

Forum: Special Conference

Question of: Assessing the Responsibility of Former Imperial Countries for the Colonial Exploitation of the African Continent



Submitted by: Djibouti and Chad

Co-submitted by: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, Somalia

1 *The Special Conference,*

2

3 *Emphasizing* the importance of the UN Convention of 1960 “Declaration on the Granting of
4 Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”,

5

6 *Deeply concerned* with the compliance of granting peoples and citizens their right of self-
7 determination to possess sovereignty over the respective country and to self-govern the state,
8 deriving from the principle of “equal rights and self-determination of peoples” as stipulated in
9 Article 1 (2) of the Charter of the United Nations,

10

11 *Recognizing* the UN General Assembly resolution 1803 “Permanent Sovereignty over Natural
12 Resources”, stating that states and international organizations shall strictly respect the
13 sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources,

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15 *Considering* the difficulty to craft independence, state building and reconstruction in African
16 states,

17

18 *Taking into account* the historical fact that colonialism led to the exploitation of the African
19 continent, resulting in long-lasting negative impacts on its peoples and economies,

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21 *Deeply conscious* of the fact that the colonial era has left a legacy of economic and social
22 inequalities and political disparities which persists in affecting the peoples of the African
23 continent as a whole,

24

25 *Recognizing* that certain ethnic groups are still oppressed and necessitate concrete support
26 to find global as well as regional acknowledgment of their existence,

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28 *Fully believing* that African states play a key role in building a more just and equitable world
29 and affirming their right to redress for historical injustices,

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31 **1. Calls upon** former imperial countries to:

32 a. formally acknowledge their historical role in perpetuating colonial exploitation on
33 the African continent,

- 34 b. issue official apologies for the human right abuses, economic exploitation, and
35 cultural disruptions caused by colonialism;
36
- 37 2. **Urges** all member states to take immediate steps to identify and document all stolen
38 goods within their borders;
39
- 40 3. **Calls upon** all museums, private collectors, individuals and former imperial countries
41 holding stolen African cultural properties to acknowledge the illegality of their
42 acquisition and to return such property to the countries of origin within three years;
43
- 44 4. **Recommends** all UN member states to cooperate and to promote reconciliation, justice,
45 and responsibility for historical injustices and to facilitate mutual understanding and
46 respect among nations by:
47 a. including imperialism as a core topic in history and politics lessons,
48 b. organizing and fostering formative trips to African countries for interested students;
49
- 50 5. **Encourages** working towards an advanced education in African states by calling for the
51 financial and resource-based support of former imperial countries to:
52 a. establish an effective education system,
53 b. create the most extensive prospects possible for the future of young people,
54 c. counteract poverty and criminality as well as to improve and strengthen the
55 country's economy;
56
- 57 6. **Requests** the establishment of the agency "Congress of Colonial Countries" assessing
58 the damage done by colonialism, its long-term effects and the follow-up issues that
59 emerged from it, such as, but not limited to:
60 a. economic damage,
61 b. obstruction of cultural maintenance and development,
62 c. political instability,
63 d. environmental damage due to the exploitation of natural resources;
64
- 65 7. **Urges** all former imperial countries to pay reparation based on the findings of the
66 Congress of Colonial Countries;
67
- 68 8. **Stresses** the need for all countries that profited from the exploitation of the African
69 continent to progressively reduce the amount of debt within 20 years;
70
- 71 9. **Requests** direct and effective execution of the "Implementation of the Declaration on
72 the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialised
73 agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations";
74
- 75 10. **Requests** former imperial countries to acknowledge their historical responsibility for the
76 exploitation and oppression of African peoples by:
77 a. establishing an International Day
78 i. remembering all the lives lost during the colonial occupation,

- 79 ii. raising awareness among European citizens,
80 iii. celebrating African cultures,
81 iv. promoting reconciliation between former imperial countries and colonies;

82

83 **11. Calls for** the organization of a follow-up conference, namely “Follow-Up Conference
84 Commission”, within three years to review the progress made in implementing this
85 resolution and to further strengthen international cooperation in addressing the
86 consequences of colonialism on the African continent;

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88 **12. Invites** member states, regional organizations, civil society, academia, and relevant
89 stakeholders to participate in the follow-up conference, with a focus on sharing
90 experiences, identifying challenges, and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

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93 **Voting Results**

94 In favour: 24

95 Against: 12

96 Abstentions: 0