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# AUDIENCE AFRICA

Social Development:  
Africa's Priorities

FINAL REPORT

UNESCO  
Paris, 6-10 February 1995

1. An international meeting entitled **Audience Africa** was held in Paris from 6 to 10 February 1995 under the auspices of UNESCO. Its principal objective was to provide Africans, on the eve of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, convened by the United Nations, with the opportunity to undertake an incisive examination of the **whole question of development and development priorities in their continent in the light of the new challenges facing the world**. This examination was to take account of the lessons of the past, the requirements of the present, the demands of the future and the realities of the current international situation in order to set down the terms of a self-reliant development policy that would secure the economic, social, political and cultural progress of the present populations and the survival, in dignity, peace, democracy and justice, of generations to come.

2. Audience Africa brought together Heads of State or their representatives, senior officials from bilateral aid agencies, intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and various non-governmental organizations, independent figures from civil society and sympathetic specialists concerned with Africa from the world of education, science, culture and communication.

3. At the opening meeting, the participants were highly appreciative of the valuable and constructive communications and messages of great political, philosophical and moral significance presented on behalf of His Majesty, the King of Morocco, the Heads of State of Tunisia, the serving President of the OAU, Algeria, Benin, Botswana, France, Pakistan, Togo and Zaire, and the heads of international institutions such as the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the OAU, the Executive Secretary of the ECA, the President of the ADB, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. They were particularly appreciative of the presence of His Excellency, Captain Blaise Compaoré, the President of Burkina Faso, whose address was both an encouragement and an eloquent contribution to the discussion of the problems raised.

4. At the following meetings, the participants expressed their satisfaction at the messages of support and solidarity from the Heads of State or Government of the following countries: Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. At the closing meeting, they listened with particular attention to the message from President Nelson Mandela, read out by H.E. Ms Barbara Masekala, Ambassador of South Africa, and to the addresses delivered by Mr Issa Diallo, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Lamari Mohamed Mohreza, Acting Secretary-General of the Pan African Youth Movement, and Mr A. Badran, Acting Deputy Director-General of UNESCO.

5. After endorsing the nomination of Ms Graça Machel and Professor Iba Der Thiam as President and Rapporteur, respectively, of Audience Africa, the participants agreed to conduct the discussions on the theme of the meeting within the following five committees:

First Committee: Training and sharing of knowledge: what school and what university for tomorrow's Africa?

Second Committee: Science, technology and sustainable development. Africa and the world

Third Committee: Regionalization and development

Fourth Committee: Communication and development in the rural environment. The cultural dimension of development in Africa

Fifth Committee: Democratization in everyday life: the culture of peace.

6. Participants stressed the seriousness of the situation being experienced by the African peoples at the end of the second millennium. **In five years' time, a new millennium will begin, ushering in new models.** If present patterns and trends are confirmed, the twenty-first century will be one of tremendous upheavals, accelerated change and unceasing renewal in a radically different economic, geopolitical and cultural context from that which humanity has known to the present day. Science, technology, communication and information technology will radically change the structure of knowledge and the individual and collective destiny of the earth's peoples. **With the globalization of markets and the growing reinforcement of regional blocs, the world situation will be one of exacerbated commercial, financial and cultural competition and scientific and technological rivalry on an unprecedented scale.**

7. No doubt such a context will encourage the industrial nations to further their development in a spirit of individualism and egoism. In those areas where international assistance will need to be maintained, it will in all likelihood be granted on draconian terms, inspired by a thinly disguised desire to create situations of hegemony or dependency which would make its mobilization difficult. This is not a pessimistic assessment but merely a statement of facts that it would be naïve and irresponsible to wilfully disregard in order to salve one's conscience.

8. **Africa will have to rely more and more on its own strength.** It is to be hoped that this situation will finally open its eyes and enable it to take its own destiny in hand, to be persuaded that its true future lies in its children's ability to design, forge and enhance a process of renewal of liberation and progress, without which it will never participate as a credible, responsible and respected partner in international relations.

9. Of course, the African continent is still seriously handicapped by four centuries of slave trading and the ever-present weight of colonial and neo-colonial domination. It is true that from 1960 to the present day, it has made **undeniable progress** in education, science, culture and communication, which can be fully appreciated when set against the performance of the colonial era, over a much longer period of time.

10. But participants considered that the achievements that could be pointed to should not obscure the continent's **innumerable failures** over more than 30 years.

11. It is in Africa that we have the highest general mortality and infant mortality rates, the lowest life expectancy, the lowest rates of economic growth, the lowest income per capita, and the highest population growth. Our continent also has extremely low school enrolment rates and particularly high illiteracy rates. We are considerably under-equipped, and development of the communication media is still in its infancy. Education, training, culture, information and health budgets are constantly being whittled down, while defence, security and arms budgets are constantly being expanded.

12. Our administrations are often blighted by ethnic preference, a partisan approach, cronyism, nepotism, corruption, absenteeism, laxness and low rates of return and efficiency. Misappropriation of public funds, wastage and chaos are not sufficiently discouraged. **There are, of course, certain exceptions, but we must admit that they do not alter the general picture.**

13. **We are all in varying degrees responsible**, and we must all make a firm and resolute commitment to reverse this trend by **breaking with the past and formulating a completely new endogenous development policy**. We can do so provided that we share a number of convictions: the first is that, contrary to the general view, **our continent is not poor**. We all have to realize that, of all the continents, **Africa has the greatest natural wealth**, which means that with competent and serious men, capital and know-how, it could catch up with other parts of the world very quickly, as Latin America and Asia are now doing.

