

AHG/Decl.2(XXI)

**DECLARATION OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
ON THE CULTURAL ASPECTS IN THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION**

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), assembled in our Twenty-first Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 to 20 July, 1985,

Recalling our Resolution AHG/Res. 132 (XX) adopted at the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 1984, on Africa's economic problems,

Recalling the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Recalling the objectives of the African Cultural Charter adopted by the 1976 OAU Summit in Port Louis, Mauritius,

Recalling the Constitution of the Inter-African Cultural Fund adopted by the 1980 Freetown Summit,

Having taken note of the Report of the OAU Secretary-General a.i. on the Cultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action contained in Document CM/1317 (XLII),

Conscious of the need to align cultural development with the economic development of Africa,

Aware of the fact that the success of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos depends on the results of analyses of the inter-action between culture and the other social and economic sectors,

Desirous of facilitating the integration of human factors, cultural realities and the system of values into development strategies,

Desirous of formulating administrative and technical measures for the integration of cultural data into the Lagos Plan of Action,

Recognizing the need to lend political support for the success of the forthcoming World Cultural Development Decade:

HAVE DECLARED as follows:

- 1. WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION and ENDORSE the principle of the United Nations General Assembly's Proclamation of a World Cultural Development Decade, to be celebrated under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO;**
- 2. WE RECOGNIZE that following the AFRICACULT and MONDIACULT, in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the Pan-African Cultural Manifesto of Algiers and the provisions of the African Cultural Charter, they adopted in Port Louis, Mauritius in 1976, the following:**
 - a. Priority should be given to the role of culture as an essential dimension of the global development process, which should, however not be solely aimed at economic growth. In this connection, there is an urgent need to integrate social and cultural factors within our development strategies so as to ensure a balanced and self reliant development;**

- b. development should thus take its root from our people's culture and be consistent with their values so as to emancipate them from them from all forms of economic, social, political and cultural dependence;
- c. cultural identities, as dynamic process of continuity, creativity and attitudes vis-à-vis innovation, should be the basis and finality of development , promoting and safeguarding stability and structural cohesion, as well as the social development of peoples;

3. WE ARE CONVINCED that these guidelines will help achieve in the near future:

- a. improvement of the standard of living of peoples and ensuring their social progress through the development of their creativity; particularly thanks to their participation;
- b. the creation of an African conscience maintained by a sense of belonging to the same identity process, strengthening by the mutual search for an African unity and sustained by an unflinching political will to succeed in the context of an African cultural community;
- c. the affirmation of the existence and strengthening of the Member States' cultural identities and the community reality of African unity in international exchanges by developing a more balanced bilateral and international cultural co-operation.

4. WE HAVE DECIDED to pool our efforts in the continent of the Lagos Plan of Action, so as to implement the short, medium and long term integrated programmes of activities, relevant to the above fields. These are integrated programmes because they are linked to other economic development sectors, already provided for in the Plan. However, they will particularly contribute to enhancing the self-development of peoples and stimulate their spirit of adaptability and their creativity.

This involves the following areas:

- Scientific research (social and human science)
- Education and literacy programmes
- Cultural industries;
- Cottage industries, arts and crafts;
- Cultural exchanges and the development of tourism;
- Cultural co-operation.

5. WE COMMIT OURSELVES, individually and collectively, to formulate national policies on the various areas which will define and underscore the specific cultural development objectives as well as the conditions and methods for their implementation. The national cultural policies thus defined would be harmonized at the regional and sub-regional levels within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action.

6. WE COMMIT OURSELVES, individually and collectively, to take the appropriate measures to formulate and make known within the next three years (1985 – 1988), national cultural policies which will take into account the above cited cultural objectives, and which will spell out carefully the cultural development as well as the economic development programme with a view to facilitate their co-ordination and harmonization at the regional and subregional levels;

7. We especially, commit ourselves individually and collectively to:

- a. accord an important place to the promotion of scientific research for cultural development;**
- b. give priority to the promotion of education for development;**
- c. promote the development of cultural industries;**
- d. promote traditional cottage industries;**
- e. ensure cultural exchange and the development of cultural tourism;**
- f. take the necessary steps to promote co-operation for cultural development:**
 - at Inter-African level;**
 - at International level;**

8. In adoption this Declaration, WE HAVE THE FIRM CONVICTION that the development of our countries and our continent will:

- a. further take into consideration the social and cultural realities;**
- b. enable OAU to harmonize our national policies, define common priorities and thus, become a focal point of all sub-regional activities in the field of cultural, scientific and technical co-operation for development;**

9. HAVING DECIDED to focus attention on the cultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action, we request the Secretary-General of the OAU in consultation with the UNESCO Director-General, and the Heads of African Cultural Institutions to prepare and to submit to us annually the relevant programmes accordingly.