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**REPORT
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE
FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 1 (A/S-13/4)



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New York, 1986

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[19 June 1986]

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985, decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly at the ministerial level to consider in depth the critical economic situation in Africa, to be held in New York from 27 to 31 May 1986. The Assembly also decided that the special session should focus, in a comprehensive manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries, with a view to promoting and adopting action-oriented and concerted measures.

2. Furthermore, the General Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee of the Whole that would undertake the necessary preparations for the special session and requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee.

3. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the Preparatory Committee and to the General Assembly at its special session reports containing action-oriented proposals to deal with the critical economic situation in Africa, particularly the major developmental areas identified in the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa annexed to Assembly resolution 39/29, taking fully into account the priorities set 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 (see A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXI)).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

4. The Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa met at United Nations Headquarters on 23 and 24 January, 20, 24 and 25 February, 3, 4 and 23 April and 12, 13, 16 and 23 May 1986. The Preparatory Committee held 14 meetings (1st to 14th). A number of informal meetings were also held.

5. The Secretary-General opened the session.

B. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following Member States attended the Preparatory Committee:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

7. The following observer States were represented:

Holy See, Switzerland.

8. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), World Food Council, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations University (UNU), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

9. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

10. The following specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank (ADB), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Economic Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), Organization of African Unity, and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA).

12. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Contact Group (of African and other non-governmental organizations involved in preparations for the special session), the Association of African Women for Research and Development, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies/Euro Action Accord, and the International Coalition for Development Action.

C. Election of officers

13. At its 1st and resumed 1st meeting, on 23 and 24 January, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Edgard PISANI (France)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Qazi Shaukat FAREED (Pakistan)

Mr. Bronislav KULAWIEC (Czechoslovakia)

Mr. Oscar ORAMAS-OLIVA (Cuba)

Rapporteur: Mr. Pastor NGAIZA (United Republic of Tanzania)

D. Adoption of the agenda

14. At its 1st meeting, on 23 January, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following agenda for the session, as contained in document A/AC.229/1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.

E. Documentation

15. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.229/1);

(b) Letter dated 18 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting an official document of the Organization of African Unity entitled "Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's economic and social crisis" (A/AC.229/2*);

(c) Letter dated 9 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a monograph submitted by the Government of Morocco to the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa (A/AC.229/3).

16. In addition, a number of informal papers were also before the Committee, including:

(a) Draft basic final document, submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, entitled "United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery 1986-1990" (for text, see annex V);

(b) Contribution by the Chairman (Conference Room Paper No. 1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the critical economic situation in Africa (Working Document), subsequently issued as document A/S-13/2;

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system with regard to the critical economic situation in Africa (Working Document 2), subsequently issued as document A/S-13/3;

(e) Note by the Secretariat on documentation submitted to the General Assembly by the Trade and Development Board following its consideration at the first part of its thirty-second session of matters related to the critical economic situation in Africa (A/AC.229/INF.2).

F. Adoption of the report

17. At its 14th meeting, on 23 May, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report (A/AC.229/L.1), as orally revised.

III. WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

18. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Preparatory Committee took note of the statement by the Chairman, by which he informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations conducted by him (for the text of the statement, see annex I to the present report).

19. At its 7th meeting, on 4 April, the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa:

(a) Decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the general debate, to be held in plenary meetings, should be scheduled from 27 to 29 May 1986, on the understanding that the closing date of the general debate might be revised, if necessary in the light of the number of requests for inscription in the list of speakers; participation in the general debate would be in accordance with the established rules and practice of the General Assembly;

(b) Agreed, in principle, that, in addition to those normally invited to sessions of the General Assembly, invitations should be sent to:

- (i) Interested intergovernmental organizations to attend the special session as observers and to participate in its work, as appropriate;
- (ii) Interested non-governmental organizations in a position to contribute to the work of the special session to attend the session as observers, on the understanding that a final decision on that matter would be taken at a future meeting of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat on the organizations concerned;

(c) Decided to invite interested organizations of the United Nations system to make brief statements before the Preparatory Committee on 12 May 1986; such statements could be supplemented, if necessary, by written submissions;

(d) Agreed that, on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat regarding interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations wishing to contribute to the work of the Preparatory Committee, the Committee might decide at its 10th meeting, on the recommendation of its Bureau, to give some of those organizations the same opportunity as that provided in paragraph 19 (b) and (c) above.

20. At the 9th meeting, on 23 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal introduced the document of the Organization of African Unity entitled "Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's economic and social crisis" (A/AC.229/2*).

21. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 12 May, in accordance with the decision taken at its 7th meeting (see para. 19 (c) above), the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, as well as by representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see annex II to the present report).

22. In addition, owing to constraints of time, the representatives of the following organizations and bodies distributed texts of statements that were to

have been made before the Preparatory Committee: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, World Food Council, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Civil Aviation Organization.

23. At its 13th meeting, on 16 May, the Preparatory Committee decided to submit to the General Assembly at its special session on the critical economic situation in Africa recommendations regarding the organization of work of the special session (see para. 26 below).

24. At its 14th meeting, on 23 May 1986, in order to facilitate the work of the special session of the General Assembly, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Chairman of its informal Working Group, Mr. Qazi Shaukat Fareed (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, to continue the informal consultations during the days preceding the special session and to report the results to the special session.

25. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee also decided, on the proposal by the representative of Senegal, to annex to its report the draft basic final document entitled "United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery, 1986-1990", submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, in accordance with the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee on 24 April 1986 (see annex V).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

26. The Preparatory Committee recommends to the General Assembly the following with regard to the organization of work of the special session on the critical economic situation in Africa:

1. Provisional agenda

The Preparatory Committee recommends the following provisional agenda for the special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Spain.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
6. Consideration of the critical economic situation in Africa to focus, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries with a view to promoting and adopting action-oriented and concerted measures (resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985).
7. Adoption, in an appropriate format, of the document(s) of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly.

2. Date and duration

The special session will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 27 to 31 May 1986.

3. President and other officers

The Preparatory Committee recommends that, in accordance with the practice established at previous special sessions, the General Assembly may wish to decide that the President and Vice-Presidents of the fortieth session should serve in the same capacities at the thirteenth special session.

4. General Committee

It is recommended that the General Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the General Committee of the fortieth session of the General Assembly on the understanding that the chairman of the ad hoc committee of the whole of the thirteenth special session referred to below should participate with full rights, including the right to vote, for the duration of the session and without in any way constituting a precedent.

5. Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

6. Ad hoc committee of the whole

It is recommended that the General Assembly should establish an ad hoc committee of the whole of the thirteenth special session. The committee should organize its work and establish a working group or groups, as may be necessary. The chairman of the ad hoc committee of the whole is to be elected by the Assembly. Other officers of the committees, which should include three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, are to be elected by the committee.

Appropriate arrangements should be made to permit an African representative of the non-governmental organizations community to address the Committee.

7. Rules of procedure

The rules of procedure of the General Assembly will apply at the special session.

8. Level of representation

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985, Member States are called upon to be represented at the special session at the ministerial level.

9. Allocation of items

The Preparatory Committee recommends that item 6 of the provisional agenda should be allocated to the ad hoc committee of the whole for consideration and report, on the understanding that the general debate on the item should take place in plenary meetings. The ad hoc committee would be entrusted with the task of considering all proposals submitted and preparing the final document or documents for consideration by the General Assembly.

10. General debate

The Preparatory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should hold, at its special session, a general debate in plenary meetings from the morning of 27 May to the afternoon of 29 May 1986, it being understood that it might be necessary to adjust the date of the closing of the general debate in the light of the number of requests for inscription in the list of speakers, and that the speakers' list should be closed at 12 noon on Tuesday, 27 May 1986. Participation in plenary meetings will be in accordance with the established rules and practice of the General Assembly.

In the light of the foregoing and in response to specific requests, the Preparatory Committee further recommends that the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the European Economic Community, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as intergovernmental organizations that have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, should be invited to participate in the general debate. It is the understanding of the Committee that similar treatment at the special session should be accorded to other concerned organizations having a similar status, if they so request.

Owing to the large number of speakers desiring to take the floor in a limited amount of time, it is recommended that statements should not exceed 15 minutes. It is also recommended that the normal requirement for a quorum to open the meeting be waived for the duration of the general debate.

11. Invitations

In addition to concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invitations to attend the session should be sent to interested intergovernmental organizations and to other non-governmental organizations (see annexes III and IV to the present report).

12. Schedule of meetings

The plenary meetings of the special session should begin at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

ANNEX I

Statement made by the Chairman on 25 February 1986

The second session of the Preparatory Committee, held on 20, 24 and 25 February 1986, made it possible to clarify further the orientation the Committee envisages giving to the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, which will be held from 27 to 31 May 1986.

First, it is unanimously recognized that the special session should be an important stage in a process of action for the development of the African continent. The deliberations and decisions of the session should thus be capable of serving as a frame of reference for the future actions of the international community and of its members.

Secondly, the session should achieve concrete results for the present and the future. While there are differences of interpretation concerning the causes of the present situation in Africa, there is a consensus on the characteristics of that situation, even though substantial differences exist among the different subregions. The objective, therefore, is to identify not only the lines of action to follow but also the modalities for implementing them in order that they may be effective. A political agreement could translate the convergences on these points and reflect a mutual commitment between members of the international community, each one making it his rule to contribute to the common effort.

Thirdly, the proposals made by the African Governments, contained in a document which will be presented at the beginning of April, should furnish the basis for discussion in determining the action to be taken. A special meeting of the Preparatory Committee will therefore be devoted to the presentation of those proposals.

Fourthly, pending receipt of that document, the technical files presented by the Secretariat during the current session have made it possible to reveal certain essential critical points regarding the African situation. The central role of the agricultural sector in the economy and even in industrial development, the need for specific action to halt the advance of the desert, the search for solutions for human, social and economic infrastructure, as well as the urgency of financial solutions, have received close attention. The African Governments have already made a vigorous effort to improve administration and reform; they are determined to continue their efforts. In addition, it appears necessary to revive the nature, modalities and content of the support being received by Africa from abroad, so as to ensure that it is making a concrete contribution to the achievement of the objectives of rehabilitation and economic, social and ecological development, which are shared by all. It also seems necessary to envisage a follow-up procedure at the national and at the global level.

