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MEETING OF AFRICAN MINISTERS ON ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
Addis Ababa, 1 - 4 September, 1976

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS ON ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

3. The Conference elected the following Officers:
- Chairman - H. E. the Commissioner for Trade of GHANA
  - Vice Chairmen - The Ministers of: - Zambia
    - Ethiopia
    - Mauritania
  - Rapporteur - H. E. the Minister of Trade of MAURITIUS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The meeting adopted the following Agenda:-
1. Opening of the Meeting
  2. Organization of the Work of the Meeting
    - (a) Election of the Bureau
    - (b) Adoption of the Agenda
    - (c) Adoption of the Programme of Work
  3. Examination of the Report of the Meeting of African Experts and Officials
  4. Habitat
  5. Any Other Business
  6. Adoption of the Final Act of the Meeting.

5. The Conference focussed its attention on the international economic situation, in the light of recent developments in international relations and of the outcome of the 5th Summit meeting of Non-Aligned Countries held in August 1976 in Colombo. It also considered the first part of the report of the group of Governmental Experts which met in Geneva from 12 to 16 July 1976 as well as the report of the Group of African Experts and Officials on Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries (Addis Ababa, 26-31 August 1976).

II. DRAFT DECLARATION PRESENTED BY AFRICA

I. The Group of 77 considered, in depth, the international economic situation and ways and means of accelerating and promoting their economic development, in the light of recent developments in international relations, in particular, the 5th Summit meeting of Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo. The Group of 77 examined the progress made towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order as defined in the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, in relation to the need to strengthen the solidarity of developing countries and their collective self-reliance with the objective of safeguarding their political and economic sovereignty and accelerating their development.

II. The Group of 77 also noted the successes of the developing countries in exercising their right to full, effective and permanent sovereignty over their natural and other resources and in mobilizing these resources for the promotion of their economic development and in support of their collective struggle against the remaining vestiges of colonialism, foreign aggression, foreign occupation, racial discrimination, apartheid and all forms of foreign domination and exploitation. This has changed the economic-political equation of the world and resulted in the emergence of the developing countries as a more powerful and effective entity.

III. This new-found strength of the developing countries opens up promising avenues for enlarging and reinforcing cooperation amongst themselves on the basis of fraternal solidarity of their peoples in facing the challenge of development, justice and equity. Of particular importance is the joint action of developing countries to safeguard and control their natural resources and to strengthen their bargaining power for obtaining a just and equitable treatment for their exports of primary products, manufactured and semi-manufactured goods through the establishment and strengthening of Producers' Associations among other things.

IV. The Group of 77 expressed their concern about the flagrant disparities and imbalance of the international economic structure and the ever-widening

gap between the developed and the developing countries. Many resolutions have been adopted in various international organizations on the establishment of the New International Economic Order but there are not any visible signs of their implementation. Although the principles of the New Economic Order have become more and more acceptable to the International Community, only slight progress has been made towards their application.

V. While the developed countries are beginning to recover from the economic crisis and recession, the developing countries are still affected by the constant deterioration in the terms of trade, the industrialised nations' refusal to take the necessary measures for indexation of prices of raw materials in relation to the prices of manufactured products, the reduction of their share of world trade, the decline in real terms in the volume of resource transfers to finance development, the increasingly alarming state that their external debts has reached and the failure of their efforts to bring about changes in the international monetary system. Besides, the emergence of new forms of discrimination and coercion to which they are subjected, the strict terms imposed on them on the capital exchange markets as well as the increase in the cost of services and food products which they import still hamper their development prospects.

VI. Failure to implement the policy measures of the International Strategy of the United Nations Second Development Decade, the resolutions of the Sixth and Seventh Special Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and of specialized International Conferences compounded with the vulnerability of the developing countries to economic and monetary disruptions in the developed countries, have produced the most discouraging results. Thus, the crisis of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and deprivation still afflicts the developing world and affects an increasingly greater number of peoples in the developing countries particularly the least developed, the land-locked, the most seriously affected as well as island and other geographically disadvantaged developing countries and newly independent countries.

