



**ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT**
Thirty-first Ordinary Session
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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AHG/Decl. 1-2 (XXXI)
AHG/Res.234-246 (XXXI)

**DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-
FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

DECLARATION ON THE AFRICAN PLAN OF ACTION
CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN AFRICA
IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY HEALTH

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in our Thirty First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Recalling paragraph 321 dealing with Health, Nutrition and Family Life of Chapter XII on Women and Development of Lagos Plan of Action and the provisions therein,

Considering Chapter XIII of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community which relates to human resources, social affairs, health and population including women and development,

Recalling further Articles 13(3) and 19 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and also the provisions therein,

Reaffirming the provisions of the Dakar Platform of Action and the Decisions of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994,

Appreciating the efforts of the Ministers of Health in formulating the African Plan of Action during the 5th Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health, held in Cairo, Egypt, 24 to 29 April 1995,

Aware that African Women produce over 70% of the food crops in many parts of the Continent and **convinced** that women's empowerment is the key to development:

1. **CONSIDER** that despite their important contributions to African development, women are the first to suffer from the effects of economic recession, conflict, natural and man-made disasters;

2. **RECOGNIZE** that when the African Women remain the most vulnerable, the least educated and the least healthy, the prospect of Africa's economic and human development is in jeopardy;
3. **REALIZE** that when communities and nations share the sufferings of the women who sustain them;
4. **REAFFIRM** that there is both economic value and social justice in investing in the improvement of health of African women;
5. **THEREFORE DECLARE** our total commitment to implementing the activities enumerated in the attached African Plan of Action and **CALL UPON** the competent Sectors in our various states, Non-Governmental Organizations, and our partners in Health Development, to initiate and/or enhance the implementation of these activities in their respective areas of jurisdiction to ensure the attainment of the goal for improved health for the African Women.
6. **FURTHER CALL UPON** Member States to provide enabling environment for women to be involved in decision making process.

PLAN OF ACTION

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
Childhood (0 – 10 years)	All Childhood problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mobilize political will and public commitment to ensure compliance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. * Where appropriate, create task force or other body to monitor implementation of National Plans/Programmes of Action following up on World Summit for Children and International Conference for Assistance to African Children.
	Discrimination in	* Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
	access to food, education and health care (son preference)	<p>and gender sensitization of community members.</p> <p>Outreach by health workers to ensure equal coverage for girl children by health services (eg for immunization, ORT, basic curative care).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * School feeding programmes, where feasible. * Compulsory education and/or affirmative action policies in schools preferential admission for female students.
	Excessive workload for girls (household tasks, including care of siblings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promotion of labour-saving devices to reduce workload of women and their daughters. * IEC to modify socialization and childbearing practices with regard to boys, and encourage male involvement in household tasks (including child care).
	Mutilation of the sexual organ of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Legislation to prohibit the practice. * Community education on health consequences of FGM. * Culturally appropriate/sensitive IEC to combat the practice. * Promotion of alternative sources of income for practitioner of FGM (eg, Traditional Birth attendants (TBAs).
	Child labour and prostitution and other forms of exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Legislation to project children's rights, including laws prohibiting child labour, and enforcement and monitoring of those laws. * IEC for community members. * Promote educational opportunities for girls (as above).
	Child abuse, including sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Enactment of protective legislation, and enforcement and monitoring of laws. * Adequate punishment of perpetrators. * IEC/Community mobilization to recognize and combat the practice. * Education/training for health workers to recognize and respond to signs of abuse. * IEC/education to encourage parents to spend more time with their children. * Encourage the existing and new associations and

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
		societies to protect children and women.
Adolescence (10 – 15 years)	Early sexual activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish minimum legal age at marriage (where necessary) and enforce/monitor legislation. * Compulsory and free schooling for girls. * Punish sexual exploitation of young adolescents. * IEC for community (including men) on health and socio-economic consequences of early pregnancy. * IEC for adolescents. * Use positive messages, promote alternatives to early sexual activity. * Address specific knowledge gaps (based on research findings). * Sex education, starting at appropriate age (before sexual activity is initiated). * Train teachers to improve their knowledge and communication skills. * Produce educational materials specifically targeted for adolescents; * Target out-of-school youth. * Integrate with moral/religious teaching. * Use traditional channels of information (eg. Aunties, grandmothers, etc) and revive traditional sanctions against early sexual activity; * Education/training for parents to improve communication skills for talking with teens.
	Early and unwanted pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Family life/sex education (see above). * Ensure access and improve quality of family planning services. * Identify medical and social barriers to be addressed (eg ensure confidentiality at FP clinics, sensitize health/family planning workers to needs of adolescents). * Design and implement service delivery programmes specifically for adolescents. * Train health workers in the management of medically indicated abortion according to legislation of concerned countries. Establish/strengthen

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
		<p>community-level education, training and income-generating opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rehabilitation for school drop-outs, including continuation of schooling. * Establish/expand peer support and counseling programmes.
	<p>Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs) including AIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Family life/sex education (see above), including counseling. * Ensure access to services for detection and treatment: * Eliminate medical and social barriers. * Outreach through youth groups, schools, etc. * Provision of preventive methods (condom) for those at risk.
	<p>Vesico-vaginal and recto-vaginal fistulae</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Same as for “early and unwanted pregnancy” (see above). * Promote delivery in health institutions for young mothers (under age 18, and especially under 16). * Provide access to rehabilitative services (surgery).
	<p>Malnutrition (including anaemic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Nutrition, education, for adolescents and parents/community.
<p>Reproductive Ages (15 – 49 years)</p>	<p>STD and RTIs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Educate women on preventive behaviour and recognition of signs of STDs/RTIs. * Train health workers in detection and treatment. * Educate community on dangers of traditional practices that put them at risk. * Development community guidelines for education and counseling, involve range of health and community leaders, including TBAs and traditional healers. * Encourage cooperation of men regarding prevention of RTIs and STDS. * Screen clients for risk factors before proposing contraceptive method, select most appropriate (eg no IUCD women with STD/RTI). * Establish “well-women clinics” offering comprehensive reproductive health services

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
		(antenatal, family planning, post-partum, treatment of infertility, STD/RTIs) to help avoid the stigmatization of STD clinics.
	HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hold special National Congress to develop strategies for dealing with HIV/AIDS using the Dakar and Tunis Declaration and the Cairo Guidelines for Action. * Educate public on dangers of practices that put them at risk of HIV infection. * Sensitize communities on how to support HIV-positive women. * Educate men regarding HIV transmission, and encourage use of condom. * Use traditional fold media to reach people and elicit feedback. * Continue research (ie why high rate of condom breakage in Africa? New trends of transmission?) * Encourage community responsibility and involvement, parents as role models, peer group counselling.
	Maternal mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prevention of STDs and RTIs, as above. * Improve post-natal health services; * Educate communities regarding causes and treatment of infertility. * Set clear objectives for action, ie link research findings with clinical services and activists groups. * Change focus of discussion from “causes” of maternal mortality to operational research and prevention. * Establish task forces at country and regional level to follow-up action; * Design action programmes that respond to regional variations. * Promote greater community involvement using available structures (women’s groups) and channels (TBAs).
Reproductive		* Carry out comprehensive Safe Motherhood IEC.