14. The second fact of which we must be convinced is that **independence is not an end in itself but a means** to the end of national liberation, in other words **taking oneself in hand**.

15. The third is that **Africa will never be built by foreigners**, whatever emotional, cultural and personal bonds they have formed with the continent, and whatever the terms of the moral contract that might lay the basis for a new type of partnership between our continent and the international community. Incidentally, **the end purpose of assistance is to make it possible for assistance to be phased out**.

16. The fourth is that **only Africa can decide its destiny**. Africans - and they above all - must take the initiative in solving their own problems. **Africa is neither a 'lost continent' nor a 'continent in distress'**, inhabited by people incapable of raising themselves to the level of other peoples.

17. The fifth is that **as long as Africans have no confidence in themselves, in their brothers and sisters, in their culture, in their abilities or in their values**, they will never make full use of the resources of creativity and inventiveness that lie dormant within them.

18. The sixth is that the three decades of difficulties, mistakes, hesitant experimentation, setbacks and partial successes that have brought discredit on our continent will not have been in vain if we have the courage to carry out a critical assessment of the situation, examine our own consciences, recognize our inadequacies and weaknesses and **draw, with humility, all the appropriate lessons from it with a view to a new start**.

19. The seventh is that, notwithstanding the need for structural adjustment plans, they should rapidly give way to genuine development programmes based on growth, full employment and justice, devised and carried out by the citizens of the countries themselves for the benefit, in particular, of the most disadvantaged sections of society.

20. The eighth is that any centralization of power or seizure of power by a minority operating through a single party or a State-party is harmful. It is contrary to the process of development and represents a form of dictatorship. It must be opposed. **Africa needs democracy** because it is the missing link between development and peace, **democracy being understood not as a model to be copied but as an objective to be attained**.

21. The ninth is that as long as the idea of peace is mistreated in Africa, efforts to promote development will never live up to expectations. Armed conflicts, civil wars, border disputes, tribalism and ethnic rivalries, political disputes and the exploitation of religion for partisan ends **make it only realistic to regard political instability and war not as epiphenomena but as a serious and ongoing trend**. We can reverse this trend, which has gone on for 50 years, but we shall need an inflexible political will.

22. Finally, as compared with Europe, the Americas, and the countries of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, which are forming economic blocs engaged in cut-throat competition,

**micro-States have no chance of becoming significant and credible forces unless they unite.** With its present population of 640 million people, who will number more than 1.2 thousand million consumers in 23 years' time, we can be sure that Africa, with the wealth of its soil, its subsoil, its seas, its forests and its tourist and cultural potential, will never be marginalized if its people have the necessary negotiating skills to turn such undoubted benefits to commercial advantage.

23. In order to prepare for the birth of this new era, **Audience Africa** has identified in the fields listed below the following recommendations and priorities.

#### **I. TRAINING AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE: WHAT SCHOOL AND WHAT UNIVERSITY FOR TOMORROW'S AFRICA?**

24. Audience Africa considered the effects of the crisis besetting the continent since the end of the 1970s and the negative impact on education systems of the application of structural adjustment plans which had long ignored or disregarded the need to invest substantial financial resources in what were known as the social sectors. It observed that, after a period of expansion of some 20 years, education and training had been marked in recent years by the emergence of wide disparities between rich and poor, urban and rural areas and girls and boys. That was being compounded by the inability of education systems to move with the times and adapt to the requirements of an ever-changing world.

25. As it has emerged from the situation described here that *the right to education is in jeopardy* and *democratization is in retreat* as a result of economic and social inequalities, certain cultural traditions and a weakening of the role of the State, Audience Africa recommends

**to African governments that:**

**as regards strategy:**

**Since education is the pre-condition for the development** of labour productivity, the regulation of fertility, a decline in infant mortality and improved quality of life and life expectancy, **decision-makers should grasp this fact and draw all due conclusions from it. The systems inherited from the colonial era must therefore be rebuilt**, which will mean redefining goals, content, structures, methods, approaches and values as part of a **mould-breaking strategy** which must not, however, be mistaken for systematic rejection or blind nihilism.

Basic aims must be that education should be of a high standard and that it should be relevant to the socio-cultural context. The education for girls should be treated as one of the chief priorities of the reform.

Such educational reform must always be conducted on the basis of a **global and non-sectoral approach** in order to endow the system with internal cohesion, structural relevance and organic unity.

Since an education system is also built on a **set of values**, it would be judicious, bearing in mind the differences between countries, to include in educational content such concepts as due respect for the family, networks of alliances and the safeguarding of kinship; and also democracy, human rights, tolerance, respect for minorities, the need for sound management of State funds, a sense of statehood and public welfare; respect for the environment, commitment

to and respect for the law and institutions; a sense of justice and equality, respect for life and appreciation of the truth; to these might be added the culture of peace and a spirit of dialogue as expressions of pluralism and the right to be different, respect for women, the weak and the disadvantaged; openness to the modern world and participation in universal progress; self-confidence and confidence in Africa and African culture; and the will to take part in a country's development as an active, aware and responsible person.