VII. Under these circumstances, the developing countries among which are the least developed, the land-locked, island and other geographically disadvantaged countries, the most seriously affected countries as well as the newly independent countries are faced with a serious crisis in securing and maintaining minimum standards of living for their peoples as well as in attaining their development targets. In the course of the years, the economic situation of most of the developing countries and amongst them, the least developed and the most seriously affected has continued to deteriorate. The debt burden of these countries has now become unbearable.

VIII. Furthermore, parts of the developing world are still subjected to colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, racial discrimination and apartheid; this constitutes one of the greatest obstacles to the economic emancipation and development of the developing world as a whole as well as the greatest threat to world peace and security.

It is, therefore, the duty of all states and peoples to work individually and collectively to eliminate those condemned practices and to extend effective support and assistance to the peoples, countries and territories subjected to any form of domination so as to put an immediate end to those major obstacles to their freedom, development and aspirations, and to promote international co-operation, peace and security.

The International Community is also urged to facilitate the effective exercise of the right to restitution and full compensation for the exploitation and depletion of and damages to the natural and other resources of these peoples, countries and territories in accordance with the relevant provisions of UN General Assembly Resolution 3201 (S - VI) on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declarations and Programme of Action adopted at the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of Non-Aligned Countries held respectively in Algiers and Colombo, as well as the Dakar Declaration on Raw Materials and Development.

IX. In accordance with the African position in UNDP which is widely supported, and with regard to other aid institutions as well as bilateral donors, special assistance should be allocated and augmented to the newly independent countries and National Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU. Furthermore, the peoples and Governments of Zambia and Mozambique, should be adequately compensated for the adverse economic effects resulting from their courageous decision to close their borders with the illegal minority regime of Zimbabwe in implementation of the Security Council and General Assembly decisions and resolutions. Assembly should also be extended to Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland whose economies are also adversely affected by the struggle against the racist regime of South Africa.

X. The Group of 77 further noted that all these questions were recently discussed in detail by the Fifth Summit meeting of Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo within the framework of the Declarations and the Programme of Economic Action which were adopted there. They expressed deep concern over the refusal of certain developed countries to implement the relevant decisions on the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

XI. Convinced of the importance of the principle of collective self-reliance, the strengthening of co-operation, solidarity and the collective bargaining power of the developing countries with the framework of the establishment of the New International Economic Order, the Group of 77 considers that this concept should be regarded as a basis for challenging once again the present economic order and should be given concrete expression by the adoption and application of measures aimed at mobilizing the economic potential in the interest of the peoples at national level, and strengthening co-operation among developing countries at the sub-regional, regional inter-regional levels.

XII. Bearing in mind the Declarations and Programmes of Action formulated by the Non-Aligned Countries, within the United Nations Organization, the Group of 77 has agreed on the following programme of action:-

PROGRAMME OF ACTIONA. STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
INTEGRATION AND CO-OPERATION

Strengthening of sub-regional and regional grouping by undertaking the following measures:

- a) appeal to countries which are not yet members of any sub-regional group to join;
- b) identifying specific interests towards which the efforts of existing or future groupings could be geared in such a way as to develop effective and sustained co-operation on a concentric basis;
- c) establishment of a Council to co-ordinate the activities of regional groupings at regional and inter-regional levels. Such a Council could be assisted by all the economic and financial institutions specialized in such areas as banking, transport, clearing houses, export/import, marketing, multinational companies, etc.

B. INDUSTRIALIZATION

To facilitate the follow-up of national objectives in this area and promote an effective exchange of products, goods and services as well as the establishment of a multilateral industrial co-operation at regional, sub-regional and inter-regional levels, the following measures should be adopted:

- a) establishment of multinational industrial companies on the basis of specialization of production and complementarity of available human, financial and material resources with due regard to the interests of the countries concerned;
- b) joint identification and speedy implementation of all the measures and recommendations formulated on industry by the various regional and international meetings to enable the developing countries achieve the target of 25% of world production by the year 2000.

