

The Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSSDCA) 2000

The Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa, widely recognized as CSSDCA, was established by a committed group of African leaders who understood the urgent need to tackle the diverse challenges facing the continent. This pivotal conference seeks to create a robust framework that fosters sustainable peace and security, emphasizing the importance of integrating development initiatives and enhancing collaboration among African nations. By prioritizing partnerships and a collective approach, the CSSDCA aims to build resilient systems capable of effectively addressing pressing issues such as conflict, poverty, and underdevelopment. The Conference delineates the primary objectives set by the CSSDCA, which will serve as a vital guiding framework for its mission.

Questions for consideration: What are the four pillars of the CSSDCA and why do the Heads of State and Government of the OAU support this new document? What expectations accompany the CSSDCA within the OAU's policy framework? How can the CSSDCA's corollary aid in achieving the peace, security, unity, and integration goals envisioned by the OAU's founding fathers? What similarities do its creators find between Africa's condition in the 1990s and the 1960s? What has driven the emergence of various African initiatives addressing ongoing issues such as peace, security, development, and integration, and what reforms are necessary to break these cycles? Why do the initiators consider this new structure vital to the OAU's policy-making framework? If African leaders fail to guarantee peace, security, and development in the years following the adoption of the CSSDCA, what message will they send to the world, to Sub-Saharan Africa, and to future generations?

Background (courtesy of <http://www.dfa.gov.za>)

In Abuja, Nigeria, 2000

The idea of a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa started in Paris, France in 1990 and is based on the European Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) led by former (and current) Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, in collaboration with the OECD Centre for Development, convened a high level expert consultative meeting in Paris in 1990, and recommended amongst other things to review the relevance of the CSCE to Africa and the lessons of the Helsinki process for Africa. The Helsinki process was originally a non-governmental initiative, which later was adopted by governments.

After the Paris meeting, the ALF in collaboration with the OAU Secretariat, the ECA and a select group of Africans in government, business, international organizations, NGOs and academics, convened in November 1990 a consultative meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as a brainstorming session to assess the immediate and long-term relevance of the CSCE to African challenges.

In 1991, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU was approached by ALF to host the CSSDCA. President Museveni and President Obasanjo, then Chairman of ALF, issued invitations to African Heads of States to attend the meeting in Kampala, Uganda in May 1991. This meeting agreed on a unified strategy for development linking the issues of security, stability, development and cooperation in a comprehensive and integrated fashion recognizing that one flows into the other and that it is impossible to tackle one without concern for another.

The result of the meeting was the Kampala Document, which encapsulated both the 1990 OAU Heads of State Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World and the 1990 African Charter for Popular Participation in Development. Essentially, the Kampala Document comprised four interrelated "calabashes":

- The security calabash, to focus on principles and modalities for assuring interstate relations;
- The stability calabash, on the need for democratization, good governance, and popular participation within member States;
- The development calabash, on strategies to raise and improve general standards of living;
- The cooperation calabash, on the modalities for accelerating regional integration processes and harmonizing development of vital sectors of the Continent.

The Kampala Document also proposed a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa. The Document was presented to the OAU Summit in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991 for adoption; however, it was only noted and referred to the Council of Ministers. Subsequent OAU Summits in June 1992 in Dakar, Senegal and in June 1993 in Cairo, Egypt could not adopt the Kampala Document in the absence of inputs from member States.

During the OAU Summit in July 1999 in Algiers, Algeria, President Obasanjo called for the refocusing on the Kampala Document in the light of contemporary developments in Africa, and offered to take responsibility for setting in motion the process of re-launching the CSSDCA. President Obasanjo also proposed that the year 2000 be declared as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa.

A one-day meeting was convened on 28 August 1999 in Abuja, Nigeria, to discuss the re-launching of the process within the context of the OAU with particular emphasis on working out acceptable modalities for integrating the CSSDCA into the OAU process. The meeting agreed to establish a Steering Committee to work towards the adoption of the Kampala document by the OAU and to re-launch the CSSDCA within the OAU Framework.

At the Extraordinary OAU Summit held in Sirte, Libya in September 1999, the Heads of State decided to convene an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in the Continent as soon as possible. As such the CSSDCA initiative was fully endorsed by the policy-making organs of the OAU.

Establishment of a CSSDCA Ministerial Steering Committee

A Ministerial Consultative meeting was held on 25 September 1999 in New York. It was during this meeting that members of the Steering Committee of the CSSDCA were nominated. Consequently, the 59th Ordinary session of the Central Organ at Ambassadorial level decided in Addis Ababa to:

- Endorse the establishment and composition of the Steering Committee for the preparation of the Conference as proposed by the Ministerial Consultative meeting held in New York;
- Entrust the preparatory work of the Conference to the Steering Committee, to be chaired by Nigeria;
- Request the steering Committee to keep the Central Organ informed of its activities and to submit a Progress Report to the Council of Ministers in February 2000.

The first meeting of the CSSDCA Steering Committee under the aegis held on 18 and 19 December 1999 in Arusha. This meeting decided to establish an Experts Group from member States to draw up a working document for the CSSDCA. The Group of Experts met in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2000.

The second meeting of the CSSDCA Steering Committee was held February 2000 in Pretoria, South Africa. The Steering Committee was addressed by President Thabo Mbeki, who underscored the fact that the enormity of the day-to-day problems confronting the masses of the people in Africa can only be definitively addressed if Governments and leaders empowered their populations to be active participants in their governance and the decisions that affect their lives. He called for frank and open political discussions to resolve problems at the national, regional, and international levels.

During this meeting, the Steering Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the preparations made for the convening of the CSSDCA. The Committee reaffirmed the strategic relevance

of the CSSDCA process in confronting the challenges facing Africa politically and economically in a rapidly globalizing world. At the end of its deliberations, the Committee agreed that the multitude of developmental challenges confronting the Continent and the need for a holistic and comprehensive response mechanism, make the CSSDCA process all the more imperative. The Steering Committee also acknowledged the mandate given by the Sirte Summit for the convening of an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa.

The Steering Committee's recommendations were adopted by the 71st Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, held from 8 to 10 March 2000 in Addis Ababa.

The First Ministerial CSSDCA, Abuja, 8 to 9 May 2000

The Ministerial CSSDCA was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 8 to 9 May 2000, during which the multifaceted challenges confronting the African continent related to the areas covered in the Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation Calabashes were discussed. The Conference reviewed the draft CSSDCA Final Document elaborated by the Group of African Experts, which met in Abuja from 5 to 6 May 2000 and which document was endorsed by the CSSDCA Steering Committee meeting, also held at the same venue on 7 May.

The deliberations of the Conference were preceded by presentations of the thematic topics of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation by experts and resource persons drawn from different parts of the Continent. The draft CSSDCA Final Document adopted by the Conference incorporates a Declaration of Plan of Action and an Implementation Mechanism for advancing and sustaining CSSDCA process. This draft CSSDCA Final Document was adopted by the OAU/AEC Heads of State and Government Summit in Togo.

Follow-up and implementation mechanism

In order to implement the CSSDCA within the framework of the OAU/AEC and to ensure the sustainability of the process, the OAU/AEC Summit in Togo agreed that a Standing CSSDCA Conference would be established, to convene every two years during the Summit. Provision should be made for African Parliamentarians to make their contributions to the Conference through the Pan-African Parliament. Representatives of civil society may forward their views and recommendations to the Standing Conference through the OAU/AEC Secretariat.

The Meetings of Plenipotentiaries and Senior Officials will undertake review meetings in between Sessions of the Standing Conference. The Secretary General was requested to work out the modalities and financial implications for realizing this objective; as well as to initiate internal administrative arrangements for designating, within the OAU/AEC Secretariat, a unit to coordinate CSSDCA activities. It was agreed that member states should incorporate CSSDCA principles and guidelines into national institutions that would have responsibility for helping in the monitoring of the implementation of CSSDCA activities.

It was also agreed that detailed discussions should be undertaken on the various Calabashes (Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation) in order to implement the CSSDCA process. In this regard, the Secretary-General was requested to coordinate the consultations with a view to ensuring the convening of the meetings on the Calabashes. In addition, it was decided that the progress report on the CSSDCA process would be reviewed during the Extraordinary Summit in Sirte, Libya in 2001, and the conclusions of the discussions on the various Calabashes at the Summit in South Africa in 2002.

Draft of CSSDCA Final Document

Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (AHG/Decl.4 (XXXVI), 2000 (Excerpts)

Introduction

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in Lome , Togo , at the 36th Assembly of our Organization, have considered the report of the Ministerial meeting of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) held in Abuja , from 8 to 9 May, 2000 . The Ministerial Conference was convened pursuant to the decision taken in Algiers in July 1999, proclaiming 2000 as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa as well as the Declaration adopted on 9 September, 1999, at our 4th Extraordinary Summit in Sirte, in the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which, inter-alia, decided on the establishment of an African Union and the convening of the Ministerial Conference.
2. We recall the Decisions we have taken, over the years, to promote political stability and economic development in our Continent. In the realm of promoting stability, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and the Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World, were adopted in 1990.
3. In June 1993, in Cairo , Egypt , we adopted a Declaration establishing the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to forge, within the OAU, a new institutional dynamism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. In 1981 and 1998 respectively, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Protocol on the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, were adopted. Both were important instruments for ensuring the promotion, protection, and observance of human rights as an integral part of our Organization's wider objective of promoting collective security for durable peace and sustainable development.
4. "In July 1997, during our Summit in Harare , we took a stand against Unconstitutional Changes of Government. This led the Algiers Summit of July 1999 to adopt a decision on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments to reinforce respect for democracy, the rule of law, good governance and stability."
5. In the area of development and cooperation, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos were adopted in 1980; the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa, were adopted in 1991 and 1995 respectively. The Sirte Declaration of September 1999 included measures for accelerating the process of economic integration and addressing the question of Africa 's indebtedness.
6. We recall that these concerns were at the core of the initiative launched by the African Leadership Forum on the CSSDCA process. We note that the conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa as proposed in the Kampala Document was not conceived as a one-off event, but rather as a process. The underlying thinking of the CSSDCA process as articulated in the four calabashes of the Kampala Document of 1991 was a recognition of the fact that the problems of security and stability in many African countries had impaired their capacity to achieve the necessary level of intra and inter-African cooperation that is required to attain the integration of the continent and critical to the continent's socio-economic development and transformation. In this regard, we have used both the revised Kampala Document and the working document elaborated by our experts in Addis Ababa to enrich our thinking on the CSSDCA process.
7. We note that all the major decisions taken by our Organization since its inception, reflect the inter-linkage between peace, stability, development, integration, and cooperation. We believe that the CSSDCA process creates a synergy between the various activities currently undertaken by our Organization and should therefore help to consolidate the work of the OAU in the areas of peace, security, stability, development, and cooperation. It should provide a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of common values within the main policy organs of the OAU.
8. We are convinced that the interactive approach embedded in the CSSDCA initiative, should provide an invaluable tool for the pursuit of the agenda of the OAU in the new millennium, with particular reference to the issues of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation.

Declaration of Principles

9. In recognition of the importance of the CSSDCA, which shall encompass four major areas henceforth called Calabashes: Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in furthering Africa 's interests within the ambit of the OAU, we affirm the following general and specific principles:

General Principles

- Respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of all Member States;
- The security, stability and development of every African country is inseparably linked to that of other African countries. Instability in one country affects the stability of neighboring countries and has serious implications for continental unity, peace, and development;
- The interdependence of Member States and the link between their - stability and development make it imperative to develop a common African agenda. Such an agenda must be based on a unity of purpose and collective political consensus derived from a firm conviction that Africa cannot make any significant progress without finding lasting solutions to the problem of peace and security;
- The peaceful resolution of disputes, with an emphasis on the search of African solutions to African problems;
- The prevention, management and resolution of conflicts provide the environment for peace, security, stability, and development to flourish.
- The responsivity for the security, stability and socio-economic development of the continent lies primarily with African States;
- The OAU, working in collaboration with the United Nations and the Regional Economic Communities, remains the premier organization for promoting security, stability, development, and co-operation in Africa;
- Democracy, good governance, respect for human and people's rights and rule of law are prerequisites for security, stability and development of the continent;
- Africa's resources should be used more effectively to meet the need of African peoples and to improve their well-being;
- The fulfillment of the objectives of the CSSDCA, requires the strengthening of Africa's solidarity and partnership with other region of the world , in order to meet the challenge of globalization.
- Member States should adhere in good faith to all CSSDCA principles and ensure their implementation.

Specific Principles

Security

10. Recognizing that security should be seen in its wholeness and totality including the right of peoples to live in peace with access to the basic necessities of life, while fully enjoying the rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and freely participating in the affairs of their societies; and bearing in mind that Africa 's security and that of its Member States are inseparably linked with the security of all African peoples;

We affirm that:

(a) Security should be recognized as a pillar of the CSSDCA process. It is an indispensable condition for peace, stability, development, and cooperation. It underscores the organic links that exist between the security of Member States as a whole and the security of each of them on the basis of their history, culture, geography, and their common destiny. This implies individual and collective responsibilities exercised within the basic framework of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and other relevant international instruments;

(b) The concept of security must embrace all aspects of society including economic, political, and social and environmental dimensions of the individual, family, and community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be based on the security of the life of the individual citizens to live in peace and to satisfy basic needs while being able to participate fully in societal affairs and enjoying freedom and fundamental human rights;

(c) The security of all Africans and their States as a whole is indispensable for stability, development, and cooperation in Africa . This should be a sacred responsibility of all African States - individually and collectively- which must be exercised within the basic framework of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant international instruments;

(d) Without prejudice to the provisions of the UN and OAU Charters and the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affair of States, Member States should not be indifferent to situations of civil strife, humanitarian disasters, gross violation of human rights and acts of wanton repression in Africa

Stability

11. Noting that stability requires that all States be guided by strict adherence to the rule of law, good governance, peoples participation in public affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the establishment of political organizations devoid of sectarian, religious, ethnic, regional and racial extremism;

We affirm that:

(a) The Executive, legislative and judicial branches of government must respect their national constitutions and adhere to the provisions of the law and other legislative enactment promulgated by National Assemblies. No one should be exempted from accountability;

(b) The active and genuine participation of citizens of every country in the decision-making processes and in the conduct of public affairs must be fostered and facilitated;

(c) All rights and freedoms of citizens should be promoted and protected;

(d) There shall be no hindrance to the promotion of political pluralism.

(e) Extremism and intolerance, including religious extremism, foster instability;

(f) Citizens should freely discuss all aspect of the decisions relating to governance so as to allow informed choices.

Development

12. Noting that self-reliance is crucial for sustainable growth and economic development; that effective diversification of the resource and production base are vital for rapid social and economic transformation that popular participation, equal opportunity, transparency in public policy-making and access to market and resources are crucial to Africa's development; and that development can be achieved through partnership between government and peoples; we affirm That:

- Self-sustaining economic growth and development must be grounded on self-reliance and diversification of African economies;
- Rapid physical and economic integration of the continent through the African Economic Community is vital for Africa's economic recovery and development and for prospects to achieve competitiveness in a globalizing world;
- The principles of popular participation, equal opportunity, and equitable access to resources-
- must underlie all development objectives and strategies;
- Partnership, trust and transparency between leaders and citizens critical to ensure sustainable developments, based on mutual responsibilities and a shared vision;
- The inalienable sovereign right of African countries to control their - resources must be respected.

