

AHG/Decl.2 (XXXVI)

LOME DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo from 10 to 12 July, 2000,

Firmly committed to the fundamental principles and objectives of the OAU Charter adopted by the Founding Fathers, namely, political independence, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, promotion of peace, security, co-operation, development and human and peoples rights,

Conscious of the persistence of conflict situations and acts of violence which are seriously undermining the security and stability of our States, and gravely hampering our development efforts,

Convinced of the need to work towards the maintenance of regional and international peace and security, in accordance with the United Nations Organization (UN) and OAU Charters,

Noting with concern that the reform of the Security Council aimed at aligning its membership and functioning to new exigencies is long overdue,

Deploring the fact that the International Community has not always accorded due attention to conflict management in Africa, as it has consistently done in other regions of the world, and that the efforts exerted by Africans themselves in the area of peace keeping, as provided for under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, are not given adequate financial and logistical support,

Gravely Concerned by the growing number of refugees and displaced persons on the African Continent, as a result of all these conflicts,

Also deploring the growing deterioration of the prices of raw materials and the obstacles militating against access of African countries to international trade,

Further Gravely concerned by the negative effect of indebtedness on African economies and by the persistent decline of ODA and investments in our countries,

Recognizing that Africa's progress and economic and social development are contingent upon the integration of African economies, as stipulated in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Considering the imperative need to strengthen African economies in order to enable them to benefit from the globalization process,

Stressing the importance of the International Community's contribution to efforts by African States for sustainable development, a prerequisite for peace and security,

Further stressing the importance of technology transfer for Africa's industrial development,

Further Recognizing that misery, poverty, hunger, disease, injustice, illiteracy and war constitute major impediments to the development and advancement of our peoples,

Recalling the importance of education, training and capacity building in Africa's development process,

Also Recognizing the preponderant place and role of African women in the economic, social, human and cultural development, as well as in the edification of a harmonious and prosperous African society,

Further Considering that cross-border criminality, illicit proliferation circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism constitute serious threats to security and stability, and hamper the harmonious economic and social development of the Continent,

Bearing in mind our Decision AHG/Dec. 137 (LXXV) of July 1999 on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons,

Further Noting with concern that the plight of millions of African children is worsening by the day due to war, their conscription for armed conflicts and their abusive exploitation in many respects,

Further Recalling the need to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,

Also Gravely concerned by the widespread incidence of HIV/AIDS and the ravages caused by other pandemics such as malaria, which seriously undermine Africa's development efforts,

Further concerned with the devastating effects of natural disasters in Africa on the lives of the peoples and on the national and regional economies,

Aware that development, democracy, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, good governance, tolerance, culture of peace are essential prerequisites for the establishment and maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Further Convinced that cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations are sources of enrichment and progress,

Reiterating our faith in the Sirte declaration of 9 September 1999:

1. REAFFIRM our strong resolve to make the year 2000, a year of peace, security and solidarity in Africa, in accordance with Declaration AHG/Decl.2 (XXXV) which we adopted at our 35th Ordinary Session held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999;

2. COMMIT OURSELVES to intensify our actions for peace, and to support efforts aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Africa, particularly through the strengthening of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and of African capacities for conflict management and the maintenance of peace and security;

3. STRONGLY ADVOCATE co-operation in the area of peace keeping and security between the United Nations Organization (UNO) , the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and African Regional Organizations;

4. Recognizing the expansion of UN peacekeeping activities and the need for adequate resources for rapid and efficient deployment of peacekeeping operations, WE AFFIRM the importance of taking necessary steps to ensure an adequate system of financing for all UN peacekeeping activities;

5. While recalling that maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council, WE URGE the United Nations and the International Community to pay necessary attention to the management and resolution of conflicts in Africa and actively support the initiatives deployed under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter;

6. REAFFIRM FURTHER the need to pursue efforts aimed at achieving comprehensive and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, as a means of attaining the objectives of regional and international peace and security;