- c) listing by specialized institutions of multinational projects so as to identify all projects which could be jointly implemented;
- d) co-operation to ensure effective control over the activities of foreign firms and transnational companies;
- e) joint undertaking of studies and research as well as co-ordination of research already conducted in this field;
- f) strengthening of consultancy services at both regional and sub-regional levels.
- g) the acceleration of economic development through the establishment of basic and strategic industries and the enhancement of locally available resources. Emphasis should be laid on the development of light industries, especially agro-industries and handicrafts.
- h) harmonisation of national policies with sub-regional, regional and inter-regional industrialization programmes.

C. FOOD AGRICULTURE - FISHERIE - STOCK-BREEDING

Need for co-operation in the production, processing and marketing of food products, and in Agriculture, stock-breeding and fisheries, at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels; in particular, by

- a) the joint construction of water and irrigation schemes;
- b) the establishment of multinational companies for joint production of fertilisers and insecticides and the establishment of agro-industrial units;
- c) the harmonization of marketing and Export policies for food and Agricultural products, stock-breeding and fisheries;
- d) the joint development of transport and storage facilities;
- e) the establishment of multinational enterprises for fishing and live-stock products;
- f) the setting up of institutional machinery to facilitate cooperation among developing countries for the utilization of living resources of the sea and in-land waters through joint enterprises, the supply

of fishing vessels and other appropriate equipment, the exchange of information and technical know-how using research centres and organizing training courses, etc...

- g) organization of a conference on agricultural problems between developing countries in conformity with the decision of the Colombo Summit. This meeting is scheduled to be held in Pyongyang (People's Democratic Republic of Korea) for exchanging experiences in developing independent national industry and agriculture, strengthening the independence of their national economies and realizing more effective co-operation among them.

At the national level, total reform of agrarian structures to improve agricultural production and thus help alleviate the effects of food shortage on the economies of developing countries.

Urgent implementation of the resolution on the Green Revolution and introduction of modern techniques adapted to rural development needs.

At the international level, the developed countries must be urged to honour their financial commitments for the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and facilitate the setting up of this institution as early as possible.

- Need for United Nations bodies to undertake all measures in order to assist the African Inter-Ministerial Council on Food to function as the regional arm of the World Food Council.

- Need for the setting-up of other Regional Inter-Ministerial Committees on Food in order to strengthen the action of the Group of 77 in formulating regional policies on food to be presented to the World Food Council and to ensure the follow-up of their implementation

#### D. TRANSPORT

- Formulation of a global strategy and arrangements for the improvement and expansion of maritime, air, road and rail transport systems with the aim of strengthening co-operation among the developing countries, through the following measures:

- i) creation and development of multinational shipping, air and land transport services among developing countries especially on regional basis;
- ii) establishment of appropriate Liner Conferences for developing countries at the regional and inter-regional levels;
- iii) joint action to accelerate the convening of the Review Conference for the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences;
- iv) promote the construction and maintenance of ships, aircraft and other rolling stock at the national, subregional, regional and inter-regional levels and make proposals for multinational projects for the purchase of means of transport.
- v) united action to ensure financing, through multilateral or regional financial institutions, for multinational projects for road, railway, shipping and air linkages among developing countries;
- vi) concerted policy and action by developing countries vis-a-vis international financial institutions to ensure that the latter give due consideration, in particular, to social development criteria and economic integration in the financing of their multinational transport development projects;
- vii) improvement and strengthening of existing transport facilities and arrangements among developing countries including, the rationalization of road, sea and air transport units, and cargo pooling through:
  - joint action for the establishment of preferential freight rates for developing countries, imports and exports;
  - joint studies on problems of financing and implementation of these projects;
  - accession to the Transport International Routiers (TIR) Convention for facilitating transit between developing countries;
  - adoption of international legislation suitable for the expansion of air services among developing countries;

