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THE LAGOS DECLARATION FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

(Issued in accordance with the decision taken by the Security Council
at its 2040th meeting on 26 October 1977)

The World Conference for Action against Apartheid organized by the United Nations, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Federal Government of Nigeria, met in Lagos, Nigeria, from 22 to 26 August 1977, with the participation of representatives of 112 Governments, 12 intergovernmental organizations, 5 liberation movements, 51 non-governmental organizations and a number of prominent individuals.

1. The Conference heard keynote speeches from the Head of State of Nigeria, the President of Zambia and the Prime Minister of Norway, as well as other prominent personalities.

2. After a full discussion of the items on its agenda, the Conference adopted the following Declaration.

I.

3. The Conference reiterates the universal abhorrence of apartheid and racism in all its forms and manifestations and the determination of the international community to secure its speedy elimination.

4. The Conference reaffirms support and solidarity for the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and their national liberation movements, and the commitment of Governments and peoples of the world to take actions to contribute towards the eradication of apartheid.

5. Apartheid, the policy of institutionalized racist domination and exploitation, imposed by a minority régime in South Africa, is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It rests on the dispossession, plunder, exploitation and social deprivation of the

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African people since 1652 by colonial settlers and their descendants. It is a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind. It has resulted in immense suffering and involved the forcible moving of millions of Africans under special laws restricting their freedom of movement; and the denial of elementary human rights to the great majority of the population, as well as the violation of the inalienable right to self-determination of all of the people of South Africa. This inhuman policy has been enforced by ruthless measures of repression and has led to escalating tension and conflict.

6. The apartheid régime in South Africa is the bastion of racism and colonialism in southern Africa and is one of the main opponents of the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to promote self-determination and independence in the area.

7. It has continued illegally to occupy the Territory of Namibia, for which the United Nations has a special responsibility, and extended apartheid to that international Territory.

8. It has sustained and supported the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia, and has constantly resorted to threats against neighbouring independent African States and violations of their sovereignty. Since the end of colonial rule in Angola and Mozambique it has engaged in a series of acts of aggression against neighbouring States and has connived at acts of aggression by the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia. Its massive invasion of Angola and constant violations of the territorial integrity of Zambia have been condemned by the United Nations Security Council. It continues to violate the territorial integrity of neighbouring independent African States.

9. The policies and actions of the South African régime have already created an explosive situation in the whole of southern Africa and events have moved into a phase of an acute crisis. The apartheid régime has intensified its military activities along the borders of independent African States and is constructing and expanding new military bases. It is reinforcing its enormous military arsenal and the production of nuclear weapons is within its reach. The possession of this arsenal and the acquisition of nuclear weapons by this racist and aggressive régime constitutes a menace to all independent African States and the whole world.

II.

10. The World Conference recalls with admiration the valiant efforts of the South African people for many decades for an end to racial discrimination and for the establishment of a non-racial society. By their courageous struggle at heavy sacrifice, the South African people, under the leadership of their national liberation movement, have made a significant contribution to the purposes of the United Nations.

11. The United Nations has solemnly recognized the legitimacy of the struggle of the South African people for freedom and human equality, and for enabling all the people of the country irrespective of race, colour or creed, to participate as

equals in the determination of the destiny of the nation. It has proclaimed that the United Nations and the international community have a special responsibility towards the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement, and towards those imprisoned, restricted or exiled for their struggle against apartheid.

12. The World Conference pledges its full support to the legitimate aspirations of the South African people and urges Governments, organizations and individuals to provide all appropriate assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement in their just struggle for freedom and human equality.

13. The Conference rejects all aspects of the apartheid system, including the imposition of "bantustans", which divide the population, deprive the African people of their citizenship and inalienable right to self-determination, and deny them a just share of the wealth of the country. There can be no international co-operation with bantustans and other entities based on racism.

14. The Conference condemns all manoeuvres by the South African régime aimed at preserving racist domination and the system of exploitation and oppression in South Africa, and in southern Africa as a whole.

15. It calls upon all Governments to enact legislation declaring the recruitment, assembly, financing and training of mercenaries in their territories to be punishable as a criminal act and to do their utmost to discourage and prohibit their nationals from serving as mercenaries.

16. It declares that South Africa belongs to all its people irrespective of race, colour or creed and that all have the right to live and work there in conditions of full equality. The system of racist domination must be replaced by majority rule and the participation of all the people on the basis of equality in all phases of national life, in freely determining the political, economic and social character of their society and in freely disposing their natural resources.

III.

17. The Conference calls upon Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify the campaign for the further isolation of the apartheid régime with a view to complementing the efforts of the South African people and their national liberation movement and to ensure:

(a) The immediate and total elimination of the policy and practice of apartheid and granting equal rights to all its inhabitants, including equal political rights;

(b) The termination of all measures, under whatever name, which forcibly separate elements of the population on the basis of race;

(c) The dismantling of the system of apartheid and the policy of bantustanization, and abrogation of all racially discriminatory laws and measures;

(d) The ending of repression against the opponents of apartheid, and the immediate and unconditional release of all persons, imprisoned, detained, restricted or exiled for their opposition to apartheid;

(e) The exercise, freely and on the basis of equality, of the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of South Africa as a whole;

(f) The removal of the illegal South African forces of occupation in Namibia and compliance by the apartheid régime with the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 385 (1976);

(g) Compliance by the South African régime with Security Council resolutions on the question of Southern Rhodesia, and full implementation of sanctions against the illegal racist minority régime, including the oil embargo;

(h) The immediate cessation by the apartheid régime of all aggressive acts and threats against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of African States; and

(i) The immediate cessation by the apartheid régime of the military and nuclear build-up which constitutes a serious danger to international peace and security.

18. The World Conference recognizes that the continuation of the prevailing situation in South Africa, and in southern Africa as a whole, will inevitably lead to greater conflict in Africa with enormous repercussions to international peace and security.

19. The World Conference condemns the South African régime for its ruthless repressive measures which are designed to perpetuate white racist domination. It recognizes and respects the inalienable right of the oppressed South African people and their national liberation movement to resort to all available and appropriate means of their choice to secure their freedom, and the need to assist them to achieve freedom. It declares that the international community has an inescapable duty to take all necessary measures to ensure the triumph of freedom and human equality in South Africa.

20. It further calls upon the international community to assist States which have been subjected to pressure, threats and acts of aggression by the South African régime because of their opposition to apartheid and implementation of United Nations resolutions for action against apartheid.

21. Governments and organizations participating in the World Conference pledge to use their separate and collective efforts forthwith, and on a continuing basis, to bring about the elimination of apartheid, to provide assistance to the victims of oppression, and to lend appropriate support to their national liberation movements, in consultation with the United Nations and the OAU, in their legitimate struggle

to eliminate apartheid, and to attain the inalienable right to self-determination of the South African people as a whole.

22. The Conference commends those States and organizations which have provided assistance to the oppressed people and their national liberation movements, and appeals to all States and organizations to increase such assistance.

23. It draws attention to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

24. The Conference calls upon all States for the cessation of any assistance or co-operation enabling South Africa to obtain nuclear capability. It further calls upon all States to prevent companies or institutions within their jurisdiction, from any nuclear co-operation with South Africa.

25. The Conference solemnly calls upon all States to cease forthwith all sales and supplies of arms and military equipment, spare parts and components thereof; to withdraw all licences for the manufacture of arms and military equipment in South Africa and to refrain from any assistance to the South Africa régime in its military build-up or any military co-operation with that régime. It further recommends the setting up of a watchdog committee to follow up the observance of the arms embargo.

26. It calls on the United Nations Security Council to take all necessary measures, under Chapter VII of the Charter, to ensure the full implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa.

27. The Conference recognizes the urgent need for economic, and other measures, universally applied, to secure the elimination of apartheid. It commends all Governments which have taken such measures in accordance with United Nations resolutions. It calls upon the United Nations and all Governments, as well as economic interests, including transnational corporations, urgently to consider such measures, including the cessation of loans to, and investments in, South Africa. It requests the Special Committee against Apartheid, in co-operation with the OAU and all other appropriate organizations, to promote the implementation of the above recommendations.

28. The Conference urges States, and international and national sporting bodies to take all appropriate steps within their jurisdiction to bring about the termination of all sporting contacts with South Africa.

29. It commends all public organizations which have taken actions in accordance with United Nations resolutions and in support of the legitimate struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa.

IV.

30. The World Conference calls on all the Governments and peoples of the world to lend their full support to international efforts, under the auspices of the United

Nations and in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the liberation movements recognized by it, to eliminate apartheid and enable the South African people as a whole to attain their inalienable right to self-determination.

31. The Conference expresses its solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and with all political prisoners and detainees in South Africa, and pledges the total support of all participants to continue and intensify their campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees. It further pledges its unswerving support to all efforts to end arbitrary arrests, detentions and political trials in South Africa.

32. It endorses the proposal to proclaim 1978 as the International Anti-Apartheid Year and appeals to all Governments and organizations to observe it in the spirit of this Declaration.

33. The liberation of southern Africa as a whole from colonial and racist rule will be the final step in the emancipation of the continent of Africa from centuries of domination and humiliation. It will be a major contribution to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in the world, and to the strengthening of international peace and security.

34. The World Conference calls on all Governments and peoples to make their fullest contribution in this historic and crucial effort for freedom, peace and international co-operation.