Co-operation

3. Noting the importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation to the development of our continent and the efforts so far made in this connection to implement the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community as well as the various efforts of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and stressing the need to articulate and harmonize the macro-economic policies, strengthen the institutions for regional integration and build regional infrastructure networks particularly in the transport and communication sectors; we affirm that:

- Member States should redouble efforts at economic integration to compete better in the global economy and work towards a shortened timetable for the realization of the African Economic Community (AEC);
- Member States should act jointly and collectively to develop, utilize, and manage common natural resources such as waterway, forests and coastal zones;
- Taking into account the growing global interdependence, African countries must seek to explore opportunities for beneficial-operative relations with other developing and industrialized countries;
- Supra-nationality: In pursuing closer co-operation and integration, African countries will need to transfer certain responsibilities to continental or sub-regional institutions.

Plan of Action

14. Having identified the General and Specific Principles that will guide the CSSDCA process and having reached a consensus on the need to put in place measures for the implementation of those principles, we, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, have agreed on the following Plan of Action.

Security

- Reinforce Africa's capacity for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution through among other things, the strengthening of the OAU Mechanism, particularly through funding and logistical support for the operational activities of the Mechanism and the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Central Organ at the Secretariat;
- Strengthen the capacity of the OAU Mechanism for negotiation, mediation and conciliation, through the use of African statesmen and eminent personalities in overall efforts to manage and/or resolve conflicts;
- Adopt confidence-building measures, including the establishment of mutual confidence based on trust, transparency, good neighborliness, respect for the territorial integrity of states and non-interference in their internal affairs, as the bedrock of inter-state relations. In this regard, negotiations for the delimitation and demarcation of borders, exchange of information and co-operation at the sub-regional level on security matters, especially on issues relating to terrorism and cross-border criminal activities, should be encouraged;
- Recommit ourselves to the peaceful resolution of conflicts so as to create an environment of peace and stability on the continent that will also have the effect of reducing military expenditure thus releasing additional resources for socio-economic development;
- Ensure that parties to conflicts commit themselves to fully co-operate with the efforts made within the framework of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and of regional mechanism;
- Endorse the proposed Early Warning System which should be made fully operational expeditiously, to provide timely information on conflict situations in Africa. This should be complemented by a corresponding preparedness by our States to facilitate early political action by the OAU, based on Early Warning information;

- Establish modalities for more effective co-operation, co-ordination and harmonization between the OAU and regional organizations on the one hand, and between the OAU and the UN, as the World body which is primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, on the other, especially, in relation to peacebuilding and peace-making and peace-keeping;
- Enhance OAU's capacity for mobilizing support and resources for the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of countries emerging from conflicts;
- Implement the Decision of the 31st Summit on Ready contingents within Member States for possible deployment by the UN and in exceptional circumstances, by the OAU, as well as the recommendations of the meeting of the African Chiefs of Defense Staff;
- Address the phenomena of armed elements in Refugee Camps, impunity, crimes against humanity, child soldiers and drug addiction, landmines and the proliferation and illicit trafficking in small arms which have contributed so much to the state of insecurity in some parts of the continent;
- Address the root causes of the refugee's problem in the Continent;
- Monitor progress and regularly evaluate the implementation of the Algiers Decision declaring the year 2000, as the year of peace, security, and solidarity in Africa.

Stability

We agree to:

- Intensify efforts aimed at enhancing the process of democratization in Africa . In this regard, the strengthening of institutions that will sustain democracy on the continent including the holding of free and fair elections should be encouraged;
- Adopt and implement a set of guidelines for dealing with unconstitutional and undemocratic changes in Africa in line with the Decisions that we took during the 35th Ordinary Session of our Assembly held in Algiers in 1999;
- Encourage the participation and contribution of Civil Society in our States, to the efforts to bring about further democratization in our Continent;
- Recommit ourselves to the promotion of Good Governance, a culture of peace and accountability by leaders and officials, as a shared community value;
- Encourage civic education on good governance and the promotion of African values in African institutions and schools;
- Uphold and guarantee the rule of law, the protection and defense of the rights of citizenship as acquired at independence and as provided for in national constitutions;
- Vigorously combat racism, extreme nationalism, religious extremism, and xenophobic tendencies;
- Promote and encourage cohesion, national solidarity, and identity within African societies;
- Protect and promote respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, such as the freedom of expression and association, political and trade union pluralism, and other forms of participatory democracy;
- Ensure the equitable distribution of national income and wealth, as well as transparency in the exploitation of Africa 's resources. In this regard, the negative impact of external and internal interests in the exploitation of Africa's resources and corruption, which continue to fuel conflicts on the continent, should be addressed in a more cohesive and effective manner;
- Promote greater burden-sharing in addressing refugee problems in Africa and, especially, reduce its negative impact on the environment and the economies of asylum countries;
- Condemn genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Continent and undertake to cooperate with relevant institutions set up to prosecute the perpetrators. Similarly, we agree to take measures to prevent the occurrence of genocide on our Continent and encourage ratification of the

