

It is with a feeling of special privilege and honour that we stand up to address this august and historic Summit Meeting of our Organisation, the OAU.

We express our deep appreciation of the warmth with which our delegation has been welcomed by the Government, Party and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to their ancient capital, the beautiful city of Addis Ababa, world famous as the birthplace and Headquarters of the Organisation of African Unity as well as the venue for the annual assembly of Africa's leaders.

We are grateful for the excellent arrangements made to facilitate our participation at this most historic 25th Summit Session of the OAU.

The opening address by His Excellency, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, we have all been treated to a characteristically profound and powerful opening address by His Excellency, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, General Secretary of the Council of Ministers and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia. In his incisive analysis of Africa's experience in the past 25 years, President Mengistu Haile Mariam throws into bold relief not only the great burden that Africa has to carry, but also her capacity to carry it, not only Africa's weakness, but also her strength; not only the reality of the unfinished African revolution but also the certainty of its final accomplishment, given Africa's resolve and willingness to make the necessary sacrifice.

It is significant that when the OAU was formed before the independence of Zambia, you were the President of PAFMECSA, a political organisation in a common and equal membership with non-independent territories represented by their respective liberation movements.

Today, as current chairman of the

OAU you are presiding over the celebration of its 25th anniversary.

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