

Conference of Independent African States

DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS

22nd April, 1958



PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Accra, Ghana

CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES

DECLARATION

We, the African States assembled here in Accra, in this our first Conference, conscious of our responsibilities to humanity and especially to the peoples of Africa, and desiring to assert our African personality on the side of peace, hereby proclaim and solemnly reaffirm our unswerving loyalty to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration of the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung.

We further assert and proclaim the unity among ourselves and our solidarity with the dependent peoples of Africa as well as our friendship with all nations. We resolve to preserve the unity of purpose and action in international affairs which we have forged among ourselves in this historic Conference; to safeguard our hard-won independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; and to preserve among ourselves the fundamental unity of outlook on foreign policy so that a distinctive African Personality will play its part in co-operation with other peace-loving nations to further the cause of peace.

We pledge ourselves to apply all our endeavours to avoid being committed to any action which might entangle our countries to the detriment of our interests and freedom; to recognise the right of the African peoples to independence and self-determination and to take appropriate steps to hasten the realisation of this right; to affirm the right of the Algerian people to independence and self-determination and to exert all possible effort to hasten the realisation of their independence; to uproot forever the evil of racial discrimination in all its forms wherever it may be found; to persuade the Great Powers to discontinue the production and testing of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons; and to reduce conventional weapons.

Furthermore, mindful of the urgent need to raise the living standards of our peoples by developing to the fullest possible advantage the great and varied resources of our lands. We hereby pledge ourselves to co-ordinate our economic planning through a joint economic effort and study the economic potentialities, the technical possibilities and related problems existing in our respective States; to promote co-ordinated industrial planning either through our own individual efforts and/or through co-operation with Specialised Agencies of the United Nations; to take measures to increase trade among our countries by improving communications between our respective countries; and to encourage the investment of foreign capital and skills provided they do not compromise the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our States.

Desirous of mobilising the human resources of our respective countries in furtherance of our social and cultural aspirations, We will endeavour to promote and facilitate the exchange of

teachers, professors, students, exhibitions, educational, cultural and scientific material which will improve cultural relations between the African States and inculcate greater knowledge amongst us through such efforts as joint youth festivals, sporting events, etc.; We will encourage and strengthen studies of African culture, history and geography in the institutions of learning in the African States; and We will take all measures in our respective countries to ensure that such studies are correctly orientated.

We have charged our Permanent Representatives at the United Nations to be the permanent machinery for co-ordinating all matters of common concern to our States; for examining and making recommendations on concrete practical steps for implementing our decisions; and for preparing the grounds for future Conferences.

Faithful to the obligations and responsibilities which history has thrown upon us as the vanguard of the complete emancipation of Africa, we do hereby affirm our dedication to the causes which we have proclaimed.

RESOLUTIONS

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, THE FUTURE OF THE DEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF AFRICA, THE ALGERIAN PROBLEM, THE RACIAL PROBLEM, AND THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES

No. I

Exchange of Views on Foreign Policy

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

HAVING made the widest exchange of views on all aspects of foreign policy,

HAVING achieved a unanimity on fundamental aims and principles,

DESIRING to pursue a common foreign policy with a view to safeguarding the hard-won independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Participating States,

DEPLORING the division of the greater part of the world into two antagonistic blocs,

1. AFFIRMS the following fundamental principles :

A. Unswerving loyalty to and support of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for decisions of the United Nations ;

B. Adherence to the principles enunciated at the Bandung Conference, namely :

- (i) Respect for the fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- (ii) Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
- (iii) Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations, large and small.
- (iv) Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
- (v) Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
- (vi) Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve the particular interests of any of the big Powers. Abstention by any country from exerting pressure on other countries.
- (vii) Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.

- (viii) Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement, as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
- (ix) Promotion of mutual interest and co-operation.
- (x) Respect for justice and international obligations.

2. AFFIRMS its conviction that all Participating Governments shall avoid being committed to any action which might entangle them to the detriment of their interest and freedom ;

3. BELIEVES that as long as the fundamental unity of outlook on foreign policy is preserved, the Independent African States will be able to assert a distinctive African Personality which will speak with a concerted voice in the cause of Peace in co-operation with other peace-loving nations at the United Nations and other international forums.

No. II

The Future of the Dependent Territories in Africa

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

RECOGNISING that the existence of colonialism in any shape or form is a threat to the security and independence of the African States and to world peace,

CONSIDERING that the problems and the future of dependent territories in Africa are not the exclusive concern of the Colonial Powers but the responsibility of all Members of the United Nations and in particular of the Independent African States,

CONDEMNING categorically all colonial systems still enforced in our Continent and which impose arbitrary rule and repression on the people of Africa,

CONVINCED that a definite date should be set for the attainment of independence by each of the Colonial Territories in accordance with the will of the people of the territories and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. CALLS upon the Administering Powers to respect the Charter of the United Nations in this regard, and to take rapid steps to implement the provisions of the Charter and the political aspirations of the people namely self-determination and independence, according to the will of the people ;

2. CALLS upon the Administering Powers to refrain from repression and arbitrary rule in these territories and to respect all human rights as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

3. CALLS upon the Administering Powers to bring to an end immediately every form of discrimination in these territories;

4. RECOMMENDS that all Participating Governments should give all possible assistance to the dependent peoples in their struggle to achieve self-determination and independence;

5. RECOMMENDS that the Independent African States assembled here should offer facilities for training and educating peoples of the dependent territories;

6. DECIDES that the 15th April of every year be celebrated as Africa Freedom Day.

The Question of Algeria

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the continuance of war in Algeria and the denial by France to the Algerian people of the right of independence and self-determination despite various United Nations resolutions and appeals urging a peaceful settlement, notably the offer of good offices made by the Moroccan and Tunisian Heads of State,

CONSIDERING that the present situation in Algeria constitutes a threat to international peace and the security of Africa in particular,

1. RECOGNIZES the right of the Algerian people to independence and self-determination;

2. DEPLORES the grave extent of hostilities and bloodshed resulting from the continuance of the war in Algeria;

3. URGES France

(a) to recognize the right of the people of Algeria to independence and self-determination;

(b) to put an end to the hostilities and to withdraw all her troops from Algeria;

(c) to enter into immediate peaceful negotiation with the Algerian Liberation Front with a view to reaching a final and just settlement;

4. APPEALS to all peace-loving nations to exercise pressure on France to adopt a policy which is in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. APPEALS to the friends and allies of France to refrain from helping France, whether directly or indirectly in her military operations in Algeria;

6. AFFIRMS its determination to make every possible effort to help the Algerian people towards the attainment of independence;

7. RECOMMENDS that the representatives of the Independent African States at the United Nations be instructed by their various Governments to consult each other constantly and acquaint members of the United Nations with true states of affairs in Algeria and solicit their support for a just and peaceful settlement and to recommend to the Independent African States measures which may from time to time become necessary to be taken and in particular find ways and means whereby the Independent African States may enlighten world opinion on the Algerian situation including the appointment of a mission as soon as possible to tour the capitals of the world to enlist world support of Governments.

No. IV

Racialism

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

CONSIDERING that the practice of racial discrimination and segregation is evil and inhuman,

DEEPLY CONVINCED that racialism is a negation of the basic principles of human rights and dignity to the extent where it is becoming an element of such explosiveness which is spreading its poisonous influence more and more widely in some parts of Africa that it may well engulf our Continent in violence and bloodshed,

NOTING with abhorrence the recent statement made by the head of the South African Government on his re-election to the effect that he will pursue a more relentless policy of discrimination and persecution of the coloured people in South Africa,

1. CONDEMNNS the practice of racial discrimination and segregation in all its aspects all over the world especially in the Union of South Africa, in the Central African Federation, Kenya and in other parts of Africa;

2. APPEALS to the religious bodies and spiritual leaders of the world to support all efforts directed towards the eradication of racialism and segregation;

3. CALLS upon all Members of the United Nations and all peoples of the world to associate themselves with the Resolutions passed by the United Nations and the Bandung Conference condemning this inhuman practice;

4. CALLS upon all Members of the United Nations to intensify their efforts to combat and eradicate this degrading form of injustice;

5. RECOMMENDS that all Participating Governments should take vigorous measures to eradicate where they arise vestiges of racial discrimination in their respective countries.

Steps to be taken to Safeguard the Independence, Sovereignty and the Territorial Integrity of the Independent African States

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

DETERMINED to safeguard the hard-won independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of each of its members,

BELIEVING that the getting together and consulting among Independent African States, as in the present Conference of Accra, is essential for the effectiveness of their contribution to world peace,

1. DECLARES the determination of all Participating Governments

- (a) to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of one another,
- (b) to co-operate with one another to safeguard their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity,
- (c) to co-operate in their economic, technical and scientific developments and in raising the standard of living of their respective peoples,
- (d) to resort to direct negotiations to settle differences among themselves and if necessary to conciliation or mediation by other African Independent States;

2. CONDEMNNS all forms of outside interference directed against the Independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Independent African States.