The reform of education systems will be an opportunity for the African countries, **as regards the financing of education, to redefine new partnership strategies providing for burden-sharing and cost-sharing between the State, regions, provinces, municipalities, rural communities and families on bases that have been jointly negotiated and are mutually acceptable.** Such costs might pertain to salaries, educational supplies, health coverage, substantial capital investment, manpower, funds for operational expenses, the building of classrooms, educational materials, as well as accommodation, the upkeep and maintenance of premises, etc. It is clearly understood that this sharing of roles, responsibilities and funding commitments presupposes the effective participation of all partners in determining not only the objectives but also the ultimate aims and strategies at all levels. In any event, the personnel responsible for implementing this reform must be maintained unchanged if it is to have any chance of proving effective.

**as regards teaching staff:**

26. As the cost of teaching staff is one of the obstacles that African education systems will have to deal with in raising the enrolment ratio, the meeting recommends that **teachers' brigades** and **supply teachers** should be called upon so as to lower training costs. Similarly, the possibility should be explored of introducing **national civic service** for young graduates who could in this way, for a modest allowance, teach for a year or two in the service of the State.

27. The meeting also recommends that use should be made of the opportunities afforded by **dual-shift and mixed-grade classes**. It further urges that **defence and security budgets should be reduced in favour of education**.

28. In addition, the meeting requests governments to take the appropriate measures to ensure that, **by the end of the century, 5 per cent of the gross domestic product is devoted to education** in the context of a human resources development policy enabling development requirements to be met.

**as regards formal and non-formal education:**

29. In all cases, Audience Africa proposes guaranteeing to every pupil entering the formal system at least **four years uninterrupted elementary study** to prevent the relapse into illiteracy. This education must as far as possible be given in the child's **mother tongue** in such a way as to ensure bilingual education in a more widely used language.

30. As non-formal education offers more flexibility for the introduction of concepts such as nutrition, health education, environmental education and the use of national languages, it must be developed and adapted to the needs of young people not at school and of adults, particularly women in rural areas. It must not, however, be a second-rate education, downgraded both by society and by comparison with the formal system.

31. The meeting endorses the conclusions of the Jomtien Conference on Education for All and recommends that **basic education should be given priority (20 per cent of the budget could go to it)**. The meeting suggests that **a law on compulsory schooling** should be introduced wherever this has not been done.

32. In secondary education, it is desirable for stress to be placed on general education of a high standard that could guarantee greater adaptability. Secondary education should also give **a prominent place to vocational and technical education**, with emphasis on the variety of options and the **professionalization** of training on the basis of a **highly detailed entry and exit profile**.

33. Where higher education is concerned, the meeting unanimously emphasizes its importance and the need to guarantee high standards. There is a need to revitalize higher education on the threshold of the twenty-first century. To lower its costs, the meeting proposes that students should **have recourse to private funding and to study loans**, despite any other interesting possibility.

**as regards UNESCO:**

34. Audience Africa further considers that UNESCO should help African States to prepare a programme for the **regionalization of higher education and the creation of regional centres of excellence**. These should provide a response to concerns regarding African authenticity and should aim to attain the specific objectives to be assigned to them as regards contributing to the solution of the problems that people come across in everyday development.

35. Audience Africa recommends the **creation of chairs for the teaching of human rights** in order to foster the culture of peace and democracy. Similarly, **the role of the UNESCO Associated Schools** in this same field should be substantially increased.

**as regards private enterprise:**

36. To free the State from some of the tasks which have been assigned to it hitherto, Audience Africa recommends that the educational **role of religious associations, without distinction**, should be recognized. This should also apply to the **role of the private sector**. **Education should in fact be the concern of the whole nation. Education for all should also be the responsibility of everyone.**

**as regards élites:**

37. Audience Africa requests élites to become aware of the need for everyone to work at this task **and to agree to give back to education and society** what education and society have given them by, in their turn, offering help to their brothers and sisters.

38. Audience Africa also emphasizes the need to benefit from the advantages offered by **distance education** and the new technologies.

**as regards financial backers:**

39. Audience Africa recommends that financial backers, particularly in the developed countries, should agree to convert the debt and related sums outstanding in order to finance education, as **reparation for the moral debt** that they owe to Africans.

40. More generally, Audience Africa invites financial backers to show greater interest in educational matters and **proposes that UNESCO should agree to provide the African States with experienced consultants when negotiations are conducted with development partners.**

41. Audience Africa commended the appreciable role played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), those groups of men and women from all kinds of backgrounds whose help has often been beneficial to the continent. Their action has produced tangible effects in every field, at all levels and in all circumstances, through a partnership that works satisfactorily in many respects.

**as regards the other agencies of the United Nations system:**

42. At a different level, the proposals put forward by Audience Africa for a correct solution to the problems affecting the schools and universities of the Africa of tomorrow should take into account the guidelines laid down by the **revised Programme of Action in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, recently adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Resolution 49/L.44/Rev.2 of 22 December 1994.** This Programme of Action lays emphasis on **research**, higher education, information exchange, inter-university co-operation, the promotion of quality and innovation and on the steps to be taken in the context of preventive education against AIDS. In this regard, UNESCO should play a vigorous role as lead agency for the implementation of the priority programme 'Human Resource Development and Capacity-Building' by the United Nations system.

43. Lastly, Audience Africa recommends that food aid should be used as a resource enabling **assistance and relief to be brought to hungry children**, and requests the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to act in this way.