Fifthly, in order to take account of all the constraints and to be able to carry out the task entrusted to it, the Committee decides to organize its future work as follows. One session devoted to the presentation of the African proposals will be held on 3 April. If it seems useful, the session will also include 4 April. From 23 to 25 April one session will be devoted to a discussion of the substance of those proposals. The last session of the Preparatory Committee

devoted to the elaboration and adoption of the Committee's report will be held from 12 to 16 May. The report should contain precise proposals for action, as well as a draft document that include the principal elements of the mutual commitments to be made by the members of the international community. Between sessions, with a view to facilitating the work of the Preparatory Committee, the Chairman will pursue all useful contacts.

Lastly, a final document is already envisaged, whose form still remains to be precisely determined and which would make clear the consensus of the international community on the actions that must be taken and the rules that must be followed in order that Africa may enjoy the benefits of the effort it is making to put an end to its present critical economic situation and that genuine economic and social development may at last be realized. The adoption of that document will be preceded by a general debate, including a statement presented on behalf of the Organization of African Unity.

ANNEX II

Organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that made statements on 12 May before the Preparatory Committee

United Nations bodies

United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Fund for Population Activities
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations University

Specialized agencies and IAEA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Monetary Fund
World Bank
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
International Labour Organisation
World Health Organization
International Maritime Organization
International Atomic Energy Organization
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Meteorological Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
Economic Community of West African States
Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States

Non-governmental organizations

"Contact Group" of African and other non-governmental organizations involved in preparations for the special session
Association of African Women for Research and Development
International Council of Voluntary Agencies/Euro Action Accord
International Coalition for Development Action

ANNEX III

Interested intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank
Economic Community of Central African States
Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa
Southern African Development and Co-ordination Conference
Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States
Economic Community of West African States
Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
Mano River Union
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
OPEC Fund for International Development
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
Special Arab Aid Fund for Africa
African Center for Monetary Studies
Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries

ANNEX IV

Interested non-governmental organizations

Africa

Action pour le développement rural intégré - Rwanda
African Association for Literacy and Adult Education - Kenya
African NGOs Environment Network (ANEN)
African Participatory Research Network (APRON) - Zambia
All Africa Conference of Churches - Nairobi
Arab Office for Youth and Environment - Egypt
Association des jeunes agriculteurs de la Casamance - Senegal
Association des professionnelles africaines de la communication - Senegal
Association of Women's Clubs - Zimbabwe
Association pour la formation en technologies appropriés dans le Sahel (AFOTEC)
Association pour le productivité
Association Rwandaise pour le développement intégré (ARDI) - Rwanda
Caritas - Senegal
Ceinture Verte/Mauritania (Green Belt Movement)
Centre communautaire de développement et de formation permanente (CCDFP) - Rwanda
Centre d'études économiques et sociales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest - Burkina Faso
Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Animation Rurale (CFRAR) - Côte d'Ivoire
Centre for African Studies - Mozambique
Christian Care - Zimbabwe
Christian Council of Mozambique
Conseil des organisations non gouvernementales d'appui au développement (CONGAD) - Senegal
Conseil des organisations non gouvernementales d'aide au Togo (CONGAT)
Environnement et développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA)
Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat
Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Fédération des églises et missions évangéliques - Burkina Faso
GAP/Niger (Groupement des Aides Privées)
General Agricultural Workers' Union - Ghana
Institut Africain pour le développement économique et social - Burkina Faso
Kenya Energy NGO Association (KENGO)
Les maisons familiales rurales - Burkina Faso
Mauritius Council of Social Service
National Council of Women's Societies of Nigeria
National Christian Council of Kenya
Office Africaine pour le développement et la coopération (OFADEC) - Senegal
Organization of rural associations for progress (ORAP) - Zimbabwe
Participatory Research Association - United Republic of Tanzania
Réseau Africain de Développement Intégré (RADI) - Senegal
Se Servir de la Saison Sèche en Savane et au Sahel (Les 6s)
Secretariat permanent des organisations non gouvernementales (SPONG) - Burkina Faso
The Adult Literacy Organization of Zimbabwe
The Christian Council of Tanzania
The Liberian Council of Churches
The United Christian Council of Sierra Leone
Uganda Media Women's Association - Uganda
United Christian Council of Sierra Leone
VOICE - Zimbabwe

Women's Organizations of Zimbabwe

Women's Research and Documentation Project - United Republic of Tanzania

Zambia Red Cross Society

Europe

Austrian Agency for Development Education and Information

Band Aid Trust - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Catholic Institute for International Relations - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Catholic Organization for Joint Financing of Development Programmes (CEBEMO) - Netherlands

Centre de recherche et d'information pour le développement (CRID) - France

Centre for Development Research and Information - France

Centre national de coopération au développement - Belgium

Centres Europe-Tiers-Monde - Switzerland

Christian Aid - Ireland

Church of Norway - Dev-ed Office - Norway

Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement - France

Comité française contre la faim

Danish Association for International Cooperation

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe - Federal Republic of Germany

European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes

Institut universitaire d'études au développement - Switzerland

National Council of Swedish Youth

National Centre for Development Cooperation - Belgium

NIEO Network - Norway

NIO Association - Netherlands

NIO Youth

Overseas Development Institute - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Percentage Movement - Finland

Service d'information Tiers-Monde - Switzerland

Solidarités agro alimentaires (SOLAGRAL) - France

Swedish Missionary Council

Terre des hommes - France

Trócaire - Ireland

North America

African Development Foundation, United States of America

Africa Emergency Aid, Canada

American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction), United States of America

Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), Canada

Bread for the World, United States of America

Canada Save the Children Fund

Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)

Canadian Council of Churches

Canadex, Canada

Development Gap, United States of America

Episcopal Church Center, United States of America

Global Community Centre, Canada

Global Education Associates, United States of America

Global Learning, United States of America
Institute for Food and Development Policy, United States of America
Inter Pares, Canada
Interfaith Action for Economic Justice, United States of America
Maryknolls, United States of America
US Committee for Refugees
USA for Africa
Volunteers in Technical Assistance, United States of America
World Hunger Year, United States of America
World University Service of Canada

Other

Association for the Promotion of International Co-operation (APIC) - Japan
Australian Council for Overseas Aid
New Zealand Coalition for Trade and Development

International

Churches Drought Action in Africa
Euro-Action Accord
International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA)
ISIS-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE)

ANNEX V

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

(Draft basic final document a/)

I. Synoptic 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 African people. The tragic and disastrous famine and hunger that many African countries have experienced as a result of the recent drought have strengthened in Africans their resolve, individually and collectively, to take immediate, concerted and urgent actions to ensure sustained and durable economic and social development of the African countries in the medium and long term.

2. The entire international community has become conversant with the plight of the continent and the main actions that need to be taken to extricate it from underdevelopment. More important, it has been aware that the dramatic effects of the drought are but a manifestation of the fragile nature of Africa's socio-economic structures and that the drought has merely accentuated Africa's more pervasive and structural problems. It has become a matter of urgent necessity for the international community to lend support to the efforts of African Governments to undertake long-term structural transformation that will guarantee development and progress and ensure effective utilization of the tremendous potential for human advancement.

3. The underlying causes of Africa's underdevelopment and persistent economic crisis are the lack of structural transformation and the pervasive low level of productivity, aggravated by exogenous and endogenous factors. The endogenous aggravating factors include the structural imbalances evident in the great disparities in urban and rural development and in income distribution, the demographic factors, the inadequacy and/or misdirection of human and financial resources, inappropriate economic strategies and policies, inefficient economic management, institutional and physical infrastructural inadequacies, political instability which has manifested itself, inter alia, in a large and growing population of refugees and the prevalence of social values, attitudes and practices detrimental to development. In addition to these factors, many African countries have suffered from a prolonged drought, desertification and other natural calamities, and continuing economic destabilization perpetuated by South Africa on the countries of the southern region. Furthermore, more than half of the countries identified as least developed countries and a large majority of the developing land-locked and semi-land-locked countries are to be found in Africa. Among the more serious aggravating external constraints are the international recession, the collapsing commodity prices, adverse terms of trade, the decline of official

a/ Submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, in accordance with the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee on 24 April 1986.

development assistance (ODA) in real terms, increased protectionism, high interest rates and the heavy burden of debt and debt-servicing obligations of African countries.

4. Nothing short of radical measures will be necessary to save the African economies from collapse and to ensure the fundamental restructuring and policy reorientation that will launch the continent on the path to self-sustained development. Bold steps must, therefore, be taken to change the defective structure and establish more dynamic self-reliant and self-sustained economies in which growth and development would be more dependent on internal demand stimuli. Above all, these efforts must translate themselves into a marked increase in productivity in all sectors and particularly in the leading food and agricultural sector. It must also be stressed that achieving such a task would be extremely difficult, if not altogether futile, without the amelioration of the external and internal factors that have aggravated the structural crisis. Africa has taken the main responsibility for its own development and it is noteworthy that it has organized itself to undertake the necessary measures and mobilized for this purpose its potential resources and internal dynamism on the basis of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, which African Heads of State and Government adopted in 1985. However, given the dimensions of internal and external problems now facing the continent, it is obvious that Africa cannot accomplish this complex task without the active support of the international community.

5. In this battle for survival and development, African Governments have recognized the necessity to mobilize and utilize fully all their domestic resources. The co-operation and assistance solicited from the international community is therefore intended to complement the tremendous efforts which African countries have decided to make in the years ahead to put their economies on course. By so doing, Africa is underscoring, anew, the new phase of shared responsibilities and genuine partnership which must prevail in an interdependent world. By sharing in the task of African development through a new partnership the international community will no doubt facilitate this endeavour and ensure that the painful and arduous tasks are accomplished faster and at less costs in terms of human suffering. Africa is convinced that, given the necessary support from the international community, it is capable, in the not-too-distant future, of establishing national, subregional and regional structures that are sufficiently dynamic, self-reliant and interdependent to enable it to function as an effective partner in the international economic system.

6. The African development crisis is not an exclusive African problem but one that concerns mankind as a whole. Interdependence and interconnectedness is today a living reality as no region of the world can act as if it were alone. Africa that remains stagnant or perpetually backward economically is a threat to the security of the world. Recognition of mutual interests by the world community should ordinarily lead to the fulfilment of mutual needs through international co-operation for development. Without durable and sustained economic development in the world's poor regions, of which Africa is a notable example, there is a real danger that the lofty ideals of equitable international development and human solidarity would at best be hollow and ineffective, and at worst a mere facade. Helping Africa to overcome its problems of mass poverty is thus an essential element of an international strategy that should aim at creating a mutually more tolerable environment for all the world's people.

