

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT  
SERIKUWA CHAGWANG, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
KENYA AT THE SUMMIT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) MAPUTO  
17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 1993

## CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies, Honorable Members,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Secretary of SADC,  
Honorable Members of the Executive Council,  
Dear guests, I thank you for your presence.

It is a pleasure to be here today. I am honored to be part of this historic summit. I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary of SADC, Honorable Members of the Executive Council, and all the participants for making this summit a success. I would also like to thank the Government of Mozambique for its hospitality.

## CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION

The summit is a landmark event in the history of SADC. It is a testament to the commitment of the member states to work together for the benefit of the region. I believe that this summit will lead to a new era of co-operation and integration in the region. I am confident that the member states will work together to achieve the goals of SADC.

I would like to highlight some of the key areas of co-operation and integration that we should focus on. These include trade, investment, infrastructure, and human resources. We should work together to create a single market in the region. We should also work together to improve the infrastructure of the region. Finally, we should work together to develop the human resources of the region.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my commitment to the goals of SADC. I am confident that the member states will work together to achieve these goals. I am confident that the region will prosper and that the people of the region will benefit from the co-operation and integration of SADC.

Thank you very much for your attention. I am sure that you will all agree that this summit was a success. I am sure that the member states will work together to achieve the goals of SADC. I am sure that the region will prosper and that the people of the region will benefit from the co-operation and integration of SADC.

CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT  
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA AT THE SUMMIT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC), MAPUTO  
17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 1999**

**CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION**

Mr Chairman,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments,

Your Excellency, Executive Secretary of SADC,

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted at the singular honour done to me and my country by the invitation to attend this august occasion. I heartily congratulate the members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the establishment of the sub-regional organisation. I sincerely hope that your deliberations at this meeting will be successful and that you would appropriately advance your individual and collective national aspirations for the incoming millennium.

The Southern African Development Community has, no doubt, come a long way since those early days when it was saddled with an agenda largely determined by the need to survive the threat of the common enemy of apartheid. Let us thank God that those tragic days are not just behind us, but that we can now view the tragic episode as the ultimate chapter in the long march to the liberation of our continent from foreign domination.

At this juncture, I wish to extend my warm greetings to the last Chairman of SADC, Madiba Nelson Mandela whose person deservedly has been and will forever remain an icon of the anti-apartheid struggle. I wish him God's blessing and happy retirement. I also congratulate President Thabo Mbeki for succeeding Madiba at home as well as the new Chairman of SADC.

It is highly commendable that the Southern African region has been able to turn the advantages of geographical proximity, shared political experiences and commonality of purpose into a broad spectrum of multidimensional co-operation in most spheres of human endeavour.

Since the transformation of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) to SADC in 1992, your organisation has made giant strides in the progressive development of its core economic objectives. This has been made



possible by the priority accorded to the less controversial areas of inter state co-operation. You have managed to successfully champion the cause of integrating the various economies within the sub-region by using a model that allows for the allocation of functions, based on comparative advantage.

Unfortunately, the numerous political crises faced by your Community in the last couple of years have distracted attention from the positive aims of building appropriate capacities to enhance the welfare of your peoples. Conflicts within the region remain daunting, but your prompt response to some of the situations have been exemplary exercises in good neighbourliness and conflict containment.

Mr Chairman, if the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) predates your sub-regional organisation by a few years, it is only due to the obvious reason of earlier exit from colonial domination for many of our members. However, as you may be aware, our efforts at regional integration have suffered numerous setbacks, including difficulties of harmonising parallel institutions, and lately intra-state conflicts resulting in untold hardship to our peoples.

There is no doubt that the problems of ECOWAS have been compounded by the political trend in my country in the last decades. Nigeria is the largest member state in every sense and our internal leadership difficulties are proportionately transmitted to the sub-region. In the same vein, the new dispensation in Nigeria is a new opportunity for re-invigorating regional integration. Personally, since my modest contribution to the birth of ECOWAS, I have firmly believed in co-operation with our immediate neighbours as a major plank and a starting point of Nigeria's foreign policy. Our Administration fully accepts the challenge of making ECOWAS a viable regional organisation that will also serve as a major building block for the continental integration of Africa as a whole.

Mr Chairman, rapid technological innovations and advances in the telecommunications industry have reduced the world into a global village. The byword is globalisation and its main features are :

- (i) unprecedented surge in international trade,
- (ii) vast financial flows across borders,
- (iii) the exposure of the domestic markets in developing countries.

The world may be said to be entering the new millennium as a global village, but it is a village yet to be wholly made up of the total sum, as Africa trails behind, virtually de-linked from the mainstream of global realities.

