

III. RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE THIRTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

S-13/2. United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 and the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa annexed thereto, as well as its resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985, in which it decided to convene a special session to focus, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries,

Welcoming the efforts of African countries towards their economic recovery and development, as evidenced in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990¹ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985, in which the Governments of Africa reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries, identified areas for priority action, and undertook to mobilize and utilize domestic resources for the achievement of these priorities,

Convinced of the need for concerted action by the international community in support of the efforts of African Governments to achieve economic recovery and development,

Emphasizing that the African development crisis is one that concerns the international community as a whole and that greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent is an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of all people,

Noting with appreciation the strong expression of support and commitment made by the international community during the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 set forth in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify economic and technical co-operation with African countries during and beyond the period of the Programme of Action;

3. *Urges* all Governments to take effective action for the rapid and full implementation of the Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to participate fully in and support the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in view of their significant

contribution to economic and social development in Africa, to support and contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Decides* to conduct a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action at its forty-third session, in accordance with paragraph 24 (a) of the Programme of Action;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the process of implementation of the Programme of Action and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions, as outlined in paragraph 24 (c) of the Programme of Action.

*8th plenary meeting
1 June 1986*

ANNEX

United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

I

ANALYSIS OF AFRICA'S CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. Africa's economic and social crisis has been a cause of grave concern to Africa and the international community alike. The crisis has not only jeopardized the development process of the African economies, but has also threatened the very survival of millions of Africans. The persistent economic crisis in Africa, exacerbated by drought and desertification, and the more recent tragic famine and hunger have strengthened the resolve of the African countries, individually and collectively, to take immediate and concerted actions to achieve sustained economic and social development of their countries in the medium-term and long-term.

2. The international community fully recognizes the pervasive and structural economic problems of the African continent. Some of these lie in the colonial past; some of these flow from the post-independence era; others are a combination of economic, political and endemic factors. The vulnerability and the fragile nature of the African socio-economic structures have now become fully apparent as a consequence of the dramatic effects of drought. The African Governments have initiated actions aiming at long-term structural transformation of their economies which is vital for breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and underdevelopment and for paving the way for self-reliant economic development. Notwithstanding past efforts, it is imperative that the international community intensify its co-operation and substantially increase its support for the African efforts.

3. The persistent economic crisis in Africa has been aggravated by a combination of exogenous and endogenous factors. The endogenous aggravating factors include deficiencies in institutional and physical infrastructures, economic strategies and policies that have fallen short, in some cases, of achieving their objectives, disparities in urban and rural development and income distribution, insufficient managerial/administrative capacities, inadequate human resource development, and lack of financial resources, the demographic factors and political instability manifested, *inter alia*, in a large and growing population of refugees. In addition to these factors, many African countries have to contend with severely adverse consequences of the policy of economic destabilization perpetrated by the racist minority régime in South Africa and by its illegal occupation of Namibia. The serious aggravating exogenous factors include

¹ A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl I (XXI), annex.

the recent international economic recession, the decline in commodity prices, adverse terms of trade, the decline in financial flows, increased protectionism and high interest rates. The heavy burden of debt and debt-servicing obligations also constrains Africa's prospects for economic growth.

4. Urgent, far-reaching and imaginative economic policies are required to avert further deterioration in the economic conditions in Africa and to launch the continent on the path of dynamic self-reliant and self-sustained economic development in a favourable external environment. One immediate task of such efforts should be to increase substantially productivity in all sectors, particularly in the central sectors of food and agriculture. Achieving such a task would be extremely difficult without the amelioration of the external and internal factors that have aggravated the structural crisis and without simultaneously enhanced supportive measures by the international community.

5. Africa has taken the main responsibility for its own development. It has organized itself to undertake the necessary measures to overcome the current economic crisis on the basis of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990,⁴ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985. The Programme aims at identifying areas for priority action for the rehabilitation and recovery of the African economies and mobilizing and fully utilizing domestic resources for the achievement of those priorities. However, given the dimensions of internal and external problems now facing the continent, it is obvious that in order to accomplish this complex task Africa must receive the full support of the international community.

