

Support for Africa's Heritage

The Africa-Europe Summit of the Heads of State and Governments of the European Union and African States met in Cairo, Egypt, from 3-4 April 2000.

The main outcome of the Meeting was the Cairo Declaration (see page 205) and the "Cairo Plan of Action" (see page 208), a commitment to Africa by the European Union that pledges its support particularly for the "least developed" African countries.

The Plan of Action addresses the significant points raised by Southern African people on the need for a protection of African cultural identities and its sovereignty over the management and sustainable use of its environment and natural resources.

The EU pledged its support for "integrating Africa into the world economy," promoting human rights, the maintenance of civil order, and the alleviation of poverty, illiteracy,

and disease through trade. In particular, through the promotion of “*the conservation of Africa’s rich heritage in biological diversity, which is a global asset and promote its sustainable use for the benefit of local people.*”

The Summit ended with H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika,

President of Algeria and Chairman of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), and H.E. Antonio Guterres, Prime Minister of Portugal and President of the European Council, announcing a launch date for the Cairo Plan of Action in the year 2000. (MJ)

