

Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development: The Cairo Agenda for Action 1995

The Cairo Agenda for Action highlights the insufficient progress achieved in Africa despite numerous efforts and the obstacles that have impeded the implementation of past initiatives. Over the years, a variety of programs aimed at promoting the development of African countries have been introduced at national, regional, and continental levels. Regrettably, many of these initiatives have not been effectively executed across different nations. This scenario, along with other recent events, has led us to convene in Cairo for an Extraordinary Session. This meeting provides a crucial opportunity to thoroughly evaluate, analyze, and reassess the fundamental causes of our economic and social difficulties with the aim of suggesting corrective measures and sustainable solutions.

Questions for consideration: What reasons do African leaders give for supporting the Cairo Agenda for Action? When they mention the various development plans crafted for Africa that ultimately did not see effective implementation, what does this reveal about the current situation? Can we pinpoint the fundamental factors contributing to the persistent difficulties African leaders encounter in bringing their own development strategies to fruition? What do they imply when they argue that this gathering symbolizes a vital chance to thoroughly evaluate and address the root causes of the continent's economic and social issues, with the goal of proposing practical and sustainable solutions? How do we conceptualize independence or sovereignty for a nation or a coalition of nations? In what ways do the concepts of independence and sovereignty differ when we consider a group of states in contrast to a group of separate nation state?

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1995

Preamble

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 26th to 28th of June, 1995, have undertaken an in-depth and critical review of the political, economic and social situation in our continent, as presented in the Report of the Secretary-general to the Special Session of the Council of Ministers on Economic and Social Issues in African Development.
2. Since the beginning of the 1990s, changes have occurred in the world, particularly in the political, economic, and social arena. These include a growing tendency, especially in the developed countries to establish, strengthen and enlarge economic groupings in the form of trading blocs such as the Single European Market; the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Agreements, the establishment of the World Trade Organization; and the further advances in information science and production technology. These developments have been buttressed by the dominance of the free market economic system based on competition, efficiency, and productivity. These criteria have emphasized in both the bilateral and multilateral conditionalities of the Structural Adjustment Programmes. Consequently, Africa must take new steps to ensure that it becomes an active partner in the world economic system. In this regard, Africa must adopt a new vision for its development and translate this vision into appropriate programmes. This approach will place Africa in a position to fully participate, as a credible partner, in the world system. In this new spirit, Africa will be able to promote its fundamental interests and concerns.
3. For many years, we have adopted at the national, regional and continental levels many plans, strategies and programmes for the development of our countries, individually and collectively. Unfortunately, these plans and programmes were not adequately implemented by the majority of our countries and in some cases were completely paralysed and jeopardized by incessant civil strife and

natural calamities. To rectify this situation, African countries must take effective measures within specified time frame to ensure the satisfactory implementation and follow-up of decisions that we have made for the development of the continent. In this context, people should be the center and object of development of our continent. To this end, governments should ensure the environment of the people in the conception, implementation, and monitoring of development plans, programmes and projects. Special attention should be paid to the full involvement of women in the social and economic development efforts. We should make all efforts to attract and retain African expertise and reverse the "brain drain" from our countries.

4. At the international level, numerous plans and programmes have been adopted by the UN General Assembly and other for a with the expressed intention of providing greater support for the development of Africa. Unfortunately, the achievements in this area have been unsatisfactory due particularly to the lack of adequate external resources.

5. We are deeply concerned that the socio-economic situation in Africa has remained precarious despite the many efforts made by our countries, individually and collectively, to lay a solid foundation for Africa's development. In all these endeavors, we have been guided by the principle of collective self-reliance in order to achieve self-sustaining development of our countries. We reaffirm our commitment to this principle.

6. These and other recent developments have prompted us to meet in Cairo in an Extra-Ordinary Session. It is an opportune occasion to seriously review, analyze and reassess the root causes of economic and social problems with a view to recommending remedial measures and lasting solutions that should be taken by African governments and peoples, with the support of the international community.