Togoland under French Administration

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

HAVING examined the Memorandum on the situation in Togoland under French Administration submitted by the Juvento Party, and the statement made by the Representative of this Party during the hearing granted to him in the Conference,

BEARING in mind the objectives of the International Trusteeship System and the objectives proclaimed by the Bandung Conference,

HAVING regard to the extremely important responsibilities laid upon the Legislative Assembly to be elected on 27th April, 1958 as to the future of the territory by paragraphs 7 and 8 of the operative part of the United Nations Resolution of 29th November, 1957,

1. EXPRESSES grave concern regarding the present electoral laws and system of the Territory;

2. STRONGLY URGES that the Administering Authority will co-operate fully with the United Nations Commissioner in order to ensure fair and democratic elections in the Territory.

Cameroons Under French Administration

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

HAVING examined the Memorandum on the situation in the Cameroons under French Administration submitted by the Union of the Populations of Cameroons, and the statement made by the Representative of this Party during the hearing granted to him in the Conference.

BEARING in mind the objectives of the International Trusteeship System and the objectives proclaimed by the Bandung Conference,

1. CONDEMNS the use of military force against the unarmed people in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French Administration as contrary to the spirit of the United Nations;

2. CALLS upon the Administering Powers to comply with the Charter of the United Nations and satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the people concerned by opening direct negotiations with their representatives;

3. APPEALS to the United Nations to intensify its efforts in helping the people of the Cameroons to achieve their legitimate political aspirations.

Examination of ways and Means of Promoting Economic Co-operation between the African States, based on the Exchange of Technical, Scientific and Educational Information, with Special Regard to Industrial Planning and Agricultural Development

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

HAVING discussed the economic and social conditions in their respective countries,

CONSIDERING that these countries have great and various economic resources, mineral, agriculture and animal,

CONSIDERING that there are now possibilities for commercial exchange between Independent African States and that these possibilities should be greatly encouraged,

CONSIDERING that steps should be taken to bring about economic emancipation in these countries,

CONSIDERING that hitherto non-African forces have arbitrarily divided the African Continent into economic regions, and that the Conference does not recognise this division,

CONSIDERING further that Africa could be developed as an economic unit,

NOTING that the incorporation of dependent African territories in the economic systems of colonial powers is not in the best interests of these peoples,

RECOMMENDS to the Participating African States:

1. The establishment within each Independent African State of an Economic Research Committee to survey the economic conditions and to study the economic and technical problems within the State;
2. The establishment of a Joint Economic Research Commission
 - (a) to co-ordinate information and exchange of views on economic and technical matters of the various Independent African States;
 - (b) to find measures whereby trade among African countries could be developed and encouraged;
 - (c) to make proper and detailed investigation as to the possibilities of co-ordinating the economic planning in each State towards the achievement of an all-African economic co-operation;

- (d) to find ways and means for common industrial planning within the African States and the possibilities of making available mineral resources and other African products among the African States;
 - (e) to lay down proposals by which Independent African States can receive foreign capital and employ foreign experts, and to encourage co-operation with other countries in such manner as not to affect their independence, sovereignty and unity;
3. To take steps in order to collect and exchange knowledge and technological information among themselves;
 4. To establish joint African enterprises;
 5. To hold economic conferences and African exhibitions;
 6. To strengthen their co-operation with the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and especially with the newly proposed Economic Commission for Africa;
 7. To make joint efforts as far as practicable to construct means of communications between African States;
 8. To investigate the possibility of eventual establishing of an African common market;
 9. To provide facilities for exchange of labour and labour information and to encourage co-operation among national trade union organisations;
 10. To strengthen the co-operation with the International Labour Organisation;
 11. To take joint action for the prevention of diseases among human beings, in agriculture and in animal husbandry, and to act against the ravages of locusts;
 12. To ensure the establishment of equitable social and economic policies which will provide national prosperity and social security for all citizens.

On the Cultural level, the formulation of concrete Proposals for the Exchange of Visiting Missions between the various Countries, both Government and non-Government, which may lead to first-hand Knowledge of one Country to another, and to a mutual appreciation of their respective Cultures.

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

HAVING made the widest exchange of views on all aspects of the cultures of all Participating Countries,

DESIRING to promote the widest dissemination of the cultures of all Participating Countries,

A. UPHOLDS the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirms the principles approved by the Bandung Conference of April, 1955 concerning Cultural co-operation, and accordingly;

1. **STATES** that colonialism is prejudicial to national culture and as such hinders any possible cultural co-operation;
2. **CALLS** for the development of Cultural Co-operation among African States in the larger context of world co-operation and in the spirit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation;

