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26 - 28 February 1996

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CM/Res.1616-1646 (LXIII)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SIXTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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CM/Res.1616 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996/1998

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Board of External Auditors on the Accounts of the General Secretariat for the 1994/95 Financial Year and comments and observations thereon by the General Secretariat, on the one hand, and by the Advisory Committee in its Sixty-Third Session, on the other (Doc. CM/1906 (LXIII) Add. 1-10) ,

Having considered the Report of the Sixty-third Ordinary Session of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters relating to the proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1996-1998 (Doc.CM/1908 (LXIII)),

Having further considered the Draft Programme Budget recommended by the Sixty-Third Ordinary Session of the Advisory Committee for the Biennium 1996/1998 (Doc. CM/1907 (LXIII) Rev.2),

Bearing in mind the provision of Resolution CM/Res.1422 (LVII) setting the budget ceiling at 100% over the average of expenditures incurred during the three past financial years and the current financial constraints of Member States,

Further bearing in mind the overall objectives and priorities of the organization in political and socio-economic areas, with particular focus on peaceful management of political changes in the continent, conflict prevention, management and resolution, socio-economic integration through the gradual implementation of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community:

1. COMMENDS the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee for their laudable efforts deployed to prepare and present a., more realistic programme budget which falls in line with the growth rate ceiling of 10% established by council in resolution CM/1922 (LXII);
2. APPROVES the Programme-Budget for the biennium 1996/1998 and ADOPTS the budgets of US\$30,859,000.00 and US\$31,199,000.00 for the programmes of the organization for the fiscal years 1996/1997 and 1997/1998 respectively and permits that these budgets be revised in mid-term review sessions of the Advisory Committee in order to respond to new developments and emerging priorities during the biennium within the approved appropriations;
3. AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to incur all the necessary expenditures relating to the implementation of the recommendations as recommended by the Advisory Committee under paragraph 245 of Doc. CM/1908 (LXIII), from the appropriations approved under the relevant

budgetary codes and programmes of the biennium 1996-1998;

4. APPROVES the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of External Auditors as endorsed by the Sixty-third ordinary Session of the Advisory Committee and contained in its report, (Doc.CM/1908 (LXIII));

5. REITERATES ITS PREVIOUS DECISION on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee regarding budget financing from arrears, for a further period of 2 years, starting from June 1996, and to that end, DECIDES to allocate for each year of the biennium, 15% of the arrears collected during the last financial year to finance succeeding year's budget;

6. APPROVES the recommendation of the Committee relating to the establishment of an OAU Special Fund for acquisition of "Property and Vehicle, Building acquisition as well as Renovation" and Decides to allocate, for each year of the biennium, 15% of the amount of the arrears of contributions collected in the same manner as under paragraph 5 above. Drawings from this Special Fund will be made by the Accounting Officer on the approval of the Advisory Committee;

7. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to submit to the November sessions of the Advisory Committee a detailed report on the utilization of the extra-budgetary resources placed at the disposal of the OAU during the biennium;

8. URGES Member States to promptly honour their financial obligations in order to provide the organization with the resources necessary for its smooth-running and the implementation of the approved programmes.

CM/Res.1617 (LXIII)

MOTION OF THANKS TO MEMBER STATES WHICH HAVE HONOURED THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE ORGANISATION

The Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res. 1423 (LVII) authorizing the adoption at the end of each February Session of a motion congratulating Member States which have paid up their contribution,

Taking note with appreciation that there are some Member States which regularly honour their financial obligations to the Organization:

1. CONGRATULATES those Member States which continue to make sacrifices in order to honour their financial obligations by paying up their contributions to the regular budget-of the Organization ;

2. Highly commends the following Member States which are up-to-date in the payment of their contributions to the Organization :

- * Algeria
- * Benin
- * Botswana
- * Cameroon
- * Cote d'Ivoire
- * Egypt
- * Eritrea
- * Ethiopia
- * Ghana
- * Guinea
- * Lesotho
- * Libya
- * Madagascar

- * Mauritania
- * Mauritius
- * Mozambique
- * Namibia
- * Nigeria
- * RASD
- * Senegal
- * South Africa
- * Swaziland
- * Tanzania
- * Tunisia
- * Zimbabwe

RESOLUTION ON THE PROBLEM OF ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 - 28 February, 1996

Recalling previous resolutions on the question of arrears, namely CM/Res.1279 (LII), CM/Res.1311 (LII), CM/Res.1364 (LV) , CM/Res.1423 (LVII) , CM/Res.1480 (LIX) , CM/Res.1554 (LXI) and CM/Res.1580 (I-,XII),

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of Contribution to the OAU Regular Budget as at 1 February, 1996 (Doc.CM/1909 (LXIII),

Having also considered the Report of the Committee on Contributions contained in Doc. CM/1909 (LXIII),

Gravely concerned at the large number of Member States that are not paying their financial contributions toward the organization,

Conscious of the fact that the ever-increasing level of arrears of contribution payable by Member States constitutes a serious impediment to the Organization in the accomplishment of its mission and in the discharge of its increasing responsibilities,

Reaffirming once more that regular payment of contributions to the Regular Budget of the organization constitutes a fundamental obligation of each Member State:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Contributions;
2. EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN on the present state of affairs with regard to arrears of contributions, (US\$37,543,267.73 as at 1 February 1996) which, despite some improvement, still constitutes an impediment to the smooth functioning of the Organization, the accomplishment of its mission and the attainment of its objectives;
3. CONGRATULATES those Member States that are up-to- date in fulfilling their financial obligations to the Organization;
4. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to Member States that have deployed significant efforts and reduced the amounts of arrears of their assessed contributions;
5. APPEALS ONCE AGAIN to those Member States that have not yet paid up their arrears of contribution to urgently do so;

6. DECIDES to grant on a provisional and Exceptional basis, and for a period of I year, an exemption of the sanctions embodied in Resolution CM/Res.1279 (LII) and Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations to:

(a) Somalia and Liberia

(b) Sierra Leone and Burundi

7. DECIDES to grant an a provisional and exceptional basis, and for a period of six months, an exemption to the sanctions embodied in Resolution CM/Res.1279 (LXII) as well as Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations to the countries that make substantial efforts by paying at least 25% of their arrears before 31 March, 1996;

8. DECIDES, on an exceptional basis, that- countries under sanctions should be given the floor in OAU meetings whenever items concerning directly and especially their countries (for example: conflicts) were being discussed;

9. DECIDES that none of those above-mentioned exemptions shall affect the mandatory sanction prohibiting recruitment of new staff members from defaulting countries, as embodied in Resolution CM/Res.1311 (III) . In this regard, the Secretariat is called upon to-strictly respect and implement this specific measure, not only on recruitment of regular staff members, but also on temporary staff such as freelance technical staff;

10. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to prepare and up-date systematically, for the attention of the Chairman of each OAU meeting, a list of the countries affected by the sanctions;

11. REQUESTS the Secretariat to conform strictly with the provisions of para. 2 (a) and 2 (b) of Resolution CM/Res:1279 (LII) on austerity measures in the preparation and implementation of the Budget;

12. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to prepare a study on possible incentives to be granted to Member States that pay their contributions regularly, for the consideration of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Committee;

13. CONGRATULATES the Committee on Contributions for the work accomplished and REQUESTS the Committee to continue to implement the sanctions already adopted, formulation of new sanctions as well as possible incentives, and submit a report thereon to the Sixty-fourth Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi, (Doc. 1912 (LXIII)B,

Having heard the statement of the Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of Burundi on the developments in that country,

Considering the prevailing unstable political and security situation in Burundi and taking note of the significant effort made by the Government of Burundi,

Noting the considerable efforts deployed by the OAU and the Current Chairman towards restoring peace, stability and national reconciliation in Burundi,

Aware of the positive role of neighbouring countries and certain Eminent Persons such as former Presidents Carter, Nyerere and Amadou Toumani Toure, Arch-Bishop Desmond Tutu, in the search for a lasting solution to the problem of Burundi,

Considering the importance of the Bujumbura Declaration on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region towards finding lasting solution to the problem in Burundi,

Recalling the decision of the Central Organ of the OAU mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution at its Fifth Ordinary Session held at ministerial level on 18th and 19th December, 1995, to extend the mandate of OMIB for a period of three months as from December 1995:

1. TAKES NOTE of the-Secretary-General's Report;
2. EXPRESSES its serious concern over the duration of the crisis in Burundi and while urging the Government of Burundi to pursue its effort aimed at the restoration of peace and national reconciliation;
3. STRONGLY URGES the people of Burundi particularly the political parties and the Armed Forces to demonstrate a firm commitment to dialogue, peace and national reconciliation and ENTRUSTS the Central Organ to pursue its effort vigorously and report to the 64th Session of

Council;

4. REAFFIRMS its strong support for-the Convention of Government and appeals to all political and other forces, especially the army and the security forces to join hands in implementing the said convention towards restoring and consolidating peace and for the return of democracy;
5. REITERATES ITS APPEAL for greater cooperation among countries of the region in their search for a lasting solution to the problem of insecurity and instability in the region;
6. WHILE RECOGNIZING the significance of the holding of the Cairo Conference on 28th and 29th November, 1995, and the Tunisia Conference scheduled for 3 - 5 March, 1996, UNDERSCORES the necessity and importance of a better coordination given the numerous initiatives of the international community for a lasting solution to the problem in the Great Lake region and REQUEST the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to that effect;
7. REITERATES ITS SUPPORT for the convening of a Regional Conference on peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region;
8. ALSO COMMENDS the efforts of OMIB in Burundi and CALLS ON the authorities of Burundi to facilitate the full implementation of the Headquarters Agreement and the Protocol on the deployment of the Military Component signed by the Government of Burundi and OMIE especially the parts relating to the free movement of OMIB military personnel;
9. APPEALS to the international-. community for an urgent and increased humanitarian assistance to displaced persons in and refugees from Burundi in the neighbouring countries, in particular within the framework of the implementation of the Bujumbura Programme of Action;
10. CALLS UPON the Burundian Authorities to improve the necessary security measures so as to ensure the security and protection of the personnel of the international organizations, IGOs and NGOS, in order to facilitate their humanitarian task;
11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to continue working in close collaboration with the Secretary- General and the Security Council of the UN, so as to reach a lasting political solution to the problem in Burundi;
12. REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue to monitor closely the situation in Burundi-and report thereon to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of Council.

Reservation of Rwanda delegation noted regarding Para. 7

RESOLUTION ON SOMALIA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia, document CM/1912(LXIII)E,

Having listened to the statement by the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia on Somalia,

Concerned over the situation in Somalia and the stalemate obtaining in efforts to launch a process of national reconciliation and to establish a broad-based national authority,

Concerned also about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia:

Reiterating its position that ultimately the responsibility for finding a solution to the conflict in Somalia lies with the Somali people themselves,

Reaffirming the leading role that must be played by Africa in the search for a lasting resolution of the Somali conflict,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. EXPRESSES its appreciation to H.E. Mr Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Current Chairman of the OAU, who also has a special mandate on Somalia, as well as to the Secretary-General of the Organization, for their efforts in the search for a negotiated, political solution to the conflict in Somalia;
3. URGES the Somali factions to desist from activities that could plunge the country into a generalized situation of warfare;
4. CALLS UPON the Somali leaders to recognize the imperative need to act urgently to promote dialogue aimed at the establishment of a broad-based national authority and the pursuance of national reconciliation;
5. DECIDES that the Tripartite Mission undertake another visit to Somalia in order to maintain direct contacts with the various Somali factions and to determine the actual situation on the ground;
6. APPEALS to the Member States and the international Community to provide humanitarian assistance in view of the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia;
7. URGES the Somali leaders to work towards the creation of conditions of security which are

conducive to the facilitation of such assistance;

8. FURTHER APPEALS to all OAU Member States and the international community to desist from supplying war materials to any of the factions in Somalia so as to avoid an escalation of the crisis;

9. CALLS UPON the Current Chairman of the OAU as well as the Secretary General of the organization to continue their efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia;

10. FURTHER CALLS UPON the UN and the other Inter- Governmental Organizations, including the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to closely co-ordinate their efforts with the OAU in the search for a solution to the conflict in Somalia;

11. REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue to monitor the situation in Somalia and report thereon to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of Council.

CM/Res.1621 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON LIBERIA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third. Ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Liberia as contained in Document CM/1912 (LXIII)C,

Having heard the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res. 1585 (LXII) adopted at its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as other previous OAU Resolutions on the Liberian crisis,

Recalling the meeting of the Foreign Ministers and Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 15 to 16 and 17 to 20 May 1995, respectively, on the Liberian crisis,

Recalling further the Sixth Consultative Meeting between the Heads of State and Government of the Committee of Nine and Parties to the Liberian conflict, also held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 16 to 19 August 1995, during which an agreement to end the Liberian civil war, namely the Abuja Agreement was reached, and finally signed by the parties concerned which supplements and amends the Cotonou Accord, as well as the Akosombo Agreement and its Accra Clarifications,

Noting with appreciation the sustained and relentless efforts of the Current Chairman of ECOWAS, H.E. Flt.Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. General Sani Abacha, Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and other leaders of the West African Sub-Region, to keep the Liberian Peace Process on course and sustain its momentum,

Noting with further appreciation the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement,

Condemns the recent surprise unprovoked and brutal attack on ECOMOG soldiers by ULIMO-J fighters which resulted in the death of several ECOMOG soldiers, brought the deployment exercise to a halt and disrupted humanitarian relief supplies,

Considering the invaluable contributions which the Economic Community of West African States, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations have made towards the advancement of the peace process in Liberia,

Recognizing that the implementation of complete and comprehensive disarmament is very crucial to the restoration of permanent and durable peace to Liberia, and NOTING within its context the serious financial, logistical and other problems presently besetting ECOMOG in carrying out its peace-keeping mandate in Liberia,

Realizing that the successful implementation of all pertinent agreements to bring peace to Liberia will depend to a large extent on contributions and continuing financial assistance from the International Community, particularly donor countries :

WELCOMES the initiatives of the Current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the efforts of other leaders in the sub-region, which have culminated into the signing of the Abuja Agreement by the parties to the Liberian conflict, and URGES them not to relent in their endeavours until peace is finally returned to Liberia;

2. REAFFIRMS that the Cotonou Accord, as supplemented and amended by the Akosombo Agreement and its Accra Clarifications, as well as by the Abuja Agreement, continues to offer the best framework for bringing lasting and durable peace to Liberia, and CALLS on the leaders of the parties to place the national interest of the country above their personal gains in order to respect and implement these Accords;

3. WELCOMES the installation of the new Liberia National Transitional Government (LNTG) which includes the leaders of the warring factions and civilian representatives as members of the Council of State;

