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**DECISIONS AND RESOLUTION OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

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**DECISIONS OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-eighth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 1 - 6 June, 1998,

After consideration of the Report of the Secretary-General and the related recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors as contained in the report of its Seventh Ordinary Session,

***CM/DEC.402 (LXVIII)* **DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE
AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURAL REFORM - DOC CM/2059 (LXVIII)****

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the progress report submitted by the Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Reform;
2. EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT for the on-going restructuring process of the General Secretariat, aimed at streamlining its structures and methods of work as well as enhancing its efficiency;
3. COMMENDS the Committee and the Secretary-General for the efforts deployed in that regard;
4. REQUESTS the Committee to expedite the examination of the Consultant's report and to submit its recommendations to the 1999 February Session of the Council;
5. URGES the Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Reform in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to examine the financial implications of the reforms bearing in mind the need to ensure that it is contained within the existing resources of the regular budget of the two years covered by the envisaged transitional period.

CM/DEC.403 (LXVIII)* **DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION - DOC CM/2060 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;
2. COMMENDS all Member States that are up-to-date in paying regularly and on time their assessed contributions to the regular budget of the Organization;
3. DECIDES on moral and religious grounds and with immediate effect that the OAU and its Members will not comply, from now on, with the sanctions imposed against Libya related to religious obligations, providing humanitarian emergencies or fulfilling OAU statutory obligations;
4. RECALLS that payment of the assessed contributions is an obligation and not an option for each Member State of the Organization.

CM/DEC.404 (LXVIII)* **DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS - DOC. CM/2061 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;
2. ENDORSES all the recommendations proposed by the Committee on Contributions, in paragraph 8 of Document CM/2061 (LXVIII) and AGREES to present them through Council to the Assembly Heads of State and Government meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session;
3. COMMENDS the Committee on Contributions for the excellent work it had done to make the Member States to be aware of their financial obligations to the Organization and URGES it to continue in that direction;
4. CONGRATULATES the Member States which are up-to-date in the payment of

their contributions;

5. URGES the Member States with arrears of contribution to endeavor to pay such arrears, even partially;

6. REQUESTS the Committee on Contributions to pursue the critical evaluation of the re-scheduling plans already submitted by the Member States in arrears so as to ensure their full implementation.

CM/DEC. 405 (LXVIII) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN THE FEDERAL ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS - DOC CM/2062 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. REITERATES ITS UNFLINCHING ATTACHMENT to the unity sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Comoros and its determination to do everything possible to ensure the respect of that principle;

3. EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN over the unrelenting crisis and the negative attitude of the Anjouan Separatists who have deliberately blocked all attempts at finding peaceful and negotiated solution based on the legitimate aspirations of the population and the cardinal principle of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;

4. REAFFIRMS the fact that the action of the separatists represents a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the Comoros and the countries of the Indian Ocean Region in general, and constitutes a very dangerous precedent;

5. ENDORSES the recommendations made by the Ministerial Delegation as contained in its report following their visit to the Comoros from 18 to 20 March 1998, proposing particularly that other options be considered in order to find a solution to the crisis;

6. URGES the leaders of the countries of the region in close consultation with the

OAU and the Government of the Comoros to take all necessary measures so as to ensure that the recommendations of the Ministerial Delegation are implemented as quickly as possible; and that the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Comoros would be safeguarded. In this connection, it proposes that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government designate a coordinator in the region;

7. STRESSES the need for the Anjouanese party to commit itself to comply with the provisions of the Addis Ababa Agreement and the Communiqué of Moheli in order to establish the necessary conditions for the resumption of dialogue and the convening of the Inter-Island Comorian Conference aimed at defining a new institutional framework on the basis of the respect for the principle of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros, taking into consideration the legitimate aspiration of the peoples of the Comorian Islands;

8. URGES all Member States and the International Community to immediately take all the necessary measures to isolate fully the separatist leaders and to this end REQUESTS the Secretary-General to seize the United Nations, the League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union of this matter;

9. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the close cooperation between the OAU Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on the question;

10. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue his consultations for the convening, at the appropriate time, of the Donors Round Table for the socio-economic recovery of the Comoros, as provided for in the Addis Ababa Agreement, with the participation of the Comoros, the concerned countries and the relevant regional organizations;

11. COMMENDS the OAU military observers for the excellent work done in the Grande Comore and Moheli and REQUESTS that the necessary steps are taken to enhance their capacity and increase the resources at their disposal in order to speed up the process of return to normality;

12. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to closely monitor the implementation of all aspects of this decision and to report thereon to the Central Organ at its next Session.