7. In assessing these problems, we are convinced that Africa's underdevelopment can be overcome. Africa is a resilient continent. Indeed, Africa is a continent in transition. It has immense human and natural resources. With a strong will, more determination, planning, and vision, we can make Africa an economic power that it ought to be.

8. We reaffirm that Africa's development is first and foremost the responsibility of our governments and peoples. We are determined to lay a firm foundation for a human-centered, equitable and sustainable development on the basis of sound economic policies, social justice, and collective self-reliance, in order to achieve accelerated structural transformation of our economies.

9. On the basis of the above considerations, while reaffirming our commitment to the Lagos Plan of Action, we have adopted The Cairo Agenda for Action which offers recommendations for consideration and action by our governments and peoples, as well as by the international community for relaunching Africa's economic and social development.

What we can do for ourselves

a. Democracy, Governance, Peace, Security, Stability and Sustainable Development

10. We recognize and resolve that democracy, good governance, peace, security, stability and justice are among the most essential factors in African socioeconomic development. Without democracy and peace, development is not possible; and, without development, peace is not durable. In this regard, we recall the relevance of the Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU of 11 July 1990 on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World. We, are therefore committed to take the following actions:

- launch programmes to promote national unity especially through the politics of inclusion and a culture of tolerance among the various segments of our people and among the countries of Africa, based on the principles of respect of human rights and dignity, free and fair elections, as well as respect of the freedom of the press, speech, association and conscience,

- ensure the speedy promotion of good governance, characterized by accountability, probity, transparency, equal application of the rule of law, and a clear separation of powers, as an objective and a condition for rapid and sustainable development in African societies. A policy of regionalization and decentralization is essential for ensuring the full participation of all the people, particularly the rural population at the grass-roots level, in their own development, and for promoting a feeling of belonging;
- it is essential to clearly define the role of government and the private sector in development. Governments should make special efforts to encourage the participation of the private sector in the development process;
- take measures for the eradication of the root causes of refugees and displaced persons in our continent as well as for their speedy return and resettlement in their countries of origin and expediting the search for lasting solutions to this problem of refugees;
- give the maximum political and financial support to the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, for its effective peacemaking operations, by involving all segments of the population and mobilizing adequate official and private resources for the OAU Peace Fund.

b. Food security

11. Africa is essentially an agricultural and pastoral continent. Yet, food and agricultural output has declined substantially since the 1960s. Consequently, most of our countries are net food importers. While civil strife, drought, desertification, and other environmental factors have contributed to the decline in food production, policies which did not give enough attention to food crops are an important part of the explanation.

12. An improvement in agricultural performance is required to provide food supply essential to raising nutritional standards and to feeding the rapidly growing population without excessive dependence on external sources. The benefit of economic growth should be expanded to the whole population particularly in the rural areas where poverty is more pronounced. In this regard:

- a. agricultural promotion should not be excessively centered on traditional export commodities. Food crops, especially those produced and /or consumed by poor people should be given special attention;
- b. appropriate measures should also be made to develop and extend livestock and fisheries as part of the overall food security strategy and the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1993 - 2003);
- c. efficient and standardized means of stockpiling of surplus food should be devised for use in times of famine, drought and other hardships.
- d. appropriate means should be made for the national management of the water resources and the preservation of water against pollution;
- e. reforestation programmes should be vigorously pursued as a means of checking the rate of desertification of arable lands and preserving their fertility; and
- f. current initiatives to formulate a framework for the development and operationalization of a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) should be finalized as soon as possible.

c. Capacity Building and Human Resources Development

13. The development of human resources is fundamental to the sustainable and equitable development of Africa. The primacy of human resources development must therefore be maintained in all African Member States' economic and social policies. In this connection, the educational and training system which remain the key to economic and social development should be adapted to the need of our societies, with emphasis on technical, scientific and technological education thereby ensuring that education and training are commensurate with the exigencies of the labour market. Priority focus should be given to increasing Africa's capacity to implement its development plans. Human resource development also

entails the elimination of gender-based discrimination. Necessary legislation needs to be passed at national level to remove all such discrimination practices that exist to provide for the protection of the girl child and women in Africa while extending to them equal opportunities as regards health education, employment and other civic rights. In the same vein the situation of children should be seriously addressed in compliance with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as well as the Consensus of Dakar.