II. Programme of Action

7. Cognizant of the above, the African countries have fully committed themselves to the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, which is essentially a sharply focused, practical and operational set of activities, priorities and policies to be implemented in the years 1986-1990 so as to lay the foundation for durable structural change and improved levels of productivity and to ensure the rapid recovery of the African economies. Such a task will not only require that the African countries adopt fundamental changes in their development priorities and policies, but will also require that, simultaneously, the international community support Africa's efforts by making available substantial increases in concessional resource flows and ameliorating the external constraints to the continent's development.

8. To achieve this task the General Assembly adopts the following Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and commits itself to assist African countries in its full implementation.

9. This Programme of Action is based on the full awareness of the international community of the following:

(a) The process of structural transformation of the African economies, although a long-term endeavour must be started immediately and urgently.

(b) The rehabilitation and development of agriculture demands the highest priority while other sectors supportive of agriculture and rural development are also of tremendous importance, namely industry, transportation, health, education and other social services.

(c) There is also an urgent need to take fundamental measures to deal with the problems of drought and desertification, and efficient development and utilization of human resources.

(d) A tremendous amount of domestic effort will have to be mobilized for the effective implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. The Programme nevertheless represents only the bare minimum and the core of the investment programmes required to develop the capacity of African economies to cope with the present crisis and the excruciating problem of underdevelopment. The implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 should therefore be seen as the beginning of laying the foundation for structural transformation.

(e) It is vital that the international community should now look beyond the emergency and supplement the domestic efforts currently being made to achieve a lasting solution to the problems of structural and chronic underdevelopment.

I. AFRICA'S PRIORITIES AND POLICY REFORM MEASURES

A. At the national level

During the 1986-1990 period covered by Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, national subregional and regional priorities will be given to the following:

1. Agriculture development

10. Africa's Priority Programme lays considerable emphasis on the food and agriculture sector. The Priority Programme seeks to revitalize the more dynamic and internally generated forces for growth and development.

(a) Immediate measures to combat food emergencies

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

- Create and sustain national emergency preparedness capacity;
- Institute effective early warning systems;
- Establish national food security arrangements.

(b) Medium-term measures

The main objective is to give a new push to agricultural development 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 arable land 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 exploitation of agriculture biproducts, better range 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;
- Improve and expand the storage capacity and the marketing system;

- Development of agricultural research and extension through the creation of a network of agronomical research stations and extension agents for the design and diffusion of appropriate agricultural technologies;
- Place at the disposal of the small farmers' inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and tools at accessible prices for increased output;
- Better utilization and improvement of management of water resources and the establishment of low-cost irrigation schemes;
- Establishment of reafforestation and drought and desertification control programmes;
- 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 as a package to achieve the expected results, taking into account the particular situation in each country. Other subregional and regional measures are also envisaged in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 to complement national measures.

The total investment required for the implementation of this programme is estimated at \$57.4 billion which is 44.8 per cent of the total cost of implementing Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990.

2. 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.

(a) Rehabilitation and development of agro-related industries

Given the high dependence 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.

(b) 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 communications;
- 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 United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

(c) Trade and finance

In the field of trade the objective is to improve the distribution channels for domestic trade, 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.

3. 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 continue to undertake as soon as possible the following measures:

- Massive afforestation and reafforestation;
- 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;
- Integrate measures for the protection of the environment in national development programmes and accord them high priority;
- Full implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, held in September 1977, and 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.

4. Human resources development, planning and utilization

(a) Human resources

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 within the framework of overall national development policies and plans:

- Radical change in the educational systems at all levels to ensure that the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are relevant to Africa's developmental needs are generated;
- Intensification of efforts to promote mass literacy and adult learning programmes;
- Efficient utilization of manpower resources, including measures to reverse the brain drain and ensure the guarantee of human rights;
- Reduce 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.

5. Policy reforms

In order to achieve the objectives of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, a number of major policy measures are being undertaken by African Governments, while attention is also being focused 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:

(a) 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, fiscal administration and control of public expenditure with a view to promoting the efficient use of resources and reducing wastage and resource misallocation; reduction of foreign exchange leakages; better management of the foreign debt and external assistance. The positive role of the private sector is also to be encouraged through well-defined and consistent policies.

(b) Other policy measures

Africa has demonstrated its determination to tackle its social and economic crisis through, among others, the adjustment measures that it has undertaken in the recent past. These measures include exchange rate adjustments, debt-relief arrangements, wage and salary reduction and employment freeze. Though the tasks

involved have often been difficult and painful, Africa has recognized the necessity to bear the burden and make 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. Austerity measures will be continued with prudence through appropriate monetary and fiscal reforms.

(c) 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 on Population adopted by all African Governments in 1984, will, inter alia, address issues of high fertility and mortality, rapid urbanization, rural-urban and 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.

(d) 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;
- Develop indigenous entrepreneurial capabilities, both private and public;
- Establish sound basis for political, economic and social justice.

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

(e) 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 Women in Development Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women".

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.

B. Subregional concerns

11. 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 rates of economic growth:

(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 in the wake of severe climatic conditions. In fact, for some of these countries, especially those in the Sahel, IGAAD and the Southern African Development and Co-ordination Committee, 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 reafforestation 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 social 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 those 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 serious problems of being land-locked or semi-land-locked and among the least developed countries. 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 an increasing debt-service burden. Agricultural development in some countries of the subregion has been slowing down due to drought, water shortage, mounting desertification and soil erosion. The widening food gap in the subregion is among the highest gaps in Africa.

(e) The plight of 5 million refugees and returnees together with the adverse effects which the refugee burden continues to impose on the frail economies of host countries are matters of high priority for many African States. The Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa 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, on 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 economical infrastructure of the affected countries. Concrete measures should be undertaken at national, regional and international levels with a view to preventing 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.

C. At the regional level

1. Strengthening the institutional framework

12. 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.

2. 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 Programme of Action. Likewise, the establishment, whenever deemed necessary, of subregional organizations based on economic criteria, including natural resource criteria, should be enhanced towards the attainment of the above objectives.

II. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT MEASURES

13. African countries have reaffirmed their total commitment to the primary responsibility for the development of their continent, set specific priorities and undertaken to mobilize fully all their domestic resources for development purposes and implement all measures and policy reforms that are required for bringing about economic rehabilitation, recovery and development. As has been recognized, Africa has begun to implement structural adjustment measures. These measures could only be continued if external co-operation and assistance are substantially increased.

14. Improvement in the international economic environment will need to take place if the economic restructuring measures and reforms of policies and institutions are to succeed. Therefore, the international community is also required to assist Africa in finding lasting solutions to the serious exogenous constraints over which Africa has no control and which, if they persist, will frustrate any efforts towards development.

15. The international community provided its support and positive response to the emergency situation in Africa and further pledged to continue its efforts for the full implementation of resolution 39/29 and the Declaration annexed thereto.

16. With regard to the magnitude of the financial resources required, Africa has indicated that out of the \$US 128.1 billion that it would need to finance programmes during 1986-1990 in the priority areas of agriculture, other sectors in support of agriculture, drought and desertification and human resources development, \$82.5 billion or 64.4 per cent of the total cost of the Priority Programme will be mobilized from domestic resources. In this connection, the international community, in particular the donor countries, is urged to provide the complementary resources to fill the gap of \$45.6 billion necessary for the full implementation of the Priority Programme during the period 1986-1990, i.e. \$9.1 billion per annum on the average.

17. In addition to this assistance, which is specific to the Priority Programme, account needs to be taken of the debt-servicing requirements of African countries during the next five years, which would range on the average between \$US 14.6 billion and \$24.5 billion annually. Therefore, the total financial requirement would range between \$23.7 billion and \$33.7 billion annually. However, to the extent that the debt-service burden is alleviated through appropriate relief measures, financial flows required for debt-servicing purposes will be minimized.

18. It is fully realized that if the international support were limited only to filling the gap of the investment requirements for the implementation of the Priority Programme, without at the same time providing relief for debt-servicing, at the end of the period the African countries would be worse off than they were at the beginning.

19. Therefore, the international community should provide the aforementioned financial assistance in support of Africa's development efforts, and in addition to this, the international community should support the individual and collective efforts of African countries through the following measures:

1. Commitment to a common point of reference

20. Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 provides the necessary framework for a transition from emergency and short-term actions to the relaunching of long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development. It is vital, therefore, that the international community fully accepts the Priority Programme as the basis for the reordering of assistance programmes.

Such an acceptance would enable Africa and the international community to have a universal basis for joint programming, elaboration of policy frameworks and other arrangements for the recovery of the African economies and their eventual transformation.

2. Improving the co-operation environment and structures

21. While it is recognized that each bilateral or multilateral donor 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, action has to be taken to improve the structures and environment of co-operation. The following basic elements should be implemented:

- (a) A shift from project support to programme support of the priority areas of the recipient African countries, with a view to giving an indication of medium-term support;
- (b) Donor countries and agencies should agree to ease the procurement requirements and administrative procedures to ensure fast disbursement to African countries for production inputs and for policy support assistance;
- (c) Donor countries and agencies should substantially increase their aid budgets as well as speed up the disbursement of funds in support of policy reforms;
- (d) The use as a matter of priority of national competence and African expertise, equipment and strengthening of Africa's own capacity to plan and co-ordinate programmes of external assistance;
- (e) Donor co-ordination to ensure more effectiveness of assistance to specific programmes. In this regard the donor community should streamline the co-ordination of their aid policies so as to achieve maximum results in their support for the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990;
- (f) Institution of a mechanism that will evaluate and follow up on donor commitments, and disbursements of assistance to Africa;
- (g) Review of the effectiveness of technical assistance in Africa, in order to make it more compatible with the needs and priorities of African countries;
- (h) The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are urged to increase their financial and technical assistance to African countries;
- (i) Donor countries and agencies should seek other measures to assist African countries in meeting the recurrent and local costs of programmes and projects;
- (j) The international community, in particular donor countries, are requested to provide increased financial and technical assistance to countries affected by drought and desertification through existing subregional organizations such as Permanent Inter-State on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development and the Southern African Development and Co-ordination Committee;
- (k) Call upon the international community to make special efforts to increase its contributions to the least developed countries with a view to enable them to achieve the objectives of their country programmes within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

3. Improvement in the external environment

22. While Africa recognizes that many of the issues regarding the external factors that aggravate the African situation need to be examined in a variety of other contexts and forums, the international community, in particular donor countries, should commit itself to the following:

- (a) Adoption of policies in the rest of the world that are conducive to growth rather than contraction of the world economy;
- (b) Elimination of the protectionism of the developed countries through, inter alia, the removal of barriers specially non-tariff measures that restrict the entry of African products to specific important markets;
- (c) Refraining from agricultural and trade policies which have a detrimental impact on Africa's export and diversification programmes;
- (d) Creating and strengthening structures that aim at effectively setting fair and remunerative prices and stabilizing the earnings of African commodity exports. If higher producer prices and guaranteed returns form an essential element of the domestic reform package, the counterpart at the international level is for a combination of commodity agreements and compensatory finance to avoid the sharp falls in export earnings that characterized the first half of the 1980s and which prejudiced the implementation of a coherent agricultural development strategy;
- (e) Strengthening international co-operation and support for increasing the capacity of African countries in the processing, marketing, distribution and transportation of their export commodities;
- (f) Countries which have not yet done so should sign and ratify early the agreement on the establishment of the Common Fund Commodities in order to enable the Fund to commence operation in January 1987;
- (g) Measures should be taken within the framework of GATT to ensure that special treatment is accorded to tropical agriculture products;
- (h) Efforts should also be intensified in order to accelerate the conclusion of viable International Commodity Agreements.

