



**COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**Sixty Sixth Ordinary Session  
28-31 May 1997  
Harare, Zimbabwe**

**CM/Dec.330-363 (LXVI)**

**DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE SIXTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

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**DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE SIXTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-sixth Ordinary Session in Harare, Zimbabwe from 28 to 31 May, 1997,

Having considered the report of the Committee of Ambassadors and Other Plenipotentiaries Preparatory Meeting,

After reviewing the economic, political and social situation in Africa; and

After considering the financial, administrative and legal matters of the Organization, have reached the following decisions.

*CM/Dec.330 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO MAY 1997**

1. Report on the Activities of the General Secretariat: CM/2000 (LXVI) Part: I.
2. Report on the Activities of the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices: CM/2000 (LXVI) Part II.

Council TAKES NOTE of the two reports.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS**

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ACP COUNTRIES ON THE EVE OF THE 21ST CENTURY (DOC. CM/2010 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report;
- (b) TAKES NOTE ALSO of the planned preparatory meetings which are to consolidate the ACP position for the negotiation of a successor arrangement to the Lome IV Convention;
- (c) URGES African negotiators to maintain unity and solidarity with other members of the ACP Group, while preserving African interests;
- (d) URGES all Member States and Regional Economic Communities to participate effectively in the African Preparatory Meeting scheduled for 1 - 3 July, 1997 in Addis Ababa;
- (e) REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue to provide support and assistance to African delegations, throughout the negotiations, and in particular, during the first ACP Summit in Libreville Gabon;

REQUESTS FURTHER the Secretary General to monitor closely, the evolution of the negotiation process, continue to take an active role in the formulation of ACP positions in the negotiations process, and submit a report to Council on the matter at its 68th regular session.

*CM/Dec.332 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE- SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE CONTACT GROUP OF THE  
AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT - (DOC.CM/2011 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report;
- (b) ENDORSES the work programme for the convening of the First Meeting of the Ambassadors of Member States of the Enlarged Contact Group and subsequently;
- (c) DECIDES that Experts from the Ministries of Finance of OAU Member States be convened between September/November, 1997;
- (d) REQUESTS the Secretary-General to report to the next Session of Council.

*CM/Dec.333 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SEVENTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR - (DOC.CM/2012 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report;
- (b) EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the Fair;
- (c) REAFFIRMS ITS Resolution CM/Res. 1458 (LVIII) adopted in Cairo, Egypt, from 21 to 25 June, 1993 as follows:
  - (i) that the Eighth All-Africa Trade Fair shall take place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in the year 2000;
  - (ii) that the Ninth All-Africa Trade Fair shall take place in Dakar, Senegal, in the year 2004.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (TICAD 11) - (DOC. CM/2021 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) WELCOMES the initiative of TICAD co-organizers namely, the Government of Japan, UN, Global Coalition for Africa, to hold the Second TICAD in 1998 and its preparatory meetings in 1997 both in Tokyo;
- (b) EXPRESSES THE FIRM DETERMINATION of African countries to achieve at TICAD II action-oriented results, with concrete plan of action, to further promote African development in the spirit of African ownership and global partnership;
- (c) URGES TICAD II to come up with a Programme of Action which could serve as a major guideline in the cooperation between Africa and the International Community;
- (d) APPEALS to the international community to continue to strongly support and actively participate in the TICAD II process;
- (e) CALLS UPON Member States to prepare thoroughly for TICAD II and convene an African preparatory meeting for that purpose;
- (f) ALSO CALLS the co-organizers of TICAD II to involve all African countries in the TICAD II process.
- (g) ALSO AGREES that all Member States of the OAU should participate in TICAD II, unlike TICAD I to which some African countries were not invited, and CALLS ON the Secretariat to carry out the necessary consultations to this effect with the co-organizers of TICAD II.