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
ages (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote recognition of safe motherhood as a human rights issue throughout a woman's life span; * Use mass media to create public awareness of importance of Safe Motherhood. * Conduct community-based health education targeting women, families, and communities to promote appropriate health behaviour (especially recognition of signs of pregnancy-related complications). * Promote community involvement in dealing with obstetric emergencies (eg transport and communication, blood donation, etc). * Provide comprehensive, high-quality maternal health services, * Training of health workers, especially midwives and TBAs, in clinical and inter-personal skills to improve the quality of existing services; * Ensure linkages between various levels of the health system in terms of monitoring, supervision, reporting (especially for TBAs). * Develop treatment guidelines or protocols for the management of maternal complications. * Provide adequate equipment and supplies for preventive, diagnostic and curative service.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Incorporate concept of Safe Motherhood into pre-service teaching curricula for health personnel. * Strengthen national and regional training institutions to increase their trainers, and target women in particular for training in research and clinical services provision. * Review existing policies regarding distribution/location of health facilities and personnel to ensure adequate coverage and accessibility of maternal health services. * Improve the utilization of documentation for monitoring and evaluating programmatic progress.
(Reproductive ages)	Severe malaria illness and all consequences of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Health education to mothers that women during pregnancy are at increase from malaria infection

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
	<p>anemia, low birth weight and risk of infant and maternal mortality.</p>	<p>with serious negative outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strategies which include preventions of infections such as the use of insecticide impregnated bednets and regular chemoprophylaxis should be incorporated in malaria control programmes. * Early diagnosis and treatment.
(Reproductive ages cont.)	<p>Unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Take advantage of “missed opportunities” to provide family planning; ie maternity wards, outpatient departments. * Access to all women, including unmarried women, adolescents, etc. * Identify and ease barriers to family planning, ie unnecessary requirements, economic, etc, according to legislation. * Integrate health care for aborted cases medically indicated in strategies of Safe Motherhood. * Consider establishment of multi-disciplinary “Safe motherhood initiative” task forces. * Train medical staff in modern reproduction health care services. * Provide post-abortion health care services in appropriate locations (eg gynecological wards).
	<p>Reproductive health and sexuality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Improve understanding of women’ sexuality. * Train/educate health providers to understand the personal needs and constraints of each client as a means to improve the quality of services. * Improve male sensitivity to women’s sexual needs, facilitate communication. * Carry out research to identify the predominant norms, values and socio-economic determinants affecting sexual decisions, risk perception, reproductive health seeking behaviours.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Improve reproductive health technology. * Conduct research into the cause of infertility, including socio-cultural factors, in concert with contraceptive methods research.
	<p>Cancers (cervix, breast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Educate women on importance of screening and

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
	and uterus)	<p>identification of symptoms for early detection and treatment of disease, involve women's groups in promoting compliance with regular screening at appropriate intervals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Train and educate health workers in clinical and interpersonal skills; importance of screening, identification of symptoms, and counseling. * Provide drugs for pain control. * Develop national screening programmes, including mechanisms for monitoring coverage such as the use of women's health cards and a national database.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Target screening efforts to high risk group, ie prostitutes and older women for cervical cancer. * Develop protocols for recommended age at first screening and frequency. * Establish/strengthen capacity for management of early lesions, where feasible. * Research the development of lower-cost treatment options. * Create regional centers for laboratory diagnosis and/or treatment of cancers.
Menopause (45 – 59 years)	Problems of menopause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Education/IEC for both women and men on. * Symptoms of menopause and explanation of the process. * Recognition of danger signs that are not related to menopause (eg neoplasm's). * Training of health workers to recognize menopause and counsel women.
Elderly (60+)	Cancers Genital prolepses Nutritional deficiencies, including osteoporosis disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * See "Reproductive ages" above. * Train health workers to recognize and manage health problems of elderly. * Strengthen social support systems, including: facilities to provide care for or accommodation for elderly; or family and community assistance for disabled elderly. * Health education/IEC for elderly on: Adequate nutrition (including calcium), and maintenance of

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
		exercise/mobility.
All Ages	Mental disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prevention of mental disorders. * Establish and promote women’s support groups. * Address causes of mental stress (social discrimination and low status, workload, marital problems, substances abuse, violence, etc) through counselling and other appropriate means. * Improve existing services. * Decentralize treatment centers. * Recruit/train additional staff. * Subsidize cost of drugs for treatment. * Educate, sensitize and train all health personnel regarding symptoms and treatment of mental disorders, through both pre-service and in-service training programme. * Develop alternative community-based approached to treatment. * Coordinate with other professions (eg social workers). * IEC to designative mental health problems.
All age groups	Risk of malarial infection that may lead to uncomplicated to severe malaria depending on the level of immunity and transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Health education on the recognition of the disease by women to take prevention measures and seek medical care. * Early diagnosis and treatment and compliance of complete treatment.
	Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Enactment of protective legislation and enforcement and monitoring of laws. * Adequate punishment of perpetrators. * IEC/Community mobilization to recognize and combat violence, including. * Counseling and education for men. * Campaign against substance abuse. * Train health workers to recognize and respond to problems, including. * Referral to STD services, counseling, and legal

LIFE STAGES	RELATED PROBLEMS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
		<p>advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Humane and sympathetic treatment of victims of violence. * Collection of evidence, as appropriate. * Establish linkages with legal system and women's groups (for support/counseling).
	Occupational and environmental hazards (indoor and outdoor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop/define an overall policy. * Detection and management of environment toxins. * Train health workers to recognize symptoms. * IEC for the community to reduce or eliminate environmental hazards, taking into account traditional practices. * Promote the development and use of appropriate technologies.
	Promotion of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote women, as much as possible, to decision making positions.

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**ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON THE DAKAR AFRICAN
PLATFORM FOR ACTION ON WOMEN**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in our Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 – 28 June, 1995,

Having undertaken a critical review of the Dakar African Platform for Action: Africa's common position for the advancement of women, in the light of the grave concern for the overall peaceful, political, social and economic development of our continent,

Committed to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the

International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as well as the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and all other conventions, declarations and resolutions relating to affirmative actions to improve the status of African women,

Guided by the relevant provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, in particular Article 75 on Women and Development, and the primary objectives of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000 as a framework for action to promote greater opportunity for women based on the principles of Equality, Development and Peace,

Noting with satisfaction that the African Platform for Action is a positive synthesis of our national perspectives and priorities which provides an indispensable Women and Development strategy for committed and concerted action at the national, sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels for the accelerated achievement of our development targets in the 1990s and beyond,

Reaffirming that the implementation of the African Platform for Action and the objectives of the Cairo Agenda for Action on Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development is the Primary responsibility of African governments and peoples,

Gravely concerned that the situation of our Continent remains precarious in spite of the courageous reforms instituted by our States in both the political and economic fields to achieve self-reliant and human-centred sustainable development based on social justice and collective self-reliance,

Conscious that the commitment to promote popular participation cannot be realized without the total and active participation of women, who actually make up over half of the population,

Appreciative of the vital and crucial role of women in an interdependent world:

- 1. AFFIRM our collective conviction that freedom, justice, peace, equality, and dignity are legitimate aspirations of the African women in their right to be effective partners in all spheres of human endeavour for the development, progress and peaceful evolution of our continent;**
- 2. ARE CONVINCED that in spite of our individual and collective efforts towards the peaceful resolution of all conflicts and civil strife on our continent; as well as our commitment to the democratic process of our societies, there are however still some critical areas of concern in the development spectrum that call for urgent action to promote the role of African Women and their full participation in development and involvement in the peace process;**
- 3. CALL for immediate consideration of all the critical areas of concern as stipulated in the African Platform for Action for Women; namely**
 - a. Women's poverty, insufficient food security and lack of economic empowerment;**
 - b. Inadequate access to education, training, science and technology;**
 - c. Women's vital role in culture, the family and socialization;**
 - d. Improvement of women's health including family planning and population-related programmes;**
 - e. Women's relationship and linkages to environment and natural resource management;**
 - f. Involvement of women in the peace process;**
 - g. The political empowerment of women;**

- h. Women's legal and human rights;**
 - i. Mainstreaming of gender-disaggregated data;**
 - j. Women, communication, information and arts;**
 - k. The girl-child.**
- 4. STRONGLY resolved to chart a future based on equality, development and peace, and declare our solemn commitment to the principles, objectives and priorities enshrined in African Platform for Action.**
 - 5. CALL for regional and international cooperation and solidarity in order to transform the present inequitable systems and commit ourselves to work in concert by reactivating South-South and North-South dialogue, so as to institute together a more equitable international system which should also promote the advancement of the African women.**
 - 6. RENEW our gratitude to donor countries, the United Nations and other International Organizations including Non-Governmental Organizations for the invaluable assistance they provided to African countries in the preparation and organization of the Fifth Regional Conference on African women, and we appeal to them to increase their technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the Platform.**
 - 7. EXPRESS our gratitude to the Government and people of Senegal for having accepted to host the African Regional Conference on Women in Dakar from 11 to 23 November, 1994.**
 - 8. INVITE the Secretary-General of our Organization in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the President of the African Development Bank to closely monitor the implementation of the Platform and to submit periodic reports thereon to the Council of Ministers and to our Conference.**

