

AUC NEWS



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7th ORDINARY SESSION OF AU ASSEMBLY HELD IN BANJUL

The Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union was held in the Gambian capital of Banjul from 1-2 July 2006. The Summit was also attended by Presidents Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Mohammed Ahmadinejad of Iran, UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan as well as heads of regional and international organizations. Over 300 media practitioners covered the event.

In the margins of the Summit, a number of important events took place. The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights was held on 1st July. The meeting of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee was held on the same day. Different ministers from the Non Aligned Summit and China- Africa Summit made presentations, as did candidates for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations.

Other meetings which took place on the sidelines included: Colloquium on Human Rights; Meeting of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government; AIDS Watch Africa Heads of State and Government meeting; 5th Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism; 58th PSC Ministerial Level Meeting on Darfur and DRC; Meeting of AU Post Conflict Reconstruction Committee; Fourth meeting of the AU/ RECS Committee on Coordination; 5th meeting of the AU/ RECS Committee of Secre-

tariat Officials; African Union Private Sector Forum; and the AU Pre Summit Women's Forum.

Below are the highlights of the different decisions adopted at the Summit:

DECISION ON THE MORATORIUM ON THE RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS)

Rationalisation of Regional Economic Communities (RECS) was the main focus of the Summit. It was seen as important because of the vital role RECs play in the development and integration of Africa. Host President H.E Dr Yayha Jammeh underscored the need for rationalisation by saying « this touches on the raison d'être of the AU and the path towards the fulfilment of our shared goal of an African Economic Community ». He said that integration resonates with the ideas of African luminaries such as Presidents Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Senghore and Sekou Toure. Regional integration, president Jammeh added, can scale up investment in member countries and is also urgent in the area of peace and security .

Chairperson Konare, in his speech to the Assembly observed that, « Owing to their proliferation, their inconsistency with geographical criteria, the overlapping they create or even the cacophony of geographical criteria, they are neither in keeping with the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action nor that of the Abuja Treaty ».

Rationalisation would therefore avoid the duplication between the different RECs, and reduce strains on individual governments' ability to cope with diverse agendas, among other benefits.

After their considerations, the

Heads of State and Government, decided to suspend, until further notice, the recognition of new RECs with the exceptions of the following eight:



Gambian President Dr Yayha Jammeh

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Arab Magreb Union (AMU), Economic Community of Sahelo- Saharian States (CEN-SAD) and East African Community (EAC).

They also requested member states, RECs and the UN system as well as development partners to collaborate closely with the AU Commission in conducting the rationalization process.

Highlights of the Assembly Decisions

DECISION ON THE NEW FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE UNION

The Assembly adopted the new Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union and requested the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to implement scrupulously the provisions of the said rules and regulations.

DECISION ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF INTEGRATION

The Assembly mandated the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and RECs, to implement the roadmap for the rationalization process and submit a report to the Assembly in July 2007. It also decided to institutionalize the Conference of Ministers in charge of Integration which will meet once a year in ordinary session and in extraordinary session when necessary, pending rationalization of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs).

DECISION ON THE SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE AU ON FERTILIZERS

The Assembly urged Member States to support the establishment of the Africa Fertilizer Development Financial Mechanism and encouraged them to pledge and contribute resources for its immediate operation. It also called upon Member States to ratify the Convention establishing the African Centre for Fertilizer Development (ACFD), and requested the Commission to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to discharge its mandate on fertilizer development.

DECISION ON AFRICA'S COMMON POSITION TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION (UNGASS) ON AIDS

UNGASS was held in New York from 31 May- 2 June. Prior to this, African leaders, who met in Abuja at a special session in May adopted a common position to be presented at the UNGASS.

The AU Assembly meeting in Banjul welcomed the Common Position which was Africa's contribution to the UN General

Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS, and the related Brazzaville Commitment on Scaling Up Towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support in Africa by 2010;

The AU Commission, in collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Development Partners, was requested to coordi-

nate and follow-up on the implementation of the Common Position and report annually to the Assembly. With regards to malaria, the leaders requested the Commission to launch, in collaboration with the AU Conference of Ministers of Health, a renewed campaign on the eradication of Malaria and to mobilize the necessary support and resources in that regard.

