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2000, 'Leadership to Overcome HIV/AIDS', and the OAU Summit in Abuja in April 2001 on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, Africa's specialist institutions should study the wider impacts of the HIV/AIDS pandemic with a view to informing policy at the national, regional and international levels.

15. Africa's debt crisis should be tackled with concerted action at a regional level and concerted engagement with Africa's creditors and international partners

16. Special measures are required for countries emerging from conflict. The transitions from war to peace and from relief to development require sensitive handling and a coordinated approach, combining both imaginative and generous economic initiatives with political support to the establishment of democratic reconciliation. In this regard, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Africa's specialist institutions should convene a special working group to advise African governments and international donors and financial institutions on a comprehensive strategy for responding to the needs of post-conflict countries.

17. Mechanisms for measuring and promoting compliance with treaty obligations will be an important component of regional economic integration, to help overcome past problems of disappointments. African civil society should help to set standards for institutions and governments to deliver on their commitments, and monitor their performance in reaching these standards.

18. International partnership must be broadened from government-to-government relations to include the full range of private sector, civil society, and regional and subregional organisations. If Africa is to develop, it must develop together.

IV. Economic Integration

19. There is a great need to distil experiences of integration in Africa and worldwide and share them in a systematic way. Lessons learned from Africa's experience at integration and other relevant experiences include the fact that the African Union is a politically-driven process. Therefore the involvement of the people must be assured. It was observed that there is a plethora of initiatives that could not take off because of a number of serious impediments, notably unwillingness to sacrifice sovereignty, a poor level of implementation of treaty commitments, lack of knowledge of integration initiatives at the national level, and the lack of commitment to getting everyone involved.

20. Further lessons include the fact that the challenges of regional economic integration should not be underestimated. Powerful factors stand in the way of integration and must be consciously dealt with. These include the similarity of economic structures and products between countries, the weak industrial base and dependence on raw material exports, the low level of intra-African trade, the integration of unequal partners, and macro-economic policies demanding stronger integration with the global markets and greater global competitiveness.

21. We need to be realistic in prioritising implementation and decide consciously in a focused manner on sequencing. We should not try to implement everything simultaneously. We need to build harmonised structures for trade and investment legislation and judicial processes.

22. We need to focus on countries geographically proximate to one another rather than selecting on the basis of the level of development. We need to recognise the linkages among the four areas of trade, sectoral development, infrastructure and human resource development. We need to integrate and adopt carefully the process of globalisation.

23. Implementing economic integration and the African Union is a demanding task. There is a need to determine the status and the role of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with respect to the African Union. There should be annual meetings of RECs and the AU to ensure coherence, overcome overlap, rationalise structures, and harmonise policies and work programmes.

accordance with the requisite provisions of the Constitutive Act. This demands a strong 'security council' at the African Union, coordinating with the security functions of CSSDCA and NEPAD, backed by the technical resources of an enhanced Conflict Management Centre, with an effective interface with the RECs.

35. The clarification of national and regional security doctrines is a precondition for effective security policies and an integral part of good governance. Governments should be encouraged to define their national security interests within the framework of the principles and goals of the African Union, and maintain armed forces consistent with these definitions. Special efforts should be made to restrict the illegal flow of small arms, to demobilise child soldiers, and to prevent the use of anti-personnel landmines in accordance with the Ottawa Convention.

36. The various human and people's rights instruments, adopted by the OAU and ratified by African states, should be incorporated in the Constitutive Act of Union, thus making them integral components of the African Union. There should be rationalisation, consolidation and strengthening of the implementation mechanisms of these instruments. In particular, ratification of the Protocol on the Establishment of the African Court for Human and People's Rights should be expedited. African states are urged to incorporate the fundamental human rights instruments into their domestic legal systems. An observer function within the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights should be instituted that could monitor and report on human rights violations while they are taking place, with a view to taking preventive action as well as seeking remedies after the fact.

37. The ECA and OAU should organise training of trainers to sensitise and educate African CSOs and institutions on all aspects of the African Union as well as the relevant protocols and conventions that governments have signed with respect to human rights.

38. The OAU Convention against Terrorism should be ratified and enforced by all African states.

VI. The African Union

39. African CSOs welcome the move towards the formation of the African Union, as an expression of the broad demand for unity by the African peoples. The success of the AU will depend on good governance, stakeholder participation, human rights and democratisation at all levels. There is a need to deepen democracy and promote participation. Adherence to constitutionalism is the core principle. Africa needs to further refine the principles of constitutionalism, strengthening the basic principle enunciated in Article 30 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, namely the suspension of governments that come to power through unconstitutional means from participation in the activities of the Union.

40. The sequencing of the setting up of the institutions of the African Union is a matter of importance requiring careful attention.

41. The African Parliament, as stipulated in Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, is a core institution for the African Union. This should be established as soon as possible and should as rapidly as possible be based upon direct elections.

42. Africa should move towards a common citizenship, through the initial steps of harmonising citizenship, naturalisation, immigration and employment laws, and through progressively removing restrictions on travel.

43. The African Court of Justice, as stipulated in Article 18 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, is a core institution for the promotion of economic integration and the core values contained in the Constitutive Act of Union.

44. The African Court on Human and People's Rights must be strengthened so as to serve as an effective guardian of human rights across the continent. People as well as governments should be represented in the court. It should be the supreme court of Africa, and its decisions should be justiciable.

45. Building upon the OAU-CSO meeting of June 2001, the African Union should establish the Economic, Social and Cultural Council as a consultation mechanism for liaison with

stakeholders. This forum should receive its mandate from African civil society organisations, the private sector, research institutes, relevant African organisations in the diaspora, in order to ensure the widest possible stakeholder participation. One of the functions of this mechanism is to focus activities of monitoring the African Union and other regional and subregional organisations and initiatives.

46. The African Union should investigate new mechanisms for financing to avoid complete dependence on the dues of Member States. A percentage of taxation revenue should be considered as a mechanism for financing.

VII. Regional Integration in Africa: The Way Forward

47. Integration in Africa demands leadership and vision. It requires Africa's leaders to plan for the long term, with a broad view of common interests. It demands the highest calibre of leadership, with integrity and vision.

48. Africa's integration must proceed at the level of economic integration and political unification. The two are inextricably linked. It must include common projects, the convergence of economic policies, common approaches to peace and security, and convergence on good governance and a constitutional order under the African Union. African integration also demands a united approach to dealing with the international community.

49. African integration will proceed on the basis of coordination between existing institutions at all levels. These existing regional and subregional organisations must work together, deepening their common values. The proliferation of regional economic communities must be scrutinised and where necessary they must be rationalised.

50. Progressive sharing of sovereignty is required so as to achieve the greater common good. Integration requires governments to forego some of their sovereign privileges, in both the political and economic spheres, in order to achieve a more prosperous, stable, democratic and powerful African collectivity.

51. The deepening of good governance at a regional level demands the democratisation of regional institutions, opening them up to greater participation by civil society. Regional integration must avoid the pitfalls of a 'democratic deficit', and the African Union, through the African Parliament, must be a force for democracy.