



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Seventy-First Ordinary Session
6-10 March 2000
Addis Ababa

REGULATION OF THE 71ST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS

REGULATION

The Council of Ministers

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Referring to Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (III) and Regulations CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1 (V) and CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.2 (V) respectively of the Third and Fifth Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, and of the Council of Ministers of the AEC,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community:

HEREBY RULES:

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND REGULATIONS

Member States should report on the implementation of decisions and regulations of the African Economic Community (AEC) to the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) as provided for under Article 15 of the Abuja Treaty;

2. RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY AND ACCESSION

All Member States which have not yet acceded to Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and which have not yet ratified or deposited their instruments of ratification are urged to take the necessary steps to do so as soon as possible:

3. COOPERATION WITH THE RECs

- a) The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should take the necessary steps to closely involve the General Secretariat of the AEC in its activities and to ensure a close co-ordination of its programmes and activities as provided for in the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and the RECs;
- b) They should take the necessary steps to ensure their effective and regular participation in AEC meetings, as a way of addressing the issue of non-participation in meetings by some of Regional Economic Communities.

4. INDUSTRY AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

- a) The OAU Secretary-General is requested to:

- i) Continue, in close collaboration with Member States, the RECs and UNIDO, to develop and implement a new approach for Africa's industrialisation; and
 - ii) Assist Member States with a view to ensuring the early creation of the African Energy Commission.
- b) UNIDO is urged, in close collaboration with the OAU and the RECs, to accelerate the preparation of country integrated programmes for industrialisation in order to cover all the regions of the Continent.

5. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

- a) Are endorsed the new structure of PATU and its strategic plan, "the African Connection";
- b) Member States are invited to:
- i) Support the restructured PATU which has been renamed "African Telecommunications Union" (ATU) by, among other things, fulfilling their financial obligations to the Union; and
 - ii) Adopt measures to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Plan: "The African Connection".
- c) The Secretary-General is requested to:
- i) deepen co-operation with the African Telecommunications Union so as to assist Member States in the restructuring of the sub-sector and in the introduction of the new and innovative services;
 - ii) associate the African Telecommunications Union in the implementation of the Telecommunications aspects of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;
 - iii) report regularly through ECOSOC on the implementation of this decision; and
 - iv) submit concrete proposals to the Advisory Sub-Committee on virement, with a view to organising INFOCOM-AFRICA during the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

6. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

a) Proposed OAU/EU Summit

- i) is endorsed as follows the title of the Summit, as agreed by the Joint OAU/EU preparatory meeting: "Africa/Europe Summit under the aegis of the OAU and EU, Cairo 3 - 4 April, 2000".

- ii) is underscored the need to adopt a co-ordinated African position for the Africa/Europe Summit;
- iii) the Secretary-General is requested to convene an OAU preparatory meeting at Ministerial level in the afternoon of 1 April in Cairo, preceded by a meeting of senior officials;
- iv) the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters should allocate, through virement, adequate resources to enable the General Secretariat organise and participate in the meeting;
- v) the Core Group of the Preparatory Committee should continue its negotiations in Lisbon with the European side in order to reach an agreement on the periodicity, the follow-up mechanism, the Draft Plan of Action, the Draft Final Declaration and other pending issues on the basis of the concerns expressed by the OAU side;
- vi) the Secretary-General should submit through the Council of Ministers, a report on the outcome of the Summit, to the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

b) WTO

- a) The WTO General Council should implement a package of measures, such as improved market access for LDC products and expansion of trade-related technical co-operation;
- b) African countries of the ACP Group are urged to fully support the WTO waiver applied for by the ACP and the EU in order to allow the maintenance of preferential trade arrangements between the two parties during the transitional period;
- c) The WTO should also improve transparency on systemic issues and other procedural matters. To this end, African Member States should participate in the debate and ensure that the issue of observer status for the OAU/AEC at the WTO is resolved;
- d) African countries should strengthen their co-ordination in order to build consensus on the main issues prior to future negotiations;
- e) The AEC Technical Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration should:
 - i) ensure that spokespersons are designated for Africa on international trade issues, who should be assisted by the Panel of Experts;
 - ii) meet as soon as possible before the end of the year 2000 in order to take stock of the outcome of Seattle and chart the way forward;

- f) The Secretary-General with the assistance of the Panel of Experts should continue to provide technical support to African negotiators throughout the negotiations.

c) ACP-EU

- i) Note is taken of the conclusion of the negotiations for the new ACP EU Partnership Agreement;
- ii) Member States should ensure that, in the negotiations for a new AC-P-EU trade and economic co-operation scheduled to commence in September 2002, African solidarity and regional co-operation as enshrined in the Abuja Treaty are not compromised; and the General Secretariat is requested to set up a mechanism to assist and to effectively co-ordinate the position of the African sub-regions in the process of negotiating the Economic Partnership Agreements;
- iii) The AEC Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration, in co-operation with the RECs should evaluate and monitor the various issues in the trade negotiations with a view to ensuring that possible future trade options including Regional Economic Partnership Agreements (REPAS) proposed by the EU, do not jeopardise the objectives of the AEC;
- iv) ECOSOC as the overall OAU/AEC co-ordinating body should ensure that African positions in the multilateral trade negotiations are compatible with the objectives of African integration and development, and should consider the advisability of setting up a negotiating body consisting of a core group of Member States, the AEC and RECs Secretariats, with the assistance of the Panel of Experts;
- v) The Secretary-General should continue to provide technical support to African negotiators in multilateral trade negotiations with the support of the OAU Panel of African Experts, and devise appropriate strategies for the implementation of the provisions of the Partnership Agreement, especially those relating to Trade.

d) UNCTAD

- a) The Secretary-General should:
 - i) establish the necessary contacts with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Plan of Action in order for Africa to derive maximum benefit, in particular in the area of multilateral trade negotiations, external debt, South-South Co-operation and Regional Integration;
 - ii) develop the necessary working modalities in order to secure the full support of UNCTAD Secretariat as African LDCs prepare for the Third Conference on Least Developed Countries scheduled for 2001;

- iii) evaluate the outcome of UNCTAD X and submit specific recommendations to the Council through ECOSOC.
- b) The UNCTAD Secretariat should work in collaboration with the OAU Secretariat and all relevant institutions and regional economic communities, through their analytical and research work to strengthen the negotiating capacity of African countries.

7. 8TH ALL AFRICAN TRADE FAIR

The Secretary-General should undertake consultations with Member States in a position to organise the Fair, with a view to ensuring the holding of the All-Africa Trade Fair in the year 2001 at the latest, and submit a report to the Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of OAU/Seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of AEC.

**Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10 March, 2000**

(Signed)
Motsoahae Thomas THABANE
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho
Chairman of Council