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(LXIV)

Yaoundé, Cameroon

CM/Res. 1647-1680

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SIXTY-FOURTH ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

RESOLUTION ON THE PROBLEM OF ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Recalling previous resolutions on the question of arrears, namely CM/Res. 1279 (LII), CM/Res. 1311 (LIII), CM/Res. 1364 (LV), CM/Res. 1423 (LVII), CM/Res. 1480 (LIX), CM/Res. 1554 (LXI) and CM/Res. 1580 (LXII) and CM/Res. 1618 (LXIII),

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization as at 1 June, 1996 (Doc. CM/1937 (LXIV)),

Having also considered the Report of the Committee on Contributions contained in Doc. CM/1938 (LXIV),

Gravely concerned at the significant number of Member States that are not paying their financial contributions towards 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 Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization;
2. **TAKES NOTE** also of the Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Contributions;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** on the present state of arrears of contributions, (**US\$53,649,036,00 as at 1 June, 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;
4. **COMMENDS** those Member States that are up-to-date in fulfilling their financial obligations to the Organization;
5. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to Member States that have deployed significant efforts and reduced the amounts of arrears of their assessed contributions;
6. **APPEALS ONCE AGAIN** to those Member States that have not yet paid up fully their arrears of contribution to urgently do so;
7. **REITERATES** its position that the sanctions embodied in resolution CM/Res. 1279 (LXII) as well as Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations should be strictly and impartially applied during all meetings convened under the aegis of the OAU or the African Economic Community;
8. **REAFFIRMS** the provisional and exceptional exemption granted vide Resolution CM/Res. 1618 (LXIII) to Somalia, Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone for a period of one year with effect from 1 March, 1996;

9. **DECIDES** to grant on a provisional and exceptional basis and for a period of 6 months, with effect from 1 July 1996, an exemption to the sanctions embodied in Resolution CM/Res. 1279 (LII) as well as Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations to the countries that make substantial efforts by paying at least 30% of their outstanding arrears before 31 July, 1996;
10. **REITERATES** that countries under sanctions should be given the floor, on an exceptional basis, in OAU/AEC meetings whenever items concerning directly and especially their countries (for example: conflicts) were being discussed;
11. **DECIDES** that the composition of the Bureaux of the various OAU Committees should be re-constituted as soon as possible to take account of the sanctions imposed on certain Member States and requests the Committee of Ambassadors to convene an extra-ordinary session to review this important matter;
12. **CALLS UPON** the Secretariat to ensure that the mandatory sanction contained in Resolution CM/Res. 1311 (LIII), prohibiting recruitment of new staff members from defaulting countries is strictly implemented not only on recruitment of regular staff members, but also on temporary staff such as freelance technical staff;
13. **REQUESTS** the Secretariat to continue to prepare and up-date systematically, for the attention of the chairman of each OAU/AEC meeting, a list of the countries affected by the sanctions;
14. **COMMENDS** to Committee on contributions for the work accomplished and **REQUESTS** the Committee to continue its reflections on possible incentive measure and submit a report thereon to the Sixty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi, Document CM/1942 (LXIV),

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

Having considered and take not also of the supplementary information provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Tanzania on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes and East African Regions namely Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Zaire, and Ethiopia as Current Chairman of the OAU,

Considering the increasingly deteriorating political and security situation in Burundi,

Noting the continuing efforts by the Outgoing Chairman and Secretary-General of the OAU to contribute to the return of peace and security and to promote stability and national reconciliation in Burundi,

Aware of the concerns expressed by the United Nations Security Council and the UN Secretary-General over the precarious situation in Burundi and the possibility for humanitarian catastrophe in that country,

Appreciating the efforts deployed by the countries of the Region, former Presidents Julius Nyerere, Jimmy Carter which are aimed at bringing about a peaceful and political resolution of the conflict in Burundi,

Recalling the decision of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its 20th Ordinary Session held at Ambassadorial level on 15 April 1996, to extend the mandate of OMIB for a period of three months:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Secretary-General's Report;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN** on the unstable, tense and politically polarized situation and insecurity that continues to prevail in Burundi;
3. **STRESSES** that a durable settlement in Burundi must be based on democracy and security for all;
4. **DEPLORES AND STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the brutal and dastardly murder of innocent people as well as humanitarian and aid-workers and **ONCE MORE CALLS UPON** the Burundian authorities to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of all the people of Burundi and the personnel of international organizations, IGOs, NGOs, who currently risk their lives to render humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable sections of the society in Burundi;
5. **ENTRUSTS** the Central Organ to continue to pursue its efforts to prevent a further deterioration of the situation in Burundi;
6. **STRONGLY URGES** the Government, the political leadership of Burundi, the Armed Forces, as well as all the people of that country, to demonstrate a greater

political will for a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the conflict that currently rages in their country;

7. **RECOGNIZES AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the important initiative of former President Julius Nyerere to promote dialogue among all Burundians who enjoy the full cooperation of the OAU, the United Nations, the European Union and the wider international community;
8. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** for the conclusions of the Cairo and Tunis Summits convened by former President Jimmy Carter and **UNDERScores** the need to respect the commitments made during the said summits to reduce tension and promote peace and stability in the region;
9. **REINTERATES ITS APPEAL** for the continued cooperation of countries of the Region in their search for a durable solution to the problem of refugees and insecurity in the Region;
10. **SUPPORTS** to the outcome of the Eastern Africa Regional Summit held in Arusha on 25 June, 1996 and **URGES** its implementation aimed at cessation of the killings, political, assassinations, massacres and violence of all kinds;
11. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Great Lakes region and the Outgoing Chairman of the Assembly to set up a technical committee to look into the modalities of extending security assistance requested by the Government of Burundi;
12. **APPEALS** to the international community to continue to closely coordinate all initiatives on Burundi and the region and to deploy more efforts towards the provision of urgent increased humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees from Burundi in the neighbouring countries, within the framework of the implementation of the Bujumbura Programme of Action of February, 1995;

13. **REAFFIRMS** their commitment to a political and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Burundi through the national debate which should involve all Burundians;
14. **FULLY SUPPORTS** the convening of a well prepared Regional Conference on Peace, Security and Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region at opportune time and after appropriate consultations;
15. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to those countries that have extended assistance to the OAU Mission;
16. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to coordinate with the UN Secretary-General to secure the necessary support of the international community to ensure the implementation of the outcome of the Arusha Regional Summit of June 25, 1996;
17. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to persevere in his efforts in order to find a lasting solution to the conflicts in Burundi and to report to 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON LIBERIA

The Council of Minister of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Liberia as contained in Document CM/1943 (LXIV),

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

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1621 (LXIII) adopted at its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as other previous OAU resolutions on the Liberian crisis,

Noting with regret the tragedy that has engulfed Liberia and the serious threat posed to the Abuja Agreement by the recent outbreak of heavy fighting in Monrovia, resulting in unnecessary loss of lives, destruction of property and looting of properties of international organizations, including the UNOMIL and other UN Agencies, NGOs and humanitarian organizations,

Deeply concerned by the tragic humanitarian consequences arising from the new breakdown in the ceasefire, compelling thousands of civilians to flee their country under very precarious conditions,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions taken by the Current Chairman of ECOWAS and President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, the Committee of ECOWAS Ambassadors in Liberia and the United States Government which secured

a ceasefire in the fighting in Monrovia and saved the beleaguered Liberian nation as well as offered the parties to the Liberian conflict the renewed opportunity to implement the provisions of the Abuja Agreement.

Noting further with appreciation the recommendations made and the mechanism drawn up by the Seventh Meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia at Accra, on 7th May, 1996,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by United States Government in setting up the International Contact Group on Liberia and hoping that the relations between ECOWAS and the Contact Group will be strengthened in the interests of the Liberian people,

Bearing in mind the relentless efforts deployed by ECOWAS and its Current Chairman, HE. Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana, towards the implementation, as quickly as possible, of the Abuja Agreement, as well as the enormous sacrifices made by the countries of the region.

Conscious of the fact that these efforts would be made conclusive with the international community fully assuming its responsibility of providing ACOWAS with the necessary financial and material assistance without any special conditionality,

Also conscious of the fact that the restoration of peace in Liberia is the primary responsibility of Liberians themselves, especially the leaders of the warring factions who should place the interest of their people and country above their personal ambitions:

1. **ELCOMENS** the initiatives of the Current Chairman of ECOWAS and the Leaders in the Sub-region, as well as the efforts of the United States of America, which secured a ceasefire in the heavy fighting in Monrovia, and re-established the status of Monrovia as a safe have;

2. **FULLY ENDORSES** the decisions taken by the 7th Ministerial Meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia, including the actions the warring factions should take between now and the next ECOWAS Summit in order to put back on track the peace process as recommended by the Abuja Agreement;
3. **REITERATES ITS CONVICTION** that the Abuja Agreement, remaining the best framework for the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia, and **REAFFIRMS** the need for the scrupulous implementation by the warring factions of all the provisions of the Agreement relating to the nature of the Council of State, the appellation of the Transitional Government or the role of ECOMOG;
4. **WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS ECOWAS** decision not to recognize any Liberian Government which comes into office through the use of force or violence in violation of the Abuja Agreement;
5. **URGES** all Liberian warring factions and the Liberia National Transitional Government (LNTG) to cooperate fully with ECOMOG and scrupulously respect the mandate assigned to it with the aim of infusing a new breath into the disarmament, demobilization and lighters reintegration operations as set out in the Abuja Agreement;
6. **COMMENDS** the countries of the region, especially those cooperation with ECOMOG, for the sacrifices made in the search for a definitive solution to the Liberian conflict and **URGES** them to persevere in that direction despite the difficulties;
7. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the OAU Secretary-General for providing assistance to ECOWAS;
8. **UNDERSCORES** the urgent need for the international Community to honour the

pledges made at the UN sponsored Pledging Conference on Liberia held in New York, 27 October, 1995;

9. **REINTERATES THE URGEND NEED** for the International Community to scrupulously comply with the arms embargo imposed on the warring factions by the United Nations Security Council resolution 788.
10. **EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE** to the Government of Ghana for its extreme generosity by providing asylum to thousands of Liberians, mostly women and children, who fled their country by boat following the recent fighting in MOROVIA;
11. **URGES** the International Community to provide increased material and financial assistance to the countries of the region hosting Liberian refugees and **CALLS ON** African humanitarian NGOs to get actively involved in the assistance operations, thereby demonstrating more vividly the solidarity of the continent and its populations with the people of Liberia;
12. **WARNS** the Liberian warring faction leaders that should the ECOWAS assessment of the Liberian peace process during its next Summit meeting turns out to be negative, the OAU will help sponsor a draft resolution in the UN Security Council for the imposition of severe sanctions on them including the possibility of the setting up of a war crime tribunal to try the leadership of the Liberian warring factions on the gross violation of the human rights of Liberians;
13. **REITERATES THE CALL** on the Liberian warring factions by the ECOWAS and the international community to return all items looted from Monrovia during the recent round of fighting in April, 1996 to their rightful owners especially the UNOMIL, NGOs and other international organization or make full restitution to them;

14. **APPEALS** to the NGOs which have temporarily withdrawn their personnel from Liberia or maintain only a skeleton staff in the field in Liberia since the latest fighting in Monrovia in April, 1996 to resume full-scale operations in Liberia to end the hardship brought upon the innocent Liberian civilians by their action.

15. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to continue to monitor developments in the situation in Liberia and submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SIERRA LEONE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Sierra Leone as contained in Document CM/1945 (LXIV),

Having heard the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the Situation in Sierra Leone.

Welcoming the results of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections of 26 – 27 February and 15th March, 1996, respectively, which facilitated the restoration of a multi-party system of Government in Sierra Leone.

Noting with Satisfaction the decision of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone to engage in a peace dialogue with the Revolutionary United Front, with a view to ending the rebel war in Sierra Leone which has caused untold damage to life and property in the country,

Recognizing the sustained and tireless efforts of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF to move the peace talks forward by meeting at the highest level in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, in February and March 1996 with a view to ending the five-year old fratricidal conflict in Sierra Leone.

Appreciating the very crucial role that His Excellency Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, President

of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire has continued to play in facilitating the holding of the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF in Abidjan and Yamoussoukro, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, since February, 1996,

Expressing appreciation for the sustained concern and interest of the Leaders of the west African Sub-region, in particular, His Excellency President Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellence General Sani Abacha, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Fl. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana and Current Chairman of ECOWAS,

Taking due note of the immense contribution the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Community of West African States are making in the search for peace in the Republic of Sierra Leone:

1. **CONGRATULATES** the Government and People of Sierra Leone for the successful conduct of elections and the re-establishment of a multi-party Parliamentary system of Government with His Excellency Alhaji Ahmad Tijan Kabbah as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
2. **COMMENDS OAU**, the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and the International Community as a whole for supporting the democratization process in the Republic of Sierra Leone to a successful conclusion;
3. **URGES** the Revolutionary United Front and its Leadership to recognize the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and **URGES** both parties to cooperate fully, in concluding without further delay a peace agreement that will lead to the restoration of durable peace and stability in the country;
4. **URGES** both the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF to

continue to respect the existing ceasefire until the conclusion of a peace agreement;

5. **APPEALS** to the Member States of the Organization of African Unity to impress upon both the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF the urgency of concluding a peace agreement in order to put an end to the loss of innocent lives and the havoc being caused to the infrastructure and the socio-economic fabric of Sierra Leone.
6. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to support the peace talks between the Government and the RUF in any way possible with a view to bringing about their early successful conclusion.
7. **FURTHER APPEALS** to the donor community, in general, the UN and the Commonwealth in particular, to support the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in terms of humanitarian relief post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country;
8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to remain seized of this matter and to periodically report on progress thereon to the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and to use his good offices to solicit humanitarian assistance to the many refugees and displaced people in camps in Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries.

**RESOLUTION ON THE CRISIS 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-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charters of the UN and the OAU calling on Member States to settle their disputes through peaceful means and sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of their peoples,

Having seriously considered the report of the Secretary-General on the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamamhiriya and the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France,

Expressing its appreciation for the positive initiative of the Great Jamahiriya to settle the dispute, its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 731/92 in accordance with its national sovereignty and the rules of the International Law.

Expressing its grave concern over the escalation of this crisis and the threat to impose further sanctions or use force against the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in violation of the Charters of the OAU and the UN as well as international rules and norms,

Taking into consideration the position of the Great Jamahiriya which condemns all forms of terrorism and denounces those who resort to terrorism or encourage it as well as its willingness to cooperate with every regional or international effort aimed at solving this problem,

Greatly concerned about loss of human lives and material damage that the Libyan Arab People and those of the neighbouring States are experiencing as a result of the unjust measures imposed on Libya pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 748/92 and 883/93.

