

Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA)

HISTORY AND PRESENT STATUS

In 1991, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in his capacity as Chairman of the OAU, and President Olusegun Obasanjo, then Chairman of the African Leadership Foundation, issued invitations to African Heads of States to attend a meeting on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Kampala in May 1991. This meeting agreed on a unified strategy for development linking the issues of security, stability, development and cooperation in a comprehensive and integrated fashion recognising that one flows into the other and that it is impossible to tackle any without concern for another.

The result of the meeting was the Kampala Document, which encapsulated both the 1990 OAU Heads of State Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World and the 1990 African Charter for Popular Participation in Development. Essentially, the Kampala Document comprised four interrelated Calabashes:

The security calabash to focus on principles and modalities for assuring interstate relations;

The stability calabash on the need for democratisation, good governance and popular participation within member States;

The development calabash on strategies to raise and improve general standards of living; and

The cooperation calabash on the modalities for accelerating regional integration processes and harmonising development of vital sectors of the Continent.

The Kampala Document also proposed a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA). The Document was presented to the OAU Summit in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991 for adoption; however, it was only noted and referred to the Council of Ministers. Subsequent OAU Summits in June 1992 in Dakar, Senegal and in June 1993 in Cairo, Egypt could not adopt the Kampala Document in the absence of inputs from member States.

During the OAU Summit in July 1999 in Algiers, Algeria, President Obasanjo called for the refocusing on the Kampala Document in the light of contemporary developments in Africa, and offered to take responsibility for setting in motion the process of re-launching the CSSDCA. President Obasanjo also proposed that the year 2000 be declared as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa.

At the Extraordinary OAU Summit held in Sirte, Libya in September 1999, the Heads of State decided to convene an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in the Continent as soon as possible. As such the CSSDCA initiative was fully endorsed by the policy-making organs of the OAU. This First Ministerial CSSDCA Meeting was held in Abuja from 8 to 9 May 2000

The 36th OAU Summit in Lomé in 2000 adopted the Solemn Declaration on the CSSDCA and, in its Declaration, acknowledged the CSSDCA process as creating a synergy between the various activities undertaken by the OAU/AEC, which therefore must help to consolidate the work of the OAU/AEC in the areas of peace, security, stability, development and cooperation. The Lomé Summit further stated that the CSSDCA must provide a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of common values within the main policy organs of the OAU/AEC.

In order to implement the CSSDCA within the framework of the OAU/AEC and to ensure the sustainability of the process, it was agreed that a Standing CSSDCA Conference would be established, to convene every two years during the Summit. The Meetings of Plenipotentiaries and

Senior Officials will undertake review meetings in between Sessions of the Standing Conference. The Secretary General was requested to initiate internal administrative arrangements for designating, within the OAU/AEC Secretariat, a unit to coordinate CSSDCA activities.

According to the letter and spirit of the Lomé Declaration, the first Standing Conference of Heads of State and Government on the CSSDCA will take place during the Summit to be hosted in South Africa from 8 to 10 July 2002. In preparation for the Standing Conference, detailed discussions have been undertaken on the various calabashes in order to implement the CSSDCA process. Two meetings of experts were held, the first in Midrand, South Africa from 9 to 13 December 2001 to discuss the Development and Cooperation Calabashes, and the second in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 May 2002 to discuss the Security and Stability Calabashes.

The experts meetings were aimed at the drafting of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on respectively Development and Cooperation and on Security and Stability in Africa, within the following framework:

Further distilling the general and specific principles identified in the Solemn Declaration on the CSSDCA into core values;

To agree on commitments to give effect to these core values;

To agree on key performance indicators to evaluate compliance with the commitments in the Memorandum of Understanding;

To design a framework of implementation as a means of carrying out the commitments contained in the Memorandum of Understanding; and

To agree on mechanisms for measuring performance.

The two MoUs (see attached) will be submitted to the 76th OAU Council of Ministers meeting to be hosted in Durban from 4 to 6 July 2002. The intention is for the Ministers to consider the MoUs, with the view to incorporating it into a draft protocol, to be adopted by the Heads of State and Government during the Summit. As such it is envisaged that the CSSDCA process must develop into a more binding agreement to be subsequently annexed as an integral part of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

It should be noted that the 2nd OAU-Civil Society Conference on Developing Partnership between the OAU and Civil Society Organisations, held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 14 June 2002, considered the MoUs in depth. Various inputs and recommendations were made to both Memoranda, particularly to the preamble and commitments. These recommendations by civil society will be reflected in a report to the Heads of State and Government during the Summit meetings in Durban.

South Africa's involvement in the CSSDCA process

South Africa's commitment and participation in the CSSDCA process to date has included the following:

Participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other Ministers in meetings of the Steering Committee of the CSSDCA process, from September 1999 to March 2000;

Hosting of a meeting of the Steering Committee in South Africa from 28 to 29 February 2000, during which President Mbeki delivered the keynote address;

Participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence and senior officials in the 1st Ministerial CSSDCA meeting in Abuja from 8 to 9 May 2000;

Making available the amount of US\$500,000 to the OAU Secretariat towards the operationalisation of the CSSDCA process;

Short-term (three-month) secondment of a Foreign Affairs official to Addis Ababa to assist the OAU Secretariat to develop the working papers for the Development and Cooperation calabashes;

Hosting the experts meeting of the Development and Cooperation calabashes in South Africa from 9 to 13 December 2001; and

Participation of officials in the experts meeting of the Security and Stability calabashes in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 May 2002.

Furthermore, it is important to note that South Africa appears to be the only member state to have responded to the Solemn Declaration's call to incorporate CSSDCA principles and guidelines into the national institutions that would have the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of CSSDCA activities by, inter alia, the restructuring of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the IRPS Cluster Committee along the lines of the calabashes.

Relationship between CSSDCA and NEPAD

Subsequent to the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on the CSSDCA, the NEPAD initiative has come into being as Africa's principal agenda for development, providing a holistic, comprehensive integrated strategic framework for the socio-economic development of the continent, within the institutional framework of the African Union. On 11 July 2001, NEPAD, or the New African Initiative (NAI) as it was temporarily known at the time, was presented to the OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia, where it was enthusiastically received and unanimously adopted by the Summit.

NEPAD is structured into three components, which also focus on the interrelation between peace, security, stability, development and cooperation in Africa, as follows:

The first component provides the preconditions for sustainable development, which are the Peace, Security, Democracy and Political Governance Initiatives; the Economic and Corporate Governance Initiative; and the sub-regional and regional approaches to development.

The second component provides the sectoral priorities, which include bridging the infrastructure gap; the Human Resource Development Initiative; the Agriculture Initiative; the Environment Initiative; the Cultural Initiative and Science and Technology Platforms.

The third component concerns the mobilisation of resources, referring to the Capital Flows Initiative and the Market Access Initiative.

Whilst the strategic focus of the CSSDCA process is to ensure good governance in the political and economic realm as well as to provide the framework for development and cooperation in Africa, NEPAD serves as the socio-economic development blueprint for the African Union to implement its objectives. In addition, it provides the mechanism for accelerating implementation of the Abuja Treaty, and, at the same time, its management structures are particularly designed to ensure follow-up and implementation in the transition phase from the OAU to the African Union.

Initially it had been suggested that the CSSDCA was a framework for the adoption of common values for the African Union as well as benchmarks against which successes could be measured, whilst NEPAD was an action programme for achieving the objectives of the African Union and the continent. As envisaged, one of the main characteristics of the CSSDCA initiative was its provision of a mechanism for monitoring and facilitating the implementation of OAU/African Union decisions. Although there is convergence and complementarity between the objectives of the CSSDCA and NEPAD in the context of the African Union, there are particular areas of overlap and possible duplication that need to be addressed.