

YAOUNDE DECLARATION ON POLIO ERADICATION IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in our Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July 1996,

Bearing in mind Declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXIII) on Health, Basis of Development" adopted by our Twenty-Third Session in Addis Ababa,

Recalling the major Resolutions adopted and/or endorsed by our Assembly, particularly, Resolutions :

-AHG/Res. 63 (XXIII) on Universal Immunization in Africa;

-CM/Res. 1230 (L) on the strategies of the Decade of the African Child (1990 - 2,000);

-CM/Res. 1290 (LII) and CM/Res. 1360 (LIV) on the implementation of the Decade for the Survival, Protection and Development of the African Child,

Reaffirming the Plan of Action for the implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children held in New York in September 1990,

Recognizing the seriousness of the Poliomyelitis situation as evidenced by the large number of Children affected by the virus in Africa and also by the fact that this disease continues to seriously undermine health and development efforts deployed towards the implementation of programmes and projects aimed at the survival, protection and development of the African child; a guarantee for the future of the Continent,

Acknowledging the invaluable technical and financial contribution

provided to Member States of our Organization by all its partners especially Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (USA), IGOs and NGOs from the USA, EU member countries, Nordic countries and, Japan, in their efforts to eradicate poliomyelitis.

Mindful of the current growing global movement for the eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2,000 as adopted in 1988 by the Forty-Fifth Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly:

1.COMMIT OURSELVES to :

- eradicate poliomyelitis in Africa as an urgent priority and confirm our strong determination to make Africa free of poliomyelitis;
- fully support the implementation of the strategies recommended by the World Health Organization, including national immunization days;
- allocate adequate human, financial and material resources, and mobilize other local resources including resources from non-governmental and the private sector, for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;
- mobilize additional external resources from international agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other partners including private foundations, in support of poliomyelitis eradication activities in Africa;

AHG/Decl.1(XXXII)

Page 3

2.CALL UPON all Member States to take immediate and concrete steps to :

i)urgently address the problem of poliomyelitis;

ii)give their full political support to actions aimed at preventing and eradicating poliomyelitis as a matter of top priority, and

mobilize all national, local, traditional and religious leaders for the fight against poliomyelitis through vaccination and the provision of adequate local and external resources;

iii)develop mechanisms that will facilitate and ensure inter-sectorial and inter-country collaboration and coordination, as well as integration with other relevant health-related programmes for the long-term control of poliomyelitis;

iv)request the high-level Committee set up by the WHO Regional Directors for Africa, and Eastern Mediterranean region to speed up the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;

3.MANDATE the Ministries of Health of OAU Member States in collaboration with other relevant sectors of Government to ensure that effective polio eradication strategies and activities recommended by the World Health Organization are included in the strategic Plans of Action of their national immunization programmes and appropriately implemented;

4.WELCOME

**-the establishment by the WHO Regional Directors for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Region of a high-level Committee for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;
AHG/Decl.1 (XXXII)
Page 4**

-the tremendous efforts deployed by WHO, Rotary International, UNICEF, USAID, Centres for Disease Control (USA), other international agencies, government and non-governmental organizations as well as other partners, to provide OAU Member States with the necessary technical, logistical and financial support for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;

5.REQUEST WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, USAID and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations to step up their financial assistance and strengthen their input in favour of OAU Member States in order to mitigate the overwhelming health, social

and economic consequences of poliomyelitis;

6.INVITE Government and other partners including multilateral and bilateral agencies to participate in the efforts deployed to eradicate poliomyelitis in Africa by the year 2,000;

7.MANDATE the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to submit a progress report every year on the implementation of the present Declaration and ensure the implementation and evaluation of the Appeal for Action in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and other relevant Agencies.

**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT
Thirty-Second Ordinary Session
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AHG/Decl.1 - 4 (XXXII)
AHG/Decision 119 (XXXII)

DECLARATIONS AND DECISION

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