

**General Assembly**

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Agenda item 31

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you circulate as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, the text of the decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventieth ordinary session, held at Algiers, from 8 to 10 July 1999, and the declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, also held at Algiers, from 12 to 14 July 1999 (see annexes).*

(Signed) Abdallah Baali
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Annexes are available only in the languages in which they were submitted (Arabic, English and French).



Annex II

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session and third ordinary session of the African Economic Community

Contents

<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
AHG/Decl.1 (XXXV)	Algiers Declaration	58
AHG/Decl.2 (XXXV)	Declaration of the Year 2000 as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa	67
AHG/Dec.132 (XXXV)	Decision on the report of the Secretary-General on the Ministerial Conference on the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism	68
AHG/Dec.133 (XXXV)	Decision on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: twelfth annual activity report	69
AHG/Dec.134 (XXXV)	Decision on the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States and the United Kingdom	69
AHG/Dec.135 (XXXV)	Decision on the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction	71
AHG/Dec.136 (XXXV)	Decision on the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF I) and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa	72
AHG/Dec.137 (XXXV)	Decision on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons	73
AHG/Dec.138 (XXXV)	Decision on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa	75
AHG/Dec.139 (XXXV)	Decision on the ILO Convention on the Banning of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Immediate Action for Their Elimination	76
AHG/Dec.140 (XXXV)	Decision on the convening of an extraordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in accordance with article 33 (5) of its rules of procedure	77
AHG/Dec.141 (XXXV)	Decision	78
AHG/Dec.142 (XXXV)	Decision	78
AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (III)	Decision	79

level, the synergy of all the on-going initiatives on the continent, with a view to coordinating and harmonizing the various programmes;

8. **FURTHER URGES** the Regional Economic Communities to take the necessary steps to implement the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action in consultation with the OAU General Secretariat, the countries and the competent regional organizations;
9. **CALLS ON** the OAU Secretary-General to:
 - a) put in place the Decade Secretariat;
 - b) set up the Decade Steering Committee;
 - c) release as early as possible the necessary resources for the launching of the Decade coordination activities;
 - d) convene every two years the Conference of African Ministers of Education;
 - e) convene in 2002, on the occasion of the mid-term review of the Decade, a Summit on Education.
10. **APPEALS** to African and International Agencies and Institutions, as well as NGOs and donor countries, to lend their technical and financial support to the implementation of the Decade Programme of Action both at national and continental levels.

AHG/Dec.137 (LXX)

Decision on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ADOPTS** the proposals contained therein;

3. **HAILS** the Declaration on the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons adopted in Abuja on 31 October, 1998 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
4. **WELCOMES** the appeal contained in the said Declaration calling on the OAU to support implementation of the moratorium and to encourage similar initiatives in other regions of the continent
5. **WELCOMES ALSO** the initiatives being undertaken by Member States and regional organisations concerning the question of small arms, in particular, the ECOWAS moratorium on small arms, the destruction of surplus and obsolete small arms in South Africa and the destruction of illicit weapons in Mozambique;
6. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the work of the United Nations, through its Group of Experts on Small Arms and the draft Protocol on the Illicit Manufacturing, circulation and proliferation of as well as illicit trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions and other related materials, supplementary to the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime; the European Union, through its Joint Action on Small Arms; and the Organisation of American States, through its Convention against the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, circulation and proliferation of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related Materials;
7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to render to the affected African countries all necessary assistance to enable them implement programmes to effectively deal with the problems associated with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons:
8. **REITERATES** the urgency and the need for inter-African co-operation in addressing the problems associated with the illicit use, transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, and **EMPASISES** the primary role the OAU can play in co-ordinating actions in those affected areas;
9. **URGES** the Secretary-General to further seek the views of Member States on the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small

arms and light weapons, in particular, to seek their views on actions to be undertaken;

10. **CALLS** for a coordinated African approach to the problems posed by the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms, under the OAU, taking into account the regional experiences and activities in this matter;
11. **STRESSES** the impact of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of light weapons on the increased involvement of children as soldiers and the psycho-social trauma thereof and the need to comply with the African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
12. **FURTHER APPEALS** to all Member States and to the International Community to assist in the psycho-social rehabilitation of children who have been affected by the trafficking, circulation and the proliferation of light weapons;
13. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretariat to organize, to that effect, a ministerial preparatory conference on this matter, prior to the International Conference scheduled for the year 2001 and to seek the support of the relevant UN agencies and other actors concerned, so as to evolve an African common approach;
14. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.

AHG/Dec.138 (XXXV)

Decision on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made since its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in efforts to consolidate the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the appointment by the UN Secretary-General of a Director for the Centre;