RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (PANAFTEL)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Fifty-sixth Ordinary Session in Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 28 June 1992,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Pan-African Telecommunications Network (PANAFTEL) (Doc. CM/1718 (LVI)),

Recalling its Resolution CM/Res.1172 (XLVIII) on the Development of Telecommunications in Africa,

Guided by the principles and objectives outlined in Chapter X of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, especially it’s Article No. 63 on the Posts and Telecommunications Sub-Sectors,

Convinced of the need to improve telecommunications facilities within and between African countries,

Conscious of the catalytic and crucial role of the telecommunications sub-sector in providing the necessary infrastructure essential for promoting the take off of the African Economic Community,

Aware of the importance of the need to establish an effective coordination machinery at both regional and continental levels:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General on the PANAFTEL Network;

2. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to UNDP, ADB, ITU, PATU and ECA as well as to international agencies and bilateral donors for their assistance to Member States in the development of their PANAFTEL Network;

3. REQUESTS the PANAFTEL Coordinating Committee to review the PANAFTEL Network in the light of the changes in telecommunications technology;

4. URGES African Telecommunications Administrations to:

   (i) Improve the operational efficiency and the quality of services offered by, among others, planning the maintenance of their equipment and establishing effective maintenance structures;
(ii) Restructure their administrations to make them viable and cost-effective;

(iii) To implement the reviewed missing PANAFTEL links so as to facilitate the routing of intra-African traffic;

(iv) Evolve common standards and specifications in order to facilitate the joint purchase of equipment;

5. CALLS UPON Member States to create an enabling environment for the development of telecommunication by formulating appropriate sector policies;

6. FURTHER INVITES Regional Economic Communities to intensify their efforts in coordinating the development of the PANAFTEL Network with a view to becoming the focal point for coordinating all activities relating to the development of telecommunications in their respective regions;

7. REQUESTS UNDP to continue its assistance to Member States, PATU and relevant African and International Organizations in the implementation of the PANAFTEL Network;

8. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the OAU to report periodically on the implementation of the resolution.