DECISION ON ABUJA CALL FOR ACCELERATED ACTION TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (ATM) SERVICES IN AFRICA

With regards to the Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM) services, the Assembly expressed its deep concern that the collective burden of these diseases on Africa's socio-economic development is still increasing, in spite of registered successes. Based on this serious situation, the Assembly re-declared ATM collectively "as a *State of Emer-*

gency in Africa".

As part of efforts to stop and reverse the effects of ATM, the leaders urged Member States to further strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders and coordinate the realization of a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to disease control. They also called upon development partners to provide sustained, well-coordinated and harmonized support, including fulfilling

their commitment for adequate additional funding in global aid by 2010. The Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, Pan-African Parliament and Development partners is to coordinate the implementation of the Abuja Call and report annually to the Assembly.

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DECISION ON WTO NEGOTIATIONS

The Assembly expressed deep concern on the limited progress made so far in the negotiations on issues of major interest to African countries. It emphasized that failure to incorporate Africa's needs, interests and concerns within the outcome of the Doha Round will not only undermine Africa's already limited trade opportunities, but

also erode the autonomy and ability to pursue trade policies that would serve key developmental objectives such as employment, industrialization, food security, rural development and sustained economic growth in Africa. It endorsed all the recommendations contained in the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on the Doha Work Programme (April

2006). In addition, it encouraged the Heads of State who were going to take part in the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, to seek the support and cooperation of Heads of State of main Member countries of the WTO for Africa's position so as to consolidate Africa's interest in the Doha Round.

DECISION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE PEACE AND SECURITY SITUATION IN AFRICA

The Assembly commended the progress achieved in the promotion of peace and security on the Continent since the Khartoum Summit in January 2006. In this regard, the Executive Council expressed satisfac-

tion at the processes in the Comoros, the DRC, in Mauritania, as well as progress made in Cote d'Ivoire in spite of the delay in the implementation of the Roadmap adopted by the Ivorian Government in February 2006. It requested the Peace and Security Council to continue efforts on conflict prevention, by examining potential crisis situations before they degenerate into conflict, and the implementation of peace building programs in countries emerging from conflict.

DECISION ON THE UNION GOVERNMENT

The Assembly requested the Commission to convene an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council as soon as possible to consider the Report and propose an appropriate framework for action and directed that financial resources be provided for the implementation of this decision.

DECISION ON THE HOLDING OF THE FIRST AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT

The Assembly confirmed that the Summit will take place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 30 November to 1st December 2006.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT SINGLE INSTRUMENT ON THE MERGER OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly requested the Commission to convene a meeting of the Ministers of Justice to consider the Draft Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights including the outstanding issues and make appropriate recommendations to Council thereon in January 2007.

DECISION ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION, THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PARTNERSHIP

The Assembly appreciated the concerted efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the President of the African Development Bank (ADB), to strengthen the cooperation among the three African leading development organizations to coordinate African development strategies and programmes.

DECISION ON STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S REPRESENTATION IN THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS

The Assembly requested the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to convene a special meeting of Ministers in charge of relations with the Bretton Woods Institutions, with a view to elaborating a strategy that will enable Africa to remedy the situation. The meeting should be held preferably before the annual meetings of these institutions due to take place in Singapore in September 2006.

DECISION ON THE INTEGRATION OF NEPAD INTO THE STRUCTURE AND THE PROCESSES OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly extended the deadline of three years set in Maputo in July 2003, to January 2007, that is, an additional six months.

It set up a committee compris-

ing the Chairperson of the Union, the Chairperson of the Commission, the Chairperson of the HSGIC and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Secretariat as well as the Vice-Chairpersons of HSGIC to finalize the proposal on

the integration of NEPAD into the AU structure and processes; conduct an evaluation of NEPAD at its current stage; and propose a realignment of NEPAD to its original objectives, mandate and philosophy.