Noting with regret the disregard of the three Western countries for all successive resolutions adopted by the Regional and International Organizations expressing their support for a just settlement of the dispute,

Recalling the statement of the OAU Committee of Five in its meeting with the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 11 April 1996 in – order to agree on a common plan of action and on unified Arab – African efforts so as to find a peaceful solution to the dispute through dialogue in accordance with the rules of the international law, respect for sovereignty and non-application of unlawful measures:

1. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the loss of human lives and material damage inflicted upon the Libyan Arab people as a result of the implementation of the measures contained in Security Council resolutions 748/92 and 882/93. And **UNDERLINES** that lack of response to the efforts made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Conference has greatly impeded the search for a solution to the crisis and increased the suffering of the Libyan Arab people and the neighbouring countries;
2. **EXPRESSES CONVICTION** that, in the light of the existing ties of cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity in this regard, the proposal made by the former that that suspects be tried in the Hague by Scottish Judges in accordance with Scottish law, with the necessary guarantees, a proposal that has enjoyed wide spread international support, forms a practical resolution of the problem. It therefore, **CALLS UPON** the three Western Countries concerned to considered this proposal;

3. **CALLS UPON** the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since the continued implementation of such sanctions may compel African States to look into possible means of sparing the Libyan Arab people further suffering;
4. **SUPPORTS** the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamarhiriya in its demand for appropriate compensation for the loss of human lives and material damages inflicted in Libya as a result of the unjust sanctions;
5. **COMMENDS** the work accomplished by the OAU Committee of Five on the Dispute, and **WELCOMES** the statement issued by the Joint Meeting of the OAU Committee of Five and the Arab League Committee of Seven and **URGES** the two Committees to continue with their efforts so as to find a just and peaceful solution to the problem and submit a report thereon to the Council of Ministers.
6. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to redouble efforts aimed at the lifting of the unjust sanctions and report thereon to the next session of the Council.

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons,

Taking Note of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Bujumbura Conference on the Situation of Refugees in the Great Lakes Region,

Considering that the influx of refugees and displaced persons continues to occur in various parts of Africa due to conflicts and put strains on the fragile socio-economic condition of the countries of asylum and also **Taking Note** of the persistent inhuman situation in the West African and Great Lakes Region,

Appreciating the great sacrifices the countries of asylum are rendering to the refugees despite their socio-economic difficulties,

Noting also with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the OAU, UN Agencies, Eminent Persons, International Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa has continued to deteriorate;

Convinced that creating conducive conditions for the return of refugees in safety and dignity constitutes a durable solution to the problem of refugees in the continent.

Noting with satisfaction the massive voluntary repatriation process currently underway in some of the countries in Africa,

Noting further with appreciation the activities of the asylum countries, the international community, in particular those of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in collaboration with governmental and voluntary agencies in favour of refugees and displaced persons:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees;
2. **URGES** Member States concerned and the International Community to intensify their efforts in the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Bujumbura Conference;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Member States which continue to grant asylum and extend assistance to refugees and displaced persons;
4. **URGES** countries of origin to create conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their places of habitual residences in conditions of safety and dignity;
5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to adhere to the various protocols and agreements signed in order to achieve peaceful settlements of all kinds of conflicts which will eventually lead to voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their habitual residences;
6. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to render generous assistance to carry out the necessary re-integration process in those countries where large-scale

voluntary repatriation is taking place.

7. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the International Community to provide additional assistance in order to help alleviate the refugee situation and that of local populations in countries of asylum, especially with regard to the West African and the Great Lakes Regions.
8. **STRESSES** that in order to facilitate lasting solutions, the international community should give assistance to refugees and returnees in the countries of origin and the countries offering asylum and **APPEALS** to the donor community to provide additional resources towards assisting refugees and returnees in order to match the magnitude of the problem;
9. **CALLS ON** the UNHCR in close collaboration with countries of asylum to continue to undertake refugee census in order to provide accurate of refugees in the concerned Member States;
10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU, the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees in cooperation with UNHCR to continue their efforts in the search for lasting solutions to the problem of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Continent.

RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine as contained in Document CM/1951 (LXIV),

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Question of Palestine.

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle being waged by the Palestinian People under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, to recover their occupied territories and exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to an independent State, incorporating East Jerusalem in conformity with pertinent resolution of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, in particular resolution No. 3236 (XXIX),

Appreciating the continued peace efforts for the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian Question on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 478 and the legitimate national and political rights of the Palestinian People,

Expressing its satisfaction with the participation of the Organization of African Unity by monitoring the Palestinian election on 20 January 1996,

Further expressing its satisfaction with the resolution adopted by the National Palestinian Council in its Twenty-First Session concerning the amendment of the National Charter,

Also-expressing its satisfaction with the first ever legislative and Presidential Elections held under the Palestinian National Authority as an important step and additional impetus in the forthcoming negotiations on the issues deferred to the final stage:

1. **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. The 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) and the relevant UN Resolutions,
 - 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 Conventional of 1949,
 - d. 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 repeal immediately all the confiscation orders and arrangements made 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 resolve the problem of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons on the basis of the principles of human rights and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UN Resolutions, particularly General Assembly Resolution 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 an important step towards the implementation of the principle 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 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 to take measures to implement these agreements without delay and within the timeframe, pursuant to the Declaration of principles signed in Washington and all other related agreements;
6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the efforts being exerted by all other parties during 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. **INVITES** Member States to continue extending their necessary solidarity with 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 powers and responsibilities in the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;

8. **REAFFIRMS** the need to abide by the UN resolutions especially the recent General Assembly Resolution A/RES/50/22 of 12 December 1995 calling on Member States not to transfer their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem;
9. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to monitor developments on the Question of Palestine and report thereon to the next Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the OAU Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East as contained in Document CM/1952 (LXIV),

Guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and by the common determination of the Arab and African peoples to pull their resources in safeguarding their sovereignty and restoring their fundamental inalienable rights.

Recalling all the relevant resolutions of the OAU Assembly of heads of State and Governments and the Council of Ministers on the situation in the Middle East.

Taking note of the recent political changes in the Middle East brought about by the change in leadership in certain key States,

Recalling also that the Palestinian Question is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and that the issue of Eastern Jerusalem is the core of the Palestinian Question:

1. **WELCOMES** recent positive developments in the Middle East and **EXPRESSES** its unflinching support for the efforts being made on all tracks to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict in

accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, 465 and 478 based on the principle of “Land for peace”.

2. **EXPRESSES** its full support for the Arab countries in their efforts to put and end to the Israeli occupation and establish a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;
3. **REAFFIRMS** that the Questions of East Jerusalem and Palestine are at the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that there can be no just and lasting solution in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon and unless the Palestinian people are 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 concerning the protection of civilians during wars in the case of the Palestinian people residing in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem;
5. **URGES** all parties in the Middle East to desist from launching armed attacks and perpetrating all acts of violence to allow the peace process to continue;
6. **STRONGLY URGES** the United Nations and the International Community to ensure Israel’s full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Agency on the use of its nuclear installations for peaceful means and to persuade that country to open those installations for international supervision and to submit to the Security Council and the International Atomic Agency a comprehensive report on its stockpiles of nuclear weapons;
7. **DRAWS THE ATTENTION** of the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency to the potential risks of radiation from the Israeli Deymons and

other nuclear reactors in the absence of any international supervision of the Israeli nuclear programme and as a result of Israel's refusal to adhere to the Convention on the Non-Nuclear proliferation;

8. **REAFFIRMS** its support for the proposal of H.E. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on declaring the Middle East a zone free from nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction;
9. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to closely monitor the situation in the Middle East and to report thereon to the next session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Angola, contained in Document CM/1944 (LXIV),

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

Having heard the substantial information provided by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola on the progress regarding the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol,

Emphasizing the obligation by all States to respect the United Nations Security Council and its relevant resolutions on the need to refrain from any act capable of jeopardizing the peace effort and national reconciliation in Angola:

1. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the Angola Peace Process despite the delay encountered in implementing the Protocol Calendar of activities relating to steps defined in the Lusaka Protocol;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the International Community in particular, the United Nations and the Observer Countries to the Peace Process in Angola for the efforts deployed in supporting the Angolan Parties involved in restoring peace,

confidence and stability in the country;