protocol on the establishment of African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the statute of the International Criminal Court.

Development

We agree to:

- Accelerate the implementation process of the Abuja Treaty establishing African Economic Treaty;
- Implement the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa;
- Implement the Sirte Summit Declaration on the establishment of the Africa- Union and other Decisions, including the establishment of a Pan-African Parliament;
- Promote financial cooperation and the integration of financial markets;
- Create stable and predictable economic environment will allow for linkages between different economic sectors and dynamic local entrepreneurship, while establishing and reinforcing linkages between the formal and informal sectors
- Design programmes for poverty eradication and the improvement of the Living standards of African peoples;
- Build and nurture African solidarity and unity of action, based on shared value common development interests and goals for the benefit of Africa and its peoples. Such solidarity should be manifested in situations where African countries and peoples are subjected to external pressures and sanctions;
- Encourage greater commitment to work ethics and address the problem of brain drain;
- Ensure private sector involvement in the development and expansion of our economies;
- Develop the human resources of our Continent;
- Implement economic reforms to enhance economic development;
- Ensure the enactment of appropriate national laws to extend equal opportunities with respect to health, education, employment, and other civic rights to all citizens, including women and the girl child;
- Mobilize financial resources; and pursue of the objective of the cancellation of Africa's debt;
- Develop the main sectors of the economy, such as Agriculture, energy, industry, trade, transport, and communication;
- Enhance the role of women in development;
- Promote sustainable environmental policies.

Co-operation

We agree to:

- Pursue with vigour, the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community;
- Implement the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa;
- Implement the Sirte Declaration of 9-9-99;
- Elaborate a strategy for the dissemination and popularization of the decisions of the OAU/AEC and the RECs;
- Improve co-ordination at the level of the OAU to ensure accelerated integration at the regional levels and improved coordination among the RECs, and between the OAU/AEC and the RECs;
- Implement the outcome of various studies undertaken on the establishment of self-financing mechanisms for the RECs;
- Improve the modalities for undertaking regular review and the implementation of co-operation agreements, within Africa and between Africa and its development partners;
- improve various trade related facilities, including transport, communication, immigration, and customs formalities;

- Promote joint ventures between Member States and Regional Co-operation programmes;
- Strengthen Regional Economic Communities;
- Promote South - South Co-operation and Co-operation between Africa and the Industrialized countries;
- Improve access to information and communication technologies.

Implementation Mechanism

We agree to:

In order to implement the CSSDCA within the framework of our Organization and ensure the sustainability of the process, we agree to:

- Establish a Standing Conference which should meet every two years, with the participation of Governments, NGOs, Parliamentarians, and other representatives of civil society;
 - Convene in-between Sessions of the Standing Conference every six months, Review Meetings of Plenipotentiaries Senior Officials of OAU Member States, to monitor the implementation of CSSDCA decisions and projects;
 - Incorporate CSSDCA principles and guidelines in national institutions that would have responsibility for helping in the monitoring of the implementation of CSSDCA decisions; and
 - Assist the OAU Secretariat on a regular basis in the work of the CSSDCA with Member States, designating, at their own expense, officials of their Foreign Ministries for that purpose.
-