14. Member States should give priority in their development programmes to the basic needs of the people by developing appropriate infrastructure (such as rural roads, potable water supply ...), meeting basic food requirements, providing primary health services, education and skills and generating productive and remunerative employment opportunities as a means of eradicating poverty. African countries should endeavour to implement the African Common Position on Human and Social Development; the OAU Declaration of 1991 on the Employment Crisis in Africa; the Dakar/NGOR Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development; the Programme of Action of the ICPD (1994); the Plan of Action for the Promotion of Cultural Industries (1992); the Declaration of the Heads of state and Government on Health as a Basis for Development (1987); as well as the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Copenhagen World Summit for social Development (1995). African countries should also endeavour to protect their cultural heritage as provided for in the African Cultural Charter (1976).

15. Africa's low science and technology base is highly inadequate for the requirements of modern development processes such as agriculture, health, etc. There is therefore an urgent need to build up and strengthen Africa's capacity in the field of science and technology, if Africa is to be efficient and competitive in its production and thus participate in the increased flows of advanced technologies and globalization of production processes. African governments are therefore called upon to:

a. give high priority to building national and regional capacities in the area of science and technology as the basis and means for all development activities and hence create conditions for more vigorous adaptation and application of science and technology for sustainable development. Each Member State should therefore devote a minimum of one percent of its GDP to the development of science and technology and foster cooperating between national and regional institutions. Special attention should be given to the strengthening of the existing centers of excellence and other specialized technical institutions;

b. formulate effective national policies for education and training in science and technology for development with emphasis on liberalization, technology flows, including advanced technologies and the promotion of indigenous technologies. To this end, African experts should be encouraged to remain in Africa and contribute to its development.

d. Structural Transformation of African Economies

Industrialization

16. Industrialization is of great importance as we move into the 21st century. Industrial development is central to structural change and transformation of African economies, to the increase in incomes and employment, to the diversification of our exports and to the satisfaction of needs of the African peoples. African industrialization is still at a rudimentary stage, with outmoded processes and low technology input and high operating costs. In this connection, African governments are called upon to give priority attention to the following:

a. the formulation of a programme for industrial restructuring, recognizing changing world economy, in particular the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements, globalization of production processes, and the need of Africa to be competitive, if it is to participate in the world economy;

- b. the effective implementation of the Programme for the Second IDDA ,and strengthening sub-regional and regional institutions that are capable of supporting our efforts in the fields of engineering, technology, management and standardization, and related fields;
- c. the contribution and support of UNIDO to Africa's industrialization will continue to be crucial to our industrial development. The current extraneous attempts to abolish UNIDO and UNCTAD are therefore of serious concern to our countries. We therefore call upon all our Member States to strongly resist such attempts. In this respect, the international Community is called upon to respect and fully implement commitment made in the Yaoundé Declaration adopted by the 5th General Conference of UNIDO.

17. Member States who have not done so should formulate policies and programmes for the development and strengthening of indigenous entrepreneurial capability, with special focus on the establishment of micro, small and medium scale enterprises so as to develop the industrial middle class which is the engine for sustained development.

Mineral Resources and Energy

18. In order to promote their industrial development, African countries should build and strengthen their capacity for exploration, development and utilization of the continent's abundant energy and mineral resources, and the formulation of the effective cooperation policies in this regard. In particular, African countries are called upon to:

- promote the exports of high value-added mineral exports;
- encourages private sector investment in the extraction and downstream procession of mineral resources;
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- encourage specialized training in mineral procession technology, mineralogy, and extractive metallurgy, foundry technology, material science and metal fabrication.