3. **URGES** the parties in particular UNITA to honour and scrupulously comply with the commitments made in the framework of the Lusaka Protocol and cooperate, in bona fide, with the Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General in Angola with a view to swiftly implementing and completing the process of the Lusaka Protocol;
4. **COMMENDS** the Angola Government for the timely honour of its obligations as enshrined in the Lusaka Protocol;
5. **FURTHER APPRECIATES** the compromises arrived at during the meeting held in Libreville, Gabon on 1 March 1996 under the auspices of President Omar Bongo, between the Angolan Head of State and the UNITA Leader, on the formation of a single army and a government of national unity and reconciliation in which UNITA members and Dr Savimbi himself participated;
6. **REQUESTS ONCE MORE**, the International Community to honour the commitments pledged during the Brussels Roundtable towards the reconstruction and community rehabilitation of Angola;
7. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP GRATITUDE** to the humanitarian aid agencies for the invaluable assistance provided to the displaced people and, at this critical stage, of the peace process, **APPEALS** to them to further increase the assistance to the demobilized fighters and their families;
8. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the exemplary work done by UNIVEM III in advancing the peace process;
9. **CALLS ON** the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation and report

thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON SOMALIA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia, document CM/1946 (LXIV),

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

Concerned over the little progress made relating to the situation in Somalia in launching a process of national reconciliation aimed at establishing a broad-based national authority,

Concerned further 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 general and the countries of the region in particular, in the search for a lasting solution to the Somali conflict:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and, Outgoing Chairman of the OAU, who has a special mandate to facilitate the restoration of peace in Somalia, as well as the Secretary-General of the Organization, for their efforts in the search for a negotiated, political solution to the

conflict in Somalia;

3. **SUPPORTS** the efforts of the Member States of IGAD which have embarked on reactivating their initiatives for peace and reconciliation in Somalia;
4. **URGES** the Somali factions to assume their responsibility over the situation obtaining in their country, Somalia;
5. **REAFFIRMS ITS CALL** to the various 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;
6. **URGES** the various Somali leaders to develop a common vision for their country and work towards the creation of conditions of security which are conducive to the facilitation of such assistance;
7. **REAFFIRMS ITS EARLIER APPEAL** to all OAU Member States and the International Community to desist from supplying war materials to any of the factions in Somali so as to avoid an escalation of the crisis;
8. **APPEALS ONCE MORE** to the Member States and the International Community to provide humanitarian assistance in view of the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia;
9. **CALLS UPON** H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and the Outgoing 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 for the Islamic Conference, to closely coordinate their efforts with the OAU and IGAD 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;

RESOLUTION ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFF
OF MEMBER STATES OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of Africa Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the First meeting of the Chiefs of Staff of the Member States of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, contained in his Introductory Note (paragraphs 116 to 124),

Recalling the decision of the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of Council endorsing the launching of the above meeting to examine the technical issues relating to peace-keeping,

Noting with satisfaction the interest shown by all the Member States which participated actively and in large numbers in the meeting,

Aware of the fact that all the technical issues discussed are complex and call for an extensive and thorough analysis as recommended in the final report of the meeting:

- *1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the report of the First Meeting of Chiefs of Staff of Member States of the Central Organ and the relevant recommendations;
2. **COMMENDS** all the Member States of the Central Organ and all participants at the meeting for the interest and seriousness demonstrated during the deliberation of

issues pertaining to peace, security and stability of the African Continent;

* **Reservation of the Kenyan delegation recorded.**

3. **INVITES** the Central Organ to consider and follow-up as appropriate the recommendations of the Meeting of Chiefs of Staff as reflected in the Annex to the Report.

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLIGHT OF AFRICAN
CHILDREN IN SITUATION OF ARMED CONFLICTS**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session, in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having carefully listened to the report of the Secretary-General on conflict situations in Africa, and to the UNICEF statement on the Situation of Children under Armed Conflicts and its Anti-War Agenda,

Noting with deep concern that the negative effects of armed conflicts are jeopardizing the survival and development of African children and hence the future of the continent,

Painfully aware that civil strife and armed conflicts have been impeding the tangible progress achieved through Member States' programmes on child survival, protection and development,

Recalling the strong commitment of African Heads of State and Government towards the eradication of wars and armed conflicts in Africa as demonstrated by the establishment, within the OAU General Secretariat, in 1993, of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution,

Convinced that dialogue is one of the most effective tool for creating conditions of peace, security and stability on the continent;

Mindful that Africa has committed itself to ensuring its children's welfare on the occasion of the World Summit for Children in 1990 as well as the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children, and through adopting several declarations and resolutions on child survival, protection and development, including the Consensus of Dakar and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the UNICEF Anti-War Agenda, aimed at protecting children and women from the scourge of armed conflicts;
2. **APPEALS** to OAU Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
3. **APPEALS FURTHER** to OAU Member States to fulfill their commitments to children by fully implementing the Consensus of Dakar and the Convention on the Rights of the Child especially the articles on the protection of children under armed conflicts;
4. **CALLS ON UNICEF** and the international community as a whole to assist African countries concerned in clearing land-mines, and in rehabilitating people and lands affected by these deadly weapons;
5. **EXHORTS** all African countries, in particular the warring parties in those countries embroiled in civil wars, to keep children out of war situations and to refrain from recruiting children under the age of 18 in armed conflict or violent activities of any kind whatsoever;
6. **URGES** all the warring parties, Governments and others release child combatants from the army and give them adequate education and training, rehabilitate and reintegrate them in civil society so as to make them once more productive and

responsible citizens of their respective countries;

7. **REAFFIRMS** that the use of children in armed conflicts constitutes a violation of their rights and should be considered as war crimes;
8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General, in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs to consider modalities for organizing regional training programmes for members of the armed forces relating to the respect of basic human rights and international humanitarian law and to the protection of civilians, most of whom are children and women, during military operations;
9. **RECOMMENDS** that, zones and corridors of peace be established during armed conflicts to protect children and mothers in order to facilitate both the delivery of humanitarian aid and the provision of social services, such as education and health, and, in particular immunizations;
10. **INVITES** warring parties to pay special attention to the protection of girls and women;
11. **REQUESTS ONE MORE**, the UNICEF and the OAU General Secretariat to recommit themselves to the existing Cooperation Agreement as well as all earlier Resolutions which all upon UNICEF to assist the OAU with the necessary financial, logistical as well as material support aimed at promoting the welfare, survival, protection and development of African Children;
12. **COMMENDS** the active participation of children in the 1996 celebration of the Day of the African Child, and recommends that an Annual Children's Parliamentary Session to be held in each OAU Member States, for the Day of the African Child, in order to enable children discuss issues not only affecting their welfare, but also their respective countries;

13. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General of the OAU to follow-up closely the working relations between UNICEF and OAU and to submit a Report relating to the implementation of this resolution to the Council of Ministers as appropriate.

RESOLUTION ON EXPEDITING THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION ON THE
TREATY
ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE-ZONE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1629 (LXIII) on the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty),

Noting with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the ceremony that took place in Cairo on 11 April, 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion which emphasized that the establishment of Nuclear Free-Zones especially in regions of tension such as the Middle East enhances global and regional peace and security,

Recalling further resolution 50/78 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 12 December 1995, on the final text of the African Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone;

Conscious of the necessity to consolidate the Non-Proliferation Regime and that the establishment of more Nuclear Weapon Free-Zones would form an important contribution:

1. **URGES** Member States who have not signed the Treaty Establishing the African Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone to do so as soon as possible and **CALLS UPON** those who have signed to expedite the process of ratification;

2. **REAFFIRMS** its conviction that the viability of the African Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone would be strengthened by the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone in the Middle East;

3. **STRONGLY CALLS UPON** all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa and its surrounding area as a Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone;

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, STOCKPILING AND
USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having heard the statement made by Cote d'Ivoire delegation on the Convention on Prohibition of the Development Manufacturing Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction,

Having also heard the statement by other delegations on the same issue,

Noting that the discussions on this item were marked by different points of view,

Bearing in mind the point of view outlining that the benefits developing countries in general and African countries in particular, could derive from the Convention entering into force,

Noting that it has, so far, not been possible for the Convention signed in Paris in 1993 by 160 States of the International Community, 42 out of which are African to come into force, owing to the very low number of the ratifications received, namely 53,

Noting also that the two countries with the largest stockpile of chemical weapons have not yet ratified the Convention,

Convinced that the signing and ratification of the said Convention would help speed up its entry into force:

1. **CALLS UPON** those African States which have signed the Convention to ratify it;
2. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the major producing States of chemical weapons in particular the two countries with the largest stockpile of those weapons which have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as early as possible in order to alleviate the difficulties faced by some countries in its implementation programmes;
3. **URGES** all developed countries to promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, materials and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field, as well as the withdrawal of discriminatory restrictions both national and multi-lateral and national contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention;
4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers reflecting the discussion on this issue to the African delegates to the Preparatory Commission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

**RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN
LAW, WATER AND ARMED CONFLICTS IN AFRICA**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unit, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the recommendations made at the Third Seminar organized jointly by the OAU and ICRC in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 May 1996 on International Humanitarian Law and on the theme: “Water and Armed Conflict”, Doc.CM/1950 (LXIV) Annex III,

Bearing in mind the previous resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers and particularly CM/Res.1526(LX) “on the respect of International Humanitarian Law and Support for Humanitarian Action in Armed Conflicts” adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers in Tunis, Tunisia, in June 1994,

Noting the disastrous effects of armed conflicts and particularly the loss of human lives and material resources,

Considering further the existence of African traditional Norms and values in resolve conflicts and the need to rediscover them and make them known at all levels,

Considering also the need for humanitarian action to remain neutral, impartial and independent,

Seriously concerned about the reduction in available water resources, the humanitarian

problems resulting therefrom and the increasing use of water as a weapon in armed conflicts;

Taking note of the outcome of the last session of the 1980 UN Convention Review Conference on Tradition weapons held in Geneva from 22 April to 3 May 1996,

Extremely concerned about the increasing use of children in armed conflicts,

Expressing Satisfaction at the humanitarian efforts made on the field by various organizations and particularly the ICRC,

Deeply shocked by the repeated attacks and killings both local and international staff of the humanitarian organizations,

Reaffirming the need to enhance cooperation between the OAU and ICRC particularly in the area of Conflict Prevention:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Third Seminar organized jointly by the OAU and ICRC on International Humanitarian Law and the theme “Water and Armed Conflicts” held in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 May 1996, appended to the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees;
2. **CONDEMNS** the constant aggression of civilians in armed conflict situations;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the need for African States to become parties to the instruments on International Humanitarian Law and adopt national implementation measures relating particularly to the protection of the emblem of Red Cross/Red Crescent and repression of breaches of International Humanitarian Law;

4. **URGES** the Member States to rediscover the African traditional norms and humanitarian values, to make them known through education and dissemination and ensure their implementation;
5. **URGES** the Member States to adopt measures aimed at a better water conservation and management within the perspective of sustainable development and conservation of environment;
6. **APPEALS** to the Member States for an absolute protection of water sanitary installations and personnel in-charge of maintaining and repairing these installations in armed conflicts;
7. **REAFFIRMS** the African Common Position aimed at the total ban of anti-personnel mines as stated in Resolution CM/Res.1628 (LXIII) and the need to adopt, to this end, strong national and regional measures to ban those weapons;
8. **APPEALS** to the Member States and to all the parties engaged in armed conflicts to put an end to the recruitment of children in these conflicts;
9. **EXPRESSES** its support for the humanitarian efforts made on the field by various organizations and particularly the ICRC and **URGES** them to pursue their commendable action in favour of victims of armed conflicts;
10. **CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS** the attacks and killings, including incitements to acts of violence and threat against the personnel of organizations that are exclusively humanitarian, neutral and impartial;
11. **URGES** Member States to take all necessary steps to ensure that the personnel of humanitarian organizations are protected and respected by all, in conformity with international law especially the international humanitarian law, thus enabling them

to pursue their normal activities and conduct enquiries aimed at shedding light on these attacks and taking appropriate measures;

12. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to enhance the cooperation of the OAU with the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations particularly in the field of conflict prevention and to contribute to the dissemination of information on and respect the international Humanitarian Law in Africa;
13. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to report to the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

**RESOLUTION ON THE TWELTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the report the Secretary-General on the 12th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Industry and UNIDO General Conference Resolution GC.6/Res.11 on die IDDA;

Recalling the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the Cairo Agenda for Action adopted by the Seventeenth Extra-ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers,

Recalling further the Second IDDA adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,

Reiterating OAU Summit Resolution AHG/Res.5 (XXXII) of 28 June 1995 supporting UNIDO,

Taking note of the statement by the Director General of UNIDO to the Council of Ministers especially in respect of the “Alliance for Africa’s Industrialization”,

Reaffirming the primary responsibilities of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade and the need for the mobilization of their own resources and for substantial flow of technical and financial resources from the international community towards the industrialization of Africa;

1. **TAKES NOT WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the 12th Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and on the 6th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO;
2. **ENDORSES** the Gaborone Declaration and the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its Twelfth meeting;
3. **REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT** to UNIDO and **WELCOMES** the decisions of the legislative bodies of UNIDO to continue to accord highest priority to African and the IDDA;
4. **ENDORSES** the launching of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization as a dynamic mechanism for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the IDDA and **INVITES** Africa's development partners and the international community to intensify their cooperating with African governments and private sector industrial enterprises in support of the Alliance;
5. **CALLS ON** all Member States of the OAU to participate actively in the 13th Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the Second All Africa Private Sector Forum scheduled to be held in Accra in May 1997;
6. **INVITES** all African States and Africa's development partners to participate actively in the meeting for the launching of the Alliance for Africa's industrialization which will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Henri Konan BEDIE, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, in Abidjan in the last quarter of 1996;
7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Director General of UNIDO to continue their assistance in the implementation of the programme for the 2nd IDDA and to undertake follow-up actions for the mobilization of resources and national, sub-

regional and regional levels for industrialization in Africa and jointly submit a biennial report on the matter to the OAU Council of Ministers and Summit Conference.

**RESOLUTION ON THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL
AFRICAN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (RASCOM)**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 – 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report on the activities and the development prospects of the Regional African Satellite Communications Organization, Document CM/1958 (LXIV),

Recalling Resolution CM/Res. 1435 (LVII) on the implementation of the Regional African Satellite Communications Organization, Document CM/1958 (LXIV),

Further recalling Resolution CM/Res.1498 (LIX) on the establishment of the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM),

Recalling also the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, in particular its Article 63, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4,

Noting with appreciation the support so far rendered to RASCOM Organization by Member States and the International Community,

Convinced of the need to construct telecommunications infrastructural facilities that will interconnect African countries with a view to laying the necessary foundation for the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Aware of the important role of RASCOM in providing such facilities for the physical and economic integration of the Continent,

Appreciative of the work done by RASCOM in pooling together transponders leased or purchased by Member States so as to promote the efficient use of Member States' space segment resources,

Considering the growing restructuring and privatization in the Telecommunication Sector in Member States,

Considering also that the structure of RASCOM Organization allows the participation of private capital in its endeavours through the non-signatories shareholders agreement:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report on the activities and the development prospects of RASCOM Organization;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to Member States that have fully satisfied the conditions for membership of RASCOM Organization as well as for their continued support to RASCOM;
3. **URGES** all Member States that have not signed or ratified the RASCOM Convention and Operation Agreement to do so and buy shares in the RASCOM organization;
4. **COMMENDS RASCOM** Organization for its encouraging and promising initial operating results as well as for its role in promoting the development of telecommunications in rural and isolated areas through the use of satellite communications technology;
5. **EMPHASIZES** the urgent need for RASCOM Organization to take necessary measures to maintain the African character and personality of the Organization;
6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to all African and International competent institutions for their support to RASCOM;

7. **CALLS UPON** Member States, within the context of their privatization policy, to comply with the provisions of the Convention and RASCOM Operation Agreement which encourage sub-regional and regional integration in Africa;
8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to intensify its cooperation with RASCOM and to mobilize Member States to fully support the activities of RASCOM;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in cooperation with the Director-General of RASCOM to regularly report on the implementation of this present resolution.

