

**ASSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN AFRICA BY 2020:
Prioritizing Action, Strengthening Actors, and Facilitating Partnerships**
April 1–3, 2004, Kampala, Uganda

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**PRIORITIES FOR ACTION ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN
AFRICA: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE AFRICAN UNION**

Keynote Speaker: *Rosebud Kurwijila*, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union, Ethiopia

Date: April 2, 2004

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Workshop Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for giving me the opportunity to address this important gathering which addresses a very important subject for Africa and the African Union (AU). On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Alfa Omar Konare, who could not be here in person due to prior engagements, I wish to thank the organizers of this conference and the leadership of the International Food Policy Research Institute in particular for inviting the commission of the African Union to participate in this very important conference.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Commission of the African Union regards this conference to be very important and very timely for two reasons. One is that we are addressing an issue that touches on the basic livelihood of all our people; **the ability to access enough food and of sufficient quality at all times**. This basic need has continued to elude every generation of Africa's leadership for over four decades now. We must act now and act differently from the past. I will elaborate on this in due course. The second reason is in the process of translating the various decisions which have been made by our Heads of States and governments in the recent past, into a concrete and actionable strategic development framework.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

A lot has been researched, written and said about the Food and Nutrition security situation in Africa in the last three decades. Allow me to restate some of the familiar facts and figures:

It is recognized that more than 80% of the African population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. It is also a fact that the agricultural sector employs more than 60% of the continent's population; it's a source of about 40% of foreign exchange earnings and a major contributor to GDPs of most African countries.

Addressing the 23rd Africa Regional Conference on the Food and Agriculture recently (4th March 2004), South African President Thabo Mbeki referred to the problem of extractive policies that have continued to undermine and marginalize Africa's rural populations in the development agenda during the colonial era and perpetuated by present-day African governments. Despite the centrality of agriculture and the rural peasantry in the continent's employment, food and income generation capacity, agriculture and the rural economy as a whole has continued to receive less and less attention over time. President Thabo Mbeki reminds us that "our budgetary allocations to agriculture have been very low and, to worsen the problem, World Bank and other international transfers to African agriculture have also declined over time.

While inadequate production of food on the African continent is the main cause of food insecurity, the same cannot be said of nutrition insecurity. It is estimated that 25% of the African population (about 207 million people) is undernourished. Currently, 27 countries are classified as food insecure and in need of emergency food assistance.¹ Nutrition insecurity come about not because there is not enough food produced within individual countries or in the world to adequately provide enough dietary calories and proteins. In urban population, in particular, it is more a result of inadequate distribution and access constraints as influenced by market failures and household income poverty. In rural areas, nutrition insecurity is exacerbated by cultural practices which embargo/discourage consumption of certain foods of animal origin by specific age groups or gender. Another factor is the changing food habits where traditional, drought-resistant crops such as sorghum, millets, cassava, and sweet potatoes have been gradually abandoned in favor of maize and rice even in marginal lands. While demand for such traditional crops as food is falling, the alternative industrial uses such as in the animal food

¹ Jacques Diouf, Director General, FAO, quoted by the *SubSaharan Informer*, Vol. III, No. 10, p. 2, March 19-25, 2004 issue.

industry is actually expanding. Such crops should be promoted as cash crops so that farmers in marginal land can earn the cash income they need to purchase enough food of their preferred choices.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me now to elaborate how the inception of the African Union, and the putting in place of its new Commission, signifies a departure from the past and a resolve by our Heads of States and government to work harder and address more directly the socio-economic development of the majority of our people. While the socio-economic development of Africa requires us to address development issues from many fronts, I would like to confine myself to the mandate of this conference — agriculture and food security. I will therefore share with you our current view, plans and activities, which are dedicated to Africa's agriculture and rural development.

