



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/42/410
21 July 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-second session
Items 21, 83 and 86 of the
provisional agenda*

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

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS **AND** DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 16 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I take pleasure in transmitting herewith to you a copy of the Abuja Statement on Economic Recovery and Long-term Development in Africa (see annex) that issued from the International Conference on Africa: the challenge of economic recovery and accelerated development, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, at Abuja, Nigeria, from 15 to 19 June 1987. The Statement sets out the issues discussed at that Conference, as well as the conclusions and recommendations that were made.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 21, 83 and 86 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Major General J. N. GARBA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/42/150.

ANNEX

Abuja Statement on Economic Recovery and Long-term
Development in Africa

1. The International Conference on Africa: the challenge of **economic** recovery and accelerated development was convened at Abuja, the **new** Federal capital of Nigeria, **from** 15 to 19 June 1987, for the purpose of making an in-depth review of Africa's recovery **process** and prospects for long-term development.
2. Such a **review** and **assessment** is **both** crucial and timely, taking **into account the time that has** elapsed since the adoption in 1995 and 1986, **respectively**, of Africa's Priority **Programme** for Economic Recovery **1986-1990** (adopted by the **Assembly** of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity at its twenty-first session) and the United Nations Programme of **Action** for **African Economic** Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (see General Assembly resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986). The Conference was also deemed **timely in view of the continuing** gravity of the **economic situation** facing Africa, in **spite** of the efforts **made** in the implementation of these programmes. **Accordingly**, it has become necessary to undertake a critical **assessment** of actions **that have** so far **been taken by** Africa and **the** international community in the implementation of these programmes, with a view to identifying the progress that **has** been made and the constraints that **are** impeding Africa's economic recovery and long-term development. The present Statement reflects **the conclusions** and recommendations that **have** emerged from this review and assessment. It draws **attention to the emerging** trends, opportunities and constraints and **puts** forward concrete and practical proposals for generating **sustained** recovery and growth to **bring about** a structural transformation of the African economies.
3. Over **200** African and world experts and scholars, government officials and policy-makers from 36 **countries** and from **the United Nations system**, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, participated. To assist the Conference in its task, several **issue-** and policy-oriented papers and studies were submitted as background documentation. The diversity and very high level of participation provided a unique opportunity for a balanced exchange of ideas and reasoned recommendations. The **Conference** is, therefore, appreciative of the initiative and effort made **by the Executive** Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in organizing this important **Conference**. The Conference is also appreciative of **the** co-sponsorship by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the co-operation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB).
4. The Conference was particularly honoured that His Excellency Major General **Ibrahim** Babangida, President of **the** Federal Republic of **Nigeria** and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and His Excellency M. Colonel **Denis Sassou Nguesso**, President of the People's Republic of the **Congo** and Chairman of OAU, personally addressed the Conference. The Conference was greatly **encouraged** by the **message** of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Javier **Pérez de Cuéllar**. The Conference welcomed **the Statement**

delivered by Her Excellency Madame **Monique** Landry, Minister **of** External Relations of Canada, reflecting Canada's **interest** in and support for **Africa's** recovery and development.

5. The Conference proceedings **were** conducted in seven plenary **sessions** and **several** group discussions. While detailed proceedings will be published in due course, **the** present **Statement** will bring **out** the highlights of **the issues** and **conclusions** and the recommendations for action. The Conference **hopes** that African **Governments** and peoples **and** the international community will take prompt and appropriate action to implement **the** recommendations.

A. Overall assessment of the situation

Progress, problems and prospects in the recovery process

6. The review of the progress **made** in the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery **1986-1990** and the United **Nations** Programme of **Action** for African **Economic** Recovery and Development 1986-1990 **was** at three **levels: actions taken by** African Governments; actions taken **by** African regional and subregional **organizations and institutions;** and actions **taken by the international community.** The Conference noted **that the measures** undertaken so far by African **Governments** included, among other things, higher public **investment in** the agricultural sector, reduction **in** public expenditure, reduction of subsidies and transfers, greater incentives to farmers and domestic manufacturing, restructuring of public administration, reform **of** public enterprises, **squeezing of** public sector wages and reform of the exchange **system.** These **measures have** so far yielded some positive results in **a** number of countries, particularly in improved agricultural **production and in the rationalization and better utilization of** resources. **More than** anything else, these measures **have** demonstrated the limitations and constraints that **need** to be removed if the process of recovery is to gain any momentum on **a** sustainable basis.

7. The collapse of international **commodity** prices has drastically reduced the actual and potential earnings from the increased volume of commodity exports. The expected inflow in the level of resources to support **the** recovery process has not been forthcoming to the extent that they can have an adequate impact on the situation. Additional external debt-service burdens have put **serious** limits on **what can be mobilized** to promote **domestic** reconstruction and development as **envisaged** in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 and the United Nations Programme of Action. The **net** effects of the above facts are the aggravation of balance-of-payments problems **and** the dire need for **external** resources, thus **forcing many** countries to implement structural adjustments programmes aimed at correcting financial current imbalances. To date, 28 African countries are implementing such measures.

8. In many countries, the period of the adjustment programme **has** been too short to allow for **a** realistic evaluation, and, in any **case,** there is hardly any **country** that **has** been **able** to mobilize adequate resources to support its adjustment programme. **What has become** evident, **however,** is that unless structural **adjustment**

programmes are closely related to the wider objective of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 and the United Nations Programme of Action, and unless more substantial resources can be mobilized to support those programmes, there is great danger that the process will have a negative impact on growth, the living standard, employment, social development and political stability.

9. The Conference was gratified to learn that subregional concerted approaches to the promotion of the recovery process have begun to emerge. For example, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has pledged individual and collective support to initiate a West-Africa-wide recovery process through a joint plan of action that would be launched on 8 July 1987. Such a programme would concentrate, inter alia, on subregional food security, control of drought and desertification and water resources development and management.

10. Similar efforts have been taken in other subregions, particularly in southern Africa under the auspices of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) where concerted efforts, particularly designed to counteract the destabilizing policies of South Africa have preceded both Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 and the United Nations Programme of Action. These concerted efforts focus especially on strengthening the subregion's alternate transport and communications structure, development of food security, strengthening of the subregion's capacity, securing social and economic infrastructures, reducing the subregion's dependence on South Africa, and promoting co-operation in the field of trade, industry and energy.

11. The Conference also noted with satisfaction the substantial increase in the authorized capital of the African Development Bank that will be available to finance projects in response to priorities of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 and, the United Nations Programme of Action. The Conference also welcomed the growing role of ECA and OAU in promoting the objective and monitoring the implementation of those recovery programmes.

Africa and the international community

12. While it is generally agreed that much of the effort and resources required for implementing the recovery programmes and bringing about long-term development in the region will have to come from African countries themselves, the Conference recalled that the contribution of the international community had been underscored as being critical during the thirteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa. African countries had estimated their external financial needs for the recovery programmes at \$45.6 billion for the five-year period and their external debt-servicing requirements estimated conservatively at \$14.6 billion annually, thus bringing the average annual external resource requirement under the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 to between \$24 billion and \$34 billion, on the assumption that commodity prices remained at the 1985 level. While it did not commit itself to these figures, the international community did undertake to make every effort to provide sufficient resources to support and supplement Africa's development effort and agreed that measures have to be taken to alleviate Africa's debt burden.

13. The Conference noted with satisfaction **that a number of** positive steps have **been** taken since last year. These include (a) the replenishment **of the** resources of the International **Development Association (IDA) to the tune of** \$12.4 billion **and** the decision to allocate 45 per cent thereof to sub-Saharan Africa, **(b) the** increase in the level of the grant **element** in official development assistance (ODA) **by some** developed countries to the hard-pressed low-income African **countries**, and (c) the cancellation of **ODA** debts by some donor **countries** in favour of **some** Of the least. developed **African countries**. The **Conference also** welcomed the recent decision of the thirteenth summit **meeting of the seven most** industrialized market **economies** of the West **that** consideration **should be** given by the Paris Club to the possibility of applying lower interest rates **to** the existing debts of African countries that are undertaking adjustment effortn and that agreement should be reached **on** longer repayment and grace periods to **ease** the debt burden. It also endorsed the proposal submitted by the **Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund** to that summit meeting for a significant increase in the resources **of** the structural adjustment facility over **a** period of three **years beginning** 1 January 1988.

14. While **the** Conference would wish to express its appreciation for **these** efforts, there is **some** concern **that they may not** be adequate to **meet the** external resource needs of Africa for its recovery programme, particularly **in tht** face of **the** dramatic fall **in** commodity prices and the escalation of debt **burden obligations**. The Conference is also of the view that the approach so far to African external resource needs is **rather ad hoc** and partial in nature and therefore likely to have a limited impact. **What** is required is **a** comprehensive approach to **the** debt problem and aid flows that would provide the financial resources required **for** economic recovery and development in Aft **ica**.

15. Delegates noted **the continuing** trend of declining primary commodity prices, including oil. They also noted the **grim prospects for future** commodity prices, a situation which is going to increase the already substantial need for resources for African countries. In view of the **sizeable** magnitude **of** the resource needs of these countries, thsy called **upon** the industrialized countries **to make** special efforts to **increase** the flow of capital and **concessional** aid, **remove** protectionist barriers and structural rigidities in their **economies** and create an international environment conducive to growth-oriented structural **adjustment** and increased trade.

16. The Conference stressed the importance of South-South co-operation in **Africa's** economic recovery and **long-term** development. Such co-operation **is** particularly essential in bringing about the structural changes required for self-reliance **and** self-sustained development. The **main areas** outlined include the building **up of** appropriate technological capacities through technical assistance, **interregional** trade **among** developing countries and **hum, n resources** development.

17. In view of the foregoing analysis, the **Conference** came to the conclusion that the prospects for recovery depend **upon the** concentration of efforts **on such** issues as (a) sustenance of domestic policy reforms, **(b) continuation of the** efforts to improve **economic management**, (c) **ensurance** that **structural adjustment** programmes are consistent with the **objectives** and **priorities** of the recovery programmes, (d) amelioration of the debt burden, (e) intensification of the **search** for the

solution to the commodities problems, (f) constraints on achieving fully adequate levels of ODA, and (g) impact of acts of political and economic destabilization on the recovery of the countries of southern Africa. Accordingly, the Conference devoted a considerable part of its time to an in-depth study of these issues in four group discussion encounters. The recommendations contained in the latter part of this Statement were derived from these detailed group discussions and analyses.

Long-term development prospects

18. The second part of the Conference was devoted to reviewing Africa's prospects for long-term development in the light of the experience of the past seven years since the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and the Final Act of Lagos in April 1980. The Conference undertook this review in the light of the historical, socio-cultural and political situation of Africa, as well as the scientific and technological perspectives. It came to the conclusion that Africa's long-term development must be based on a fundamental structural change that will not happen by itself and that, therefore, has to be engineered by the Africans themselves as envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action. In accordance with Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, the food and agricultural sector should constitute the base for structural change, with the African countries gradually reducing the importance and significance to their national economies of exports of primary commodities, while increasing the role of domestic and intra-African production relationships until the latter becomes more dominant and the former more marginal.

19. In order to achieve such a structural change, Africa must take measures to overcome its scientific and technological backwardness. However, the Conference believed that structural changes at the political and cultural levels will also have to be engineered. In a situation where rapid changes are taking place in the geopolitical and technological world order, Africa will have to contend with the pace, content and turbulences of global structural shifts. The continent must also gear itself to respond to the long-term demand prospects for its primary commodities and endeavour over time to move out of the present structure of an export-oriented primary commodity system. However, the continent's ultimate future has to remain firmly rooted in its own uniquenesses and diversities: in its cultures, in its peoples and in its natural resources. An improvement in the capacity to respond to these changes must therefore be an essential component in Africa's long-term development strategies.

20. Africa's history and recent experiences confirm that the future prospects of the continent will not hinge simply on issues of economic growth and financial flows. They will require a refocusing of the African ethos and a regathering of all African forces. Africa, as an entity in the world, will have to derive its strength from its internal socio-cultural authenticity, territorial and political cohesion and economic viability based mainly on endogenous forces.

21. New political perspectives are also imperative for setting into motion the process of African progress. A viable development strategy for Africa should be predicated on a comprehensive programme of social transformation that requires

vision, resolve and commitment on the part of the African leadership. The **democratization** of the African society and **increased** accountability of those entrusted with power are vital for the **mobilization** of greater popular participation. For **such necessities to become** realities, African political perspectives vis-à-vis external political and **economic** interests will also have to be sharpened to **become** more decisive and enlightened so that the African destiny is assured **to be** in the hands of the African people.

22. Overcoming scientific and technological underdevelopment will be **one of** the critical pre-conditions to **Africa's** economic maturity in the **coming** twenty-first century. To achieve **this** task, **Africa** will have to depend less on technology transfers that only deepen its dependency. It **must**, instead, make consistent **efforts** to develop, acquire, adapt and **internalize such** technologies and scientific knowledge **that will** enable it to make full and **effective use of its resource** endowments and **in relation to its** needs. Two areas that will have to be **focused on** include the enhancement **of** African research and **innovation** and their institutionalization **in the fabric of society** and the development and fuller **utilization** of African scientific **and** technical **skills**.

23. **Given the** present political and **economic** fragmentation of the continent, it will be difficult if not impossible for **Africa to realize** its **vision** without collective self-reliance, economic co-operation and **integration**. Although the process of co-operation in Africa has been going on for **some time, it will require** strengthening and rationalization. **Efforts** at African integration can bear fruits only if African countries honour faithfully their **commitments to integrate their economies**, particularly through productive activities. It is **only in this way** that the objective of an African economic community **can** be achieved.

B. Conclusions and recommendations

24. In the light of the foregoing analysis, **the** following conclusions and recommendations are proposed for **the most** careful **consideration** of African countries and the international **community**.

25. Measures **for** accelerating the **recovery** process **are as** follows:

(a) To **sustain** domestic policy reforms and improvement in **economic** management, African **countries** must continue to pursue structural policy reform measures, **taking into account the** need to **minimize the** adverse social impact Of **such** measures and the human dimension of **adjustment; they must** ensure that **budgetary cuts** do not affect the development of social infrastructure, particularly health and education services; and **they must put greater** emphasis on the rationalization of **government institutions with a view to** ensuring **an** effective contribution of the public sector to the **recovery** process. In the light of the recommendation of the **Niamey** Symposium on Grass Roots Development, African **Governments must** create favourable conditions for the **decentralization of** decision making and **must** delegate authority and responsibility **for increased access to** resources **so** as to broaden the **participation** of all groups of the population in the **recovery** process.

(b) To **ensure that** structural adjustment programmes are consistent with the recovery process, **African** countries must sustain and accelerate the process of economic recovery by increasing the level of investment in agriculture, developing **rural transportation** with greater **emphasis** on low-cost transport equipment and **promoting agro-allied** industries. They must ensure that **structural** adjustment programmes are consistent with the requirements for recovery and growth. They are urged to undertake, with the assistance of African regional **institutions**, concerted efforts to exchange information on their negotiation with international financial **organizations and** donors on policy **reform** measures **and** structural **adjustment programmes**. They must also **take** appropriate measures for controlling capital flight and brain drain from Africa.

(c) The ECA secretariat should constantly monitor, through in-depth studies, the impact of structural adjustment programmes on medium- **and** long-term **development**.

(d) **At** the subregional level, collective approaches to recovery and development within the **framework** of the existing subregional economic **communities** should continue to be devised and **vigorously** implemented.

Debt and debt-service payments

26. In view of the severity of the debt-servicing problem in **many countries** in Africa **and** its dire implications for recovery and development prospects, new efforts will **be** needed to deal with this problem, **particularly** in so far as low-income countries **are** concerned. These efforts should include:

(a) Lowering interest rates **on** existing debts, which, in rescheduling **agreements**, could **be critical** in some cases; and longer repayments and **grace** periods to **ease the** debt-service burden, as agreed at the **recent Venice Summit Conference**, should **be** pursued;

(b) Conversion of bilateral ODA debt and interest obligations for **low-income countries** undertaking structural adjustment programmes into grants, where this has not already been accomplished;

(c) Repayment of debt in local currency could **be** considered;

(d) Conversion of debt and debt-servicing obligations into investment portfolios and equity.

Development assistance

27. In addition, there is an urgent need for increased aid flows, which will provide the **resources** required for **recovery** and development. In this connection, the Conference welcomes the recent initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a high-level Advisory Group on **Resource Flows to Africa**, which will make **practical** recommendations to ease the debt-burden and increase resource flows to the continent. The Conference also welcomes the new initiatives **by** some major bilateral donors to increase resource **flows** to Africa. African Governments and institutions and other development programmes should **offer**

to ~~assist~~ these countries in establishing and expanding **their** activities in Africa. In addition to **all** of these, the Conference puts forward the following policy **options** for **serious** consideration:

(a) Bilateral aid should be further increased and more effective use **made of** these **flows** for recovery **and** development

(b) Additional concessional resources through multilateral institutions should **be significantly increased**. In this **regard**, proposals or agreement to triple the Structural Adjustment Facility and replenish* IDA and the African Development Fund at higher levels and to allocate substantial **parts** thereof to Africa deserve special **support**;

(c) The possibility of the issuance of new **SDRs** (special drawing rights) in relation to development needs should **be** considered;

(d) With the assistance of ECA, ADP and the African Centre for Monetary Studies, consideration should be given to **the** possibility of **setting up** African consultative **machinery** to enable **member States to exchange information and** harmonize their positions for **the meetings with** creditors in the Paris **and** London Clubs.

Commodities, trade and price stabilization

28. Within the overall **context of** Africa's recovery **and accelerated growth**, the Conference arrived at **the following conclusions**: (a) intra-African trade offers substantial opportunities for trade expansion **and increased production**; **thus one** way of reducing the vulnerability of the **economies is** to intensify efforts towards subregional and **regional** co-operation in **trade**, including trade in commodities; (b) existing initiatives in international **co-operation** in commodities need **to be** continued and strengthened, especially as regards the operation of **the common fund**; (c) there is a link between commodity, price level, external debt and the need for international resource flows; and (d) over the past 10 **years there have been marked** rigidities in the trade policies of **industrialized countries towards Africa**, especially with regard to trade in processed or semi-processed **commodities**; a trend which **has** proved detrimental to Africa's **efforts to shift away from** commodity dependence. In the light of these conclusions, the following proposals were addressed to specific target groups, namely, **the African Governments**, the international community **and** international institutions.

(a) African Governments should:

(i) Initiate supply **rationalization** measures so **as** to bring production and supply of their **commodities** in line with long-term demand trends; to this **end, Governments** should **take** steps to promote **new** domestic and export demand for their primary commodities through increased **market research**, development measures **and improved** market information systems!

- (ii) Diversify efforts while avoiding repeating costly **mistakes** or creating new surplus **situations**; the diversification should include the use of locally available raw materials for production instead of relying on **imported** ones;
 - (iii) Examine the prospects for the increased **use** of counter-trade as **a** measure to promote intra-African trade expansion, **including** trade in primary commodities **without** having to **use** scarce external currencies.
- (b) The international community should:
- (i) Ensure **that** the Uruguay **round** of negotiations of **the** General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade enables **the** granting of more liberal **access to** industrial country **markets** of African exports, including tropical products. The possibility of **a** more rational system of world agricultural trade in **the 1990s** should **be** encouraged;
 - (ii) Continue to discuss, **especially at the seventh** session of **the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, the problem of commodity price changes, seeking measures to deal with the problem of reduced **income** as African **countries** undertake long-term **structural** adjustment.
 - (iii) Give further **consideration** to expanding donor participation in **Stabex schemes** to include other donor countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

(c) International **organizations and institutions** should bear in mind, where Structural adjustment and other programmes **undertaken** under the auspices of **the** multilateral financial institutions **are** targeted to achieve external balance, that the reference prices **on** which the programmes are **based are, themselves, subject to** short-term distortions; **therefore, less rigidity in the price assumptions is necessary.** The Conference urges full discussion of issues related to commodities, trade and the special problem of least developed countries at the forthcoming UNCTAD Conference.

Political and economic destabilization and the consequences for economic recovery and development

29. The **Conference** recognized that peace, security and stability are necessary pre-conditions for Africa's economic development. Recovery and **economic** development efforts **in the countries** of the southern African region **members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference** have **been** and continue to be frustrated **by the** continued policies of aggression and **political and economic; destabilization** of the racist **régime** of South Africa. To achieve peace, stability and security **in this** region, the Conference recommends the following measures:

- (a) Continuation of the campaign to ensure **divestment** by all transnational **corporations** in South Africa;

(b) Full implementation by **African** countries of the measures identified in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 in support of the national liberation movements **and** the **SADCC countries**;

(c) Support of the efforts of SADCC countries to strengthen **co-operation among themselves** and reduce their dependence on **South Africa**, particularly through maximum support of the **SADCC** Programme of Action and **its plans for alternative** transport and communications routes, food security and manpower **development**;

(d) Increased assistance by the international community to the **SADCC** countries to allow **them to implement their recovery programmes and** cover the cost of aggression and destabilisation policies of **South Africa**, which were estimated to have cost the region over **\$US 2 billion** annually;

(e) Increased **co-operation** by the international **and regional** development and financial institutions with and **assistance to SADCC** countries.

30. As a result of the continuous aggression by the South African **régime** and its support of destabilisation activities in Mozambique and the current **drought** affecting large areas **in** that country, Mozambique is facing a **serious economic** emergency. Thousands of people are facing **severe** famine. The Conference urges more urgent humanitarian **relief**, especially **food aid** and shelter, **as well as** assistance in removing the fundamental cause of instability.

Prospects for long-term development

31. As far as the prospects for accelerated and long-term development are concerned, the general conclusion of the Conference **is that Africa** needs a new **approach** to its political economy. This should involve more coherent and more clearly thought **out principles** to guide its development process and to provide a framework for more efficient resource **mobilization**. In this context, recovery **must** also mean economic reconstruction for long-term development which, in **turn, calls** for **new** forms of social organization **and economic management and** the bridging of **economic and social** disparities.

32. The Conference therefore decided to recommend to African **countries that they** should:

(a) **Internationalize** productive forces and the **growth** impetus, as well as increase effective **self-reliance and** co-operation on a regional basis;

(b) Intensify popular participation in the economic development process and the promotion of social **justice** and distributive equity;

(c) Recognize the fundamental role of **women** in the development process;

(d) Develop and enhance African **research** and encourage the process of technological and scientific innovation and adaptation;

(e) **Ensure** consistency of the development process and environmental **sustainability**;

(f) **Promote** greater reliance on African **technical and** scientific skills and entrepreneurship;

(g) Create political, social, administrative and cultural dimensions **that** are conducive to long-term development in order to ensure the **success and** sustainability of the development **process**.

Economic co-operation in Africa and **between Africa** and the international Community

33. In order to reverse **the** disappointing experience with economic integration and to ensure that the process of integration contributes more effectively to **economic** development and structural change, African **countries** should embark on a comprehensive approach to **economic** integration involving the **rationalization** of existing **co-operation** organs in each subregion, and their effective **mobilization** for co-ordinated planning and development at the subregional level, and the pursuit of measures for the close co-ordination of **economic** and social policies at the subregional level, as well as for the joint planning and development **of community** projects in the key economic sectors,

34. The current effort to **harmonize** the activities of the multinational **institutions** established under the aegis of OAU and ECA **should** be accelerated with a view to ensuring that their institutions act in support of the comprehensive approach to economic co-operation and integration.

35. The comprehensive approach to **economic** co-operation should be accomplished by new efforts to promote closer collaboration **with other** developing regions, in particular the newly **industrializing** countries, which **are** now in a **position** to provide African countries with an effective **programme** of **technical** co-operation in support of **sectoral** planning at the subregional level in **the key economic** sectors.

36. **Realizing** that, in the final analysis, the pursuit of self-reliant and self-sustaining development on the continent would demand **a** new pattern of economic relationship with the developed countries involving new trade structures and new efforts to promote foreign investment in **Africa**, African countries should devise appropriate **mechanisms** for promoting collaboration **between the** different productive sectors in Africa and those in the developed **countries**.

Follow-up **actions**

37. The Conference would **be most** grateful to the **President** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity for **bringing up** **the** recommendations contained **in** this Statement at all forthcoming appropriate major international forums. The Conference particularly referred to the forthcoming twenty-third session of **the** Assembly of Heads of State and **Government** of OAU, as well **as** the Summit conference of francophone countries, the **Commonwealth** Conference and the fourteenth summit meeting of the seven **most industrialized** countries, **which are** scheduled to be held in Canada. The Conference **also requests** the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring **this Statement** to the **attention** of **the** General Assembly at its forty-second session.

36. The **Executive Secretary** of **ECA** should follow-up on the implementation of the above recommendations, taking into account the consideration that would be given to them by the above-mentioned international forums. One of the major challenges that faces Africa is how to sustain international public interest in Africa's long-term development through continuous and effective communication that will reach all levels of society. This is a challenge that faces the Government of Africa as much as it faces the United Nations, in general, and its regional arm, ECA, in particular. It is therefore, imperative that it should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. In this connection, **ECA** can, with necessary financial support, play a catalytic role.

Vote of thanks

39. In conclusion, the Conference wishes to reiterate its appreciation for the generous hospitality of the Nigerian Government and people in providing the necessary facilities for the meeting. Its deliberations and conclusions were particularly enlightened by the inspiring addresses of the President of the Federal Republic of Niger **ia**, the President of the People's Republic of the Congo and the **Chairman of** OAU, as well as by the enriching message of the **Secretary-General of** the United Nations.

Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria
19 June 1987