**RESOLUTION ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE RULE
OF LAW IN AFRICA**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Considering the importance of justice in Africa as a factor of security, peace and development,

Considering the need to consolidate the democratization process in Africa,

Concerned by the persistence of flagrant violations of human rights in some regions of the African Continent,

Considering also that impunity encourages the deterioration of human rights in the world in general, and Africa in particular,

Bearing in mind the Ouagadougou, (Burkina Faso) Plan of Action as adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in April 1996:

1. **ENDORSES** the Ouagadougou Plan and Action and URGES Member States to take all appropriate measures to implement it;
2. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to closely monitor developments in the situation in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and other institutions concerned and submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 66th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

RESOLUTION ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC
CONTROL IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Drug Abuse and Traffic Control in Africa, Document CM/1962 (LXIV),

Recalling the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs on 1961, the Single Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the UN Conventional for International Control of Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and that of 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,

Recalling further the African regional meetings on the Problems of Illicit Drug Abuse and Trafficking in Africa, held in Lagos, Nigeria in November, 1979; Rabat, Morocco in April, 1981; Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in March, 1993; Pretoria, South Africa in 1994, and the planned UN Special Session of the General Assembly in 1997, devoted to the problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse,

Considering Resolutions CM/Res.797 (XXXV) recommending the establishment of an OAU Specialized Commission for Drug Control Matters in Africa and CM/Res.1370 (LVII) requesting the Secretary-General to draw up a Plan of Action on Drug Control at continental level and submit a report thereon to the Council.

Noting with concern the escalating problem of drug abuse and traffic in Africa, and in particular the abuse of drug among the youth,

Appreciative of the initiative to conclude a Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the UNDCP in assisting Member States in the implementation of programmes on Drug Abuse and Traffic Control in Africa:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the Report of the Secretary-General on Drug Abuse and Illicit Traffic Control in Africa;
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the OAU Secretariat and the UNDCP in drawing up the Draft Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa;
3. **ADOPTS** the Draft Plan of Action and the Declaration on Drug Control in African and **DECIDES** to submit it to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
4. **APPEALS** to Member States to implement the Plan of Action by establishing national mechanisms or focal points of Coordination where they do not exist between Governmental, Non-Governmental and International Organizations and Agencies concerned with drug abuse and illicit traffic control issues;
5. **CALLS ON the UNDCP** to further strengthen and intensify its existing cooperation with the OAU, with a view to establishing a Mechanism on Drug Control within the OAU Secretariat as a focal point for coordinating the implementation and follow-up of the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Abuse in Member States;
6. **REQUESTS** Member States to submit periodic progress reports to the OAU Secretariat on the implementation of this Resolution, and in particular, the Plan of Action of Drug Control in Africa;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to follow-up the implementation of the resolution and submit a progress report to the 66th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE
FIRST PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON
YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development on the overall theme: African Youth in the 1990s and Beyond; Peace, Participation and Development (Doc. CM/1961 (LXIV)), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 to 22 March, 1996,

Mindful of all other resolutions on the convening of the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development, and in particular, Resolution LC/Res.199 (XVII) as endorsed by the Sixtieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, Resolution CM/Res.1536 (LX) and Resolution CM/Res.1573 (LXI),

Deeply concerned about the current situation and plight of the Youth in Africa with regard to health, education, employment, drugs and crime as well as the role and contribution of youth in environment protection, peace, security, democratization process and socio-economic, political and cultural development of the continent,

Appreciative to the fruitful conclusions and recommendations adopted by the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development and by the African Youth Forum,

Convinced that it is of paramount importance to prepare the youth for the major challenges ahead regarding their close involvement in the steering of the destiny of the African continent to the Year 2000 and beyond:

1. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the Report of the Secretary-General on the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development;
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the OAU, the Pan-African Youth Movement and its partners in the United Nations system in convening the Conference;
3. **URGES** Member States to empower the Youth and consequently enable them to play a major role in ensuring a better future for the continent by:
 - a. strengthening training and research efforts in the areas of employment, education and training, health, science and technology, agriculture, environment, peace and security as well as in the socio-economic, political and cultural development of the continent;
 - b. creating an enabling environment to facilitate the mobilization and participation of youth in the decision-making process through legislative mechanisms, policy reforms and improved civil structures; and
 - c. supporting rural youth programmes and assisting them with income-generating activities.
4. **CALLS UPON** the OAU partners on youth issues, particularly, UNICEF, ILO, UNFPA, FOA, UNEP,, UNDCP, UNDP WHO, UNESCO, ICRC, UNECA, Scout Movement and other concerned organizations to increase all technical and material support to OAU Member States and to continue their Cooperation Agreements with the General Secretariat with a view to achieving the effective implementation of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Youth Conference;
5. **APPEALS** to Member States to forward the OAU General Secretariat periodic progress reports in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference;

6. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a Youth Fund from its regular budget for the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the OAU Secretariat, in cooperation with its partners, to establish the convening of the Pan-African Youth Conference on a bi-annual basis and a Youth Forum at which creativity awards should be given to the youth who would have distinguished themselves in any field of human endeavour;
8. **ENCOURAGES** the Pan-African Youth Movement to pursue its efforts for the convening of the 8th Youth Congress, and **REQUESTS** the OAU General Secretariat to participate in this Congress and support the PYM in its preparation and re-organization;
9. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of this Resolution to the Sixty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

**RESOLUTION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINETEENTH
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU LABOUR COMMISSION**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on the Proceedings of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission, Doc. CM/1960 (LXIV),

Recalling Resolution AHG/Res. 204 (XXVII) on the situation of African Migrant Workers in Europe and Resolution CM/res.1413 (LVI) on the situation of Migrant Workers in Africa,

Recalling further Resolution CM/res.1410 (LVI) which, among others, calls upon Member States to respect the principle of tripartism within the OAU Labour Commission, in the ILO meetings and at the national level,

Expressing satisfaction at the cooperating established between the OAU, the Arab Labour Organization and ILO for the success of the seminar on South-South Migration, organized in Cairo in December 1995,

Aware of the concerns in Declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXVII) of the Twenty Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Employment crisis in Africa;

Convinced about the close overlapping of Labour problems and social issues as a whole:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and Resolutions of the Secretary-General on the Proceedings of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission;

2. **URGES** the Member States to **RESPECT** and **APPLY** the principle of Tripartism, not only for the meetings of the OAU Labour Commission and the International Labour Conference but also at the national level;
3. **APPEALS** to the Member States which have not yet done so, to ratify the Agreement on the Establishment of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) and honour their contribution in order to prove their solidarity with the disabled persons;
4. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to request the assistance of UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, and ILO for the preparation and success of the Tripartite Pan-African Seminar on the Protection of the Child and The Elimination of Child Labour scheduled in Brazzaville, the Congo before the end of 1996,
5. **REINTERATES** the appeal it made to the ILO Director General for Africa to be no longer marginalized as regards the senior posts in the Organization and that the quota of Africa be increased;
6. **URGES** once again the Member States and the OAU Secretary-General to implement, in their respective areas, the decisions, recommendations and resolutions emanating from the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission;
7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General in close cooperation with the ILO, ALO, the World Confederation of Productivity Science (WCPS), the World Academy of Productivity Science and UNDP to consider the possibility of organizing during 1997/98 a specific meeting on productivity problems in Africa;
8. **ENDORSES** the pledge to change the Labour Commission into the “Labour and Social Affairs Commission”;
9. **APPEALS** to all OAU Member States to assist the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) in the construction of the Kwame Nkrumah Africa Labour College in Accra, Ghana;

10. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to report to the Sixty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ON THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN AND THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourth World Conference on Women, Document CM/1959 (LXIV),

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1602 (LXII) on the Fifth African Regional Conference of Women and the African Platform for Action and all previous resolutions adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers related to the enhancing of the role and contribution of African women to the political and socio-economic development of the Continent,

Further recalling the Addis Ababa Declaration AHG/Decl.2 (XXXI) on the Dakar African Platform for Action on Women adopted at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June, 1995 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women held Beijing, China from 4 to 15 September, 1995, namely the Declaration and Global Platform for Action, and the commitments made by African Governments at the Conference,

Recognizing that 1996 is the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty particularly among the women-folk in Africa who constitute the majority of Africa's people living in the rural and urban areas, will require the implementation and integration of strategies at the national, regional, continental and international levels in all the critical areas of concern identified in the Global Platform for Action,

Recognizing also that mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes aimed at combating poverty is critical,

Convinced that improving women's education and health in the context of family is an essential strategy for sustainable development and has to be reflected in the implementation of national, regional, continental and international development policies, programmes and projects,

Further convinced that an enabling socio-economic and political environment has fundamental roles to play in the creation of conditions that allow women to achieve full integration in development,

Aware of the need for women, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to be empowered by guaranteeing them access to such services as education, health, employment, maternity and child care and credit so that they may be fully integrated into development,

Convinced that in order to ensure peace, stability and tranquility in Africa women need to more involved in all activities and processes of conflict prevention, management and resolution:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourth World Conference on Women:
2. **CALLS ON** Member States to:
 - a. fulfill their commitments to the African and Global Platforms for Action by developing, preferably by the end of 1996, national implementation strategies or plans of action for the implementation of the two Platforms for Action especially targeted at the eradication of poverty among women-folk;
 - b. undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and ownership of and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technology;
 - c. promote the participation of women at all levels of decision-making,

- d. include gender perspectives in all the guidelines for economic and social policies and to increase women's capacities and capabilities in planning of development programmes;
 - e. increase the participation of women in conflict resolution and protect them in situations of armed conflict.
3. **CALLS UPON** the OAU Secretary-General in cooperation with Member States to promote women's empowerment through concrete actions, policies and programmes;
 4. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to integrate gender perspectives in all programmes and policies of the OAU;
 5. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to restructure and strengthen the Women's Unit in order to enhance the capability of the Unit in discharging its coordinating and sensitization role in the implementation of the two Platforms for Action;
 6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to submit periodic reports to the Council on the progress made and problems encountered in the implementation of the African and Global Platforms for Action.

**RESOLUTION ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Recalling the different resolutions on then International Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, and more particularly Resolution CM/Res.1508 (LIX) of the Fifty-Ninth Ordinary Session and Resolution CM/Res.1571 (LXII) of the Sixty-First Ordinary Session, both held in Addis Ababa respectively in February 1994 and 1995,

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 49/234 of December 1994 and 50/112 of 20 December 1995 on the arrangements for the interim period and on the measures to be taken urgently for Africa,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Recognizing that joint action of the International Community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Realizing that new and more effective integrated and coordinated approaches are needed at all levels within the framework of the implementation of the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up activities of the Convention and particularly steps taken by African States, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as by African non-governmental organizations in implementing United Nations General

Assembly and Council of Ministers of the OAU resolutions on the measures to be taken urgently for Africa:

1. **INVITES** African States who have already signed and ratified the Convention to continue their efforts in putting in place the machinery to prepare national action programmes and holding national forums involving the donor community and multilateral agencies and institutions;
2. **CALSS UPON** all African States who have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify to the Convention so that a maximum number of African States ratify it before December 1996;
3. **REQUESTS** all regional and sub-regional African Organizations, particularly OAU, ADB, AOCRS, CILSS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, as well as ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA, Civil Society in general and the other Local Authorities involved in the implementation of Convention, to pursue their cooperation in implementing the provisions of the Convention in African Region and consolidate their financial support and other forms of assistance for the relevant initiatives related to implementation, follow-up and coordination of on-going activities;
4. **INVITES** the Interim Secretariat of the Convention and the United Nation Systems, particularly UNEP, UNDP/UNSO, ECA, IFAD, FAO, WHO and UNESCO, as well as multilateral financial institutions such as ADB, World Bank, IDA, IMF and all international institutions for cooperation and development, in particular USAID, GTZ, CRDI/ACDI, European Union, SIDA and Japanese Cooperation, to fully and effectively support by financial resources and technical and technological assistance the initiatives of African countries and organizations within the framework of the implementation of the resolution on the measures to be taken urgently for action;
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the Conference on Hunger and Poverty organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nations (IFAD) in cooperation with FAO, WFP, the Government of Belgium and the European Commission in November 1995 in Brussels which adopted an innovative popular coalition for action to implement a tire-bound programme which *inter alia*

support cost-effectively the implementation of the United Nations Convention of drought and desertification;

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the view expressed by the 6th Session of African Ministers Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to establish a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) as mechanism to provide substantive backstopping for the implementation of the Convention;
7. **INVITES** all concerned sub-regional, regional and international organizations, including the interim Secretariat of the Convention concerned with the effective functioning of the Regional Coordination Unit, to fully cooperate and consult on the process of establishing and launching such a Unit;
8. **REQUESTS** all African States, sub-regional and regional organizations as well as African NGO's to submit to the OAU for necessary action vis-à-vis the interim Secretariat of the Convention, reports on action taken or envisaged within the framework of the implementation of the resolution on Urgent Action for Africa;
9. **REQUESTS ALSO** the Secretary-General of OAU to convene a meeting of the Ad-Hoc Experts Group of OAU on Desertification to prepare for the Ninth Session of INC-D (International Negotiating Committee) in September 1996 at the Headquarters of United Nations in New York, and to submit for adoption the outcome of the meeting to the African Group on Desertification before the session indicated above;
10. **URGES** the international community to honour its commitments and obligations under the Convention, *inter alia*, those related to a Global Mechanism established to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or concessional terms, to technology, on a grant basis, and/or concessional terms, to affected developing country parties, in order to support efforts and activities towards the eradication of poverty in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, particularly in Africa;

11. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of OAU to follow-up closely the progress made in the implementation of this resolution and to report to the 1998 Session of the Council.

RESOLUTION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation, contained in Document CM/1965 (LXIV),

Bearing in mind the Declaration and Programme of Action as well as other decisions and resolutions adopted by the First Afro-Arab Summit, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, March, 1977,

Reaffirming its total commitment and entire readiness to deploy every effort to ensure the constant strengthening of Afro-Arab Cooperation in all fields,

Considering Resolutions CM/Res.994 (XLIII), CM/Res.1210 (L), CM/Res.1250 (LI) relating to Afro-Arab Cooperation:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the 2nd Afro-Arab Trade Fair held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 6 t 14 October, 1995;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa for all the arrangements made to ensure the success of that important event;
3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the on-going activities aimed at implementing the programmes already adopted, particularly those concerning the establishment of Afro-Arab Financing and Investment Cooperations and the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute;

4. **RECOMMENDS** the intensification and coordination of cooperation activities as well as direct contacts between African and Arab Institutions aimed at formulating joint cooperation programmes;
5. **EMPHASIZES** the need to strengthen Afro-Arab Cooperating in all fields in view of new developments at the regional and international arena;
6. **WELCOMES** the offer made by the United Arab Emirates to host the 3rd Afro-Arab Trade Fair in Sharjah from 6 to 12 December, 1997; and the Mauritania to host the 2nd Afro-Arab Business Seminar in March, 1997 in Nouakchott;
7. **REQUESTS** all Member States to participate actively in the different events planned during the 3rd Afro-Arab Trade Fair;
8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU, in consultation with his counterpart of the League of Arab States, to take every necessary step and establish the appropriate contacts with all the parties concerned so that they may contribute to the preparation and organization of these two events;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to continue his consultations with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in order to create the congenial conditions for the holding of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation;
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to include this item on the Agenda of the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and to submit a report thereon.

