

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
Doc.EX/CL/54 (III)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **On the Revitalization of Afro-Arab Cooperation**
 - a) **REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENTS** to the revitalization and further enhancement of Afro-Arab Cooperation;
 - b) **COMMENDS** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for the important initiatives taken towards revitalization of Afro-Arab Cooperation, and for the successful outcome of their First Meeting that took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 22 to 24 January 2003;
 - c) **URGES** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for the early convening of the Second Meeting of Independent Experts for a final decision to be made at the next ordinary session of the Executive Council;
 - d) **CALLS UPON** the Independent Experts to put forward concrete and practicable recommendations for revitalizing the cooperation;
 - e) **REQUESTS** the two Organizations to forward the outcome of the two Meetings of Experts for endorsement and follow up by the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation;
3. **On the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute:**
 - a) **EXPRESSES** once again its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Mali for hosting the Institute;
 - b) **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to Chad, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Tunisia for serving on the Executive Committee of the Institute;
 - c) **REQUESTS** the Governments of Burkina Faso and the Republic of Zimbabwe to forward early the names of their representatives to the Academic Board of the Institute;
 - d) **CALLS** for the early convening of the Meeting of the Academic Board of the Institute;
 - e) **URGES** the Institute to start implementation of agreed upon programmes for the interests of the peoples and Governments of African and Arab Countries;
 - f) **APPEALS** to all countries, bilateral and multilateral agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to the Institute to enable it effectively run its programmes.
4. **On the Sixth Afro-Arab Trade Fair:**
 - a) **APPRECIATES** the role that the Fair would play in the promotion of Investment and Trade between Africa and the Arab world;
 - b) **EXPRESSES** its gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for accepting to host the Fair from 4-15 December 2003;

- c) **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** with the level of preparation for the Fair and **COMMENDS** the Organizing Committee for its efforts in that regard;
- d) **CALLS UPON** all African and Arab countries, the Private Sector, Regional Economic Communities, the African Development Bank, NEPAD Secretariat and other Regional and Global organizations to actively participate in the Fair;

5. On the Afro-Arab Investment Promotion Forum in Agriculture:

- a) **COMMENDS** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for the relevant and timely initiative taken to organize two Forums on Investment in Agriculture - a sector which is a backbone of the African economy;
- b) **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for accepting to host the First Forum; and **URGES** for the early organization of this meeting;
- c) **REQUESTS** the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and all other concerned parties to provide their utmost cooperation and support for the success of the Forum;
- d) **CALLS UPON** all Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Private Sectors and other groupings in Western and Central Africa to actively participate in the first phase of the Forum, designed for Western and Central Africa;
- e) **ENCOURAGES** all concerned Regional Groupings, Professional and Private Sectors in Africa and the Arab world to participate in the Forum;
- f) **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to start as soon as possible, preparations for the second phase of the Forum, designed for Eastern and Southern Africa.

6. On the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation:

- a) **COMMENDS** Member States of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation for the efforts exerted to promote the Afro-Arab Cooperation;
- b) **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the delays in convening the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation;
- c) **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to convene the Session at the earliest possible time;
- d) **REQUESTS** the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation to concentrate its efforts on the recommendations of the meetings of Independent African and Arab Experts on Revitalization of Afro-Arab Cooperation;
- e) **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to take the necessary measures to implement the decisions of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation.