RESOLUTION ON THE PREPAPATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH ALL-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-third Ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 February; 1996,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.277 (XIX) of the OAU Council of Ministers, which institutionalized the All Africa Trade Fair,

Taking into account the need to promote Africa's economic development and in particular intra-African trade by deploying and mobilizing all economic development tools such as trade and investment promotion -through the All Africa Trade Fair and the organization of Investment Fora and Business Round tables,

Cognizant of the over-riding need to use the 7th All Africa Trade Fair to create the necessary commercial, investment and economic impacts in Africa thus laying the foundation for the African Common Market as provided for in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling previous decisions of the Conference of African Ministers of tourism calling on the OAU and the UNECA to organize a Tourism Fair in conjunction with the All-Africa Trade Fair,

Recognizing the significant contribution that Tourism makes and its potential to the socio-economic developmental effort of Member States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary General entitled 'Progress Report on the Preparations for the Seventh All- Africa Trade Fair,, contained in document CM/1923 (LXIII):

1. TAKES NOTE of the recommendations contained in the said report emanating from the First Meeting of the Technical Organizing Committee of the Seventh all Africa Trade Fair;

2. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for having graciously offered to host the Seventh OAU All-Africa Trade Fair;

3. ENDORSES the dates for the 7th All-Africa Trade Fair proposed by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, that is the 9th to the 17 November, 1996 and CALLS UPON all Member States to participate actively in the Fair;

4. URGES all Member States not to schedule any major commercial events in their-countries td-clash with the dates for the 7th All-Africa Trade Fair, if possible;
5. REAFFIRMS the importance of the All-Africa Trade Fair as a major tool for the promotion of intra-African Trade and as a driving force for the attainment of the objective to establish an African Common Market and African Economic Community;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the host country and the Technical Organizing Committee, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the UNECA, the African Regional Economic Communities and other relevant institutions, to include Tourism as a component of the 7th All- Africa Trade Fair with a view to promoting the Tourism sector;

7. INVITES the African Development Bank, the African Export Import Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union/African Caribbean Pacific States Secretariat to provide all possible support to assist Member States to effectively participate in the Fair;

8. FURTHER INVITES the African Development Bank, the African Export Import bank, the African -Business Round table, the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and other relevant regional and international financial institutions to assist the General Secretariat of the OAU in organizing.an African Investment Forum during the Fair and to participate in the said Forum;

9. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue the re- organization of activities of the All- Africa Trade Fair, by combining the Fair with events such as Buyer/Seller meetings, Investment Fora etc.. so as to make the Africa Trade Fair a truly Business Forum with prospects for follow-up of business and Joint venture projects;

10. URGES the General Secretariat to seek supplementary extra-budgetary financial resources and technical assistance for the Seventh All-Africa Trade Fair;

11. INVITES all Member States to endeavour to make provision in their own national budgets appropriate financial resource's that will enable them to participate effectively in the Fair;

12. FURTHER INVITES all eligible Member States to deploy efforts to secure funding under the appropriate provisions of ACP-EU Lome IV Convention and from other possible sources to ensure their effective participation in the Fair.