7. COMMIT OURSELVES FURTHER to tackle the root causes of the problem of refugees and displaced persons, and to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation of refugees and return of displaced persons to their places of origin;
8. ARE DETERMINED to preserve Africa as a nuclear free zone in conformity with the PELINDABA TREATY signed in Cairo on 11 April 1996, and REAFFIRM our resolve to leave no stone unturned to ensure the early entry into force of this Treaty;
9. COMMIT OURSELVES ALSO to resolutely combat cross-border criminality, illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism;
10. WELCOME the moratorium on import, export and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in Africa introduced by ECOWAS Member States and ENCOURAGES the establishment of similar mechanisms in other regions;
11. EMPHASIZE the need for African States to take an active part in the 2001 World Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects;
12. SOLEMNLY APPEAL to Member States to speed up the ratification process of the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism signed in Algiers on 14 July 1999;
13. REITERATE our determination to continue to promote respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, rule of law and good governance in our countries;
14. REAFFIRM ALSO the imperative need to accelerate the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and ensure that its membership is more reflective of the universality of the Organization, a prerequisite for its increased credibility;

15. ARE FIRMLY RESOLVED to hasten the African integration process, particularly through:

- dynamic cooperation among the Regional Economic Communities;
- enhancement of intra and inter-regional trade, and
- rationalization and optimum use of the regional training and capacity-building centers in Africa in conformity with the 1991 Abuja Treaty Establishing the African economic community.

16. RECALL WITH SATISFACTION the successful holding on 3-4 April 2000, of the Africa-Europe Summit in Cairo, Egypt, as a historic effort to strengthen cooperation and develop a new strategic partnership between the two Continents and URGE that efforts be sustained to implement the decisions contained in the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action;

17. FURTHER REAFFIRM our commitment to the Libreville Summit Declaration and Plan of Action and the Social Summit of Copenhagen on the increase of poverty and its reduction in Africa and REITERATE our pledge to implement this Plan of Action;

18. CALL ON the industrialized countries to take more purposeful and innovative initiatives aimed at the total cancellation of the debt owed by African countries;

19. AGREE to reinvigorate the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt in order to continue to search for suitable solutions to the excruciating debt burden;

20. FURTHER CALL ON the International Community to do its utmost to ensure that globalization serves the interest of all countries without discrimination and, in particular, facilitate the effective participation of our countries in the global trade system, thereby helping us to lay the foundations for durable and equitable growth;

21. FURTHER REAFFIRM our firm resolve to eliminate poverty, illiteracy and social inequalities in our countries, and in this regard, SUPPORT the efforts aimed at the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund;

22. CALL UPON Member States to strengthen the measures designed to implement the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006) and SUPPORT the resolutions adopted by the Dakar UNESCO Conference on Education held from 24 – 28 April 2000;

23. ADVOCATE FURTHER the establishment and promotion of the new communication and information technologies as invaluable tools for the promotion of culture, education and development;

24. REAFFIRM FINALLY our determination to implement all relevant United Nations and OAU Declarations aimed at the rapid and definitive elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and URGE for greater participation of women at all levels of management of public affairs and development;

25. EXHORT Member States to implement policies which contribute to the promotion and exercise of the rights of the child, as well as the full physical, intellectual and moral development of the child in an environment of peace, security and stability;

26. CALL ON ALSO the International Community to lend support to our efforts in the promotion of health care, particularly in the fight against Malaria and AIDS, in accordance with the pertinent decisions and resolutions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers;

27. STRONGLY SUPPORT the establishment of an African mechanism for the prevention and control of natural disasters and the strengthening of the relevant funds to mitigate their destructive effects in Africa;

28. Reaffirming that Africa's development devolves primarily on our Governments and peoples, WE ARE RESOLVED to consolidate the foundations of equitable and sustainable development centered on humankind, and underpinned by viable economic policies, social justice, respect for human rights and effective management of public affairs, thereby ensuring the speedy structural transformation of our economies;

29. To these ends, WE FINALLY AND SOLEMNLY COMMIT OURSELVES to resolutely support all efforts geared to defending and promoting Africa's interests within the context of the African Union, as stipulated in the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999, thereby making Africa a more united, more prosperous and stronger Continent, fully responsible for its own destiny.

Done in LOME, Republic of Togo, 12 JULY 2000