9. **HEREBY endorse the Dakar Platform for Action on Women, and affirm that it constitutes the ideal framework for the effective promotion and advancement of African Women.**

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**RESOLUTION ON MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR
AFRICA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Recalling the Cairo Agenda of Action for Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development adopted by the Seventeenth Extra-ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers meeting in Cairo from 26 to 28 March, 1995,

Recalling also the General Assembly Resolution 46/151 of 1990 which adopted the United Nations New Agenda for Africa's Development in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) and in particular the call for increased concessional flows to Africa (par 29),

Mindful of the fact that concessional flows are of crucial importance in rebuilding Africa's economic and social infrastructure and in developing her human resources for her development,

Aware of the fact that the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, the African Development Fund (ADF) of the ADB, and the European Development Fund (EDF), within the framework of the current review of the Lome IV Convention as well as other multilateral and bilateral concessional flows play an important role in Africa's development, particularly for financing health, education, infrastructure, food security and other vital areas crucial to Africa's long-term development,

Noting that the donors are currently considering the Eleventh Replenishment of the IDA, the VII ADF and the 8th EDF,

Noting with concern that agreements for the level of VI Replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF), the soft loan window of the ADB and the 8th EDF, have not yet been finalized,

Fully aware of the close inter-relationship between development and the reduction of social conflict and human suffering and of the need to support Africa's own efforts to meet the dual challenge of political and economic transformation:

- 1. URGES the donor community to increase the level of the Eleventh Replenishment of IDA, the 7th, ADF and the V EDF in order to maintain the momentum and pace of development in Africa and to consolidate the hard-won gains already made;**
- 2. FURTHER URGES the donor community to implement fully the commitments entered into in UN-NADAF to increase concessional flows and to ensure their**

growth by 4% annually from the level of US\$30 billion estimated as minimum requirements for 1992;

- 3. URGES Member States to participate at Ministerial Level in the forthcoming High Level segment of ECOSOC which will consider *inter-alia* economic and social development in Africa, particularly the implementation of UN-NADAF;**
- 4. INVITES the Current Chairman to approach all major donors and plead Africa's case for increased concessional resources, particularly for the Eleventh Replenishment of IDA, the 7th ADF and the EDF;**
- 5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU to communicate this Resolution to all donors and International Financial Institutions and to sensitize African representatives in these for a to ensure coordinated African action.**

**RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Reaffirming its adherence to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the OAU and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the entry into forces on 12 May, 1994 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and the new responsibilities arising therefrom for the Member States as well as for the General Secretariat of the OAU,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on the African Economic Community, namely, Resolutions AHG/Res.161 (XXIII), AHG/Res.179 (XXV), AHG/Res.190 (XXVI), AHG/Res.205 (XXVII), AHG/Res.206 (XXVIII), AHG/Res.218 (XXIX) and AHG/Res.231 (XXX),

Noting with satisfaction the working relations existing between the General Secretariat of the OAU, the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its determination and commitment to implement the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community:

1. INVITES Member States which have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty, thereby joining hands with the other Member States in the integration process of the Continent;

RELAUNCHING AFRICA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
THE CAIRO AGENDA FOR ACTION

I. PREAMBLE

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 26th to 28th of June, 1995, have undertaken an in-depth and critical review of the political, economic and social situation in our continent, as presented in the Report of the Secretary-General to the Special Session of the Council of Ministers on Economic and Social Issues in African Development.

2. Since the beginning of the 1990s, changes have occurred in the world, particularly in the political, economic and social arena. These include a growing tendency, especially in the developed countries to establish, strengthen and enlarge economic groupings in the form of trading blocs such as the Single European Market; the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Agreements, the establishment of the World Trade Organization; and the further advances in information science and production technology. These developments have been buttressed by the dominance of the free market economic system based on competition, efficiency and productivity. These criteria have emphasized in both the bilateral and multilateral conditionalities of the Structural Adjustment Programmes. Consequently, Africa must take new steps to ensure that it becomes an active partner in the world economic system. In this regard, Africa must adopt a new vision for its development and translate this vision into appropriate programmes. This approach will place Africa in a position to fully participate, as a credible partner, in the world system. In this new spirit, Africa will be able to promote its fundamental interests and concerns.

3. For many years, we have adopted at the national, regional and continental levels many plans, strategies and programmes for the development of our countries, individually and collectively. Unfortunately, these plans and programmes were not adequately implemented

by the majority of our countries and in some cases were completely paralysed and jeopardized by incessant civil strife and natural calamities. To rectify this situation, African countries must take effective measures within specified time frame to ensure the satisfactory implementation and follow-up of decisions that we have made for the development of the continent. In this context, people should be the center and object of development of our continent. To this end, governments should ensure the environment of the people in the conception, implementation and monitoring of development plans, programmes and projects. Special attention should be paid to the full involvement of women in the social and economic development efforts. We should make all efforts to attract and retain African expertise and reverse the “brain drain” from our countries.

4. At the international level, numerous plans and programmes have been adopted by the UN General Assembly and other for a with the expressed intention of providing greater support for the development of Africa. Unfortunately, the achievements in this area have been unsatisfactory due particularly to the lack of adequate external resources.

5. We are deeply concerned that the socio-economic situation in Africa has remained precarious despite the many efforts made by our countries, individually and collectively, to lay a solid foundation for Africa’s development. In all these endeavours, we have been guided by the principle of collective self-reliance in order to achieve self-sustaining development of our countries. We reaffirm our commitment to this principle.

6. These and other recent developments have prompted us to meet in Cairo in an Extra-Ordinary Session. It is an opportune occasion to seriously review, analyze and reassess the root causes of economic and social problems with a view to recommending remedial measures and lasting solutions that should be taken by African governments and peoples, with the support of the international community.

7. In assessing these problems, we are convinced that Africa’s underdevelopment can be overcome. Africa is a resilient continent. Indeed, Africa is a continent in transition. It has immense human and natural resources. With a strong will, more determination, planning and vision, we can make Africa an economic power that it ought to be.

8. We reaffirm that Africa's development is first and foremost the responsibility of our governments and peoples. We are determined to lay a firm foundation for a human-centred, equitable and sustainable development on the basis of sound economic policies, social justice and collective self-reliance, in order to achieve accelerated structural transformation of our economies.

9. On the basis of the above considerations, while reaffirming our commitment to the Lagos Plan of Action, we have adopted The Cairo Agenda for Action which offers recommendations for consideration and action by our governments and peoples, as well as by the international community for relaunching Africa's economic and social development.

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Annex

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II. WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OURSELVES

Democracy, Governance, Peace, Security, Stability and Sustainable Development

10. We recognize and resolve that democracy, good governance, peace, security, stability and justice are among the most essential factors in African socio-economic development. Without democracy and peace, development is not possible; and, without development, peace is not durable. In this regard, we recall the relevance of the Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU of 11 July, 1990 on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World. We, are therefore committed to take the following actions:

- a. launch programmes to promote national unity especially through the politics of inclusion and a culture of tolerance among the various segments of our people and among the countries of Africa, based on the principles of respect of human rights and dignity, free and fair elections, as well as respect of the freedom of the press, speech, association and conscience,

- b. ensure the speedy promotion of good governance, characterized by accountability, probity, transparency, equal application of the rule of law, and a clear separation of powers, as an objective and a condition for rapid and sustainable development in African societies. A policy of regionalization and decentralization is essential for ensuring the full participation of all the people, particularly the rural population at the grass-roots level, in their own development, and for promoting a feeling of belonging;**
- c. it is essential to clearly define the role of government and the private sector in development. Governments should make special efforts to encourage the participation of the private sector in the development process;**
- d. take measures for the eradication of the root causes of refugees and displaced persons in our continent as well as for their speedy return and re-settlement in their countries of origin and expediting the search for lasting solutions to this problem of refugees;**
- e. give the maximum political and financial support to the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, for its effective peace-making operations, by involving all segments of the population and mobilizing adequate official and private resources for the OAU Peace Fund.**

Food security

11. Africa is essentially an agricultural and pastoral continent. Yet, food and agricultural output has declined substantially since the 1960s. Consequently, most of our countries are net food importers. While civil strife, drought, desertification and other environmental factors have contributed to the decline in food production, policies which did not give enough attention to food crops are an important part of the explanation.

12. An improvement in agricultural performance is required to provide food supplies essential to raising nutritional standards and to feeding the rapidly growing population without excessive dependence on external sources. The benefits of economic growth should

be expanded to the whole population particularly in the rural areas where poverty is more pronounced. In this regard:

- a. agricultural promotion should not be excessively centred on traditional export commodities. Food corps, especially those produce and/or consumed by poor people should be given special attention;
- b. appropriate measures should also be made to develop and extend livestock and fisheries as part of the overall food security strategy and the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1993 – 2003);
- c. efficient and standardized means of stock-piling of surplus food should be devised for use in times of famine, drought and other hardships;
- d. appropriate means should be made for the national management of the water resources and the preservation of water against pollution;
- e. reforestation programmes should be vigorously pursued as a means of checking the rate of desertification of arable lands and preserving their fertility.
- f. current initiatives to formulate a framework for the development and operationalization of a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) should be finalized as soon as possible.

Capacity Building and Human Resources Development

13. The development of human resources is fundamental to the sustainable and equitable development of Africa. The primacy of human resources development must therefore be maintained in all African Member States economic and social policies. In this connection, the educational and training system which remain the key to economic and social development should be adapted to the needs of our societies, with emphasis on technical, scientific and technological education, thereby ensuring that education and training are commensurate with the exigencies of the labour market. Priority focus should be given to increasing Africa's capacity to implement its development plans. Human resource development also entails the

elimination of gender based discrimination. Necessary legislation needs to be passed at national level to remove all such discriminatory practices that exist to provide for the protection of the girl child and women in Africa while extending to them equal opportunities as regards health, education, employment and other civic rights. In the same vein the situation of children should be seriously addressed in compliance with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as well as the Consensus of Dakar.

14. Member States should give priority in their development programmes to the basic needs of the people by developing appropriate infrastructure (such as rural roads, potable water supply ...), meeting basic food requirements, providing primary health services, education and skills and generating productive and remunerative employment opportunities as a means of eradicating poverty. African countries should endeavour to implement the African Common Position on Human and Social Development; the OAU Declaration of 1991 on the Employment Crisis in Africa; the Dakar/NGOR Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development; the Programme of Action of the ICPD (10994); the Plan of Action for the Promotion of Cultural Industries (1992); the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government on Health as a Basis for Development (1987); as well as the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development (1995). African countries should also endeavour to protect their cultural heritage as provided for in the African Cultural Charter (1976).

15. Africa's low science and technology base is highly inadequate for the requirements of modern development processes such as agriculture, health, etc. There is therefore an urgent need to build up and strengthen Africa's capacity in the field of science and technology, if Africa is to be efficient and competitive in its production and thus participate in the increased flows of advanced technologies and globalization of production processes. African governments are therefore called upon to:

- a. give high priority to building national and regional capacities in the area of science and technology as the basis and means for all development activities and hence create conditions for more vigorous adaptation and application of science and technology for sustainable development. Each Member State should therefore devote a minimum of one percent of its GDP to the development of science and technology and foster cooperating between national**

and regional institutions. Special attention should be given to the strengthening of the existing centers of excellence and other specialized technical institutions;

- b. formulate effective national policies for education and training in science and technology for development, with emphasis on liberalization of technology flows, including advanced technologies and the promotion of indigenous technologies. To this end, African experts should be encouraged to remain in Africa and contribute to its developments;

Structural Transformation of African Economies

Industrialization

16. Industrialization is of great importance as we move into the 21st century. Industrial development is central to structural change and transformation of African economies, to the increase in incomes and employment, to the diversification of our exports and to the satisfaction of needs of the African peoples. African industrialization is still at a rudimentary stage, with outmoded processes and low technology input and high operating costs. In this connection, African governments are called upon to give priority attention to the following:

- a. the formulation of a programme for industrial restructuring, recognizing the changing world economy, in particular the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements, globalization of production processes, and the need for Africa to be competitive, if it is to participate in the world economy;
- b. the effective implementation of the Programme for the Second IDDA and strengthening sub-regional and regional institutions that are capable of supporting our efforts in the fields of engineering, technology, management and standardization, and related fields;
- c. the contribution and support of UNIDO to Africa's industrialization will continue to be crucial to our industrial development. The current extraneous attempts to abolish UNIDO and UNCTAD are therefore of serious concern to our countries. We therefore call upon all our Member States to strongly resist

such attempts. In this respect, the international Community is called upon to respect and fully implement commitments made in the Yaounde Declaration adopted by the 5th General Conference of UNIDO.

17. Member States who have not done so should formulate policies and programmes for the development and strengthening of indigenous entrepreneurial capability, with special focus on the establishment of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises so as to develop the industrial middle class which is the engine for sustained development.

Mineral Resources and Energy

18. In order to promote their industrial development, African countries should build and strengthen their capacity for exploration, development and utilization of the continent's abundant energy and mineral resources, and the formulation of effective cooperation policies in this regard. In particular, African countries are called upon to:

- a. promote the exports of high value-added mineral exports;
- b. encourage private sector investment in the extraction and downstream procession of mineral resources;
- c. encourage private sector investment in the extraction and downstream procession of mineral resources;
- d. encourage specialized training in mineral procession technology, mineralogy, and extractive metallurgy, foundry technology, material science and metal fabrication.

19. In Africa, a major hindrance to industrial development is the inadequacy of energy resources. The Secretary-General of the OAU, in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the President of ADB should therefore undertake, urgently, measures for establishing the African Energy Commission, stipulated in the Lagos Plan of Action, taking into account, *inter-alia*, the ADB Study on the African Energy Programme.

Transport and Communications

20. The importance of the transport and communications sector for Africa's development cannot be overemphasized. African countries have in the past accorded priority to this sector in their development plans as a sine qua non for national social and economic development as well as for the integration of regional markets. However, despite the substantial progress made over the past 30 years of concerted efforts by African countries individually and collectively, Africa's transport and communications capacity is still inadequate to support sustainable development. In view of the critical importance of this sector, especially with regard to regional integration, action must be taken immediately in the following areas for the implementation of the Programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II):

- a. undertake reforms of the sector including granting autonomy to the operators and introducing competition in order to improve efficiency;
- b. encourage both private local and foreign investment, with particular attention to expanding services to the rural areas;
- c. organize sub-regional consultations on coordination of airlines operations, as called for in the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy (1988);
- d. make all efforts to complete the missing sections in the Trans-Saharan Highway. To this end, every effort should be made to mobilize the required resources to promote close co-operation and integration across the Sahara;
- e. establish as soon as possible the single bureau of the Trans-African Highways Authorities in order to integrate the African roads network;
- f. establish linkages between our telecommunications systems and RASCOM as well as with the other systems, especially the ARABSAT, in order to participate effectively in the information superhighway;

- g. African countries should sign and ratify the African Maritime Transport Charter so that African policies in all areas connected with International Maritime Transport and Ports are harmonized and coordinated as soon as possible, including the harmonization of maritime legislation and regulations in the Continent.**

