

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF THE
OAU SECRETARY GENERAL TO
THE 55TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE,
BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

14

MR. CHAIRMAN,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE AFRICAN UNITY HOUSE FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.

AT THE VERY OUTSET, I WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE OUTGOING BUREAU AND ESPECIALLY TO ITS CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR ATEPOR, FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICES IT HAS RENDERED TO OUR ORGANISATION. SINCE ASSUMING MY CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING CLOSELY WITH AMBASSADOR ATEPOR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. I HAVE BENEFITED GREATLY FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ORGANISATION, HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT IN THE SERVICE OF THE OAU AND HIS ENERGETIC AND RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF BETTER ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE OAU. I THANK HIM MOST SINCERELY FOR THE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE HE HAS RENDERED TO THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND TO ME PERSONALLY.

AS YOU MAY ALL RECALL, THE YEAR WHICH IS NOW COMING TO AN END HAS WITNESSED IMPORTANT POLITICAL CHANGES IN MOST OF OUR MEMBER STATES AND PARTICULARLY IN OUR HOST COUNTRY, ETHIOPIA. THESE EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA HAVE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT AFFECTED THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF OUR ORGANISATION, PARTICULARLY DURING AND AFTER THE ABUJA SUMMIT. THAT IS WHY I AM ALL THE MORE PLEASED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WE HAVE GONE THROUGH, IN KEEPING WITH THE FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF OUR ORGANISATION, WE ARE ABLE TO HOLD THIS IMPORTANT SESSION. I AM ALSO GRATIFIED THAT THE SUB-COMMITEE ON PROGRAMMES WHICH HELD EIGHT DAYS OF SERIOUS AND PRODUCTIVE WORK, ENDING ITS DELIBERATIONS ON 14 NOVEMBER, 1991 IN PREPARATION FOR THIS SESSION.. IT IS ALSO MY PLEASURE TO REPORT THAT THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS WAS ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS ON SCHEDULE, DESPITE PROBLEMS HERE AND THERE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK ACCOMPLISHED AND FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL ASSIST THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT TO IMPROVE ITS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

IN THIS RESPECT, I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THAT AFTER YOUR NOVEMBER SESSION LAST YEAR, I ISSUED THE NECESSARY DIRECTIVES FOR THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF THE MAJOR

RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ONLY OF THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS BUT ALSO OF YOUR COMMITTEE. STRICT INSTRUCTIONS WERE ISSUED, BOTH TO THE SERVICES AT HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE REGIONAL OFFICES, THAT NO UNAUTHORIZED OVER-EXPENDITURE WILL BE TOLERATED AND THE OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH OVER-EXPENDITURE WILL BE FINANCIALLY LIABLE. SINCE ONE OF THE AREAS WHEREIN OVER-EXPENDITURE WAS RECORDED WAS UNDER "TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE", I TOOK STEPS TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THOSE RECRUITED UNDER THIS BUDGETARY CODE. THIS WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION TO MAKE BUT IT HAD TO BE MADE. I ALSO SET UP AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ALL RECRUITMENTS ON SHORT-TERM CONTRACT AND TO BE GUIDED BY THE CRITERIA OF ASSESSING THE NEED FOR SUCH RECRUITMENT AND TO VERIFY IF BUDGETARY PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR THIS PURPOSE. DIRECTIVES WERE ALSO ISSUED THAT CONTRACTS OF THIS NATURE SHALL NOT EXCEED A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS AND SHALL NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE. THIS WAS TO PUT AN END TO THE PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF TACIT RENEWAL OF SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS FOR YEARS ON END. I ALSO ESTABLISHED CLEAR PROCEDURES ON MISSIONS SO AS TO CUT DOWN ON THEIR NUMBER AND FOCUS ON AREAS THAT ARE OF MAJOR PRIORITY TO THE ORGANISATION. WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT THERE IS A FOLLOWUP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, I DECIDED TO SET UP A COMMITTEE COMPRISING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND THE BUDGET CONTROL DIVISION. THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE MEETING ON A QUARTERLY BASIS TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND THE INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION. I BELIEVE

THAT THIS INTERNAL MECHANISM WILL CONSIDERABLY HELP IN FILLING THE GAP THAT EXISTED IN TERMS A MECHANISM FOR A FOLLOW-UP.