4. Supporting Africa's policy reforms

23. There is need for extensive support to sustain the reforms that Africa has identified as necessary and on which many of them have already embarked. In particular unless African countries are assisted in ways that enable them to expand their import capacity during the period of the priority programme, many reform programmes will be compromised. In this regard, it is proposed that:

- (a) Non-project aid, particularly balance-of-payments supports, to African countries should be greatly expanded during the period 1986-1990;
- (b) There should be non-politicization of aid;
- (c) The multilateral financial institutions should increase their concessional assistance to African countries for the implementation of the Priority

Programme. In this connection, there should be a substantial increase in Africa's quotas in the International Monetary Fund beyond the present levels and a substantial allocation of special drawing rights to reconstitute reserves and liquidate accumulated arrears;

(d) IMF Programme lending should cover longer periods of extended arrangements and should relax its conditionality substantially as well as increase the lendings and soften their terms;

(e) The replenishment of the eighth IDA should take into account the need to fully support the structural adjustment measures which many countries in the region have begun to put in place;

(f) During the period of the implementation of APPER no donor country of a multilateral institution should be a net recipient of resource flows from any African country.

5. Economic recovery and the debt constraints

24. It is estimated that the annual debt-servicing obligations of Africa will be in the range of \$US 14.6 billion and \$24.5 billion per annum during 1986-1990. This is certainly beyond the capacity and means of the African countries to service. Urgent measures will have to be taken by the international community to alleviate this burden and thus enable the region to focus on its problems of economic recovery. Among the measures that need to be taken into account in the debt relief/debt-financing package are the following:

(a) Conversion of ODA debts and interest obligations into grants;

(b) Consolidation of non-ODA officially guaranteed debts and service payments thereon due over the period of the Priority Programme 1986-1990 into long-term loans repayable over a 30 to 40 year period on concessional terms with a 10-year period of grace;

(c) Improving the existing framework of commercial debt renegotiation. Capping and reducing interest rates for commercial debts as well as consolidating debt-servicing payments for these debts and their repayment over a long period of time on concessional terms will further reduce the size of Africa's debt obligation;

(d) Ensuring adequate and automatic inflow of resources on highly concessionary terms that would enable African countries to achieve a sustained economic growth;

(e) Full and urgent implementation of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX).

South-South co-operation

25. The international community reaffirms its belief in the strategy for collective self-reliance and reiterates its conviction that economic co-operation among developing countries constitutes a key element in the restructuring of international economic relations with a view to realizing the full potential of the developing countries to bring about rapid social and economic development and to

contribute to the establishing of a new international economic order, fair and equitable.

26. In this connection, given the current global economic difficulties, 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, for the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action with a full sense of solidarity and realism.

27. They acknowledge the need for further concrete action at the bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels, particularly in the area of technical co-operation among developing countries.

In the context of the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, emphasis should be focused on the priority sectors identified in the Priority Programme, including, inter alia:

- Development and transfer appropriate for food and agriculture and for combating drought and desertification;
- Development, production and exchange of equipments and necessary inputs for agriculture and industry;
- Participation in the implementation of self-sustaining, self-generating and self-financing joint development projects;
- Co-operation in the development of human resources.

III. FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION MACHINERY

28. In the framework of their development policies and, particularly, in the implementation of the present Programme of Action as well as the relating co-ordination, evaluation and follow-up machinery, the African countries reaffirm the principle of their permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, wealth and economic activities as well as their sovereign and inalienable right to determine their economic, political, social and cultural systems, according to the will of their peoples and without external interference of any kind.

29. The decisions of the special session of the General Assembly, as well as their effective implementation constitute a critical element in the success of Africa's recovery programme. It is therefore necessary to follow up and evaluate, on a continuing basis, the implementation of these decisions at the national and international levels in order to ensure that problems and bottlenecks are identified and tackled so that these decisions provide effective support implementation of Africa's Priority Programme.

30. It is necessary to establish such follow-up and evaluation mechanisms, or to strengthen and improve the functioning of existing mechanisms, so as to ensure the realization of the above objectives. A follow-up and evaluation mechanism is also essential in order to periodically apprise the international community of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Priority Programme.

31. The general principles underlying the establishment of follow-up and evaluation mechanisms, whether at the national, regional or international levels, are twofold:

(a) The mechanism should be simple, operational and without involving substantial additional expenditure;

(b) The emphasis should be placed, as far as possible, on the strengthening of existing mechanisms, including the expansion of their mandates, rather than the creation of new ones.

32. The implementation of the Recovery Programme must also include an element of shared responsibility in the evaluation and follow-up actions required from the decisions of the special session. In addition to the follow-up mechanism already put into place at the national level, a joint national government and donor community follow-up mechanism must be instituted as appropriate, at each national level. Such a mechanism will follow up and evaluate both the actions of the national Governments as well as those of the international donor community.

33. At the national level the evaluation and follow-up mechanism should involve joint action and participation by both the donor community and the respective African Government; clearly defined responsibilities and issues to be discussed as mutually agreed upon; as well as the work programme, taking into account the longer-term needs of the African country concerned. Given the need for effective partnership between the donor and African countries and for strong support to Africa's effort to implement the Priority Programme, the national follow-up and evaluation mechanism could have the following characteristics:

(a) A joint committee consisting of senior representatives of the Governments concerned as well as senior representatives of the major bilateral and multilateral donor countries and financing institutions where invited;

(b) The follow-up and evaluating machinery will meet regularly, particularly during the initial stages;

(c) While it should be left to each national Government and the donor community concerned to work out the terms of reference of the joint committee the following elements could serve as inspirations:

(i) Assist in implementing the jointly agreed commitments under the partnership, covering the whole period of the Priority Programme phased into annual activities and commitments;

(ii) The coverage of such programmes and commitments will include resource flows, debt-servicing relief and policy measures to be introduced both by the national Governments and the international community;

(iii) To review and evaluate progress in the implementation of agreed commitments both on the part of the donor community and the national Governments;

(iv) To assist in revising and updating the national action programme;

- (v) The follow-up and evaluation mechanism will liaise on a regular basis and provide information on the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990.

34. At the African regional level, it is noted that the OAU Permanent Steering Committee will play the main catalytic and stimulating role and provide linkage with the international community in respect of all actions to be taken at the national, subregional and continental levels; it is also noted that the African contribution will be submitted to the General Assembly through the usual channels.

35. At the international level, a review and appraisal of the implementation of the decisions of the special session of the General Assembly should be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-third session. Such a review and appraisal should be part of the ordinary session of the General Assembly with three to four days set aside for this purpose. In order to prepare for that review and appraisal, the General Assembly at its session the year preceding the review and appraisal year, should set up such preparatory mechanisms as it may seem fit. The Secretary-General is entrusted with overall responsibility for monitoring and supervising the implementation at the international levels of the arrangements agreed to at the special session of the General Assembly. In addition to ensuring effective assistance and support by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General is called upon to provide all appropriate and necessary assistance as may be required by the recipient countries and the international community at large to facilitate a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to the development needs of Africa and to report therein.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

36. In the wake of Africa's economic and social crisis, African countries have embarked on a concerted comprehensive effort to deal with the crisis of development. At the highest level of policy-making Africa committed itself to a series of bold and radical measures to save the African economies from collapse and ensure fundamental restructuring and policy-reorientation that will launch the continent on the path of self-sustained development.

37. The international community recognizes that the development of Africa is the primary responsibility of the African Governments and people. The international community commits itself to co-operate and assist in complementing the efforts of African Governments and people on the basis of the priorities and objectives which are contained in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. The process of relaunching economic development in Africa is a long-term endeavour which must be started immediately and urgently.

38. We therefore commit ourselves to assist Africa, which remains the least developed of all continents, lagging far behind by every economic indicator, so that it will develop its enormous potential and fully participate in the international economic process. Consequently, we are fully convinced that a new approach to development co-operation and assistance is required. Such an approach should be based on the principles of shared responsibilities and genuine partnership to ensure the full support for the priorities and efforts of African Governments. By sharing in the task of African development through a new partnership the international community will no doubt facilitate this endeavour and ensure that the painful and arduous tasks are accomplished faster and at less cost, in terms of human suffering. We are convinced that, given the necessary support,

Africa is capable, in the not too distant future, of establishing socio-economic structures that are sufficiently dynamic, self-reliant and interdependent, to enable it to function as an effective partner in the international arena.

39. Within the framework of this partnership we commit ourselves to seek, together with our African partners, effective and lasting solutions to the serious problems facing Africa. This new approach will be based, inter alia, on a substantial increase in the flow of highly concessional resources and on putting in place essential economic policy measures which will considerably ameliorate the external environment adversely affecting Africa's economic performance prospects is needed.

40. This new approach implies, inter alia, that out of the \$US 128.1 billion that is needed to finance its Priority Programme during 1986-1990 Africa will provide \$82.5 billion or 64.4 per cent of the total cost. For its part the international community should commit itself to fill the gap of \$45.6 billion necessary for the full implementation of the Priority Programme, i.e., \$9.1 billion annually during the implementation of the Programme.

41. The common objectives and mechanisms we have adopted in this programme are a manifestation of our collective political will to realize the new partnership with Africa. Successful implementation of donor co-ordination and follow-up and evaluation mechanisms will be a testing ground for our commitment to the partnership concept. It is a challenge we have taken upon ourselves and we are committed to succeed. Through our partnership we pledge to work with the African countries to strengthen their development capacity so that African people can enjoy a higher standard of living.

We, therefore, offer our firm commitment to work closely with and support African countries, in the realization of the objectives, priorities and targets outlined in the African Priority Programme which we consider crucial to the success of the efforts of the African Governments.

