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Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 55/217 of 21 December 2000, on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The report updates the information contained in the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, submitted to the Security Council in September 1999 (S/1999/1008).

Section II of the present report describes the specific follow-up action that has been initiated or completed in the areas of peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building, while section III contains a broad overview of recent developments in the areas of governance and sustainable development. Section IV presents some concluding observations, underscoring the need for the international community to support the efforts of African countries to undertake and sustain reform of their economies. It should be recalled that the recommendations in the initial report of the Secretary-General were directed to all members of the international community, including the African countries and their development partners. The present report, however, primarily addresses how the organizations of the United Nations system have responded in the implementation of the recommendations.

* A/56/150.

** The present report was not submitted by the deadline of 13 August 2001 because the comments on the draft report had not been received from the organizations of the United Nations system that had provided the input.



1. The report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-

6. The Secretary-General continues to appoint special mediators and representatives to help in the peacemaking process. After the signing of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and the establishment of the Implementation Monitoring Committee, a special representative was appointed to oversee the work of the Committee. To assist the inter-Congolese dialogue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, facilitated by Sir Ketumile Masire, the former President of Botswana, the United Nations is providing staff and logistical support whenever required. Commissions of inquiry have also been established to investigate allegations of massacre levelled by Amnesty International against the Government of Togo, and another to investigate the killings that took place in Côte d'Ivoire after the presidential elections in 2000. The Commission of Inquiry on Togo and Amnesty International was established jointly by OAU and the United Nations. The key objective in establishing such commissions was to discourage a sense of impunity and to deter a repeat of such massacres. The Secretary-General is encouraging African regional and subregional organizations to appoint special envoys and, where appropriate, facilitate the establishment of councils of elders that would help to mediate disputes and promote practical solutions.

7. In order to avoid competing peace initiatives, the Secretary-General continues to consult with OAU and other interested parties. This process of consultation has resulted, for example, in the creation of a forum known as Consultations of Special Envoys and Representatives on Burundi, in which envoys of the United Nations, OAU and some of the members of the Security Council and regional groupings with an interest in Burundi participate. In 2001, a group similar to the Group of Friends established for Guinea-Bissau in 1999 at the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was set up for Central

African Republic to mobilize support for the consolidation of peace and reconciliation and resources for post-conflict peace-building.

8. The case for region-wide action is also strong, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat is in the process of consulting with African and non-African States on the terms of reference it has prepared for a working group,

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collaboration with the sanctions committees on Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone, assisting them with investigations of violations and making recommendations on how to make the sanctions more effective.

11. Since the issuance of the initial report of the Secretary-General, consultations have been held with a number of African States with a view to encouraging them to pass legislation making the violation of a Security Council arms embargo a criminal offence under national law. In follow-up, letters have been sent to the Governments of all African States, requesting information on the measures taken in this regard.

12. One of the contributing elements to violent conflict in Africa is the rapid accumulation, illicit sale and indiscriminate use of small arms. The overall participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms by African States is among the lowest in the world. It has fluctuated during the period from 1992 to 1998, from approximately 24 per cent in 1992 to 6 per cent in 1998. African countries have been urged to contribute to the Register as a way of enhancing confidence-building measures. As at August 2000, only 4 of 53 African countries had contributed to the Register.³

namely, ECOWAS on conflicts in West Africa, including Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, SADC on the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

19. As emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict

emergency assistance and longer-term development in a comprehensive and coherent response. Some United Nations agencies are engaged in a number of activities geared towards supporting long-term development objectives. The International Labour Organization (ILO) seeks to promote labour-intensive employment, aimed in particular at utilizing ex-combatants in projects on rural and urban infrastructure in a number of post-conflict countries. The World Bank approved in late July 2001 three projects aimed at assisting in rehabilitation and recovery after conflict and long-term decline: the post-conflict economic rehabilitation and the emergency demobilization and reintegration projects in the Congo and the emergency early recovery project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will help to demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants while helping to rehabilitate social and physical infrastructure and achieve macroeconomic stability. The agricultural relief programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides direct assistance to affected populations in ways that encourage the rehabilitation and recovery of the food production sector. This involves the provision of essential input, such as seeds, hand tools and veterinary supplies, to enable the urgent resumption of agricultural activities. Efforts are geared towards enhancing household food security while

a series of actions in selected African countries. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee also developed the consolidated appeal process as a strategic planning tool that promotes the transition from relief to development. The relevant departments and programmes of the Secretariat also collaborated in developing the linkages between the consolidated appeal process and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in cases where the two are being used together, including in Burundi and Uganda. This will further enhance cooperation and joint planning between relief and development partners. The consolidated appeal process and the Framework have yet to reach their potential and, in this context, all the relevant organizations are requested to rethink their strategies for resource mobilization.

Bank post-conflict engagement. This includes efforts to enhance transparency in revenue collection and to improve budget management processes.

37. The importance of creating small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa in order to increase the employment prospects for the under-employed and unemployed needs to be given continued attention. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has undertaken work in Africa on a policy framework in the area of enterprise development and, in particular, the problems of small and medium-sized enterprises in engaging in a dialogue with government. To this end, three national reports on Ethiopia, Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania have been produced, in consultation with national experts. The UNCTAD initiative, Mediterranean 2000, an institution-building and entrepreneurship programme funded by the Government of Italy, is helping to build capacity in a number of African countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, Tunisia and Uganda. Ghana and Zimbabwe have also benefited from the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of UNCTAD, which is aimed at developing and strengthening centres for innovation and enterprise development. In the meantime, Enterprise Africa programme of the UNDP, which is operational in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, continues to provide technical assistance in the development and implementation of new national programmes, the strengthening of existing national programmes, the facilitation of access to credit, the promotion of regional integration through the formation of networking at the enterprise level and the provision to Governments of policy advice on enterprise development.

38. Investment in Africa needs to be substantially increased if the region is to accelerate its growth to the level of the 7 to 8 per cent required to reduce poverty by half by 2015. Private investment is hampered by the weak institutional capacity of financial institutions, the fierce conditions in obtaining loans, the lack of raw

materials and a limited domestic market, as well as low purchasing power.

39. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been involved in school feeding for more than three decades and recently received a special cover contribution of US\$ 146 million under the Global Food for Education initiative of the United States of America. While school feeding helps both boy and girl students, special efforts are often needed to get more girls to enter school and improve their attendance. By providing food rations to families as a way of compensating them for the loss of a daughter's labour, WFP works to ensure equal educational opportunities for boys and girls in several sub-Saharan countries. At present, WFP is implementing projects directly aimed at promoting the education of girls through the distribution of dry rations to the families of schoolgirls in eight African countries.

40. Within the framework of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, a summit conference of the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, the Niger and Senegal was held at Bamako in November 2000, to explore how to accelerate the Education for All agenda in those countries. The conference, which was jointly organized by the Government of Mali, UNESCO and the World Bank, was preceded by a conference of ministers of education and of finance, representatives from civil society and representatives of external donor agencies.

41. In his report, the Secretary-General called for a new focus by Africa and the international community on reducing the mortality rate of treatable and preventable diseases, and urged that consideration be given to the use of emergency and humanitarian resources for that purpose. It is now clear to all that public health crises, in particular HIV/AIDS, are no longer regarded only as medical issues. Their social and economic implications are now well understood, as witnessed by the OAU Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, held at Abuja from 24 to 27 April 2001, and the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. All of the key United Nations organizations have now mainstreamed HIV/AIDS into their projects and programmes. ILO has developed a

draft code of practice on HIV/AIDS in the world of work, while FAO has undertaken studies on the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security, rural development, nutrition, agricultural extension services and genetic resources, among others, in order to provide sub-Saharan African countries with policy advice and strategies to counter the negative effects. UNESCO has adopted a strategy for HIV/AIDS preventive education and is reviewing a cultural approach towards HIV/AIDS prevention and care. The UNDP regional project on HIV/AIDS and development is intended to provide policy direction and strategies for establishing operational linkages between national HIV/AIDS programmes in Africa and to oversee the development and implementation of an expanded regional programme for HIV/AIDS.

42. While the idea of using emergency and humanitarian resources for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment did not materialize, it is worth mentioning that the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of the Global AIDS and Health Fund was accepted by key actors. The Fund, which has a subscription of US\$ 1.4 billion as at 30 July 2001, will be operational by the end of 2001. The World Bank is also providing important funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Its multi-country AIDS programme for Africa has provided US\$ 500 million to help 10 African countries to improve effective prevention, care and treatment, with emphasis on the involvement of civil society and the community. It is expected that US\$ 500 million more will be made available in 2002 to reach another 15 African countries. The Secretary-General will continue to ensure that the entire United Nations system gives priority to the full implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General

expressed that even the countries that benefit under the process might not find a permanent solution for their debt and debt-servicing burden.

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49. Expanded and diversified exports are important tools for improving development prospects and for achieving international development targets; however, much more needs to be done to extend market access for all goods from African countries by further reducing or removing tariff escalation as a way to encourage diversification. The next round of multilateral trade negotiations must be a true development round that addresses the issues of subsidies and the further elimination of tariff barriers to African exports. The granting by the European Union, a key market for Africa, of duty-free and quota-free access for most products of export interest to the least developed countries by 2009 must be commended, and other countries should be encouraged to do the same. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which was passed by the United States Congress in 2001, has the potential to help some African countries to expand and diversify their exports.

50. As markets open further, the international community should direct assistance to the development of the productive capacity in Africa and the enhancement of industries on the continent. The secretariat of UNCTAD has continued its cooperation with the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/World Trade Organization) under the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Selected Least Developed and other African Countries, which is considered by many to be an innovative approach to technical assistance. The Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to support the least developed countries in their trade and trade-related activities has been recently overhauled to make it more effective. It will now seek to mainstream trade into a country's overall development strategy through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and/or the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) process in order to ensure that trade policy, trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building needs are articulated in a broad development context. A trust fund has been established to fund the Integrated Framework on a pilot basis before the programme is extended to a wider group of countries.

2001, will help to facilitate institutional and confidence-building links among countries of the subregion as it seeks to promote integrated subregional policies in the political, security, human rights, humanitarian and development areas.

53. The Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its meeting held at Nairobi in April 2001, pledged its unified support for initiatives owned and led by Africa, including the emerging Millennium Africa Recovery Programme of Presidents Mbeki of South Africa, Bouteflika of Algeria and Obasanjo of Nigeria, and the OMEGA Plan of President Wade of Senegal, which has since been merged into the New African Initiative that was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at Lusaka in July 2001. The Administrative Committee on Coordination confirmed that there will be no new initiatives on Africa coming from the United Nations system but expressed its intention to work towards a unified framework of action by the United Nations system and the international community, based on a rationalization and concordance of existing initiatives.

54. In the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the conclusion of its high-level segment in 2001 (see A/56/3, chap. III, para. 26), the Council invited the Secretary-General to take the requisite measures to ensure an effective and coordinated response of the United Nations system to the New African Initiative. In doing so, lessons learned from the implementation of the many initiatives that have been put in place for Africa will be taken into account in order to ensure that the guiding principles in developing such a framework will be realism, urgency and efficiency, supportive of African ownership and leadership of programmes. As noted in the Ministerial Declaration, the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, scheduled for September 2002, presents an opportunity for an assessment of the role that the United Nations and the international community have played in supporting Africa's priorities, including a comprehensive review of initiatives on Africa.

55. The debate on conflict prevention and peace-building over the past three years is proof that the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General remain valid. The fact that a significant number of the least developed countries are also conflict-prone countries must surely underline the interrelationship between peace and development. It is noteworthy that the African Heads of State and Government have endorsed the linkage among peace, good governance and democracy, and have stated clearly in the New African Initiative that they are preconditions for development. They have also committed themselves to strengthening mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and to promoting and protecting democracy and human rights in their respective countries and regions by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and partnership with Governments, to the enhancement of peace and security in Africa.

56. Indeed, in proposing a new global partnership with their development partners, African leaders have committed themselves to developing the appropriate

compliance with shared goals, and to identify

progress and the rule of law. It is recognized that the obstacles to fulfilling this vision are immense — the challenges posed by the reversals in human development over the past 15 years, increased poverty levels, the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS, and the destruction of social and physical infrastructure caused by violent conflict will have to be resolutely met if African countries are to begin to catch up with those in