Honorable Chairperson

The newly formed Commission of the African Union is in the process of re-thinking new forms of organization and seeking more effective mechanisms and strategies to address the critical challenges and emergencies facing the continent today. The Commission of the African Union has, since its inception, engaged a process of consultations to build the information base necessary for the development of viable plans and programs aimed at alleviating the continent's problems through integrating and optimizing the productivity of the continent's resources.

One of our roles, as the Commission of the African Union, is to draw the attention of Member States and the international community to the urgent need to respond to the priorities and problems in Africa's agriculture and rural development.

African countries have identified food security and poverty among the most urgent priorities requiring immediate action. In consideration and recognition of the critical importance of Africa's agriculture and rural development challenges and in view of their inextricable linkage, the Maputo Summit, approved an organizational structure for the Commission of the African Union, which provides for a Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture. It is also significant to note that agriculture has been identified as one of the critical focal areas to be addressed within the framework of NEPAD, a new program of the African Union, whose objectives and implementation the Commission is mandated and committed to support.

The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture highly appreciates the seriousness and urgency of Africa's troubles and seeks to inspire the necessary remedial action, through promoting the policies, strategies and actions that can kick-start growth, increase economic activity and reduce poverty. Related to these objectives is also the need to encourage the introduction of measures that will encourage the integration and optimization of the productivity of Africa's resources and contribute to the attainment of sustainable development.

Within the framework of the Commission's mandate and competence, our challenge is to identify and address the key elements and factors, which constrain Africa's agricultural productivity and rural development.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

As one of the new portfolios of the Commission of the African Union, the mission of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture is **“to work with Member States, African institutions, civil society and development partners to reverse the poor state of rural economies in order to improve the livelihoods of the African people, through contributing to the improvement of agricultural productivity.”**

The mandate of the Department is to promote policies and strategies that can contribute to the development of the rural economy and improve livelihoods through increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing the sustainable use and management of Africa's natural resources.

The core functions of the Department include the development and promotion of policy measures and strategies for the improvement of agricultural systems in order to attain food security, contribute to reducing poverty, expand the export market for agricultural products and reduce the adverse effects of plant and animal pests and diseases. The other core functions of the Department include the development and promotion of policies and strategies for the sustainable management of natural resources and protection of ecosystems.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

In order to address its core functions, the Commission will focus on the following areas: (1) contributing to food security through improving crop and animal resources utilization and management; (2) improving access to markets and value adding, both local and international, for Africa's agricultural products; (3) promoting cooperating in trans-boundary natural resources management and disease control; (4) contributing to capacity building and strengthening in agriculture and natural resources development, management, and research; and (5) promoting access to agricultural information and communication.

In order to be able to execute its mandate in a focused and coordinated manner, the Commission will consolidate and strengthen the following regional offices and projects that deal with different issues related to the identified core areas of interest to the Africa Union: (i) The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), based in Nairobi, Kenya, which focuses on animal resources and the control of trans-boundary diseases; (ii) the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD), based on Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, which focuses on grain research and development especially in semi-arid areas; (iii) the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPC), based in Yaounde, Cameroon, which focuses on crop protection and pest control; and (iv) the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC), based at the Commission, which focuses on the eradication of the tsetse fly on the African continent.

The activities of these regional offices and programs are supervised and coordinated by the Office of the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture. The Department is currently severely under-staffed, but plans are under way to recruit the necessary work force and to mobilize the necessary human, technical, and financial resources required to implement the programs now being designed.

The Commission of the African Union will operate within the framework of a four-year operational plan. The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture is currently in the process of developing an integrated four-year Plan of Action for the period 2004 to 2007 that will take advantage of the synergy between the specific mandates of its various regional offices, and the harmonization with CAADP of NEPAD.

The work of the Commission will be executed in close collaboration with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, and other development partners.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

Recognizing the urgent need for action to redress Africa's agricultural and rural development problems, our Heads of States and governments decided in Maputo 2003 to hold a special summit on agriculture. The 2nd Extraordinary Summit was recently held in Sirte, Libya, on 27th February 2004.

The main objectives of the 2nd Extraordinary Summit were as follows: (a) to focus the attention of Africa's political leadership on making concrete financial arrangements for investment with particular regard to the agricultural sector; (b) to mobilize political will and commitment for tapping, conservation, and management of Africa's water resources for agriculture; (c) to make concrete arrangements for accelerated development, research, and marketing of strategic agricultural commodities; (d) to agree on a political framework for shared water management for agricultural development and for the development of other horizontally-linked sectors; and (e) to agree on appropriate institutional arrangements for the agriculture and water sectors at the continental level.

After a series of discussions involving experts in the agriculture and water sectors and Ministers of Agriculture and Water sectors and the Executive Council, the Extraordinary Summit in Sirte adopted decisions on concrete actions, which can be clustered into four major areas: policy issues, institutional arrangements, financing, and implementation and follow-up mechanism.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

Africa's agriculture and food production, in particular, is constrained by many factors including unfavorable policy and institutional environment. We have to recognize and appreciate the fact that, in most countries, agricultural production is dominated by smallholder farmers. Given the right incentives such as access to land, financial and credit services, price stabilization mechanisms, institutional farmers' organization, and market access within specific member countries, farmers can produce enough food to feed themselves and surplus for export to other African countries. We also have to accept the fact that not all countries will have the right soil, water, and weather conditions to produce all the food they need. Each country is endowed with different resources and agricultural production potentials. We need, therefore, to encourage countries to take stock for their comparative advantages and focus their efforts on a few strategic commodities. When countries manage to produce what they can produce best with the maximum efficiency possible, intra-regional trade should serve to even out imbalances and shortfalls in food production in one country or another. Based on this philosophy, it was proposed and endorsed in the Sirte Declaration to the effect that Africa should:

“Identify and support the development and production of strategic agricultural commodities and other key economic and industrial activities, in order to fully exploit the continent's special potentialities and comparative advantages of Member States in agricultural production and other economic activities, while reducing the expenditure and dependence on imports.”

One other area where Africa needs to make a significant departure from the past is the marginalization of livestock and fisheries in the context of food and nutrition security. In many instances, national, regional, and international agricultural development programs have tended to focus exclusively on plant genetic resources. Food security is narrowly often defined in terms of meeting calorific needs. We need to recognize the synergy between crops and livestock in the livelihood of smallholder farmers and to their complementarities in terms of environmental sustainability where appropriate husbandry practices are adopted. Hence, the Sirte Declaration, for the first time, seeks through two specific decisions, to urge member states to put livestock and fisheries high on the development agenda. The decision on livestock requires African governments to:

“Promote the development of livestock production including the improvement of natural pastures, distribution of veterinary products, and genetic resources with a view to improving food security.”

The role of science and technology in agricultural development cannot be overemphasized. We recognize the important role being played by the National Agricultural Research Systems, including universities, but we need to appreciate the fact that they cannot be expected to deliver what is expected of them under conditions of gross under-funding and declining resources. This applies also to the regional and international research institutions and networks. Hence, the Sirte Declaration seeks to promote the idea of establishments of Centers of Excellence for research and development, the functioning of which could be enhanced by the establishment of an agricultural development fund and more robust international partnership within the UN system (FAO, IFAD, UNEP, UNDP, HABITAT, etc.) as well as the CGIAR centers such as IFPRI, IITA, ILRI, CIMMYT, and others. Such centers should actively seek to bring the benefit of science and

technology, including biotechnology of genetically modified organisms, to the service of smallholder farmers on the African continent and mitigate any perceived or real adverse effects of the same.

Honorable Chairperson

The Sirte Declaration is ground breaking on many aspects of African agriculture. The most important of all, in my view, is the linkage it seeks to establish between agriculture and water at the policy level. African agriculture cannot continue to be left to the vagaries of nature. We need to take deliberate measures to promote irrigation — especially small-scale irrigation and rain water harvesting technologies. It is only in Africa where less than 10% of farm land is irrigated and yet we know that most of the high yield crop varieties — a product of the Green Revolution — have high demands for water and other inputs such as fertilizers, the cost of which is often beyond the financial means of the majority of smallholder farmers. The Sirte Declaration seeks among other things to encourage bilateral agreements on shared water resources and development of regional protocols by RECs to guide integrated water resources management. The establishment of African water facility under Water Vision 2025 is envisaged to facilitate articulation of water issues in agricultural and energy sectors development.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

In order for the proposed policies and strategies to be carried out, institutional arrangements from farmers' level, national, regional, and continental levels will be required. Empowerment of farmers, especially women, will be very important for uptake of technologies that can enhance agricultural productivity on the continent. Farmers' organization in whatever form will be important to enhance market access and participation in decision-making. Civil society needs to be facilitated and enjoined in enhancing farmers' rights and their position in decision-making. Farmers cannot continue to be on the receiving end of policy and research undertakings. They need to become active participants if uptake of technology is to take place at an accelerated rate.

At the continental level, the Sirte Declaration commits the AU to incorporate African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) and the Ministers Conference of Agriculture into the activities of specialized technical committees of the African Union. Other mandates include institutionalization of plant and animal genetic resources banks at the national and regional level and provisions for registration of intellectual property rights. To take care of recurrent disasters, establishment of early warning systems at national and regional and its coordination at continental level. Other institutional issues that will require a coordinated effort and support of our development partners include establishing an agricultural information network on crop and livestock production, food security and trading of agricultural commodities. African states are further challenged to work towards establishment of an African Common Market for agricultural products in line with the Lusaka Summit decision.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

The long list of tasks that the AU commission and the AU member states are being committed to fulfill has a similar long list of financial, human, and other resources requirements. The Sirte Declaration takes cognisance of this need and exhorts African governments, through the Commission, to work towards expeditious establishment of African Investment Bank as well as an African Agricultural Development Bank and implementation of the Declaration adopted in Maputo on the allocation of at least 10% of our national budgets to boost agricultural production.

Honorable Chairperson

Looking at the list of declarations that have been adopted in the past, some observers may be quick to conclude that the Sirte Declaration may be just another long list of wishful thinking, a dream that will never be fulfilled. But no, there is a difference. We have great hope in the present-day generation of African leaders. The ideals of NEPAD, the new found willingness of African statesmen to tackle Africa's development problems themselves without awaiting outside interventions and the establishment of the Commission as an implementation organ of the AU's Heads of States decisions, provides the impetus needed to turn Africa around. The African Commission has been tasked to work towards implementation of the Maputo and Sirte decisions on agriculture and water as well as all previous and future decisions on agriculture. Our job in the Commission is to implement those decisions. Our success or failure will be judged on this basis.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

The role of the Commission is largely one of coordination, mobilization, and drumming up appropriate support and action. We recognized that every area of human endeavor on the African continent is in urgent need of attention. However, in developing our plans and programs, we shall steer close to those areas of emphasis, which by virtue of the Commission's mandate, obligations, operational attributes or political framework, the Department can do well within available resources. We recognize, appreciate, and welcome the role and activities of all the players working on issues of Africa's agriculture and development, and we readily accept, as one of the principal functions of the Commission, the role to assist our development partners achieve their objectives. We are grateful for all the inputs and contributions, which our friends and partners are investing in an effort to improve Africa's agricultural development, and we are very encouraged by the fact that we are not alone in this onerous task of fulfilling the African dream for the future — to live in dignity and prosperity.

Research and academic institutions, both local and international, will have a big role to play. I am aware that IFPRI and other CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) centers have been going through a period of deep reflection in recent years in order to make their agenda more relevant to the aspiration of smallholder farmers and to the alleviation of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in the developing world and to sustainable development worldwide. If you are to ask me what is our biggest challenge, I can tell you that our biggest challenges are at the policy level. All human

beings have the ability to harness our capacity to bring about the positive transformation of our societies if given the right policy environment. I am confident that IFPRI will put to good use its mandate and work in partnership with continental, regional, and national organizations and institutions (NARS) to inform policymakers on what is required to create conducive environment for the elimination of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. I hope we can all do everything possible to achieve this objective by 2020 as you have humbly suggested in the theme of this conference.

I thank you all for listening.

Note: This note has not been edited. The views expressed in this summary note are those of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by or representative of IFPRI or of the cosponsoring or supporting organizations.

Appendix 1

ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
2nd Extraordinary Session
27 February 2004
Sirte, Libya
Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl. 1 (II)

SIRTE DECLARATION ON THE CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER IN AFRICA

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 2nd Extraordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 27 to 28 February 2004, in response, with appreciation, to the proposal to convene an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on Africa's economic development, which was initially made by the Leader of the Great Al Fatah Revolution, Brother Muammar Ghaddafi, during the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003;

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its programme NEPAD, aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the well being of our future generations;

Aware that the ingenuity and potentials of our countries and peoples can overcome all obstacles to development in the Continent, eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease and establish a rejuvenated Africa;

Noting the progress made in the establishment of the African Union and its programme NEPAD and the on-going process of Africa's economic integration and the need for building viable mechanisms of cooperation and partnership in the struggle to extricate the Continent from the scourge of under-development and continued marginalization in a globalized world economy;

Welcoming the outcome of the Ministerial meetings in both the agricultural and water sectors, including the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the African Water Vision for 2025;

Cognizant of the urgent need to respond to Africa's critical problems of hunger, poverty and disease by employing innovative complementary and comprehensive approaches aimed at optimizing the productivity of Africa's acknowledged massive resources and huge possibilities for sustainable development, taking into account the variations in resource potential and endowment in different regions and Member States of the Africa Union;

Further reaffirming that sustained, just and balanced development is based on partnership, utilizing resources and sharing of its benefits in accordance with the principles of international law;

Recognizing that to attain self-sufficiency in food production and eradicate hunger, it is necessary to promote strategic food crops;

Further recognizing the importance of livestock and fishery resources in ensuring food security, as well as the need to collectively protect, preserve and develop these resources;

Further aware of the need to effectively utilize the results of scientific research, for agricultural planning to tackle problems of desertification, soil and water conservation and environment protection for sustainable agricultural and animal resources development;

Further convinced of the fact that water is the main factor in all human endeavour and of the need to assure the preservation and distribution of water resources;

Concerned by the unsatisfactory present situation of integrated water and agriculture programmes in Africa as reported by the FAO Director General and **anxious** to reverse this unacceptable situation;

Determined to prioritize implementation of integrated water and agriculture programmes to enhance sustainable development in Africa;

Acknowledging the initiatives of bilateral and multilateral cooperating partners;

