

ANP/002/0015/3

For Yr. Info.



ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY



ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone 517700

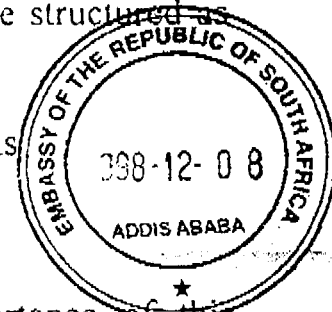
Fax No.: 517844

Reference: CAB/LEG/61.8/115/Vol.I

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States and has the honour to refer to its Note verbale ref. CAB/LEG/61.8/93/Vol.I dated 17 September, 1998 informing them of the postponement of the proposed Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa which was scheduled for 26-30 October, 1998, in pursuance of resolution CM/Res.1673 (LXIV) adopted by the Council of Ministers during its 64th Ordinary Session held in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996.

In this connection, the General Secretariat wishes to inform all Member States that the said Ministerial Conference will now be held in Grand Baie, Mauritius, from 25 to 29 January, 1999. The Conference will be structured as follows:

25 to 26 January:	Meeting of Government Legal Experts
27 January:	Adoption of Legal Experts' Report
28 to 29 January:	Ministerial Meeting.



The General Secretariat wishes to underline the importance of this Conference bearing in mind that the resolution of the Council of Ministers referred to above recognized and reiterated "the importance of promoting, protecting and respecting human rights as essential factors in the preservation of peace and stability on the continent". Furthermore, although the Conference is taking place in 1999, it should be recalled that it had initially been hoped that this Conference would serve as a manifestation of Africa's contribution to the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is being celebrated worldwide this year.

The draft agenda for the proposed Ministerial Conference is attached hereto for information. Regarding the logistical arrangements for the Conference, the General Secretariat has the honour to inform the esteemed Ministries as follows:

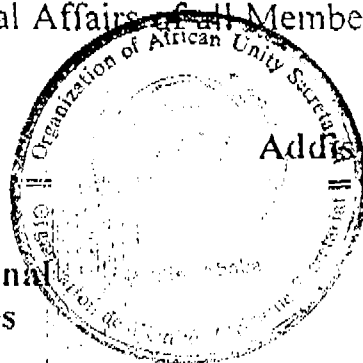
- Due to the anticipated shortage of hotel accommodation in Grand Baie, Mauritius, during the period of the Conference, Member States are kindly requested to limit the number of persons in their delegations to 4 (including the Minister).

- Names of delegates and their respective dates of arrival should be communicated to:
 - i) Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Trade
Government Centre, Port Louis
Mauritius
Telephone: (230) 201 1416
Fax No.: (230) 208 8087
 - ii) Office of the Legal Counsel
OAU General Secretariat
P.O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa
Telephone: (2511) 512455
(2511) 517700 Ext. 227
Fax No.: (2511) 517844
- Attempts are being made to negotiate special rates with hotels. However, all delegates will pay for themselves for both air travel and accommodation. Local transportation will be provided by the Host Government.
- Delegates arriving from countries where Mauritius is not represented will be issued with visas upon arrival at the Sir Ramgoolam International Airport.

The General Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States the assurances of its highest consideration. T.M.

Addis Ababa, 23 November, 1998

Ministries of Foreign/External
Affairs of all Member States



cc: Ministries of Justice/Human Rights



AFRICAN UNITY

ORGANIZAÇÃO DA
UNIÃO AFRICANAORGANISATION DE
L'UNITÉ AFRICAINE

منظمة الوحدة الإفريقية

Addis Ababa - Ethiopia - Box 3243 Tel. 517700 Telex 21046 Fax (2511) 513036

REF: MIN/CONF/HRA/AGENDA/I(I)

***DRAFT AGENDA OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA***

Mauritius, 25-29 January 1999

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Promotion and protection of human rights in Africa
 - i) Evaluation of the situation of human rights in Africa
 - ii) Status of implementation of African and universal human rights instruments
 - iii) Root causes of human rights violations in Africa
 - iv) Strategies for enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights
6. Adoption of the Mauritius Declaration and Plan of Action
7. Closing ceremony

REF: MIN/CONF/HRA/2(I)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

I. The promotion and protection of human rights in Africa**i) Evaluation**

- Overview of human rights protection
- Patterns of violations/observance
- Recent trends and developments

ii) Status of implementation of human rights instruments**a) Status of signature/ratification of African and principal universal instruments**

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- The Protocol on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Convention on Refugees
- Convention Against all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

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b) Status of implementation by States Parties

1. At international level

- Reporting procedures
- Cooperation with competent bodies

2. At national level

- Legislative measures
- Judiciary systems

iii) Root causes of violations of human rights in Africa

a) Socio-economic conditions

- Debt crisis
- Structural adjustment policies
- Extreme poverty and social inequalities

b) Political conditions

- Democratization
- Governance
- Conflicts

iv) Strategies for enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa

a) Continental level

1. Strengthening the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

- Implementation of the decisions of the OAU Council of Ministers and Assembly of Heads of State and Government (role of the General Secretariat, role of Member States, role of the International community, etc.)

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2. Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
 3. Strengthening cooperation with other partners with a view to harmonizing human rights activities in Africa
 - Partnership with the United Nations and in particular the High Commission for Human Rights; consideration of the strategy for Africa
 - Partnership with inter-governmental organizations
 - Partnership with national human rights institutions
 - Partnership with NGOs
- b) National level: adoption of national plans relating to
1. States Parties
 - making them aware of their obligations
 - actions to be undertaken by them
 2. Strengthening of national human rights institutions
 - To facilitate the promotion of human rights education
 - To ensure the promotion and protection of human rights
 3. Strengthening NGOs
 - Monitoring observance of human rights
 - Research activities
 - Cooperation with government and other institutions