Africa-Europe Summit*  
– Declaration of Cairo –

I. INTRODUCTION

We, the Heads of State and Government of African States and of the European Union, as well as the President of the European Commission, have met in the First Africa – Europe Summit under the Aegis of the OAU and EU, in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, at the kind invitation of His Excellency Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, under the Co-Presidency of the President of Algeria, His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU, and the Prime Minister of Portugal, His Excellency António Guterres, in his capacity as President of the European Council.

The Secretary General of the OAU, and the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy also participated in the Summit. A representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations attended the Summit.

We solemnly declare that:

1. Over the centuries, ties have existed between Africa and Europe, which have led to many areas of co-operation, covering political, economic, social, as well as cultural and social issues. These have developed on the basis of shared values of strengthening representative and participatory democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, good governance, pluralism, international security, political stability and confidence among nations. In the light of the current rapid globalisation trend, we are determined to strengthen this cooperation in our mutual interest and make it more beneficial to the two regions.

In order to give a new strategic dimension to the global partnership between Africa and Europe for the Twenty First Century, in a spirit of equality, respect, alliance and co-operation between our regions, we are committed to the basic objective of strengthening the already existing links of political, economic and cultural understanding through the creation of an environment and an effective framework for promoting a constructive dialogue on economic, political, social and development issues.

II. REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION

We stress the importance of regional economic co-operation and co-operation as an efficient strategy for the orderly and coordinated development of the African con-

(a) To mandate the UNEP to invoice member States of the Conference for their contributions to the Trust Fund in furtherance of this goal, on the basis of the good will expressed in the decisions taken on the Trust Fund, as well as the pledges which have been made by member States at this session;

(b) To request further the secretariat to submit a report on the use of the earned interest of the Trust Fund to the ninth session of the Conference;

(c) To give the Co-Presidency, as Chairman of the OAU, the consent and advice to sign the following agreements:

– the Agreement of the African Economic Community (AEC), in the context of facilitating the sharing of experiences and institutional strengthening of the AEC and the regional economic communities (RECs), in that regard, it is worth recalling the OAU treaty: Relaunching Africa’s Economic and Social Development: The Cairo Agenda for Action of 1995.

9. We confirm that the current trend towards liberalisation and globalisation poses serious challenges to African countries in an era of a continued marginalisation in Africa’s share of world trade. We agree on the need to define policies that maximise the benefits from further world trade liberalisation for African countries and that reverse the present trend of marginalisation that African countries are experiencing in the world economy.

10. We reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalisation in the framework of a rules-based multilateral trade system, from which all nations should benefit. We recommend to all countries, which are not yet members of the WTO, to consider such membership. We are convinced that a new round of multilateral trade negotiations should take account of the particular constraints of developing countries, including those in Africa, and allow for their smooth and gradual integration into the world economy. In the context of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, we need to cooperate so as to ensure that in the framework of multilateral trade negotiations special attention is paid to products, including processed agricultural products, which are of export interest to developing countries, in particular Africa.

11. We underline the importance of special and differential treatment for developing countries, particularly in Africa,
within the WTO and the need for the effective implementation for such measures. In this context, we support the call for special consideration that be given to countries facing sudden unforeseeable critical economic situations.

17. We underline the need for African countries for a comprehensive assistance in the area of diversification, both vertical and horizontal, which is instrumental to enhance their effective participation in the new international trade system. We agree to identify and take proactive measures to enable Africa build its production and supply capacities and to support Africa’s efforts to make its exports more competitive.

**Private Sector Development** ...

**Investment**

17. We are deeply concerned about the decline of foreign investment flows to Africa, especially those of private origin.

18. We acknowledge that African countries have continued to reform their economic and provided attractive investment codes for promoting investment flows. We encourage them to sustain their efforts to that effect.

19. We reiterate the need for closer cooperation to fight against capital flight from Africa, especially to offshore financial centers.

20. We agree to encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa and to promote Europe-Africa co-operation in this field.

21. We recognise the importance of enhancing South-South co-operation through triangular mechanisms, building capacity in business management, exchange of experience, as well as support for joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions.