**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF  
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (DOC.CM/2014 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) ENDORSES the Report as adopted by the Twentieth Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;
- (b) FURTHER ENDORSES the Report, the recommendations including the thematic recommendations of the Arusha Seminar on the Protection of the Child and Elimination of Child Labour;
- (c) ADOPTS the outcome of the Arusha Seminar as the African Common Position on Child Labour at the forthcoming International Conference on Child Labour to be held in Oslo in October 1997; and REQUESTS the ILO, UNICEF, WHO and the OAU Secretariat to conduct an in-depth study on the issues and problems of Child Protection and Elimination of Child Labour at national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels;
- (d) REQUESTS the ILO to assist the OAU Secretariat in strengthening, promoting and implementing the principle of Tripartism, in cooperation with PEC and OATUU in the OAU Labour and Social Affairs; to assist the OAU Secretariat in the effective organization of Sessions of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission; and to collaborate with the OAU Secretariat, PEC and OATUU to develop a broad-based employment strategy for consideration by the Labour and Social Affairs Commission;
- (e) REITERATES the importance of enhancing productivity and creating a productivity culture in Africa; REQUESTS the Secretariats of the OAU, PAPA, in collaboration with ILO, OATUU, PEC and ALO to convene a tripartite meeting solely devoted to promoting productivity in Africa; and APPEALS to Member States to be effectively represented at the Pan-African Seminar on Work Ethic and Leadership in Africa to be held in Accra, Ghana in July, 1997;
- (f) INVITES Member States to involve the Youth through the PYM in the formulation and implementation of national, regional and continental plans and programmes for socio-economic development;
- (g) APPEALS to Member States, in association with all the components of the African Sports Movement, to address the migration issue of top African Athletes with a view to deliberately

financing such athletes by their individual countries to participate in continental Championships and Games as is done in Soccer;

(h) ENCOURAGES the OAU Secretariat, the UNDCP, WHO, UNICEF and other concerned organizations to strengthen their cooperation and establish a mechanism on Drug Control within the OAU Secretariat to follow-up the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Abuse in Member States.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE  
AN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, OUAGADOUGOU, MARCH 1997 - (DOC.  
CM/2015(LXVI)**

Council:

(a) TAKES NOTE of the Report;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General to pursue the activities aimed at preparing Africa towards the holding of:

The 19th Extraordinary Session of the UN General Assembly slated for 23 - 27 June, 1997 in New York devoted to the global assessment of the results of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development;

the First Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Desertification to be held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997, and

(b) URGES all Member States to participate fully and effectively in the two meetings;

(c) APPEALS to the African Member States which have not yet done so to finalize the ratification of the Convention on desertification control within the stipulated deadline to enable them to participate fully in the first conference of parties to the Convention slated for Rome from 29 September to 10 October, 1997;

(d) REQUESTS ALSO the Secretary-General, pursuant to Decision CM/Dec.324 (LXV) adopted in Tripoli in February 1997, to cooperate with UNEP and ECA and the other interested parties to lend their support to Member States towards the process of drawing up the Regional Programme for Africa and the establishment of the Fund to finance the implementation of this Regional Programme;

(e) REQUESTS FURTHER the Secretary-General to start initiatives aimed at establishing a line of cooperation between the OAU Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa and the funding mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Desertification;

(f) CALLS ON Member States to adopt a Common Position prior to the Mid-term Review of Agenda 21 scheduled for 23 - 27 June, 1997 in New York;

(g) CALLS ON OAU, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, ECA and other interested parties to support the African Group in preparing a comprehensive report in the form of aide-memoire for

following up the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Africa as contained in Agenda 21 adopted in Rio de Janeiro;

(h) REITERATES ITS SUPPORT for UNEP as the appropriate Forum to deal, fully with all environmental issues in Africa and worldwide and CALLS for adequate resources to be made available to UNEP to enable it to play its coordinating and analytic role in accordance with its mandate, enshrined in the Nairobi Declaration adopted in February 1997 by the Nineteenth Session of UNEP Governing Council on the role and mandate of UNEP and the SUPPORT given by the Ministers of Non-Aligned countries in New Delhi, April 1997.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN PLATFORM OF ACTION: WOMEN, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT - (DOC. CM/2016 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report, as well as the Kigali Declaration on Peace, Gender and Development and the Action Plan for Conflict Affected Areas;
- (b) RECALLS the endorsement by the Summit in 1994 and 1995 of the Kampala Action Plan and the African Platform for Action respectively, of the principle of establishing a concrete mechanism to facilitate the participation of women in the peace process;
- (c) APPROVES the establishment of the African Women Committee on Peace as proposed by the Women Leadership Forum on Peace, Johannesburg, South Africa (November 1996);
- (d) REQUESTS the OAU Secretary General to urgently prepare, in collaboration with the Central Organ at Ambassadorial level and to facilitate the functioning of this Committee and give it all the necessary support to launch and enhance its operations;
- (e) RECOGNIZES the importance of the role and contribution of women in the promotion of the culture of peace; and to that end CALLS UPON Member States, the OAU General Secretariat and other relevant Organizations such as UNESCO, to encourage and popularize the culture of peace and tolerance in all sectors of the African society;
- (f) APPEALS to Member States to undertake concrete actions with a view to ensuring the follow-up of the World Summit on micro- credit and to promote the economic empowerment of women by adopting context-specific micro-credit systems;
- (g) CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary General to request Member States to forward to the OAU, regular reports on the implementation of the African Platform for Action;
- (h) REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the ECA and other interested international organizations, to ensure the convening, on a regular basis, of a Pan-African Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women Matters, aimed at coordinating and mainstreaming women issues into development on the continent, for a successful implementation of the African and Global platforms for Action;
- (i) REQUESTS the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of this

