

Brussels, 12 October 2001

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AFRICA-EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Brussels, 11 October 2001

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The first Africa-Europe Ministerial Meeting, established as part of the mechanism to give impetus to and monitor implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action, was held in Brussels on 11 October 2001, under the Co-Chairmanship of The Honourable S. K. Walubita, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia and current Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity, and Mr Louis Michel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium and President of the Council of the European Union.
2. The Co-Chairmen welcomed the holding of this ministerial meeting, following up the Cairo Summit and Plan of Action, which confirmed the commitment of Heads of State and Government to work towards a new strategic dimension for the comprehensive partnership between Africa and Europe. They saw this meeting as a step towards the Lisbon Summit in the first semester of 2003.

They also welcomed the offer by Burkina Faso to host the second Africa-Europe Ministerial Meeting in Ouagadougou during the second half of 2002. This meeting will permit the preservation and consolidation of the new Africa-Europe partnership in accordance with the Cairo Plan of Action.

3. Participants at the Ministerial Conference welcomed the efforts made to find common ground on priority subjects by the Bi-Regional Group of Senior Officials, which had met four times since the Cairo Summit. They welcomed the agreed minutes of the Biregional Group of Senior Officials and had a wide-ranging, open debate on individual subjects.

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- 3.1. Ministers were thus able to observe a narrowing of differences, conducive to joint action by way of appropriate channels and structures.
 - 3.2. Ministers highlighted the considerable identity of views on conflict prevention, including landmines, on regional integration and cooperation and integration of Africa into the world economy and trade, and on the environment, including combating drought and desertification.
 - 3.3. Ministers agreed to continue their cooperation on preparation for the 4th WTO Ministerial to reach an understanding on multilateral trade negotiations which address development interests and support African efforts to integrate into the world economy. In this regard, the EU has expressed its readiness to support the OAU's outstanding request to obtain observer status in the WTO.
 - 3.4. Ministers also noted a narrowing of differences and the identification of common ground on HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, on food security and on human rights, democracy and good governance and expressed their desire to press ahead with the preparation of an action plan to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children.
 - 3.5. Ministers agreed on the need for further work on external debt of African countries and the return of stolen or illicitly exported cultural goods.
4. Apart from the eight subjects discussed, African Ministers briefed their European counterparts on the transformation taking place in Africa. All Ministers welcomed the transformation of the OAU into the African Union as constituting progress in Africa's political and economic integration. The Ministers also welcomed the new African initiative as a partnership programme which should be one of the bases for future cooperation between Europe and Africa. They reaffirmed their support for efforts in these areas.
 5. The Ministers and representatives of the Member States attending the Ministerial meeting, conscious of the many tokens of high attention and the warm welcome which they received in Brussels, express their sincere thanks and deep gratitude to His Majesty King Albert II and to the Government and people of Belgium. They also express their appreciation as regards the excellent working conditions provided them and the positive results of the Conference.
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JOINT DECLARATION ON TERRORISM

1. African and European Ministers, meeting in Brussels on 11 October 2001, within the framework of the follow-up mechanism of the Africa-Europe Summit, condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks which took place on 11 September 2001, in the United States of America.
 2. They consider these to have been attacks on the whole of the international community and all its members of every faith and culture without distinction, and declare their full solidarity with the United States.
 3. The Ministers consider terrorism as a common threat to all nations and express their strong determination to jointly combat this scourge in all its forms, in the spirit of Articles 83 to 85 of the Cairo Plan of Action. They call upon the Bi-Regional Group of Senior Officials responsible for following up the Cairo Summit to further examine the issue.
 4. Welcoming the initiatives already taken on this matter, they confirm their wish to continue to work together in all relevant international fora, in order to formulate an appropriate global action plan that will ensure the elimination of terrorism, including the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism endorsed in Algiers in July 1999.
 5. Ministers undertake to do their utmost to encourage the signing and ratification by their States of all United Nations Conventions and those of regional organisations, concerning international terrorism.
 6. As a Global Convention on Terrorism is required, every endeavour will be made to expedite the relevant negotiations. In this regard, Ministers took note of the decision taken by the OAU Summit of Algiers in July 1999 which called for the convening of an International Conference on Terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations.
 7. Ministers commend the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) on eliminating all forms of support for terrorists. They undertake to urgently put in place measures required for its implementation.
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