4. APPEALS to the Liberian National Transitional Government to continue to assist in the full implementation of the Abuja Agreement;

5. CONFIRMS that comprehensive and total disarmament of all warring parties is very crucial for the attainment of durable peace in Liberia, in this regard COMMENDS the commencement of the deployment of troops throughout Liberia by ECOMOG to monitor the disengagement and encampment of combatants as the first real step towards the realization of the goal of disarmament;

6. EXPRESSES CONCERN over the recent incidents in Liberia including the outbreak of fighting among some of the warring parties and CALLS ON the parties to put an immediate end to the fighting;

7. CALLS ON all parties to respect the schedule of implementation as annexed to the Akosombo Agreement and its Accra Clarifications, as well as the Abuja Agreement;

8. EXPRESSES gratitude to the Secretary General of the United Nations for convening, in

collaboration with the Current ECOWAS Chairman and the Government of Liberia, a Pledging Conference for Liberia;

9. FURTHER EXPRESSES appreciation to all those countries, UN agencies, and NGOs which have fulfilled their pledges and APPEALS to others which have not yet fulfilled their promises to do so urgently to enable Liberia move from the condition of war and independence on humanitarian assistance to laying of the basis for self-reliance, national rehabilitation, reconstruction and development;

10. COMMENDS the efforts of the Secretary General of the OAU for providing from the OAU resources a financial contribution to ECOWAS to assist ECOMOG carry out its disarmament mandate in Liberia, in compliance with the Council's Resolution CM/Res. 1585 (LXII) adopted in June 1995;

11. FURTHER COMMENDS the efforts of all countries which have contributed troops to ECOMOG contingents for the-sacrifices they have made and continue to make towards the search for peace in Liberia;

12. EXPRESSES gratitude to all member of the International Community which have contributed personnel to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) in support of the peace process;

13. CALLS ON members of the International Community which have not yet done so to recognize and give full faith and credence to the current Liberia National Transitional Government (LNTG);

14. FURTHER CALLS ON the International Community to strictly observe the arms embargo imposed against all warring factions in the Liberian conflict by the UN Security Council Resolution 788, and URGES ECOWAS Member States, particularly all those bordering Liberia to take appropriate measures to prevent the transshipment of weapons or war-like materials through their territories to the warring factions in conformity with ECOWAS own sanctions;

15. ALSO APPEALS to the international community to provide financial and logistical support without undue conditionalities, to ECOMOG to enable it play its role in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement;

16. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity to follow closely developments on the situation in Liberia and report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON SIERRA LEONE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Sierra Leone as contained in document CM/1912(LXIII)D as well as its Annex,

Having heard the statement of the delegation of Sierra Leone on the prevailing situation in Sierra Leone,

Deeply concerned about the on-going war in Sierra Leone whereby the high loss of life, large-scale destruction of property and massive displacement of the civilian population within the country, as well as the mass exodus of Sierra Leonean refugees into the neighbouring countries have continued to occur,

Welcoming the expression of confidence on the part of the RUF in the OAU in assisting in the search for a lasting solution to the current situation, including the facilitation of dialogue:

1. REITERATES its grave concern over the continuing tragic war in Sierra Leone;
2. CALLS ON the warring Parties to declare an immediate cease fire;
3. APPEALS to the warring Parties to follow up their expression of confidence in the intervention of the OAU, neighbouring countries and other international bodies by continuing with the on-going negotiations;
4. COMMENDS the Government of Sierra Leone for facilitating and creating conducive conditions for the conduct of elections and the democratization process that is now being pursued;
5. FURTHER APPEALS to Member States and to the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leonean refugees and internally displaced persons;
6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the situation in Sierra Leone and report thereon to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of Council.

CM/Res.1623 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE GREAT LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE

The Council of Ministers of the organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the crisis as contained in Document CM/1914 (LXIII),

Having heard the statement of the leader of delegation of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Having listened to the Chairman of the OAU Ministerial Committee on the dispute:

1. REAFFIRMS its solidarity with the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and COMMENDS its efforts and numerous initiatives taken in the search of solution to the crisis;
2. DEPLORES the maintenance of sanctions against Libya despite that country's flexibility and efforts in meeting the conditions set by the United Nations Security Council for lifting the sanctions;
3. COMMENDS the Ministerial Committee on the dispute for the efforts deployed towards the peaceful resolution of the crisis;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to contact his counterpart of the League of Arab States with a view to organising a joint meeting of the OAU Ministerial Committee of Five on the dispute and the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States on the dispute to afford both Committees the opportunity to exchange information and adopt a common strategy that would lead to the peaceful and quick resolution of the crisis;
5. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to present a report to its 64th Session on the matter.

RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

REAFFIRMS that the Palestinian Question is at the core of the Middle East Conflict, while the issue of East Jerusalem forms the core of the Palestinian Question and that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in Palestine calls for:

- a) Withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, recognition and respect of the inalienable national rights of Palestinian people in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX);
- b) Cessation of all acts of violence by all parties which are calculated to derail the on-going peace negotiations between Israel and PLO;
- c) The release of all prisoners in accordance with the agreement between Israel and the PLO and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949;
- d) The cessation of activities aimed at establishing new Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the need to dismantle the existing ones, put an immediate end to the confiscating of the Palestinian Land in and around Jerusalem and all other occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and rescind immediately all the confiscation orders and arrangements taken by Israel and that no such action be taken in the future so as to comply with the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

2. REAFFIRMS the need to solve the problem of Palestinian refugees based on the principles of human rights and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UN resolutions, particularly General Assembly Resolutions 194 (1948) and Security Council Resolution 237 (1967), considering that the right to return constitutes one of the basic principles for achieving comprehensive and just peace in the region;

3. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT for the "Land for Peace" principle pursuant to the Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and for the Declaration of principles signed in Washington on 13 September, 1993 by PLO and Israel as a first step towards the implementation of the principles of "Land for Peace" which should be speedily followed by similar measures on the Palestinian and other tracks;

4. APPRECIATES the determination of the Israeli Government and the PLO to forge ahead with the peace negotiation despite numerous setbacks;

5. ENCOURAGES Israel and the PLO to continue the peace process and ASSERTS the need to adhere to the provisions of the agreements concluded by the parties and take measures to implement those agreements Without delay and within the time frame pursuant to the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington and all other related agreements;
6. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION of the efforts being exerted by all other parties in the bilateral and multilateral talks and ENCOURAGES them to persevere in their efforts to reach a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian Question;
7. REQUESTS Member States to sponsor projects for Jerusalem in support of this holy city and the gallant Palestinian people;
8. REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT to the PLO and its National Palestinian Authority and CALLS UPON the donor community and international organizations and investment institutions to provide the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, with economic and financial assistance, to enable it exploit and develop the resources of the Palestinian territories and rehabilitate Palestinian national institutions as well as the infrastructure of the Palestinian national economy;
9. INVITES the Member -States to continue extending their support to the PLO at the forthcoming negotiations on issues deferred to the final stage in order to ensure the transfer to the Palestinian National Authority of all authority and responsibilities in the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
10. REAFFIRMS the need to abide by the UN resolutions especially the recent resolution of the General Assembly A/50/L.37 of 29 November 1995 which calls on the Member States not to transfer their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem;
11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to monitor developments regarding the Question of Palestine and report therein to the next session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

the following countries entered reservations as follows:

Cameroon reservations on paragraphs i(a) and (d) and 9.