Trade

21. The Uruguay Round Agreements will certainly worsen the situation with the erosion of the preference that Africa's exports have been enjoying under the Lome Convention and the Generalized System of Preferences as well as the negative impact of net food imports. In fact, the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements goes beyond trade to cover such issues as technology and investment flows. In recognition of Africa's special handicaps, in particular its commodity-based economy and inadequate capacities for participating and benefiting from the anticipated increases in global trade, technology and investment flows, we call on African governments to take the following actions:

- a. assess the full implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements, including policy, legal and administrative requirements for compliance, as well as the new market access conditions facing the exports individual African countries;**
- b. launch a programme to restructure Africa's export and expand intra-African trade in particular through trade liberalization programmes. Special attention should be given to the development of Tourism in view of its development potential. The RECs should play an increasingly important role in this matter;**
- c. support and effectively utilize AFREXIM BANK. In this connection, we call on the Member States and the Board of Directors of AFREXIM BANK to make it fully operational;**
- d. national banks should also establish innovative instruments to promote trade and development; they should also cooperate among themselves.**

Environment

22. Equally important are the environmental factors in African development. The rate of degradation of Africa's environment and loss of genetic resources and biodiversity threaten the very survival of the peoples of Africa. The rapid population growth, increased poverty, displaced people as a result of conflicts, coupled with frequent droughts, have increased pressure for improved management of the environment. African countries are called upon to give priority to the elaboration of the Protocol on Environment as called for in the Abuja Treaty and establish a national coordinating machinery to ensure integration of environmental issues into national development programmes, as defined in Agenda 21 and the African Common Position in Environment and Development.

Effective Mobilization and Efficient Utilization of Resources

23. Africa faces problems in effective mobilization of both domestic and foreign resources for its development. Domestic resource mobilization and its effective utilization have not been carried out optimally. This resulted in a marked decline in both the volume and productivity of investment in our countries.

- 24. To reverse this situation, African governments should take the following measures:**
- a. create an enabling environment for domestic resource mobilization so as to encourage our people to have more confidence in the economies of our countries, including setting up saving systems built on the basis of population practices and capacities, especially for rural areas;**
 - b. enact specific legislation to enhance the autonomous power of the central banks on monetary policy, including monitoring of credit creation and its allocation; and the supervision and regulation of financial institutions and instruments, so as to ensure and maintain a stable macro-economic environment implying price, interest rate and exchange rate stability;**
 - c. institute measures that increase public sector revenues through an effective tax collection and government securities; and to rationalize government**

expenditures through practices of programmes-performance budgeting, and adequate auditing;

- d. refrain from entering excessively into internal debts as a way of financing budget deficits, particularly those directed towards speculative and unproductive activities, so as to maintain fiscal stability while promoting economic growth;**

25. To promote private domestic investment in Africa, the following measures should be taken:

- a. strengthen the country reform programmes, so as to encourage investments in productive sectors and harmonize these programmes and investment codes so as to facilitate the process of regional economic integration;**
- b. create an enabling environment that encourages human and physical investment and help retain human capital and African countries;**
- c. steps should be taken to strengthen capital markets institutions where they exist and to create new ones where they do not exist, in order to promote equity investment and achieve internal resource mobilization and utilization.**
- d. in order to enhance the capacity of the financial sector to effectively channel the resources into productive investment, governments should intensify efforts to secure the full monetization of African economies, to widen the instruments and services offered by financial institutions; and to ensure an effective link between the informal and formal sectors.**

26. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Africa account for only about 2 percent in the total FDI inflows to developing countries. In order to reverse the trend and attract more FDI to Africa, measures should be instituted by African governments to ensure a favourable investment climate including the following:

- a. provide clear procedures and rules regarding registration, protection and transferability of property rights in all their forms, and efficient enforcement of contractual obligations by the judicial system;
- b. define clear incentives for investors in investment priorities in areas such as agro-food processing, conservation, storage, improvement of the transport and communication infrastructure better linkages within industry and between energy, minerals and industry, with strategic targeting of both external and domestic resources towards these priorities.

27. To counter the negative perceptions about the continent and the misinformation that investors receive of Africa, governments should endeavour to undertake an information campaign by highlighting the progress in economic reform and growth in our countries.

Regional Economic Cooperating and Integration

Our review of the economic condition in Africa shows that African countries need to pool their resources and enhance cooperation, in order to achieve regional economic cooperation and integration in order to be competitive in world trade. In this respect, African countries should take full advantage of the opportunities of South-South Cooperation and forge partnerships with the countries of the South. This process can be enhanced through a firm commitment to honour the obligations we enter into in our continental and regional cooperation institutions, implement the programmes we collectively adopt and provide them with the required moral, material and financial support they deserve. Furthermore, the strengthening of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the intended building blocs of the African Economic Community (AEC) should be insured. In order to achieve this aim, African countries are urged to take the following steps:

- a. to accelerate the process of rationalizing the institutional framework for economic integration at the regional level;
- b. for the RECs to be on a strong financial footing and secure their viability, their Member States should establish as soon as possible for each one of them a self-financing mechanism, with the support of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat

and a self-enforcing mechanism to ensure prompt payment of assessed contributions;

- c. in the same spirit, African countries are invited to direct financial assistance destined to economic integration activities in Africa, including Regional Fund under Lome Convention to furthering relevant regional programmes and projects and to pay special attention to regional integration for mutual benefit in human and natural resources development as well as in the area of infrastructure, particularly, transport and communications, information, electricity grids and hydraulic power generating stations;
- d. for the purpose of ensuring a proper coordination of national sectoral policies and effective follow-up, implementation and monitoring of regional and continental decisions, African States which have not yet done so should set up at the national level a machinery in charge of all questions related to economic integration;
- e. the special circumstances of the African small island countries should be given due recognition in Africa's integration efforts;
- f. in order to operationalize the Abuja Treaty as soon as possible, Member States should adopt and ratify the priority Protocols by the end of 1997, at the latest, and to take necessary measures at the national level, including integrating the Protocols into their legislations, to make these Protocols applicable by competent authorities;
- g. Member States should popularize the Abuja Treaty and all relevant documents in order to make African populations the genuine actors in the process and facilitate cross-border dialogue towards the attainment of Pan-Africanist ideals. To this end, they must engage all media, both public and private, in their endeavours to increase awareness of the larger public vis-à-vis the aims, mechanisms and requirements of economic integration. To facilitate the efforts of Member States, the OAU is requested to expeditiously finalize and distribute to Member States a popular version of the Abuja Treaty.

29. In order to set up the much needed regional productive capacities, the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are urged to:

- a. speed up African integration through the implementation of common projects that will form an integrated development pattern leading to sustained economic growth, based on common interests and mutual benefits;**
- b. formulate lists of common projects that can attract international, governmental and private investments. The projects and programmes to be promoted by the Regional Economic Communities should be under the coordination of the OAU Secretary-General;**
- c. in this regard the African Development Bank is urged to play a leading role in financing regional studies, programmes and projects.**

III. WHAT WE REQUIRE FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Understanding, appreciation and support of Africa's development efforts

30. A new international system is evolving. This development offers a unique opportunity for the international community to agree on a set of principles governing international relations. On our part, we firmly believe that some of the most important principles include the democratization of the international system, the right of our countries to decide on their own priorities and programmes., respect for and implementation of international commitments. Member States of the United Nations should refrain from any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States. These principles should be incorporated in the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Development.

31. Development aid that had been provided had not always been used for the priority programmes of countries assisted. What is more, we are witnessing an increasingly marked trend of rivalry between African governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Sometimes the governments were even robbed of their responsibilities. The NGOs

should play a supportive role by complementing government efforts but, given their fragility and lack of requisite recourses, these organizations cannot assume the responsibility for the development of the continent. There is therefore an urgent need for our development partners to significantly increase resource in-flows to African countries especially through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment.

32. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of African (UN-NADAF) has not received all the expected support from the international community, especially in the areas of external debt and resource flows. Specifically, the commitment to establish a Diversification Fund for African Commodities has not yet materialized. Also, the UNECA should be strengthened to fully play its coordinating role in the mobilization on the UN System for the implementation of UN-NADAF.