44. People should be made aware of the importance of developing African languages for use in schools, the media, journals, etc. Audience Africa recommends that UNESCO and Member States should establish research centres and language academies to develop these languages, as education, relevance, understanding, self-reliance, etc., will directly result from using one's language with mothers, parents, teachers, etc.

## **II. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. AFRICA AND THE WORLD**

45. Committee II considered the theme of science, technology and sustainable development for Africa and the world. Working from the basic premise that, in spite of their diversity, African countries shared problems that called for their unification with a view to devising their common strategies, Audience Africa was at pains to affirm from the outset that **a command of literacy and numeracy was the pre-condition for successful learning in science and technology.** Having stated that principle, Audience Africa asserted that the training of primary school teachers in the teaching of the sciences was an important factor, as was the need to have a critical mass of researchers on which to call.

46. Turning to the brain drain (30,000 Africans holding Ph.D. degrees lived outside the continent), the Audience identified its causes before going on to suggest that public authorities should create an inspiring, protective and fertile scientific and technological environment for

African researchers that would provide all the circumstances needed for their full development, this being a condition for the prompt return of emigrants to their country of origin.

47. Going on to address the issue of scarce resources, Audience Africa recommended the **pooling of facilities**, the stepping up of exchanges, scientific co-operation at regional and subregional levels and the establishment of networks. It also placed special emphasis on the urgent need to popularize science and technology so as to bring them within reach of the general public.

48. Audience Africa proposed, within the specific field of science and technology, **the promotion of centres of excellence** where scientists and researchers could be trained in areas specific to Africa in particular and to the countries of the South in general.

49. On the subject of research, Audience Africa recommended that science and technology should not necessarily be linked to the environment but that **efforts should concentrate rather on food production, solar energy and renewable sources of energy, poverty in rural areas, health, hygiene, food and housing**. Audience Africa strongly recommended that women should be more closely involved in scientific and technical activities, that NGOs active in those areas should receive financial backing, and that every possible effort should be made to put an end gradually to Africa's huge scientific and technological dependence, to help it to appropriate methodically all the useful knowledge and all the scientific and technological information available in the world, to reappropriate in a critical and responsible manner its own traditional knowledge, and to improve the international balance of scientific production.

50. It further recommended that decision-makers should ensure that the **link between scientific research and industrial production is established everywhere**. It acknowledged **the active role incumbent on the private sector** in funding scientific research.

51. With regard to the free flow of scientific information, Audience Africa advocated the use of modern information technologies to improve communication within the African scientific community and pointed out that **distance teaching** offered real possibilities in these fields.

#### **Recommendations to African governments**

52. Audience Africa recommends in particular to African governments that they should **formulate a coherent science policy and a concrete plan of action at the national and regional level**. It recommends that they:

**promote science and technology teaching from primary school onwards, and centres of excellence, throughout the African continent;**

translate into reality the political will to promote science and technology in the form of fellowships and in higher educational institutions, observing the principle of equal opportunity and gender equality;

improve, develop and diversify infrastructures **with a view to achieving autonomy and self-reliance in science and technology;**

encourage new, appropriate and sustainable forms of assistance for African researchers and research teams with a view to **increasing, within the next ten years, the present ratio (one researcher per 4,000 people) to one researcher per 1,000 people;** this will

mean strengthening the efforts already made in this area by UNESCO, the World Bank and the European Union;

in view of the role played by books in education, training, research, general and specialized information and spiritual and cultural expression, Audience Africa recommends that UNESCO and the African countries should give priority to the gaining of control by Africans of the book production (and distribution) process in Africa in order to promote self-reliance in the face of external production;

institutionalize a maintenance culture;

ensure that by the end of the century, a minimum of **0.4 to 0.5 per cent of each African country's GDP** is allocated to research for development.

53. Finally, Audience Africa recommends that African governments should endeavour to facilitate **access by African researchers and academics to data banks** through computer networks, finding appropriate partners for them. The Audience believes that it is incumbent upon African governments to establish the **science and technology information highways** that are crucial to communication among African researchers, and likewise between them and their counterparts in other regions of the world.

#### **Recommendations to UNESCO and other technical co-operation agencies**

54. Audience African recommends that they:

promote **twinning operations** between research institutes and laboratories with a view to **setting up viable scientific partnerships** between the scientific communities of the North and the South and among those of the South in areas of concern to them;

strengthen the action of scientific bodies, associations, foundations and academies that are striving to give a higher profile to research in Africa by cutting across language barriers within the continent and outside it and overcoming obstacles caused by shortcomings in communication;

contribute to the definition of a new paradigm for endogenous development that is geared to the priority needs of populations, practicable, and draws on endogenous resources;

promote throughout the African continent mechanisms for combating natural disasters;

further assist in the creation of an information network to enable African countries to gain access to electronic information; **encourage also the creation of subregional networks through electronic mail;**

set up a data bank and a directory of existing research institutes and networks in Africa in order to facilitate communication and exchange of information among African scientists. **Africa is a single entity. This fact must be grasped by everyone;**

contribute to the improvement or **establishment of centres of excellence and fellowship programmes** for this purpose;

provide **strong support to women scientists** from African countries, for example through the African unit of the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS);

**give priority to science and technology in Africa during the next biennium and throughout the period covered by UNESCO's medium-term strategy.** In this connection, special interest should be taken in the applications of solar energy and other sources of renewable energy for sustainable development and environmental protection through the **establishment of an African solar programme;**

**request the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that 3 per cent of all African national allocations should be earmarked for research and development;**

continue efforts to **secure extra-budgetary resources** for the Fund set up by the Director-General for the development of science and technology in Africa.

