeed, Africa's external debt estimated at US\$ 158 billion by the end of 1984 and expected to exceed US\$ 170 billion by the end of 1985, represents a heavy burden on our fragile economies, as it represented 36 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of our Region in 1984, and the debt/service ratio is expected to be much higher than 27 percent of exports in 1985. Equally disturbing is the inadequacy of the concessional flows which forced a number of African countries to resort to the international financial markets, mainly the private sources with particularly severe terms and conditions for loans. We are concerned that major lenders have in the past deliberately left Africa out of the debt negotiation mechanism established for the developing countries and that the international community continues to give low priority to Africa's external debt crisis. This situation has been aggravated by the fact that 26 of African Member States are categorized as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the majority of whose people are living below subsistence level; thus the external debt of many individual African countries is now beyond their capacity to service and pay.

13. We are fully aware of the fact that shortcomings in development policies have contributed to the present debt crisis. However, it is evident that the major causes of our countries' debt servicing problems are external ones and such causes are unfortunately beyond our control. These include, inter alia, the deteriorating terms of trade and the consequent reduction in export earnings for debt servicing, unprecedented rise in interest rates, sharp exchange rate fluctuations, deteriorating terms of borrowing and the reduction in the flow of concessional resources, the combined effects of which result in net capital outflow from most of our Member States. In this regard, the 26 African LDCs have been the most seriously affected.

14. We recognize that the external debts are obligations that our Member States have individually contracted, and which they have to honour. But in view of the negative developments in the international economic environment, we call on the international community to genuinely work toward an urgent and lasting solution to Africa's growing indebtedness.

15. We urge developed countries and the multilateral financial institutions to increase, substantially, the transfer of concessional financial resources, including grants, to African countries. In particular, we call on the developed donor countries to urgently implement, without discrimination, UNCTAD Resolution 165 (S-IX) on debt and development problems of developing countries.

16. We also call on the developed donor countries to urgently implement, without discrimination, the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 39/29 on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, which, inter alia calls for total or partial conversion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) debts into grants.

17. We call for an International Conference on Africa's external indebtedness to be convened as a matter of urgency to provide a forum for international creditors and African borrowers to discuss Africa's external debt with a view to arriving at appropriate emergency, short-, medium- and long-term solutions to alleviate the problems.

18. The current economic crisis and the deteriorating international economic relations make it imperative for the Member States of our Organization to strengthen cooperation among themselves in order to speed up economic integration and enhance Africa's negotiating ability in international fora and thus ensure that Africa's specific interests are taken into account.

19. We undertake to give highest priority to intra-African cooperation in the implementation of the Special Programme of Action for Improvement of the Food Situation and the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa in order to lay the foundation for Africa's food self-sufficiency.

20. We pledge to take action at all levels to improve the transport and communications links and adopt any other strategies which will promote closer cooperation between our countries in the fields of industry, human resources, science and technology, trade and finance.

21. We recognize that the collective effort of the Member States is the most important weapon for tackling the current economic crisis, and Africa is fully aware of its responsibility for adopting measures for its economic recovery and rehabilitation. However, the magnitude of the crisis makes it imperative for the international community to supplement our effort. We, therefore, call on the international community, in particular the developed countries and international development and finance institutions as well as United Nations Agencies, to support Africa's effort to deal with the crisis, in recognition of the specific economic situation of the continent. In this regard, efforts should aim at increasing Africa's production capabilities in the field of food, improving the performance of the transport and communications sector, and acquiring adequate technology, especially for industrial development.

22. We are convinced that the United Nations System, in particular the General Assembly, is an effective forum for sensitizing and mobilizing the international community on the critical economic situation in Africa, and the programme of recovery which we have formulated to deal with it. We, therefore, call for the convening of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to deliberate on the issues of the critical economic situation in Africa.

23. The policy of aggression by the racist regime of South Africa and its economic and military destabilization of Southern African States calls for our collective effort to resist. To that end, we commit our countries to lend financial and material assistance to these countries to help them meet the heavy cost of destabilization; and we reaffirm our support for the Liberation Movements in their struggle against the racist regime. In this regard, we call upon African institutions and the international community to make their contributions.

24. Furthermore, we urge all countries, especially the industrialized countries, financial institutions and transnational corporations to take measures, including effective economic sanctions to force the *Apartheid* regime in South Africa to end its racist policies, its illegal occupation of Namibia and the destabilization of Southern African States. We further urge the international community to give all assistance to the Southern African States in order to help them counter the effect on their economies of sanctions against South Africa.

25. To ensure the implementation of the above programme at national, sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels, we have decided to establish a permanent follow-up mechanism.

26. Determined to face effectively the twin challenges of survival and development confronting our continent, we have adopted the priority programme annexed to this Declaration, and pledge on behalf of our peoples and Governments, to implement individually and collectively the measures contained therein.

27. We are of the firm conviction that the respect of our commitments will lead to the recovery of our economies, the revitalization of a genuine development process to the benefit of our peoples as well as paving the way for an overall economic integration of Africa.

II. AFRICA'S PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY 1986 - 1990

INTRODUCTION

1. The 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 15 November 1984, considered inter alia the economic situation of Africa and expressed grave concern over the extent and the persistence of the economic and social crisis in Africa. It was for this reason that the Assembly decided in its Resolution AHG/132 (XX), that its 21st Session scheduled for 1985 be mainly devoted to the consideration of economic matters with special emphasis on:

- a) the progress made in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the definition of new measures for an early attainment of the objectives of the Plan;
- b) the formulation of an emergency programme for Africa comprising immediate measures in the priority economic areas and particularly in the agricultural and food sectors;
- c) the establishment of a common platform for action intended for the specialized agencies of the United Nations System on international economic issues of a crucial interest for Africa.

2. The 20th Session of the Assembly further decided to set up a seven Member State Ministerial Steering Committee composed of Algeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe with:

"the responsibility of preparing the basic documents to be submitted to the Economic Summit through the Council of Ministers, with technical support of the OAU Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the ECA."

3. The Steering Committee held its First Session from 12 to 14 February 1985, under the Chairmanship of Tanzania. It considered the draft Agenda for the 21st OAU Summit taking into account the Assembly's Resolutions 115 (XIX) and 132 (XX) and the relevant recommendations made by the preparatory group of experts of the Member States serving on the Committee, and by the Secretariats of the OAU and ECA. After examining these documents, the Committee presented the following draft agenda on economic matters to the Council of Ministers for submission to the 21st Summit:

1. Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos: Evaluation and measures for accelerated implementation:

- a) Activity report on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos:
 - i. by Member States
 - ii. by International Organizations
 - iii. by the OAU and ECA Secretariats.

- b) **Economic and Social Situation of Africa, 1980 - 1985;**
 - c) **Practical Sectoral measures on the accelerated realization of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos.**
- 2. Special Programme of Action for the improvement of the food situation and the rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa:**
- a) **emergency measures**
 - b) **short-term measures**
 - c) **long-term measures.**
- 3. External debt:**
- a) **emergency measures**
 - b) **short-term measures**
 - c) **long-term measures.**
- 4. Proposals for a common platform for action:**
- a) **among OAU Member States:**
 - **at regional level**
 - **at continental level.**
 - b) **at international level.**
- 4. The Forty-first Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa from 25 February to 5 March 1985 accepted, by its Resolution CM/Res.963 (XLI), the proposals of the Steering Committee on the above-mentioned draft agenda after including therein the item dealing with the destabilization of the economies of the Southern African States by the racist regime of South Africa.**
- 5. Pursuant to the resolution referred to above:**
- 1. **The Eleventh Session of the ECA Conference of Ministers held at Addis Ababa from 25 to 29 April 1985 examined the economic issues to be submitted to the Forty-second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and formulated the relevant recommendations. By its Resolution CM/Res.556 (XX) the Conference called upon the ECA Executive Secretary to make these recommendations available to the Steering Committee for the finalization of the working documents to be submitted to the Forty-second Ordinary Session of the Council of the Ministers. The Executive Secretary provided the Steering Committee during its 2nd meeting, with the said recommendations;**

ii. Other sub-regional, regional, continental and international institutions, namely, CEAO, PTA, ADB, PATU, ARCT, the World Bank, IFAD, ITU, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR, Unesco, UNFSSTD, ECCAS, FAO, SADCC, WHO, WFP, UAR and UNCTAD also contributed to the deliberations of the Steering Committee.

6. The Steering Committee has requested the Secretary-General of the OAU to place at the disposal of the Council of Ministers the relevant documents submitted by the different bodies and institutions which contributed to the preparation of this document.

7. This document, prepared by the Steering Committee in accordance with the mandate given to it by the Twentieth OAU Summit, encompasses all the items indicated above, proposes implementable measures on the issues identified and provides proposals for co-ordination, follow-up and execution mechanisms for Africa on the basis of self-reliance and international solidarity.