6. The African development crisis is not an exclusive African problem but one that concerns mankind as a whole. Interdependence is today a living reality. A stagnant or perpetually economically backward Africa is not in the interest of the world community. Without durable and sustained economic development in the world's poor regions, of which Africa is a notable example, there is a real danger to international peace and security and an impediment to world economic growth and development. The international community recognizes the importance of genuine peace and security, as well as the strengthening of international co-operation, to African economic development.

7. It is consequently essential urgently to develop and implement an international strategy to complement the exceptional efforts that the African countries have themselves initiated to put their economies on course. In developing such a strategy, it is necessary to take full cognizance of the special problems and needs not only those common to Africa as a whole, but also those of subregions and individual African countries in order to ensure balanced and equitable development. The international community must respond positively to the African call for a new era of co-operation based on a spirit of genuine and equal partnership, which is an essential element for harmonious and mutually beneficial economic co-operation in an interdependent world. Africa is convinced that, given the necessary support from the international community, it will be capable, in the not too distant future, of establishing national, subregional and regional structures which would ensure self-reliant sustainable economic development.

II

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990

8. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, based on mutual commitment and co-operation, consists of two central elements:

(a) The determination and commitment of the African countries to launch both national and regional programmes of economic development as reflected in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 1985;

(b) The response of the international community and its commitment to support and complement the African development efforts.

A. AFRICA'S PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY 1986-1990

9. The African countries have fully committed themselves to the implementation of a sharply focused, practical and operational set of activities, priorities and policies, as elaborated in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. The successful implementation of the Priority Programme will lay the foundation for durable structural changes, improve levels of productivity and ensure the rapid recovery of the African economies while at the same time enhancing long-term development prospects.

10. The implementation of the Priority Programme should contribute to the realization of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,⁴ the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/66 B of 5 December 1980, the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977, and the Harare Declaration on the food crisis in Africa, adopted on 25 July 1984 by the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

11. The Priority Programme stipulates the following priorities at the national, subregional and regional levels:

I. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

(a) *Agricultural development*

The Priority Programme lays considerable emphasis on the food and agricultural sector. The Priority Programme seeks to revitalize the more dynamic and internally generated forces for growth and development. Primary focus will be on women farmers who contribute significantly to agricultural production.

(i) *Immediate measures to combat food emergencies*

The immediate objective will be to cope with future emergencies and catastrophes through the following measures:

- To create and sustain national emergency preparedness;
- To institute effective early-warning systems;
- To establish flexible and efficient regional networks of crop protection agencies;
- To establish national food security arrangements.

(ii) *Medium-term measures*

The main objective will be to give a new impetus to agricultural development in order to achieve increasing levels of productivity and production through:

- Raising substantially the level of investment in agriculture;
- Increased food production;
- Restoring, protecting and developing arable land and rendering it more productive;
- Establishment of remunerative produce pricing policies, establishment and strengthening of incentive schemes, eliminating pricing policies that have tended to discourage production and providing effective agriculture credit programmes;
- Development of livestock and livestock products through the utilization of agricultural by-products, improved management, and attention to animal diseases;
- Development of mechanization and the use of modern farm and processing machinery; increased use of fertilizers, improved seeds and pesticides;
- Improving and expanding the storage capacity, distribution and the marketing system;
- Development of agricultural research and extension through the creation of a network of agronomical research stations and extension for the design and diffusion of appropriate agricultural technologies;
- Placing at the disposal of small farmers necessary inputs for increased yields; better utilization and improvement in management of water resources and the establishment of low-cost irrigation schemes;
- Establishment of reforestation, drought and desertification control programmes, including firewood schemes; and improvement of agricultural implement maintenance capacity;
- Establishment of assistance programmes for small farmers, especially women food producers and rural youth;
- Improvement of the distribution of agricultural products.

The above measures should be applied in a suitable combination to achieve the expected results, taking into account the particular situation in each country. Other subregional and regional measures are also envisaged in the Priority Programme to complement national measures.

The total investment required for the implementation of this programme is estimated at \$US 57.4 billion which is 44.8 per cent of the total cost of implementing the Priority Programme.

⁴ A/S-11/14, annex I

(b) *Other sectors in support of agriculture*

The success of Africa's effort in achieving the stated objectives for the development and growth of the agricultural sector will depend on the parallel development of the following agriculture support sectors:

(i) *Rehabilitation and development of agro-related industries*

Given the high dependency of Africa on imports of almost all industrial goods in general and agriculture related goods in particular and the urgent need to increase Africa's capacity to increase food production, the following specific measures are to be taken, among others:

- Development of industries for production of agricultural tools and equipment, small-scale irrigation equipment and agricultural inputs;
- Processing of raw materials and intermediate inputs;
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of existing plants;
- Development of capacity for utilization of renewable sources of energy, especially bio-mass and solar energy;
- Establishment of engineering capacity for the production of spare parts and components;
- Provision of training in the above areas and the development of local capacity for project design and preparation.

(ii) *Development of transport and communications*

In this field the objectives are to improve access to production areas, facilitate the development of intra-African trade in agriculture, industrial raw materials and other goods and services in a complementary manner.

Action in this area will consist of:

- Maintenance and development of feeder, access and service roads, small bridges and desert roads;
- Identification of obstacles and rehabilitation and maintenance of existing modes of transport and communication;
- Utilization of labour-intensive techniques in the construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure;
- Production of spare parts for the overhaul repair and maintenance of public vehicles, machinery and equipment;
- Participation in the development of multinational and intermodal transport networks.

Africa, in co-operation with the international community, will intensify its efforts in financing and implementing the Transport and Communication Decade in Africa.

(iii) *Trade and finance*

In the field of trade the objective is to improve the distribution channels for domestic trade, by improving market arrangements and reversing the present consumption pattern in favour of domestically produced goods through:

- Adoption of price incentives for agricultural products;
- Improvement of internal distribution channels;
- Identification and elimination of obstacles hindering trade expansion.

In the field of financial co-operation the following measures are envisaged:

- Increased utilization of existing clearing arrangements;
- Adoption of co-ordinated measures to establish financial markets at the national, subregional and regional levels;
- Intensification of efforts for the establishment of an African Monetary Fund.

The total cost for the implementation of the measures envisaged under the other sectors in support of agriculture is estimated at \$60.1 billion.

(c) *Drought and desertification*

Although drought and desertification require a long-term approach, there is need for immediate action by the African countries at national, subregional and regional levels to implement a comprehensive programme for drought and desertification and to stem and control the effects of drought and desertification on both the ecological environment and the development process. African Governments are, therefore, committed to undertaking as soon as possible the following measures:

- Massive afforestation and reforestation;
- Better management of water resources, including river basins and irrigation;
- Protection of common eco-systems;
- Development of alternative sources of energy to replace wood fuel:

- Stabilization of sand dunes;
- Measures to stop soil erosion;
- Measures against salination;
- Improvement of drainage in irrigated areas;
- Integrating measures for the protection of the environment in national development programmes and according them high priority;
- Full implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification⁵ approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977.

The total cost of measures envisaged for the implementation of the programme to combat drought and desertification is estimated at \$3.41 billion.

(d) *Human resources development, planning and utilization*

African Governments fully recognize that central to the successful implementation of the proposed actions is the efficient development, planning and utilization of human resources and the full and effective participation of the people in the development process. In this regard, African Governments are adopting the following comprehensive policies for human resource planning, development and utilization with a view to integrating them in their overall national development policies and plans:

- Radically changing the educational systems at all levels to ensure that the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are relevant to Africa's developmental needs are generated;
- Intensifying efforts to promote mass literacy and adult learning programmes;
- Efficiently utilizing manpower resources, including measures to reverse the brain drain and ensure the guarantee of human rights;
- Reducing the present high level of dependence of most African countries on foreign experts to reduce foreign exchange leakage;
- Ensuring good working conditions;
- Encouraging the role and participation of women and youth, particularly those living in the rural areas, in the development process.

The total cost of measures envisaged in the human resources development sector is estimated at \$7 billion.

(e) *Policy reforms*

In order to achieve the objectives of the Priority Programme, African Governments are undertaking a number of major policy measures while focusing attention on the need for policy reorientation. African countries are determined to undertake, individually and collectively, all measures and policy reforms that are necessary for the recovery of their economies and the revitalization of genuine development, particularly in the following areas at the national level:

(i) *Improving management of the economy*

African Governments recognize that genuine efforts must be made to improve the management of the African economies and to rationalize public investment policies, particularly since the public sector will have to continue to play an important role in the development of the region. Such efforts would require, *inter alia*, improvement of public management systems, institutions and practices; improvement of the performance of public enterprises; reforming the public services to make them more development-oriented services; greater mobilization of domestic savings; improvement of financial management, including debt and development aid, fiscal administration and control of public expenditure with a view to promoting the efficient use of resources and cutting wastage and resource misallocation; reduction of foreign exchange leakages. The positive role of the private sector is also to be encouraged through well-defined and consistent policies.

(ii) *Other policy measures*

In accordance with their respective policies and priorities, African Governments have demonstrated their determination to tackle their social and economic problems through, among others, appropriate adjustment measures that have been undertaken when needed. These measures have involved, *inter alia*, exchange rate adjustments, debt-relief arrangements, wage and salary reduction and public employment freeze. Though the tasks involved have often been difficult and painful, African countries have

⁵ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

recognized the need to bear the burden and have made the necessary sacrifices to the extent possible. In the coming years short-term adjustment measures should give way to the medium-term and long-term structural transformation. Restructuring measures will be continued with prudence through appropriate monetary and fiscal reforms.

(iii) Population policy

Special importance will need to be accorded by each African country to a population policy that, on the basis of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-Reliant Development,⁶ adopted by the Second African Population Conference held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 9 to 13 January 1984, will, *inter alia*, address issues of high fertility and mortality, rapid urbanization, rural-urban and rural-rural migration, the problems of children and youth and the protection of the environment in a manner that would ensure compatibility between demographic trends, appropriate land utilization and settlement patterns and the desired pace of economic growth and development. African countries should also push for the attainment, within the shortest possible time, of an agro-food production growth rate at least equal to the population growth rate.

(iv) Participation of the people in development

Special attention will be accorded to the role played by human resources. Policies will need to be pursued to ensure the effective development and utilization of human resources in all fields and sectors through:

- Ensuring the effective participation of the people in all dimensions of development;
- Developing indigenous entrepreneurial capabilities, both private and public;
- Establishing sound bases for political, economic and social justice.

In the food and agricultural sector, the focus of attention must be the peasant farmer with special reference to female farmers who dominate food production in most countries.

(v) Women and development

The role of women in development must be taken seriously into account in development planning and in the disbursement of resources, both as contributors to and beneficiaries of development efforts as recommended by the Arusha Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of African Women Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women,⁷ adopted by the regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 8 to 12 October 1984.

In view of the importance accorded to food self-sufficiency and the acknowledged role of women in food production in the continent, the pivotal role of women in this sector must be recognized and encouraged.

2. SUBREGIONAL CONCERNS

In order to deal with the divergence and differentiations among African subregions and countries the following actions are necessary, bearing in mind the unique problems which the groups of countries concerned face in their efforts to accelerate their economic growth rates:

(a) The areas most seriously affected by drought and desertification have diminishing opportunities of raising domestic resources for implementation of the Priority Programme. They also face problems in instituting recovery programmes because of the limited economic options available in the wake of severe climatic conditions. In fact, for some of these countries, especially those in the Sahel and the members of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, the road to self-sufficiency in food production is paved with particular difficulties especially as they are not in a position to mobilize from domestic resources more than 4.21 per cent of their requirements, depending on external sources for the balance. Therefore, in order to tackle the environmental, development and human problems, in these countries, programmes for afforestation and reforestation, as well as for the development and utilization of water resources will have to be put in place while special investments should be made to develop alternative sources of energy to wood fuel and charcoal in order to protect the ecology. This should include research and development of small gas, coal or oil stoves suitable for rural

communities. In addition, drought resistant crop varieties will have to be developed.

(b) With regard to the African island nations, these countries are virtually isolated from the mainland both in terms of transport and communications as well as trade and other factors, unlike their counterparts in the Caribbean which have access to the strong economies of North America. A special programme will need to be devised for these countries to develop trade and transport linkages with the African mainland as well as with the rest of the world. Additional resources are needed for programmes aimed at protecting them against the devastating effects of cyclones, typhoons and floods.

(c) Many countries in Africa are faced, *inter alia*, with the serious problems of being land-locked or semi-land-locked, and among the least developed countries; furthermore, countries in southern Africa are subjected to externally-engineered destabilization. These countries require special assistance in tropical and sub-tropical agriculture research. Hitherto, limited locally based agricultural research has been conducted in crop diversification, high-yield seeds and the control of pests. These countries also urgently need intensive research in methods to combat widespread animal and livestock diseases such as rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease as well as to control the tsetse fly. At the same time, the problems of storage, transport and transit, equally acute, also require large investments.

(d) Some of the countries of the North African subregion face substantial balance-of-payments deficits demonstrated by increasing debt-service burden. Agricultural development in some countries of the subregion has been slowing down owing to drought, water shortage, mounting desertification and soil erosion. The widening food gap in the subregion is among the highest gaps in Africa.

(f) Refugees and displaced persons

- (i) The plight of 5 million refugees and returnees together with the adverse effects which the refugee burden continues to have on the frail economies of host countries are matters of high priority for many African States.
- (ii) The Second International Conference of Assistance to Refugees in Africa, in its Declaration and Programme of Action,⁸ has confirmed the spirit of burden-sharing on a strategy for solving the problems of refugees in Africa, that the refugee problem in Africa is a matter of global responsibility, and that refugee aid and development aid must be regarded as complementary for any realistic solution to Africa's refugee problem. On their part, African Governments have clearly reaffirmed their commitment to do everything within their power to promote lasting solutions to the problem. The international community, for its part, has undertaken to join hands with African countries in the support of such lasting solutions and in meeting and promoting technical and capital assistance designed to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of the affected countries.
- (iii) Concrete measures should be undertaken at national, regional and international levels with a view to preventing a new massive population exodus. In this connection, there is a need to accelerate implementation of the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa.

3. AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

(a) Strengthening the institutional framework

Proper social and economic management will only materialize if African countries urgently strengthen their social and economic institutions at all levels. To this end, African national and multinational institutions will be made more responsive to the challenges of development through the improvement of their management systems, rationalization of their activities and elimination of duplication of efforts.

(b) Consolidating African co-operation

Existing subregional organizations should be strengthened with a view to consolidating African co-operation in accordance with the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action. Likewise, the establishment, whenever deemed necessary, of subregional organizations based on economic criteria, including natural resource criteria, should be encouraged with a view to attaining the above objectives.

⁶ See E/ECA/CM.10/14, annex II.

⁷ See A/CONF.116/9 and Corr.1, sect. IV.

⁸ See A/39/402, annex.

4. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR AFRICA'S PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY 1986-1990

12. The full implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 would require \$US 128.1 billion during the period. In spite of severe constraints, the African countries commit themselves to provide \$82.5 billion or 64.4 per cent of the total cost of financing the Priority Programme through the mobilization of domestic resources. There is a difference of approximately \$46 billion between the total financial requirements for the implementation of the Priority Programme and the resources to be made available through domestic efforts. Accordingly, effective implementation of the Priority Programme will require \$9 billion annually, on the average, through external resources.

* * *

Commitment to a common point of reference

13. Africa is committed to providing the necessary framework to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development and growth. The international community is committed to assist Africa in achieving this objective. Such a framework of understanding will include, *inter alia*:

(a) Necessary economic reform and structural adjustment as mentioned in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 as a basis for broad-based, sustained economic development.

(b) Priority attention and increased resources commitment to the rehabilitation and development of agriculture based on durable structural changes as indicated in the Priority Programme;

(c) Appropriate policies that promote development of sectors supportive of agriculture and rural development, namely, agro-related industry as well as essential consumption products, trade, transportation, health, education, environment and other social and commercial services;

(d) Fundamental measures to address the problems of drought and desertification as an integral part of agriculture and rural development, with the active involvement of village and community groups, wherever applicable;

(e) Efficient development and utilization of human resources with particular reference to the full and equal participation of women in order to maximize the benefit for and the contribution to national development;

(f) Undertaking reforms in such a manner as to encourage the broadest possible participation in development and the productive use of scarce resources.

* * *

B. RESPONSE AND COMMITMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

14. The international community has noted with admiration, the comprehensive and dynamic resolve of the African countries that are embarking upon an unparalleled action to break away from the clutches of underdevelopment and poverty as is reflected in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. It notes with particular appreciation that in the face of enormous difficulties the African countries, reaffirming their primary responsibility for the development of their continent, are fully mobilizing their domestic resources in order to implement successfully all measures and policy reforms required for the continent's economic rehabilitation, recovery and long-term development.

15. The international community is aware that the process of development being initiated by the African countries, as reflected in the Priority Programme, has to be supplemented by complementary actions of the international community through intensified co-operation and substantially increased support. In this context, it is also realized that lasting solutions to the serious exogenous constraints, over which Africa has no control, will have to be found since their persistence will impede the efforts of the African countries.

16. The African countries estimate that the full implementation of the Priority Programme would require total financial resources of \$128.1 billion, of which the African countries intend to provide \$82.5 billion through the mobilization of domestic resources, leaving the approximately \$46 billion remaining to be met through external resources. The international community recognizes that the African countries need additional external resources. In this context, it commits itself to making every effort to provide sufficient resources to support and supplement the African development effort; it also appreciates that the realization of Africa's development efforts would be greatly facilitated if the flows of external resources were predictable and assured.

17. The international community recognizes the magnitude of Africa's debt and the severe and restrictive burden which this has placed on many African countries. It realizes that measures have to be taken to alleviate this burden and to enable those countries to concentrate on the full implementation of priorities. In addressing problems arising from such debt, existing mechanisms should respond flexibly and be improved as appropriate.

(a) Improving the quality and modality of external assistance and co-operation

While it is recognized that each bilateral or multilateral donor as well as recipient has its own rules and procedures, there are some general areas in which changes can be usefully made. For an effective support of Africa's efforts, it is realized that the quality and modality of external assistance and co-operation need to be improved along the following lines:

- (i) Greater emphasis on programme support in the priority areas of the recipient African countries, with a view to giving an indication of medium-term support;
- (ii) Evolution of procurement policies and administrative procedures which would improve delivery of production inputs;
- (iii) Speedier disbursement of funds;
- (iv) Increase the concessionality, particularly the grant element of development assistance to African countries, with the purpose of improving the quality of aid to those countries;
- (v) In planning and implementing programmes of assistance, special consideration shall be given to the indigenous competence, expertise, experience, local conditions, particularly local techniques and equipment as well as to the training of qualified national personnel;
- (vi) Develop more effective and efficient co-ordination methods in order to ensure a greater impact of aid policies;
- (vii) Improve the effectiveness of technical assistance and make it more responsive to the needs and priorities of the African countries;
- (viii) Donor countries and agencies should consider, as appropriate, measures to assist African countries in meeting recurrent and local costs of programmes and projects;
- (ix) Donor countries, international institutions and recipients should take into account the recurrent and local costs of new programmes and projects to ensure their viability.

(b) Improvement in the external environment

Many of the issues concerning the external factors that aggravate the African situation need to be addressed and examined in the competent forums. In the present context, there is a need for the international community:

- (i) To evolve and implement policies conducive to sustained, equitable and non-inflationary growth, including the expansion of trade through, *inter alia*, the elimination of protectionism, particularly non-tariff barriers, in accordance with existing commitments, the adoption of measures which encourage African exports and diversification programmes, and improved market access, especially for tropical products, within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;
- (ii) To deal urgently with commodity issues, taking into account the special interests of the African countries, in the framework of an overall approach, embracing commodity agreements/arrangements and adequate compensatory financing, and also to increase the capacity of African countries to process, market, distribute and transport their exports; and in this context to stress the importance of sufficient ratifications of the *Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities*,⁹ for it quickly to become operational.

(c) Supporting Africa's policy reform

There is need for extensive international support for the priorities and policies that Africa has identified as necessary and on which many African countries have already embarked. African countries need assistance to enable them to achieve a speedier recovery and long-term development. In this regard, the international community, particularly the donor countries, keeping in mind the interests of all developing countries, agree on the importance of increasing official development assistance to Africa, its improved quality and effectiveness. They also agree to

⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.II.D.8 and corrigendum

- (i) Placing greater emphasis on non-project aid, including balance-of-payments support, to African countries during the period 1986-1990;
- (ii) Evolving aid policies based on technical considerations and specific aid requirements of recipient countries;
- (iii) Enabling multilateral development institutions to increase their concessional assistance to African countries;
- (iv) In the case of countries concerned, work towards the rapid implementation of the International Monetary Fund Structural Adjustment Facility which provides longer term concessional resources in support of adjustment efforts, including overall development objectives at the national level;
- (v) Urge the speedy eighth replenishment of the International Development Association and the fifth African Development Fund at levels which should take into account the need to support fully African recovery and development;
- (vi) Strive to ensure that no individual bilateral donor, during the period 1986-1990, becomes a net recipient of official capital flows from African countries that undertake adjustment programmes;
- (vii) Increase support, whenever possible, to the International Fund for Agricultural Development Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification;
- (viii) Give special attention to financial and technical assistance requirements of countries affected by drought and desertification and in this context utilize the existing subregional organizations such as the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference;
- (ix) Special efforts need also be made to increase resource flows to the least developed countries with a view to enabling them to achieve the objectives of their country programmes within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries¹⁰ and also to allow the African countries to solve the critical problems arising from negative or insufficient flows of resources;
- (x) Firmly invite those countries that have not done so to give priority consideration to the implementation of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978¹¹ and note with satisfaction that a number of donor countries have responded favourably to that resolution.

(d) *Economic recovery and debt constraints*

The international community recognizes that the continued improvement of the external environment and a strong economic adjustment effort may not be sufficient to allow many African States to service their debt while establishing the basis for sustainable economic growth. In these cases, the international community is determined to assist African countries in their efforts to deal with their financial constraints.

