

Gravely concerned that, even if the current emergency situation is alleviated, the structural economic problems will continue to cripple African economies and might precipitate recurrent crises,

Alarmed by the forecasts that indicate for Africa stagnant or negative growth rates, declining per capita food production, escalating debt burden and the serious effects of drought and desertification,

Recognizing fully the need to focus attention and efforts on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems of the African countries,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration on the Economic Situation in Africa and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first session;

2. *Decides* to convene a special session of the General Assembly at the ministerial level to consider in depth the critical economic situation in Africa, to be held in New York from 27 to 31 May 1986;

3. *Decides also* that the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa should focus, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries, with a view to promoting and adopting action-oriented and concerted measures;

4. *Decides further* to establish a Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa that would undertake the necessary preparations to ensure the success of the session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the Preparatory Committee and to the General Assembly at its special session reports containing action-oriented proposals to deal with the critical economic situation in Africa, particularly the major developmental areas identified in the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa annexed to Assembly resolution 39/29, taking fully into account the priorities set by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first session;

7. *Commends* the international community for its valuable support and positive response to the emergency situation in Africa, and appeals to it to continue these efforts and to give its support for the full implementation of resolution 39/29 and the Declaration annexed thereto;

8. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his valuable efforts in ensuring the co-ordinated response of the United Nations system and the international community to the emergency situation in Africa;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in implementing resolution 39/29 and the Declaration annexed thereto, to continue to monitor the emergency situation, to assess the needs and responses, to maintain the system's capacity to respond to the continuing emergency in the affected countries, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

98th plenary meeting
2 December 1985

³⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 36th meeting.

40/56. Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Having held, in the year of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, a special plenary meeting in observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³⁷

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in which the peoples of the world proclaimed their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,³⁸

Recalling its resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration,

Considering that the process of national liberation is irresistible and irreversible, and recalling that the Declaration solemnly proclaimed the necessity speedily and unconditionally to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing the significant and commendable role played by the United Nations, since its very inception, in the field of decolonization and noting the emergence, during this period, of about one hundred States into sovereign existence,

Noting with satisfaction, in particular, that during the past twenty-five years a large number of former colonial Territories have achieved independence, mainly through the courageous liberation struggle carried out by the peoples of those countries, led by their national liberation movements, and that many former Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration,

Noting also with satisfaction the important contribution made by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in furthering the aims and objectives of the Declaration with a view to the liberation of peoples from colonial rule,

Noting further with satisfaction the active and important role being played by former colonial Territories, as States Members of the United Nations and members of the other organizations of the United Nations system in the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter, the preservation of international peace and security, decolonization and the promotion of human progress, as well as the profound impact thereof on contemporary international relations,

³⁸ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Conscious of the fact that the Declaration has played an important role in assisting the peoples under colonial rule and will continue to serve as an inspiration in their efforts to achieve self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter and in mobilizing world public opinion for the complete elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations,

Deeply concerned at the fact that, twenty-five years after the adoption of the Declaration, colonialism in the world has not yet been totally eradicated, particularly in Namibia,

Strongly condemning the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and the colonial oppression of its people by the racist régime of Pretoria, which completely disregards the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence,

Reaffirming that all peoples have the right to self-determination and independence and that the subjection of peoples to colonial domination constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights and is a serious impediment to the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of peaceful relations among nations,

Increasingly aware of the importance of economic, social and cultural development and self-reliance of colonial countries and peoples for the attainment and consolidation of genuine independence,

Convinced that the total eradication of racial discrimination, *apartheid* and violations of the basic human rights of the peoples in the remaining colonial Territories, particularly in Namibia, will be achieved peacefully and most expeditiously by the faithful and complete implementation of the Declaration,

Determined to take effective measures leading to the complete and unconditional elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations without further delay,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of all peoples under colonial rule to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

2. *Declares* that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including racism and *apartheid*, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and the principles of international law;

3. *Expresses its conviction* that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration should provide an opportunity for Member States to rededicate themselves to the principles and objectives enunciated in that document and for concerted efforts to be made to remove the last vestiges of colonialism in all regions of the world;

4. *Strongly condemns* South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia, its defiance of United Nations resolutions, its brutal repression of the Namibian people, its aggressive activities and acts of destabilization against neighbouring independent African States and its policies of *apartheid*, as well as its acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability, which constitute a threat to international peace and security;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular colonial Powers, to take effective steps with a view to the complete, unconditional and speedy eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and to the faithful and strict observance of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³⁹ as well as other relevant resolutions and

decisions of the General Assembly and those of the Security Council;

6. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to promote, in the United Nations and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, effective measures for the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in all colonial Territories to which the Declaration applies;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to render, as a matter of urgency, all moral and material assistance to the peoples under colonial rule in their struggle to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration;