### III. REGIONALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

55. In the third Committee, Audience Africa gave lengthy consideration to the theme of regionalization and development.

56. It stated once again that one of the features of the international context was the trend towards the creation of large regional units and vast free-trade zones, the exclusion of the poorest countries from international trade and the concentration of world trade in the hands of the United States, Europe and Japan. Audience Africa asserted its belief that micro-nationalism, ethnic and community tension, civil war, the drift from the land, population movements and the population explosion were all arguments in favour of regional co-operation, seen as a decisive factor in the achievement of peace and stability in Africa and an essential condition for its development.

57. Audience Africa took full note of the fact that regionalization implied the creation of a climate of **confidence, tolerance and mutual respect** within each African State and also between all of those States. It also supposed **respect for commitments** entered into within the framework of a **State based on the rule of law and upheld by the force of the law.** On that basis, **regionalization would be a matter for the people concerned.** It would enable all Africans to learn how to live together and to know each other, to respect and talk to each other, to mix and work together, to exchange goods and services and to communicate, irrespective of their language, religion, ethnic origin or the colour of their skin.

58. Turning to the strategy required, Audience Africa stressed the need to carry out community projects based on geographic or other forms of proximity, to support all joint institutions which had proved their effectiveness, and to work to improve the performance of those that were essential to the future of the African continent, even if they were experiencing temporary difficulties.

59. Audience Africa took the view that African integration should be conceived in **pragmatic terms**, with a gradual transfer of responsibilities and sovereignty to common institutions and with the strengthening of inter-African co-operation and of co-operation seeking to establish ties with communities of African origin in other continents, without forgetting horizontal South/South co-operation. In this connection, Audience Africa welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution providing for the convening of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on South/South co-operation in 1995.

60. Audience Africa discussed at length the need to make room in the integration project for the **role of civil society** as an agent of development, and the place it should occupy in decision-making processes.

### **Recommendations to African governments**

61. Audience Africa recommends that African governments particularly:

should provide effective support for the action of the continent's institutions such as the OAU, the ECA and the ADB, **by paying their contributions, carrying out their resolutions and making use of their services** in their fields of competence in order to endow them with the necessary authority;

should **require all senior African staff to be able to use at least two working languages**;

should make it a general practice to publish and use research findings in cross-border languages or the major regional languages of Africa;

should continue to prepare and execute subregional and regional projects in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and social development;

**should draw up an inventory of African training and research institutions** with a view to the better management of regionalization.

62. Once this stage has been completed, it will be necessary to make the most of these institutions and turn the best of them into regional centres of excellence in specific fields, by endeavouring in particular to:

enact, apply and enforce a **genuine policy in respect of the movement of goods, persons, brains and knowledge**;

**provide training for those responsible for applying this policy** in a spirit of integration, solidarity and African brotherhood;

**abolish once and for all measures for the expulsion of Africans living in other African countries**, by helping to regularize the situations of people that are not in conformity with existing legislation;

encourage the creation of businesses founded on African partnerships;

develop joint projects relating to training, infrastructure, communication, etc., in order to reduce costs and maximize efficiency;

encourage, facilitate and promote all kinds of exchanges between African territorial communities;

formulate and execute jointly, at regional and subregional level, **strategies for the protection of the environment and for the joint exploitation of natural resources, specifically in the fields of energy, water, forestry, etc.**

**Recommendations to the intellectual and political élites, civil society and territorial communities**

63. Addressing these groups more especially, the meeting recommends that they:

should make a determined and confident commitment to **popular participation in order to make a success of integration** by explaining the reasons for it, its advantages and its consequences in terms of solidarity, co-operation, mutually beneficial exchanges and complementarity;

should take part in extending democracy nationally and regionally, in promoting tolerance through education, and in training citizens in the context of the **enhancement of the culture of peace**. This will certainly permit greater awareness of the obligations, duties and rights of every individual and greater understanding between Africans, the guarantee of calm and constructive cohabitation;

**should refuse to participate in any way in narrowly nationalist activities, any ill-considered glorification of national feeling or any policy of exclusion against other Africans on grounds of tribe, ethnic group, language, race or religion.**

**Recommendations to private enterprise**

64. Turning to private enterprise, Audience Africa considers that it has a strategic role to play in the success of the integration process. In addition to governments and civil society, private businesses must be in contact with each other, establish working practices based on **trust, moral probity, respect for commitments, a liking for efficiency and commitment to jointly established regulations and standards**. They must also pool information, experience, capital, managers and infrastructure in order to undertake joint ventures and explore all possible options for co-operation in all fields.

**Recommendations to the OAU, AEC and ADB**

65. Audience Africa recommends that the OAU, AEC and ADB should **undertake an exhaustive inventory and critical evaluation of existing subregional and regional institutions** so as to consolidate those which have performed best and to propose suitable measures to bring up to standard or to abolish those which function poorly. It considers that the three bodies mentioned above must make every effort that is needed in order to carry out their missions successfully in the service of Africa.