CHAPTER I

THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION AND THE FINAL ACT OF LAGOS: EVALUATION AND MEASURES FOR ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION

I. Activity Report on the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos:

i. Implementation by Member States

8. Although the philosophy, principles and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), have been accepted by the Member States as a whole, their underlying concerns have neither always been translated into concrete action nor reflected in national development plans of Member States. Indeed, efforts were made here and there to tackle the substantial imbalances which characterized several sectors of the economy particularly agriculture and food, drought and desertification control, literacy, industry and so on. Nevertheless, if most of the measures recommended in the LPA had been implemented, the ravaging effects of the current world recession and drought on African economies would have certainly been minimised.

9. With respect to the Final Act of Lagos (FAL), the first half of the 1980s had seen the creation of the Southern African Development, Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African Countries, and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the strengthening of existing economic groupings such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic Community (CEAO), the Customs Union of Central African States (UDEAC), etc.... Similarly, a strong foundation had been laid for the financial resources of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) whose core staff members are now financed under the regular budget of the United Nations and as a result of which their capacity to promote sub-regional and regional co-operation has increased. As regards sectoral institutions for technical and economic co-operation, they had continued to assist Member States despite their financial difficulties. However, most of these organizations remain inoperational owing to the fact that on the one hand, there is inadequacy of financial resources, and on the other, Member States have not respected the commitments they have freely made themselves.

ii. Implementation by African and International Organizations

10. Since the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action, many African and International Organizations have made efforts to implement the Lagos Plan of Action either by undertaking joint programmes with the Secretariats of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), or in their individual programmes at country level. Most international organizations were already operating in Africa in their specialized areas, and the advent of the LPA appears to have encouraged them to intensify their efforts.

iii. Implementation by OAU/ECA Secretariats

11. The activities of the OAU/ECA Secretariats during the period 1980 - 1982 to implement the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos were reported to the

Nineteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU. Since then, the two Secretariats have undertaken more activities individually, jointly, or in co-operation with third-party agencies. The most important of these included the promotion of the establishment of an African Economic Community and the African Energy Commission; activities leading to the establishment of the African Monetary Fund; activities in the transport and communications sector; the promotion of the implementation of the joint programme of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), and provision of Advisory services; reporting the inter-governmental bodies; preparation of technical publications; servicing of meetings; provision of grants and fellowships; undertaking fund-raising activities and humanitarian operations.

iv. Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos:

Obstacles and Constraints

12. Five years after the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, very little progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Plan and the Act, although the basic strategy of self-reliant and self-sustained development remains valid. In that period of five years, many obstacles and many constraints as well as shortcomings have been encountered. Principal among these have been the following.

13. In the first place, the colonial economic structures inherited by most African countries have proved difficult to be changed radically for African development as called for in the Plan of Action. These colonial economic legacies have been compounded by a host of other related international factors including the collapse in commodity prices, a stagnation and decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in real terms, the unprecedented high interest rates, the shift to a regime of sharp fluctuations of exchange rates, and increased protectionism.

14. Secondly, national development plans and annual budgets of most African countries have tended to perpetuate and even accentuate the dependency of our economies through over reliance on foreign resources (financial and human) and have led to the misallocation of domestic resources through reduced shares for such high priority areas as agriculture, manpower, industry and massive expenditure on foreign consumer goods and non-productive investment projects.

15. Thirdly, lack or inadequacy of skilled manpower within the Member States has contributed to the inability of the African countries to internalize the development process and ensure self-sustained development. As a result of the paucity of skilled manpower, most African countries have imported a large number of foreign high-level technicians and managers.

16. Fourthly, the extraneous factors, not foreseen when the Lagos Plan was adopted, have added to the increasing difficulties of African countries. Such factors include the widespread, severe and persistent drought; the acceleration of the desertification process; persistent and destructive cyclones in the Indian Ocean; and the intensification of destabilization attempts from South Africa on neighbouring African countries, especially the Frontline States.

17. Fifthly, while economic co-operation and integration are central to the strategy of collective self-reliant and self-sustained development, the establishment of new sub-regional economic groupings has followed a very slow path; particularly very little progress has been made in such crucial areas as sub-regional food security arrangement, agronomic research, environmental schemes and projects including desertification, industry, technology, new and renewable sources of energy which are identified as priority areas in the Final Act of Lagos. It could be said that, as in the case of national plans which failed to take account of the Lagos Plan of Action, there has been evidence of either ignorance of the requisites of the Lagos Plan and Final Act, or sheer inertia or lack of political will or all three in varying measures.

18. Finally, the implementation process has been impeded by structural obstacles (outward-oriented economies, lack of complementarity, narrow economic base, insufficient consideration of the problem of the land-locked countries, etc...) as well as political obstacles (conflict situations, inadequate political will, failure to honour commitments made jointly) and extraneous circumstances.

19. It is clear that some of these constraints of short-comings can, and should be, remedied by African countries themselves, while others are beyond their control and may thus call for concerted international action. In any case, the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the years ahead will remain a challenge which requires consistently conscious action and vigilance on the part of individual African countries and collectively. To this end, appropriate monitoring, surveillance and implementation machinery or follow-up mechanism should be put in place as a matter of urgency.

II. Economic and Social Situation in Africa 1980 - 1985

20. Since the formulation and adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos in 1980, the long and pronounced world economic recession from which the developed countries have since recovered, has inflicted untold hardships on already weak African economies. In addition, the impact of drought and desertification further worsened the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Africa. As a result, real regional output fell by 1.3 percent in 1981, increased by only 1.3 percent in 1982 and stagnated in 1983 and 1984. In per capita terms, the loss in output is around 10 percent relative to 1980.

21. The agricultural sector could not achieve the projected growth rate of 4 percent per year. It managed to achieve only about 1.7 percent per annum, against a population growth rate of 2.8 percent per annum. African countries have come to depend increasingly on the import of food and raw materials for agro-based industries.

22. With respect to the industrial sector, the poor performance was caused by lack of imported raw materials and lack of well defined industrialization policies, strategies and plans. While most of the industries are operating below 50 percent of installed capacities, others have had to close down, thus worsening the problem of mass unemployment and external debt. Prominent among other problems were the low level of productivity arising from poor infrastructures, inadequate training and poor management, the small size of domestic markets, slow progress in extending markets through regional co-operation and failure to make any significant breakthrough in the export markets for industrial products.

23. The negative performances by African countries in the economic sectors and the unfavourable balance of payments, including the deteriorating terms of trade, have largely contributed to Africa's worsening debt situation which in turn had had adverse repercussions on these same sectors. It is therefore, a vicious circle. The figures remain alarming with the 1984 external debt standing at US\$158 billion and the 1985 figure projected at US\$170 billion; the intolerable debt service charges which continue to rise faster in Africa than anywhere else, constitute a very significant part of the export earnings.

24. Lastly, the unprecedented economic crisis facing Africa has led to an intolerable social situation. Millions of Africans see their living conditions deteriorate each day, more so as the rural areas can no longer produce the necessary food-stuffs to meet the demands of a population growing at an annual rate of 2.8 percent because partly, of rural exodus to the towns by able-bodied persons where job opportunities are scarce.

25. On the whole, the continuing poor economic performance of the African region relates to the unbalanced structure of the African economy which continues to be increasingly extroverted. A lasting solution to these problems will not depend on short term emergency measures such as food aid but on the structural transformation of African economies with emphasis on the development of the required human skills and a minimum industrial base as well as the mobilization and optimum utilization of financial resources all of which are essential for the development of the other sectors, especially agriculture, transport and communications, energy, mining and construction.

III. Practical Sectoral Measures for the Accelerated Attainment of the Objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos

26. In the light of the progress made in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, as well as the constraints encountered, as indicated in Sections (I) and (II) above, appropriate and practical measures have been identified for accelerating the attainment of the objectives of certain priority sectors.

A. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

27. Mobilization of means necessary for the implementation of priority measures in the food and agriculture sector are dealt with in paragraphs 53 - 79 under "Special Programme of Action for Improvement of the Food Situation and Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa."

B. INDUSTRY

28. Notwithstanding the progress made in the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), much more is left to be done especially during the implementation phase (1986 - 1990) of the IDDA Programme. In the light of the above, and in addition to the recommendations contained in the Joint progress report on the implementation of the IDDA the following specific measures are proposed.

29. Short-term Measures

- i. a critical assessment should be made of major industrial enterprises in order to rationalize them;
- ii. urgent measures should be taken to identify industrial skills and technical capabilities required for the implementation of industrial programmes and projects;
- iii. a national programme for industrial maintenance, including the production of spares and replacement parts, should be established and reinforced at the plant level;
- iv. measures should be taken to promote standardization and quality control on industrial production.

30. Medium-, Long-term Measures

- i. existing national mechanisms should be strengthened and new ones established, as need be, to mobilize the entire national capabilities for the identification, preparation, evaluation, negotiation and implementation of projects especially the strategic core industries identified in the programme for the IDDA;
- ii. governments should adopt appropriate policy and incentive measures to facilitate the participation of nationals in equity capital and management of industrial enterprises;
- iii. medium- and long-term programmes should be formulated and implemented for developing the critical industrial manpower needs at all levels.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

31. The attainment of the objectives of the LPA and FAL depends, in the final analysis, on the development of the wide range of human resources required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes covering the entire spectrum and sectoral activities in the economic development process. To this end, the following measures are proposed:

32. Short-term Measures

- i. each African country should undertake a critical assessment of the overall and sectoral manpower requirements for the implementation of its economic development plan and, on the basis of the assessment, readjust existing manpower development policies and programmes and institutional infrastructure;

ii. In the formulation and implementation of manpower development plans and projects, special emphasis should be given to the development of administrative, managerial, entrepreneurial techniques and teaching aids including the use of micro-electronics in accelerating the education process; strengthening of existing institutions and the training of trainers and the management of human resources development programmes;

iii. Member States should provide special incentives to minimize the increase of brain-drain and to ensure the active participation of the entire national technical competence in the economic development.

Medium- and Long-term Measures

33. The institutional infrastructure for manpower development and utilization should be streamlined and reformed, and innovative approaches to the mobilization of manpower development should be adopted. To these ends, the banking system and business enterprises should participate in supporting training programmes while the programmes themselves should give more attention to management and inservice training and retraining.

D. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

34. Experience indicates that no country has attained any breakthrough in its economic development without the development of minimum science and technology base. To this end the following measures are proposed:

35. Short-term Measures

i. each African country should reassess its national science and technology programme and realign, streamline it in accordance with its national development objectives, priorities and programmes;

ii. each African country should allocate a minimum of 1 percent of its national GDP to the development of science and technology;

iii. emphasis should be accorded to science and technology education and training and the provision of relevant facilities such as laboratories, pilot-plants and experimental stations;

iv. each African country should take urgent measures to strengthen its capabilities and capacities for negotiating, acquiring and controlling technology flow.

36. Medium- and Long-term Measures

i. national mechanisms and institutions should be established to promote the translation of Research and Development results into commercial operations;

ii. existing national mechanisms for science and technology information should be strengthened and new ones established where they do not exist for the acquisition, processing, storage, dissemination and exchange of science and technology information;

iii. each African country should establish national focal points for the selection and application of new and frontier technologies in economic development;

iv. Member States should accord priority to the role of cartography and remote sensing in the exploration, exploitation and development of natural resources by increasing the financial allocation to the sector.

37.

E. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

i. African States should:

- intensify their efforts in financing the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA) projects, (1978 -1988);
- make efforts to provide OAU and ECA with all information on projects;
- give emphasis to maintenance and rehabilitation.

ii. measures should be taken and incentives given for strengthening existing or establishing new national and sub-regional construction companies;

iii. appeal to donor countries and international financial institutions to participate in the technical consultative meetings, increase their support for the Decade projects.

38.

F. TRADE AND FINANCE

a) Domestic Trade

African countries should take measures to improve the distribution channel for domestic trade and improve marketing arrangements through credit facilities. They should also undertake to reverse the present consumption patterns in favour of domestically produced goods.

b) Intra-African Trade

Measures to increase intra-African trade should include undertaking of supply and demand studies in order to identify the potential of trade and a comprehensive study on the factors affecting intra-African trade.

39. Finance

Measures to promote financial cooperation at the sub-regional level should include the following:

- i. increased utilization of existing clearing house facilities;
- ii. studies on linking sub-regional clearing and payments arrangements into an African payments union should be started;
- iii. coordinated measures should be taken to establish financial markets at the national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- iv. efforts to facilitate the establishment of an African Monetary Fund should be increased and sustained.

G. MEASURES TO BUILD UP AND STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION INCLUDING THE CREATION OF NEW INSTITUTIONS AND STRENGTHENING EXISTING ONES

40. The measures adopted were that:

- i. African countries should facilitate the implementation of the Fund for Technical Co-operation among African countries set up by the Twelfth Summit of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
- ii. OAU and ECA should take all necessary steps to institutionalize technical co-operation among African countries within a multinational framework.

H. ENVIRONMENT

41. Emphasis should be placed on measures to be taken at national, regional, continental and international levels to intensify the struggle against drought and desertification and notably the implementation of measures adopted in the "Special Programme of Action for the Improvement of the Food Situation and Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa."

I. AFRICAN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

42. The following recommendations are made to enable the African least developed countries to attain the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action.

43. At the national level

The African least developed countries, which have not yet done so, are urged to implement the national measures envisaged in the SNPA, designed to accelerate their economic and social development.

44. At sub-regional and regional levels

Sub-regional and regional economic cooperation schemes among African countries should take into account the special situation of the African least developed

countries by according to these countries, as appropriate, internationally agreed measures in favour of least developed countries.

45. At the international level

i. International donor community is urged to show the required political will at the forthcoming mid-term global review of the SNPA scheduled for 30 September to 11 October 1985 and to make available the necessary investment resources and other support measures in the context of the SNPA so as to ensure the programmes' fullest and expeditious implementation during the second half of the 1980s;

ii. developed donor countries, especially those which have not yet done so, are urged to take necessary measures aimed at attaining the SNPA targets of 0.15 percent of donor GNP as ODA or to double their ODA to the LDCs. Those donor countries which have already achieved the SNPA aid target are requested to increase their assistance to the LDCs and to make available such assistance as is adaptable to the special needs of the LDCs. Flexible aid procedures and modalities to speed up disbursement of committed funds should be adopted;

iii. developed countries should respond positively to the requests of African LDCs for the alleviation of their debt burden and if possible the outright cancellation of ODA loans;

iv. The IMF is invited to give special consideration to the African least developed countries in the utilization of the IMF Compensatory Financing Facility (CFF) for short falls on the export earning of these countries in view of the heavy dependence of the African Least Developed Countries on the export of narrow range of primary commodities for their foreign exchange resources.

v. The mid-term global revision of the SNPA should endorse the proposals included in the Memorandum of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries so as to ensure the effective and expeditious implementation of the SNPA during the second half of the Decade.

J. ENERGY

46. At the national level

Energy planning should be integrated into the overall socio-economic development planning at the national level with particular emphasis on training facilities for the systematic development of all levels of manpower resources for energy production and utilization.

47. At the sub-regional and regional levels

i. greater cooperation should be fostered among Member States in the sub-region and region through harmonized policies, joint exploitation and development of energy technologies and equipment and training programmes

as well as forming committees or commissions to discuss problems of common interests and institutions to conduct Research and Development work, training and provide advisory services;

ii. sub-regional and regional institutions such as ECOWAS, ECCAS, PTA and SADCC should assist in fostering cooperation among Member States in the field of energy particularly in the manufacture of energy production, transmission and utilization equipment.

48. At the continental level

The establishment of the African Energy Commission to be responsible for coordination of activities in the field of energy should be expedited.

K. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

49. i. the role of women in development must be taken seriously into account in development planning and in the disbursement of resources, both as contributors to and beneficiaries of development efforts as recommended by the "Arusha Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Development Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women";

ii. in view of the importance accorded to food self-sufficiency and the acknowledged role of women in food production in the continent, the pivotal role of women in this sector must be recognized and encouraged.

L. POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

50. Population issues should be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of concrete policies and programmes with a view to accelerate socio-economic development at national, sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels. In addition to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and World Population Plan of Action the following measures should be taken.

51. At the national level

i. formulation of national population policies;

ii. formulation of programmes to reduce current high level of infant, childhood and maternal mortality and morbidity particularly in rural areas, as well as formation of national family planning programmes where necessary;

iii. establishment of National Population Commissions;

iv. formulation of a comprehensive rural development policy to stem the rural-urban migration;

v. introduction of context-specific population redistribution/resettlement policies;

vi. appropriate population legislation, population education and information programmes;

vii. population data collection, analysis, training and research.

52. At sub-regional, regional and continental levels

i. technical cooperation between and among sub-regional and regional organizations dealing with population and development;

ii. technical assistance to African Governments by regional and continental organizations in implementing the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and World Population Plan of Action according to national socio-economic conditions;

iii. establishment of an OAU Population Commission to coordinate the activities of National Population Commissions; and

iv. seeking and sustaining, as required, funding sources for population activities.