**CM/DEC.406 (LXVIII) DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI -
DOC CM.2062 (LXVIII)**

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the progress made in Burundi particularly the pursuit of the national debate and the establishment of partnership for peace between the Government and the Parliament, enlarged to include political parties and the civil society; EXPRESSES the hope that these developments would contribute to the revival of the Arusha Peace Process and to laying the bases for a genuine national reconciliation in Burundi, so as to pave the way for a lasting peaceful solution based on security.
4. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the initiatives taken by the Facilitator to convene the inter-Burundian talks in Arusha on 15 June, 1998 and URGES all the parties concerned to take part and to endeavour to ensure their success to pave the way for a lasting peaceful solution based on the security of all and democracy;
5. TAKES NOTE of the willingness expressed made by the Leaders of the Great Lakes sub-region, within the framework of the Kampala Summit, to re-examine the issue of sanctions once the negotiations planned for 15 June, 1998 start;
6. REITERATES ITS SUPPORT for the efforts deployed by the leaders of the Great Lakes sub-region to facilitate a rapid resolution of the crisis;
7. APPEALS to OAU Member States and the international community as a whole to give emergency humanitarian assistance to Burundi so as to help it overcome the present food crisis.

CM/DEC.407 (LXVIII) DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA
DOC.CM/2062 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Secretary-General's Report;
2. RECALLS ITS DECISION at the Sixty-seventh Session of the Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa in February 1998;
3. REAFFIRMS the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia as one and indivisible state;
4. EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN that despite the various peace efforts deployed by Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen and particularly the Soderre Declaration and the Cairo Agreement signed by the Somali faction leaders, substantive progress is still lacking;
5. EMPHASIZES that the primary responsibility of peace in Somalia rests squarely with the Somali people themselves and CALLS UPON all Somali faction leaders to close ranks and heed the regional and international efforts aiming at achieving peace in Somalia;
6. TAKES NOTE of the efforts of the mandated country, Ethiopia, IGAD, the efforts of Egypt as well as relevant regional organizations, to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in Somalia. In this regard, CALLS ON the International Community to closely coordinate with the OAU and IGAD, in order to facilitate a negotiated and sustainable settlement of the conflict in Somalia;
7. TAKES NOTE FURTHER of the initiative decided at the Sixth Summit and Seventieth Session of the Council of Ministers of IGAD and CALLS UPON IGAD Member States to redouble their efforts in the search for a peaceful settlement of the Somali crisis;
8. CALLS ON all OAU Member States and the International Community at large, to provide political, diplomatic, financial and material support to bolster the overall process

of peacebuilding and national reconciliation, through assistance proved for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia, especially in those areas of the country where commitment to peace and national reconciliation has been demonstrated;

9. APPEALS to the United Nations to take speedy action to set up the Trust Fund in support of the peace process in Somalia;

10. EXPRESSES DISMAY at the spiralling violence and increased insecurity arising from the intensification of intra-and inter-clan disputes; and CALLS UPON the Somali faction leaders to make determined effort to bring to an end, these intra-and inter-clan and threaten to undermine humanitarian relief deliveries and impede the advancement of the peace and national reconciliation process in Somalia;

11. EXPRESSES FURTHER ITS GRAVE CONCERN over the increasing flow of arms into Somalia and in this regard CALLS UPON all parties to adhere to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions imposing an embargo on arms delivery into Somalia;

12. REQUESTS the Central Organ to consider dispatching a Factfinding Mission to Somalia, in consultation with the Current Chairman, the mandated country, Ethiopia, IGAD and other interested countries;

13. CALLS ON the International Community to provide urgent emergency humanitarian relief to those affected by the flooding in Somalia and assist in the resettlement of displaced persons;

14. DECIDES to remain seized of the question.

***CM/DEC.408 (LXVIII)* DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA -
(DOC. CM/2062 (LXVIII))**

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN over the delays in implementing the last phase of the Lusaka Protocol;

3. URGES UNITA to ensure the full and unconditional demilitarization of its forces;
4. URGES the UN Security Council to adopt appropriate additional measures required in order to compel UNITA to comply with its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol;
5. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to ensure that measures adopted by the UN Security Council under Resolution 1135/97 are disseminated to Member States of the OAU; and to monitor their implementation;
6. APPEALS to the International Community to render the necessary humanitarian and economic assistance for the reconstruction of Angola, especially the rehabilitation of infrastructures destroyed during the war and the rebuilding of the country as well as demining activities.