8. *Urges* the administering Powers and other Member States to ensure that the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories do not run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and do not impede the implementation of the Declaration;

9. *Requests* Member States to take legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that illegally own and operate enterprises, including transnational corporations, in the international Territory of Namibia in order to put an end to such operations;

10. *Urges* Member States to discontinue all economic, financial, trade and other relations with the racist minority régime of South Africa in respect of Namibia and to refrain from entering into any relations with South Africa which may lend legitimacy or support to its continued illegal occupation of that Territory;

11. *Requests* Member States, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system, to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the colonial Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

12. *Reaffirms* that all administering Powers are obliged, under the Charter and in accordance with the Declaration, to create economic, social and other conditions in the Territories under their administration which will enable those Territories to achieve genuine independence and economic self-reliance;

13. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to adopt the necessary measures to discourage or prevent any systematic influx of immigrants and settlers into the Territories under their administration which might disrupt the demographic composition of those Territories and prevent the genuine exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by their peoples, and to avoid any forced displacement, complete or partial, of the population of colonial Territories;

14. *Further requests* the administering Powers to preserve the cultural identity, as well as the national unity, of the Territories under their administration and to encourage the full development of the indigenous culture, with a view to facilitating the unfettered exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of those Territories;

15. *Reaffirms its strong conviction* that the presence of all kinds of military bases and installations in colonial Territories could constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration and that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers concerned to ensure that the existence of such bases and installations does not hinder the peoples of the Territories from exercising their right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Declaration;

³⁹ Resolution 217 A (III).

16. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States and to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration;

17. *Requests* Member States, in particular the administering Powers, to adopt appropriate measures to prevent the recruitment, financing, training and transit of mercenaries in their territories for use against the national liberation movements struggling for freedom and independence from the yoke of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*;

18. *Considers* it incumbent upon the United Nations to continue to play an active role in the process of decolonization and to intensify its efforts for the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with a view to the further mobilization of international public opinion in support of complete decolonization;

19. *Urges* Member States to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

20. *Invites* the Security Council to continue to give special attention to the situation in and around Namibia and to consider imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter;

21. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to render, or continue to render, within their respective spheres of competence, all possible moral and material assistance to the peoples of the colonial Territories and to their national liberation movements, to take measures to withhold from the *apartheid* régime of South Africa any form of collaboration or assistance in the financial, economic and technical fields and to discontinue all support to that régime until the people of Namibia have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in a united Namibia and until *apartheid* has been eradicated and a non-racial, united and democratic State based on the will of all South African people has been established in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

22. *Invites* non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization to intensify their activities in co-operation with the United Nations;

23. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the full compliance of all States with resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization, to seek the most suitable ways for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories to which it applies and to propose to the General Assembly specific measures for the complete implementation of the Declaration in the remaining colonial Territories;

24. *Invites* all States to co-operate fully with the Special Committee in the complete fulfilment of its mandate.

99th plenary meeting
2 December 1985

⁴⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/40/23).

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, chap. IX, para. 12.

40/57. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,⁴⁰

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration, and 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling all its previous resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, in particular resolution 39/91 of 14 December 1984, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having adopted resolution 40/56 of 2 December 1985 on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Reiterating its conviction that the total eradication of racial discrimination, *apartheid* and violations of the basic human rights of the peoples of colonial Territories will be achieved most expeditiously by the faithful and complete implementation of the Declaration, particularly in Namibia, and by the speediest possible complete elimination of the presence of the illegal occupying régime therefrom,

Recalling the consensus on Namibia, adopted by the Special Committee at its extraordinary session held at Tunis from 13 to 17 May 1985⁴¹ and the relevant provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action contained in the Final Document adopted by the United Nations Council for Namibia at its extraordinary plenary meetings held at Vienna from 3 to 7 June 1985,⁴²

Condemning the continued colonialist and racist repression of millions of Africans, particularly in Namibia, by the Government of South Africa through its persistent, illegal occupation of the international Territory and its intransigent attitude towards all efforts being made to bring about an internationally acceptable solution to the situation obtaining in the Territory,

Deeply conscious of the urgent need to take all necessary measures to eliminate forthwith the last vestiges of colonialism, particularly in respect of Namibia where desperate attempts by South Africa to perpetuate its illegal occupation have brought untold suffering and bloodshed to the people,

Strongly condemning the policies of those States which, in defiance of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, have continued to collaborate with the Government of South Africa in its domination of the people of Namibia,

Conscious that the success of the national liberation struggle and the resultant international situation have provided the international community with a unique opportunity to make a decisive contribution towards the total elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the work accomplished by the Special Committee with a view to securing the effective

⁴² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 24 (A/40/24), para. 513.