- vii) establishment of strengthening of multinational enterprises in the field of air, sea, and road transport at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels between developing countries taking into account the experience acquired in the developed and the developing countries with due consideration to the problems of the land-locked and semi-land-locked countries;
- ix) exchange of information and experience among developing countries in this field;
- x) improvement and/or establishment of intra-regional and inter-regional linkages;
- xi) acceptance by coastal countries to grant transit facilities and access to the sea to land-locked and semi-land-locked countries. To this end, it is recommended that the coastal countries and land-locked and semi-land-locked countries should pool their efforts for the joint planning of transport projects.

#### E. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Third World cannot be independent in the field of telecommunications without the development and total integration of telecommunications network and without devising a rational telecommunications system at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels:

#### F. TRADE

The need to strengthen production structures as a pre-condition to the development of trade co-operation among developing countries.

##### Raw Materials

##### (a) Producers' Associations

- Establishment of new producers' associations for primary products which developing countries are interested in exporting.
- Establishment of regional producers' councils.
- Membership of developing producer countries in existing associations for products they produce and export.
- Strengthening and supporting existing associations and the application by the latter of effective methods in order to obtain fair and remunerative prices for their exports, preserve and improve their purchasing power in real terms and increase the real value of their export earnings.

In the process, the interests of importing developing countries should be protected

(b) Council of Producers' Associations of Developing Countries  
Producers-Exporters of Raw Materials

- Formulation and approval of the statutes of the Council based on the draft prepared by the Group of Experts, to ensure mutual support, co-ordination, the strengthening and promotion of Producers' Associations.
- Participation in the preparatory meeting preceeding the forthcoming conference of Plenipotentiaries.
- Establishment by Producers' Associations of their information units and multinational sales bodies and co-ordination of the various units and bodies at the regional and inter-regional levels.

(c) Special Fund for the Financing of Buffer Stocks

- Contribution to the establishment of this fund on the basis of the draft statutes drawn up by the Preparatory Committee of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
- Participation in the meeting scheduled to be held not later than October 1976 to formulate concrete recommendations to solve outstanding issues.
- Participation in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to finalize and sign the agreement establishing the fund.

(d) UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities

- Adherence to this programme inspite of the fact that it falls short of the aspirations of developing countries as expressed during the Manila Conference of the Group of 77 (February 1976).
- Ensuring that UNCTAD Member countries are called upon to make specific commitments to contribute to the Common Fund before the commencement of the UNCTAD negotiations.
- Working in close collaboration in order to adapt a common position of solidarity in the preparatory meetings and negotiations which will be organised shortly by UNCTAD within the framework of the integrated programme for the establishment of a Common Fund and an early conclusion of an international arrangement on commodities.

(e) Co-ordination

- .. Co-operation with the Inter-Governmental Group of Non-Aligned Countries on Raw Materials in order to follow closely the negotiations to be held within the framework of the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities and define collective strategies for the developing countries taking into consideration the outcome of these negotiations.
- Ensuring that the interests of importing developing countries, in particular, the least developed, the most seriously affected and those without natural resources, to whom the measures adopted under the Integrated Programme would be detrimental, are protected by specific and appropriate corrective action as envisaged in the programme.

(f) Trade preferences

Need to include primary products in all schemes of preferences.

Joint formulation of import policies, methods and arrangements for the purchasing of goods, technology and services from developed countries and the adoption of standardized specifications and procedures. In this regard, investigations should continue and a group of experts should consider the means and machinery for the implementation of joint import policies as well as the strengthening of the import capacity of developing countries and their collective bargaining power, especially through such arrangements as would facilitate joint purchases, commodity bulk purchases, joint operations by state trading organizations and other trading enterprises.