DECISION ON THE HISSÈNE HABRÉ CASE AND THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly decided that the Hissène Habré Case falls within the competence of the African Union.

It mandated the Republic of Senegal to prosecute and ensure that Hissène Habré is tried, on behalf of Africa, by a competent Senegalese court with guarantees for fair trial. It further

mandated the Chairperson of the Union, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission, to provide Senegal with the necessary assistance for the effective conduct of the trial. Member States were requested to cooperate with the Government of Senegal on this matter and the International Community was called upon to avail its support to the Government of Senegal.

DECISION ON REVISION OF SYMBOLS TAKEN OVER FROM THE OAU AND CREATION OF NEW SYMBOLS WHICH DISTINGUISH THE UNION FROM THE OAU - FLAG OF THE UNION

The Assembly requested the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government to review the proposals and submit recommendations to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2007.

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A FUND WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION TO ALLEVIATE THE INCREASE IN OIL PRICE ON THE POOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE COORDINATION OF AFRICAN OIL POLICIES

The Assembly requested the First Meeting of Ministers responsible for Oil and Gas due to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2006, to study the issue in depth and present a detailed

strategy for cooperation and solidarity between oil producing and non-oil producing African countries with a view to mitigating the effects of high oil prices on the economies of poor non-oil producing African countries; maximising oil revenues

for oil producing African countries; and enhancing the quantity and quality of refined oil products in Africa in order to meet the development objectives of the Continent.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

The Assembly adopted the African Youth Charter as the legal framework of action for the African Youth; and invited Member States to take appropriate steps for the signing and ratification of the Charter as well as for its popularization.

DECISION ON AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Assembly endorsed the African Common Position on Migration and Development and urged Member States to implement the Common Position.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AS A SINGLE UNITED ENTITY

The Assembly took note of the Report of the Commission on the Non-Assimilation of North Africa to the Middle-East with regard to the domination, content and concept; and mandated the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of this decision.

Decisions on other items proposed by member states to the 6th Ordinary Session of the Assembly

ON THE CREATION OF A PAN-AFRICAN STOCK EXCHANGE WITH A SEAT IN EGYPT OR SOUTH AFRICA, THE STATUS OF THE UN REGIONAL CENTER FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT, MARKING OF THE EMANCIPATION DAY, ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FOOTBALL, FRANCE-AFRICA SUMMIT, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF PELINDABA.

The Assembly commended the effort of the Commission to implement the decisions taken by the Assembly at its 6th Ordinary Session with respect to issues brought to its attention by Member States.

It approved the recommendations and proposals of the Commission in various regards.

It decided that necessary budgetary support be provided to enable full implementation of the decisions

in the areas identified, and that in accordance with existing provisions, any proposal requiring funding for implementation, should be accompanied with the necessary budgetary provision.

ON NON-SUBMISSION OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMITS TO THE USUAL RATIFICATION MECHANISMS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE UNION

The Assembly requested Member States to give urgent priority to the ratification of treaties, protocols, charters and conventions adopted by the African Union including seeking to present them to the first sitting of their respective parliaments and/or other appropriate organs immediately after their adop-

tion.

It also requested the Commission and the Pan-African Parliament to consider ways and means of accelerating this process and submit appropriate recommendations to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

ON HOLDING OF BILATERAL SUMMITS BETWEEN AFRICA AND CERTAIN STATES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMITS

The Assembly endorsed in principle the recommendations of the Commission and recognized the need for Member States to fulfil prior commitments and obligations associated with China-Africa Summit of 2006

AFRICA PAYS TRIBUTE TO A GALLANT SON MR. KOFI ANNAN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

At their Summit in Banjul, African Heads of State and Government paid special homage to Mr Kofi. Annan . Below is the full text:

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in the 7th Ordinary Session of our Assembly, noting that the second term of office of our brother Kofi Annan as Secretary General of the United Nations Organization is drawing to a close, pay special tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan who, as Secretary General, for two consecutive mandates, has presided over the destiny of the world, a globalized world undergoing constant change in which challenges to be addressed formed the daily lot of his preoccupations. He has in these instances demonstrated outstanding competence in find-

ing appropriate solutions to these various challenges.

We have noted with appreciation his initiatives in contributing to the economic and social development of our continent through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also noteworthy is the daunting dossier he launched for the reform of the United Nations and particularly the Security Council. The reform of the Security Council based on the principles of equity, justice and representation, should enable Africa regain its rightful place in the concert of Nations and above all increase its influence in the world and in the decision-making bodies of the UN including the Security Council.

Mr. Kofi Annan, the illustrious son

of Africa, has in his ten years at the helm of the UN, honoured our continent; held high the torch of justice and demonstrated self-abnegation and modesty that characterized his two mandates. He has honoured Africa in all corners of the World, and has been present in the battlefields and in conflict areas where his interventions were exemplary and crucial.

We, therefore avail ourselves of this opportunity to pay solemn and well-deserved tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan and express all our pride in him, an illustrious son of the Continent, a citizen of the World and indeed a great man in the service of the entire humanity.

The Summit in pictures



Presidents Wade and Bongo



President Kibaki meets some guests



Iranian President Mr. Muhammed Ahmadinejad



Venezuelan President Mr. Hugo Chavez



Professor Konare having a word with ECA Executive Secretary Mr. Abdulie Janneh



Mr. Mazimhaka meets UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan



Dr. Kaberuka President : ADB



L-R Commissioners Joiner; Gawanas; Kurwijila and Es-sayed



Drs Mkwezalamba and Zoba



Commissioner Tankeu



Ambassador Djinnit



SPECIAL REP. TO BURUNDI



Representatives of some of the RECs and partners



PAPU



NEPAD



Delegates standing to the AU Anthem

Some Ambassadors and their delegations



Delegates and AU members of staff at the Summit



DECLARATIONS

In addition to the decisions, the Assembly made three declarations.

DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

The Assembly deliberated on the situation in Somalia, which they said threatens to unleash fresh confrontations with far reaching consequences on the ongoing efforts at dialogue and the entire peace and reconciliation process in the country, as well as for security and stability of the region as a whole.

The leaders reiterated their full support to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), in particular, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), as the legitimate Government of Somalia. They appealed to all the stakeholders to seek the path of dialogue as the only way to resolve differences and to extend the necessary coopera-

tion to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), in order to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in the country. They welcomed the preliminary agreement reached between



Somali President Mr. Abdullahi Yusuf at the Banjul Summit

the TFG and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), following the meeting held in Khartoum, the Sudan, on 22 June 2006, under the auspices of the

League of Arab States and urged the parties to uphold their commitments, bearing in mind the need for full compliance with the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) of Somalia. They also expressed their support for the initiatives undertaken by IGAD.

The Assembly requested the Commission, working closely with the IGAD, to take all necessary steps for the early deployment of IGASOM in Somalia, to be subsequently taken over by the AU. In this regard, the Assembly requested the Security Council to provide an exemption to the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, to pave way for the deployment of IGASOM and facilitate the re-establishment of the national security forces of Somalia.

BANJUL DECLARATION ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

The Assembly expressed great satisfaction at the positive contributions made by the African Charter on Human and people's Rights (the African charter) towards the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. They committed themselves to undertake the necessary measures to respect and guarantee the independence of the ACHPR, as well as to provide it with the necessary human and financial resources, in order to enable it to effectively discharge its functions. They welcomed and expressed

their full support to the newly established African Court on

"We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union..... re- dedicate ourselves to ensuring respect for the attainment of our common vision of a united and prosperous Africa, and reaffirm our confidence in the ACHPR" Assembly declaration 3

Human and Peoples' Rights whose role is to complement ACHPR in its human rights protective mandate and committed

themselves to provide the necessary human and financial resources to allow the new Court to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently as well as to fully cooperate with and render all the necessary assistance to the Court.