**Resources for Development**

22. We welcome the commitments to sustain the ODA flows to Africa, and to provide debt relief with a view to releasing additional resources for poverty reduction strategies.

23. We reaffirm the role of macroeconomic stability as a fundamental precondition for mobilising both domestic and international financial resources. Only stable, predictable and equitable macro-economic policies, in conjunction with necessary structural reforms, can create an atmosphere conducive to economic growth. We recognise the important achievements realised on this front in many countries in recent years as decreasing inflation rates and the better trends of growth presently show.

24. We encourage all partners of development co-operation, donors as well as beneficiaries, to organise their development assistance more effectively, to work for enhanced co-ordination and complementarity, inter alia, by harmonising and simplifying procedures.

25. We recognise that concessional resources (of the ODA type) are required in order to address as a priority, the structural factors that constrain Africa’s development effort, especially the development of human resources capacities and poverty reduction in the area of physical infrastructure and production capacities.

26. In this context, we recognise that financial resources commensurate with the needs for Africa’s development are required and that sustained efforts should continue to be made to create the necessary conditions for increasing Foreign Direct Investment and mobilising external and internal resources, in particular of private origin. Consequently, on this basis, we agree that efforts should be intensified with a view to meeting the internationally agreed targets for development oriented resource transfers.

**Infrastructural Problems and Industrial Base** ...

**Research and Technology**

29. We recognise that knowledge, research and technology underpin all development efforts. Integration into the world economy, the fight against poverty and the protection of the environment require improved access to and use of knowledge and technology.

30. We acknowledge that for Africa to meet the challenges of globalisation and attain sustainable development, the strengthening of its technological capacity, especially in such areas as information technology, education, and technology information centers, is critical.

31. We will promote, in the context of globalisation and the progress of the information society, new forms of dialogue and scientific and technological co-operation, as well as trade in services as important factors for closer economic ties between both regions. In this regard, special attention shall be given to building and strengthening the institutional infrastructure to enhance technological transfers and development in Africa.

**External Debt** ...

**Co-operation in International Fora**

41. We are determined to work together for the improvement of international understanding and co-operation for development and human progress. We reaffirm our commitment to co-operate closely in identifying and furthering common interests in international organisations, major global conferences and fora. We reaffirm the importance of working towards the attainment of the goals and objectives adopted in major international conferences organised under the United Nations’ auspices.

**IV. HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW**

**Human Rights** ...

**Democratic Principles and Institutions**

50. We reaffirm our commitment to continue to consolidate democracy in our countries. We recognise the right of sovereign states to establish their own constitutional arrangements and to institute their own administrative structures according to their history, culture, tradition and social and ethnic composition.

51. We recognise the need to consolidate democratic principles, based on the rights of all citizens, men and women, to freely choose their political leaders through free and fair periodic elections, as well as the need for the existence of an appropriate constitutional, legislative and regulatory framework.

52. We condemn all anti-democratic forms of accession to power, and reaffirm the extreme and inadmissibility of people to fully participate in the process of government, through their democratically elected representatives. We welcome the decision adopted by the OAU at the OAU Summit in Algiers in July 1999 on unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

**Civil Society**

54. We recognise the need to provide for greater inclusion and participation in all areas of our Partnership. In this context, we emphasise the need for greater participation of the citizen in decision-making concerning the management and allocation of resources, whilst respecting the diverse and complementary roles of the State, decentralised local authorities and the other society actors concerned.

**Migration**

55. We acknowledge that a comprehensive and integrated approach is needed to tackle the issue of migration and the separation but reunification of families, and will co-operate in this field. The loss of skilled migrants from Africa constitutes a major economic blow and underline the need for co-operation to address the root causes of migration both in countries of origin and transit and in recipient countries.

56. We support the principle of Free Movement of Persons in the spirit of the Abuja Treaty, which encourages OAU Member States to adopt employment policies that allow the free movement of persons within the African economic Community, through the establishment and strengthening of labour exchanges that ensure optimal redistribution of skilled manpower.

**Xenophobia** ...

**Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)**

59. We note with concern the increasingly large numbers of refugees and IDPs in Africa and the problems that have been encountered by host countries, as a result of the influx of 6 million refugees and about 20 million internally displaced persons on the continent. We reaffirm our will to continue to provide substantial assistance to those refugees and internally displaced persons, and to support their repatriation and reintegration, in conformity with international humanitarian law and, more specifically, using relevant OAU Conventions as an important guide in addressing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

60. We emphasise the role of the UNHCR and human rights organisations, and the right of asylum seekers to protection. ...

61. We condemn the systematic tactic by parties to armed conflicts of displacing
the civilian population. We affirm the principle that in order to enhance their own security as well as that of humanitarian personnel, efforts should be made to locate refugees at a reasonable distance from international borders in camps of limited size. We support all efforts by UNHCR and other relevant actors to safeguard the civilian and humanitarian character of such refugee camps.

**V. PEACE-BUILDING, CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION**

62. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles for a nonviolent character of the UN, Article 2, notably the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-intervention in internal affairs. We acknowledge that the parties concerned bear the primary responsibility for preventing, managing and resolving internal armed conflicts. We also reaffirm that the UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

63. We reaffirm our commitment to settle disputes by peaceful means, and to oppose by all means the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the UN Charter, or against the national territory of another State, including the acquisition of territory by force. We stress the importance of facilitating the return to non-violent, stable and self-sustaining situations. We believe that effective policies of peace-building and conflict prevention necessitate the establishment of an international culture of prevention.

64. We recognise that peace, security, stability and justice are essential prerequisites for peace-building and conflict prevention to be effective. We commend and fully support the efforts being deployed by the OAU, including those aimed at strengthening its mechanisms of conflict prevention, management and resolution, to promote and sustain peace, security and stability in Africa.

65. We underline that further efforts are needed to prevent violent conflict at the earliest stages by addressing their root-causes in a targeted manner and with an adequate combination of all available instruments. We further recognise the need to strengthen the international capacity for early response and the ability of regional and international organisations to take proactive, anticipatory action to prevent acute conflicts when noting signs of rising tensions.

66. We welcome the Algiers Summit Decision proclaiming the year 2000 as year of peace and security. We also welcome the Sirte Summit decision to convene an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation on the Continent, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, in May 2000.

67. We are committed to fully implementing international humanitarian law and call upon all parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect of international humanitarian law. This includes protection of civilian populations affected by armed conflict, as stated in the instruments of international agreements. We are also committed to ensuring the security of relief workers, to facilitate access to populations in need and to eliminate any hurdles for humanitarian agencies.

**Post-conflict Assistance and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration**

68. We express our deep concern over the problems of peace-building, and renew our commitment to resolving it.

69. The parties to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Transfers, and Production of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction welcome the convening of the first Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines in South Africa in May 1997. They also welcome the Maputo Declaration that concluded the first meeting of the States Parties held in Mozambique in May 1999.

70. We will pursue our efforts within the framework of the CCW (Certain Conventional Weapons) and the protocols annexed thereto as well as the Ottawa Convention, and will continue to oppose all other relevant international, regional and sub-regional fora.

71. In this regard, we stress the need for intensifying efforts in the fields of mine clearance, assistance thereto, as well as with respect to mine victims and mine awareness.

72. We will continue to co-operate towards a comprehensive resolution of the landmine problem in Africa and in particular by addressing the issue of the removal of existing landmines. We call on those states in a position to do so, in particular States involved in the deployment of mines, to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance for landmine clearance operations and rehabilitation of victims.

**The 2000 Review Conference of the NPT**

73. **Conflicts in Africa**

85. We note with great concern the persistence of numerous conflicts in Africa, which continue to cause in a great number of them loss of human life as well as destruction of infrastructure and property. These conflicts threaten peace, stability, regional and international security and hinder the aspirations of African peoples to peace, prosperity and development, in particular in Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara.

86. In this regard, we reaffirm our determination to support the rapid and equitable implementation of the peace plans and settlement plans adopted by the UN and/or the OAU, as well as the efforts of the UN and the OAU, with a view to finding peaceful and durable solutions to all conflicts, in accordance with the principles of international law, UN Charter and, where appropriate, relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and OAU Charter.