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**REPORT
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE
FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 1 (A/S-13/4)



UNITED NATIONS

427.

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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1986

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[19 June 1986]

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985, decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly at the ministerial level to consider in depth the critical economic situation in Africa, to be held in New York from 27 to 31 May 1986. The Assembly also decided that the special session should focus, in a comprehensive manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries, with a view to promoting and adopting action-oriented and concerted measures.

2. Furthermore, the General Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee of the Whole that would undertake the necessary preparations for the special session and requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee.

3. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the Preparatory Committee and to the General Assembly at its special session reports containing action-oriented proposals to deal with the critical economic situation in Africa, particularly the major developmental areas identified in the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa annexed to Assembly resolution 39/29, taking fully into account the priorities set 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 (see A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXI)).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

4. The Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa met at United Nations Headquarters on 23 and 24 January, 20, 24 and 25 February, 3, 4 and 23 April and 12, 13, 16 and 23 May 1986. The Preparatory Committee held 14 meetings (1st to 14th). A number of informal meetings were also held.

5. The Secretary-General opened the session.

B. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following Member States attended the Preparatory Committee:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

7. The following observer States were represented:

Holy See, Switzerland.

8. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), World Food Council, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations University (UNU), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

9. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

10. The following specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank (ADB), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Economic Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), Organization of African Unity, and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA).

12. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Contact Group (of African and other non-governmental organizations involved in preparations for the special session), the Association of African Women for Research and Development, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies/Euro Action Accord, and the International Coalition for Development Action.

C. Election of officers

13. At its 1st and resumed 1st meeting, on 23 and 24 January, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Edgard PISANI (France)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Qazi Shaukat FAREED (Pakistan)

Mr. Bronislav KULAWIEC (Czechoslovakia)

Mr. Oscar ORAMAS-OLIVA (Cuba)

Rapporteur: Mr. Pastor NGAIZA (United Republic of Tanzania)

D. Adoption of the agenda

14. At its 1st meeting, on 23 January, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following agenda for the session, as contained in document A/AC.229/1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.

E. Documentation

15. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.229/1);

(b) Letter dated 18 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting an official document of the Organization of African Unity entitled "Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's economic and social crisis" (A/AC.229/2*);

(c) Letter dated 9 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a monograph submitted by the Government of Morocco to the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa (A/AC.229/3).

16. In addition, a number of informal papers were also before the Committee, including:

(a) Draft basic final document, submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, entitled "United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery 1986-1990" (for text, see annex V);

(b) Contribution by the Chairman (Conference Room Paper No. 1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the critical economic situation in Africa (Working Document), subsequently issued as document A/S-13/2;

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system with regard to the critical economic situation in Africa (Working Document 2), subsequently issued as document A/S-13/3;

(e) Note by the Secretariat on documentation submitted to the General Assembly by the Trade and Development Board following its consideration at the first part of its thirty-second session of matters related to the critical economic situation in Africa (A/AC.229/INF.2).

F. Adoption of the report

17. At its 14th meeting, on 23 May, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report (A/AC.229/L.1), as orally revised.

III. WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

18. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Preparatory Committee took note of the statement by the Chairman, by which he informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations conducted by him (for the text of the statement, see annex I to the present report).

19. At its 7th meeting, on 4 April, the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa:

(a) Decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the general debate, to be held in plenary meetings, should be scheduled from 27 to 29 May 1986, on the understanding that the closing date of the general debate might be revised, if necessary in the light of the number of requests for inscription in the list of speakers; participation in the general debate would be in accordance with the established rules and practice of the General Assembly;

(b) Agreed, in principle, that, in addition to those normally invited to sessions of the General Assembly, invitations should be sent to:

- (i) Interested intergovernmental organizations to attend the special session as observers and to participate in its work, as appropriate;
- (ii) Interested non-governmental organizations in a position to contribute to the work of the special session to attend the session as observers, on the understanding that a final decision on that matter would be taken at a future meeting of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat on the organizations concerned;

(c) Decided to invite interested organizations of the United Nations system to make brief statements before the Preparatory Committee on 12 May 1986; such statements could be supplemented, if necessary, by written submissions;

(d) Agreed that, on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat regarding interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations wishing to contribute to the work of the Preparatory Committee, the Committee might decide at its 10th meeting, on the recommendation of its Bureau, to give some of those organizations the same opportunity as that provided in paragraph 19 (b) and (c) above.

20. At the 9th meeting, on 23 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal introduced the document of the Organization of African Unity entitled "Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's economic and social crisis" (A/AC.229/2*).

21. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 12 May, in accordance with the decision taken at its 7th meeting (see para. 19 (c) above), the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, as well as by representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see annex II to the present report).

22. In addition, owing to constraints of time, the representatives of the following organizations and bodies distributed texts of statements that were to

have been made before the Preparatory Committee: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, World Food Council, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Civil Aviation Organization.

23. At its 13th meeting, on 16 May, the Preparatory Committee decided to submit to the General Assembly at its special session on the critical economic situation in Africa recommendations regarding the organization of work of the special session (see para. 26 below).

24. At its 14th meeting, on 23 May 1986, in order to facilitate the work of the special session of the General Assembly, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Chairman of its informal Working Group, Mr. Qazi Shaukat Fareed (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, to continue the informal consultations during the days preceding the special session and to report the results to the special session.

25. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee also decided, on the proposal by the representative of Senegal, to annex to its report the draft basic final document entitled "United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery, 1986-1990", submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, in accordance with the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee on 24 April 1986 (see annex V).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

26. The Preparatory Committee recommends to the General Assembly the following with regard to the organization of work of the special session on the critical economic situation in Africa:

1. Provisional agenda

The Preparatory Committee recommends the following provisional agenda for the special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Spain.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
6. Consideration of the critical economic situation in Africa to focus, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries with a view to promoting and adopting action-oriented and concerted measures (resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985).
7. Adoption, in an appropriate format, of the document(s) of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly.

2. Date and duration

The special session will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 27 to 31 May 1986.

3. President and other officers

The Preparatory Committee recommends that, in accordance with the practice established at previous special sessions, the General Assembly may wish to decide that the President and Vice-Presidents of the fortieth session should serve in the same capacities at the thirteenth special session.

4. General Committee

It is recommended that the General Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the General Committee of the fortieth session of the General Assembly on the understanding that the chairman of the ad hoc committee of the whole of the thirteenth special session referred to below should participate with full rights, including the right to vote, for the duration of the session and without in any way constituting a precedent.

5. Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

6. Ad hoc committee of the whole

It is recommended that the General Assembly should establish an ad hoc committee of the whole of the thirteenth special session. The committee should organize its work and establish a working group or groups, as may be necessary. The chairman of the ad hoc committee of the whole is to be elected by the Assembly. Other officers of the committees, which should include three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, are to be elected by the committee.

Appropriate arrangements should be made to permit an African representative of the non-governmental organizations community to address the Committee.

7. Rules of procedure

The rules of procedure of the General Assembly will apply at the special session.

8. Level of representation

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/40 of 2 December 1985, Member States are called upon to be represented at the special session at the ministerial level.

9. Allocation of items

The Preparatory Committee recommends that item 6 of the provisional agenda should be allocated to the ad hoc committee of the whole for consideration and report, on the understanding that the general debate on the item should take place in plenary meetings. The ad hoc committee would be entrusted with the task of considering all proposals submitted and preparing the final document or documents for consideration by the General Assembly.

10. General debate

The Preparatory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should hold, at its special session, a general debate in plenary meetings from the morning of 27 May to the afternoon of 29 May 1986, it being understood that it might be necessary to adjust the date of the closing of the general debate in the light of the number of requests for inscription in the list of speakers, and that the speakers' list should be closed at 12 noon on Tuesday, 27 May 1986. Participation in plenary meetings will be in accordance with the established rules and practice of the General Assembly.

In the light of the foregoing and in response to specific requests, the Preparatory Committee further recommends that the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the European Economic Community, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as intergovernmental organizations that have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, should be invited to participate in the general debate. It is the understanding of the Committee that similar treatment at the special session should be accorded to other concerned organizations having a similar status, if they so request.

Owing to the large number of speakers desiring to take the floor in a limited amount of time, it is recommended that statements should not exceed 15 minutes. It is also recommended that the normal requirement for a quorum to open the meeting be waived for the duration of the general debate.

11. Invitations

In addition to concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invitations to attend the session should be sent to interested intergovernmental organizations and to other non-governmental organizations (see annexes III and IV to the present report).

12. Schedule of meetings

The plenary meetings of the special session should begin at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

ANNEX I

Statement made by the Chairman on 25 February 1986

The second session of the Preparatory Committee, held on 20, 24 and 25 February 1986, made it possible to clarify further the orientation the Committee envisages giving to the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, which will be held from 27 to 31 May 1986.

First, it is unanimously recognized that the special session should be an important stage in a process of action for the development of the African continent. The deliberations and decisions of the session should thus be capable of serving as a frame of reference for the future actions of the international community and of its members.

Secondly, the session should achieve concrete results for the present and the future. While there are differences of interpretation concerning the causes of the present situation in Africa, there is a consensus on the characteristics of that situation, even though substantial differences exist among the different subregions. The objective, therefore, is to identify not only the lines of action to follow but also the modalities for implementing them in order that they may be effective. A political agreement could translate the convergences on these points and reflect a mutual commitment between members of the international community, each one making it his rule to contribute to the common effort.

Thirdly, the proposals made by the African Governments, contained in a document which will be presented at the beginning of April, should furnish the basis for discussion in determining the action to be taken. A special meeting of the Preparatory Committee will therefore be devoted to the presentation of those proposals.

Fourthly, pending receipt of that document, the technical files presented by the Secretariat during the current session have made it possible to reveal certain essential critical points regarding the African situation. The central role of the agricultural sector in the economy and even in industrial development, the need for specific action to halt the advance of the desert, the search for solutions for human, social and economic infrastructure, as well as the urgency of financial solutions, have received close attention. The African Governments have already made a vigorous effort to improve administration and reform; they are determined to continue their efforts. In addition, it appears necessary to revive the nature, modalities and content of the support being received by Africa from abroad, so as to ensure that it is making a concrete contribution to the achievement of the objectives of rehabilitation and economic, social and ecological development, which are shared by all. It also seems necessary to envisage a follow-up procedure at the national and at the global level.