CHAPTER II

SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION AND REHABILITATION OF AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

53. Africa is facing an unprecedented economic and social crisis. Food availability per inhabitant has continued to fall during the last two decades and the Continent, today, is facing the worst food crisis of its history.

54. Around 150 million people suffer from food shortages and, in some cases, famine. Some twenty countries are seriously affected by the food crisis and among others, there are many which are, more or less, threatened briefly. If today the situation is alarming it may become catastrophic in the future. In 1980 Africa met 86 percent of its food requirements; it may seem this rate will fall to 70 percent by the end of the century, if appropriate policy measures are not taken.

55. Particularly, with regard to the countries hit by the drought and desertification, the control of these scourges is a prerequisite for any improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture.

56. Although the phenomenon of drought affects other regions, what makes the African case so glaring is the African countries' low capacity to respond effectively both individually and collectively.

57. Beyond the immediate problems of survival of millions of human beings threatened by famine, which call for African and international solidarity, Africa should rethink the orientation and long-term management of its economy and development by drawing up the necessary strategies and policies based upon its own traditions.

58. Africa has adequate potential, the judicious exploitation of which should serve as a basis for its development. The Lagos Plan of Action serves in that respect as a framework to which African Heads of State and Government have committed themselves.

I. IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO COMBAT FOOD EMERGENCIES

59. At the national level

a) establishment of an early warning system based on the following parameters:

- i. crop conditions: collection and processing of agro-meteorological data as well as data on seeds and fertilizers;
- ii. analysis of price trends;
- iii. impact of movement of people within and outside national boundaries;

- iv. functioning of the market system;
 - v. nutritional status;
 - vi. emergency food reserves; and
 - vii. uncontrolled border trade.
- b) Emergency measures
- i. urgent announcement of food emergencies;
 - ii. rapid assessment of overall food and other relief requirements of the affected population;
 - iii. mobilization of the required material and human resources as well as internal and external emergency assistance including food; feed, medicine and technical expertise, as well as provision of adequate water supply for drought-stricken population;
 - iv. rationalization of channels of distribution and strengthening of logistics and other supporting services to ensure an accelerated distribution of relief supply;
 - v. strengthening or establishment if necessary of emergency-related institutions including the setting up of a national emergency fund for immediate use.

60. At sub-regional and regional levels

- a) establishment of a mechanism for cooperation among national Early Warning Units;
- b) establishment of multinational logistics coordination mechanism;
- c) creation, where necessary, of multinational and sub-regional emergency funds.

61. At the continental level

- a) contribution to and operationalization of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund created by resolution AHG/Res. 133 (XX) of the Twentieth Assembly of Heads of State and Government to deal with drought and famine in Africa;
- b) the Policy Committee of the above Fund, in consultation with relevant African regional organizations and United Nations Specialized Agencies should:
 - 1. periodically identify food surplus countries or sub-regions with a view to enabling, eventually through the Special Emergency Assistance Fund, the supply of food aid by African countries or sub-regions that are in a position to do so;

2. undertake periodic reviews of crop conditions in individual countries and sub-regions including weather data, data on price structures and trends as well as market conditions.

62. At the international level

- a) close co-operation between donor countries and agencies and Governments of African aid recipient countries and transit countries;
- b) seek collective action for increased international food aid;
- c) adequate technical and financial assistance to ensure the transportation, storage and distribution of food aid to drought and famine victims;
- d) adapting as much as possible the food aid to the food habits of the population;
- e) financial support to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund created by the 20th OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

II. REHABILITATION OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

63. It is desirable that investment in agriculture should aim at attaining 20 - 25 percent of aggregate public investment.

64. Short-term measures

At national level

- a) Incentive measures for increasing production and productivity
 - i. place at the disposal of small farmers inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, hand tools and other implements at accessible prices for increased output;
 - ii. establishment of remunerative produce pricing policy, timely supply of agricultural inputs, efficient marketing system, adequate supply of consumer goods;
 - iii. improvement of agricultural implement maintenance capacity;
 - iv. establishment of fixed and mobile repair units, supply of spare parts;
 - v. facilitate access to credit and land for small farmers;
 - vi. elaboration of assistance programmes for the small farmers, women and rural youths;
 - vii. improvement of the distribution of agricultural products.

b) Strengthening of institutions and infrastructure

- i. construction of small bridges, access and service roads;**
- ii. rehabilitation, strengthening and periodic maintenance of existing infrastructure;**
- iii. strengthening of agricultural planning and statistical institutions through adequate funding;**
- iv. improving capacity utilization of institutions dealing with small holder sector and establishing or strengthening extension services.**

c) Better utilization of water resources

- i. development of underground water and mobilization programmes through drillings of bore holes in order to enable the establishment of small irrigation schemes in the form of earth dams and to meet the needs of people;**
- ii. establishment of a mechanism for the determination of river flows and low levels;**
- iii. realization of small water works particularly valley dams for the mobilization of surface water.**

At regional and continental levels

a) Strengthening of agricultural statistics and planning institutions and infrastructures through adequate funding;

b) Better utilization of water resources

- establishment of a mechanism for the determination of river flows and low levels.**

65. Medium-term measures

At national level

Qualitative and quantitative production improvement

a) Agricultural production

- i. accord high priority to food crop production especially by increasing the percentage of investment to this sector;**
- ii. promotion of irrigated farming including small-scale irrigation especially in drought areas;**
- iii. increase in cultivated areas by making available suitable and efficient land for farming;**

iv. efficient management of farm lands to provide through better utilization of human and material resources the appropriate choice of technique, a better organization of production and increased productivity.

b) Production and preservation of forestry resources

i. strengthening of measures of production and conservation of forestry resources, especially by systematic campaign against destruction of forest heritage;

ii. rational exploitation of forestry resources;

iii. improvement of forest management techniques;

iv. reforestation campaign through mobilization of people;

v. better utilization of forestry resources other than wood.

c) Animal production

i. development of small family livestock within the framework of mixed farming;

ii. improvement of the collection, conservation and marketing of dairy products;

iii. improvement of livestock breeds and livestock infrastructure;

iv. improvement of veterinary services, campaigns for control and elimination of livestock disease with the participation of the population at large;

v. development and improvement of animal feed production and pasture management.

d) Fishery production

i. better assessment of stocks, rational exploitation and protection of fishery;

ii. development of coastal and maritime fishing by the multiplication of small artisanal trade;

iii. development of aqua-culture and fish farming;

iv. development of fishery resources especially by improvement of the system of processing, conservation and sale of production.

66. At regional and continental levels

a) Animal production:

– improvement of veterinary services, joint campaigns for control and elimination of livestock disease with participation of the population at large.

b) Fishery production:

– pulling of resources for rational exploitation of common marine resources particularly the establishment of joint fishing corporations.

67. Ensure food security

At national level

i. establishment of an early warning system for the supply of food resources of prime necessity;

ii. reduction of food losses before, during and after harvest; utilization of pesticides, improvement of storage and conservation facilities, improvement of sale and distribution capabilities;

iii. drawing up of a multi-year food requirement plan;

iv. implementation of national food security programmes as integral part of development strategies;

v. establishment of food security stocks the level of which should not be less than 10 percent of the minimum national staple needs;

vi. encouragement of farmers to establish and strengthen their own security stocks;

vii. development of food security facilities by laying emphasis on infrastructures.

68. At sub-regional, regional and continental levels

i. implementation of sub-regional, regional and continental food security programmes as integral part of development strategies;

ii. establishment of food security stocks at sub-regional and regional levels, the level of which should not be less than 10 percent of the minimum staple needs.

69. At international level

To sensitize the international community so that it increases in quality and quantity, its assistance to African countries in their efforts to rehabilitate agriculture and to enable them, in particular, to achieve the objective of 20 to 25 percent of public investments in this sector and to strengthen the intervention capacity of international donor organizations and institutions in the field of agriculture.

III. STRUCTURAL REFORMS: LONG-TERM MEASURES

At the national level

70. Research, technology and distribution systems:

- a) development of quick-maturing as well as drought, diseases and pest resistant crop varieties;**
- b) agronomic research directed towards new species/varieties of crops adapted to different agro-ecological zones;**
- c) selection and development of drought and disease resistant, animal species;**
- d) adoption of an integrated farming system which is most adaptable to different agro-ecological zones;**
- e) improvement of post-harvest technologies especially in the area of transport, storage processing, distribution and marketing;**
- f) strengthening the link between research and extension services; and**
- g) development of basic and applied scientific research.**

71. Training of skilled manpower and improvement of living conditions in rural areas:

- a) drawing up an implementation of policies for better utilization in all areas of agriculture, including animal production, fisheries and forestry;**
- b) training efforts aiming at improving the skills of agricultural staff at all levels including farmers and rural artisans;**
- c) improvement of working and living conditions in rural areas in order to avoid the exodus of skilled agricultural manpower and youth.**
- d) implementation of training programmes for women and the rural youth.**

72. Extension of cultivable areas:

- a) harnessing the waters of rains, rivers and lakes for irrigation development through the construction of suitably designed dams especially in the semi-arid areas;**
- b) reclaiming vast tracts of African land presently made unproductive due to tse-tse infestation and incidence of onchocerciasis;**
- c) striking a proper balance among activities relating to forestry, crop and livestock;**
- d) development of swamp lands for agricultural purposes.**

73. Food habits

- a) a comprehensive survey and analysis of consumer behaviour;**
- b) promotion of the general use of composite flour and techniques for its manufacture;**
- c) promotion and utilization of the products resulting from African agricultural research.**

74. Improvement of rural infrastructures

This improvement could cover mainly the following:

- a) feeder roads;**
- b) storage structures;**
- c) irrigation facilities; and**
- d) rural amenities and services such as rural health, education, water supply and information.**

75. Strengthening institutional and management capacity

- a) restructuring and rationalization of the activities as well as management of organizations, to render them more efficient;**
- b) decentralization of agricultural support activities;**
- c) decentralization of authority, responsibilities and decision-making from the top to the bottom;**
- d) proper co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes; and**
- e) training and re-training in the management and administration of programmed activities including financial and budgetary practices;**
- f) increased investment in the food and agricultural sector with focus on small farmers;**
- g) formulation and implementation of programmes for adequate agrarian reforms consistent with political and social conditions prevailing in respective countries.**

76. Support activities to agriculture by other sectors

The long-term support to development and agricultural growth will depend on the parallel development of industry. It is the same for other sectors such as energy, technology, commerce, transport and communications. In this regard, the following specific measures are proposed among others:

- a) the manufacture of simple, low-cost agricultural implements tailored to the needs of small farmers;
- b) the rehabilitation and development of existing transport infrastructure particularly feeder roads and other forms of communications;
- c) the research and development of new sources of energy to meet the growing energy needs and arrest the deforestation of the rural areas;
- d) the promotion of intra-and inter-regional commerce in food and agricultural commodities;
- e) the establishment and/or improvement of preservation facilities and storage structure;
- f) the manufacture of cheap fertilizers and less harmful pesticides from local resources;
- g) the pursuit and improvement of adult literacy, rural health and other related rural services such a rural housing community, water supplies and rural trading centres; and
- h) promotion and rationalization of mixed farming practices;
- l) the rapid dissemination through the mass media of vital agricultural information beneficial to small farmers in such areas as the prevention of food losses, pricing and other improved agricultural practices;
- j) research aimed at reducing varieties of equipment, spare parts and implements currently imported;
- k) optimal utilization of industrialization for agricultural development.

77. Restoration of ecological balance and the implementation of a policy on organic matter

The measures adopted are the following:

- a) adoption of appropriate policy measures aimed at efficient management of natural resources;
- b) introduction of suitable farming system;
- c) rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources including water, soil, forestry, other vegetal cover and wildlife; and
- d) application of scientific techniques for combating the impact of drought and desertification.

78. At sub-regional, regional and continental levels co-operation among African countries:

Promotion of sub-regional, regional and continental co-operation in the following fields:

- a) food security;
- b) research and technology;
- c) training activities;
- d) exploitation of natural resources especially common water basins and irrigation development;
- e) control of animal diseases and pests;
- f) maritime fishing especially through the creation of sub-regional and regional mechanisms for evaluation, monitoring and protection of marine resources;
- g) strengthening of the capacity of institutions responsible for the promotion of integrated rural development including provision of assistance to the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa (CIDRAFRICA) based in Arusha, by Member States which have ratified the Centre's constituent instrument, and support for its network of national integrated rural development centres.

79. At international level

- i. mobilization of financial and other resources for training and human resources development;
- ii. massive international assistance for research and development;
- iii. facilitation of transfer of appropriate technology and the development of indigenous technology.

IV. DROUGHT AND CONTROL OF DESERTIFICATION

80. A great number of African countries are currently affected by drought and desertification and a study* shows that the desert is encroaching on other lands at the rate of 8 - 10 kilometers per annum. Among the 36 African countries facing serious food deficit, 24 countries are affected by desertification. In this regard, the following measures are proposed.

* Source: Dakar Conference, July 1984.

81. Measures recommended

At the national level

a) Strategy

- i. need for a commitment and a strong national policy so as to adopt the appropriate legislative, statutory, financial, technical, and social measures to face this scourge;**
- ii. improvement of the approach, strategy and planning in desertification control;**
- iii. drawing up or strengthening, of a national drought and desertification control plan;**
- iv. campaign for systematic information, sensitization and mobilization of people, at the level of each State;**
- v. national support seminars for planners, field workers and managers, and the general public on drought and control of desertification;**
- vi. establishment of nature protection association with the status of public interest associations;**
- vii. establishment of an organ for coordination and evaluation of actions of desertification and drought control;**
- viii. sustenance of the ecological capability of pasture by marketing and reinstallation of excess livestock in the new installation areas.**

b) Fields of Action

- i. planting, conservation, protection and diversification of the vegetation cover;**
- ii. water resources should be increased, particularly by implementing appropriate water development policy;**

82. At the sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels

- i. promotion of exchange of information, know-how and technologies in desertification and drought control;**
- ii. the establishment of an early warning system for drought;**
- iii. establishment of regional networks in Africa to coordinate the activities of stabilization of sand dunes, reforestation, research and training in the field of desertification and drought control;**
- iv. pursuit of efforts aimed at establishing a North African green belt and green belts around the cities of the Sahel;**

v. implementation of OAU Resolution CM/Res. 450 (XXI) on the establishment of an International Hydrological Map for Africa to locate the underground water resources to control drought effects;

vi. implementation of ECA Resolution 496 (XIX) entitled Regional Plan of Action to control drought repercussions in Africa and ECA Resolution 518 (XIX) on meteorological services to control drought in Africa;

vii. South-South cooperation in the planning and implementation of desertification and drought programmes;

viii. increased activities by the OAU, ECA and United Nations agencies whose terms of reference cover this field;

ix. mobilization of international aid for the execution of programmes particularly by implementing the Thirty-ninth United Nations General Assembly Resolution 39/280;

x. need for donor countries to include in their aid programmes provisions for control of desertification and drought taking into account the magnitude of the scourge.

V. REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

83. Concrete measures should be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to respond to the current situation, with a view to preventing new massive population exodus, and guarantee that refugees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters can participate in socio-economic development activities of the countries of origin/asylum/residence.

84. At the national level

a) Short-term

i. creation of favourable conditions for the voluntary repatriation of refugees;

ii. accelerated implementation of International Conference on Assistance to African Refugees (ICARA II) Projects;

iii. evolving settlement and rehabilitation policies and programmes;

iv. adhesion to existing international and regional instruments on refugees;

v. establishment of a central body to monitor programmes and to evolve a comprehensive national policy on assistance;

vi. promotion of and respect for human rights.

b) Medium-term

- i. adaption of existing national legislation to prevailing situations;**
- ii. training of personnel responsible for implementation of programmes in favour of refugees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters or for law enforcement;**
- iii. collection of accurate statistical data on all displaced or refugee populations;**
- iv. assessment of the impact on national economies of the presence of refugees, displaced persons or victims of natural disasters, toward linking programmes of assistance to national development programmes.**

c) Long-term

- i. consideration and definition of the role to be assumed by the individual, the community, the different social and vulnerable groups in evolving and implementing national development policies and programmes;**
- ii. enacting national legislation to define and guarantee the rights of the individual and the community, and also those of refugees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters.**

85. At the regional and continental levels

- a) Establishment of an appropriate mechanism for the dissemination of humanitarian law, and of information on population movements attributable to man-made or natural disasters;**
- b) Strengthening the existing structure within the OAU Secretariat.**
 - i. to monitor all issues pertaining to refugees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters, and their prevention as well as human and peoples' rights;**
 - ii. to evolve policies, strategies and programmes commensurate with the situation obtaining;**
 - iii. to implement and follow-up all relevant resolutions adopted with regard to those issues.**
- c) Setting-up of an Inter-State machinery for the settlement of disputes, that should also define their socio-economic impact and consequences;**
- d) Implementation of collective measures for natural disaster prevention and preparedness;**
- e) Comparative study of existing African national legislations toward their harmonization;**

f) Taking into consideration ICARA II document entitled "Declaration and Programme of Action".

86. At the international level

a) Concerted efforts toward the identification, preparation and implementation of projects to benefit all segments of displaced (and local) populations, with the active assistance of the international community, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

b) Setting-up of international early-warning systems to help prevent or prepare for natural disasters in Africa.