Kenya reservations on paragraphs 1,2,8 and 9

Zambia reservations on paragraphs 1,2,8 and 9.

CM/Res.1625 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-third ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 - 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Secretary-General's report on the situation in the Middle East as contained in Document CM/1917 (LXIII),

Guided by the principles and objectives of the UN and OAU Charters and by the common determination of the Arab and African peoples to pool their resources in order to defend their sovereignty and restore their legitimate fundamental rights,

Recalling all the relevant resolutions of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers,

Further recalling that the Palestinian Question is at the core of Arab/Israeli conflict in the Middle East and that the issue of East Jerusalem is the core cause of the Palestinian Question:

1. WELCOMES the positive developments that have taken place in the Middle East and EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT for the efforts being deployed at various levels to find a comprehensive and just solution for the Palestinian Question and the Arab/Israeli conflict in accordance with Resolutions 242, 338, 425 and 478 of the UN Security Council and based on the principle of land for peace;
2. EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT for the Arab countries in their efforts to end the Israeli occupation and find a lasting, just and comprehensive solution to the problem in the Middle East;
3. REAFFIRMS that the Palestinian Question and the issue of Jerusalem are the core of the Arab/Israeli conflict and that no comprehensive, just and lasting solution could be found in the Middle East as long as Israel does not withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon and as long as the Palestinian people are not allowed to exercise their inalienable national rights;
4. REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT for resolution 681 of the UN Security Council, calling for the implementation of all the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of the rights of the civilian population during wars in the case of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem;
5. STRONGLY URGES the United Nations and the International Community to

ensure Israel's compliance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning the use of its nuclear facilities for peaceful means and persuade it to open these for international inspection and facilities to submit to the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency a comprehensive report stockpile of nuclear weapons;

6. REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT for the proposal made by H.E. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt to declare the Middle East a nuclear weapons free zone;

7. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to monitor the situation in the Middle East and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1626 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary-Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 - 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Angola, contained in Doc. CM/1934 (LXIII) Rev.1,

Noting with satisfaction the recent positive developments in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol,

Having heard the statement made by the Vice Minister of External Relations of Angola on the evolution of the general situation in the context of the peace process in the country,

Noting with concern the continued violation of Angola Air Space by pirate air crafts proceeding from the territories of some neighbouring countries,

Emphasizing the obligation of all countries to respect the relevant Resolution of the United Nations Security Council and the need to refrain from any act capable of jeopardizing the peace effort and National Reconciliation in Angola,

Aware of the contributions made by the International Community, in particular the United Nations and the observer

Countries to the peace process in Angola, in order to assist the Angolan parties involved in restoring peace, confidence and stability:

1. REAFFIRMS its total support for the peace process in Angola;
2. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the OAU and the United Nations Organization, in particular the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, as well as to the Observer Countries involved in the peace process in Angola, for their continued efforts in supporting the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol;
3. FURTHER EXPRESSES its appreciation for the recent initiative by the Angolan Government, which is aimed at sustaining and accelerating the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, namely, through the:
 - a) Adoption by the National Assembly of political principles which should govern the Constitutional review aimed at adapting the current legal and political system to changes resulting

from the peace process;

b) The encampment of the Rapid Police-Force;

c) The return of the Angolan Armed Forces (AAF) to the barracks, withdrawing them from the positions closer to the UNITA forces encampment areas;

d) Termination of contract with the South African Company known as "EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES" under which military experts providing services to the Government were repatriated;

e) The release of all prisoners of war.

4. URGES UNITA to comply with the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol and to honour the commitment made towards their definitive implementation, as provided for in the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions;

5. FURTHER URGES UNITA to place its forces in the agreed confinement areas, by respecting the equipment, as well as the military personnel it is sending to the confinement areas;

6. ENCOURAGES the holding of the planned fourth meeting in Gabon under the auspices of President Omar Songo, between the Angolan Head of State and the UNITA Leader as soon as the conditions have been fulfilled;

7. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION with the outcome of the Round Table during which pledges were made in favour of the Community Rehabilitation Programme and URGES the institutions and the donor countries to honour their commitments;

a. FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN over the continued violation of the Angolan air-space by unidentified aircraft and URGES the countries concerned neighbouring Angola to contribute positively to ending such acts which violates the- Security Council resolutions;

9. CALLS ON the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation and report thereon to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1627 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the -Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced persons in Africa (CM/1915 (LXIII)),

Recalling earlier declarations and resolutions on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons on the Continent,

Considering that, despite efforts exerted by Member States especially in the area of voluntary repatriation, the situation of refugees and displaced persons remains extremely alarming,

Considering the considerable efforts made by the UNHCR and ICRC in aid of refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Conscious of the need to increase assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons:

Taking note of the successful conclusion of the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 12 to 17 February, 1995, and the Plan of Action adopted therein;

Having considered the outcome of the 24th Ordinary Session of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees held in Khartoum, September, 1995:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on refugees, and the recommendations contained therein;
2. URGES countries of origin and host countries to promote the voluntary repatriation of refugees who wish to return home, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the 1969 OAU Convention on specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa;
3. EXPRESSES its deep gratitude to countries of origin which@ have implemented voluntary repatriation programme;
4. EXHORTS the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees to accelerate the adoption of its programme of action and submit it to the Council of Ministers;
5. REQUESTS Member States to raise, within the limit of their resources, their assistance to refugees and displaced persons and to make a special effort to help refugees wishing to undertake

studies;

6. ENCOURAGES Non-Governmental Organizations and especially African non-governmental organizations to step up their efforts in collaboration with other interested parties in favour of refugees and displaced persons so as to bring about a considerable increase in African participation in humanitarian operations mounted on the Continent;

7. APPEALS to the donor community for increased financial support to countries involved in voluntary repatriation programmes;

8. EXPRESSES its deep gratitude to countries of asylum for the hospitality and generosity extended to refugees and THANKS the UNHCR and ICRC. for their efforts on behalf of refugees and displaced persons; and REQUEST them to redouble their efforts in assistance for refugees in the countries of asylum;

9. CALLS ON the countries of asylum to strictly respect and adhere-to the principles enshrined in the United Nations and African Conventions on the protection of the rights of refugees;

10. FURTHER CALLS UPON Member States of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the Bujumbura Conference to attend and participate actively in the Second Follow-up Committee meeting of the said Conference to be held on 29th February, 1996 in Addis Ababa.