Africa must awaken to the imperative of globalisation. This we can do successfully if we study the examples of East and South-East Asia and Latin America in deploying the laws of *real politik* to redefine our national and regional interests and pursue them more aggressively



than before. For the Asians and the Latin Americans, the formation of their respective regional blocs reflect a desire and the will to tame the globalisation shrew, so that rather than excluding, it is inclusive, and rather than marginalising, it integrates.

Put bluntly, Africa's biggest handicap so far has been our lacklustre progress in economic co-operation and integration. In 1970 we began the process with the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act which envisaged an African Economic Community by the turn of this century. Unfortunately, the consequent progress towards our integrational goals have been slow and deficient in political will and determination.

Our main hope now is the Abuja Treaty of 1991, establishing the African Economic Community. This is the platform on which to consolidate our vision of a viable continental Community, capable of competing with the other regional blocs ; capable of promoting our common interests and capable of lifting Africa into the global mainstream of contemporary economic interaction.

We have been unable to complete the projects and programmes set out for the first stage of the Abuja Treaty. But we should not despair. We must, instead, turn this delay round and make efforts to gain lost ground. With dedication and tenacity of purpose, we can achieve success.

In spite of problems yet to be resolved in our respective regional groupings, I am convinced that SADC and ECOWAS are two dynamic organisations with enormous potential to be the cornerstones of the African integration process.

Mr Chairman, I see our two regions beckoned by history to provide the impetus for a timely realisation of the African Economic Community of our dreams. I therefore call on our two Communities to explore, immediately, the prospects and possibilities of co-operation, both at the institutional level of the two Secretariats and in enhanced bilateral interaction between the various member states, under an inter-regional framework.

I need not emphasis the need for close consultations on key African questions, with a view to co-ordinating initiatives and actions that will amplify the mutual effectiveness of our Communities and which will strengthen Africa. We can start our co-operation by sharing and exchanging information on the experiences gathered in our respective sub-regions on projects, activities and regional policies. These steps would be logically followed by the exploration of the synergies and complementarities of our two groups through the joint design, harmonisation and integration of action plans.

Within the wide horizon of co-operation we can examine sectoral efforts in such areas as trade, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, energy and communications, just to mention a few. We can take a look at our respective investment policies, fiscal



arrangements and tariff regimes so that we determine potential areas of collaboration. Equally, we should examine possibilities of co-operation in the building and strengthening of sub-regional capacities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. This becomes more appealing, as sub-regional initiatives are increasingly being accorded primacy in the search for solutions to the various crises on the continent.

Mr Chairman, you are no doubt aware of the resolution adopted at the recently concluded 35th Session of the OAU in Algiers, making the year 2000, *Year of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa*. The initial steps to fulfil these objectives would require measures that would meet, not only the contingency of the moment, but also our future needs. Already, ECOWAS countries have adopted the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of light weapons. The moratorium will enable Governments of ECOWAS member states to evolve practical programmes, with the assistance of the international community, aimed at controlling the spread and illicit use of light weapons. I am aware of a similar effort being spearheaded for your sub-region by South Africa. Inter-regional co-operation in ensuring the success of this Moratorium need hardly be emphasised, because small arms would no longer be available for dissident groups to carry out their destabilising activities.

Mr Chairman, in order to further advance and enhance co-operation between our two sub-regions, I wish to propose the mutual extension of the freedom of movement of persons that already exists in our sub-regions as a prelude to the establishment of a Community without barriers. Where this is not immediately possible on account of local exigencies, there should be easy and uninhibited movement of the nationals of our two communities, through minimised restrictions on genuine visitors. This, I hope, would bring to the ordinary citizen an impacted awareness of the fraternal essence and ultimate commonality of our aspirations for continental integration.

There is also the need to improve trade in products and services of the two regions through such measures as import concessions, import liberalisation and even common tariff regimes. Such potential boost to inter-African trade can be complemented by regular inter-regional trade fairs and other investment promotion schemes.

Finally, I wish to propose that we embark on drawing up a mechanism to govern these areas of co-operation, which the Secretariats of our two Organisations can work on. They should identify potential areas of co-operation between us. Thereafter we would sign a Memorandum of Understanding, or any other relevant legal instrument, that would help to cement the envisaged vistas of co-operation.

I am well aware of the physical distance that separates our two regions and other logistical constraints that lie in the path of co-operation. However, where the political will exists, various avenues abound for accomplishing the vital tasks before our two

sub-regions. We must muster the political will for co-operation. We must provide the springboard for other sub-regions to rally round our integrative umbrella for the Continent. It is thus my sincere hope that the fruits sown at this Summit will germinate into a new era of meaningful fraternal and integrative co-operation between our two Communities.

I thank you all.

DEVELOPMENT WITH HUMAN FACE



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