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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Question of Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/22 of 28 November 1977 concerning the question of Western Sahara. Paragraph 5 of this resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"5. Requests the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the progress achieved in the implementation of the decisions of the Organization of African Unity concerning Western Sahara, and invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to report on the question to the General Assembly as soon as possible and not later than at its thirty-third session."

2. In a telegram dated 8 September 1978, Mr. Edem Kodjo, the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), addressed the following message to the Secretary-General:

"The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting at its fifteenth ordinary session at Khartoum, Democratic Republic of the Sudan, from 18 to 22 July 1978, adopted a resolution on the question of Western Sahara and requested me to bring the resolution to the knowledge of the United Nations Secretary-General. I am therefore sending you the full text of the resolution and look forward to meeting you soon in my new capacity when I come to New York with the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity to attend the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

'The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its fifteenth ordinary session in Khartoum, Democratic Republic of the Sudan, from 18 to 22 July 1978,

'Having heard the statement of the outgoing Chairman on the question of Western Sahara,

'Having discussed the question of Western Sahara,

'Keenly concerned about the serious situation prevailing in Western Sahara and the tension in the region,

'Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, in particular, those relating to the total decolonization of the continent,

'Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and, taking into consideration the conclusions of the report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission of 11 November 1975,

'Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Non-aligned Movement on the question of Western Sahara,

'Considering the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice on 16 October 1975 ^{1/} with respect to the principle of the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination:

'1. REAFFIRMS the responsibility of the Organization of African Unity with regard to the search of a fair and peaceful solution in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the Charter of the United Nations;

'2. REAFFIRMS the decision to hold an extraordinary summit meeting devoted to the question of Western Sahara;

'3. DECIDES to set up, for this purpose, an ad hoc committee composed of at least five Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity, including the current Chairman of the organization, and entrust it with the consideration of all the data on the question of Western Sahara, among which, the exercise of the right of the people of this Territory to self-determination;

'4. DIRECTS the current Chairman to hold, as soon as possible, consultations with a view to setting up the said ad hoc committee and organizing its meeting;

^{1/} Western Sahara, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1975, p. 12.

- '5. CALLS upon all the States of the region to refrain from taking all actions likely to hamper the search of a fair and peaceful solution to this problem;
- '6. CALLS upon the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to report to the thirty-second ordinary session of the Council of Ministers on the evolution of the question;
- '7. INVITES the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to bring the present resolution to the knowledge of the United Nations Secretary-General to whom was already submitted the decolonization problem of the Western Sahara."