Fifthly, in order to take account of all the constraints and to be able to carry out the task entrusted to it, the Committee decides to organize its future work as follows. One session devoted to the presentation of the African proposals will be held on 3 April. If it seems useful, the session will also include 4 April. From 23 to 25 April one session will be devoted to a discussion of the substance of those proposals. The last session of the Preparatory Committee

devoted to the elaboration and adoption of the Committee's report will be held from 12 to 16 May. The report should contain precise proposals for action, as well as a draft document that include the principal elements of the mutual commitments to be made by the members of the international community. Between sessions, with a view to facilitating the work of the Preparatory Committee, the Chairman will pursue all useful contacts.

Lastly, a final document is already envisaged, whose form still remains to be precisely determined and which would make clear the consensus of the international community on the actions that must be taken and the rules that must be followed in order that Africa may enjoy the benefits of the effort it is making to put an end to its present critical economic situation and that genuine economic and social development may at last be realized. The adoption of that document will be preceded by a general debate, including a statement presented on behalf of the Organization of African Unity.

ANNEX II

Organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that made statements on 12 May before the Preparatory Committee

United Nations bodies

United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Fund for Population Activities
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations University

Specialized agencies and IAEA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Monetary Fund
World Bank
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
International Labour Organisation
World Health Organization
International Maritime Organization
International Atomic Energy Organization
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Meteorological Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
Economic Community of West African States
Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States

Non-governmental organizations

"Contact Group" of African and other non-governmental organizations involved in preparations for the special session
Association of African Women for Research and Development
International Council of Voluntary Agencies/Euro Action Accord
International Coalition for Development Action

ANNEX III

Interested intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank
Economic Community of Central African States
Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa
Southern African Development and Co-ordination Conference
Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States
Economic Community of West African States
Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
Mano River Union
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
OPEC Fund for International Development
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
Special Arab Aid Fund for Africa
African Center for Monetary Studies
Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries

ANNEX IV

Interested non-governmental organizations

Africa

Action pour le développement rural intégré - Rwanda
African Association for Literacy and Adult Education - Kenya
African NGOs Environment Network (ANEN)
African Participatory Research Network (APRON) - Zambia
All Africa Conference of Churches - Nairobi
Arab Office for Youth and Environment - Egypt
Association des jeunes agriculteurs de la Casamance - Senegal
Association des professionnelles africaines de la communication - Senegal
Association of Women's Clubs - Zimbabwe
Association pour la formation en technologies appropriés dans le Sahel (AFOTEC)
Association pour le productivité
Association Rwandaise pour le développement intégré (ARDI) - Rwanda
Caritas - Senegal
Ceinture Verte/Mauritania (Green Belt Movement)
Centre communautaire de développement et de formation permanente (CCDFP) - Rwanda
Centre d'études économiques et sociales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest - Burkina Faso
Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Animation Rurale (CFRAR) - Côte d'Ivoire
Centre for African Studies - Mozambique
Christian Care - Zimbabwe
Christian Council of Mozambique
Conseil des organisations non gouvernementales d'appui au développement (CONGAD) - Senegal
Conseil des organisations non gouvernementales d'aide au Togo (CONGAT)
Environnement et développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA)
Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat
Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Fédération des églises et missions évangéliques - Burkina Faso
GAP/Niger (Groupement des Aides Privées)
General Agricultural Workers' Union - Ghana
Institut Africain pour le développement économique et social - Burkina Faso
Kenya Energy NGO Association (KENGO)
Les maisons familiales rurales - Burkina Faso
Mauritius Council of Social Service
National Council of Women's Societies of Nigeria
National Christian Council of Kenya
Office Africaine pour le développement et la coopération (OFADEC) - Senegal
Organization of rural associations for progress (ORAP) - Zimbabwe
Participatory Research Association - United Republic of Tanzania
Réseau Africain de Développement Intégré (RADI) - Senegal
Se Servir de la Saison Sèche en Savane et au Sahel (Les 6s)
Secretariat permanent des organisations non gouvernementales (SPONG) - Burkina Faso
The Adult Literacy Organization of Zimbabwe
The Christian Council of Tanzania
The Liberian Council of Churches
The United Christian Council of Sierra Leone
Uganda Media Women's Association - Uganda
United Christian Council of Sierra Leone
VOICE - Zimbabwe

Women's Organizations of Zimbabwe

Women's Research and Documentation Project - United Republic of Tanzania

Zambia Red Cross Society

Europe

Austrian Agency for Development Education and Information

Band Aid Trust - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Catholic Institute for International Relations - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Catholic Organization for Joint Financing of Development Programmes (CEBEMO) - Netherlands

Centre de recherche et d'information pour le développement (CRID) - France

Centre for Development Research and Information - France

Centre national de coopération au développement - Belgium

Centres Europe-Tiers-Monde - Switzerland

Christian Aid - Ireland

Church of Norway - Dev-ed Office - Norway

Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement - France

Comité française contre la faim

Danish Association for International Cooperation

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe - Federal Republic of Germany

European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes

Institut universitaire d'études au développement - Switzerland

National Council of Swedish Youth

National Centre for Development Cooperation - Belgium

NIEO Network - Norway

NIO Association - Netherlands

NIO Youth

Overseas Development Institute - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Percentage Movement - Finland

Service d'information Tiers-Monde - Switzerland

Solidarités agro alimentaires (SOLAGRAL) - France

Swedish Missionary Council

Terre des hommes - France

Trócaire - Ireland

North America

African Development Foundation, United States of America

Africa Emergency Aid, Canada

American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction), United States of America

Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), Canada

Bread for the World, United States of America

Canada Save the Children Fund

Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)

Canadian Council of Churches

Canadex, Canada

Development Gap, United States of America

Episcopal Church Center, United States of America

Global Community Centre, Canada

Global Education Associates, United States of America

Global Learning, United States of America
Institute for Food and Development Policy, United States of America
Inter Pares, Canada
Interfaith Action for Economic Justice, United States of America
Maryknolls, United States of America
US Committee for Refugees
USA for Africa
Volunteers in Technical Assistance, United States of America
World Hunger Year, United States of America
World University Service of Canada

Other

Association for the Promotion of International Co-operation (APIC) - Japan
Australian Council for Overseas Aid
New Zealand Coalition for Trade and Development

International

Churches Drought Action in Africa
Euro-Action Accord
International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA)
ISIS-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE)

ANNEX V

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

(Draft basic final document a/)

I. Synoptic 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 African people. The tragic and disastrous famine and hunger that many African countries have experienced as a result of the recent drought have strengthened in Africans their resolve, individually and collectively, to take immediate, concerted and urgent actions to ensure sustained and durable economic and social development of the African countries in the medium and long term.

2. The entire international community has become conversant with the plight of the continent and the main actions that need to be taken to extricate it from underdevelopment. More important, it has been aware that the dramatic effects of the drought are but a manifestation of the fragile nature of Africa's socio-economic structures and that the drought has merely accentuated Africa's more pervasive and structural problems. It has become a matter of urgent necessity for the international community to lend support to the efforts of African Governments to undertake long-term structural transformation that will guarantee development and progress and ensure effective utilization of the tremendous potential for human advancement.

3. The underlying causes of Africa's underdevelopment and persistent economic crisis are the lack of structural transformation and the pervasive low level of productivity, aggravated by exogenous and endogenous factors. The endogenous aggravating factors include the structural imbalances evident in the great disparities in urban and rural development and in income distribution, the demographic factors, the inadequacy and/or misdirection of human and financial resources, inappropriate economic strategies and policies, inefficient economic management, institutional and physical infrastructural inadequacies, political instability which has manifested itself, inter alia, in a large and growing population of refugees and the prevalence of social values, attitudes and practices detrimental to development. In addition to these factors, many African countries have suffered from a prolonged drought, desertification and other natural calamities, and continuing economic destabilization perpetuated by South Africa on the countries of the southern region. Furthermore, more than half of the countries identified as least developed countries and a large majority of the developing land-locked and semi-land-locked countries are to be found in Africa. Among the more serious aggravating external constraints are the international recession, the collapsing commodity prices, adverse terms of trade, the decline of official

a/ Submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, in accordance with the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee on 24 April 1986.

development assistance (ODA) in real terms, increased protectionism, high interest rates and the heavy burden of debt and debt-servicing obligations of African countries.

4. Nothing short of radical measures will be necessary to save the African economies from collapse and to ensure the fundamental restructuring and policy reorientation that will launch the continent on the path to self-sustained development. Bold steps must, therefore, be taken to change the defective structure and establish more dynamic self-reliant and self-sustained economies in which growth and development would be more dependent on internal demand stimuli. Above all, these efforts must translate themselves into a marked increase in productivity in all sectors and particularly in the leading food and agricultural sector. It must also be stressed that achieving such a task would be extremely difficult, if not altogether futile, without the amelioration of the external and internal factors that have aggravated the structural crisis. Africa has taken the main responsibility for its own development and it is noteworthy that it has organized itself to undertake the necessary measures and mobilized for this purpose its potential resources and internal dynamism on the basis of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, which African Heads of State and Government adopted in 1985. However, given the dimensions of internal and external problems now facing the continent, it is obvious that Africa cannot accomplish this complex task without the active support of the international community.

5. In this battle for survival and development, African Governments have recognized the necessity to mobilize and utilize fully all their domestic resources. The co-operation and assistance solicited from the international community is therefore intended to complement the tremendous efforts which African countries have decided to make in the years ahead to put their economies on course. By so doing, Africa is underscoring, anew, the new phase of shared responsibilities and genuine partnership which must prevail in an interdependent world. By sharing in the task of African development through a new partnership the international community will no doubt facilitate this endeavour and ensure that the painful and arduous tasks are accomplished faster and at less costs in terms of human suffering. Africa is convinced that, given the necessary support from the international community, it is capable, in the not-too-distant future, of establishing national, subregional and regional structures that are sufficiently dynamic, self-reliant and interdependent to enable it to function as an effective partner in the international economic system.

6. The African development crisis is not an exclusive African problem but one that concerns mankind as a whole. Interdependence and interconnectedness is today a living reality as no region of the world can act as if it were alone. Africa that remains stagnant or perpetually backward economically is a threat to the security of the world. Recognition of mutual interests by the world community should ordinarily lead to the fulfilment of mutual needs through international co-operation for development. Without durable and sustained economic development in the world's poor regions, of which Africa is a notable example, there is a real danger that the lofty ideals of equitable international development and human solidarity would at best be hollow and ineffective, and at worst a mere facade. Helping Africa to overcome its problems of mass poverty is thus an essential element of an international strategy that should aim at creating a mutually more tolerable environment for all the world's people.