VI. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

**Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa and Poverty Eradication**

87. We deplore the intolerable fact that more than half of all Africans are living in absolute poverty and agree to intensify the fight against poverty. The primary responsibility for alleviating poverty lies at home with each country, but this does not diminish the importance of the international dimension in the war against poverty.

88. We confirm that accelerated economic growth and sustainable development are basic prerequisites for poverty eradication in Africa within its role for the attainment of sustainable human development as an ultimate goal of the continent’s development aspirations. We note that poverty eradication, as an objective, is a multi-sectoral issue, which encompasses social development through improvements in education, health, food security, water and rural development. We also support the efficient allocation of resources that provide adequately for the social sectors, including in national budgets.

89. We note that conservative estimates indicate that Africa needs to achieve growth rates of at least 7 percent to significantly reduce poverty. We confirm that poverty reduction is a priority for all African countries. In these instances, this is an enormous challenge relative to the mutually accepted international goal of reducing the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty at least one-half by the year 2015. We observe that while poverty remains widespread in Africa, there is the need of improving income distribution through poverty-alleviation strategies and policies such as the development of social services expenditure, revitalisation of rural economies, and the development and financing of micro, small and medium enterprises.

90. We note that notwithstanding the above, social safety nets should be provided to protect the extremely poor segments of the population.

Investment in Human Resources – Education

Investment in Human Resources – Health

Food Security

91. We recognise that economic performance and poverty eradication are strongly linked to food security in Africa, which includes issues such as agricultural development, fisheries, livestock, and forestry development. To address this problem, we believe it is necessary to improve access to and availability of food, as well as ensure adequate nutritional quality. We express deep concern that in spite of the fact that Africa is predominantly an agrarian and pastoral continent, food availability at household level is insufficient to ensure food security.

92. We recognise the role women play in many African countries in food production and food security.

93. We agree on the need to take concrete steps to ensure that agricultural pro-
motion is not excessively centred on tradi-
tional export commodities, and that food
crops, especially those produced and con-
sumed by poor people, should be given
particular attention. We agree on the need
to support overall food security and nutri-
tional strategies, developed by African and
to enhance co-operation in these areas.

100. We recognise that the use of en-
vironmentally sound food production tech-
nologies and sustainable management of
natural resources contribute to permanent
improvement of food security. We will sup-
port investment in research in the areas of
high yield crops as well as durable modes
of preservation and storage.

Environment

101. We recognise that environmental
factors have become increasingly impor-
tant in African development. The need for
degradation of the natural resource base
poses a grave problem in various regions
for current and longer-term development.

102. We recognise that the primary re-
ponsibility for identifying and responding
to environmental issues lies with the coun-
tries concerned themselves. We affirm our
commitment to co-operate in combating
environmental problems. We, therefore,
place emphasis on a strategic and partici-
patory approach for the elaboration and
implementation of national strategies for
sustainable development and, through this
process, integration of environmental is-
suess into national development pro-
gammes.

I. PREAMBLE

We, the Heads of State and Govern-
ment of African States and of the Euro-
pæan Union, as well as the President
of the European Commission, meeting in
Cairo, Egypt on 3 – 4 April 2000 at the kind
invitation of His Excellency Mohammed
Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Re-
public of Egypt, under the Co- Presidency
of the President of Algeria, his Excellency
Abdou, in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU, and the Prime
Minister of Portugal, his Excellency António
Guterres, in his capacity as President of the European Council, committed to work
wards to a new strategic dimension to the
global partnership between Africa and
Europe and have agreed on the following Plan
of Action, emphasising the guiding priori-
ties for action to be considered before the
second Summit. We are convinced that
these actions will contribute to the achieve-
ment of the principles and commitments
contained in the Cairo Declaration.

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

Regional Economic Co-operation and Integration

We agree to:

1. Strengthen the support for the proc-
 ess of regional co-operation and integra-
tion in Africa. In this context, We will cre-
 ate the necessary environment to develop
an effective framework for promot-
ing a constructive dialogue on political,
economic, social and development issues.