Trade and Development

33. The recently concluded Uruguay Round of negotiations and the establishment of the World Trade Organization constitute a new development in world trade relations, with serious implications to Africa. We are seriously concerned about the potential impact of the Agreements of Africa. Our preliminary assessment of the impact of this development is that Africa will stand to lose heavily because of the stringent conditionalities imposed by the Agreements and which African countries will not be able to meet. There is a need to ensure that transparency in the liberalized world market, devoid of conditionalities and other non-tariff barriers, is applied universally and in a sustainable manner. To mitigate the negative impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on Africa's development, we appeal to our development partners to discuss with us those aspects of the Agreements which are detrimental to the development of our countries. In this regard, the outcome of the International Conference on the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements on Africa, held in Tunis, Tunisia on 27 October 1994, could serve as a framework for action. Meanwhile in implementing the provisions of the Final Act off-setting measures must be adopted to obviate adverse effects that will arise from the erosion of special preferences currently enjoyed by African countries.

34. We call upon the International Community to ensure that the UN Agenda for Development addresses the urgent development needs of Africa as one of the most seriously

affected continents by the present international economic environment and support the diversification programmes in Africa and the establishment of the Commodity Diversification Fund.

African's External Debt

35. Africa's external debt stock and its rapid growth are a deterrent to increased non-debt generating resource flows. It diverts the resources generated by African economies already negatively affected by the continuous deterioration of terms of trade. In spite of the efforts made by African States, by adopting structural reforms and promoting alternative programmes, with the assistance of multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and in spite of the various initiatives (Toronto, Brady, France and USA initiatives, etc ...) the debt problem still remains one of the main constraints in the renewal with economic growth.

36. Africa's external debt affect negatively, in the long run, not only the African economic capacity to meet the basic needs of the African population, but also its capacity to contribute significantly to the revival of world growth, by increasing the African economic capacities to absorb more goods and services from outside, and by reversing the declining trends of transfers to Africa.

37. The need to reverse the declining trends of transfers to Africa has been stressed. Even in African countries where some progress has been registered in 1994, increased inflow of resources are still required to generate sustainable development. For this to happen, coordinated action on debt and flows from multilateral financing institutions should take place, with particular emphasis on the provision of concessional resources, through the International Development Association (IDA), African Development Fund (ADF) and the European Development Fund (EDF), which are the three major multilateral windows through which concessional resources are channeled to Africa. Furthermore, the rules of international relations should be observed, and there should be no attempt to destabilize the economies of African countries by imposing embargoes and economic blockades, freezing assets, preventing them from obtaining technology and starving them for political reasons.

38. For economic reforms to succeed in Africa, all creditors including multilateral institutions should adopt enhanced measures which should go beyond debt re-scheduling,

International commitment to Africa's recovery can be shown by reducing the debt burden to a point where it ceases to inhibit investing in Africa. In this regard, while subscribing to the recent JAKARTA NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT'S DECLARATION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT: SHARING OF EXPERIENCE, Africa calls on its bilateral and multilateral creditors including the former Soviet Union countries to enter into a dialogue in order to coordinate their efforts for identifying ways and means by which they could reduce the continent's debt burden, particularly for the current debt servicing levels. Specifically, African governments call on the G7 through the Paris Club to extend additional relief beyond the Naples Terms particularly for severely-indebted low income countries. Further, we call on G7 to consider innovative ways to deal with multilateral debt along the lines proposed by the UK regarding the sale of IMF gold and to ensure that multilateral debt relief is not achieved at the expense of official grant financing. Within this context, urgent support and assistance from International Development Agencies and Donor Countries to war and natural disaster affected countries are particularly needed to generally move them from a state of reliance on relief and humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. To this end, Africa should approach the G7 Summit, scheduled for June 1995 in Halifax, Canada, on this matter.

Follow-up Mechanism

39. The follow-up and implementation mechanism to these recommendations lies largely with the Member States at the national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels. At the national level, governments should institute measures for increased national dialogue in order to reach broad consensus on development objectives and how to reach the goals sought. The following specific measures are proposed:

- a. the Cairo Agenda for Action should be tabled in the national cabinets of African governments, in order to involve the entire government machinery in the implementation of the Agenda;**
- b. the Agenda should also be tabled by the government in national parliaments for debate in order to allow parliamentarians to deliberate on the development issues contained in the Agenda, thereby giving the Agenda wide publicity and national attention;**

- c. the governments should involve various groups in organizing national and regional seminars and workshops on the Cairo Agenda, with participants drawn from all segments of society; organized private sector groups, especially the African Chambers of Commerce the African Business Round Table, Employers and Workers Organizations, political and professional organizations, women groups, youth, NGOs, teachers, university professors, etc.

40. At the regional level, the Cairo Agenda for Action should be submitted to the RECs and their respective authorities for implementation.

41. At the continental level, we request the OAU Secretary-General to work together with the ECA Executive Secretary and the President of the ADB, within the frame work of the Joint Secretariat, to monitor and report regularly to the Council on the implementation of these decisions. Specifically, the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) and the Specialized Technical Committees established under the Abuja Treaty should monitor the implementation of these matters.

42. Political will and determination of the Member States will be required to effectively tackle and solve the economic and social problems facing our continent. Close personal attention of Heads of State and Government of the OAU is indispensable in the solution of these problems.

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RESOLUTION ON THE HOLDING OF A
CONFERENCE ON THE SITUATION
OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 to 23 June, 1995,

Having considered pursuant to the decision adopted by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution meeting in the Second Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government in Tunis on 20 April, 1995, the proposal of President Mobutu of Zaire to hold an International Conference on Refugees and Displaced Persons,

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees on this issue,

Recalling the dimension which the force displacement of populations has assumed throughout the world and particularly in Africa,

Deeply concerned about the negative, the political, economic and social effects of this situation,

Aware of the extreme difficult living conditions of refugees and displaced persons,

Aware also of the need and the urgency of concerned international action with a view to finding a lasting solution to the problems created by forced displacement of people;

- 1. ENDORSES President Mobutu's proposals regarding the organization of a World Conference on Refugees and Displaced Persons;**
- 2. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the OAU Commission of Twenty of Refugees and the UNCHR to take all necessary steps both at the level of the African Group and the United Nations General Assembly to ensure the holding, of this Conference as soon as possible;**
- 3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.**

RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT TO UNIDO AND UNCTAD

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Considering the Activities Report of the Secretary-General of the OAU, which *inter-alia*, emphasis the importance of UNIDO and UNCTAD and the request of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Gaborone, Botswana in June 1995 for Africa's support to UNIDO at the highest level,

Concerned with the danger of increased marginalization of the African continent through continuous reduction of development aid and flow of private investment to Africa, as well as the globalization and liberalization of the world economy following the Uruguay Round Agreements,

Bearing in mind the substantial efforts which African countries have made and are continuing to make towards the restructuring of their economies,

Convinced that the industrial sector constitutes a major engine of growth in the restructuring and transformation of African economies and that UNIDO has to play a pivotal role in the process of industrialization of developing countries in general, and African countries, in particular,

Emphasizing the importance of the trade sector in Africa and the crucial role of UNCTAD in assisting African countries in the development and promotion of their trade sector,

Recalling the Yaounde Declaration, adopted at the Fifth Session of the General Conference of UNIDO in Yaounde, Cameroon in December 1993 in which the International Community reaffirmed the role of UNIDO as the central coordinating agency in the United

Nations Systems for the industrialization of developing countries and pledged the political, financial and technical support to the Organization,

Recalling further the Programme of Action adopted by the African Ministers of Trade at the International Conference on the Uruguay Round and its implications for African economies, held in Tunis, Tunisia, in October 1994.

Reiterating the Common Position adopted by the Group of 77 in Geneva in March 1995 and by the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned countries in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 1995 emphasizing the greater relevance of UNIDA and UNCTAD:

- 1. REAFFIRMS the fundamental role of industrialization and trade development in the economic and social development of African countries;**
- 2. REITERATES the crucial role of UNIDO and UNCTAD in industry, trade and development of the developing countries in general and of African countries in particular;**
- 3. ENDORSES the support for UNIDO and UNCTAD contained in the Cairo Agenda of Action on relaunching Africa's economic and social development adopted at seventeenth Extra-Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Cairo, Egypt, in March 1995, as well as the Motion of Support for UNIDO adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in Gaborone, Botswana, in June 1995;**
- 4. WELCOMES the efforts made by UNIDO to restructure itself and to implement its priority programmes, especially those in Africa, and ENCOURAGES the Director-General to continue intensifying UNIDO's efforts towards the accelerated industrialization of Africa;**
- 5. DEPLORES the tendency by certain groups in the international community to marginalize those United Nations bodies which are of particular relevance to**

the developing countries and to question the continued existence of UNIDO and UNCTAD;

- 6. URGES the developed countries, to support, maintain and strengthen UNIDO and UNCTAD as the main Organizations in the United Nations System responsible for industry, trade and development respectively, and**
- 7. REAFFIRMS, therefore, Africa's total support for UNIDO and UNCTAD as very important instruments for the industrialization, trade and development of African countries, and CALLS for efforts to strengthen and reinvigorate these two Organizations.**

RESOLUTION ON THE INCREASE ON THE
MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Desirous of ensuring and equitable geographical representation on the Bureau of the Assembly,

Considering that due to the recent admission of new Member States into the OAU and increase in the activities of the Organization, it is necessary to increase the number of the membership of the Bureau of the Conference,

Considering further Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which stipulates that at the beginning of each session, the Assembly shall elect the Chairman of the Assembly and eight meeting chairmen,

Considering also the appropriate recommendation formulated by the Council of Ministers at its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 to 23 June, 1995,

1. **INVOKES** the provisions of Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and **DECIDES** to amend Rule 9 thereof to increase the number of meeting Chairmen from eight to fourteen.

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Considering the eight annual activities report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into force on 21 October 1986, and that, currently 49 Member States of the OAU are parties to this Charter,

Considering the present state of implementation of the provisions of the said Charter, characterized particularly by the fact that few Member States have submitted their periodic reports on the legislative or other measures intended to implement these provisions;

Recalling that according to Article 1 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the States, parties and compelled to promote the rights, duties and freedoms provided for therein and undertake to take the appropriate measures,

Considering the situation of human and peoples' rights in Africa and the pressing need to enhance respect for human and peoples' rights in order to further ensure peace, stability and development in Africa,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights by providing it with the human and material resources required to accomplish its task:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the eight annual activities report of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and authorizes its publication as well as the conclusions and recommendations relating to the information contained in this report;
2. **COMMENDS** the African Commission for the tremendous work accomplished during the period under review;
3. **STRONGLY ENCOURAGES** the activities of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights, aimed at promoting and protecting the rights recognized and guaranteed by the Charter;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to respect the principle of confidentiality of its reports pursuant to Article 59 of the Charter;
5. **CALLS** on States, parties to the Charter, to strengthen their cooperation with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and to lend it increases assistance in the accomplishment of its mission;
6. **APPEALS** to OAU Member States to ratify the Charter as soon as possible, if they have not yet done so;
7. **CALLS ON** all State, parties to the Charter, to take practical steps to ensure and effective implementation of its provisions, and **APPEALS URGENTLY** to all state parties to the Charter to submit their periodic reports, pursuant to Article 62 of the Charter, if they have not yet done so.
8. **CALLS ON** the OAU Secretary-General to take all the necessary measures to provide the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, with all the human and material resources it needs to accomplish its mission, and to report on the implementation of this provision to the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session.

**RESOLUTIONG ON THE QUESTION OF COMORIAN
ISLAND OF MAYOTTE**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Governmental of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Having heard the report of the Chairman of the OAU *Ad Hoc* Committee of Seven on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, on the Seventh Session of the Committee,

Bearing in mind Resolution CM/Res.496 (XXVIII) establishing OAU *Ad Hoc* Committee of Seven on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

Recalling the relevant OAU resolutions on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte particularly Resolution AHG/Res.193 (XXVI),

Recalling further the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

Considering the fundamental principles of the OAU Charter on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States,

Reiterating the legitimate claims of the Comorian Government regarding the reintegration of the Comorian Island of Mayotte into the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros,

Recalling the Programme of Action recommended by the OAU Ad Hoc Committee, contained in Document Cttee.7/Mayotte/Rec.1-9 (II) adopted in Moroni in November, 1981:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairman of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Seven on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte;
2. **REAFFIRMS** the sovereignty of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros over the Comorian Island of Mayotte;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its solidarity with the Comorian people in their determination to recover their political integrity and to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity;
4. **CONDEMNS** the introduction of entry visa to Mayotte for Comorian nationals living on the other three sister Islands;
5. **APPEALS** to the French Government to accede to the legitimate claims of the Comorian Government in accordance with the relevant decisions of the OAU, the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States;
6. **INVITES** OAU Member States to take every step, individually and collectively, to inform and sensitize the French and international public opinion on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte in order to bring the French Government to end its occupation of Mayotte;
7. **APPEALS** to all OAU Member States and the international community to categorically condemn and reject all forms of consultations to be organized by France on the Comorian territory of Mayotte regarding the international legal status of the Island specially as the referendum of self-determination conducted on 22 December 1974 remains the only valid consultation applicable to the entire Archipelago;
8. **REQUESTS** the WHO Regional Director General to reject France's candidature to represent the Comorian Island of Mayotte on the WHO Regional Committee;

9. **CHARGES** the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Seven on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte and the OAU Secretary-General to reactivate the activities of the Committee to resume dialogue with the French Authorities, and to continue to sensitize the international community for a rapid settlement of the Comorian issue;
10. **REQUESTS** that the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte remains on the Agenda of all the Sessions of the OAU, UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States until the Island is restored to the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros;
11. **ALSO REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to monitor developments in the situation and report to the Council of Ministers whenever necessary.

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RESOLUTION ON AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Recalling its Declaration on Africa's External Debt adopted at its Thirtieth Session held in June 1994 in Tunis, Tunisia,

Considering the initiatives of the Non-Aligned Movement submitted to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries at their 1994 Summit in Naples and the Terms of Naples adopted thereafter by the Group of Seven as well as the Recent Declaration of the latter on Multilateral Debts,

Considering that the Naples Term would not result in a significant reduction of Africa's External Debt as they would only apply to quite a limited number of African countries ad to a small portion of Africa's Total External Debt,

Considering the Declaration on Africa's External Debt adopted by the African Ministers of Economic Development Planning at the Twenty-First meeting of their conferences held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 3 May, 1995:

- 1. ENDORSES the Declaration on Africa's External Debt annexed to this Resolution;**
- 2. CALLS ON the Secretary-General of the OAU, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the President of ADB to support the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity in his efforts in furthering the objectives of the Declaration of Africa's External Debt in cooperation with Africa's Development Partners.**

DECLARATION ON AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

1. We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in Addis Ababa, during the Thirtieth Session of the Commission/Twenty-First meeting of the Conference of Ministers from 1 to 3 May 1995, and acting on behalf of our governments and people, within the spirit of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, have once more, examined the external debt problem of our Continent in light of the theme of the session, ie promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities.
2. We recall the Declaration on debt adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its Thirtieth Session held in June 1994 in Tunis, Tunisia, as well as the initiatives on the Non-Aligned Movement submitted to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries (G7) at their 1994 Summit in Naples.
3. We remain pre-occupied by the Continent's increasing debt burden which totaled 313 billion dollars in 1994 and accounts, to date, for 231.3 per cent of Africa's exports and 71.7 percent, on the average, of the total GDP of the Continent.
4. We feel that the African debt crisis is partly due to an international financial crisis and that it is not, therefore, a temporary liquidity crisis and cannot be resolved through debt rescheduling agreements only. The African debt crisis has been further compounded by the worsening terms of trade for several of our major export commodities.
5. We have examined the various initiatives taken by the international community to reduce Africa's debt burden and noted the poor results obtained following the application of those initiatives. The impact on structural economic imbalances and the solvency crisis besetting our countries is very limited and fails to address permanently the continent's external debt problem.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of economic reaffirms and request that our efforts should be met with substantial debt forgiveness and an increase in concessional flows so as to boost public investment in infrastructure and human resources and help attract more private investment.

7. We note that most of the initiatives taken to reduce the external debt of our countries focused on bilateral debt. The results obtained have been mixed and partly offset by the effects of commercial and multilateral debt. Savings from bilateral debt servicing have, indeed, been rapidly absorbed by multilateral and commercial debt servicing.

8. We express our appreciation to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries for the Toronto Initiatives and the Naples Terms whose impact on our external debt, however, falls bellows our expectations both in terms of the stock of debt involved and the countries eligible.

9. We note with appreciation the Naples Terms and appeal to the international community to improve them in order to:

- a. Cater for an 80 percent reduction in the total non-concessional debt of all African countries including accumulated interests;**
- b. Allow for the cancellation of concessional debts rescheduled in the Paris Club;**
- c. Institute innovative measures that would reduce:**
 - i. multilateral debts, including the buy-back of this category of debt with proceeds from the sale of a part of the gold reserve of the International Monetary Fund;**
 - ii. commercial debt through improved Brady Plan mechanisms and the enhanced IDA Debt Reduction Facility;**

10. We are aware that finding a lasting solution to the external debt problem of our countries would require, among other things:

- a. the pursuit of economic reforms likely to create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investments and the reduction of the adverse effects of the external environment; and**
- b. the forging of effective partnerships with bilateral creditors and multilateral institutions from which we request an increase in the flow of concessional resources, especially during the period of our economic restructuring.**

11. We are of the opinion that the solution to debt problem should go hand-in-hand with investment and trade flows and that, in this respect, the conversion of debt for the financing of development programmes, such as entrepreneurship promotion, should be encouraged.

12. We proposed that the mandate and terms of reference of the Paris Club should be expanded to include the holding forthwith of negotiations between our countries and their bilateral creditors and the multilateral financial institutions for coordinated action in order to find a positive solution to the African debt problem in all its bilateral, multilateral and private aspects, within the global framework for securing positive resource flows to Africa.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the same time when the commemorative ceremonies of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the inception of the United Nations Organization, are beginning in San Francisco,

Considering the objectives and purposes of the United Nations as stated in the Charter of San Francisco,

Considering the positive work carried out, particularly in Africa by the World Organization during its fifty years of existence:

1. RENEWS the accession of the African States to the ideals of the United Nations;
2. ASSOCIATES ITSELF FULLY with the ceremonies organized to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations;
3. PAYS TRIBUTE to the activities carried out by the successive UN Secretaries General;
4. ADDRESSES its CONGRATULATIONS and EXPRESSES its SUPPORT to H.E. Mr BOUTROS GHALI, UN Secretary-General, on his commitment and tireless efforts at the helm of the Organization;
5. APPEALS to the entire international Community to increase its support to the World Organization so as to enable it take up the present and future challenges and fulfill the aspirations of the peoples of the world.

RESOLUTION ON FOOD SECURITY
AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Considering that food security is one of the key problems facing the African continent, and constitutions a core objective of development,

Bearing in mind the agricultural and food situation in Africa, characterized by slow growth of production and productivity, as well as insufficient food availability caused by the combined effect of increased demand and high population growth,

Noting that the majority of the African population suffers from malnutrition,

Considering the heavy external debt burden of African countries which contributes to the worsening of the food deficit by depriving the agricultural and food sectors of the investments needed to procure equipment and means of production.

Observing that food security in most African countries continues to be predicated on food importation and food aid,

Convinced that food security in Africa is first and foremost the responsibility of Africans themselves and is an achievable objective, given the enormous natural and human potentials of the African continent, and that Africa could attain a sufficient level of food security, through rational, judicious and clear-sighted use of these immense potentials,

Recalling the various commitments made by African States to ensure economic development in Africa, attain national and collective self-sufficiency, and harmonize policies,

programmes and projects of OAU Member States in the areas of food and agriculture (Harare Declaration), the African Regional Nutrition Strategy, (1993 – 2003);

Highlighting the need to adopt a common African position in anticipation of the World Summit on Food Security which the FAO intends to organize in November 1996,

Taking note of the outcome of the Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Africa held in Tunis from 15 to 18 April 1995:

REITERATES the commitment of African States to strive individually and collectively towards food security in the continent through a number of ways, including increased food production, inter country trade and attaining food self-sufficiency;

RECOGNIZES the need for Africa, through the forthcoming OAU Summit, to adopt a Common African Position on food security and agricultural development, which reflects the concern of the continent, in anticipation of the World Summit planned by the FAO on the same theme;

UNCERSCORES the need to include the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1993 – 2003) in the Common African Position as mentioned in the paragraph above;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the appropriate agencies, to take necessary measures for the preparation and adoption of the Common African Position before the World Summit.

RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENT

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 to 23 June, 1995,

Recalling its Resolution CM/Res.1409 on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) adopted by the Forty-Ninth Ordinary Session held in Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 28 June, 1992,

Recalling further its Resolution CM/Res.1508 (LIX), the State of the ICND negotiations adopted by the Forty-Ninth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 4 February, 1994, as well as the Resolutions CM/Res.1402 (LVIII), CM/Res.1535 (LX) and CM/Res.1571 (LXI) on issues relating to Desertification Control,

Aware of the fact that the June 1992, Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development has established the link between the healthy management of the environment and sustainable development,

Considering in particular all the Instruments adopted by both the Rio de Janeiro Conference and during the post-Rio period, namely Agenda 21 – Convention on Biological Diversity and on climate changes and the Convention on Desertification,

Aware of the need to achieve, very quickly and within a short period, the eradication of poverty and under-development in Member States,

Considering, in this regard, the basic principles enshrined in Document Doc. CM/1892 (LXII) on the *Cairo Agenda* adopted by the Seventeenth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Cairo, Egypt, from 25 to 28 March, 1995, on the socio-economic recovery of Africa,

Reaffirming its attachment to the principles and strategies contained in the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC),

Considering that the convention on Biological Diversity and the change have entered into force and are now operational:

- 1. URGES Member States to get more involved in the global struggle to protect the environment and natural resources of Africa, particularly within the framework of International Institutions;**
- 2. INVITES Member States who have not yet signed and ratified all the legal instruments emanating from the Rio de Janeiro Conference, and more particularly the Convention on Desertification, to do so as concrete proof of Africa's high interest in the issue;**
- 3. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to place sustainable management of the environment at the center of all development programmes within the context of its future activities based on Agenda 21;**
- 4. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General, in collaboration with specialized African sub-regional institutions and Regional Economic Communities, to take the necessary steps to ensure the coordination and follow-up, at continental level, of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the various conventions adopted within the context of the establishment of the African Economic Community;**
- 5. COMMENDS the effort of the International Community aimed at effectively implementing the decisions of the Rio de Janeiro Conference (UNCED) and URGES it to continue to extend its valuable financial support to Africa for the implementation of these decisions at continental level.**

MOTION OF THANKS

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 June, 1995, at the kind invitation of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia,

Deeply touched by the fraternal welcome extended to us by the Government and People of Ethiopia,

Convinced that the excellent conditions created for our stay and our deliberations have greatly contributed to the smooth conduct of our Session,

Noting that the happy developments which have taken place during the transitional period have paved the way for the establishment of the Republic of Ethiopia:

- 1. EXPRESS OUT PROFOUND GRATITUDE to President Meles Zenawi, the Government and the People of Ethiopia;**
- 2. EXTEND our best wishes for the well being and prosperity of the People of Ethiopia and ASSURE them of our solidarity during this important period in their political history.**