19. In Africa, a major hindrance to industrial development is the inadequacy of energy resources. The Secretary-General of the OAU, in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the President of ADB should therefore undertake, urgent, measures for establishing the African Energy Commission, stipulated in the Lagos Plan of Action, taking into account inter alia, the ADB Study on the African Energy Programme.

Transport and Communications

20. The importance of the transport and communications sector for Africa's development cannot be overemphasized. African countries have in the past accorded priority to this sector in their development plans as a sine qua non for national social and economic development as well as for the integration of regional markets, However, despite the substantial progress made over the past 30 years of concerted efforts by African countries individually and collectively, Africa's transport and communications capacity is still inadequate to support sustainable development. In view of the critical importance of this sector especially with regard to regional integration, action must be taken immediately in the following areas for the implementation of the Programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA III):

- a. undertakes reforms of the sector including granting autonomy to the operators and introducing competition in order to improve efficiency;
- b. encourages both private local and foreign investment, with particular attention to expanding services to the rural areas;

- c. organize sub-regional consultations on coordination of airline operations, as called for in the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy (1988);
- d. make all efforts to complete the missing sections in the Trans-Saharan Highway. To this end, every effort should be made to mobilize the required resources to promote close co-operation and integration across the Sahara;
- e. establish as soon as possible the single bureau of the Trans-African Highways Authorities in order to integrate the African roads network;
- f. establishes linkages between our telecommunications systems and RASCOM as well as with the other systems, especially the ARABSAT, in order to participate effectively in the information superhighway;
- g. African countries should sign and ratify the African Maritime Transport Charter so that African policies in all areas connected with International Maritime Transport and Ports are harmonized and coordinated as soon as possible, including the harmonization of maritime legislation and regulations in the Continent.

Trade

21. The Uruguay Round Agreements will certainly worsen the situation with the erosion of the preference that Africa's exports have been enjoying under the Lomé Convention and the Generalized System of Preferences as well as the negative impact of net food imports. In fact, the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements goes beyond trade to cover such issues as technology and investment flows. In recognition of Africa's special handicaps, in particular its commodity based economy and inadequate capacities for participating and benefiting from the anticipated increases in global trade, technology, and investment flows, we call on African governments to take the following actions:

- a. assess the full implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements, including policy, legal and administrative requirements for compliance, as well as the new market access conditions facing the exports individual African countries;
- b. launch a programme to restructure Africa's export and expand intra-African trade in particular through trade liberalization programmes. Special attention should be given to the development of Tourism in view of its development potential. The RECS should play an increasingly important role in this matter;
- c. support and effectively utilize AFREXIM BANK. In this connection, we call on the Member States and the Board of Directors of AFREXIM BANK to make it fully operational;
- d. national banks should also establish innovative instruments to promote trade and development; they should also cooperate among themselves.

Environment

22. Equally important are the environmental factors in African development. The rate of degradation of Africa's environment and loss of genetic resources and biodiversity threaten the very survival of the peoples of Africa. The rapid population growth, increased poverty, displaced people as a result of conflicts, coupled with frequent droughts, have increased pressure for improved management of the environment. African countries are called upon to give priority to the elaboration of the Protocol on Environment as called for in the Abuja Treaty and establish a national coordinating machinery to ensure integration of environmental issues into national development programmes, as defined in Agenda 21 and the African Common Position in Environment and Development.

Effective Mobilization and Efficient Utilization of Resources

23. Africa faces problems in effective mobilization of both domestic and foreign resources for its development. Domestic resource mobilization and its effective utilization have not been carried out optimally. This resulted in a marked decline in both the volume and productivity of investment in our countries.