FINALLY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL THESE SHORTCOMINGS ARE PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE LACK OF CO-ORDINATION, EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED AT ENHANCING CO-ORDINATION BOTH WITHIN THE HEADQUARTERS AND BETWEEN THE HEADQUARTERS AND THE REGIONAL OFFICES. THESE EFFORTS WILL DEFINITELY BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE IMPENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CO-ORDINATION UNIT WITHIN MY CABINET. ONE ANALYST HAS ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT AND THE RECRUITMENT OF THE OTHER TWO IS AT THE FINAL STAGE. THEY WILL BE ASSUMING OFFICE IN EARLY JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

CLEARLY HOWEVER, WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS. BUT I BELIEVE A SOUND BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE IN THIS DIRECTION INCLUDING THE ADOPTION OF CALCULATED AND DECISIVE MEASURES AT IMPROVING COORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION, AVOIDING WASTE THROUGH DUPLICATION AND MAKING THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF OUR MEAGRE RESOURCES. I WAS MOST ENCOURAGED IN THIS REGARD BY THE VERY PERTINENT OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE MEMBER STATES WITHIN THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES. I REPEAT THAT WE ARE RESOLUTELY COMMITTED TO MOVING THE SECRETARIAT TOWARDS THE RATIONALISATION OF ITS ACTIVITIES THROUGH A MORE IMPROVED CO-ORDINATION, GREATER ATTENTION TO THE FORMULATION OF ITS PROGRAMMES AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF ITS POLICY PLANNING CAPACITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE DRAFT PROGRAMME-BUDGET FOR 1992/93, WHICH IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IS A PRODUCT OF A LONG PREPARATORY PROCESS BEGUN IN EARLY APRIL 1991 WHEN ALL THE PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE SECRETARIAT WERE INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT THEIR BUDGETARY PROPOSALS. IN PREPARING THESE PROPOSALS, DUE CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE DIFFICULT SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN MOST OF OUR MEMBER STATES, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANISATION ON THE OTHER.

THE DRAFT PROGRAMME-BUDGET FOR 1992/93 AMOUNTS TO US\$28,900,000.00. THIS REPRESENTS A NOMINAL INCREASE OF 4% ON THE BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND A 13% INCREASE ON REAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE 1990/1991 FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AIMS AT ENSURING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE ON-GOING ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES INITIATED DURING THE PREVIOUS YEARS IN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT. IT ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE NEW EMERGING PRIORITIES AND ORIENTATION BOTH IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS IN VIEW OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE WORLD. OUR ORGANISATION MUST INDEED FACE UP TO THESE REALITIES AND CHALLENGES IN ITS ACTIVITIES AND MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENT IN ITS APPROACH AND METHOD OF WORK.

IN THE POLITICAL FIELD, ONE MAJOR AREA OF FOCUS IN PREPARING OUR PROGRAMME WAS OF COURSE CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT. IN THIS REGARD, THE OAU WILL, IN THE COMING YEAR, CONTINUE TO TAKE INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO INTRA AND INTER-AFRICAN CONFLICTS WHICH ARE DISORGANIZING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE, SPREADING DEATH AND MISERY, AND INHIBITING ANY DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. OUR ORGANISATION WILL, TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY, CONTINUE ALSO TO SEEK APPROPRIATE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF AFRICAN REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS.

AS YOU MAY ALSO BE AWARE, AND IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT POLITICAL CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATISATION OF THE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, THE OAU IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A ROLE RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND STABILITY AND ORDERLY CHANGE. ONE NEW AREA IN WHICH THE ROLE OF THE OAU IS INCREASINGLY BEING SOUGHT IS THE OBSERVATION OR MONITORING OF ELECTIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL. WE ARE GLAD AND PROUD OF THIS TRUST REPOSED IN THE ORGANISATION. AS OF NOW, OAU HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN OBSERVING OR MONITORING ELECTIONS IN FOUR MEMBER STATES, NAMELY THE COMOROS, CAPE VERDE, BENIN AND MORE RECENTLY IN ZAMBIA. THIS INVOLVEMENT DID ATTRACT SOME FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH WERE NOT BUDGETED FOR. THIS NEW AREA OF ACTIVITY OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT HAS THUS FAR BEEN COVERED UNDER THE "UNFORESEEN ACTIVITIES" VOTE OF THE REGULAR BUDGET. IT IS HOWEVER IMPORTANT TO UNDERScore THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS TO BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED IN ORDER TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE BEYOND THE MERE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF INVOLVEMENT. IN THIS,

WE CAN DRAW FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS. IT MUST BE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT ANY OAU INVOLVEMENT, AND THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT INVOLVEMENT, WILL IN THE FIRST PLACE DEPEND ON THE SPECIFIC REQUEST AND INVITATION OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED.

AS OUR ORGANISATION BECOMES MORE AND MORE INVOLVED IN ISSUES OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION AS WELL AS IN AREAS OF ASSISTING MEMBER STATES IN THE PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING THEIR STABILITY AND SECURITY THROUGH THEIR MANAGEMENT OF ORDERLY CHANGE OR CONTINUITY DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SHALL NEED GREATER RESOURCES IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THESE NEW CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. SOME OF THESE RESOURCES CAN BE PROVIDED FOR THROUGH THE REGULAR BUDGET. BUT I DO SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT TIME HAS ALSO COME TO EXPLORE EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS FROM AFRICAN AND NON-AFRICAN SOURCES PROVIDED THAT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ORGANISATION IS NOT COMPROMISED AND OUR OBJECTIVES NOT DIVERTED.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR UNDER CONSIDERATION, THE ORGANISATION WILL ALSO CONCENTRATE, IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, ON SUCH MAJOR ACTIVITIES AS ADULT LITERACY CAMPAIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AND THE PROMOTION OF INTER-

AFRICAN COOPERATION IN EDUCATION. WITH REGARD TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT WILL CONTINUE TO MAP OUT AN AFRICAN STRATEGY TO PROMOTE A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT. IN THE AREA OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, OUR ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON ISSUES RELATED TO HUMAN-RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR, PARTICIPATION OF YOUTHS IN DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF A COMMON APPROACH BY MEMBER STATES TO THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS IN AFRICA.

THE OAU WILL FOLLOW UP OTHER ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND HEALTH MATTERS, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE RELEVANT AGENCIES OF THE UN SYSTEM IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT AFRICA'S CONCERNS AND INTERESTS ARE PROPERLY TAKEN CARE OF.

IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION, OUR ORGANISATION WILL UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE SECTORAL STUDIES AND PROTOCOLS IN PRIORITY AREAS AS DEFINED BY THE OAU POLICY-MAKING ORGANS. WE WILL IN THIS RESPECT, BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ECA AND ADB. IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GUIDELINES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND IN COOPERATION WITH OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN SYSTEM NAMELY UNDP, OUR ACTIVITIES WILL CONCENTRATE ON OPERATIONAL MODALITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR SENSITIZING MEMBER STATES AND AFRICAN PUBLIC OPINION TO THE IDEALS AND SCOPE OF THE AEC. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT, INTENDS TO STRENGTHEN

ITS WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO REINFORCE OUR COOPERATION AND COORDINATE AND HARMONIZE OUR EFFORTS. OUR IMMEDIATE PRIORITY IS OF COURSE TO WORK FOR THE RATIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE TREATY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. IN THIS RESPECT, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT I HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THREE MEMBER STATES - GHANA, SEYCHELLES AND ZIMBABWE DULY SIGNED RESPECTIVELY BY CHAIRMAN FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JERRY RAWLINGS, PRESIDENT ALBERT RENE AND PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE. EARLIER, SOON AFTER THE ABUJA SUMMIT, I HAD ADDRESSED COMMUNICATIONS TO ALL OUR LEADERS APPEALING TO THEM TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR A SPEEDY RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY.