***CM/DEC.409 (LXVIII)* ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONALITIES TO INVESTIGATE THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA AND THE SURROUNDING EVENTS - DOC. CM/2063 (LXVIII)**

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE, of the actions so far taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Current Chairman of the OAU, to enable the Panel to commence its work by September 1998;
2. WELCOMES the appointment of the Eminent Members of the Panel under the Chairmanship of H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire of Botswana and ENDORSES the Proposal of the Secretary General to increase the Membership from Seven to Nine, as and when the need arises, in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Panel;
3. APPEALS to all Member States of the OAU and the International Community to contribute generously to the Special Trust Fund to enhance the effective and efficient functioning of the Panel and its Secretariat as well as to ensure the successful accomplishment of the Panel's mandate;

4. REAFFIRMS all previous Decisions adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Central Organ at Ministerial level and by the Sixty-Seventh Ordinary Session of Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 - 28 February 1998;

5. CALLS UPON the Governments of the States and Organizations concerned in which the Panel is to carry out its Mandate to co-operate fully with the Panel and respond positively to requests from the Panel for assistance and access in pursuing investigations, including:

* Measures to assist the Panel and its personnel to carry out their functions throughout their respective territories with full freedom, independence and security;

* Providing information that the Panel may request, or otherwise need for purposes of fulfilling its mandate and free access for the Panel and its staff to any relevant archives;

* Appropriate measures to guarantee the safety and security of the Members of the Panel and guarantees from the Governments of full respect for the integrity, security and freedom of witnesses, experts and any other persons working with the Panel in the fulfilment of its mandate;

* Granting privileges and immunities in accordance with the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the OAU Convention on Privileges and Immunities;

6. DECIDES to remain seized of the work of the Panel.

***CM/DEC.410 (LXVIII)* ENHANCEMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION - (DOC. CM/2064 (LXVIII))**

Council:

1. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION AND SATISFACTION the report of the

Secretary-General and the review undertaken by the Ambassadors in Addis Ababa, on the effectiveness of the Central Organ;

2. CALLS for the review of the effectiveness of the Central Organ as a process which should involve all Member States and undertaken at both the political and institutional levels. The Council therefore CALLS for a review process taking into account the different proposals, including those presented during the Sixty-eighth Session of the Council of Ministers;

3. ADOPTS the specific recommendations proposed by the Ambassadors and reflected in the report of the Secretary-General.

***CM/DEC.411 (LXVIII) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
OAU PEACE-FUND - DOC.CM/2066 (LXVIII)***

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. COMMENDS all Member States which have made voluntary contributions to the OAU Peace Fund, namely, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Tunisia;
3. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to all external partners of the OAU, governments or international organizations who have provided financial support to the Peace Fund;
4. INVITES all Member States in position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund, so as to increase the share of the African contributions in the total sum of the resources mobilized in favour of the OAU Peace Fund;
5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to define an appropriate strategy for mobilizing additional resources, especially from within Africa, not only from national governments but also from the various sectors of business and civil societies;
6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to closely monitor the implementation of the

different aspects of this decision and to submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Council, early next year.

CM/DEC.412 (LXVIII)* **REPORT ON THE OAU COMMISSION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA - (DOC. CM.2067 (LXVIII))*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the OAU Commission on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. REQUESTS Member States to address the root causes of the refugees and displaced persons and to create the propitious conditions to spare their populations forced movements and asylum drive, by establishing a climate of peace and stability as well as the necessary democratic institutions;
3. FURTHER REQUESTS the countries of origin to promote peace, security stability and national reconciliation so as to encourage and facilitate voluntary repatriation of refugees and return of displaced persons to their places of residence;
4. APPEALS to Member States to respect the basic principles enshrined in the UN and OAU Conventions on Refugees;
5. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Member States in particular those which offer asylum and/or assistance to refugees in the spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood;
6. TAKES NOTE of the recommendations of the OAU/UNHCR Regional Meeting on Refugee Issues in the Great Lakes Region held in Kampala and CALLS UPON OAU and UNHCR to continue to work with the Member States in the region to identify solutions to all outstanding refugee problems in Central Africa;
7. REITERATES ITS APPEAL to the International Community, in the spirit of burden-sharing, to extend to the asylum countries, increased material assistance so as to

augment their capacity to shoulder the heavy responsibilities of hosting the refugees as well as cope with the socio-economic and environmental consequences arising from it;

8. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the International Community, and the humanitarian organizations which provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons, in particular, the UNHCR, WFP and the ICRC; REITERATES ITS PROFOUND SATISFACTION with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as well as her organization for the work and the relentless efforts deployed in favour of refugees and URGES them to increase their assistance and to cooperate with the OAU and Member States in the search for lasting solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in Africa;

9. INVITES all Member States to take part actively in the Ministerial Session of the OAU Commission on Refugees and Displaced Persons slated for Khartoum, the Sudan, in December 1998;

10. REQUESTS the OAU Commission on Refugees and the Secretariat to pursue their efforts in close co-operation with the UNHCR to implement the Programme of Action adopted during the 64th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Yaounde Cameroon, in July 1996;

11. TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION the work done by the OAU Commission on Refugees and REQUESTS it to continue implementing its Programme for Action.

CM/DEC. 413 (LXVIII) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE (DOC. CM/2068 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. REAFFIRMS the right of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO to exercise their inalienable national rights, their right to return to their homeland, restoration of their properties, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with

international law;

3. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN and CONDEMNATION of Israel's violation of the principles of peace and peaceful co-existence and its disregard for the principles on which the peace process is based. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN ALSO over the continued Israeli government policy aimed at undermining the peace process and throwing the security of the region into chaos and violence;

4. EMPHASIZES the need to implement the three stages of redeployment process in accordance with the agreement signed and the timetable set so as to ensure the extension of Palestinian authority to all the territories of the Western Bank and Gaza Strip which constitute one geographical unit, put an end to all the unilateral steps especially the policy of settlement and to consider all the issues pertaining to the final negotiations upon Israelis completion of the requirements of the transitional stage;

5. EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN over the stall of the peace process especially after the failure of the London meetings and the postponement of the Washington Summit which was scheduled to take place on 11 May 1998 because of Israeli Government's intransigence and lack of seriousness in achieving a just and comprehensive peace that will guarantee security and stability for all the peoples of the region and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their occupied land, their national and historical inalienable rights;

6. TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION of the initiative recently proposed by Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Jacques Chirac of France on the convening of an international conference on the Middle East in view of the current crisis of the peace-process;

7. CALLS UPON Israel to immediately stop the practice of confiscating Palestinian lands, especially those in East Jerusalem and its environs and the expansion of settlements in violation of Security Council Resolutions 22, 338, 465 and 478 which threatens to lead to the collapse of the peace process; REAFFIRMS that part of the Jerusalem occupied in 1967 is part and parcel of the Palestinian territories and is,

therefore, subjected to the same provision of the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council;

8. EMPHASIZES the need to implement the General Assembly Resolution ES-10/3 adopted by its Special Emergency Session held on 15 June 1997 on the status of Jerusalem and the illegal measures being taken in other occupied Palestinian territories and ALSO EMPHASIZES the urgent need, as soon as possible, the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/4 adopted by its Special Emergency Session held on 13 November 1997 on the convening of a conference as soon as possible, to implement the Geneva convention in the occupied territories including Jerusalem;

9. CALLS UPON Israel to immediately put an end to the on-going construction work on the Abu Ghunaym Mountain and URGES the co-sponsors of the peace process, the parties concerned and the international community to end all forms of assistance and support to Israel in its illegal activities in the occupied lands;

10. EMPHASIZES the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all the occupied Palestinian lands, ensure freedom of movement of persons and goods in the region, including the removal of restrictions on entry to and exit from Jerusalem as well as freedom of movement in other occupied Palestinian lands;

11. REAFFIRMS the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and regain their property in accordance with the fundamental principles of human rights and the relevant UN Resolutions particularly resolution 194 of the General Assembly and 237 of the Security Council which consider the right to return as one of the basic principles for comprehensive and just peace in the region;

12. REAFFIRMS in view of the critical and serious nature of the situation, the freezing of all relations with Israel at their present level;

13. CALLS for the initiation of all possible measures to ensure Israel's adherence to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the Principle of Land for Peace and its full implementation of all agreements and commitments entered into by the parties concerned during the peace talks;

14. EMPHASIZES the urgent need for Israel, the occupying power, to respect all international humanitarian laws as provided by the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 in the occupied Palestinian lands since 1967, including Jerusalem;

15. EMPHASIZES ALSO the need to respect the agreements entered into and other international laws which are necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security. It also CALLS for strict implementation of the peace agreements which were concluded and URGES the sponsors of the peace process, the parties concerned and the international community at large to revamp the peace process and guarantee its success;

16. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION with the appeal made by the Palestinian National Authorities to celebrate Bethlehem 2000 in commemoration of the Birth of Christ and CALLS ON Member States to accord the celebrations the necessary importance to ensure their success leading to peace and hope in the Middle East.