Further acknowledging the work done by the African Ministers of Water and of Agriculture and their active engagement in providing policy guidance and coordinator of water resources management and Agriculture development in Africa, and endorse their recommendations.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1. **Identify and support** the development and production of strategic agricultural commodities and other key economic and industrial activities, in order to fully exploit the continent's special potentialities and comparative advantages of Member States in agricultural production and other economic activities, while reducing the expenditure and dependence on imports;
2. **Promote** the development of livestock production including the improvement of natural pastures, distribution of veterinary products, and genetic resources with a view to improving food security;
3. **Promote** the development of fishery resources, develop fishing methods and equipment, improve facilities for their preservation, storage, distribution and processing, and encourage regional cooperation in the field of fishing, including the protection of fishery resources in our exclusive economic zones;
4. **Promote** the development of agricultural implements, livestock and fishery equipment as well as the techniques for the manufacturing of the necessary equipment to meet the continent's needs for agricultural production;
5. **Promote** the strengthening of Centres of Excellence and/or networks and their establishment where they do not exist for crops, animals, forestry, fisheries, range management, water management, desertification, drought, floods and environmental management and the strengthening of related tertiary and research institutions at continental and regional levels for the purpose of carrying out research in biotechnology (including Genetically Modified Organisms), conservation of agricultural biodiversity, biosafety, food storage, water harvesting and application, etc.;
6. **Strengthen** banks for genetic resources for agriculture and livestock at regional level and promote their establishment where they do not exist, as well as provide for registration of intellectual property rights;
7. **Enhance** Early Warning Systems at regional level and their establishment where they do not exist as well as their coordination at continental level in order to avert the negative impact of drought, desertification, floods, natural disasters and pests;
8. **Establish** an information network in the field of agricultural production for food security and the trading of commodities between markets and countries;
9. **Support** the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) in its role of preparing plans and policies related to water resource management on the continent and request the Chairperson of the AU Commission to adapt the mandates, structures and activities of AMCOW, the African Ministers Conference of Environment and the African Ministers Conference of Agriculture in order to integrate them into the activities of the Commission of the African Union and its Specialised Technical Committees;
10. **Encourage** bilateral agreements on shared water resources and **Enjoin** the Regional Economic Communities to develop appropriate regional protocols to guide integrated water resources management;
11. **Strengthen** existing river and lake water basins organizations where they exist and establish new ones whenever appropriate to *inter alia*:
 - Develop and promote water resources through support to infrastructure projects, including the construction of dams and canals, sinking of wells and providing irrigation equipment;
 - Exploit water falls to provide electric power and link it to the Continent's general network; and

- Carry out studies on untapped water in areas where it is available in large quantities to benefit the continent in accordance with the principles of international law, including the protocols concluded among all the riparian States.
12. **Adopt** the African Water Facility and acknowledge the African Water Vision 2025 for a comprehensive integrated development of the water sector;
 13. **Immediately establish** the African Common Market for agricultural products, according to the Lusaka Summit decision;
 14. **Promote** intra-African trade in agricultural and fishery products in order to correct discrepancies in food balances at both national and regional levels, and **explore** the use of new methods to settle payments for trade;
 15. **Develop** clear strategies in the field of export-oriented industries, promote regional cooperation and integration based on comparative advantages in establishing industries in particular, those required by agricultural development programme;
 16. **Further develop** the infrastructure, particularly in energy, transport, roads, communication and New Information and Communication Technology fields in order to increase productivity and promote local and foreign investments in these fields;
 17. **Ensure coordination** of African positions at WTO and other international trade negotiations fora in order to secure better terms of trade and to increase the share of the Continent in the world trade;
 18. **Develop** a common and coherent policy framework for public-private cooperation that will attract increased private capital into the agriculture and water sectors;
 19. **Develop** the human resource potential in the continent through education, training, skills development and exchange of expertise;
 20. **Ensure** gender balance in access to training, education, land, natural resources, loans and development programmes;
 21. **Expedite** action on the establishment of the African Investment Bank to ensure the financing of, *inter alia*, development projects in the field of agriculture and water;
 22. **Mandate** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to undertake a feasibility study for the expeditious establishment of an African Agricultural Development Fund;
 23. **Expedite** the implementation of NEPAD programmes in the field of agriculture and water and the implementation of the Declaration adopted in Maputo on the allocation of 10% of our national budgets to boost agricultural production;
 24. **Request** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to develop detailed plans of action, implement this Declaration, propose the necessary procedures and submit plans of action and detailed programmes to the Assembly at its ordinary session in 2005;
 25. **Entrust** the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) to:
 - (a) Follow-up the implementation of this Declaration and evaluate the progress made in the attainment of its objectives;
 - (b) Submit a report at every annual session of the Assembly, taking into account the achievements and identifying the obstacles and proposing the means to overcome them.

Done in Sirte on 27 February, 2004