WE WILL CONTINUE DURING THE 1992/93 FINANCIAL YEAR, AND WITHIN THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, TO IMPLEMENT THE ON-GOING SECTORAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES IN THE AREA OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE AND TOURISM, INTRA- AFRICAN TRADE, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY MATTERS, INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF OUR PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1992/93. THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES, WHICH IS SUBMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, OUTLINES THE NECESSARY DETAILS

IN THIS REGARD - AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I WILL NOT EXPAND ON SUCH ACTIVITIES AS THOSE DEALING WITH INFORMATION, AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION, LEGAL AFFAIRS, ADMINISTRATION AND CONFERENCES, FINANCES ETC., WHICH HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN DETAIL BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE WHOSE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT PROGRAMME-BUDGET.

LET ME NOW TURN TO SOME OF THE ISSUES ON THE DRAFT AGENDA UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IS CALLING THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 14 REGARDING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE STAFF OF THE ORGANIZATION. AS YOU ARE AWARE THE COMMITTEE OF 14 SUBMITTED ITS FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 51ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN FEBRUARY 1990. BEARING IN MIND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF OUR COUNTRIES, COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHOUT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS BE IMPLEMENTED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. IT ALSO ADOPTED AN INITIAL SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AMOUNTING TO ABOUT US\$1.4 MILLION. IT WAS AT THE TIME THE HOPE AND EXPECTATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT THAT THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED GRADUALLY SO AS TO SPREAD THE BURDEN OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. ON THE BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH A NUMBER OF YOUR EXCELLENCIES AND BASED ON MY OWN KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, I AM AWARE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 14 WERE

NOT THOROUGHLY ADDRESSED BY YOUR COMMITTEE AND BY COUNCIL. I AM AT THE SAME TIME FULLY AWARE THAT ALL OF YOU ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THE STAFF IN RESPECT TO THE NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS. THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US ALL THEREFORE IS HOW TO REALISE A GENUINE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF STAFF THUS MOTIVATING THEM TO QUALITY AND DEDICATED PERFORMANCE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION FACING MEMBER STATES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THIS MATTER WITH THE IMPORTANCE IT DESERVES AND EVOLVE AN APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL.

YOUR COMMITTEE IS ALSO AWARE, THAT SINCE JUNE 1990, THE NEW STAFF RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE OAU ARE IN FORCE FOLLOWING THEIR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HOWEVER, THEIR IMPLEMENTATION POSE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SOME OF THEM ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. THE ENFORCEMENT OF THOSE STAFF RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN APPLIED AS OF NOW, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO I.E. THE PAYMENT OF AIR TICKETS FOR STAFF DEPENDENTS LIVING OUT OF THE DUTY STATION OF THE STAFF MEMBER AND REFUND OF UNFORESEEN EXPENSES INCURRED BY STAFF ON MISSION, WHICH IN MY VIEW COULD BE DEFERRED TO A LATER DATE OF APPLICATION, WILL NOT INVOLVE HUGE AMOUNT OF FUNDS. IT WILL ABOVE ALL HELP TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS THAT WE ARE NOW FACING AND CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHEN THE FEELING OF SECURITY AMONG STAFF SINCE IT WILL

INVOLVE MEDICAL EXPENSES, TERMINATION BENEFITS AND OTHER PERSONAL ENTITLEMENTS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE NOTICED AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA WITH REGARD TO THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT. YOU MAY RECALL THAT IN MY ADDRESS TO THE 27TH ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN ABUJA, I DID INFORM THE SUMMIT OF MY INTENTION TO REORGANISE THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT SO THAT IT CAN COPE WITH THE NEW CHALLENGES INHERENT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE NEW AREAS OF ACTIVITY SUCH AS CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION. I FURTHER INFORMED THE ASSEMBLY THAT AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE. I ALSO REPORTED THAT MY PROPOSALS WILL BE TABLED BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION OF COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 1992.

THE PROPOSED REORGANISATION IS AN INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT AND IT IS AN INTERIM ONE. IT IS AN OPERATION OR MORE APTLY AN EXERCISE WHICH IS SEPARATE FROM THE RESTRUCTURING INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT WITH PERMANENT STRUCTURES REFLECTING THE MERGER INTO A SINGLE SECRETARIAT OF THE OAU AND THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. PUT DIFFERENTLY WHILE AWAITING THE NEW AND PERMANENT STRUCTURES WHICH CLEARLY WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO BE ACCOMPLISHED