South-South co-operation

18. The international community reaffirms its belief in the strategy for collective self-reliance among developing countries and reiterates its conviction that economic and technical co-operation among these countries should constitute a key element in the economic recovery of Africa and be of mutual benefit to developing countries, with due regard to the Caracas Programme of Action on economic co-operation among developing countries¹² and to the Plan of Action to meet the critical economic situation in Africa, adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.¹³

19. In this connection, there is an urgent need for African countries, together with other developing countries, to strengthen more vigorously than ever before South-South co-operation and make greater efforts,

through action-oriented measures, particularly in the priority areas of food and agricultural production. Technical co-operation at the bilateral, subregional and interregional levels in the following specific areas could contribute towards helping Africa tackle its food production, storage and marketing problems:

- (a) Water management and small-scale irrigation technology;
 - (b) Dry-land farming;
 - (c) Training in agricultural support services, including extension services for animal husbandry;
 - (d) Institution building, development and management in the area of farm co-operatives;
 - (e) Small-scale rural industrial development;
 - (f) Rural energy production, including the development of new and renewable sources of energy;
 - (g) Agricultural research;
 - (h) Exchange of seed germplasm and assistance in seed production technology and in the production of fertilizers, pesticides and farm equipment;
 - (i) Development of poultry, fisheries and other non-farm produce;
 - (j) Exchange of information and experience on appropriate agricultural policies and strategies.
20. In addition to the above, South-South co-operation should focus on other development priorities, with particular reference to the following areas mentioned in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990:
- (a) Exchange of information, technology and techniques for combating drought and desertification and protecting the environment;
 - (b) Exchange of information on and co-operation in the production of equipment and other inputs for agriculture, industry and transport and communication;
 - (c) Co-operation in the development of human resources;
 - (d) Joint participation in the implementation of self-sustaining, self-generating and self-financing development projects;
 - (e) Trade expansion.

III

FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION MACHINERY

21. The effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 will require a continuous process of follow-up, evaluation and co-ordination at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. Such a process, based on joint efforts and co-operation, would enable the follow-up, evaluation and co-ordination of the actions of both the national Governments and the international donor community. The general principles underlying the establishment of any follow-up and evaluation mechanism are:

- (a) The sovereign right of each Government to formulate and implement its own programmes and development plans, and to determine appropriate follow-up mechanisms best suited to implementing the Programme of Action.
- (b) The need for such mechanisms to be simple, operational and not involving substantial additional expenditure;
- (c) The need for emphasis, as far as possible, on the utilization of existing mechanisms;
- (d) The need for donor countries and international organizations to enhance co-ordination of their activities and assistance with the recipient countries.

NATIONAL LEVEL

22. Governments would, as appropriate, establish follow-up mechanisms, involving joint action with their development partners, within the framework of existing aid co-ordination machinery, such as round tables and consultative group meetings, as well as within the framework of intergovernmental agreements for economic co-operation. The terms of reference and other details pertaining to such mechanisms, which could take the form of Joint Committees or joint bilateral commissions, would be to be agreed upon among the parties concerned, keeping in mind the following elements:

¹⁰ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.1.8), part one, sect. A.

¹¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/33/15), vol. I, part two, annex I.

¹² See A/36/333 and Corr.1, annex.

¹³ See A/40/854 and Corr.1, annex II, sect. XXIII.B.

- (i) Comprehensive and simultaneous consideration of all issues, pertaining to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;
- (ii) Review and evaluation of the process of implementation of the jointly agreed upon commitments, on the part of both national Governments and their development partners in the context of the Programme of Action;
- (iii) Implementation of the Programme of Action in the context of the long-term development needs and policies of African countries.

REGIONAL LEVEL

23. For a cohesive and balanced implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, systematic follow-up action is necessary at the subregional and regional levels. This process, which could be facilitated by the existing mechanisms at the regional level, would assist the African Governments in evaluating and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the

Programme of Action, at the subregional and continental levels, and in taking appropriate action.

GLOBAL LEVEL

24. At the global level, the following actions are envisaged:

(a) A review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 by the General Assembly at its forty-third session in 1988. For that purpose, the General Assembly, at its forty-second session in 1987, shall consider and establish such preparatory mechanisms as may be necessary;

(b) The Secretary-General shall co-ordinate the assistance and support of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system for the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

(c) The Secretary-General shall monitor the process of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions.