

**THE THIRD AFRICAN-AFRICAN AMERICAN SUMMIT  
DAKAR, SENEGAL  
(1-5 MAY 1995)**

**(A Mission Report)  
By**

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A MISSION REPORT**

**INTRODUCTION, ATTENDANCE AND ORGANISATION OF WORK**

In April 1995, H.E. President Abdou Diouf of Senegal invited the Acting Executive Secretary of ECA to participate in the Third African-African American Summit to be convened in Dakar, Senegal from 1 to 6 May 1995. The Acting Executive Secretary designated Mr. Crispin Grey-Johnson, Senior Regional Adviser, to attend and to provide technical support to the various workshops to be organised to make substantive inputs into the Summit's deliberations.

The Summit was attended by representatives from Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Zambia. ECA, OAU, FAO, UNDP/RBA also attended in an observer capacity.

Five workshops were held in the fields of:

- Agriculture and Fisheries;
- Education;
- Health;
- Private Enterprise;
- Culture.

The Summit proper met in plenary.

In addition to the structured meetings, there were a number of "special events" such as the luncheon speeches and the business forum. The Summit provided an opportunity for a lot of business, intellectual and cultural exchanges to be made between Africans, Africans and American as well as among Americans.

## THE WORKSHOPS

The outcomes of the workshops strongly influenced the contents of the Dakar Declaration which was the final result of the Summit. The following is a resume of the main findings of each of the workshops:

### Agriculture and Fisheries

The Workshop noted that the objective of food security and self-sufficiency can only be attained if productivity and production levels in African agriculture can be significantly increased albeit on a sustainable basis. It was decided that of primary importance in re-invigorating African agriculture, was the need to identify constraints in the sector with a view to formulating realistic measures to have them rooted out. Possible ways in which co-operation between Africans and African-Americans could contribute to the attainment of this objective included joint ventures in agribusiness; joint efforts in agricultural R&D; collaboration in improving the management of natural - especially land and water - resources; assistance in widening markets for Africa's products particularly for seafood; training of African agriculturists, agronomists, fisheries experts and veterinarians; and developing agro-industries.

### Education

The urgent need was recognized to mitigate the crisis in African education which has been brought about by the serious and growing problems of access, especially of girls and rural communities; the inadequacy of teaching and learning resources; the unfavourable student/teacher ratios; the deep dependence on outside sources for inputs such as textbooks, equipment, workshops and laboratories, etc. Co-operation between African countries and the African American community should, in the short run, concentrate on an intensive programme of classroom construction, teacher training, the procurement and supply of instructional material, twinning of institutions, and teacher and student exchange programmes.

### Health

The workshop reviewed the deplorable state of health on the African continent, particularly as it affects women and children and recommended that measures be instituted to improve on human resource and institutional capacities as well as on the planning and implementation of preventive, primary health care programmes. Participants called for joint research and training programmes to be mounted, for staff exchange programmes to be organized, and for information exchange among professionals in the field on particular health problems (such as HIV/AIDS) to be strengthened.

### Private Enterprise

Participants in this workshop focused more on the identification of the factors constraining the more rapid growth of entrepreneurship in African countries. They looked into the possibilities existing in banking, tourism, transport and communications, energy and manufacturing,

especially food processing. The need for joint ventures and partnerships to be encouraged in these areas was strongly emphasised. It was noted that for African countries to be more successful in attracting business, efforts should be intensified to present a more positive image of the continent in the international mass media.

### Culture

How to more effectively promote the African cultural heritage and African values, was the subject of the deliberations of this workshop. Participants looked into the possibilities of developing African cultural "industries" (film, theatre, cultural troupes, historical sites, etc.) and having them contribute to economic growth. They recommended that promoters, producers, choreographers and artists from both sides be brought together to agree on ways of co-operating to develop Africa's cultural industries along these directions.

### THE DAKAR DECLARATION

The Declaration that was made by the Summit inter alia re-iterated the imperative necessity to:

- create the conditions necessary for economic growth to be relaunched in a peaceful and democratic environment;
- advance the process of African economic integration to significantly enlarge markets, attract foreign direct investment and stimulate industrial activity;
- establish a Marshall Plan for Africa;

- write off or reduce Africa's external debt;
- create an Investment Fund for Artistic and Cultural Creativity;
- integrate Africa into the global information superhighway network;
- forge partnerships towards achieving food security and self-sufficiency, promoting human resources development, sustainably managing the natural resource base, and improving the management of the African economy.

The Declaration is annexed to this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

There was a strong and explicit call for the Summit to be institutionalized and for a permanent Secretariat to be established to carry out its inter-sessional and in-session work. This accords with ECA's views on how best to have the work of the Summit more structured and for its recommendations to be implemented in a more systematic manner.

A number of initiatives had been started by ECA with the Summit organizers whose relevance has been underlined by the concerns expressed in the Dakar Declaration. It therefore is of utmost importance that these initiatives be pursued and sustained.

**THE THIRD AFRICAN-AFRICAN AMERICAN SUMMIT**

**DAKAR, 2nd-5th MAY 1995**

**THE DAKAR DECLARATION**

We, the Heads of State and of Government and Heads of Delegations representing the participating African countries,

We, the Head of the delegation of the Government of the United States of America,

We, the Representatives of the African-American Community of the United States of America headed by Reverend Leon M. SULLIVAN,

and

We, the friends of Africa;

Meeting at the 3rd African-African American Summit in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 2 through 5 May 1995, reaffirm our solemn commitment to implement the Declaration of Principles and Actions adopted during the 1st Summit held in Abidjan in 1991, and during the second Summit held in Libreville in 1993, whose objective was to strengthen the relations of friendship and solidarity established between Africans and Africa-Americans by history, culture and common destiny and to find ways and means likely to help accelerate the African development process in a cooperative and consultative framework and in the spirit of the contemporary evolution of the world towards the end of the 20th Century.

This Dakar Summit, sought to be of historic importance in form and content and by virtue of our contacts, our discussions, our reflection and resolutions, the Summit did assume an important dimension commensurate with our common goal.

Indeed, the 3rd African-African American Summit is being held in a significant era of hope, with regard to world progress and the intervention of events that will shape its future.

We have met here to reaffirm together, that our Summit is and will remain one of partnership, solidarity and cooperation. Indeed, one year after the signing of the General Agreement on the Uruguay Round in Marrakech, Morocco and after the creation, at the same time, of the World Trade Organization (WTO), likewise, only a few months after the Cairo Summit on Population and Development, which was followed by the Copenhagen (Denmark) Summit on Social Development and soon after the adoption, by the OAU, of the Cairo Plan of Action on the economic recovery and social development of Africa, this sentiment is still alive.

It is therefore in keeping with this spirit that the international Forum on Business, Investments and Cooperation between private sector enterprises is being held. This Forum and the consequent celebration of an American Day have opened new perspectives for a new, more dynamic, more pragmatic and more balanced approach to the economic relations established between our

peoples and our countries, for North-South and South-South commercial exchanges and for technology transfer in sectors pertaining to health, education, environment, population, women and children.

In this regard, we have clearly defined the conditions and mechanisms for the development of the private sector by African Governments and by their partners in development.

This orientation offers to thousands of American, European, Asian and African investors and entrepreneurs, an appropriate framework to broaden their exchanges, augment the volume of their investments, enhance and accelerate the transfer for technology to African countries.

We, the Heads of State and of Delegations participating in the 3rd African-African American Summit of Dakar, would like to stress the particular achievements of this Summit:

- a renewed and unequivocal will to establish and implement the condition allowing for African economic recovery and growth in a democratic environment;

- the commitment to intensify African economic integration, region by region, in order to identify viable, stable and reliable markets for foreign investments and the industrialization of our

countries and, if possible, within the framework of a MARSHALL PLAN for Africa;

- these results should be reflected in the increase of prices of our countries' primary commodities;

- the write off or reduction of Africa's debt which should be a major concern of the international community;

- the strengthening of currencies of the South countries with massive and sustainable measures to accompany the structural adjustment programmes being implemented in the African States;

- a rational and progressive policy on staff training and education suited to African realities;

- the establishment of an Investment Fund for Private Sector Development;

- the establishment of an Investment Fund for Artistic and Cultural Creativity;

- a productive partnership in building up resources to achieve food security, in promoting human resources for a more effective management of African enterprises and for the judicious utilization of our raw materials, mineral and energy resources;

- the formulation and implementation of health and sustainable environmental for the protection of nature and ecosystems.

