



31

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

CLOSING REMARKS BY H.E. DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM,  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OAU, AT THE MEETING  
BETWEEN THE OAU AND THE UN SYSTEM

ADDIS ABABA,  
9 NOVEMBER 1995

CLOSING REMARKS BY H.E. DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM,  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OAU, AT THE MEETING  
BETWEEN THE OAU AND THE UN SYSTEM  
ADDIS ABABA, NOVEMBER 1995

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Representatives of UN Agencies,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you have come to the end of what I understand has been a very stimulating session, I would like to congratulate you all for the time and effort you have put into this meeting. I also understand that your discussions during the past three days have focussed on concrete implementable projects with potential to provide direct and indirect benefits to African countries. The spirit which has characterized this session and the results of your work will, I am sure, further strengthen the close cooperation that exists between the OAU and the United Nations System. This is an encouraging achievement which reflects our common determination to reinforce and further strengthen the cooperation between the OAU and the UN Institutions.

We, in the OAU, have great expectations on the implementation of the programmes you have agreed upon. This meeting not only proved the utility of the OAU/UN Consultation Forum, but also highlighted the need for closer system wide co-ordination, co-operation and joint programming to address Africa's multi-faceted problems. During this meeting the inter-related nature of Africa's problems were repeatedly highlighted by all participants. In this regard, I am sure that more thought has been given to the need for the Agencies to co-ordinate their activities so that we can all better serve our continent.

The political, economic and social issues are so inter-linked in our continent that it will be counter-productive to address one without the other. This is why, as I stated in my opening statement, our priority areas are considered in a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary manner.

I note that your meeting has requested that the OAU Secretariat should be strengthened to address its growing responsibilities in the political and the economic and social fields, following the coming into force of the Abuja Treaty. I want to assure all of you that the restructuring of the OAU Secretariat is receiving a priority attention. The meeting must have been briefed on the concrete steps being taken in this area and on the gradual approach adopted by the Secretariat to equip our Organization with efficient staff without putting undue burden on our Member States.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to reiterate our commitment to the recommendations you have just adopted. I wish to emphasize the need for a serious follow-up of these recommendations, particularly on a sectorial basis. My last word is to underscore the importance of these consultations, particularly bearing in mind the dynamic changes that are taking place on the global level and the attendant responsibilities and challenges that face our two Organizations.

For those of you who are going back to their respective stations, I wish you safe journey home, till we meet again next year.

Thank you.