11. TAYES NOTE of the recommendations emanating from the 24th Ordinary Session of the Committee on Assistance to Refugees and EXPRESSES APPRECIATION to the Government of the Sudan for hosting and providing assistance to that Session;- -

12. REQUESTS the Commission of Twenty of the OAU to submit a report to the 64th Ordinary Session of Council.

CM/Res.1628 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE REVISION OF THE 1980 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PROLIFERATION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Considering Resolution C M/Res. 1593 (LXII) on the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional weapons and the Problems Posed by the Proliferation of Anti-Personnel Mines in Africa,

Further Considering Resolution CM/Res.152G (LX) on respect for International Humanitarian Law and Support for Humanitarian Action in Armed Conflicts adopted by Council, particularly its paragraph 6 (b) by which the Council invites Member States which have not yet become party to the above Convention to do so,

Noting that the Review Conference of the Convention which met in Vienna, Austria, from 25 September to 13 October, 1995 did not agree on the new measures aimed at prohibiting or limiting strictly the production, the use and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and that it will resume its deliberations in Geneva, Switzerland from 22 April to 3 May, 1996,

Deeply concerned over the fact that Africa is, throughout the world, the Continent with the largest presence of emplaced anti-personnel mines and is, as a result, paying the heaviest toll,

Noting that, despite the firm appeal made by the Sixty- Second Ordinary Session of Council to all Member States to participate actively in the Review conference in Vienna, less than 12 African countries took part in the deliberations,

Noting in particular with concern the tremendous increase in the number of victims of anti-personnel mines, among the civilian population and the high cost involved in mine clearing and rehabilitation of the affected areas;

Conscious of the fact that only appropriate measures adopted by the entire international community will eventually put an end to this scourge;

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General on the problems posed by the proliferation of anti- personnel mines in Africa and the recommendations contained therein;
2. CONDEMNS the cases of flagrant violation of international humanitarian law through the

indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines;

3. URGES all Member States which have not yet acceded to the 1980 UN Convention on some Conventional arms to consider doing so as early as possible, particularly to its Protocol II;

4. FURTHER URGES Member States to participate fully and actively in the Review Conference scheduled in Geneva from 22 April to 3 May, 1996 and to defend the African Common Position as contained in the operative paragraph 4 of the Resolution CM/Res. 1593 (LX--I);

5. CALLS ON African Sub-regional organizations and particularly their Current Chairmen, to take, at the level of their respective regions, the appropriate initiatives aimed at banning anti-personnel mines as a way of buttressing the efforts of the international community and the OAU in this area;

6. APPEALS to the International Community to give increased support for national and regional structures charged with assisting victims of anti-personnel mines, notably, the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);

7. FURTHER APPEALS to the international community to continue its support to the on-going national efforts of clearing mines in order to facilitate development in the countries affected;

8. REQUESTS the countries responsible for supplying the necessary resources and information, including maps relating to the mines locations, to African countries which have been victims of the mines scourge during the 2nd World War and/or during conflicts @ preceding their attainment of independence;

9. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION with the adoption of a Protocol banning blinding laser weapons by the Review Conference and CALLS on all Member States to consider adhering to it;

10. TAKES NOTE of the new direction adopted by the Review Conference, which constitute a way forward towards the achievement of the ultimate aim of total ban on anti-personnel mines, namely:

- the extension of the field of applications of the 1980 Convention to non-international armed conflicts;
- the assignment of responsibility for mine clearing to those who have laid them;
- the mandatory registration of all mine fields and mine areas and not only certain types;
- the banning of the use of devices which trigger the- explosion of a mine at the approach of the electromagnetic detector or similar detector as those used in demining teams.

REITERATES the provisions of resolution CM/Res. 1370 (LV) on refugees and displaced persons "appealing to all Member States of the Organization of African Unity that are able to do so, to contribute, through the Organization of African Unity or any other appropriate arrangements, expertise, personnel, equipment, technical know-how or any other relevant resources towards the clearance of land mines and other unexploded ammunitions in areas of potential return of refugees;"

12. APPEALS to all Member States to cooperate in developing- and enhancing self-reliance in all fields relevant to this resolution including technical capability of demining and humanitarian assistance to the victims of anti-personnel mines;

13. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of council.

CM/Res.1629 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE CAIRO SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE-ZONE TREATY (PELINDABA TREATY)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-third Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of Resolution - CM/Res. 1592 (LXII) Rev. I on the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Africa,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and-Government of the organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1964,

Further recalling resolution CM/Res. 1592 (LXII) Rev.1 adopted at the 62nd meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OAU on 23 June 1995 which adopted the Pelindaba Text of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone,

Also Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3472 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, in which it considered Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZS) one of the most effective means for preventing the proliferation both horizontal and vertical, of nuclear weapons,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly in its 50th Session of Resolution 50/78 on the final text of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty,

Affirming that nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of nuclear disarmament efforts, both globally and regionally especially the establishment of NWFZS, constitute key elements in the maintenance of international peace and security,

Encouraged by the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in its 50th Session of Resolution A/Res/50/66 on "the establishment of NWFZ in the region of the Middle East" by consensus:

1. EMPHASIZES the importance of eliminating all nuclear weapons and considers the establishment of NWFZs as necessary steps towards attaining this objective AND CALLS UPON all States to consider the appropriate means towards the achievement of these objectives, including the universal adherence to NPT;
2. EMPHASIZES ALSO the importance of the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy;
3. WELCOMES ONCE AGAIN the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the signing

ceremony of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty and that of the South African Government to host the Headquarters of the African Nuclear Energy Commission;

4. URGES the African States to attend the signing ceremony and to sign the Treaty when it opens for signature scheduled for 11 April, 1996, in Cairo and to take the necessary measures to ensure its early entry into force;

5. ALSO CALLS UPON the Nuclear Weapon States and the States contemplated in Protocol 3 to the Pelindaba Treaty to attend the signing ceremony and to sign the relevant Protocols when the Treaty is open for signature in Cairo;

6. STRONGLY BELIEVES that the establishment of NWFZS, especially in the Middle East World would enhance the security of Africa, and in this regard RECALLS the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the "Parties to the NPT in May 1995 and CALLS for its implementation in all its parts;

7. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to report to the 64th Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU on the implementation of the present resolution.

CM/Res.1630 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICAN AND ASIAN COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting at the Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Recalling the Declaration adopted by the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, from 9 to 11 July 1990 on "The political and socio-economic situation in Africa and the fundamental changes taking place in the World",

Recalling also that the African and Asian countries have maintained close cooperation over several decades within the framework of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity organization, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and other similar organizations,

Noting that Afro-Asian Cooperation which has an aspect of South-South Cooperation has benefited the countries of the two continents, particularly in the cultural and social fields,

Taking into account the impact of the end of the Cold War and current trends and developments in the global economic relations, including the establishment of the World Trade Organization and the emergence of various world economic trading groupings which have serious implications for Member States,

Cognizant of the advances made by Asian countries in the economic, trade, industrial, technological and other fields,

Taking into account the efforts, currently being deployed by the African countries on the issue of economic integration within the context of the African Economic Community,

Convinced of the benefits to be derived from Afro-Asian cooperation and of the need to revive that cooperation between African and Asian countries and organizations:

1. TAYES NOTE of on-going efforts to enhance and strengthen economic cooperation between African and Asian countries;
2. DECIDES to invigorate cooperation relations between African and Asian countries and organizations, especially the OAU, AEC, ASEAN, SARCC and APEC;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to examine the ways and means of enhancing Afro-Asian cooperation, particularly in the economic fields and submit an interim report to the 64th Ordinary

Session of Council and concrete recommendations and measures to that end to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Recalling the recommendation of the Lagos Plan of Action which called for the establishment of an African Energy Commission,

Further recall the Tunis Declaration of the First Pan- African Energy Ministers Conference supporting emphatically the need to establish the African Energy Commission, under the aegis of the OAU, in close cooperation with the ECA and the ADB,

Having in mind the Cairo Agenda for Action adopted by our Seventeenth Extraordinary Session requesting, among others, the Secretary-General of the OAU in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the President of the ADB to undertake, urgently, measures for establishing the African Energy Commission taking into account, inter-alia, the ADE study on the African Energy Programme,

Convinced that the Energy Sector in Africa is very important for the economic cooperation and integration of the continent and therefore needs an institution at the continental level to face common challenges and to solve its problems of integration through greater regional and sub-regional cooperation,

Considering the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of the African Energy Commission as well as the recommendation adopted by the First Regional Conference on Mineral Resources and Energy on the same subject:

1. TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION of the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of the African Energy Commission as well as the recommendations made by the First Regional Conference of African Ministers Responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy;
2. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive pre-feasibility study in cooperation with ECA and ADB on, the creation of the African Energy Commission 'with special emphasis on the role, mandate, the structure as well as the financial resources and report to the Council during the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council.