CHAPTER III

AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

87. The dramatic increase in the volume of Africa's external debt and the heavy debt-service burden are of grave concern to all the Member States. According to the most recent data published by the World Bank, total outstanding (including undisbursed) medium- and long-term external debt for 46 African countries increased from US\$ 134.4 billion in 1982 to US\$ 136.8 billion in 1983. These amounts do not include the external debt of Angola, Libya, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe, nor short-term debt and IMF Credits. At the end of 1984 the total debt of all African countries was estimated to stand at US\$ 158 billion and it is expected to exceed US\$ 170 billion by the end of 1985. In 1982 Africa's total debt was 51.0 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP) and 59.0 percent in 1983.

88. At the same time, total debt-service payments (interest and amortization) increased from US\$ 12.9 billion in 1982 to US\$ 14.9 billion in 1983. These figures do not show the full extent of the debt-service burden for two reasons: first, not all forms of debt are covered; second, the figures reflect the effect of recent rescheduling exercise. According to projections by the World Bank, debt service payments would be about US\$ 18.9 billion in 1984 and US\$ 20.4 billion in 1985. Unless immediate measures are taken by African countries in cooperation with the lenders to alleviate the debt-service burden, such projected payments will constitute serious difficulties for African countries.

89. Apart from the alarming rate of increase in Africa's aggregate debt and debt services, it is most disturbing to observe the considerable change in the structure of its debt over the past decade. For example:

- the share of "soft" loans in sub-Saharan Africa's total debt declined from 62.5 percent in 1972 to 47 percent in 1983;

- the share of borrowing from financial markets in sub-Saharan debt rose from 14.5 percent to 36 percent over the same period. Meanwhile, most other African countries were excluded from soft loan agreements as well as from bilateral and multilateral loans. Many thus turned to IMF standby agreements and extended fund facilities, despite the difficult conditions attached to such loans;

- the severity of the situation is underscored by the fact that in 1985 African countries will most likely repay more than they receive from the International Monetary Fund, to whose programmes more than fifteen African countries have acceded. IMF repayments under the so-called "repurchase obligations" are currently estimated to total US\$ 700 million.

90. The total debt service, as a percentage of Africa's export earnings was 19.8 percent in 1982 and 27.4 percent in 1983. For some countries the debt-service ratio is far above this average whereas it is generally accepted that the average debt-service ratio should not exceed 20 percent of export earnings.

91. It is noted that given the increasing importation of essential goods and services, especially industrial commodities, indispensable to their accelerated economic development, African countries will continue to borrow in order to supplement their domestic resources. This constitutes one of the major root causes of Africa's external debt.

92. The causes of Africa's huge external debt and debt-service burden are both internal and external.

a) The internal causes are in particular the following:

- i. inadequate and weak economic structures, in particular weak industrial base;
- ii. structural rigidities in product diversification and dependence on the export of a few raw materials and commodities;
- iii. deteriorating agricultural and food production that leads to increased food imports;
- iv. poor design, negotiations and ineffective execution and monitoring of projects that lead to increased costs;
- v. low level of domestic resource mobilization and lack of provision for local counterpart cost;
- vi. deficits in national budgets as a result of insufficient national resources for executing national development plans;
- vii. natural disasters and economic destabilization activities that distort economic projections and necessitate diversion of resources;
- viii. weak negotiating capacity of African countries vis-a-vis complex international financial mechanisms;
- ix. lack of effective coordination at the national level and inefficient monitoring of foreign commitments.

b) The external causes include:

- i. deteriorating terms of trade and the consequent reduction in total export earnings;
- ii. sharp increase in real interest rates paid on long-term debt, especially on commercial loans;
- iii. deteriorating terms of borrowing, including reduced grace and repayment periods;
- iv. decreased flows of concessional resources to African countries;

- v. adverse effects of exchange rate fluctuations of the world's major currencies;
- vi. inflated contracts and other abuses as a result of activities of transnational corporations;
- vii. decreased net inflow of resources;
- viii. protectionism and restrictive trade practices in the markets of the developed countries;
- ix. aggressive economic destabilization policies of external forces.

Measures to tackle Africa's External Debt Problems:

93. African countries recognize that external debts are obligations which they have contracted and which they must honour. In view of their special situation as compared to other developing regions, the countries will need longer grace and repayment periods and increased concessional resource flows in order to restore growth and thus be able to meet their debt-service obligations. Specific measures are, therefore, required to be taken at the national, sub-regional, regional and continental as well as the international levels, in the short, medium and long term.

94. Short-term measures:

a) At the national level

i. the countries which have not done so, should consider establishing a national machinery for the management and rationalization of external debt, including the coordination of loan policies, monitoring loan utilization repayment schedules and advising generally on appropriate terms on external borrowings, including foreign exchange budgeting and loan ceilings;

ii. a thorough inventory should be made of all external debts contracted by the State, public, semi-public and private institutions to determine more accurately the quantum of external debt, the purpose for which the debt was contracted and how it was to be paid as one way of determining the amount of foreign exchange reserves to be allocated to external debt servicing incurred by the public and the private sectors, so as to avoid the accumulation of debts and arrears beyond the capacity of the countries to repay;

iii. an urgent review of projects should be undertaken with a view, among others, to ascertaining which of them should be scrapped, and to renegotiating those whose poor performance can be traced to their design, the terms and conditions of the initial loan agreements;

iv. increased effort should be deployed to mobilize domestic resources, in particular, domestic savings so that external (borrowed) resources would only supplement national resources;

v. domestic and foreign resources should be directed at projects generating or saving foreign exchange, without neglecting projects designed to provide basic social services;

vi. a crash programme should be formulated and implemented with the objective of increasing productivity in all sectors;

vii. every effort should be made to eliminate external financing of deficits on recurrent national budgets;

viii. African countries which have not yet done so should enact legislation governing foreign direct investment;

ix. African countries should control the external borrowing practices of transnational commercial banks, discount houses, insurance companies as well as other local commercial banks so as to halt the excessive drain of resources from Africa by transnational corporations. Immediate legislation should be enacted, where this does not exist, requiring such companies to consult the government before deciding to borrow externally;

x. African countries should review and if necessary adopt new investment policies that would inter alia set out the priorities for foreign exchange allocation, set the conditions for foreign private investment, equity participation, etc...., as well as provide for readjustment measures for a sound economic base;

xi. African countries should improve their capability and capacity for project/contract negotiation in order to secure the best terms and conditions, as well as their capacity for undertaking consultancy services;

b) At the sub-regional, regional and continental levels

i. within the framework of African solidarity, African countries with net reserves should recycle part of these surplus funds in Africa;

ii. African countries should utilize seminars and workshops organized by sub-regional, regional and continental organizations such as the African Centre for Monetary Studies (ACMS) for the exchange of information on loan negotiations and debt rescheduling;

iii. ministers responsible for external debt, monetary and financial matters should meet regularly and whenever necessary to deal with these matters;

iv. the existing sub-regional and regional payments and clearing arrangements should be strengthened toward promoting increased intra-African trade thereby reducing the need for foreign exchange and hence external borrowing;

v. a new system of incentives, including national investment codes that discriminate in favour of African investors, should be instituted immediately to encourage African individual private investors, to invest their resources in other African countries either on a bilateral basis or through the existing sub-regional,

regional and continental financial institutions. This would not only improve the liquidity of the borrowing countries thereby reducing the need for external borrowing, but would also promote Intra-African monetary cooperation as envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos:

vi. all continental, regional, and sub-regional development finance institutions should reduce the foreign exchange component of the local contribution to on-going and new projects they finance for member countries;

vii. a review of sub-regional or multinational projects should be undertaken with a view to determining which of them should be scrapped and which should be retained.

c) At the International Level

i. the African countries should press for an International conference on Africa's External Indebtedness to be convened as a matter of urgency to provide a forum for international creditors and African borrowers to discuss Africa's external debt with a view to arriving at appropriate emergency, short-, medium- and long-term measures to alleviate Africa's debt problems;

ii. the OAU Current Chairman and the Bureau of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government should make the necessary contact with the multilateral institutions and the major creditors with a view to an early organization of the conference;

iii. African representatives in the Development Committee of the World Bank and in the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund as well as the African Group in these institutions should stress the impossibility of effective structural adjustment measures without effective transfer of additional external resources in order to ensure rapid economic recovery in Africa;

iv. the Secretary-General of OAU, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the President of ADB should initiate the necessary preparations in order to ensure the success of the Conference;

v. the international development finance institutions should reduce the foreign exchange component of the local contribution to on-going and new projects they finance in Africa;

vi. increased transfer of concessional financial resources (including grants to the Least Developed Countries) from both multilateral and government lenders in recognition of the specific problems of African countries; and increased programme-lending especially to the Least Developed Countries;

vii. debt rescheduling provides immediate relief to the debtor countries. To be effective, rescheduling should be on a multi-year basis, with a repayment period of at least 15 years with a minimum grace period of 5 years, and the debt that follows rescheduling should not be at higher interest rates;

viii. the World Bank (IBRD) should raise the eligibility ceiling to enable more African countries to qualify for International Development Association (IDA) resources; while at the same time total funds available to IDA should be increased;

ix. the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should reactivate its Trust Fund;

x. the developed donor countries should immediately implement UNCTAD Resolution 165 (S-IX) on debt and development problems of developing countries which, inter alia, calls on them to adopt measures for the adjustment of the terms of past bilateral official development assistance in order to bring them in line with the currently prevailing softer terms or other equivalent measures as a means of improving the net flows of official development assistance in order to enhance the development efforts of those developing countries in the light of internationally agreed objectives and conclusions on aid;

xi. the developed donor countries are also urged to urgently implement, without discrimination, the provisions of Paragraph 17 of the Declaration annexed to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 39/29, on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, which, inter alia, call for total or partial conversion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) debts into grants.