24. To reverse this situation, African governments should take the following measures:

- create an enabling environment for domestic resource mobilization so as to encourage our people to have more confidence in the economies of our countries, including setting up saving systems built on the basis of population practices and capacities, especially for rural areas;
 - enact specific legislation to enhance the autonomous power of the central banks on monetary policy, including monitoring of credit creation and its allocation; and the supervision and regulation of financial institutions and instruments, so as to ensure and maintain a stable macro-economic environment implying price, interest rate and exchange rate stability;
 - institute measures that increase public sector revenues through an effective tax collection and government securities; and to rationalize government expenditures through practices of programmes-performance budgeting, and
 - refrain from entering excessively into internal debts as a way of financing budget deficits, particularly those directed towards speculative and unproductive activities, so as to maintain fiscal stability while promoting economic growth;
25. To promote private domestic investment in Africa, the following measures should be taken:
- strengthen the country reform programmes, so as to encourage investments in productive sectors and harmonize these programmes and investment codes so as to facilitate the process of regional economic integration;
 - create an enabling environment that encourages human and physical investment and help retain human capital and African countries;
 - steps should be taken to strengthen capital markets institutions where they exist and to create new ones where they do not exist, in order to promote equity investment and achieve internal resource mobilization and utilization;
 - in order to enhance the capacity of the financial sector to effectively channel the resources into productive investment, governments should intensify efforts to secure the full monetization of African economies, to widen the instruments and services offered by financial institutions; and to ensure an effective link between the informal and formal sectors.
26. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Africa account for only about 2 percent in the total FDI inflows to developing countries. In order to reverse the trend and attract more FDI to Africa, measures should be instituted by African governments to ensure a favourable investment climate including the following:
- a. provide clear procedures and rules regarding registration, protection, and transferability of property rights in all their forms, and efficient enforcement of contractual obligations by the judicial system;
 - b. define clear incentives for investors in investment priorities in areas such as agro-food processing, conservation, storage, improvement of the transport and communication infrastructure better linkages within industry and between energy, minerals and industry, economic integration with strategic targeting of both external and domestic resources towards these priorities.
27. To counter the negative perceptions about the continent and the misinformation that investors receive of Africa, governments should endeavour to undertake an information campaign by highlighting the progress in economic reform and growth in our countries.

Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration

28. Our review of the economic condition in Africa shows that African countries need to pool their resources and enhance cooperation, in order to achieve regional economic cooperation and integration in order to be competitive in world trade. In this respect, African countries should take full advantage of the opportunities of South-South Cooperation and forge partnerships with the countries of the South. This process can be enhanced through a firm commitment to honour the obligations we enter into in our continental and regional cooperation institutions, implement the programmes we collectively adopt and

provide them with the required moral, material and financial support they deserve. Furthermore, the strengthening of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the intended building blocks of the African Economic Community (AEC) should be insured. In order to achieve this aim, African countries are urged to take the following steps:

- a. to accelerate the process of rationalizing the institutional framework for economic integration at the regional level;
- b. for the RECS to be on a strong financial footing and secure their viability, their Member States should establish as soon as possible for each one of them a self-financing mechanism, with the support of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat and a self-enforcing mechanism to ensure prompt payment of assessed contributions;
- c. in the same spirit, African countries are invited to direct financial assistance destined to economic integration activities in Africa, including Regional Fund under Lomé Convention to furthering relevant regional programmes and projects and to pay special attention to regional integration for mutual benefit in human and natural resources development as well as in the area of infrastructure, particularly, transport and communications, information, electricity grids and hydraulic power generating stations;
- d. for the purpose of ensuring a proper coordination of national sectoral policies and effective follow-up, implementation and monitoring of regional and continental decisions, African States which have not yet done so should set up at the national level a machinery in charge of all questions related to economic integration;
- e. the special circumstances of the African small island countries should be given due recognition in Africa's integration efforts;
- f. in order to operationalize the Abuja Treaty as soon as possible, Member States should adopt and ratify the priority Protocols by the end of 1997, at the latest, and to take necessary measures at the national level, including integrating the Protocols into their legislations, to make these Protocols applicable by competent authorities;
- g. Member States should popularize the Abuja Treaty and all relevant documents in order to make African populations the genuine actors in the process and facilitate cross-border dialogue towards the attainment of Pan Africanist ideals. To this end, they must engage all media, both public and private, in their endeavours to increase awareness of the larger public vis-à-vis the aims, mechanisms and requirements of economic integration to facilitate the efforts of Member States, the OAU is requested to expeditiously finalize and distribute to Member States a popular version of the Abuja Treaty.