Lastly, the leaders rededicated themselves to ensuring respect for human and peoples' rights as a pre-requisite for the attainment of our common vision of a united and prosperous Africa.

DECLARATION ON UNCTAD AND UNIDO

With respect to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) UNCTAD and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the

Assembly called for, in the context of the reform of the United Nations (UN) system, the strengthening of UNCTAD and UNIDO with a view to enhanc-

ing their capacity building support to developing countries for the promotion of trade and industrialization.

CHAIRPERSON KONARE OUTLINES IMPORTANT ISSUES AT BANJUL SUMMIT

Resolving the relationship between the government of the African Union and the harmonization and rationalization of the Regional Economic Communities is a critical factor in solving many of Africa's outstanding challenges. These include the migration of African youths and relations with the host countries; free movement of people, goods and services; conflicts and wars, wealth creation and tackling poverty.

This was part of the substance of the Chairperson's speech at the Banjul Summit of Heads of State and Government held from 1-2 July in the Gambian capital, whose theme was Rationalisation of the REC's.

Pointing out that in 2005 in Sirte the Assembly indicated that the objective of the Union is to move towards a United States of Africa, Professor Konare said it is essential to reach a common understanding of the two issues in order to transcend the debate about the AU as an organ of International Cooperation and the AU as a Regional Integration Organ, and also on the debate on the need for a Secretariat or a real executive to coordinate the AU. One of the critical factors in es-

"I will do my utmost to ensure that in 2007, I am in a position to hand over the baton, under the best possible conditions to the next Chairperson of the Commission"

Alpha Oumar Konare

tablishing a successful organ of regional integration, he said, was an acceptance of the principle of areas of sovereignty to be conceded and areas to be shared. He also called for the RECs to be integration oriented.

The Chairperson encouraged Africa to fight racism, promote women's development, refresh its memory about its colonial past and communicate its history, implement its decisions on free



Professor Konare (right) talking to the AU Chairperson President Denis Sassou Nguesso

movement within the continent; and create and promote employment. He also said Africans working in regional and continental organizations should be driven by true Pan African nationalism.

In dealing with conflicts, he suggested a four point plan:

The first is the urgent need to exercise the right to use the principle of non indifference to conflict

The second is the need to accurately evaluate the continent's peace and security keeping capacities

The third is the need to monitor countries in the aftermath of conflicts and

The fourth is to resolve, through dialogue, any disputes between countries

Turning to other issues, Professor Konare urged the august Assembly to ratify and sign the outstanding protocols and conventions (he spelt out 13), and to implement the Yamoussoukro Declaration of 1999 which would provide for enhancing air services, promote competition and reduce air fares within the continent.

As regards the financial situation of the Commission, the Chairperson called for additional resources to implement programmes geared towards achieving true integration and greater commitment to African common positions. Pointing out that only 12 countries have paid their 2006 contributions, he said the arrears due are very significant.

On the global front, he highlighted that Africa should adopt common positions in such major upcoming fora as:

Non Aligned Summit in Cuba from 15 to 16 September;

China Africa Forum in Beijing, from 4 to 5 November; The African/ South American Summit in Abuja from 30 November to 1 December and the African, Caribbean Meeting in South Africa in 2007.

Since he had announced his intention not to seek reelection, Mr. Konare concluded his address with a solemn promise to do his utmost to ensure that in 2007, he would be in a position to hand over the baton, under the best possible conditions, to the next Chairperson of the African Union.

AU PARTNERS UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE IN SEARCH OF PEACE STRATEGIES



H.E. Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka
Deputy Chairperson of the Commission

The University for Peace, in conjunction with the African Union Commission held a Conference on the theme **Strategies for Peace with Development: the Role of Education, Training and Research** from Monday 12 June to Wednesday 14 June 2006 at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference focused on the need to integrate the challenges of achieving peace in Africa with those of securing sustainable development.