B. RECOMMENDS to all Participating Members;

1. To promote and facilitate the exchange of teachers and professors;
2. To encourage the establishment of cultural centres in each other's country on the approval of the country in which such a centre may be established and in conformity with its laws, regulations and practices;
3. To encourage and facilitate the exchange of their students, each providing a certain number of scholarships for students from other African countries;
4. To facilitate the exchange of exhibitions, educational, scientific and cultural material including books, periodicals, bulletins, audio visual aids and other cultural and educational material;
5. To ensure that syllabi of history and geography applied in the schools and educational institutions of each include such material as may help to give each student an accurate information of the way of life and culture in the other African countries;
6. To spare no efforts to revise history and geography, text books and syllabi used in their schools with the view to removing any incorrect information due to colonial or other foreign influences;

7. To co-ordinate their school systems at all levels and to recognise the certificates, diplomas and degrees awarded by their educational institutions and universities of equivalent status;
8. To encourage reciprocal visits by their different organisations of youths, teachers, press, labour, women, artists, sports, etc., granting them all possible facilities;
9. To strive to include principal African languages in the curriculum of the secondary school and colleges with the view to facilitating the cultural co-operation envisaged;
10. To hold inter-African periodic and *ad hoc* conferences for their educators, scientists, men of letters, journalists, etc., with the view to discussing common problems and to extend all possible facilities for such purposes;
11. To conclude mutual cultural agreements among them for the promotion of cultural co-operation.
12. To encourage in their universities and institutes of higher learning research on African culture and civilisation creating fellowships for this purpose;
13. To encourage the establishment of African publishing centres and to make concerted efforts to publish an African journal edited and contributed to by Africans introducing Africa's culture, civilisation and development to the world and to the various African countries;
14. To set up an annual prize for works which promote closer solidarity among the African States, the ideas of liberty, friendship and peace and which disseminate knowledge about African civilisation and culture;
15. To encourage the translation of books dealing with African culture and civilisation into their principal languages, e.g. creating fellowships for this purpose;
16. To establish an annual inter-African sports meeting and an annual youth festival;
17. To set up, each in its respective country, a local organisation whose functions will be the promotion and development of cultural co-operation among African countries.

Consideration of the Problem of International Peace and Conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Re-affirmation of the Principles of the Bandung Conference

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

ALARMED at the prospect of nuclear and thermo-nuclear energy being used by the Great Powers for military purposes,

DESIRING to strengthen their contribution to world peace and security,

REALISING that world peace is a prerequisite for the progress and prosperity of all peoples,

TAKING into account the fact that no African nation is at present represented in the international bodies concerned with the problems of disarmament,

1. CALLS upon the Great Powers to discontinue the production of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons and to suspend all such tests not only in the interest of world peace but as a symbol of their avowed devotion to the rights of man;

2. VIEWS with grave alarm and strongly condemns all atomic tests in any part of the world and in particular the intention to carry out such tests in the Sahara;

3. APPEALS to the great Powers to use atomic, nuclear and thermo-nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes;

4. AFFIRMS the view that the reduction of conventional armaments is essential in the interest of international peace and security and appeals to the great Powers to make every possible effort to reach a settlement of this important matter;

5. CONDEMNNS the policy of using the sale of arms as a means of exerting pressure on Governments and interfering in the internal affairs of other countries;

6. URGES the United Nations to ensure that the African Nations are represented equitably on all international bodies concerned with the problems of disarmament;

7. CONSIDERS that meeting and consultation on international affairs should not be limited to the Big Powers;

8. EXPRESSES its deep concern over the non-compliance with United Nations resolutions, calls upon the Member States to respect such resolutions, and urges a just solution of the outstanding international problems;

9. EXPRESSES its deep concern over the question of Palestine which is a disturbing factor of World Peace and Security, and urges a just solution of the Palestine question;

10. EXPRESSES its deep concern over the South-west African and similar questions which are disturbing factors of World Peace and Security, and urges a just solution to them.

The Setting up of a Permanent Machinery after the Conference

THE CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,

FIRMLY CONVINCED that a machinery for consultation and co-operation is essential,

1. DECIDES to constitute the Permanent Representatives of the Participating Governments at the United Nations as the informal permanent machinery,

- (a) for co-ordinating all matters of common concern to the African States,
- (b) for examining and making recommendations on concrete practical steps which may be taken to implement the decisions of this and similar future conferences, and
- (c) for making preparatory arrangements for future conferences of Independent African States;

2. AGREES that meetings of foreign Ministers, other Ministers or experts be convened from time to time as and when necessary to study and deal with particular problems of common concern to the African States;

3. AGREES that the Conference of the Independent African States should be held at least once every two years;

4. AGREES that the next Conference shall be held within the next two years and accepts the kind invitation of the Government of Ethiopia to hold the next Conference in Addis Ababa.