29. In order to set up the much-needed regional productive capacities, the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are urged to:

- speed up African integration through the implementation of common projects that will form an integrated development pattern leading to sustained economic growth, based on common interests and mutual benefits;
- formulate lists of common projects that can attract international, governmental, and private investments. The projects and programmes to be promoted by the Regional Economic Communities should be under the coordination of the OAU Secretary-General;
- in this regard the African Development Bank is urged to play a leading role in financing regional studies, programmes, and projects.

What we require from our development partners

a. Understanding, appreciation, and support of Africa's development efforts

30. A new international system is evolving. This development offers a unique opportunity for the international community to agree on a set of principles governing international relations. On our part, we

firmly believe that some of the most important principles include the democratization of the international system, the right of our countries to decide on their own priorities and programmes., respect for and implementation of international commitments. Member States of the United Nations should refrain from any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States. These principles should be incorporated in the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Development.

31. Development aid that had been provided had not always been used for the priority programmes of countries assisted. What is more, we are witnessing an increasingly marked trend of rivalry between African governments and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs). Sometimes the governments were even robbed of their responsibilities. The NGOs should play a supportive role by complementing government efforts but given their fragility and lack of requisite resources, these organizations cannot assume the responsibility for the development of the continent. There is therefore an urgent need for our development partners to significantly increase resource in-flows to African countries especially through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment.

32. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) has not received all the expected support from the international community, especially in the areas of external debt and resource flows. Specifically, the commitment to establish a Diversification Fund for African Commodities has not yet materialized. Also, UNECA should be strengthened to fully play its coordinating role in the mobilization of the UN System for the implementation of UN-NADAF.

b. Trade and Development

33. The recently concluded Uruguay Round of negotiations and the establishment of the World Trade Organization constitute a new development in world trade relations, with serious implications to Africa. We are seriously concerned about the potential impact of the Agreements on Africa. Our preliminary assessment of the impact of this development is that Africa will stand to lose heavily because of the stringent conditionalities imposed by the Agreements and which African countries will not be able to meet. There is a need to ensure that transparency in the liberalized world market, devoid of conditionalities and other non-tariff barriers, is applied universally and in a sustainable manner. To mitigate the negative impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on Africa's development, we appeal to our development partners to discuss with us those aspects of the Agreements which are detrimental to the development of our countries. In this regard, the outcome of the International Conference on the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements on Africa, held in Tunis, Tunisia on 27 October 1994, could serve as a framework for action. Meanwhile in implementing the provisions of the Final Act off-setting measures must be adopted to obviate adverse effects that will arise from the erosion of special preferences currently enjoyed by African countries.

34. We call upon the International Community to ensure that the UN Agenda for Development addresses the urgent development needs of Africa as one of the most seriously affected continents by the present international economic environment and support the diversification programmes in Africa and the establishment of the Commodity Diversification Fund.

c. African's External Debt

35. Africa's external debt stock and its rapid growth are a deterrent to increased nondebt generating resource flows. It diverts the resources generated by African economies already negatively affected by the continuous deterioration of terms of trade. In spite of the efforts made by African States, by adopting structural reforms and promoting alternative programmes, with the assistance of multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and in spite of the various initiatives (Toronto, Brady, France and USA initiatives, etc ...) the debt problem still remains one of the main constraints in the renewal with economic growth.

36. Africa's external debt affects negatively, in the long run, not only the African economic capacity to meet the basic needs of the African population, but also its capacity to contribute significantly to the revival of world growth, by increasing the African economic capacities to absorb more goods and services from outside, and by reversing the declining trends of transfers to Africa.

37. The need to reverse the declining trends of transfers to Africa has been stressed. Even in African countries where some progress has been registered in 1994, increased inflow of resources are still required to generate sustainable development. For this to happen, coordinated action on debt and flows from multilateral financing institutions should take place, with particular emphasis on the provision of concessional resources, through the International Development Association (IDA), African Development Fund (ADF) and the European Development Fund (EDF), which are the three major multilateral windows through which concessional resources are channeled to Africa. Furthermore, the rules of international relations should be observed, and there should be no attempt to destabilize the economies of African countries by imposing embargoes and economic blockades, freezing assets, preventing them from obtaining technology and starving them for political reasons.

38. For economic reforms to succeed in Africa, all creditors including multilateral institutions should adopt enhanced measures which should go beyond debt rescheduling. International commitment to Africa's recovery can be shown by reducing the debt burden to a point where it ceases to inhibit investing in Africa. In this regard, while subscribing to the recent JAKARTA NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENTS DECLARATION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT: SHARING OF EXPERIENCE, Africa calls on its bilateral and multilateral creditors including the former Soviet Union countries to enter into a dialogue in order to coordinate their efforts for identifying ways and means by which they could reduce the continent's debt burden, particularly for the current debt servicing levels. Specifically, African governments call on the G7 through the Paris Club to extend additional relief beyond the Naples Terms particularly for severely indebted low income countries. Further, we call on G7 to consider innovative ways to deal with multilateral debt along the lines proposed by the UK regarding the sale of IMF gold and to ensure that multilateral debt relief is not achieved at the expense of official grant financing. Within this context, urgent support and assistance from International Development Agencies and Donor Countries to war and natural disaster affected countries are particularly needed to generally move them from a state of reliance on relief and humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. To this end, Africa should approach the G7 Summit, scheduled for June 1995 in Halifax, Canada, on this matter.

Follow-up Mechanism

39. The follow-up and implementation mechanism to these recommendations lies largely with the Member states at the national, sub-regional, regional, and continental levels. At the national level, governments should institute measures for increased national dialogue in order to reach broad consensus on development objectives and how to reach the goals sought. The following specific measures are proposed:

- the Cairo Agenda for Action should be tabled in the national cabinets of African governments, in order to involve the entire government machinery in the implementation of the Agenda;
- the Agenda should also be tabled by the government in national parliaments for debate in order to allow parliamentarians to deliberate on the development issues contained in the Agenda, thereby giving the Agenda wide publicity and national attention;
- the governments should involve various groups in organizing national and regional seminars and workshops on the Cairo Agenda, with participants drawn from all segments of society; organized private sector groups, especially the African Chambers of Commerce the African Business Round Table, Employers and Workers Organizations, political and professional organizations, women groups, youth, NGOs, teachers, university professors, etc.

40. At the regional level, the Cairo Agenda for Action should be submitted to the RECS and their respective authorities for implementation.

41 . At the continental level, we request the OAU Secretary-General to work together with the ECA Executive Secretary and the President of the ADB, within the frame work of the Joint Secretariat, to monitor and report regularly to the council on th`e implementation of these decisions. Specifically, the Economic and social Commission (ECOSOC) and the Specialized Technical Committees established under the Abuja Treaty should monitor the implementation of these matters.

42. Political will and determination of the Member states will be required to effectively tackle and solve the economic and social problems facing our continent. Close personal attention of Heads of state and Government of the. OAU is indispensable in the solution of these problems.

Adopted at Addis Ababa, 26-28 June 1995