2. Support regional integration pro-
gammes in Africa that are geared to in-
creasing efficiency by eliminating con-
straints to cross-border trade, investment
and payments, and achieving a harmo-
nised economic space.

3. Urge the competent authorities to
expedite programmes for capacity building
in African regional and national institutions
in the area of economic co-operation and
integration.

4. Strengthen the capacity of African
regional integration institutions, notably the
African Economic Community (AEC), and
support their vision of integration and imple-
mentation of their programmes consistent
with the objective of the Abuja Treaty, on
the basis of needs assessment which will
in particular take into account the impact
of multilateral trade liberalisation on re-
gional integration.

5. Promote the implementation of best
practices in project formulation and execu-
tion, regional sectoral projects, and the
harmonisation of macroeconomic and
sectoral policies that will help the imple-
mentation of Africa’s economic co-opera-
tion and integration efforts and the speedy
establishment of the African Union.

III. INTEGRATING AFRICA INTO
THE WORLD ECONOMY

6. We acknowledge both the opportu-
nities and challenges of globalisation of
co- operate in order to enhance a political,
economic and social environment, condu-
cive to promoting international co-opera-
tion, foreign direct investment and other
resource flows.

Trade

We agree to:

7. Deepen the link between trade and
development in the multilateral trading sys-
tem, in order to ensure that the benefits of
further trade liberalisation and the strength-
ening of multilateral rules contribute to
poverty reduction and sustainable devel-
opment. We shall pay particular attention
to this concern in the future WTO Ministe-
rial Conference and work with the WTO
in ensuring the further development of Africa’s
economic and industrial potential.

8. Enhance the capacity of African
countries to derive maximum benefits from
opportunities offered by the WTO, taking
into consideration the activities carried out
in this regard by the AEC. We shall also
provide resources for enhancing the ca-
pacity of African countries to enter into
Economic Partnership Agreements with the
EU to formulate appropriate trade poli-
cies and to participate actively in trade
negotiations, including in the framework of
the WTO.

9. Take action to improve the special
and differential treatment enshrined in the
Marrakech agreement and to address
implementation constraints which African
countries are facing.

10. Support African countries by pro-
viding technical assistance in order to en-
hance their capacities to respond to the
challenges and opportunities offered by

– Cairo Plan of Action –

103. Particular emphasis must be given
to the implementation of the UN Conven-
ton to Combat Desertification and to the
sustainable use of land and to the regional water and soil,
the UN Framework Convention on Climate
Change, the Convention on Biological Di-
versity, Agenda 21, the Kyoto Protocol and
the African Common Position on Environ-
ment and Development. We also recognise
the need to improve international co-op-
eration, co-ordination and coherence to
promote integration of environmental is-
suess into other relevant policy sectors.
Furthermore, there is a need to ensure both
nationally and internationally that trade
and environmental policies play a mutually sup-
portive role in favour of sustainable devel-
opment.

104. Although predominantly rural in
nature, Africa is currently the fastest ur-
asian region of the world. The implications of this shift, and its impact on the environ-
ment, need to be recognised in rural and
urban development strategies. Other is-
suess, which require attention, include sus-
tainable forestry, transboundary environ-
mental problems and soil and water deg-
radation.

105. We note with deep concern the
problem of soil erosion and water degra-
dation. We commit to put in place capacity
building measures for the effective means of monitoring these environmental prob-
lems in Africa.

106. We recognise that natural disas-
ters have severe impact on many African
countries, which adversely affects the

prospect of economic growth and sustain-
able development. We will therefore con-
tinue to co-operate actively with compe-
tent international organisations, building
on the experience gained under the Inter-
national Decade for Natural Disaster Re-
duction.

107. We affirm our commitment to co-
operate with the African States in combat-
ing environmental problems through the
 provision of financial and technical assist-
ance and in the support of national co-
ordinating strategy to integrate environ-
mental issues into national development
programmes. According to relevant inter-
national conventions, We also agree on the
prohibition of the export of hazardous
waste to Africa.