**Recommendations to UNESCO**

66. Audience Africa invites UNESCO to work together with the OAU, AEC and ADB to implement the Lagos Plan of Action and to encourage **the practical application and effective implementation of the Treaty of Abuja establishing the African Economic Community**.

67. Audience Africa requests the Director-General to look for the financial backing needed for the African centres of excellence.

68. It encourages the **development of African cultural markets** by seeking with local authorities the funding to create the infrastructure that people need.

69. It further recommends:

that UNESCO should contribute to the creation of an Afrosat programme with a view to promoting the exchange of cultural products;

that there should be an intensification of the **network policy** in UNESCO's field of competence;

that extra-budgetary resources should be sought from funding agencies for the **creation of an African university** via satellite so as to develop science and technology in the continent;

that UNESCO should contribute to the organization of the new Berlin Conference in an effort to prevent the break-up of the continent, micro-nationalism, inter-ethnic warfare and the dividing up of Africa into spheres of influence.

#### **Recommendations to agencies of the United Nations system**

70. Audience Africa recommends that the agencies of the United Nations system should join with UNESCO in supporting, in a variety of ways and in their respective fields of competence, the subregional and regional programmes initiated by African States and the joint institutions that are running them.

#### **Recommendations to the international financial community**

71. Audience Africa recommends that the international financial community should give absolute priority to the funding of regional integration projects in Africa.

72. For one decade, 0.7 per cent of the GNP of the industrialized countries should be allocated to official aid for the development of Africa, in line with United Nations resolutions. Addressing the International Monetary Fund in particular, Audience Africa requests it to grant African States a **substantial allowance in the form of special drawing rights** (extended facilities) in order to deal with the problems raised by the implementation of a new development policy based on the construction of regional integration that opens up the prospect of greater co-operation and promises growth in the future.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT. THE CULTURAL DIMENSION OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

73. Committee IV of Audience Africa was given the task of examining the following themes: communication and development in the rural environment; the cultural dimension of development in Africa.

74. Assessing the situation of communication in Africa, Audience Africa noted its **inadequate development** and its limited involvement in the development efforts of African countries. That failure might be ascribed to the low level of priority accorded to communication by African governments and to the insufficient resources allocated to its development.

75. Consequently, the meeting emphasized the **vital role of communication** in all aspects of development and rural activity. It took the view that this sector should be made an absolute

priority in all fields, since there could be no genuine development in rural areas without an intelligent and effective communication strategy.

76. Going on to consider the problems raised in recent years by the development of a private independent, pluralist press in Africa, the meeting, while welcoming the growing number of newspapers and radio stations, nevertheless emphasized the inadequate content, the limitations of their impact, restricted to urban areas, and their small and mainly urban readership. That realization prompted the meeting to advocate the **promotion of an independent press in Africa** that would be mindful of the importance of maintaining high standards in the content and presentation of the information that it provided. The meeting considered that training programmes for the relevant personnel should be rapidly established on the initiative of UNESCO. Examining subsequently the fundamental question of communication in the rural environment, the meeting emphasized the importance of stepping up efforts to **establish more newspapers and community radio stations in rural areas**. Such facilities would obviously be managed as far as possible by the population groups concerned. Similarly, the meeting emphasized the need to promote **participatory communication** in the cause of development.

77. On the subject of the **empowerment of women in the communication field**, the meeting emphasized the need to strengthen the efforts already under way to expand their role, *inter alia*, through access to the media and also through participation in the management and operation of newspapers and radio stations in both urban and rural areas.

78. With regard to the traditional communication media, Audience Africa drew attention to the importance of folk theatre, storytellers, choirs and traditional singing groups. It welcomed their efforts and the role that they played in revitalizing culture and in promoting **active communication** centred on cultural values. The meeting also noted that **exhibitions and museums** were effective means of conveying information. The same was true of **postal services**, which enabled newspapers to be circulated at lower cost, even in rural areas. The meeting naturally deplored Africa's **total lack of independence with regard to the manufacture and sale of communication equipment**. It encouraged African enterprises to take action in this sector so as to break the monopoly of external forces over such strategic equipment.

79. Turning to an examination of the role of communication in democracy, Audience Africa called upon the African press to contribute by all possible means to promoting democracy through a **code of conduct** based on principles of government purged of all authoritarianism and obscurity. To achieve that end, the meeting considered that **freedom of the press must be loudly proclaimed** by all African States and the **protection of journalists guaranteed** by concrete and effective means. The meeting congratulated the Director-General on the activities carried out by UNESCO in that field and called upon him to continue those efforts.

80. Finally, Audience Africa, noting the gap in the communication field between Africa and the developed countries, expressed the view that decision-makers, the private sector and media corporations should make considerable efforts in the sphere of the new communication technologies, the effective use of which gave a vigorous boost to progress on the road to development.