II. Programme of Action

7. Cognizant of the above, the African countries have fully committed themselves to the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, which is essentially a sharply focused, practical and operational set of activities, priorities and policies to be implemented in the years 1986-1990 so as to lay the foundation for durable structural change and improved levels of productivity and to ensure the rapid recovery of the African economies. Such a task will not only require that the African countries adopt fundamental changes in their development priorities and policies, but will also require that, simultaneously, the international community support Africa's efforts by making available substantial increases in concessional resource flows and ameliorating the external constraints to the continent's development.

8. To achieve this task the General Assembly adopts the following Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and commits itself to assist African countries in its full implementation.

9. This Programme of Action is based on the full awareness of the international community of the following:

(a) The process of structural transformation of the African economies, although a long-term endeavour must be started immediately and urgently.

(b) The rehabilitation and development of agriculture demands the highest priority while other sectors supportive of agriculture and rural development are also of tremendous importance, namely industry, transportation, health, education and other social services.

(c) There is also an urgent need to take fundamental measures to deal with the problems of drought and desertification, and efficient development and utilization of human resources.

(d) A tremendous amount of domestic effort will have to be mobilized for the effective implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. The Programme nevertheless represents only the bare minimum and the core of the investment programmes required to develop the capacity of African economies to cope with the present crisis and the excruciating problem of underdevelopment. The implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 should therefore be seen as the beginning of laying the foundation for structural transformation.

(e) It is vital that the international community should now look beyond the emergency and supplement the domestic efforts currently being made to achieve a lasting solution to the problems of structural and chronic underdevelopment.

I. AFRICA'S PRIORITIES AND POLICY REFORM MEASURES

A. At the national level

During the 1986-1990 period covered by Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, national subregional and regional priorities will be given to the following:

1. Agriculture development

10. Africa's Priority Programme lays considerable emphasis on the food and agriculture sector. The Priority Programme seeks to revitalize the more dynamic and internally generated forces for growth and development.

(a) Immediate measures to combat food emergencies

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

- Create and sustain national emergency preparedness capacity;
- Institute effective early warning systems;
- Establish national food security arrangements.

(b) Medium-term measures

The main objective is to give a new push to agricultural development 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 arable land 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 exploitation of agriculture biproducts, better range 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;
- Improve and expand the storage capacity and the marketing system;

- Development of agricultural research and extension through the creation of a network of agronomical research stations and extension agents for the design and diffusion of appropriate agricultural technologies;
- Place at the disposal of the small farmers' inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and tools at accessible prices for increased output;
- Better utilization and improvement of management of water resources and the establishment of low-cost irrigation schemes;
- Establishment of reafforestation and drought and desertification control programmes;
- 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 as a package to achieve the expected results, taking into account the particular situation in each country. Other subregional and regional measures are also envisaged in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 to complement national measures.

The total investment required for the implementation of this programme is estimated at \$57.4 billion which is 44.8 per cent of the total cost of implementing Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990.

2. 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.

(a) Rehabilitation and development of agro-related industries

Given the high dependence 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.

(b) 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 communications;
- 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 United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

(c) Trade and finance

In the field of trade the objective is to improve the distribution channels for domestic trade, 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.

3. 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 continue to undertake as soon as possible the following measures:

- Massive afforestation and reafforestation;
- 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;
- Integrate measures for the protection of the environment in national development programmes and accord them high priority;
- Full implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, held in September 1977, and 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.

4. Human resources development, planning and utilization

(a) Human resources

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 within the framework of overall national development policies and plans:

- Radical change in the educational systems at all levels to ensure that the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are relevant to Africa's developmental needs are generated;
- Intensification of efforts to promote mass literacy and adult learning programmes;
- Efficient utilization of manpower resources, including measures to reverse the brain drain and ensure the guarantee of human rights;
- Reduce 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.

5. Policy reforms

In order to achieve the objectives of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, a number of major policy measures are being undertaken by African Governments, while attention is also being focused 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:

(a) 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, fiscal administration and control of public expenditure with a view to promoting the efficient use of resources and reducing wastage and resource misallocation; reduction of foreign exchange leakages; better management of the foreign debt and external assistance. The positive role of the private sector is also to be encouraged through well-defined and consistent policies.

(b) Other policy measures

Africa has demonstrated its determination to tackle its social and economic crisis through, among others, the adjustment measures that it has undertaken in the recent past. These measures include exchange rate adjustments, debt-relief arrangements, wage and salary reduction and employment freeze. Though the tasks

involved have often been difficult and painful, Africa has recognized the necessity to bear the burden and make 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. Austerity measures will be continued with prudence through appropriate monetary and fiscal reforms.

(c) 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 on Population adopted by all African Governments in 1984, will, inter alia, address issues of high fertility and mortality, rapid urbanization, rural-urban and 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.

(d) 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;
- Develop indigenous entrepreneurial capabilities, both private and public;
- Establish sound basis for political, economic and social justice.

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

(e) 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 Women in Development Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women".

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.

B. Subregional concerns

11. 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 rates of economic growth:

(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 in the wake of severe climatic conditions. In fact, for some of these countries, especially those in the Sahel, IGAAD and the Southern African Development and Co-ordination Committee, 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 reafforestation 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 social 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 those 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 serious problems of being land-locked or semi-land-locked and among the least developed countries. 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 an increasing debt-service burden. Agricultural development in some countries of the subregion has been slowing down due to drought, water shortage, mounting desertification and soil erosion. The widening food gap in the subregion is among the highest gaps in Africa.

(e) The plight of 5 million refugees and returnees together with the adverse effects which the refugee burden continues to impose on the frail economies of host countries are matters of high priority for many African States. The Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa 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, on 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 economical infrastructure of the affected countries. Concrete measures should be undertaken at national, regional and international levels with a view to preventing 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.

C. At the regional level

1. Strengthening the institutional framework

12. 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.

2. 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 Programme of Action. Likewise, the establishment, whenever deemed necessary, of subregional organizations based on economic criteria, including natural resource criteria, should be enhanced towards the attainment of the above objectives.

II. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT MEASURES

13. African countries have reaffirmed their total commitment to the primary responsibility for the development of their continent, set specific priorities and undertaken to mobilize fully all their domestic resources for development purposes and implement all measures and policy reforms that are required for bringing about economic rehabilitation, recovery and development. As has been recognized, Africa has begun to implement structural adjustment measures. These measures could only be continued if external co-operation and assistance are substantially increased.

14. Improvement in the international economic environment will need to take place if the economic restructuring measures and reforms of policies and institutions are to succeed. Therefore, the international community is also required to assist Africa in finding lasting solutions to the serious exogenous constraints over which Africa has no control and which, if they persist, will frustrate any efforts towards development.

15. The international community provided its support and positive response to the emergency situation in Africa and further pledged to continue its efforts for the full implementation of resolution 39/29 and the Declaration annexed thereto.

16. With regard to the magnitude of the financial resources required, Africa has indicated that out of the \$US 128.1 billion that it would need to finance programmes during 1986-1990 in the priority areas of agriculture, other sectors in support of agriculture, drought and desertification and human resources development, \$82.5 billion or 64.4 per cent of the total cost of the Priority Programme will be mobilized from domestic resources. In this connection, the international community, in particular the donor countries, is urged to provide the complementary resources to fill the gap of \$45.6 billion necessary for the full implementation of the Priority Programme during the period 1986-1990, i.e. \$9.1 billion per annum on the average.

17. In addition to this assistance, which is specific to the Priority Programme, account needs to be taken of the debt-servicing requirements of African countries during the next five years, which would range on the average between \$US 14.6 billion and \$24.5 billion annually. Therefore, the total financial requirement would range between \$23.7 billion and \$33.7 billion annually. However, to the extent that the debt-service burden is alleviated through appropriate relief measures, financial flows required for debt-servicing purposes will be minimized.

18. It is fully realized that if the international support were limited only to filling the gap of the investment requirements for the implementation of the Priority Programme, without at the same time providing relief for debt-servicing, at the end of the period the African countries would be worse off than they were at the beginning.

19. Therefore, the international community should provide the aforementioned financial assistance in support of Africa's development efforts, and in addition to this, the international community should support the individual and collective efforts of African countries through the following measures:

1. Commitment to a common point of reference

20. Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 provides the necessary framework for a transition from emergency and short-term actions to the relaunching of long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development. It is vital, therefore, that the international community fully accepts the Priority Programme as the basis for the reordering of assistance programmes.

Such an acceptance would enable Africa and the international community to have a universal basis for joint programming, elaboration of policy frameworks and other arrangements for the recovery of the African economies and their eventual transformation.

2. Improving the co-operation environment and structures

21. While it is recognized that each bilateral or multilateral donor 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, action has to be taken to improve the structures and environment of co-operation. The following basic elements should be implemented:

- (a) A shift from project support to programme support of the priority areas of the recipient African countries, with a view to giving an indication of medium-term support;
- (b) Donor countries and agencies should agree to ease the procurement requirements and administrative procedures to ensure fast disbursement to African countries for production inputs and for policy support assistance;
- (c) Donor countries and agencies should substantially increase their aid budgets as well as speed up the disbursement of funds in support of policy reforms;
- (d) The use as a matter of priority of national competence and African expertise, equipment and strengthening of Africa's own capacity to plan and co-ordinate programmes of external assistance;
- (e) Donor co-ordination to ensure more effectiveness of assistance to specific programmes. In this regard the donor community should streamline the co-ordination of their aid policies so as to achieve maximum results in their support for the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990;
- (f) Institution of a mechanism that will evaluate and follow up on donor commitments, and disbursements of assistance to Africa;
- (g) Review of the effectiveness of technical assistance in Africa, in order to make it more compatible with the needs and priorities of African countries;
- (h) The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are urged to increase their financial and technical assistance to African countries;
- (i) Donor countries and agencies should seek other measures to assist African countries in meeting the recurrent and local costs of programmes and projects;
- (j) The international community, in particular donor countries, are requested to provide increased financial and technical assistance to countries affected by drought and desertification through existing subregional organizations such as Permanent Inter-State on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development and the Southern African Development and Co-ordination Committee;
- (k) Call upon the international community to make special efforts to increase its contributions to the least developed countries with a view to enable them to achieve the objectives of their country programmes within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

3. Improvement in the external environment

22. While Africa recognizes that many of the issues regarding the external factors that aggravate the African situation need to be examined in a variety of other contexts and forums, the international community, in particular donor countries, should commit itself to the following:

(a) Adoption of policies in the rest of the world that are conducive to growth rather than contraction of the world economy;

(b) Elimination of the protectionism of the developed countries through, inter alia, the removal of barriers specially non-tariff measures that restrict the entry of African products to specific important markets;

(c) Refraining from agricultural and trade policies which have a detrimental impact on Africa's export and diversification programmes;

(d) Creating and strengthening structures that aim at effectively setting fair and remunerative prices and stabilizing the earnings of African commodity exports. If higher producer prices and guaranteed returns form an essential element of the domestic reform package, the counterpart at the international level is for a combination of commodity agreements and compensatory finance to avoid the sharp falls in export earnings that characterized the first half of the 1980s and which prejudiced the implementation of a coherent agricultural development strategy;

(e) Strengthening international co-operation and support for increasing the capacity of African countries in the processing, marketing, distribution and transportation of their export commodities;

(f) Countries which have not yet done so should sign and ratify early the agreement on the establishment of the Common Fund Commodities in order to enable the Fund to commence operation in January 1987;

(g) Measures should be taken within the framework of GATT to ensure that special treatment is accorded to tropical agriculture products;

(h) Efforts should also be intensified in order to accelerate the conclusion of viable International Commodity Agreements.