Drug Abuse and Trafficking

Cultural Issues

110. We pledge to accord importance
to cultural cooperation between Africa and
Europe as an integral aspect of develop-
ment.

With regard to cultural goods stolen or exported illicitly, We have taken note of the
concerns of African States and re-
quest senior officials of the bi-regional
body to examine the legal and practical
consequences of further action in this area
and prepare a report for assessment.

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their integration into the global economy.

11. Support the development of programmes on diversification and the enhancement of production capacity in Africa.

12. Ensure that trade agreements between the EU and Africa enhance co-operation in all trade related areas, building on regional integration initiatives existing within Africa and in line with the goals and objectives of the Abuja Treaty.

13. We acknowledge the commitment of the EU to launch a process in 2000, by which by 2005, duty free imports for essentially all products from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will be granted and the rules of origin and cumulation provisions that apply to their exports simplified.

Private Sector Development

Investment

We agree to:

17. a) Commit ourselves to the creation of a conducive environment in Africa for an enhanced private sector development, including macro and micro economic foundations of competitiveness.
b) Work with governments and private sector in order to improve a regulatory framework for business community.
c) Develop at national and regional levels, including with the AEC and the RECs, programmes on the promotion of foreign direct investment flows into Africa.

18. Support South-South co-operation through triangular mechanisms, with a view to be more effective, the business environment, exchange of experience, as well as promoting joint ventures, and mergers and acquisitions, inter alia through technical assistance aimed at strengthening the African financial markets and instruments.

19. Develop better information on investment in Africa, and strengthen African small and medium enterprises through schemes and instruments to be determined. Encourage joint ventures between African and European investors, with the support of EU. The establishment of African EU management centres in Africa, in order to provide avenues for European technology services could enhance Africa’s entrepreneurship in this respect.

20. Co-operate in dealing with the problem of capital flight from Africa in all its aspects, including to offshore financial centres and examine appropriate measures to that end.

Resources for Development

We agree:

21. That concessional resources (of the ODA type) are required in order to address as a priority, the structural rigidities that constrain Africa’s development effort, especially the development of human resources and production capacities, as well as in the expansion of physical infrastructure and production capacities.

22. To intensify efforts to meet the internationally agreed targets for resource transfers to developing countries.

23. To encourage all partners of development co-operation, donors as well as beneficiaries, to organise their development assistance more effectively, to work for enhanced co-ordination and complementarity, inter alia by harmonising and simplifying procedures.

Infrastructural Problem and Industrial Base

Research and Technology

We agree to:

30. Encourage the formulation of comprehensive programmes in the development and transfer of technology with special emphasis on science and technology, indigenous technologies, the development of educational and training systems, and information technology.

31. Support technological change in Africa, as well as the development and upgrading of Africa’s indigenous technologies in recognition of the critical role of technology in Africa’s development and economic transformation.

32. Assist African countries in their efforts to build and rehabilitate their institutional infrastructure and to enhance the transfer and development of technology, through inter alia, technology information and innovation centres.

External Debt

Cooperation in International Fora

We agree to:

38. Work together for the improvement of international understanding and co-operation for development and human progress.

39. Take into account the interest and concerns of African States, in particular the LDCs, in all international fora.

40. Work towards the attainment of the goals and objectives adopted in major international conferences organised under the UN auspices.

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

Human Rights

Democratic Princl Institutions

We agree to:

50. Continue to provide assistance to African States, in particular the LDCs, in all international fora.

51. Support the active role for civil society, NGOs in creating and maintaining a vibrant civil society.

Migration

We agree to:

64. Support, as appropriate, African countries in ensuring free intra-African mobility of labour and migration in the spirit of the Abuja Treaty.

65. Collaborate in addressing the root causes of migration and asylum-seekers in source, transit and recipient countries.

66. Collaborate further in the issue of the reciprocal integration of migrants, migrant rights and re-admission agreements between the European and African countries.

67. Recognise the need for measures to ensure that public money is safeguarded and to secure the respect of the dignity and protection of the migrants’ rights, to which they are entitled, under applicable international law, notably the right to fair treatment based on the principle of non-discrimination.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

In order to address the problem of refugees and displaced persons, We agree to the following urgent actions.

68. Fully implement all relevant conventions.

69. Co-operate closely for the eradication of the root causes of refugees and displaced persons.

70. Continue to provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons and to participate in their voluntary return and in their reintegration in conformity with international law and relevant UN conventions.

71. Support efforts by international and national bodies and actors in order to ensure the safeguarding of the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements.

V. PEACE-BUILDING, CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION

Peace-building, Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

We agree to:

72. Contribute to securing an environment of peace and security in our countries.

73. Tackle the root causes of conflicts
with a view to preventing further conflicts.

74. Reinforce the continental and regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution through, among others, the strengthening of the OAU Mechanism, and the enhancement of the role and the effectiveness of the Conflict Management Centre.

75. Work towards the operationalisation of the OAU Early Warning System.

76. Reinforce existing co-operation in order to contribute to the resolution of on-going conflicts.

77. Continue to provide political, material and financial support as appropriate for the facilitators of the peace processes.

78. Elaborate programmes to sensitise and raise the awareness of our people about the culture of peace.

79. Use the experience acquired by the EU for the strengthening of OAU’s and sub-regional organisations’ operational capacities. We also welcome the Sirte Summit decision to convene an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation on the Continent to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, in May 2000.

80. Support the involvement of women in conflict prevention and peace building by including a gender perspective in agendas for peace negotiations and by facilitating the active participation of women in alternative diplomacy and at peace negotiation tables.

81. Take measures to stop the illegal exploitation of natural resources and to combat the illicit trade in certain high value commodities, particularly diamonds, which often exacerbate and perpetuate conflict. We call on all States to implement fully and enforce the relevant UN sanctions.

Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration …

Terrorism …

Small Arms and Light Weapons …

Landmines

We agree to:

88. Provide financial and technical assistance for the removal of existing landmines in African countries.

89. Work towards assisting and rehabilitating landmine victims, promoting mine awareness and developing the national capacities and skills in de-mining.

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Post-conflict assistance …

VI. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa and Poverty Eradication

We agree to:

93. Continue to work together to fight poverty and affirm our commitment to meeting the International Development Targets and will continue to focus our poverty eradication efforts by supporting approaches which integrate a pursuit of economic growth with political, social, environmental and cultural considerations.

94. Support the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies, as well as programmes that are directed at poverty eradication, especially in the rural areas, through an active and sustained revitalisation of the rural economies, and the setting up of social safety nets. In this context, We share the hope, expressed by the OAU, for the creation of a World Solidarity Fund to address Africa’s development with special focus on poverty eradication.

95. Support to integrate gender in macroeconomic planning and the establishment of budgets that take into account the gender issue.

Education …

Health …

The Environment

We agree to:

100. Strengthen our co-operation in the field of prevention of natural disasters and set up disaster prevention and preparedness mechanisms, including reduction and early warning systems, taking into account particularly the work accomplished on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. We agree to strengthen our co-operation on humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction related to the consequences of such disasters.

101. Give priority to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

102. Co-operate in environmental issues as a basis for ensuring sustainable development.

103. Promote responsible policies aimed at the preservation of African fishing resources.

104. Take account of the regional dimension in environmental issues on the African continent.

105. Ensure the prohibition of the export and transit of hazardous waste to Africa, as provided for in the relevant international conventions.

106. Support the efforts for the conservation, management and sustainable development of Africa’s vast forests, through inter alia, programs that are also beneficial to the local peoples.

107. Commit to the conservation of Africa’s rich heritage in biological diversity, which is a global asset, and promote its sustainable use for the benefit of the local people.

108. Support country-driven specific measures to strengthen the capacity to implement obligations resulting from all relevant international environmental Conventions. Specifically, We will continue to support the implementation of the commitments under the UN Framework Conventions on Desertification, Climate Change and Biodiversity. This includes the participation of African experts in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in the strengthening of the national climate policy focal points and the development and implementation of the climate change-related policies and action plans.

109. The second Summit will take place in Europe, in 2003.