RESOLUTION ON SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND
FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the activities and functioning of the Special Fund, contained in Document CM/1966 (LXIV),

Recalling the provisions of its Resolutions CM/Res.1315 (LII) and CM/Res.1336 (LIV) relating to the Special Fund,

Deeply concerned over the extent of the persistent drought in African and its effects in the economic and social development of Member States,

Recalling further the aims and objectives of the Special Fund, instrument of active solidarity and cooperating, expression of the will and determination of Africa to control drought and famine in Africa,

Concerned also over the financial situation of the Fund, due to the gradual depletion of its resources and lack of new contributions:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities and functioning of the Special Fund;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations adopted by the 20th Session of the Committee to convene in 1997 the Special Pledging Session at the level of Heads of State and Government;

3. **APPEALS** to the all Member States and international institutions to participate effectively in the pledging session;
4. **REITERATES** its appeal to the International Committee, Governments, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and business community to contribute generously to the Special Fund;
5. **DECIDES** to appoint the following Member States to serve on the Policy Committee of the Special Fund for a two year period starting from the 21st Ordinary Session; Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Gabon, Ethiopia and Malawi;
6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on the activities and situation of the Fund to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Fund.

RESOLUTION ON THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered Document CM/1935 (LXIV) Add.6 concerning the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Angola to organize a Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa,

Bearing in mind of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the African Charter of Human and People's Rights,

Recognizing the importance of promoting, protecting and respecting Human Rights as essential factors in the preservation of peace and stability on the continent:

1. **WELCOMES** the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Angola to the holding of a Ministerial Conference of OAU Member States on Human Rights in Africa;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the willingness of the Angolan Government to host this Conference;
3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to take, in consultation with the African Human and Peoples' Rights Commission and the host country, the measures needed for the preparation, organization and the convening of the Conference;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the United Nations to respond favourably to any request from the OAU General Secretariat or the host country relating to the Organization of the Conference.

RESOLUTION ON MEASURES TAKEN TO
IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION AHG/Res.230 (XXX) RELATING TO THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN COURT
OF HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken to implement Resolution AHG/Res.230 (XXX), Doc. CM/1968 (LXIV),

Considering that the Charter of the Organization of African Unity declares that freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African Peoples,

Recalling that the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Right reaffirms adherence to the principles of Human and Peoples' Rights, Freedom and duties contained in the declarations, conventions and other instruments adopted by the Organization of African Unity, and other International Organizations,

Recalling also Resolution AHG/230m (XXX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government by which the Secretary-General was requested to convene a Government experts meeting to ponder in conjunction with the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights over the means to enhance the efficiency of the African Commission in considering particularly the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights,

Firmly convinced that the attainment of the objectives of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights requires the African Commission to be strengthened by the provision of sufficient human and material resources as well as by the establishment of an African Court of

Human and Peoples' Rights to complement and reinforce the mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

1. **COMMENDS** the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement Resolution AHG.230 (XXX);
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the report of the experts meeting, (Annex 1) relating to the strengthening of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights;
3. **DEFERS CONSIDERATION** of the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;
4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to once again circulate the Draft Protocol to Member States inviting their views, comments and observations within a limited period and to submit a report thereon to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to facilitate consideration of the Draft Protocol.

**RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed Cooperating Agreement between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Doc. CM/1931 (LXIV),

Considering the mandate of the ICJ and its important role in the promotion and protection of Human Rights in African and especially in the support rendered towards the establishment and functioning of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Considering also that the principles and objectives governing the activities of the ICJ are in conformity with the principles and purposes of the OAU,

Taking into account the need to enhance the cooperation between the OAU and ICJ in the field of human rights in Africa;

Considering that the formalization of already existing relations between the OAU and ICJ will enable these two organizations to strengthen their cooperating in order to harmonize 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 ICJ;

3. **AUTHORIZES** the OAU Secretary-General to sign the said Agreement with the duly empowered representative of ICJ.

**RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICA'S
INFORMATION SOCIETY INITIATIVE (AISI)**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Convinced of the need to fully exploit the potential of the information technology to effectively and equitably integrate Africa in the global economy and accelerate the socio-economic development of the Continent,

Recognizing that building Africa's information infrastructure and decision support systems to enable African leaders, policy-makers and the civil society at large is a necessary condition to positioning Africa in the world's rapid expanding global economic system, enhancing policy information and speeding up the process of economic integration in the Continent,

Take note of Resolution 812 (XXXI) of the African Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning of the Economic Commission for Africa adopting the framework for the Implementation of the African Information Society Initiative,

Convinced that the African Information Society Initiative will enable the creation of new jobs and enhance the quality of life of the people,

Further convinced that the building of the African Information Society will require major commitment and cooperating of governments, the business sector and international development agencies,

Committed to building and strengthening of the African Information Society:

1. **CALLS UPON** Member States to take immediate measures to implement Africa's Information Society Initiative and incorporate the action framework of the Initiative

to build Africa's Information and communication infrastructure in their development plans and programmes;

2. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to utilize the capacities and experiences of national, sub-regional and regional African centers of excellence for the implementation of the Initiative;
3. **URGES** the International Community, in particular regional organizations such as the Pan-African Telecommunication Union and Regional African Satellite Communication System, Non-governmental Organizations, The Private Sector, Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners, to realize the goals of the Initiative;
4. **FURTHER URGES** the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and Africa's development partners to use Africa's Information Society Initiative as a guiding framework for their intervention in the area of information and communication in Africa.

RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATES

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the OAU Standing Nomination Committee,

Aware of the criteria on African candidature contained in resolution AHG/res.144 (XXI) as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Nominating Committee:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Standing Nominating Committee;
2. **DECIDES** to support the candidature of Kenya – for the seat of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 1997 –n 1998.

RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN CANDIDATURES

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the OAU Standing Nominating Committee,

Aware of the criteria on African candidature contained in Resolution AHG/Res.144 (XXI) as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Nominating Committee:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Standing Nominating Committee;
2. **DECIDES** the fully support the candidature of Professor Mohamed Bedjaoui of Algeria, for re-election as member of the International Court of Justice.

RESOLUTION ON THE OAU CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session, in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General, Doc. CM/1969 (LXIV),

Conscious of the fact that the Charter of the OAU adopted by the Founding fathers of the Organization in May 1963 remains the basic instrument of the Organization,

Conscious of the need to re-examine the provisions of the charter in the light of the changes and new realities in Africa,

Considering that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, by its decisions AHG/Dec.111 (XVI) Rev.1, set-up a Fourteen-member Committee to review the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering the continued importance of the review of the Organization's Charter:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the 6th Session of the Charter Review Committee contained in Doc. CM/1969 (LXIV);
2. **WELCOMES** the resumption of the work of the Charter Review Committee, **APPRECIATES** the work already done by the Committee and **URGES** it to continue with the review exercise so that a draft revised Charter could be presented as soon as possible;
3. **APPROVES** the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee contained in paragraph 18 of the Report of the 6th Session, Annex 1, relating to the need to

convene the Committee annually until it finishes its work, the hiring of legal consultants and the inclusion, if possible, of legal experts in delegations attending meetings of the Committee.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

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

Noting with appreciation the competence and efficiency with which the Chairman of the Council conducted the work of the Session:

1. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION**, the highly inspiring statement made during the Opening Session by H.E. Mr. Simon Achidi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE** to the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of Cameroon for their fraternal and warm hospitality;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Chairman of the Council and to the Chairman of the 63rd Session of the Council for the competence and efficiency with which they conducted the work of the 63rd and 64th Ordinary Sessions of the Council.