4. Supporting Africa's policy reforms

23. There is need for extensive support to sustain the reforms that Africa has identified as necessary and on which many of them have already embarked. In particular unless African countries are assisted in ways that enable them to expand their import capacity during the period of the priority programme, many reform programmes will be compromised. In this regard, it is proposed that:

(a) Non-project aid, particularly balance-of-payments supports, to African countries should be greatly expanded during the period 1986-1990;

(b) There should be non-politicization of aid;

(c) The multilateral financial institutions should increase their concessional assistance to African countries for the implementation of the Priority

Programme. In this connection, there should be a substantial increase in Africa's quotas in the International Monetary Fund beyond the present levels and a substantial allocation of special drawing rights to reconstitute reserves and liquidate accumulated arrears;

(d) IMF Programme lending should cover longer periods of extended arrangements and should relax its conditionality substantially as well as increase the lendings and soften their terms;

(e) The replenishment of the eighth IDA should take into account the need to fully support the structural adjustment measures which many countries in the region have begun to put in place;

(f) During the period of the implementation of APPER no donor country of a multilateral institution should be a net recipient of resource flows from any African country.

5. Economic recovery and the debt constraints

24. It is estimated that the annual debt-servicing obligations of Africa will be in the range of \$US 14.6 billion and \$24.5 billion per annum during 1986-1990. This is certainly beyond the capacity and means of the African countries to service. Urgent measures will have to be taken by the international community to alleviate this burden and thus enable the region to focus on its problems of economic recovery. Among the measures that need to be taken into account in the debt relief/debt-financing package are the following:

(a) Conversion of ODA debts and interest obligations into grants;

(b) Consolidation of non-ODA officially guaranteed debts and service payments thereon due over the period of the Priority Programme 1986-1990 into long-term loans repayable over a 30 to 40 year period on concessional terms with a 10-year period of grace;

(c) Improving the existing framework of commercial debt renegotiation. Capping and reducing interest rates for commercial debts as well as consolidating debt-servicing payments for these debts and their repayment over a long period of time on concessional terms will further reduce the size of Africa's debt obligation;

(d) Ensuring adequate and automatic inflow of resources on highly concessionary terms that would enable African countries to achieve a sustained economic growth;

(e) Full and urgent implementation of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX).

South-South co-operation

25. The international community reaffirms its belief in the strategy for collective self-reliance and reiterates its conviction that economic co-operation among developing countries constitutes a key element in the restructuring of international economic relations with a view to realizing the full potential of the developing countries to bring about rapid social and economic development and to

contribute to the establishing of a new international economic order, fair and equitable.

26. In this connection, given the current global economic difficulties, 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, for the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action with a full sense of solidarity and realism.

27. They acknowledge the need for further concrete action at the bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels, particularly in the area of technical co-operation among developing countries.

In the context of the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, emphasis should be focused on the priority sectors identified in the Priority Programme, including, inter alia:

- Development and transfer appropriate for food and agriculture and for combating drought and desertification;
- Development, production and exchange of equipments and necessary inputs for agriculture and industry;
- Participation in the implementation of self-sustaining, self-generating and self-financing joint development projects;
- Co-operation in the development of human resources.

III. FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION MACHINERY

28. In the framework of their development policies and, particularly, in the implementation of the present Programme of Action as well as the relating co-ordination, evaluation and follow-up machinery, the African countries reaffirm the principle of their permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, wealth and economic activities as well as their sovereign and inalienable right to determine their economic, political, social and cultural systems, according to the will of their peoples and without external interference of any kind.

29. The decisions of the special session of the General Assembly, as well as their effective implementation constitute a critical element in the success of Africa's recovery programme. It is therefore necessary to follow up and evaluate, on a continuing basis, the implementation of these decisions at the national and international levels in order to ensure that problems and bottlenecks are identified and tackled so that these decisions provide effective support implementation of Africa's Priority Programme.

30. It is necessary to establish such follow-up and evaluation mechanisms, or to strengthen and improve the functioning of existing mechanisms, so as to ensure the realization of the above objectives. A follow-up and evaluation mechanism is also essential in order to periodically apprise the international community of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Priority Programme.

31. The general principles underlying the establishment of follow-up and evaluation mechanisms, whether at the national, regional or international levels, are twofold:

(a) The mechanism should be simple, operational and without involving substantial additional expenditure;

(b) The emphasis should be placed, as far as possible, on the strengthening of existing mechanisms, including the expansion of their mandates, rather than the creation of new ones.

32. The implementation of the Recovery Programme must also include an element of shared responsibility in the evaluation and follow-up actions required from the decisions of the special session. In addition to the follow-up mechanism already put into place at the national level, a joint national government and donor community follow-up mechanism must be instituted as appropriate, at each national level. Such a mechanism will follow up and evaluate both the actions of the national Governments as well as those of the international donor community.

33. At the national level the evaluation and follow-up mechanism should involve joint action and participation by both the donor community and the respective African Government; clearly defined responsibilities and issues to be discussed as mutually agreed upon; as well as the work programme, taking into account the longer-term needs of the African country concerned. Given the need for effective partnership between the donor and African countries and for strong support to Africa's effort to implement the Priority Programme, the national follow-up and evaluation mechanism could have the following characteristics:

(a) A joint committee consisting of senior representatives of the Governments concerned as well as senior representatives of the major bilateral and multilateral donor countries and financing institutions where invited;

(b) The follow-up and evaluating machinery will meet regularly, particularly during the initial stages;

(c) While it should be left to each national Government and the donor community concerned to work out the terms of reference of the joint committee the following elements could serve as inspirations:

- (i) Assist in implementing the jointly agreed commitments under the partnership, covering the whole period of the Priority Programme phased into annual activities and commitments;
- (ii) The coverage of such programmes and commitments will include resource flows, debt-servicing relief and policy measures to be introduced both by the national Governments and the international community;
- (iii) To review and evaluate progress in the implementation of agreed commitments both on the part of the donor community and the national Governments;
- (iv) To assist in revising and updating the national action programme;

- (v) The follow-up and evaluation mechanism will liaise on a regular basis and provide information on the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990.

34. At the African regional level, it is noted that the OAU Permanent Steering Committee will play the main catalytic and stimulating role and provide linkage with the international community in respect of all actions to be taken at the national, subregional and continental levels; it is also noted that the African contribution will be submitted to the General Assembly through the usual channels.

35. At the international level, a review and appraisal of the implementation of the decisions of the special session of the General Assembly should be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-third session. Such a review and appraisal should be part of the ordinary session of the General Assembly with three to four days set aside for this purpose. In order to prepare for that review and appraisal, the General Assembly at its session the year preceding the review and appraisal year, should set up such preparatory mechanisms as it may seem fit. The Secretary-General is entrusted with overall responsibility for monitoring and supervising the implementation at the international levels of the arrangements agreed to at the special session of the General Assembly. In addition to ensuring effective assistance and support by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General is called upon to provide all appropriate and necessary assistance as may be required by the recipient countries and the international community at large to facilitate a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to the development needs of Africa and to report therein.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

36. In the wake of Africa's economic and social crisis, African countries have embarked on a concerted comprehensive effort to deal with the crisis of development. At the highest level of policy-making Africa committed itself to a series of bold and radical measures to save the African economies from collapse and ensure fundamental restructuring and policy-reorientation that will launch the continent on the path of self-sustained development.

37. The international community recognizes that the development of Africa is the primary responsibility of the African Governments and people. The international community commits itself to co-operate and assist in complementing the efforts of African Governments and people on the basis of the priorities and objectives which are contained in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. The process of relaunching economic development in Africa is a long-term endeavour which must be started immediately and urgently.

38. We therefore commit ourselves to assist Africa, which remains the least developed of all continents, lagging far behind by every economic indicator, so that it will develop its enormous potential and fully participate in the international economic process. Consequently, we are fully convinced that a new approach to development co-operation and assistance is required. Such an approach should be based on the principles of shared responsibilities and genuine partnership to ensure the full support for the priorities and efforts of African Governments. By sharing in the task of African development through a new partnership the international community will no doubt facilitate this endeavour and ensure that the painful and arduous tasks are accomplished faster and at less cost, in terms of human suffering. We are convinced that, given the necessary support,

Africa is capable, in the not too distant future, of establishing socio-economic structures that are sufficiently dynamic, self-reliant and interdependent, to enable it to function as an effective partner in the international arena.

39. Within the framework of this partnership we commit ourselves to seek, together with our African partners, effective and lasting solutions to the serious problems facing Africa. This new approach will be based, inter alia, on a substantial increase in the flow of highly concessional resources and on putting in place essential economic policy measures which will considerably ameliorate the external environment adversely affecting Africa's economic performance prospects is needed.

40. This new approach implies, inter alia, that out of the \$US 128.1 billion that is needed to finance its Priority Programme during 1986-1990 Africa will provide \$82.5 billion or 64.4 per cent of the total cost. For its part the international community should commit itself to fill the gap of \$45.6 billion necessary for the full implementation of the Priority Programme, i.e., \$9.1 billion annually during the implementation of the Programme.

41. The common objectives and mechanisms we have adopted in this programme are a manifestation of our collective political will to realize the new partnership with Africa. Successful implementation of donor co-ordination and follow-up and evaluation mechanisms will be a testing ground for our commitment to the partnership concept. It is a challenge we have taken upon ourselves and we are committed to succeed. Through our partnership we pledge to work with the African countries to strengthen their development capacity so that African people can enjoy a higher standard of living.

We, therefore, offer our firm commitment to work closely with and support African countries, in the realization of the objectives, priorities and targets outlined in the African Priority Programme which we consider crucial to the success of the efforts of the African Governments.

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