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Declaration on the Granting of Independence
to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the
specialized agencies and the international
institutions associated with the
United Nations

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION

1. At the sixty-first session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2015 (LXI) of 3 August 1976, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". In paragraph 11 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue consultations on this matter with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
2. At its 1052nd meeting on 8 September 1976, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, by which it decided to continue to examine the question and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. 1/
3. At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/30, in paragraph 13 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. An account of the consultations held, in the light of the foregoing, between the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee is set out below.
5. The President of the Economic and Social Council informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had during the past year continued to give close attention to the question (E/5973, para.20). The two presiding officers reviewed the results of the meeting held in Paris, on 23 March 1977, between representatives of the agencies, the United Nations and the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session,
Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 13.

general secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in accordance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1892 (LVII) of 1 August 1974. They noted that the meeting had provided useful guidance to the agencies as to the priorities and procedures of OAU with regard to assistance to the national liberation movements and, in that connexion, had clarified a number of issues of mutual concern, thereby strengthening the co-operation between the agencies and OAU. Accordingly, the two presiding officers considered it extremely useful and desirable that such consultations be continued on a regular basis.

6. The Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Council that, in pursuance of paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2015 (LXI), the Special Committee's attention had been drawn to that resolution as well as to the discussions leading thereto during the Council's sixty-first session (E/AC.24/SR.588-590 and 592; E/SR.2015). He also informed the President of the Council that the Committee, at the beginning of its current session, had requested its Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance to follow the implementation by the specialized agencies and the institutions associated with the United Nations of the Declaration and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including in particular General Assembly resolution 31/50. Bearing in mind the positive results of the contacts established in 1976 with representatives of a number of specialized agencies, the Special Committee, through the Sub-Committee, had continued similar consultations during its current session. The report of the Sub-Committee, containing an account of these consultations, would be taken into account by the Special Committee when it considered the item in August 1977.

7. The Chairman also informed the President that a number of specialized agencies and organizations had been represented as observers at the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held at Maputo, Mozambique, in May 1977 under the auspices of the Special Committee and the United Nations Council for Namibia. They had supplied information on their activities, and consultations had taken place between them, OAU and the national liberation movements concerned. That would be taken into account fully by the Special Committee when it considered the item.

8. The Conference had adopted by consensus the Maputo Declaration in Support of the People's of Zimbabwe and Namibia and the Programme of Action for the Liberation of Zimbabwe and Namibia (A/52/109 (Part II)), which contained a number of extremely important points having direct relevance to the work of the specialized agencies and the other organizations within the United Nations, as follows:

(a) The Conference proclaimed its conviction that the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia for self-determination and independence had entered a crucial and final stage. It accordingly appealed to all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake concerted international action in support of the struggle by intensifying their assistance to the national liberation movements concerned;

(b) It called upon the specialized agencies and other institutions within the United Nations system to give high priority to the formulation, with the active co-operation of OAU, of programmes and projects of assistance to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia and their national liberation movements; in the case of Namibia, the Conference had stated that such assistance should be extended in consultation with the United Nations Council for Namibia;

(c) It further urged all specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations to give all possible concrete assistance within their spheres of competence to the Council for Namibia in the discharge of the mandate entrusted to it;

(d) It called upon them, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, to withhold any financial, economic, technical or other assistance from the illegal minority régime of Southern Rhodesia and from the Government of South Africa, to discontinue all support to them and to refrain from any action that might imply recognition of the legitimacy of their domination of Zimbabwe and Namibia;

(e) It called upon those specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations in which South Africa still illegally purports to represent Namibia to terminate such relationships forthwith and to grant full membership to the United Nations Council for Namibia as the administering authority for Namibia until independence;

(f) The Conference noted with appreciation the programmes, notably the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA), the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the Trust Fund for South Africa, as well as those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which are providing educational training and humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans and Namibians. It appealed to all States, organizations and individuals to give generous assistance to all such programmes;

(g) It further recommended that the United Nations consider the possibility of establishing a University of Namibia and that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) be invited to assist the United Nations Council for Namibia and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) in the formulation of plans for that project;

(h) Finally, the Conference urged the agencies and organizations to extend as a matter of priority, material and other assistance to the front-line States in order to enable them more effectively to implement United Nations resolutions supporting the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe and Namibia and, in particular, to enable them to provide for the increasing number of refugees from those territories. In other provisions, not expressly addressed to the agencies, the Conference emphasized the need for increased contributions and assistance to the United Nations Institute for Namibia and also to the States bordering Zimbabwe and Namibia in order to enable those States to provide for the growing number of refugees from the two Territories.

9. The President of the Council expressed deep appreciation of the important contribution made by the Special Committee towards the success of the Conference and was of the opinion that the consensus achieved among the 92 participating United Nations Member States should encourage the international community, including the specialized agencies and the organizations within the United Nations system, to redouble its assistance to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia and to their national liberation movements. He was confident that the Maputo Declaration and Programme of Action would receive the due attention of the specialized agencies and the organizations within the United Nations system, which they deserved. Both presiding officers agreed that the intensification of the struggle for independence

by the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia had created an urgent and immediate need for all forms of assistance. In that context, they noted with satisfaction that several agencies and organizations had expanded the volume and scope of their assistance and that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), at its twenty-second session, had authorized the Administrator to expend up to \$6.0 million for the period 1977-1981, in addition to the funds available in the Trust Fund for Assistance to Colonial Countries and Peoples, on assistance to national liberation movements recognized by OAU. The two presiding officers considered the support of the major funding organizations within the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as UNDP, essential in securing the flow of funds required for the preparation of extended programmes of assistance. They also considered that those agencies and organizations that had thus far depended mainly on extrabudgetary sources for the financing of assistance projects, should endeavour to find, insofar as possible, ways and means to include provision in their regular budgets for financing ongoing projects supported by OAU and the national liberation movements.

10. The two presiding officers noted with satisfaction the closer contacts and liaison established by the organizations within the United Nations system with the national liberation movements, OAU and the Council for Namibia. They welcomed the arrangements made by the agencies and organizations to ensure the active and direct participation in their meetings of representatives of the national liberation movements, thus contributing to the effective consideration by the organizations concerned of measures in support of the colonial peoples. They noted with satisfaction that, in conformity with paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015 (LXI), many agencies defrayed the cost of travel and other related expenses of representatives of national liberation movements invited to attend such meetings. They particularly welcomed the decision of the Governing Council of UNDP to invite those representatives to take part as observers in the work of the Council throughout its sessions. They also welcomed the fact that the United Nations Council for Namibia had been represented at many agency conferences and meetings and had been admitted to associate membership in some agencies.

11. The two presiding officers noted that these closer contacts and liaison had resulted in increasing the volume and scope of the assistance by the specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system. They were confident that further contacts and consultations would overcome procedural difficulties and enhance the ability of agencies to respond more quickly and with greater flexibility to needs as they were identified. In that connexion, the two presiding officers agreed that the practice of dispatching multidisciplinary missions, in consultation with OAU, should be continued so that the needs of the peoples concerned could be identified in terms of specific assistance programmes and could receive appropriate priority. They particularly welcomed the measures taken by a number of agencies and organizations to provide increased assistance to the United Nations Institute for Namibia, including the award by UNDP in 1976 of \$5.73 million to assist in financing its budgetary requirements. They also noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with the hope expressed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination during its sixty-seventh session held in April 1976, reciprocal contacts had been established between the Director of the Institute and a number of agencies, including the World Bank, with a view to exploring avenues for increased assistance and closer co-operation.

12. The two presiding officers noted that, as a consequence of the intensification of the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe and Namibia and of the increasing oppression by the illegal racist minority régimes, there had been a considerable influx of

refugees seeking asylum in neighbouring States, particularly Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. That had substantially increased the requirements for emergency and other forms of humanitarian assistance. In that context they noted with satisfaction that there had been a considerable increase in international assistance extended through UNHCR, in close co-operation with a number of organizations within the United Nations system and with OAU. At the end of 1976, the total number of refugees from Zimbabwe and Namibia was estimated at over 37,000. By 1 June 1977, however, their number had increased to over 51,000 and, in addition, there was a serious problem relating to the needs of South African student refugees in the region. The requirements of these refugees were brought to the attention of the international community by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In a follow-up appeal to governments, the High Commissioner has sought assistance in the order of \$16 million in 1977. The presiding officers also noted that between 1974 and 1976, WFP had committed about \$26.7 million in food aid to colonial and former colonial countries in Africa. They expressed the hope that the agencies and organizations within the United Nations system would continue to do everything possible to assist the governments concerned in providing emergency and other aid to the growing number of refugees.

13. The two presiding officers noted that measures adopted by a number of agencies to withhold all assistance from the Government of South Africa and the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia continued to be in force. They agreed that the United Nations system of organizations should strengthen such measures so as to bring about the maximum isolation of those régimes, in keeping with the Maputo Declaration.

14. Bearing in mind that the matters raised in the present report would require continuous review by the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee, the two presiding officers agreed that, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its thirty-second session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council and the Special Committee, they should maintain close contact with each other on the question.