CM/Res.1632 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH ALL-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February; 1996,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.277 (XIX) of the OAU Council of Ministers, which institutionalized the All Africa Trade Fair,

Taking into account the need to promote Africa's economic development and in particular intra-African trade by deploying and mobilizing all economic development tools such as trade and investment promotion -through the All Africa Trade Fair and the organization of Investment Fora and Business Round tables,

Cognizant of the over-riding need to use the 7th All- Africa Trade Fair to create the necessary commercial, investment and economic impacts in Africa thus laying the foundation for the African Common Market as provided for in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling previous decisions of the Conference of African Ministers of tourism calling on the OAU and the UNECA to organize a Tourism Fair in conjunction with the All-Africa Trade Fair,

Recognizing the significant contribution that Tourism makes and its potential to the socio-economic developmental effort of Member States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary General entitled "Progress Report on the Preparations for the Seventh All- Africa Trade Fair,, contained in document CM/1923 (LXIII):

1. TAKES NOTE of the recommendations contained in the said report emanating from the First Meeting of the Technical Organizing Committee of the Seventh all Africa Trade Fair;
2. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for having graciously offered to host the Seventh OAU All-Africa Trade Fair;
3. ENDORSES the dates for the 7th All-Africa Trade Fair proposed by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, that is the 9th to the 17 November, 1996 and CALLS UPON all Member States to participate actively in the Fair;
4. URGES all Member States not to schedule any major commercial events in their-countries td-- clash with the dates for the 7th All-Africa Trade Fair, if possible;

5. REAFFIRMS the importance of the All-Africa Trade Fair as a major tool for the promotion of intra-African Trade and as a driving force for the attainment of the objective to establish an African Common Market and African Economic Community;
6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the host country and the Technical Organizing Committee, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the UNECA, the African Regional Economic Communities and other relevant institutions, to include Tourism as a component of the 7th All- Africa Trade Fair with a view to promoting the Tourism sector;
7. INVITES the African Development Bank, the African Export Import Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union/African Caribbean Pacific States Secretariat to provide all possible support to assist Member States to effectively participate in the Fair;
8. FURTHER INVITES the African Development Bank, the African Export Import bank, the African -Business Round table, the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and other relevant regional and international financial institutions to assist the General Secretariat of the OAU in organizing an African Investment Forum during the Fair and to participate in the said Forum;
9. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue the re- organization of activities of the All-Africa Trade Fair, by combining the Fair with events such as Buyer/Seller meetings, Investment Fora etc.. so as to make the Africa Trade Fair a truly Business Forum with prospects for follow-up of business and Joint venture projects;
10. URGES the General Secretariat to seek supplementary extra-budgetary financial resources and technical assistance for the Seventh All-Africa Trade Fair;
11. INVITES all Member States to endeavour to make provision in their own national budgets appropriate financial resource's that will enable them to participate effectively in the Fair;
12. FURTHER INVITES all eligible Member States to deploy efforts to secure funding under the appropriate provisions of ACP-EU Lome IV Convention and from other possible sources to ensure their effective participation in the Fair.

CM/Res.1633 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS AN ESSENTIAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles and purposes of the OAU Charter, the Lagos Plan of Action and its Final Act and the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Aware of the role Science and Technology play and should continue to play in the process of socio-economic development of Member States,

Convinced that priority should be given to the practical aspects of Science and Technology in order to attain improved living conditions for African peoples,

Noting that only a small proportion of the organizations budget is appropriated for Scientific and Technology programmes of the Secretariat,

Recalling its Resolution CM/Res.1570(LXI) adopted by its Sixty-first Ordinary Session:

1. URGES the General Secretariat in collaboration with ECA and ADB to take the necessary measures to include Science and Technology in all its programmes and development activities especially those with a practical field component;
2. REQUESTS that a re-allocation of appropriations be carried out within the 1996/98 Programme Budget in order to allocate increased resources to programmes and activities relating to Science and Technology within the limit of the ceiling of the Budget in question;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to ensure that during the preparation of future Programme/Budgets greater attention be paid to this sector of activities of the Secretariat by allocating adequate financial resources to this sector;
4. CALLS on the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to commission a team of experts external to the Secretariat, to undertake a strategic study of scientific and technological activities and programmes of the OAU and the structures responsible for their implementation bearing in mind existing realities and the priorities defined by the organization;
5. REQUESTS the Secretary General to submit a report on this issue to its Sixty-fifth Ordinary Session.

RESOLUTION ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE 4TH LOME CONVENTION

The Council of Ministers of the organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Noting that the Agreement amending the 4th Lome Convention was concluded on 4 November 1995,

observing, among the amendments made to the Convention, the major changes made to Article 281 to 284 bearing especially on programming and the implementation of the 8th EDF in two tranches,

Whereas this new implementation procedure implies that, pursuant to the revised Article 283, the Community and the ACP States shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the indicative programmes are adopted within twelve months of the signing of the Financial Protocol,

Remarking however that the Agreement amending the 4th Lome Convention was concluded almost one year behind schedule and that this delay threatens to seriously eat into the period remaining for the programming and the beginning of the implementation of the 8th EDF:

1. LAUNCHES AN URGENT APPEAL to the ACP States to take all necessary measures to speed up the ratification of the Agreement and forward as soon as possible to the EU Council Secretariat in conformity with Article 359 and 360, the instruments of ratification and the formal notification of the Agreement amending the 4th Convention;
2. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the ACP Secretary-General, to ensure the execution of this resolution and report to the next Session of the Council of the Ministers.

CM/Res.1635 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation, (Doc. CM/1929 (LXIII),

Bearing in mind the Declarations and Programmes of Action adopted by the First Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 7 to 9 March 1977,

Recalling Resolutions CM/Res.1343 (LIV) and CM/Res.1440 (LVII) on Afro-Arab Cooperation,

Aware of the need for solidarity between Africans and Arabs peoples and the deep historical, political, cultural, economic and trade links between them,

Convinced of the important role that Afro-Arab Trade Fairs can play in the enhancement of economic, trade and investment activities between the two groups,

Determined to promote Afro-Arab Cooperation in all fields:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to pursue, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the activities already initiated for the implementation of the already adopted programmes, particularly those concerning the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute, the establishment of an Afro-Arab Financing and Investment Corporation and the organization of the Third Afro- Arab Trade Fair;
3. TAKES NOTE with satisfaction of the Interim Report on the organization of the Second Afro-Arab Trade Fair held in Johannesburg from 6 to 14 October 1995;
4. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to.-the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa for the excellent facilities which contributed to the success of that important event;
5. COMMENDS all the African States which participated actively in the different aspects of that event;
6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to ensure the follow-up and the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Co-operation Forum held in Johannesburg;

7. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in cooperation with his counterpart of the League of Arab States, to submit an Evaluation Report on the Second Afro-Arab Trade Fair to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of Council;
8. CALLS ON African -Regional Economic Institutions, appropriate institutions within the UN system, such as UNECA, LTNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC UNCTAD/WTO and other organizations, to render technical and financial assistance in the preparation of the Third Afro- Arab Trade Fair;
9. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to ensure that the institutions and organizations of the private sector fully participate in the preparation and the organization of the Third Afro-Arab Trade Fair;
10. CALLS ON the Secretary-General of the OAU to pursue his consultations with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States with a view to holding the meeting of the Afro-Arab Standing Commission in 1996;
11. FURTHER CALLS ON the Secretary-General to submit a report on the issue to the next session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1636 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC (FESPAM)

The Council of Ministers of-the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the Pan-African Music Festival (FESPAM 96) scheduled in Brazzaville, The Congo, from 5 to 15 August, 1996 (Doc. CM/1924 (LXIII),

Recalling the objectives of the Cultural Charter for Africa and the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988- 1997),

Recalling also resolutions CM/Res.117 (IX) and CM/Res. 509 (XXVII) on Pan-African Festivals:

1. TAKES NOTE of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General;
2. THANKS the Government of The Congo for having offered to host that Festival;
3. CONGRATULATES the Preparatory Committee on the steps taken to ensure the success of the Festival;
4. CALLS UPON all Member States to participate actively in the Festival;
5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, within the framework of cooperation agreements, to take the necessary steps to approach UNESCO, the European Union, ACCT (Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique) as well as other relevant organizations in order to obtain their moral, technical and financial assistance in support of the Festival and to report to the 64th Ordinary Session of the Council on the outcome of those consultations.

CM/Res.1637 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS

The Council of Ministers of the organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February; 1996,

Recalling its Resolution CM/Res.1469 (LVIII) of June 1993 that called upon the Member States of the Organization of African Unity to participate actively in the preparatory activities for the Habitat 11 and the Conference itself in, Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996,

Taking into Account that Resolution CM/Res.1469 (LVIII) called up on the Member States of the Organization of African to support the Habitat II preparatory process at the national, sub- regional and regional levels by working with regional bodies such as the OAU, ADE, UNECA, Shelter Afrique and others,

Further Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration adopted by the African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements that calls for the strengthening of the role of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) so that they can effectively carry out their work at the international level and within the United Nations system, in line with the added responsibilities that will emerge as a consequence of the Habitat II Conference,

Noting with concern that in many African countries, the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living environment of the people due to, inter-alia, the pressure of population growth and urbanization and because the financial resource requirements for human settlement programmes far exceed the availability of resources in these countries,

Concerned that the human settlements problems that led to the establishment of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)) have not been solved as is explained by Resolution 47/180 of the General Assembly that decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) due to the deteriorating human settlements conditions globally,

Reaffirming the UN General Assembly Resolution 48/176 of 21 December 1993 which, inter-alia, requested the Assembly to ensure that, in the restructuring of the United Nations System, the

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements and that its institutional capabilities are strengthened at its headquarters, maximizing the effectiveness of national and regional operations,

Convinced that the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) are significant organs in the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat II Conference recommendations:

1. REAFFIRMS the support of the OAU and its Member States for the preparatory process for the Habitat II Conference at the national, sub-regional and regional levels;
2. ENDORSES the Johannesburg Declaration and its call for the strengthening of the role of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) to enable them to respond effectively to the additional challenges emerging from the Habitat II Conference;
3. CALLS UPON the regional bodies in Africa such as the ADB, UN-ECA, Shelter Afrique and others to continue to work closely with the OAU in seeking sustainable human settlements solutions for African countries and their peoples;
4. CALLS for the updating of the mandate of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the strengthening of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) in order to effectively coordinate the implementation and follow-up of the post-Habitat II Plan of Action;
5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Executive-Secretary of UN-ECA, the President of the ADIB and Member States of the OAU for their concerted action.

CM/Res.1638 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26th to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Progress Report of the Secretary General on the status of ratifications of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,

Recalling Resolution AHG/Res. 197 (XXVI) by which the 26th Session of the Assembly of Heads - of State and Government adopted the African Charter on the Right6 and Welfare of the Child,

Noting that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in November, 1989 only six months before the

adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child has been ratified by all Member States, except one,

Recalling that the African Charter was intended to be a complementary legal mechanism to that of the UN, in order to enhance the enjoyment of the Rights of Children in Africa,

Further recalling Declaration AHG ST.4 (XVI) Rev. I on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in its 16th Ordinary Session in Monrovia, Liberia in July 1979,

Noting with concern that only six Member States have so far signed and ratified the Charter while 19 have merely signed it and that the rest of the Member States have neither signed nor ratified the Charter:

1. **STRONGLY APPEALS** to Member States which have not yet done so, to urgently sign and ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and to deposit the Instruments of Ratification-with the Secretary-General;
2. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to submit a Progress Report on this matter to the 65th Session of Council.

CM/Res.1639 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE BAMAKO CONVENTION ON THE BAN OF THE IMPORT INTO AFRICA AND THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES WITHIN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 - 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General contained in Doc. CM/1927 (LXIII),

Having in mind the provisions of Resolution CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) on Nuclear and Industrial Wastes in Africa, -as well as resolution CM/Res.119 (XLIX), on the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Dangerous Wastes,

Recalling the recommendations of Resolution CM/Res.1225 (L) of the OAU Council of Ministers on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and the Unanimous Adoption of the Bamako Convention on 30 January 1991,

Further Recalling that the Bamako Convention was conceived and adopted as complementary to the 1989 Basel Convention and that both Conventions together perform a global function in restricting the spread of hazardous wastes,

Bearing in mind the Council of Ministers Resolution CM/1673 (LIV) of 27 May - I June, 1991 in which all member States were urged to ratify the Bamako Convention as a matter of urgency, in order to protect specific African interests,

Conscious of the fact that each Member State has to prepare the necessary instruments for the effective implementation of the Convention:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary General Doc. CM/1927 (LXIII);
2. URGES all Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Bamako Convention as a matter of urgency;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this resolution on the state of ratification of the Convention to the 65th Ordinary Session of Council.

CM/Res.1640 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE CONTROL OF MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the control of Vitamin A and Iron Deficiencies (Doc. CM/1928 (LXIII)),

Aware that Vitamin A and Iron deficiencies affect numerous citizens of all Member States,

Mindful of -the adverse effects Vitamin A and Iron deficiencies have on the health, especially infants, pre-school children, pregnant and lactating women, and of the severe consequences of Iron deficiency on learning capacity and work- output,

Considering further that Vitamin A and Iron deficiencies are nutritional disorders for which techniques of prevention, treatment and control are available and affordable:

- 1 TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
- 2 CALLS upon Member States to:
 - a) strengthen Primary Health Care systems by incorporating measures to control Vitamin A and Iron deficiencies;
 - b) strengthen all public education policies by establishing nutrition education in curricula at all levels of schooling;
 - c) incorporate the role of private food processing companies and suppliers into the planning and implementation of all national policies for the control of micronutrient deficiencies;

CM/Res.1641 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH FUNCTIONAL LITERACY AND THE EDUCATION OF THE GIRL CHILD

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February; 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Uganda Government on the Conference on the Empowerment of Women through Functional Literacy and the Education of the Girl Child, Document CM/1902 (LXIII) Add.1,

Recalling the African Platform for Action which is the African Common Position for the Advancement of Women, adopted at the 5th African Regional Conference on Women in Dakar, Senegal in November, 1994; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the 4th World Conference on Women, Action for Equality, Development and Peace, in September 1995; the World Declaration on Education for All adopted by the 1990 Jomtien World Conference on Education for All; and the Ouagadougou Declaration on the Education of African Girls adopted by the Pan-African Conference on the Education of Girls,

Bearing in mind the various OAU resolutions relating to enhancing the role and contribution of African Women to the political and socio-economic development of the Continent and on the education of the girl child as one of the critical issues requiring policy intervention at all levels, and prerequisite for the achievement of such goals,

Further recalling the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo in September, 1993; the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa, adopted by the 30th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Declaration on Social Development, in Tunis, Tunisia in June, 1994; the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark in March, 1995; and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, to strengthen a public information system which can help individuals and communities to be self-sufficient in controlling Vitamin A and Iron deficiencies;

3. APPRECIATES the efforts of WHO, UNICEF and other organizations both governmental and non- governmental involved in the control Micronutrient Deficiencies; and APPEALS to them to continue to support the efforts of Member States to address these deficiencies;.