CM/DEC.414 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST - (DOC. CM/2069 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. RECALLS all the previous resolutions adopted by the Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government and the OAU Council of Ministers REAFFIRMS that the Question of Palestine is the core of the struggle in the Middle East and that there can be no just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon and unless the Palestinian people are allowed to exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with the relevant resolutions, especially resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478 and 425 based on the Principle of Land for Peace;
3. CALLS for the initiation of all possible measures to ensure Israel's adherence to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the Principle of Land for Peace and its full implementation of all the agreements and commitments entered into by the parties

on all tracks during the peace talks;

4. REITERATES ITS PRINCIPLED SUPPORT for the Palestinian cause and decries the intransigence of the Israeli Government in the peace negotiation and CALLS UPON Israel to immediately desist from all actions that jeopardize the peace process;

5. URGES the United Nations General Assembly and the international community to ensure complete Israeli Compliance with UN and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions on the use of nuclear installations only for peaceful purposes - persuade that country to allow international inspection of its nuclear installations and draw the attention of the Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency to the actual and potential threat posed by radiation leakage from the Diamond reactors in the absence of any international inspection;

6. REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT for the proposal of H.E. President Hosni Mubarak to declare the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapon and all weapons of mass destruction;

7. URGES all the countries in the region which have not yet acceded to the Treaty of Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to do so by putting their nuclear installations under the inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to refrain from manufacturing, producing, testing and possessing nuclear weapons.

CM/DEC.415 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE - (DOC. CM/2062 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Sierra Leone;
2. WELCOMES the reinstatement of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah to Sierra Leone, following the successful ousting of the illegal military regime by ECOMOG;
3. APPEALS to all Member States of the OAU in particular, and to International Community at large, to render immediate and generous humanitarian assistance to the

people of Sierra Leone;

4. FURTHER APPEALS to all Member States of the OAU in particular, and the International Community at large, to give the Government of Sierra Leone all possible assistance in its efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct the country;

5. URGES the United Nations and the International Community to make a determined effort to provide assistance to meet the logistical and technical requirements of ECOMOG, in order to enable its deployment throughout Sierra Leone;

6. FURTHER URGES, that the United Nations and the International Community buttress the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone and ECOWAS in disarmament and demobilization process and in assuming general security in the country, and APPEALS to Member States of ECOWAS, and indeed members of the international community who have promised to contribute troops and materials for this process to redeem their pledges;

7. EXPRESSES DISMAY at and CONDEMNS the atrocities being committed by forces of the overthrown military regime and the RUF and called upon them to cease these activities forthwith, to enable the process of national re-integration to continue;

8. ENCOURAGES the people of Sierra Leone to continue to pursue a process of national reconciliation between the different sectors of the community.

CM/DEC.416 (LXVIII) ELIMINATION OF UNJUST AND UNILATERAL ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA - DOC. CM/2070 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES CONCERN over the continued unjust economic measures whose effect is felt beyond the region of the country concerned in violation of the international law, thus undermining the interests of other countries, especially the developing ones.

They also caused a lot of economic and social harm that has a spill over on the neighbouring countries and peoples;

3. EMPHASISES the need to put an immediate end to these measures in order to realize the aims and objectives of the OAU and the Member States and their aspiration and right to achieve economic growth and development;

4. REAFFIRMS that in the exercise of the inalienable right of economic growth and social advancement, OAU Member States demand an immediate end to these sanctions which go beyond the territorial boundaries of the country concerned based on repressive economic measures and legislations unilaterally imposed by one country to the detriment of other countries beyond its boundaries which is not acceptable;

5. RECOMMENDS to the Member States to adopt or vote in the favour of the resolution submitted by the Great Jamahiriya under the title of "Elimination of the Unjust Economic Measures as an instrument of Economic and Political Coercion" which will be presented during the forthcoming Fifty-third General Assembly of the Organization of United Nations.

CM/DEC.417 (LXVII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE TWENTIETH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE - DOC. CM/2073 (LXVIII)*

Council:

NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the Report of the Twentieth African Regional Conference of the Ministers of Agriculture and ENDORSES:

(a) The Resolution on the World Food Summit Follow-up, including the FAO and the ACC Mechanisms;

(b) The recommendation on the Implementation of the Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) within the framework of OAU/AEC.

CM/DEC.418 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE*

ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA (DOC. CM/2074 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;
2. APPROVES the recommendations of the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Policy Committee of the Fund;
3. REQUESTS Member States that have been granted assistance from the Fund to urgently submit to the Secretariat, their project implementation reports to enable the latter to carry out an evaluation of such projects;
4. DECIDES that countries which do not adhere to the reporting requirements of the Fund will not be eligible to any future assistance;
5. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the Member States which participated in the special pledging session and APPEALS to the International Community

***CM/DEC.419 (LXVIII)* REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE TWENTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION DOC. CM/2975 (LXVIII)**

Council:

1. ENDORSES the Report and Recommendations as adopted by the Twenty-first Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;
2. FURTHER ENDORSES the new Rules of Procedure of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission as adopted by the Twenty-first Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;
3. ADOPTS the African Common Position on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa which will constitute Africa's position to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs to be held in New York in June, 1998 and REQUESTS Member States to participate massively and actively in the United Nations

General Assembly Special Session;

4. ENDORSES the Addis Ababa Declaration on Violence Against Women Related to Harmful Traditional Practices and CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary-General in collaboration with the Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children to follow-up on its implementation;

5. URGES Member States to re-commit themselves to constantly improve women's conditions, eradicate all traditional practices that are detrimental to their health and progress, and to give greater importance to gender balance in all sectors of development, in conformity with the African and Global Platforms for Action;

6. WELCOMES the establishment of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development comprising eminent African women and CALLS UPON Member States and the International Community to contribute to the Special Trust Fund for the Committee;

7. ENDORSES the Dakar Declaration, the Programme of Action and the Special Recommendations as constituting the African Common Position to the Third Youth Forum and the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth to be held respectively in Braga and Lisbon, Portugal in 1998;

8. REQUESTS Member States to participate massively and actively in the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and include youths in their delegation;

9. INVITES Member States to intensify their roles in capacity building, human resources development and invest in human capital in order to raise productivity, employment, Leadership, Management and Entrepreneurship Development;

10. CALLS ON Member States to adopt the Charter on the Fundamental Social Rights and Duties of African and Arab Migrant Workers in Europe;

11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General in collaboration with the ALO, OATUU, ICATU and IOM to hold periodic seminars on the living conditions of African

and Arab Migrant Workers in Europe and submit progress reports to the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

12. SUPPORTS the convening of a Pan-African Social Summit in the Year 2000 to discuss strategies for Africa's full participation in the global economy and thus promote social development and social justice;

13. FURTHER SUPPORTS that the Social Summit should be preceded by a Tripartite Ministerial level meeting involving Ministers of Finance and Development Planning, Labour and Social Affairs and relevant NGOs;

14. CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary-General in collaboration with the ILO to establish a Tripartite Follow-up Committee to prepare for the Pan-African Social Summit.

CM/DEC.420 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE AFRICAN COMMON POSITION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON CHILD LABOUR IN AFRICA DOC. CM/2076 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. ENDORSES the Report as well as the thematic recommendations contained therein as adopted by the Twenty-first Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

2. DECIDES that the thematic recommendations will constitute the African Common Position on Child Labour;

3. CALLS ON Member States to use the African Common Position as basic guidelines for the ILO Annual Conferences in June 1998 and June 1999 in order to promote effective contribution during the discussion of the Draft Text of the Proposed New Convention on the Extreme Forms of Child Labour;

4. URGES Member States which have not yet done so to urgently sign, ratify and implement the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in order to ensure

the protection, welfare and development of the African children;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary General in collaboration with UNICEF, ILO, social partners to carry out a study and devise an appropriate strategy to persuade Member states to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Welfare of the Child to ensure its coming into force as soon as possible.

CM/DEC. 421 (LXVIII) PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION AHG/RES.251 (XXXIII) ON THE DECADE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA (1997 - 2006) DOC. CM/2077 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Decade of Education in Africa;
2. ADOPTS the strategy on the establishment of the coordination, follow-up and evaluation mechanisms proposed therein as well as the suggested framework for the draft programme of action of the decade;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to endeavour to finalize the programme of action of the decade and to ensure its early adoption by the African Ministers of Education for immediate implementation;
4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to implement jointly the OAU Decade of Education in Africa and the Decade of literacy which forms an integral part of Education;
5. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO, ADB, ECA, ADEA, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank and all the concerned parties, to set up a Steering Committee for the Decade as well as a Development Fund for Education in Africa;
6. RECOMMENDS that all Member States should draw up national programmes of

action to be adopted by their appropriate bodies and establish national committees for the decade;

7. URGES the Regional Economic Communities also to establish the same structures for the harmonized conduct of implementation activities of the Decade in their respective countries.

CM/DEC.422 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OUTCOME OF THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA DOC. CM/2078 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. ADOPTS the proposed programme of cultural policy reorientation;
3. RECOMMENDS that all Member States should strengthen their cultural policies while placing premium particularly on development, democracy, peace and inter-African cooperation;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to carry out an evaluation of the status of inter-African cultural cooperation and submit a report to a subsequent session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/DEC.423 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF OAU DECLARATIONS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA - DOC. CM/2079 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;
2. EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is worsening in spite of the commitments of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU made in

Dakar (1992) and Tunis (1994);

3. URGES all Member States to strengthen their HIV/AIDS control programmes by improving national funding for them;
4. SUPPORTS the establishment of a Special Fund pursuant to the proposal made by the Tenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa, held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in December 1997, as a way of meeting the cost of treatment of AIDS patients in Africa;
5. CALLS ON the International Community including pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers of anti-retrovirals and other medicines needed for the management of AIDS, to make these medicines more accessible by reducing their retail price;
6. FURTHER CALLS ON the International Community to continue to support Member States of the OAU in their determination to control this epidemic on the Continent by providing necessary resources towards the endeavour and facilitating access to the results of on-going research, particularly on the requisite pharmaceutical products for tackling the AIDS pandemic.

CM/DEC.424 (LXVIII) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION DOC.CM/2080 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Secretary-General;
2. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to hold the necessary consultations in concert with his counterpart of the League of Arab States with a view to convening the Twelfth Session of the Afro-Arab Standing Commission;
3. FURTHER REQUESTS the General Secretariat to submit a report in respect of the study on Document CM/INFO (LXVII) on Afro-Arab Cooperation at the next Session of Council;
4. COMMENDS the initiatives taken by the OAU and the League of Arab States

aimed at the take-off of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute and CALLS ON the Secretary-General to submit a report to Council on the choice of Headquarters of the Institute;

5. CALLS ON all Member States to participate in the organization of the Fourth Afro-Arab Fair slated for Dakar, Senegal, slated on 15 - 25 April 1999, under the auspices of the OAU, the League of Arab States and the Senegalese Government;

6. HAILS the positive response of the Government of Burkina Faso to the request of the OAU General Secretariat, to host the Second Afro-Arab Business Week taking place on the sidelines of the International Arts and Crafts Fair (SIAO) in Ouagadougou, from 30 October to 8 November, 1998.

CM/DEC. 425 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF OAU TREATIES - DOC. CM/2081 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report;
2. STRONGLY APPEALS to all Member States to accelerate the process of signature and ratification or accession to OAU Treaties;
3. REQUESTS all Member States to give special attention to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to ensure that it enters into force in 1998.

CM/DEC.426 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE DRAFT CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OAU AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CCD) DOC. CM/2082 (LXVIII)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;
2. APPROVES the Draft Agreement and AUTHORISES the Secretary-General to sign it;

3. AUTHORISES also the Secretary-General to make a contribution of US\$300,000 to the activities funding mechanism provided for as part of the implementation of the Convention in Africa;
4. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the fact that the large majority of Member States have ratified or acceded to the Convention and URGES those of the Member States which have not yet done so to take appropriate measures to ratify or accede to the Convention as early as possible;
5. URGES also all the other countries, particularly the appropriate authorities of the United States of America and Japan to accelerate the ratification process of the Convention and increase their role in the implementation of the Convention;
6. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Italian Government for hosting the first Conference of the Parties to the 29 September - October 1997 Rome Convention;
7. CALLS ON the Member States to take the appropriate measure to implement the decisions of the First Conference of the Parties;
8. EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE to the Government of Senegal for accepting to host, in Dakar, the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

CM/DEC.427 (LXVIII) EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS DOC.CM/2084 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report.

CM/DEC. 428 (LXVIII) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OAU PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND CONTROL OF ACCESS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DOC. CM/2057

(LXVIII) ADD.1

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report:
2. RECOMMENDS that Governments of Member States:
 - (i) give due attention as a matter of priority to the need for regulating access to biological resources, community knowledge and technologies and their implication for intellectual property rights as entrenched in the international trade regime of the TRIPS Agreement;
 - (ii) adopt the draft Model Legislation on access to biological resources and call on Member States to initiate the process at national level involving all stakeholders in accordance with national interest and enacted into law;

initiate a process of negotiation among African countries to formulate and adopt an African Convention on Biological Diversity with emphasis on conditions for access to biological resources and protection of community rights;
 - (iv) develop an African Common Position to safeguard the sovereign rights of Member States and the vital interests of our local communities and forge alliance with other countries of the South on the revision of TRIPS in 1999;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to designate the OAU/STRC as the Focal Point for the co-ordination and follow-up activities including the convening of African regional and sub-regional meetings on issues of biological resources and community rights.

CM/DEC.429 (LXVIII) WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION -
DOC.CM/2057 (LCVIII) ADD 3

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the request presented on the above item;

2. URGES Member States to recognize the vital importance of water and to promote genuine regional and continental cooperation that will ensure effective management of water resources for the benefit of all;
3. CALLS ON Member States to exert more efforts to provide themselves not only with sufficient water, but also safe drinking water for use by their populations;
4. FURTHER APPEALS to Member States to participate massively and actively in the next African Consultative Forum on this issue scheduled for November 1998;
5. CALLS ON the Secretary-General in collaboration with UNEP, ECA, WHO, WMO and every other concerned institution to take all necessary steps to participate actively in the organization and proceedings of the Forum.

CM/DEC.430 (LXVIII)* **REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION (AFCAC)*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report and Resolutions of AFCAC adopted during its Plenary Session of April 1998 in Abuja;
2. URGES Member States to settle their assessed contributions and arrears to ICAO and AFCAC to enable Africa maintain and strengthen her participation in ICAO Assembly;
3. REQUESTS that the resolutions of AFCAC as contained in its Report to Council be presented to the next ICAO Assembly scheduled to take place in October 1998 at Montreal, Canada.

CM/DEC.431 (LXVIII)* **AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS*

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the Standing Committee on candidatures;
2. DECIDES to endorse the recommendations of the Committee and to lend its support to the African candidatures as follows:
 - (a) Candidature of Dr Jacques Diouf as the sole African candidate for a second mandate to the post of Director General of FAO during the elections that will take place in November 1999;
 - (b) Candidature of Dr Ismail Serag El-Din as the sole African candidate to the post of Director General of UNESCO during the elections that will take place in October/November 1999;
 - (c) Candidature of Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Namibia to the post of President of the 54th Session of the U.N General Assembly;
 - (d) Candidature of Tunisia as non-permanent Member of the UN Security Council for the period 2000-2001;
 - (e) Candidature of Prof Godwin Olu Patrick Obasi for re-election as Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization;
 - (f) Candidature of Dr Mohamed Salim Mhita to the post of President of the World Meteorological Organization, African Region, during the elections that will take place in October 1999;
 - (g) Candidature of Mr Taieb Cherif as member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) during the ICAO General Assembly meeting in September/October 1998;
 - (h) Candidature of Mr Mohsen Bel Hadj Amor as member and President of the International Civil Service Commission during the elections that will take place within the framework of the 53rd Session of the U.N.O General Assembly;
 - (i) Candidature of Professor Abdelwahab Bouhdiba to the post of Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission on the Application of the Right to Education;

(k) Candidature of Tunisia as member of the Board of Directors of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU);

(l) Candidature of Sudan as member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

CM/DEC.432 (LXVIII)* **PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS - DOC. CM/2057 (LXVIII) ADD.2*

Council:

1. THANKS South Africa for taking the initiative to place the item on the Council's agenda;

2. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the initiative taken by Mali on a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, as well as at the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the small arms;

3. REITERATES the urgency and the need for Inter-African cooperation in the search for solutions to the problems posed by the proliferation of light weapons and STRESSES the primary role that OAU should play in the coordination of efforts in this area;

4. URGES the Secretary-General to gather from Member States to the fullest possible information on the scope of proliferation of small arms and steps taken to deal with the problem;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General to monitor the developments in the situation and submit a comprehensive report thereon to the Council.

CM/Res.1681 (LXVIII)

RESOLUTION

The OAU Council of Ministers meeting in a special session on 5 June 1998,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Central Organ during its meeting of 4 June, 1998 in Ougadougou,

Having heard the report of the facilitators on the evolution of the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea,

Having listened to the interventions of the two parties;

Paying tribute to the work of the facilitators and requesting them to continue;

Considering the gravity of the situation and the loss of lives:

1. URGENTLY APPEALS to the two parties to, at the same time and simultaneously, put an end to all hostilities, accept and implement the recommendations of the facilitators;
2. RECOMMENDS to the Heads of State and Government to be immediately seized with the matter.