decision to the Sixty-seventh Session of the Council.

*CM/Dec.338 (LXVI)*

**ASSISTANCE TO THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR FERTILIZER DEVELOPMENT-  
(DOC.CM/1999 (LXVI) ADD.2))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report;
- (b) URGES Member States which have not yet done so to accede and/or ratify the "Convention Establishing African Centre for Fertilizer Development";
- (c) APPEALS to Member States of the (ACFD) to now make their contributions including any arrears thereof to the Centre's budget;
- (d) APPEALS FURTHER to the International Donor Community to make generous contributions to the ACFD's noble programme;
- (e) URGENTLY CALLS ON the Director of the Centre to publicize the Centre in order to encourage new members to join.

*CMDec.339 (LXVI)*

**AFRICAN FORUM ON ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (DOC. CM/1999 (LXVI) ADD.3))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report;
- (b) CALLS UPON Member States to provide political support and commitment to adolescent health programmes;
- (c) CALLS ON Member States to consolidate their programmes by involving the youth and adolescents in the formulation and implementation of Reproductive Health programmes as well as allocating necessary material and financial resources;
- (d) CALLS UPON the International Community to support Member States effort in adolescent health programmes as called for in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) Plans of Action and in the Declaration on the African Plan of Action concerning the situation of Women in Africa in the context of Family Health. (AHG/Deci.1 (XXXI));
- (e) RECOGNIZES that the implementation of this recommendation should not prejudice the specificity of each society, its religious beliefs, social and cultural traditions.



*CM/Dec.340 (LXVI)*

**SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM AFRICA AND OAU FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) (DOC. CM/1999 (LXVI) ADD.5))**

Council:

- (a) URGES the International Community to take the necessary measures aimed at substantially increasing the resources of the United Nations for operational activities in favour of Africa;
- (b) CALLS UPON Member States to continue to support fully UNDP and other UN Agencies operational activities in Africa, particularly within the framework of the United Nations Decade for the Elimination of Poverty, the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa, the United Nations New Agenda for Africa and the Cairo Agenda for Economic and Social Development of Africa.

*CM/Dec.341 (LXVI)*

**OAU'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA (DOC.CM/1999(LXVI)ADD.7))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Reports;
- (i) INVITES the OAU Current Chairman to draw the UN Secretary-General's attention to the implementation of the Initiative;
- (ii) CALLS UPON the International Community, and, in particular, the Bretton Woods Institutions to honour the commitment made within the framework of this Initiative;
- (iii) URGES Member States to implement the Initiative by assuming, in a concerted manner, their share of the responsibility.

**CONSIDERATION OF OTHER MATTERS IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
AMBASSADORS AND OTHER PLENIPOTENTIARIES**

**FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

*CM/Dec.342 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE  
ORGANIZATION DOC.CM/2001 (LXVI)**

After consideration of the recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors as contained in the report of its Fifth Ordinary Session, Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report;
- (b) COMMENDS all Member States that are up to date in settling their assessed contributions to the regular budget of the Organization,
- (c) URGES all those countries still in arrears to make diligent arrangements for their full settlement.