AND WHICH AS UNDERSTOOD WILL BE SUBMITTED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE, I DEEMED IT NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT AT THIS JUNCTURE TO REORGANISE THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES. THE REORGANISATION WHICH I AM SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION WILL ESSENTIALLY INVOLVE A REDEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING STAFF WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT. IT DOES ENVISAGE A CREATION OF A FEW POSTS AND THE UPGRADING OF SOME EXISTING UNITS. BUT ALL THESE ARE WITH MINIMAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR COMMITTEE ON THIS MATTER WHILE I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN WORK OUT THE MODALITIES FOR THE FUNDING OF THESE NEW POSTS. ABOVE ALL HOWEVER, I WISH TO EMPHASISE THE VITAL NATURE OF THIS EXERCISE FOR OUR ORGANISATION IF IT IS GOING TO MEET THE NEW CHALLENGES. THIS REORGANISATION, BESIDES ENABLING THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE NEW PRIORITIES AND AREAS OF CONCERN TO OUR CONTINENT, WILL ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR QUEST FOR GREATER RATIONALISATION AND COORDINATION. IT WILL ALSO ASSIST IN FORWARD PLANNING AND ENABLE US TO ADOPT A MORE RATIONAL AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO OUR PROGRAMMES AND PLANS. AT THE SAME TIME, I WISH TO UNDERSCORE THE INTERIM NATURE OF THE REORGANISATION ENABLING US TO ADJUST AS WE GO ALONG. WE LIVE IN A DYNAMIC WORLD AND OUR ORGANISATION MUST CORRESPOND WITH THE REALITIES AND CHALLENGES OF OUR TIMES.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

TO CONCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANISATION. DURING

THE PAST TWO FINANCIAL YEARS, THROUGH THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WE MANAGED TO MAINTAIN THE BUDGET OF THE ORGANISATION AT A REASONABLE LEVEL. IN ADDITION TO RATIONALISING THE UTILISATION OF RESOURCES THIS POLICY WAS ALSO A MEANS TO ENCOURAGE MEMBER STATES TO HONOUR THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

WE, IN THE SECRETARIAT, ARE AWARE THAT OUR CONTINENT, IN GENERAL AND EACH OF OUR MEMBER STATES IN PARTICULAR ARE GOING THROUGH SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE HOSTILE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH CONTINUES TO FRUSTRATE THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF OUR MEMBER STATES. BUT, OUR ORGANIZATION CANNOT FUNCTION WITHOUT THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS ACTIVITIES. I SHOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THIS COMMITTEE TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE ISSUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES TO THE OAU REGULAR BUDGET. I WISH PARTICULARLY TO POINT OUT THAT THE OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE DEFAULT IN THE PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER STATES. FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUDGET SUBMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, IT IS CLEARLY SHOWN THAT 5 MONTHS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR ONLY TWO COUNTRIES HAVE PAID UP THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTING TO LESS THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS OUT OF A TOTAL BUDGET OF ABOUT 27 MILLION DOLLARS. SO FAR, THE SITUATION IS NOT BETTER THAN THE PAST FINANCIAL YEAR WHEN ONLY 16 MEMBER STATES PAID ABOUT 7.5 MILLION DOLLARS OUT OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 29 MILLION DOLLARS OF THE BUDGET.

AT A SIMILAR OCCASION, LAST YEAR I HAD RAISED BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE THE PROBLEM OF "CREDIBILITY GAP" THE OAU HAS TO FACE IN THE MINDS OF AFRICAN AND WORLD OPINION. I HAD TAKEN THE LIBERTY TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO TALK OF A STRONG OAU, WITH NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, WITHOUT PUTTING AT ITS DISPOSAL THE REQUIRED POLITICAL SUPPORT AND VITAL RESOURCES.

IN THIS REGARD, I KNOW I CAN RELY ON YOU, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF MEMBER STATES WHO ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES THAT OUR ORGANISATION HAS TO TAKE UP AT THIS JUNCTURE. PROVIDING THE ORGANISATION WITH THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND ENSURING THEIR RATIONAL UTILISATION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRIORITIES OF OUR CONTINENT ARE, I SUBMIT, OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES BY CONTINUING TO WORK HAND IN HAND IN THE SERVICE OF OUR CONTINENTAL ORGANISATION.