95. Medium- and Long-term measures

a) At the national level

i. careful attention should be given to project identification, design, preparation, execution and efficient management;

ii. a more rational utilization of external credits and loans should be made through an immediate review of the national development plans to introduce short-, medium- and long-term policies on external debt management mechanisms linked with productive ventures such as proper project selection, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This should, where possible, be relinked with the viability and profitability as well as the country's ability to repay past, current and future debt obligations;

iii. effective measures should be taken to reduce the external dependence of African economies by producing locally the essential goods, and services so as to reduce the effects of adverse international development over which African countries have no control;

b) At the sub-regional, regional and continental levels:

i. African parastatal organizations should be encouraged through appropriate incentives, to participate in sub-regional and regional joint ventures. This would improve the liquidity of the countries thereby reducing the need for external borrowing;

ii. African development finance institutions are also urged to increase their financing of sub-regional and regional projects so as to assist member countries in alleviating the external debt burden. They should also play an increasing role in the identification and preparation of sound and economically viable investment projects in the Member States;

iii. the political will for South-South cooperation should be intensified particularly in the field of monetary cooperation.

c) At the international level

i. the debt service should not be allowed to exceed 20% of the export earnings or and total debt should not exceed 30% of Gross National Product (GNP) of each country;

ii. the international community is urged to finally implement UNCTAD Resolution 222 (XXI) concerning detailed features for debt renegotiation as well as Resolution 39/29 of the United Nations General Assembly on "the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa".

CHAPTER IV:

COMMON PLATFORM FOR ACTION AMONG MEMBER STATES OF THE OAU

96. The aspirations and objectives of the Organization of African Unity since its inception have been to promote and strengthen unity and solidarity among African States and peoples through actions and programmes of cooperation and integration of their economies.

97. The Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos have defined the conceptual framework and laid down the major guidelines for the development of this cooperation.

98. The realization of these aspirations was, however, impeded by structural obstacles (outward oriented economies; lack of complementary; narrow economic base; and structural deficiencies in world economy resulting in unfavourable conditions for developing countries; etc...) as well as political obstacles (conflict situations, inadequate political will, failure to honour commitments made jointly, etc...) and extraneous circumstances.

99. Therefore, it is deemed necessary to formulate a common platform for action so as to revitalize sub-regional and regional economic cooperation for the recovery of the economic situation of Africa and mobilization of external support to back Africa's own efforts.

100. Besides, the present crisis in international economic relations which affect multilateral cooperation, makes it imperative for Africa to strengthen its negotiating ability in international fora and ensure the effective recognition of its specific interests, hence the need to present a united front on all the international issues of common interest.

I. CONDITIONS FOR INTEGRATION

101. Economic integration through sub-regional, regional and continental cooperation is today a top priority which will enable the economies of the African countries to be viable within a system of international relations characterized by inequality in the balance of power.

102. The development of intra-African cooperation to ensure a coherent economic integration, depends first and foremost on the political will of Member States to scrupulously honour their commitments made in the context of bilateral agreement and within sub-regional, regional and continental organizations.

103. Integration also requires a healthy management of the African economies; more effective utilization of the appropriate resources, better selection and coordination of investment programmes, good management of enterprises, etc...

04. The sub-regional, regional and continental organizations should be strengthened to ultimately lead to a viable economic integration at continental level by assigning themselves realistic objectives.

05. The credibility of the sub-regional, regional and continental institutions will depend on their ability to take into account the common and specific interests of the member States and will be enhanced by Member States respecting the decisions jointly taken.

I. AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTION:

1. At sub-regional, regional and continental levels

06. African States should take steps to set up or strengthen sub-regional and regional economic groupings, in a rational and harmonized framework, so as to ensure an effective cooperation among Member States first of the same sub-region and then among the different regional economic groupings.

07. This cooperation should be intensified and extended both at bilateral and multilateral levels in the following priority areas:

a) Agriculture and Food

States should cooperate at bilateral, sub-regional, regional and continental levels for the execution of measures adopted in the Special Programme of Action for the improvement of the Food Situation and the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa.

b) Transport and Communications

- optimum utilization of existing resources;
- intensification of cooperation for the realization of regional and sub-regional projects forming part of the UNTACDA programme;
- intensification of cooperation in telecommunications;
- harmonization and cooperation of land, air and maritime transport policies;
- attention should be given to the special situation of the least developed, especially the landlocked and island countries among them.

c) Industry

- reinforcement of cooperation to ensure the realization of sub-regional and regional industrial projects adopted for the IDDA;
- development of industries for the production of agricultural equipment and inputs, consumer goods and the process of food-stuff;
- development of industries using local resources;

– intensification of inter-African cooperation in the field of standardization and control of the quality of products.

d) Trade and Finance

– conclusion of multilateral clearing arrangements at sub-regional, regional and continental levels so as to reduce to the minimum the use of convertible currencies;

– reduction in and elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers impeding intra-African trade;

– better knowledge of the market at sub-regional and regional levels and the organization of campaigns to encourage people "to buy and consume African goods";

– harmonization of price policies first at sub-regional level and as far as possible at regional level;

– intensification of cooperation among African Commercial Banks so as to promote Intra-African Trade;

– strengthening of sub-regional and regional monetary and financial institutions and in this respect measures should be undertaken for an early establishment of the African Monetary Fund;

– continue to press for an increased share in decision-making at international level such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), IBRD and IMF.

e) Science and Technology

– harmonization of national policies relating to Science and Technology at the sub-regional levels and establishment of a harmonized system of trade and dissemination of data on the experience and results of research works;

– drawing up and execution of research programmes in the areas of common interest particularly integrated rural development for the rehabilitation of the food and agricultural sector;

f) Human Resources

– harmonization of education and training policies at all levels especially in the areas of Agriculture, Food, Industry and Transport and Communications;

– implementation of technical assistance or policy programmes to facilitate mobility of labour;

– give priority to the utilization of African personnel in the execution of national, sub-regional and regional development programmes;

– taking adequate measures so as to ensure free movement of goods, capital and persons;

– make operational the Technical Cooperation Fund which was set up by the Inter-African Convention on the Establishment of a Technical Cooperation Programme adopted at the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Kampala in 1975.

ii. At international level

108. African countries should strengthen their unity and solidarity so as to ensure that at the international scene attention is given to their specific interests. It is, therefore, necessary to prepare a common platform for action intended especially for international institutions.

109. The platform takes the following factors into considerations:

– It is first and foremost incumbent upon Africa itself to define conditions and assume direct responsibility for the rehabilitation of its economy;

– strengthening of solidarity and consultations among African States is necessary for a better awareness of Africa's interests;

– the grave deterioration of the economic situation of most African countries compels them to call on the United Nations System to give serious considerations to this situation;

– owing to the fact that Africa is lagging behind technologically, it should insist within the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations for special treatment to be accorded particularly in the areas of technical cooperation, training and research;

– in view of its composition (26 out of the 36 least developed countries; majority of the countries low income, land-locked countries; and are effected by drought and desertification) Africa's share should be increased in the international institutions' programmes for development financing.

110. In approaching international institutions priority should be given to:

a) International institutions dealing with agriculture and food

As a first step there is need for increase in the assistance granted by these bodies to meet emergency situations.

As a medium-term measure, Africa's approach to these institutions should be directed towards increasing production capabilities in the food and agricultural sector.

b) Development financing institutions and organs to mobilize to the maximum, external resources

Africa should pool its efforts with those of other developing regions to secure the increase of the liquidity of those institutions to levels compatible with the needs of developing countries, while at the same time assuring an increase in its share of the resources of these institutions going to Africa. These institutions and other donors should also respect the laid-down priorities and should soften loan conditions. Emphasis should especially be placed on:

- the replenishment of IDA's resources to at least a level of US\$12 billion and the increase in the share of resources allocated to Africa;
- increase in the financial resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to a level commensurate with agricultural development needs of developing countries and subsequent increase in its resources allocated to Africa; and the international community should provide substantial assistance to IFAD so as to achieve the target of US\$300 million for its Special Programme for the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa;
- increase in the resources of the African Development Fund (ADF), to the level commensurate with the needs of Africa;
- increase in the liquidity of the World Bank and the IMF, increase in Special Drawing Rights' (SDRs') allocations and the maintenance of the latter's unconditional nature. These two institutions should give special attention to Africa;
- access facilities to the Special Fund established by the World Bank for Africa South of the Sahara should be made more flexible and void of cross conditionalities;
- organization of an International Conference on development of monetary and financial matters;
- Africa's external debt relief;
- increase in the official development assistance so as to attain the objective of the Third United Nations Development Decade;
- honouring of developed countries' commitments to the LDCs.

c) Institution responsible for trade and commodity prices

The aim is to obtain fair remunerative and stable prices for commodities and increase in export earnings. Within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Africa's objective should be on:

- making operational the Common Fund for Commodities;
- renegotiation of existing commodity agreements and negotiation on new agreements;
- expansion of the General System of Preferences (GSP);

- acquisition of adequate technologies and financial resources for local processing of commodities;

- elimination of the tariff and non-tariff barriers levied on processed commodities in industrialized markets.

Within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT):

- the system of trade in services which will be the subject of negotiation during the next round should be given special attention by Africa;

- an important place should immediately be given to the question of agricultural products, within this institution;

- Africa should demand preferential systems for African agricultural products without prejudice to the preferences enjoyed by all African States which have cooperation agreements with the European Economic Community (EEC).

d) Institutions covering food and agriculture development support sectors

UNIDO should intensify its efforts to ensure increased mobilization of resources for the attainment of the objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

UNIDO should particularly be required to assist African States to immediately establish industries with forward and backward linkages to agriculture production process.

In the field of Transport and Communications, in order to facilitate transportation and marketing of agricultural inputs and produce, approach should be made to the donor countries and international financial institutions so that they provide financial and technical support for the realization of the programmes of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. Special attention should be given to landlocked countries.

e) South-South cooperation

Africa should mobilize the groupings of which it is a member (Group of 77, Non-Aligned Movement) so that its concern can be taken into consideration and adequate support given for the attainment of its objectives.

Besides, Africa should take advantage of all the facilities offered by South-South cooperation especially through an active participation in joint projects accepted within the context of this cooperation: establishment of a Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries (GSTP) multi-sectoral information network, South Bank, etc...

f) General Assembly

The convening of a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's critical economic situation should offer an opportunity to raise Africa's entire economic problems and to mobilize the international community through an integrated approach for necessary effort to be made to ensure the economic recovery of Africa.

III. FOLLOW-UP MEASURES AND MECHANISMS

111. The establishment of a common platform for action requires the adoption of measures and setting up follow-up mechanisms at national, sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels.

a) At national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels

- establishment or strengthening of a national mechanism in charge of preparing and following up sub-regional, regional, continental and international conferences;
- taking into account at national level the common objectives defined at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional and continental plans;
- use of existing regional economic groupings and encouragements for their creation where these do not exist;
- rationalization and revitalization of existing instruments of cooperation for a judicious utilization of financial and human resources notably by setting-up realistic objectives;
- establishment or strengthening of sub-regional or regional mechanisms on the initiatives of the sub-regional or regional groupings on the basis of a sectoral division of labour for follow-up or any other basis to be agreed upon by the sub-regional or regional groupings or by the Member States of the region;
- promotion of cooperation between the regions particularly through the conclusion of agreements in the area of common interest.

b) At continental level

I. Establishment of a high level permanent machinery, operating as a Steering Committee, which will be responsible for:

- follow-up of decisions of the Twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Economic Matters and monitoring of the implementation of the Declaration on this Priority Programme and Resolutions of the Twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa.
- paying permanent attention to issues concerning the economic development of Africa;
- assisting in defining and coordinating the positions of the Member States in the preparation of the major international negotiations and within the major international institutions;
- any other issue submitted to it by the Current Chairman of the OAU or the Council of Ministers.

The Committee will be convened by the Current Chairman or the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Committee shall submit an annual report to the Council of Ministers.

The Steering Committee is composed up to the Twenty-second Assembly of Heads of State and Government, by the following Member States: Algeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, to which the Member States of the Bureau of the Twenty-first Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government are added.

Starting from the Twenty-second Assembly of Heads of State and Government the Member States of the outgoing and incumbent Bureau will constitute the Steering Committee.

The Committee will benefit from technical support from the OAU Secretariat in close collaboration with the ECA Secretariat. It should use as much as possible the services of African Experts.

ii. Improvement in OAU's facilities for taking action in the economic field, particularly the strengthening of its Economic Development and Cooperation Department and improvement in its logistics. In this connection, African States should endeavour to place highly qualified personnel at the disposal of OAU.

IV. THE EFFECTS OF THE DESTABILIZATION POLICY OF THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ECONOMIES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES

112. The policy of economic and military destabilization by the South African racist minority regime on the Southern African States, members of the Organization of African Unity, constitutes one of the biggest challenges to the international community, particularly the African countries. Acts of destabilization by the *Apartheid* regime have intensified in recent years with critical and far-reaching consequences for the economies of the independent Southern African States.

These consequences include:

- a) loss of human life, livestock and property;
- b) the disruption of economic production and the destruction of infrastructure;
- c) the diversion of resources required for economic development additional defence spending and repairing the war damage;
- d) the disruption of the supply and transportation of essential goods and raw materials;
- e) lost economic growth; and
- f) the creation of a stream of refugees and displaced persons.

113. In reaffirming their support for and solidarity with the Southern African States and the liberation movements, African States call for the following measures:

a) At national level

Member States are urged to:

- i. redouble their support for the liberation movements, especially by paying up their contributions to the Liberation Committee Fund and providing other forms of assistance, including training facilities;
- ii. render financial and material assistance to each Southern African State in order to help them meet the heavy cost of destabilization;
- iii. give financial and technical assistance support to SADCC programmes and projects.

b) At the sub-regional, regional and continental levels

- i. the OAU and ECA Secretariats, the African and international economic organizations and agencies should liaise with SADCC to determine the areas where their support is required;
- ii. the African Development Bank Group should intensify its activities in the Southern African States by committing more resources to the region especially on soft terms and by mobilising non-bank resources in order to support their programme implemented both at national and regional levels.

c) At the international level

At international fora, African States should take every opportunity to impress upon the international community that the ending of *Apartheid* and the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist *Apartheid* regime is the concern of all humanity, and should urge:

- i. all countries and agencies to render financial and material assistance to the Southern African States to help them counter the effects of destabilization on their economies, including assistance to enable them to strengthen their defence capabilities;
- ii. the government of industrialized countries, international and national financial institutions and transnational corporations to apply effective economic sanctions against South Africa and increase their loans to Southern African States;
- iii. the international community to render appropriate and effective financial, material and technical assistance to the independent states of Southern Africa in order to minimize the effects on these countries of sanctions against South Africa.

III. 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.

Recalling its decision, in Resolution AHG/Res.132 (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 for 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 cooperation projects and programmes;
3. *Invites* regional economic groupings to extend, on the basis of their respective experiences, cooperation among the Member States through the conclusion of agreements in the priority areas of common interest such as food and agriculture, transport and communications, 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 programme for the economic recovery of Africa (1986-1990);

– considering any other matters that may be referred to it by the Current Chairman on the Council of Ministers;

– coordinating 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 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 cooperation 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 D.C., 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 centres;

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.

IV. RESOLUTION ON THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA

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,

Recalling its Resolution AHG/Res.133 (XX) by which it established the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa,

Taking note of Resolutions CM/Res.962 (XLI) and CM/Res.1006 (XLII) by which the Council of Ministers set up the operational and administrative arrangements for the immediate commencement of the operation of the Special Fund,

Having considered the text of the Draft Statute of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund - for Drought and Famine in Africa contained in Document CM/1335 (XLII) Annex I:

1. *Adopts* the Statute of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa;
2. *Expresses appreciation* to all the Member States and non-African Governments which have made or pledged contributions to the Special Fund;
3. *Appeals* to other Member States, African institutions, as well as non-African Governments and institutions to contribute generously to the Special Fund for the effective amelioration of drought and famine in Africa;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publicise the existence of the Fund as widely as possible, and to make periodic progress reports on its status to the Council of Ministers.

1985-07-18

Declaration on the Economic situation in Africa adopted by the Twenty First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organizations of African Unity

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