*CM/Dec.343 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS  
DOC. CM/2002 (LXVI)**

After the consideration of the report of the Committee, Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report; and COMMENDS the excellent work accomplished so far by the Committee;
- (b) ENDORSES all the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraph 16 of the report, and requests the Committee in close cooperation with the General Secretariat to review periodically their full implementation;
- (c) DIRECTS that the Committee should address during its next Session, the individual cases of those countries that are in arrears for 10 years or more, and, to make the appropriate recommendations, bearing in mind the standing decisions, regarding sanctions against all defaulting countries;

(d) REITERATES ITS APPRECIATION for the efforts deployed by those Member States which are up-to-date in the settlement of their arrears.

## **AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION**

*CM/Dec.344 (LXVI)*

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AN AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION - (DOC. CM/2017 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report;
- (b) REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, to continue their consultations with the Co-Chairman of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation (Kuwait) as well as with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria to convene the organs of the Coordinating Committee and the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation in Algiers;
- (c) INVITES all Member States to participate in the organization of the Third Afro-Arab Trade Fair due to be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from 6 to 12 December, 1997;
- (d) RECOMMENDS that the OAU and the League of Arab States, in cooperation with the Government of Mauritania, to actively prepare the Second Afro-Arab Business Week scheduled in Nouakchott, Mauritania in March 1998;
- (e) APPEALS to all OAU Member States and Member States of the League of Arab States to participate massively in the Second Afro-Arab Business Week.
- (f) THANKS the Governments of the United Arab Emirates, Mauritania and Senegal for the steps taken to ensure the success of these events.

*CM/Dec.345 (LXVI)*

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA - (DOC. CM/2013 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report;
- (b) REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General in consultation with the ADB and the Government of Zimbabwe to continue with their investigation so that the grant of US\$500,000 awarded to

Zimbabwe in 1993 is transferred to that country's account as quickly as possible;

(c) DECIDES to organize a pledging session on the occasion of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

(d) REQUESTS the Secretary-General in collaboration with the Ad-ha Committee of 14 on OAU Structural Reform to consider the possibility of entrusting the management of the Special Fund to the most appropriate department of the General Secretariat.

## LEGAL MATTERS

*CM/Dec.346 (LXVI)*

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE OAU BY THE UNION OF PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF ELECTRIC POWER IN AFRICA (UPOEA) - (DOC. CM/2018 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) DECIDES to grant observer status with the OAU in category C to the Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa (UPOEA).

*CM/Dec.347 (LXVI)*

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) (DOC.CM/2019 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) DECIDES to defer consideration of the draft cooperation agreement to its 67th Ordinary Session.
- (c) CONSEQUENTLY REQUESTS the General Secretariat to communicate the Draft Cooperation Agreement to Member States for study and comments before submitting them to the Sixty- Seventh Ordinary Session for consideration.

*CM/Dec.348 (LXVI)*

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS - (DOC. CM/2020 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) REQUESTS all the Member States to submit their comments and observations on the Draft Protocol to the General Secretariat on or before 31 August, 1997;

(b) REQUESTS the General Secretariat to convene in Addis Ababa a third governmental legal experts meeting enlarged to include diplomats to examine and finalize the draft protocol to be submitted to the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General which will follow immediately at the same venue for consideration and adoption and submission to the Council of Ministers;

(c) REQUESTS the Advisory Committee to take appropriate steps to set aside the necessary funds in the 1997/198 Budget for the convening of the said meeting;

(d) REQUESTS all Member States especially those not represented in Addis Ababa to ensure that they are duly represented at the above meetings. In this connection, it further REQUESTS the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of raising extra-budgetary funds to cover some of the expenses relating to the above meetings.

*CM/Dec.349 (LXVI)*

#### **DECISION RELATING TO THE AFRICAN CANDIDATURE FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNIDO**

Council:

(i) TAKES NOTE of the report of the Standing Nominating Committee on the candidature of Mrs. Olubanke King-Akerele to the Post of Director-General of UNIDO;

(ii) DECIDES TO ENDORSE the candidature of Mrs. Olubanke King-Akerele as Africa's sole candidate for above post.

*CM/Dec.350 (LXVI)*

#### **DECISION RELATING TO THE AFRICAN CANDIDATURE FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ITU**

Council:

(a) TAKES NOTE of the report of the Standing Nominating Committee on the Candidature of Dr. Henry Chasia to the post of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU);

(b) DECIDES to endorse the candidature of Dr. Henry Chasia as Africa's sole candidate for the above post.