This ambition can only be realized within a peaceful environment free from crises such as those in Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia and Burundi.

Consciously and voluntarily, Africa is returning to its cultural roots. This culture is the bridge linking the continents and which, in stages, enriches itself with new forms of openness and symbiosis.

The symbol which frames and consolidates the ideals we have shared together for centuries and which is manifested today by this emotional return of our sisters and brothers of America to the land of Africa, is the Gorée-Almadies Memorial.

History counsels neither rancor nor exclusion. It is to blend memory into human consciousness. In striding towards the future, it should not forget the past by undertaking constructive actions which create and multiply the bridges of comprehension and friendship between peoples.

It is within this spirit that Africa and Africans from the five continents of the globe today extend a hand of friendship, of reconciliation, of dialogue between cultures and civilizations. It

is to mark that spirit that we have edified on the westernmost point of the African continent, facing the Americas, Europe and Asia, a memorial dedicated to Africa and the Diaspora., the cornerstone of which was laid in June 1992 in the presence of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

I am referring to the Gorée-Almadies Memorial which will be both a center for universal culture; a place of excellence for exchanges and the promotion of dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

The perpetuation of our African memory will be placed at the center of this project.

The Third African-African American Summit is launching an urgent call for universal solidarity, to the world of Arts and Letters, the Universities, the Researchers' Associations and to all lovers of art around the world; in order to turn the Gorée Almadies Memorial into a reality.

We wish to sincerely thank international organizations such as the OAU, FAO, UNDP and the ADB for their expertise used in the service of Africa.

As our deliberations draw to a close, we have developed a clear vision of our responsibilities, our commitment and the importance of our projects.

In light of this realization, we would like to energetically implement the recommendations issued from the summits of Abidjan and Libreville, whose ultimate goal remains to bring Africans and African-Americans together and to promote a sustainable balance and mutually profitable development. The attainment of this objective is also to involve cooperation with other continents, other peoples and other civilizations.

Our African American brothers will spare no effort in this joint undertaking. In view of our concern to promote these noble ideals, we reaffirm our determination to pursue the democratic process to which our States have voluntarily committed themselves. A commitment based on awareness that issues of development, human rights and organized production are inextricably linked in an atmosphere of freedom and perseverance, of national unity and solidarity.

To this end, Africa is convinced that the training of its citizens is their first obligation of its leaders.

The Dakar Summit invites them to give back to history its human dimensions based on transparency and generosity.

We salute Dr. Sullivan whose ideals, insight and dynamism have drawn the admiration not only of Africans and African-Americans, but also all human communities promoting peace, liberty and progress throughout the world. We support the idea of a secretariat which will ensure the following up of those issues.

We salute our sisters and brothers from America and express our deepest sympathies for the loss of numerous human lives in that horrendous bombing in Oklahoma city.

We seize this occasion to strongly condemn all forms of fanaticism which engender such extremism.

Bearing the above reasons in mind, we at this third Summit hail the presence of an official American Delegation headed by a member of the Government of the United States, Mr. Ronald Brown, representing His Excellency President William Clinton III.

We thank President William Clinton and his Government for the increasing attention devoted to African in a movement of solidarity and friendship that marks an historic moment in relations between the two continents.

We evoke the memory of the late President Felix Houphouet-Boigny who was a great African, a man of action and who, in his

country, Côte d'Ivoire, hosted the 1st African-African American Summit.

The Summit expresses gratitude to President Ketumile Mesire, Chairman of the Presidential Committee for the decisions he has made and implemented since 1993 to ensure that Africa-american Cooperation responds to the established needs and objectives.

The 3rd African-African American Summit of Dakar makes its point to solemnly commend the determining action of President Abdou Diouf, Chairman of this Summit, the Government and the people of Senegal for the warm and friendly welcome as well as the African hospitality extended to all delegations.

The Summit renders vibrant tribute to President Abdou Diouf for all the efforts made and which were reflected in the results of the 3rd African-African American Summit.

Despite the myriad questions raised by a multifaceted and long-standing crisis which are currently destabilising the world, Africa, more than ever, is determined to meet the challenges of development, be it the enhanced well-being of its people, the access to science and technology, or the dangers of underdevelopment, and solemnly renews its confidence in a future world of peace, friendship and solidarity between peoples in the community of nations.