4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all concerned agencies and organizations, to continue pursuing the issue and to submit a report to the Council of ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government every two years.

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of June 1993; and the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace adopted by the Regional Conference on Women and Peace in November, 1993; the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted by the 18th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June, 1981; the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children; and the Consensus of Dakar which was the outcome of the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children in November, 1993,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples, Rights; and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development of February, 1990:

1. TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the Report presented by the Uganda Government on the African Conference on the Empowerment of Women Through Functional Literacy and the Education of the Girl Child;
2. COMMENDS the Uganda Government for the initiative taken to convene and host the Conference and for the elaborate preparations being made for the Conference to be jointly organized by the Uganda Government and the OAU, in collaboration with other Agencies;
3. APPEALS to Member States to ensure their active and effective participation in the Conference, scheduled to be held in the first week of September, 1996 to coincide with the International Literacy Day and the First Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;
4. URGES Member States to make adequate preparation for the Conference and to include in their country papers policy reforms and legislation initiated for implementing the various OAU and UN Resolutions, Declarations and Plans/Programmes of Action on the promotion of girls, education, empowerment of women and gender equity;
5. REQUESTS the OAU to give material and political support to the Conference and to participate in the meetings of the Task Force, established for the preparations of the Conference;
6. FURTHER REQUESTS the OAU, in close consultation with the Uganda Government, to work out the thematic outline of the Conference and agree on the allocation of responsibilities

regarding the preparation of the Conference;

7. INVITES the Uganda Government and the Secretary General to jointly mobilize additional funds towards the successful holding of the Conference;

8. APPEALS to Member -States which have not yet done so, to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age of Admission to Employment;

9. FURTHER APPEALS to the United Nations Agencies and Organizations (ADE, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, ECA, ILO, UNEP, World bank and others), International and African NGOs to support and participate in the preparations and holding of this important Conference as well as in the implementation of the outcome of and follow-up activities to the Conference;

10. CALLS UPON the Secretary General to submit a progress report on the preparations of the Conference to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1642 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF DESERTIFICATION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February 1996,

Recalling its various resolutions on the International Convention on the Control of Desertification, more especially, Resolution CM/Res.1614 (LXII) adopted at its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa from 21 to 23 June 1995,

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No.188/47 of December, 1992 bearing on the arrangements for the interim period, especially the resolution on the urgent action for Africa:

1. URGES Member States to sign and/or ratify the Convention as early as possible if they have not already done so, in order to demonstrate the continent's commitment to and confidence in the Convention and facilitate its early entry into force;
2. APPEALS to other States not parties to the Convention to sign and ratify the Convention as early as possible;
3. URGES the international community to honour its commitments in conformity with the relevant provisions of the resolution on the emergency measures for Africa as well as the pertinent articles of the Convention;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to closely monitor the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and those adopted by Council, and to submit a report thereon to future sessions of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1643 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT; THE NEED FOR AN ACTIVE AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Council of Ministers of the organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26-28 February 1996,

Recalling AHG/Res. 244 (XXXI) on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Africa,

Bearing in mind that poverty alleviation and food security constitute one of Africa's basic challenges and preoccupations,

Noting that the low agricultural production and precarious food situation resulted from domestic and external factors have transformed the Continent from a net exporter of food at the beginning of the 1960s into net importer,

Considering that the heavy external debt, high population growth and increased demand, man-made and natural calamities have slowed the growth of food production which fell by 20% in the last 25 years making most African Countries to continue depending on food importation and food aid,

Aware of the enormous natural and human potentials of the African continent and the various commitments made by African States to attain socio-economic development-and the attainment of national and collective self-sufficiency, as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty, the Cairo Agenda of Action for Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development and the Declaration adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the fundamental changes taking place in the world and their implications for Africa,

Mindful that a World Conference, at Summit Level, on Food will be organized by FAO during 13 - 17 November 1996, and cognizant of the importance of an active African preparation, full involvement and participation in the above-mentioned Conference:

1. REITERATES the commitment of the African States to strive individually and. collectively towards food security, increased food production, national and collective self-sufficiency, and CONSIDERS that the forthcoming World Food Summit constitutes an important and timely event towards the attainment of these objectives;

2. REAFFIRMS the imperative need to adopt a Common African Position on Food Security during the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture, which-will be held for that purpose in

Burkina Faso during April 1996;

3. CALLS ON all Member States to actively participate in the world Summit as well as in the preparatory Ministerial meeting;

4. REQUESTS the General Secretariat of the OAU as well as the African Regional Groupings to intensify their efforts in the process of preparation;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU to report on the implementation of this resolution to the 64th Ordinary Session to which the African Common Position will be presented for adoption.

CM/Res.1644 (LXIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The Council of Ministers of the organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed Cooperation Agreement between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the -International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), (Doc. CM/1930 (LXIII),

Considering the mandate of the International Federation and its important role, in inspiring, encouraging, facilitating and promoting all forms of humanitarian activities by national societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of world peace;

Noting that the principles and objectives governing the activities of the International Federation are in conformity with the principles and purposes of the OAU,

Considering that the formalisation of already existing relations between the OAU and the International Federation will enable these two organizations to-strengthen their cooperation in order to harmonise and coordinate their activities in relevant fields of common interest:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. APPROVES the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the International Federation;
3. AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to sign the said Agreement with the duly empowered representative of the International Federation.

CM/Res.1645 (LXIII)

**RESOLUTION ON THE UP-DATING OF THE CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OAU
OBSERVER STATUS**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the updating of the Criteria for the Granting of OAU Observer Status CM/1932 (LXIII):

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General on the subject - Dbc. CM/1932 (LXIII);
2. APPROVES the proposed amendment relating to the deletion of the references to a racist minority regime contained in Chapter I (b) of the criteria and recommends it to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption.

CM/Res.1646 (LXIII)

VOTE OF THANKS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Considering that excellent arrangements had been made by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to ensure the success of the Session,

Considering that the Sixty-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers coincided with the celebration of the Centenary of the Adwa Victory:

1. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION, the highly inspiring statement made during the opening session by H.E. Ato Tamirat Layne, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE to the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of Ethiopia for their fraternal and warm hospitality;
3. CONGRATULATES the people and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the occasion of the Centenary of the Adwa Victory;
4. EXTENDS ITS SALUTATIONS to the people of Ethiopia on the occasion of the celebration of this major historic event which is the expression of the unity, heroism and bravery of the Ethiopian people and which constitutes also a source of pride for the entire African Continent.