*CM/Dec.351 (LXVI)*



## **DECISION RELATING TO THE AFRICAN CANDIDATURE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the report of the Standing Nominating Committee on the candidature of Dr. Ibrahim Malick Samba to the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO);
- (b) DECIDED to endorse the candidature of Dr. Ibrahim Malick Samba as Africa's sole candidate of the above post.

*CM/Dec.352 (LXVI)*

## **DECISION ON RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL**

In order to further rationalize its work Council recalls the relevant provision of its rules of procedure and decides that:

- (a) Member States should in the first place submit all technical questions to the relevant organs of the OAU for consideration before submitting them to Council;
- (b) Member States wishing to submit items to Council should submit the explanatory notes in advance to enable the Secretariat to process them and submit to Member States to enable Member States to study them carefully;
- (c) Items submitted by Member States should be accompanied by a detailed Explanatory Note;
- (d) Only in exceptional circumstances, and for issues of emergency nature, would Council allow consideration of items which contravene the three conditions stated above;
- (e) ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat to strictly observe the relevant rules of procedure regarding the dispatch of the documents of the Council to Member States in the designated time framework.

## **POLITICAL MATTERS**

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN AFRICA: (DOC.CM/2004 (LXVI))**

The Council of Ministers decides as follows:

*CM/Dec.353 (LXVI)*

#### **THE SITUATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION: (DOC. CM/2004 (LXVI)-A-**

The Democratic Republic of The Congo- (Doc. CM/2004 (LXVI))

(a) WELCOMES the announcement made by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to hold free and fair democratic elections and URGES the Government of this country to associate all political forces in the process leading to the organization of these elections;

(b) APPEALS to Member States and the International Community to provide the new Government with all the necessary assistance during the transitional period in order to enable it prepare the organization and holding of democratic, free and fair elections;

(c) CALLS ON the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all the political forces of that country to show the spirit of openness, compromise and reconciliation in order to ensure a smooth transition to democratic and constitutional rule;

(d) EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN about the fate of the Rwandan and other refugees still remaining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and CALLS ON the new Government to ensure their safety and to cooperate with the UNHCR and their countries of origin to facilitate their repatriation;

5. CALLS UPON the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and countries of asylum as well as the UNHCR to facilitate the conditions for the return of the citizens of that country who for reasons of war took refuge in the Congo and other countries;

6. REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT for the convening of an international conference on peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region, under the auspices of the OAU and the UN.

*CM/Dec.354 (LXVI)*

**BURUNDI (DOC.CM/2004 (LXVI)) - A \***

Council:

- (a) WELCOMES the recent decision by the countries of the Region that imposed sanctions against Burundi, to relax the sanctions, as well as the declared readiness of the leaders of the Region to suspend all sanctions, with the exception of the arms embargo, once the negotiations have been initiated;
- (b) EXTENDS FULL SUPPORT for the decisions of the countries of the Region and the Arusha Initiative;
- (c) URGES the Government of Burundi and those in opposition to it, to commit themselves to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and pursue negotiations more vigorously and EXPRESSES FULL CONFIDENCES in the sincerity and impartiality of the Facilitator of the Peace Process;
- (d) EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN over the continued state of insecurity and killings in some parts of Burundi and CALLS ON the Government of Burundi and all the concerned factions for an immediate end to the unnecessary and ceaseless violence;
- (e) CALLS UPON the Government of Burundi, to disband the regroupment camps and take urgent necessary steps to create the necessary environment for security and national reconciliation to take place;
- (f) APPEALS to the international community to extend humanitarian and other assistance to Burundi to ameliorate the adverse effects of the conflict on the people of Burundi;
- (g) REQUESTS the Secretary-General and the Central Organ, to consider what role the OAU should play in the future, to guarantee and consolidate any Agreements that will be reached through the negotiations process.

*\* The delegation of Burundi entered a reservation on this Decision. The reservation is reflected in the Report of Council.*

*CM/Dec.355 (LXVI)*

**LIBERIA - (DOC.CM/2004 (LXVI)) - B –**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General and the detailed complementary information provided by the Representative of the Current Chairman of ECOWAS and the

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia;

(b) NOTES the encouraging progress so far achieved in the Liberian Peace process through the disarmament of all the warring factions, the establishment of an Independent Electoral Commission, the re-constitution of the Supreme Court of Liberia; the enlargement of ECOMOG and its full deployment all over the territory, thus creating the necessary conditions for the conduct of free and fair elections;

(c) CONGRATULATES the Current Chairman of ECOWAS, General Sani Abacha, as well as other leaders of the region for their tireless efforts in finding a lasting solution to the Liberian crisis;

(d) WELCOMES the report on the elections initially scheduled for 30 May 1997 and REQUESTS that everything be done to ensure the respect of the new electoral date of 19 July, 1997;

(e) COMMENDS the ECOWAS, the OAU and the UN for early sending of an election expert to serve on the Independent electoral Commission in support of the ECOWAS Peace Plan;

(f) REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU to make financial contribution, on behalf of the OAU, towards the work of the Independent Electoral Commission;

(g) APPEALS to the international community, including those who promised assistance to provide increased financial and material assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Liberia,

ECOWAS, ECOMOG and the Government of Liberia to enable them carry out and complete their respective tasks for ensuring the successful implementation of the last phase of the revised schedule of the Abuja Agreement;

(h) RECALLS the importance of re-integration programme for the demobilized fighters, displaced persons and returning Liberian refugees on which the consolidation of the on-going peace process depends and APPEALS to the international community to give them all the attention required.

*CM/Dec.356 (LXVI)*

**SIERRA LEONE – (DOC. CM/2004 (LXVI) - C –**

Council:

(a) STRONGLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNS, the coup d'etat which took place in Sierra Leone on 25 May, 1997; and CALLS for the immediate restoration of constitutional order;

(b) CALLS ON all African countries, and the International Community at large, to refrain from recognizing the new regime and lending support in any form whatsoever to the perpetrators of the coup d'etat;

(c) APPEALS to the leaders of ECOWAS to assist the people of Sierra Leone to restore constitutional order to the country; and CALLS FOR the support of other African countries and the International Community at large, in that regard;

(d) UNDERLINES the imperative need to implement the Abidjan Agreement which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

*CM/Dec.357 (LXVI)*

**SOMALIA - (DOC. CM/2004 (LXVI)) - D –**

Council:

(a) REITERATES ITS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT to the Sodere Agreement and the efforts being deployed by the Members of the National Salvation Council (NSC) to implement the Agreement;

(b) WELCOMES and SUPPORTS the signing in Cairo on 28 of May 1997 of the Cairo Joint Agreement between the Somali leaders, H.E. Hussein Mohamed Aideed and H.E. Ali Mahdi Mohamed as a positive development that will facilitate the convening of a national reconciliation conference on Somalia;

(c) CALLS UPON all Somali factions to join the peace process so as to bring about an all inclusive, all embracing political settlement of the Conflict in the country;

(d) REAFFIRMS the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia as one and indivisible State;

(e) WELCOMES the financial, political and diplomatic support rendered by the OAU to implement the Sodere Agreement and REQUESTS the OAU to continue to provide all the necessary assistance in the search for a negotiated, sustainable and permanent settlement of the conflict in Somalia;

(f) CALLS UPON the UN and the other Inter-governmental Organizations, including the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as the International Community at large, to closely coordinate their efforts with the OAU and IGAD, in the search for a solution to the conflict in Somalia;

(g) CALLS UPON the Secretary-General of the UN to establish a Trust Fund for Somalia in accordance with the proposal that he has already submitted to the UN Security Council in his last report on Somalia;

(h) APPEALS to the International Community to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance; as well as provide aid for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia, especially in areas where peace prevails and where local administrations have been established, serving as a means to underpin the efforts of the Somali people themselves to bring the conflict to an end.

*CM/Dec.358 (LXVI)*

**ANGOLA - (DOC.CM/2004 (LXVI)) - E –**

Council:

(a) TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Angola;

(b) WELCOMES the formation of the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation (GNUR) and CALLS ON the latter to persevere in its efforts to complete the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, particularly as regards the application of the principle of extending the administration and authority of the State to cover the entire territory;

(c) RECOGNIZES the urgent need for a well-organized demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in the socio-economic life of the country;

(d) URGES UNITA to continue to cooperate in good faith with the Government and the United Nations in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol;

(e) RENEWS ITS APPEAL to the International Community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the population and to honour the promise made at the Brussels Round Table on the economic reconstruction of Angola;

(f) COMMENDS the UN Secretary-General, his Special Representative in Angola, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye and the OAU Secretary-General for their efforts aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol;

(g) REQUESTS the Secretary-General to closely monitor the situation in Angola and submit a report thereon to the next Session of Council.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE -  
(DOC-CM/2005 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) REAFFIRMS the right of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, homes and property, self-determination and the establishment of an independent State on their national soil with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with the principles and resolutions of the United Nations;
- (b) EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN and CONDEMNS Israel's violation of the principles of peace and peaceful coexistence and its disregard for the principles on which the peace process is based;
- (c) CALLS UPON Israel to immediately stop the practice of confiscating Palestinian lands, especially those in East Jerusalem and its environs and the expansion of settlements in violation of Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 465 and 478, which threatens to undermine the peace process;
- (d) EMPHASIZES the need to implement General Assembly Resolution A/ES-1011 adopted by its Special Emergency Session held on 25 April 1997 on the Status of Jerusalem and the need for Israel to end its illegal measures in the other occupied Palestinian territories;
- (e) CALLS UPON Israel to immediately halt the construction work being carried out in Jebel Abou Ghoneim and URGES the countries that sponsor the peace process, the parties concerned and the international community at large to suspend all forms of assistance and support to the illegal activities being undertaken in occupied Palestinian territories;
- (f) EMPHASIZES the need to preserve the territorial integrity of occupied Palestine lands, ensure the freedom of movement of persons and communities within the region and remove restrictions on entry to East Jerusalem and freedom of movement within the Palestinian territories in general;
- (g) EMPHASIZES the Right of the Palestinian Refugees to return to their homes in accordance with the principles of human rights and international legitimate resolutions, especially UN General Assembly Resolution (194) and the Security Council Resolution (237);

- (h) CALLS for the freezing of relations with Israel at their present level due to the gravity and urgency of the situation;
- (i) FURTHER CALLS for the initiation of all possible measures to ensure Israel's adherence to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace and its full implementation of all the agreements and commitment entered into by the parties concerned during the peace talks;
- (j) REAFFIRMS the urgent need to make Israel respect the principles of the International Humanitarian Law as stipulated in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 in the Palestinian territories which it has been occupying since 1967, including Jerusalem;
- (k) REAFFIRMS that adherence to agreements and the international law is a sine qua non 'for the maintenance of international peace and security. CALLS for the strict implementation of the peace agreements and URGES the countries that sponsor the peace process, the parties concerned and the international community as a whole to deploy all possible efforts to revamp the peace process and ensure its success.

*CM/Dec.360 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST - (DOC.CM/2006 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) RECALLS all the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and Council of Ministers on the Situation in the Middle East;
- (b) REAFFIRMS that the Question of Palestine is the core of the struggle in the Middle East and that there can be no just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon and unless the Palestinian people are allowed to exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, especially Resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478 and 425, based on the principle of Land for Peace;
- (c) CALLS for the initiation of all possible measures to ensure Israel's adherence to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace and its full implementation of all the agreements and commitments entered into by the parties on all tracks during the peace talks;



(d) URGES the United Nations General Assembly and the international community to ensure complete Israeli compliance with UN and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions on the use of nuclear installations only for peaceful purposes, to force Israel to allow international inspection of its nuclear installations and to draw the attention of the Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency to the actual and potential threat posed by radiation leakage from the Daimuma reactors in the absence of international inspection;

(e) REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT for the proposal of H.E. President Hasni Mubarak to declare the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction;

(f) URGES all States of the region that have not yet signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, to desist from manufacturing, producing, testing or possessing nuclear weapons; to sign the treaty, and to place their nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

*CM/Dec.361 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ELIMINATION OF UNJUST AND UNILATERAL ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA - (DOC.CM/2007 (LXVI))**

Council:

(a) EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN over the unjust economic measures whose effect is felt beyond the region of the country concerned in violation of the International Law, thus undermining the interests of other countries, especially the developing ones. They also cause a lot of economic and social harm that has a spill over on the neighbouring countries and peoples;

(b) EMPHASIZES the need to put an immediate end to these measures in order to realize the aims and objectives of the OAU and the Member States and their aspirations and right to achieve economic growth and development;

(c) REAFFIRMS that in the exercise of the inalienable right of economic growth and social advancement, OAU Member States demand an immediate to this sanctions which go beyond the territorial boundaries of the country concerned based on repressive economic measures and legislations unilaterally imposed by one country to the detriment of other countries beyond its boundaries, which is not acceptable.

