

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SIRTE SUMMIT DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. On the Ratification of the Constitutive Act:

URGES all those Member States that have not yet ratified the Constitutive Act to do so expeditiously and before the inaugural session of the African Union;

3. On Consultations with Member States:

MANDATES the Secretary-General to work with Member States through the Permanent Representatives and experts, the results of whose work should be examined by a Representative Committee of Ministers to be established for this purpose before final submission to the Council and the Assembly;

4. On the Launching of the Organs of the African Union:

MANDATES the Secretary General to undertake the necessary consultations with Member States with a view to working out the modalities and guidelines for the launching of the Organs of the African Union, including the preparation of the Draft Rules of Procedure of these Organs and ensuring the effective exercising of their authority and discharging their responsibilities. In undertaking this task, priority should be given to the launching of the key Organs, namely: the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Commission and the Permanent Representatives Committee.

5. On the Commission:

MANDATES the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States to submit proposals regarding the structure, functions and powers of the Commission;

6. On Popularising the African Union:

The primary responsibility of popularizing the African Union belongs to each Member State, which should involve citizens at all levels. In this regard, it URGES all Member States to take the necessary steps so that all can be truly a Community of Peoples;

It further requests the OAU General Secretariat and the Regional Communities to undertake complementary actions to popularize the African Union.

7. On the Organs of the African Union and its Relationship with Other Bodies:

(a) The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC):

(i) STRESSES the importance of involving African non-governmental organizations, socio-economic organizations, professional associations and civil society organizations in general in Africa's integration process as well as in the formulation and implementation of programmes of the African Union;

(ii) REQUESTS the Secretary General in consultation with Member States, to submit to the 76th Ordinary Session of Council, a comprehensive report on ECOSOCC, with recommendations on:

1. its structure, functioning, areas of competence and relationships to other organs of the Union;
2. the procedure and criteria for selecting the members of ECOSOCC, including their terms of office;
3. the relationship between ECOSOCC and African regional non-governmental organizations and professional groups;

4. the Rules of Procedure of ECOSOCC and the preparation of its work programme.

(b) The Economic and Social Commission:

DECIDES that in view of the establishment of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as of the Specialised Technical Committees that report to the Executive Council of the African Union, the ECOSOC provided for in the Abuja Treaty will cease to exist at the end of the transition period.

8. On the Incorporation of other Organs:

(a) The Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as an Organ of the African Union:

- a. CONSIDERS that the objectives and principles stipulated in the Cairo Declaration establishing, within the OAU, a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution constitute an integral part of the declared objectives and principles of the African Union;
- b. DECIDES to incorporate the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as one of the Organs of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- c. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to undertake a review of the structures, procedures and working methods of the Central Organ, including the possibility of changing its name.

(b) The Regional Economic Communities (RECs):

- (i) RECALLS the Protocol on Relations between the African Economic Community and Regional Economic Communities;

- (ii) REAFFIRMS the status of the Regional Economic Communities as building blocs of the African Union and the need for their close involvement in the formulation and implementation of all programmes of the Union;
 - (iii) REQUESTS the Secretary General to undertake necessary consultations with all the RECs in order to examine the implications of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on:
 - 1. the existing institutional, operational and programmatic relationship between OAU and RECs;
 - 2. the current and future programmes of the RECs in relation to the objectives of the African Union;
 - 3. the Protocol between the AEC and RECs, with a view to its amendment or to preparing a new protocol to govern the relationship between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities.
 - (iv) CALLS UPON the policy organs of the RECs to initiate a reflection on the relationship between the African Union and the respective RECs, including the adoption of appropriate decisions on the most effective modalities for actualizing this relationship.
- (c) OAU Specialized Agencies:
- (i) MANDATES the Secretary General to undertake a review of the existing OAU Specialized Agencies so as to determine their continued relevance and make concrete proposals on their possible incorporation as Specialized Agencies of the African Union;
 - (ii) REQUESTS the Secretary General to convene as soon as possible, a meeting with all the relevant Specialized Agencies, so as to define all aspects of their relationship with the African Union with emphasis on the modalities for their

full involvement in the programmes of the African Union and all the functional, institutional and programmatic dimensions of the relationship.

9. The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs):

- (i) TAKES NOTE of the existence of ministerial conferences and commissions and of the role of Africa's partner institutions in these organs, and STRESSES the need for ensuring that they operate within the framework of the African Union as its integral part;
- (ii) REQUESTS the Secretary General to prepare and submit to Council a comprehensive report on:
 - 1. all aspects of the functioning of the STCs, including their terms of reference and modalities for programme formulation and implementation;
 - 2. the relationships between the STCs and similar organs of the Regional Economic Communities, African governmental and non-governmental organisations and international institutions;
 - 3. streamlining of the activities and functional and programmatic relationship between the STCs and the existing ministerial sectoral conferences and commissions.

10. On the Signing and Ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament:

APPEALS to all Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament as expeditiously as possible so as to ensure the speedy establishment of the Pan-African Parliament as one of the organs of the African Union.

11. On Reorienting the Programmes and Budgetary Resources of the OAU and Management of the Transitional Period:

- (i) AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to re-visit and re-orient the programmes of the General Secretariat to enable it to undertake the additional responsibilities and corresponding additional programmes arising from the implementation of the Constitutive Act and the operationalisation of the African Union during the transitional period.
- (ii) AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to:
 - 1. review the current Programme Budget (2001/2002 Financial year) and to re-allocate the budgetary appropriations contained therein in order to implement activities related to the transition from the OAU to the African Union in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Financial and Budgetary Matters, including the activities relating to the popularization of the African Union;
 - 2. explore the possibility of mobilizing extra budgetary contributions from Member States, OAU Partners and others;
 - 3. undertake studies, with the assistance of experts, to identify alternative modalities of funding the activities and programmes of the African Union, bearing in mind that the Union cannot operate on the basis of assessed contributions from Member States only, and to make appropriate recommendations thereon.

12. On the Devolution of OAU Assets and Liabilities:

AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to:

- (ii) undertake the necessary measures for the devolution of assets and liabilities of the OAU to the African Union in accordance with Article 33 (1) of the Constitutive Act;

- (iii) review and, where appropriate, seek the amendment of OAU agreements with other parties, including the Headquarters and Host Agreements.

13. On Preparation of the Paraphernalia or Symbols of the African Union:

AUTHORIZES the General Secretariat to continue to use the OAU Logo, Flag and Anthem until the General Secretariat or the Commission initiates and finalizes the process of their review for gradual adaptation or replacement through competitions and REQUESTS the Secretary-General to include this task/activity in the work programme of the OAU during the transitional period and to prepare and submit a progress report for consideration by the inaugural session of the Assembly of the Union.

14. On the Commemoration of Africa Day and Union Day:

- (i) REAFFIRMS its earlier decision to the effect that 25 May should be commemorated as Africa Day and URGES all the Member States to observe it as an official holiday;
- (ii) DECIDES that 2 March should be commemorated as Union Day and URGES all Members to observe it appropriately.

15. On the Duration of the Transitional Period:

DECIDES that, in view of the magnitude of the tasks to be performed and bearing in mind the need for consultations with Member States, the transitional period shall be for a period of one year following the adoption of this decision.