## Recommendations to UNESCO

81. Having reaffirmed the foregoing principles, Audience Africa recommends that:

UNESCO and other international organizations should work with African governments to establish a policy making communication a major priority aim of development;

UNESCO, in collaboration with other international organizations, should organize a regional seminar similar to the Windhoek seminar, with the task of discussing the promotion of rural communication in Africa;

UNESCO, other international organizations and bilateral donors should assist African governments with the **revision of existing programmes and curricula in African schools of journalism and communication training institutions**, taking care to introduce training modules for professionals required to work in rural communities;

UNESCO should expand its programme for the local development and production of communication equipment, and, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, provide assistance to African governments for the establishment of facilities for the production of such equipment;

UNESCO should invite governments to do everything in their power to strengthen any programme to enhance **access to the media for women**, especially those in rural communities;

UNESCO should invite African governments to allocate more resources for the development of communication;

African governments should strengthen the use of traditional means of communication for development purposes, especially in rural communities;

to put an end to the marginalization of rural communities, UNESCO should give encouragement to centres for development and culture contributing to the spread and exchange of knowledge in rural areas by incorporating the oral tradition and traditional practices into writing and reading, and into printed and audio-visual materials.

82. **Turning next to the cultural dimension of development in Africa**, the meeting reaffirmed the need for Africa and Africans to **display independence and initiative of thought and action** in the areas of study, invention, the **production of ideas, concepts, values, symbols and references**.

## Recommendations to African governments

83. Audience Africa again calls on all the African countries to formulate their systems of values so that they can underpin and guide their development, and recommends that they:

encourage, promote and facilitate **the participation of the private sector**, as well as of banks, insurance companies and private sponsors, in cultural development, by adopting appropriate measures, including tax incentives;

take concrete, urgent and effective steps for the protection of **archives** and the promotion and safeguarding of libraries and **museums**;

collaborate with the private sector with the aim of establishing cultural industries as an instrument for the promotion of cultural development, job creation and the promotion of the tourist industry;

devote particular attention, in this context, to African music, which has grown into a leading economic activity, in particular by organizing a pan-African music festival;

give, in addition, great priority to culture and its development by **substantially increasing the share of national resources devoted to cultural development**;

call on national science authorities and national, regional and international scientific bodies to identify, study, protect and make known the archaeological, architectural, technical and spiritual components of the African cultural heritage;

promote the cultural dimension in development with regard to planning policies, strategies, and project implementation, follow-up and evaluation;

**develop the culture of democracy** by involving all levels of society in policy formulation, programming and project design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation;

encourage the formulation and implementation of concrete measures aimed at securing the **participation of women** as central to the processes of education and the transmission of culture;

establish a **system of micro-credit for the promotion of crafts**;

Audience Africa recommends that the question of action to prevent the pillaging and theft of the African cultural heritage and illicit trafficking in it should be placed on the agenda of the next summit meeting of African Heads of State.

84. Audience Africa also recommends that UNESCO:

should consider the desirability of including in its programme the **establishment of an African College of Culture and Development**, with a view to building and developing the human and institutional capacity of Africa regarding the cultural dimension of development;

should examine the possibility of **drawing up a general agreement on culture and development** and submitting it to States for approval.

Audience Africa requests the Director-General of UNESCO to provide for a feasibility study concerning a **draft Convention on the protection of the movable cultural heritage of universal value**.

Audience Africa requests the Director-General of UNESCO to support the AFRICOM programme for African museums.

85. **Finally, Audience Africa invites African States** to pool their resources within the framework of a policy of regional integration in order to conclude subregional agreements for **cultural tourism** and to undertake the **production of films and other cultural products**.

## V. DEMOCRATIZATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE: THE CULTURE OF PEACE

86. With regard to democratization in everyday life and to the culture of peace, Committee V noted that the triumph of freedom and the desire for democracy that had been expressed worldwide during the last few years had greatly influenced the atmosphere and spirit of Audience Africa. Committee V noted that democratization was on the agenda everywhere on the continent and said that there was no doubt that the process set in motion had been outstandingly successful because it had enabled peoples who until recently had been confined in silence, resignation and submission, to raise their heads and throw ruling governments into disarray by imposing a new balance of power.

87. Dictatorships that had previously been considered invincible had faltered before they fell. Young people, women, workers and civil society had leapt into the breach and replaced the corrupt and ossified oligarchies that had bled their countries for decades without the slightest care in the world for the running down of the economy, the plundering of wealth, and social discontent.

88. National conferences had brought about historic changes. In some countries, democratic change had occurred without violence.

89. In others, the democratic process was taking place in an extremely fragile context, mainly because of the absence of any democratic culture, the intensity of tribal and ethnic antagonisms, the weakness of new parliaments and the persistence of fundamentalism and outbursts of violence.

90. This situation did not prevent the meeting from declaring that **freedom remained something fundamental** and that **the necessity of democracy continued to be an essential issue in Africa**. It had to be the foundation stone of nascent democracy. It was a guarantee of peace and of respect for and the defence of human rights.

91. The meeting then considered the activities to be carried out to promote a culture of democracy at all levels through education, the courses of action to be encouraged to strengthen the power of the public against the omnipotence of the State, and the need to give women and young people their rightful place in the defence of democratic values. Audience Africa considered that the promotion of a democratic society implied that corruption should be **combated unremittingly** by breaking the chain of complicity between corrupters, the corrupt and the receivers, who embezzled the money of the poor and laundered funds accruing from drug trafficking and speculation, benefiting from the protection of unknown hands.

92. Audience Africa then went on to explore new approaches that would make it possible to redefine democracy in Africa, before having a lengthy debate on the culture of peace.

93. Audience Africa requests that:

### 1. UNESCO,

**bearing in mind that African history and culture should be used as the main inspiration for democracy in Africa, should:**

- (a) strongly denounce dictators in Africa as enemies of peace and democracy;

- (b) insist that the African States establish between themselves and their civil societies a **social contract** on the basis of which the civil societies must from then on be associated in the design, formulation and implementation of national policies;
- (c) request the Director-General to invite a group of African experts to prepare an **African covenant on democracy, governance and respect for fundamental human rights**, which will be submitted for approval at the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference;
- (d) assist in **establishing alternative, independent media wherever the media are subject to the absolute control of governments**;
- (e) support the efforts made by Africans to promote research centres giving a clearer understanding of the dynamics of African cultures, with a view to including them in a process of development which encourages democracy and peace;
- (f) encourage research institutes and universities to play their role in the redefinition of development policies and strategies focusing on development and peace;
- (g) carry out a rigorous assessment of the impact of economic reforms and their effect on young people and women in the sphere of culture;
- (h) monitor the quality of cultural investments and cultural development programmes, with the participation of vulnerable groups;
- (i) participate fully in all the programmes concerning **education for democratization**, seeing the school as a laboratory for such action;
- (j) continue its efforts to **ensure the acceptance of the idea of disarmament** in Africa, in close association with world disarmament;
- (k) participate in the installation of **an early warning system, for preventing and resolving conflicts**;
- (l) give the necessary resources to the NGOs working to defend and protect human rights;
- (m) support interdisciplinary and inter-State research work on peace and war in order to build bridges between universities and governments;
- (n) do all it can to have the General History of Africa published in the main African languages and in internationally used languages (Arabic, French and Portuguese), in order to promote knowledge of the African cultural past;
- (o) publish **an educational work on the culture of peace**;
- (p) reinvigorate its National Commissions, UNESCO Clubs, Associated Schools, NGOs, and private, public and other associations so that they can become a driving force for its work in the field.

2. With regard to the **Organization of African Unity**, Audience Africa proposes that it should:

- (a) show greater concern for the situation of Africans when their most fundamental rights are being trampled underfoot and **ensure that the problems of Africa are solved first and foremost by the Africans themselves**, without foreign interference;
  - (b) give assistance to associations which are carrying out micro-projects on human rights in the field, for the benefit of local people;
  - (c) **oblige African political leaders who have not been democratically elected to organize elections and present themselves to their electorates no later than two years from the date when this recommendation is taken into consideration.**
3. Audience Africa requests the **international community** to stop giving dictatorial regimes any form of assistance.
4. With regard to the **United Nations**, the Audience recommends that it should:
  - (a) elaborate, under the supervision of UNESCO, a regional education programme for the culture of peace and conflict prevention in Africa, based on empirical research;
  - (b) expand the concept of peace contained in its Charter so that any threat by the State to civil peace and national harmony will be considered a threat to international peace and security.
5. With regard to **States**, the Audience recommends that they should:
  - (a) offer women opportunities equal to men's for access to positions of management, planning and decision-making at all levels of public and private institutions and departments;
  - (b) take practical steps to **implement** the platform of action adopted at the **Dakar regional conference** in preparation for the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women.
6. **The participants in Audience Africa:**
  - (a) declare themselves opposed to the use of religion and ethnicity for political and terrorist ends and call for the development of religious and moral values and ethics as fundamental elements and catalysts in the culture of peace;
  - (b) hope that Audience Africa may be solemnized by a special statement on the genocide in Rwanda, which will also strongly condemn the acts of terrorism of which the peoples of Egypt and Algeria have been the victims and the acts of destruction against public establishments, in particular schools and universities;
  - (c) welcome the efforts made by the Angolan Government to hasten peace and national reconciliation on the basis of the Lusaka Protocol;
  - (d) also welcome the efforts made towards national reconciliation in Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Somalia and Eritrea and urge the parties to co-operate with regional and international bodies that are trying to find peaceful solutions to the conflicts of those countries.

## CONCLUSION

94. Mindful of the outstanding significance of Audience Africa, and aware of the importance of the work accomplished and likewise of the hopes placed in their recommendations, the participants are unanimous in their desire **that this international meeting shall not prove to have been ephemeral**, like some others in the past.

95. **What Africa has done here, through this admirable initiative, is without precedent.** Audience Africa must mark a turning-point. This is the responsibility of us all. The participants accordingly recommend that **machinery for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation** should be set up with a view to the implementation of the recommendations made by Audience Africa. The actual form that it will take and the frequency of its operation will be left to the discretion of the Director-General of UNESCO.

96. This machinery should, as of now, ensure that:

- (a) the activities provided for in the 1994-1995 programme and relating more specifically to the lines of emphasis established at this meeting are carried out, e.g. basic education, distance education, education for girls, new information and communication technologies, measures to stem the rural exodus, AIDS prevention, and study of development and the cultural dimension of development;
- (b) these objectives be taken into account, in the form of special projects, in drawing up the Draft Programme and Budget for 1996-1997 and the medium-term strategies for 1996-2001.

97. From this centre of constructive activity where the balances of the present and the harmonies of the future are being worked out, the participants appeal to the countries which have left UNESCO to return to it, so that Africa can benefit from full and comprehensive international solidarity in the framework of an Organization whose goal remains, first and foremost, the consolidation of the moral and intellectual solidarity of humanity.

98. Audience Africa **officially requests the Director-General of UNESCO** to communicate these conclusions to the World Summit for Social Development, due to be held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995.