

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

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**MEETING OF MINISTERS
ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER
12 FEBRUARY 2004
TRIPOLI - LIBYA**

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**DRAFT SIRTE DECLARATION ON THE CHALLENGES
OF IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT ON AGRICULTURE
AND WATER IN AFRICA**

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WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 2nd Extraordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 27 to 28 February 2004, in response to the proposal to convene an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on Africa's economic development, which was initially made by the Leader of the Great Al Fatah Revolution, Brother Muammar Ghaddafi during the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003;

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the well being of our future generations;

We are aware that Africa's underdevelopment is not irreversible and that the ingenuity and potentials of our countries and peoples can overcome all obstacles to development in the Continent, eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease and establish a new Africa;

We are conscious of the importance of mobilizing the huge human and natural resources on our Continent for development;

We are convinced that it is not profitable for our countries to establish similar economic activities in the field of production or manufacturing and that there is need to undertake other actions to coordinate these activities at the continental level in order to realize integration at both regional and continental level;

We are mindful of the urgent need to redistribute economic activities in Africa in conformity with the principle of specialization based on comparative advantages in the natural, economic and human resources available in each region;

We further reaffirm that sustained, just and balanced development is based on partnership, utilizing resources and sharing of its benefits in accordance with the principles of international law;

We recognize that to attain self-sufficiency in food production and eradicate hunger, it is necessary to promote strategic food crops, in particular, wheat, rice, corn, cash crops and others in regions appropriate for their production;

We further recognize the importance of animal and fishery resources in ensuring food security, their contribution of more than 25% of the total agricultural production and in consideration of the continent's huge animal and fishery resources adequate to meet the needs of the continent and more as well as the need to preserve and develop these resources;

We are further aware that in order to provide effective support from scientific research, guidelines and agricultural planning and tackle problems of desertification, land conservation and environment protection for sustainable agricultural and animal resources development;

We are further convinced of the fact that water is the main factor for all important economic sectors and in order to assure the preservation of water resources and its proper distribution in different regions of the Continent to meet irrigation needs, human and industrial consumption in the face of the threat of drought and desertification, while large quantities of water escape into the oceans and seas;

We are further conscious of the fact that it is not possible to realize sustained development in both agricultural and water fields independently from the complimentary programmes of these sectors;

Inspired by the vision of Brother Muammar Ghaddafi, Leader of Great Al Fatah Revolution, to establish a strong continent capable of taking up global challenges in the face of emerging strong economic blocks, unfair competition and marginalisation;

We Declare our commitment to provide unlimited support to the following and are **Determined** to attain them without hesitation and therefore **DECIDE as follows:**

1. AGRICULTURE

To establish an African Authority for agricultural production in charge of determining the location for the production of strategic commodities and give the necessary importance of setting up strategic food reserves. This authority will, as a preliminary step, prepare programmes to attain self sufficiency by increasing productivity as a model investment in agricultural products according to the comparative advantages of the regions;

To establish an authority to develop natural pastures, provide veterinary products, and improve genetic resources of regions in Africa, where fodder and natural pastures are available

To establish an authority to develop fishery resources, develop fishing methods and improve facilities for their preservation, storage, distribution and processing; and encourage regional cooperation for fishing, particularly in lakes and river-basins.

To establish an organ for agricultural and technical equipment to deal with the manufacturing of the necessary equipment to meet the continent's needs for agricultural production.

To establish African Centres of Excellence and/or networks for crops, animals, forestry, fisheries, range management, water management, desertification, drought, floods and environmental management and the strengthening of related tertiary and research institutions at continental and regional levels for the purpose of carrying out research in biotechnology (including GMOs), conservation of agricultural biodiversity, bio-safety, food storage, water harvesting and application, etc;

To establish banks for genetic resources for agriculture, livestock and registration of intellectual property;

To establish an Early Warning System at the Continental Level in order to avert the negative impact of drought, desertification, floods, natural disasters and pests;

To establish an information network in the field of agricultural production for food security and the trading of commodities between markets and countries.

2. WATER

To support the African Ministerial Council on Water in its role in developing the plans and policies related to the management of water resources on the continent.

To reactivate the existing mechanisms at the level of the water basin and establish new ones wherever appropriate in order to:

- Develop and promote water resources through support to infrastructure projects, including the establishment of dams, laying down of canals, sinking of wells and providing irrigation equipment;
- Exploit water falls to provide electric power and link it to the Continent's general network.
- Carry out studies on untapped water in areas where it is available in large quantities to benefit the continent in accordance with the principles of international law, including the protocols concluded between the riparian States.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES

To immediately establish the African Common Market for agricultural products, according to the Lusaka Summit decision

To establish export-oriented industries with value added in countries with comparative advantages.

To Activate intra-African trade in agricultural and fishery products in order to correct discrepancy in food balances at both national and regional levels, adopt new patterns in order to settle payments for trade and increase the share of the continent in the world trade.

To develop clear strategies in the field of industry that adopt externally oriented industries, promote regional cooperation and integration based on comparative advantages in establishing industries in particular, those required by agricultural development Programme

To take into consideration the infrastructure, particularly in energy, transport, roads and communication fields in order to increase productivity and promote local and foreign investments in this field;

To prepare and coordinate African positions for WTO and major commodities markets, as well as service providing organizations, activate and consolidate its position in the international blocs;

To deal with human resource development in the continent through education, training, rehabilitation and exchange of expertise;

To ensure gender balance in access to training, education, land, natural resources, loans and development programmes and structures.

4. FINANCING

To operationalize financial development institutions in the field of Agriculture and Water;

To expedite action on the establishment of the African Investment Bank to finance development projects in the field of Agriculture and Water;

To establish an African Development Fund for Agriculture and Water to be maintained through financing contributions;

To expedite the implementation of NEPAD programmes in the field of Agriculture and Water.

5. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES, FOLLOW UP AND EVALUATION

To assign to the Executive Council of the AU to develop detailed plans and plans of action that can implement this Declaration, deal with issues therein and submit plans of action and detailed programmes to the Assembly at its ordinary session in 2005;

To set up a Committee of Heads of State and Government composed of ten Members, two from each of the five regions of the Continent. This Committee shall be assigned to:

- (a) Follow-up the implementation of this Declaration and propose the necessary procedures;

(b) Evaluate the progress made in the attainment of the objectives of this Declaration; submit a report at every annual session of the Assembly, taking into account the achievements and identifying the obstacles and proposing the means to overcome them.

To adopt the recommendations made in the working document on Agriculture and Water.

We Express our appreciation to the people of the Great Jamahiriya and the leader of the Al Fattah Revolution for the warm welcome and the hospitality accorded to all the delegates and the facilities placed at our disposal.

Done in Sirte on 27 February, 2004