Need to formulate measures to enable the least developed countries to benefit in particular from those of production, infrastructure and transfer payments involving trade preferences on the basis of non-reciprocity.

(g) Trade Co-operation Structures

Setting up, first at regional and then at inter-regional level, of commodity exchanges in developing countries to be controlled by the developing countries themselves.

Establishment of new and expanded trade flows among developing countries. This would have to be consistent with the results of the investigation currently conducted within the framework of the Georgetown Programme of Action on specific products that could immediately be traded between developing countries, taking into account reciprocal advantages as well as the necessary measures and machinery for establishing new trade flows including long term purchase and supply commitments and other contractual arrangements to ensure direct trade amongst developing countries and operations by state trading organizations.

Establishment of multinational marketing enterprises by developing countries to enable them share in the benefits of the marketing and distribution of their products now monopolised by companies and organizations of the developed countries.

Establishment of a trade information centre for developing countries which would also be entrusted with coordination of market research and information organisations and national, sub-regional or regional marketing enterprises.

Organization of trade fairs at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels so as to explore markets in developing countries.

(h) Among Developing Countries

Setting up of trade expansion and negotiation committees as soon as possible to:

- review all tariff and non-tariff problems relating to development of trade among developing countries;
- establish a system of trade preferences among developing countries at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. Such a system should not allow the extension to developed countries of preferences granted to developing countries. In this regard, it is important to draw the attention of the Conference of Ministers to the fact that some developing countries, which are members of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) have already established a similar system and also that the Lome Convention deals with this in Article 7 of the said Convention.
- examine in particular, the problem of non-tariff barriers.

(i) Relations with the Developed Countries

- Encouraging participation of representatives of Member States of the Group of 77 in multilateral negotiations on trade with a view to obtaining preferential treatment while taking into account existing preferential agreements.

- Effective mobilization of all institutions of the United Nations System responsible for assisting developing countries in trade negotiations.

Harmonization of Trade Policies

Consultations among developing producer and consumer countries to ensure mutually satisfactory supply and purchase terms and conditions among developing countries themselves and collectively to strengthen the means of controlling their resources and exercising their full sovereignty over the means of production and distribution.

G. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION

The Conference recalls the main decision and recommendations formulated in Colombo.

Strengthening and development of institutions and financial co-operation mechanisms among developing countries. It is hoped that the Solidarity Fund for Economic and Social Development would become operative before the end of 1976.

Convening of groups of experts to study the feasibility and ways of:-

- a) working towards a countervailing currency backed by the economic potential of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries.
- b) establishing and operating a Bank of the Developing Countries which would undertake the general activities of commercial and merchant banking. The study should include the proposed statutes for such a multi-national banking enterprise and its legal status within individual countries.

The convening of meetings of representatives of Finance Ministers and Central Banks which should consider the following:-

- a) establishment of a joint financial institution for the promotion of financial and monetary co-operation among developing countries with a view to creating conditions for the accelerated development of developing countries;
- b) establishment of a Developing Countries Payment Union (DFU), taking into account the articles of agreement submitted by Egypt for the information of Government - representatives participating in the Summit of Colombo, and other relevant proposals;
- c) forms and mechanisms of co-operation and association of Commercial Banks of developing Countries to include the exchange of information and experience in banking policies and practices, training of personnel and the use of each other's currencies in their commercial exchange. Consideration of the establishment of monetary arrangements among developing countries to include:
  - a) Strengthening existing clearing arrangements and the creation of new ones at the sub-regional, inter-regional and regional levels;
  - b) Establishment of links among existing payment schemes and the creation of sub-regional, inter-regional and regional payments arrangements open to all developing Countries;
  - c) Harmonization of exchange rate policies of developing countries as appropriate so that they promote and do not hinder mutual trade.

#### EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES

##### BASIC NEEDS

- a) In order to foster sustained economic progress in developing Countries in general, the development of human resources should be given appropriate emphasis at both the sub-regional and regional levels. In this context, it would <sup>be</sup> highly desirable to exchange information on the strategies envisaged for the implementation of the concept of basic needs as proposed by the World Employment Conference in Geneva in June 1976.

- (b) There is a need to emphasise scientific and technological education with the introduction of a new educational curriculum reflecting requirements of developing countries. Information should be made available by ECA on the existing educational institutions from the highest to the lowest level so that all African countries can make use of the existing facilities.
- (c) In some cases, Africa has managed to train a number of its own people but they have generally remained in developed countries. It is, therefore, recommended that African Governments adopt the appropriate policies to encourage the return of students trained in developed countries.

#### CO-ORDINATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Conference agreed that maximum use should be made of the existing technical colleges and universities and that a minimum number of vacancies in these African Educational Institutions should be reserved for students from other developing countries which do not have similar institutions.

The funds made available to university institutions in Africa should be increased and better administered.

The Conference agreed that the syllabuses of the universities must be geared more towards scientific and technical education which is useful for economic development in Africa. Emphasis should be laid on Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Mining, etc... Agricultural Techniques should also be improved. A well-defined plan should be established for the implementation of the Training Programme.

#### RESEARCH

The need to accelerate the establishment of a data bank on the problems of development of the region to publish periodically all the necessary information that will ensure understanding and suggest solutions to these problems. The exchange of relevant information among regional data banks should also be encouraged.

### TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Establishment at national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels of Centres for the transfer of technology. Establishment of relations among these centres, taking into account their fields of specialization and areas of activity.

Increasing the volume of transfer of technology from developed countries suited to the needs of developing countries. Establishing and developing co-operation in the transfer of technology among the developing countries with a view to strengthening their self-reliance.

Identifying ways and means of compelling multinational companies to provide information on technology which would help developing countries carry out their development programmes.

The Conference further recalls the relevant decisions of the Fifth Summit of Non-Aligned Countries on this subject.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

The Conference recognized that the African region has problems in locating and estimating the commercial value of its natural resources without the assistance of multinational corporations or other forms of foreign technical assistance which could have improved the situation. In the context of co-operation among developing countries, the meeting recommends that they should pool their efforts and resources to:-

- a) create centres for the study of raw materials and water supply;
- b) exchange expertise on the exploitation of raw materials;
- c) tap all technical know-how available in Africa
- d) establish an increasing number of joint ventures and harmonise their investment codes to reduce competition between neighbouring states;
- e) Follow an integrated approach to all forms of industrial development;
- f) Take all necessary steps to protect the products of developing countries against synthetic products and other substitutes manufactured by the developed countries; furthermore, in the development of the national resources of developing countries, special consideration should be given to environmental problems.

### ENERGY

The Conference agreed that special emphasis should be laid on inter-regional co-operation for the development of various forms of energy such as solar energy, wind energy, biogas energy, geothermal energy etc. The African region has a tremendous potential for all forms of energy especially coal, petroleum, uranium etc, which can be developed for the use of the region.

TOURISM

- i) The promotion of exchange of information to intensify movement of tourists from the developed to the developing countries and among the latter;
- ii) The establishment of co-ordinating committees on sub-regional, regional, and inter-regional basis with a view to co-ordinating national policies, encouraging a harmonious and rational development of tourist trade and maximising benefits for developing countries.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Encouraging the implementation of decisions adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico. Reaffirmation of the strong conviction that the full development of the developing countries requires the maximum participation of women, together with men, in all spheres of activity and that the necessary conditions and national strategies should be established in order that women may obtain and exercise equal rights with men and have equal opportunities and responsibilities.

HEALTH

- (a) United action within the WHO on the development of international health policies and practices.
- (b) The creation of Regional Co-operative Pharmaceutical Production and Technology Centres to perform the functions identified by the Group of Experts on Pharmaceuticals which met in Georgetown in July 1976, and to promote inter-regional co-operation. The Coordinator of the Trade, Transport and Industry Sector of the Non-Aligned Action Programme should take the necessary follow-up action to implement, with the assistance of the appropriate International Organizations such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, WHO and UNDP, the proposals of the Group of Experts on Pharmaceuticals.
- (c) The creation of arrangements and mechanisms for co-operation in the field of health and medicine, particularly the planning of health protection services, correction of adverse effects on health environment arising from war damage and natural disasters, prevention of the spread of communicable diseases, rehabilitation and the application of traditional indigenous medical practices. The methods of co-operation should include exchange of professional literature and scientific achievements, joint construction of health institutions, hospitals, medical schools, faculties and rehabilitation centres and the training of staff for work in these institutions.

### SPORTS

Active promotion of co-operation in the field of sports including measures for the democratization of international sports organizations and the abolition of apartheid in sports with a view to transforming relations in the field of sports and strengthening co-operation and brotherhood.

### HABITAT

Introducing the subject, the OAU Administrative Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the ECA Executive Secretary underlined the importance and scope of the problems of human settlement in the socio-economic development projects and programmes of African countries.

They therefore urged African countries to always present a united front at all relevant international meetings so that the proposed Headquarters of the UN Habitat and Human Establishment may be sited on the continent.

After a long debate during which importance of the question was recognised, the Conference concluded:

That the question of Habitat and Human Establishment should not be discussed in Mexico during the Ministerial Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (13-21 September 1976); but if the question were raised, the African Group would have to do everything possible to ensure that the Headquarters is sited in Africa.

### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Conference, on the basis of the conclusions of the Colombo meeting, recalls the following main actions:

Continuation of joint action in all international economic negotiations, both within and outside the United Nations system, for the implementation of resolutions, decisions and recommendations contained in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, Resolution 3362 (S-VII) of the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as those adopted by the Dakar Conference on Raw Materials, the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Manila, and the recent Summit in Colombo so as to ensure the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

Possible convening, on the initiative of the Non-Aligned and other developing Countries, of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly in order to secure the co-operation of the International Community in the quest for solutions to world economic problems.

Following up and strengthening of the present system of consultation and co-ordination among Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries at future International meetings and Conferences.

Need to implement the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the Conference on International Economic Co-operation and especially the provision calling on the Conference to submit its report in good time, to enable the General Assembly to study it and take a decision.

Need to start formulating now, the Third United Nations Development Decade. This strategy should be entirely devoted to the establishment of the new International Economic Order.

Following up action for the implementation of all the decisions contained in the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action, especially the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

Need for the developed countries to honour their international commitments to transfer 0.7% of their G.N.P. as official assistance to developing countries. The specific problems of the least developed the land-locked developing countries and the other most seriously affected countries should be borne in mind and solutions found to them.

Need for developed countries to make their markets more accessible to the products of the developing countries, through the elimination of trade barriers, and to secure for the developing countries, within the framework of multilateral trade negotiations, additional benefits in international trade in accordance with the commitments made in the Tokyo Declaration as well as eliminate restrictive trade practices.

Need for the conference on International Economic Co-operation (C.I.E.C.) to agree on the solutions to the overwhelming debt problems of the developing countries through measures such as conversion of existing loans into grants, moratoria and rescheduling, as well as to the problem of the protection of the purchasing power of export earnings of developing countries.

Developed countries should be urged to take action on the debt problems of developing countries, in particular those of the least developed, most seriously affected and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action.

Developed countries should be further urged to cancel debts of the least developed and other most seriously affected developing countries and in particular those that have suffered from foreign occupation and aggression.

... Appeal to the International Community to facilitate the effective exercise of the right to restitution and full compensation for the exploitation and depletion of and damages to the natural and all other resources of all States, territories and peoples subjected to foreign aggression and occupation, alien and colonial domination, racial discrimination and apartheid. It is moreover, the duty of all states to extend assistance to these countries, territories and peoples.