The Conference sought to achieve two broad objectives, namely:

- a. To focus policy attention on strategies to integrate peace with development: to ensure that measures to reduce poverty, to generate employment and to promote economic and social progress are mutually reinforcing to reduce violence and conflict and to build peace and good governance;
- b. To identify specific needs and targeted follow-up activities where education, training, research and the dissemina-

tion of knowledge can be focused to advance peace and development.

His Excellency the Minister of Education of Ethiopia, Dr. Sintayheu Woldemichale made a statement during the opening session. The conference was officially opened by His Excellency Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. He said the AU co-sponsored the Conference for three reasons:

- a) Because AU members are also members of the UN;
- b) The AU recognizes the importance of the UPEACE and its work
- c) The AU has been dealing with issues of peace, security, development, poverty, and as such must join the world in dealing with peace and security issues.

A number of specific recommendations for action came out of the conference

1. A broad-based curriculum on peace education and development should be produced by UPEACE and partners, for African institutions at all levels, taking into consideration national peculiarities and contexts.
2. UPEACE should facilitate the creation of a network of African peace and development researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers to share experiences and best practices from the African region and from other parts of the world.
3. The Conference, noting the importance of culture and African endogenous methods of conflict prevention and management, recommended to UPEACE and its partners that these methods be documented and developed for teaching, research and educa-

tion.

4. UPEACE and the AU should consider holding annual working meetings to discuss and review the development of the issues of education and peace.

5. Regional civil society organizations should spearhead the drafting of a Code of Conduct to assist civil society groups and the private sector, working with peace and development in Africa.

6. The role of media in peace education and public enlightenment for peace should be strengthened with particular emphasis on community radios, and national and continental media houses.

7. UPEACE and the AU Commission should work to create linkages with the African Diaspora towards coordinating and utilising their resources positively for peace research and development in Africa.

The AU has been dealing with issues of peace, security, development, poverty, and as such must join the world in dealing with peace and security issues

Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka

In order to implement these recommendations, different parties and stakeholders are required to actively participate and collaborate. The recommendations should be reviewed within the first six months of adoption and again after a year to determine the degree of success of implementation, challenges and threats, as well as new opportunities that may emerge.

MINISTERS ADOPT RESOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR SAFETY

The Ministers responsible for Air Transport met in the Second Session of their Conference in Libreville, Republic of Gabon from 18 to 19 May 2006 on the Theme: "Air Transport Safety in Africa". They discussed issues relating to air transport safety in Africa at a time when the industry is faced with global competition.

The Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need to devise national, regional and continental strategies to boost air safety in Africa and committed themselves to implement all measures aimed

at enhancing air safety, particularly the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

They noted the inception of application of the Sun City Resolution of May 2005, aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision of 1999, and underscored the urgent need for the operationalization of this vital instrument of the African air transport policy. They also highlighted the importance of regional, continental and international cooperation in

enhancing air safety in Africa.

Regarding the African Civil Aviation Commission, the conference undertook to find immediate solutions to strengthen this tool for the development of the air transport industry in Africa.

Finally, the Ministers adopted two Libreville Resolutions on Improvement of Air Safety in Africa and a Common African External Air Transport Policy respectively, as well as a Plan of Action.

HIGH LEVEL AIRLINES MEETING HELD IN TUNISIA

A high level meeting of Chief Executives of African airlines was held in Tunis from 29 to 30 May. It was jointly organized by the African Union, the African Development Bank, in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and the Government of Tunisia.

The principal objectives of the meeting were to

Contribute to improvement of the air services of the continent in order to facilitate the integration of African countries.

Examine the improvement of African connections as well as the reduction of tariffs, in particular intra African Union

Identify actions to be undertaken

and/ or identify projects to be realized with the support of countries in order to set up structures in order to facilitate the movement of people and goods

To sensitize the participants on the needs and rights of users
Support the reinforcement of air cooperation in Africa

Propose solutions to any questions which may arise

PSC SATISFIED WITH ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN DRC CALLS FOR EXPEDITIOUS DEPLOYMENT OF IGASOM

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) convened for a briefing session on 24 July on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Somalia.

In a statement released a few days before the DRC elections on 30 July, the Council expressed satisfaction with the prevailing election campaign conditions in the country. It also noted the progress made by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in preparing for the elections and the

deployment of observers by ECCAS, SADC and AUC as well as South Africa, Republic of Congo and Nigeria.

On the situation in Somalia, the PSC invited the Commission to continue to follow up and build on the steps already taken in support of the reconciliation, and report within the coming weeks, including recommendations based on the relevant IGAD and AU decisions regarding the deployment of the IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia (IGASOM). In this regard, the Council stressed the need to

expedite the ongoing IGAD/AU preparations to create conditions propitious for the deployment of IGASOM as soon as possible.

The Council called on the UN Security Council to expedite action on the AU request for granting an exemption to the arms embargo, in order to facilitate the early deployment of IGASOM. The Council appealed to the international community to provide assistance and support to the needy communities in Somalia.

AFRICAN INTELLECTUALS MEET IN BRAZIL TO BUILD ON CIAD I

The 2nd Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD II), which was organized by the Brazilian Government, in close co-operation with the African Union, was held from 12-14 July 2006, in Salvador- Bahia Brazil. The purpose of CIAD II was to build on the achievements of the 1st conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD I), held in Dakar, Senegal, from 6-9 October 2004.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony, Commission Chairperson Professor Alpha Oumar Konare outlined many critical areas of historical and future linkages between Africa and Brazil. In a speech spiced with references to many outstanding Africans and the diaspora, Professor Konare said the chief links are culture, communication and sports. One of the challenges facing Africans of the Continent and those of the diaspora, he said is to formulate strategies to allow them to share values, cultural institutions, expressions and tools. He lamented the fact that negation of the other person because of race, colour and/ or socio-economic status is still commonplace and encouraged Africans to “stand up, assert ourselves, bear out our humanity

and take charge”. To do this, he said, requires a bold new strategy, clear goals and sustained combined actions, to chart a new course for an Africa of hard work, solidarity, justice and good governance.

In the process of the negation of the African, said the Chairperson, African inventions such as the Nubian pyramid of Kheops are situated outside history. He called this “intellectual fraud” which constitutes a pitfall that should be urgently addressed under the African renaissance. To reject the history that others write of us is a first step in overcoming this pitfall, he suggested. He also identified another pitfall as “the gap in thinking that results from glorification of individuality”. This pitfall can be avoided by remembering major conquests such as the Pharaonic Code of Innocence, established in 4000 BC. He added that Africans need to endow themselves with the means to once again place at the centre of spiritual, moral or political order the inviolability of persons of any age and sex, and make the protection and promotion of his freedoms their creed, armed with the conviction that without respect of human rights, respect of freedoms, and the recognition of diversity and pluralism, there is no hope for Africa.

The Chairperson saluted the different people and organizations who, in one way or another have kept the vigil over the African world: names like Aime Cesaire, Leopold S Sengore, Frantz Fanon, Cheikh Ata Diop, Mia Couto among others, and celebrated the diversity of Africans. He also traced efforts to bring African Intellectuals together back to the First Intellectual Congress of Black Writers and Artists held in Paris 50 years ago. He recalled many other forthcoming events such as the 50th anniversary of the Congress, the second festival of Negro Arts to be held in Dakar and the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

In his conclusion, the Chairperson reminded the delegates that the African Renaissance is a matter of urgency. He said the Renaissance is, however, fundamentally, a political project and will be founded on the African nation; a nation whose pillars will be the United States of Africa.

In this regard, he said this Renaissance cannot be achieved properly, from the point of view of the African Union, without the positive and critical contribution of Africa's intelligentsia and its Diaspora in America, Europe and the Orient working together.

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