*CM/Dec.362 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE OAU COMMISSION OF TWENTY ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA -DOC.CM/2008 (LXVI) REV. 1**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees and ENDORSES the recommendations contained therein;
- (b) INVITES Member States to do all within their powers to achieve peaceful settlement and intrastate and Inter-State conflicts in order to find durable solutions to the refugee crises in the region in conformity with the OAU Charter, the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees with its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- (c) CALLS ON all Member States to respect the cardinal principles enshrined on the International Convention and that of the OAU Convention on Refugees;
- (d) ALSO CALLS UPON Member States concerned to create conditions of peace and security in order to ensure the prompt and safe delivery of relief assistance to refugees and displaced persons and the safety of relief workers;
- (e) EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Member states which have been granting asylum and extending assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the spirit of African solidarity and co-operation as well as to Member States which have endeavoured to promote voluntary repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons and APPEALS to other Member States concerned to promote conditions conducive to the return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and displaced persons in their countries of origin;
- (f) REQUESTS the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees and the OAU Secretariat to continue to undertake activities under its Programme of Action aimed at sensitizing an appreciation of the refugee situation in Africa and in mobilizing resources for their assistance;
- (g) URGES the International Community, in particular the UNHCR and ICRC, to increase their resources to meet the increasing needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the continent;
- (h) REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General in close collaboration with other Organizations, especially the UNHCR, to convene a ministerial meeting of countries who are members of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees as soon as possible to discuss and find durable solutions

to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in Africa.

*CM/Dec.363 (LXVI)*

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ISSUE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO REACH A TOTAL BAN (DOC. CM/2009 (LXVI))**

Council:

- (a) TAKES NOTE of the Report.
- (b) REAFFIRMS all its previous resolutions on the question of anti- personnel mines, especially resolutions CM/Res.1593 (LXII) and CM/Res.1628 (LXIII);
- (c) ENDORSES the Plan of Action adopted by the First continental conference of African Mine Experts held in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19 to 21 May 1997, and COMMENDS the OAU Secretary-General for this laudable initiative in that connection;
- (d) RECOGNIZES the contribution of the establishment of sub-regional anti-personnel mines free-zones to the ultimate goal of achieving a total ban at the level of the African Continent;
- (e) STRESSES the need that the problem of mines be addressed in a coordinated, multi-faceted and balanced manner banning comprehensively anti-personnel mines and intensifying efforts and actions with regard to mine-clearance and mine victim assistance especially in Africa;
- (f) ADOPTS as a goal the elimination of anti-personnel mines in Africa and the establishment of Africa as an anti-personnel mines-Free Zone;
- (g) URGES Member States to fully and actively participate in the Ottawa process, particularly the meetings scheduled for Brussels (24 - 27 June, 1997), Oslo (September 1997) and Ottawa at which a treaty for the total prohibition of anti-personnel mines is expected to be signed;
- (h) CALLS ON all Member States to adhere as early as possible to the 1980 United Nations Convention on prohibition or restriction on the use of certain weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and its protocol II if they have not already done so, and APPEALS to all Member States to adhere to the amended protocol II as well as the new Protocol IV on blinding laser weapons;
- (i) APPEALS to the International Community to render to the affected African countries all necessary assistance to enable them to effectively carry out mine clearance and mine victim assistance operations, and facilitate implementation of the Kempton Park Plan of Action through

increased mobilization of resources;

(j) UNDERSCORES the moral responsibility of the countries which masterminded the emplacement of mines in Africa during the Second World war and/or colonial conflicts and URGES the said countries to devote a part of their resources, in particular, a reasonable percentage of their military budget to mine clearance and assistance to mine victims in the affected African countries;

(k) CALLS UPON those countries responsible for infesting the African countries with mines to provide those affected countries with all necessary information on demining including data, technical assistance, assessment of surveys specially maps as well as the movement of illegal mine transfers;

(l) REITERATES the urgency and the need for inter-African cooperation in mine clearance and assistance to mine victims, and EMPHASIZES the primordial role to be played by the OAU in coordinating actions in those areas, as part of implementation of the plan of Action;

(m) REQUESTS the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the present resolution as well as the Kempton Park Plan of Action, and submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Council of Ministers.