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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH  
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES  
AND PEOPLES

UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

(Meeting jointly in preparation for the  
International Conference in Support  
of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and  
Namibia)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES  
OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA

Report of the Organizing Committee

1. At its 1st meeting, on 1 February 1977, the Organizing Committee decided to set up a Working Group composed of Algeria, India, Mexico, Mozambique, Norway, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, together with the representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), to study and report with detailed proposals in regard to the planning and organization of the Conference.
2. The Working Group held six meetings, at the conclusion of which it submitted a first report setting out its recommendations in regard to those questions, among the most urgent, on which study had been completed.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Organizing Committee considered and approved the proposals of its Working Group with certain amendments. The recommendations of the Organizing Committee, which take into account the views expressed by members as well as information supplied to it by the Government of Mozambique and the United Nations Secretariat, are set out below.
4. The Organizing Committee intends, subject to any directives which it may receive from the joint meeting of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia, to pursue its study of other matters relating to the Conference and to report thereon in due course (see para. 27 below).

### 1. DATES OF THE CONFERENCE

5. Subject to receipt by the Secretary-General of the necessary voluntary contributions or pledges to finance the Conference in time to complete technical preparations, the Organizing Committee recommends that the Conference be held from 16 to 21 May. The Government of Mozambique has given an assurance that these dates would be acceptable to it.

### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

6. The Organizing Committee notes that the purpose of the Conference, as stated in General Assembly resolution 31/145 of 17 December 1976, is to mobilize world-wide support for, and assistance to, the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle for self-determination and independence.

7. To this end, the Conference should seek to accomplish the following tasks:

(a) Review the present situation in Zimbabwe and Namibia with a view to promoting world-wide support for the peoples of those Territories in their struggle for self-determination and independence;

(b) Propose action to be taken in various fields by Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, other intergovernmental bodies and by non-governmental organizations, for the liberation struggle in those Territories.

8. The Conference should conclude its work by adopting a political declaration and a programme of specific actions and measures to be undertaken by Governments, specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, other intergovernmental bodies and by non-governmental bodies, in support of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia and their national liberation movements.

9. To facilitate the work of the Conference, a working group should prepare preliminary texts of the above at Headquarters prior to the Conference.

### 3. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

10. In the opinion of the Organizing Committee, two basic considerations should be taken into account when establishing criteria for determining participation in the Conference. The first is the purpose of the Conference, namely to mobilize world-wide support for, and assistance to, the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle for self-determination and independence. The second is the limited availability in Maputo of conference facilities and accommodation.

11. On the basis of the first consideration, the Conference should ideally be open to participation by all Member States and interested organizations. However, according to available information, conference facilities at Maputo are limited. The main conference hall can accommodate up to 244 participants seated at tables and up to 400 observers not at tables. There is also a smaller conference room with a seating capacity of up to 100 persons. Hotel

accommodation is available for up to 400 persons, including 60 conference staff.

12. Taking into account the limited facilities, the Organizing Committee recommends that the Conference should in principle be composed of the States members of the United Nations bodies most directly concerned with the decolonization of Zimbabwe and Namibia together with such other Member States as express a desire to participate, OAU and the national liberation movements of southern Africa recognized by OAU. These participating States and organizations should be represented at the highest possible level. Other intergovernmental organizations, including specialized agencies and institutions forming part of, or associated with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations which have a special interest, might be invited to send observers subject to the availability of space and accommodation.

13. Basing itself on the above considerations, the Organizing Committee has prepared for consideration by the joint meeting the following list of participants and observers which, in its opinion, might attend the Conference. It is the view of the Organizing Committee that the Government of Mozambique should be made aware that the anticipated attendance at the Conference would probably be 400 persons but that this figure could be exceeded.

#### A. Participants

14. The following would attend as participants:

(a) States members of the following bodies: Security Council, Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, United Nations Council for Namibia, Special Committee against Apartheid, as well as those members of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa which are not members of the aforementioned bodies.

(b) Other States Members of the United Nations which after announcement of the holding of the Conference, communicated officially to the Organizing Committee their desire to do so:

(c) Organization of African Unity (General Assembly resolution 31/145);

(d) United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, as an official of the United Nations Council for Namibia:

(e) National liberation movements recognized by OAU (in consultation with OAU): SWAPO, Patriotic Front (Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU)), Patriotic Front (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU)), African National Council of Zimbabwe (ANC (Zimbabwe)), African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC).

15. In view of the limited space and accommodation, the participants should be asked to restrict the size of their delegations, preferably to not more than three members. All participants should communicate to the Secretary-General not less than five weeks before the opening of the Conference their intention to participate and the composition of their delegation.

#### B. Observers

16. The following bodies would be invited to attend the Conference as observers:

(a) Intergovernmental regional organizations: League of Arab States (LAS), Commonwealth Secretariat, Organization of Islamic Conference, Organization of American States (OAS), European Economic Community (EEC) and Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

(b) Interested specialized agencies within the United Nations system, and other organizations in particular: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank (IBRD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

(c) National liberation movements recognized by OAU (in consultation with OAU) which are not referred to in paragraph 14 (e) above.

(d) Interested non-governmental organizations which communicate in writing to the Organizing Committee not less than five weeks before the opening of the Conference their desire to attend as observers, to be considered in the light of availability of space and accommodation.

17. Because of limited space and accommodation, organizations sending observers should be asked to restrict their delegations to not more than two members.

#### C. Special guests

18. The following special guests would be invited to attend the Conference:

(a) Two to three leading statesmen or other eminent persons to address the Conference;

(b) Chairman of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;

(c) Chairman of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa;

(d) Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

(e) Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries.

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#### 4. INVITATIONS

19. The Organizing Committee recommends that all Member States be informed as soon as possible of the decisions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia concerning the Conference, so that States wishing to do so may have ample opportunity to communicate their desire to participate in the Conference to the Organizing Committee.

20. The Organizing Committee further recommends that invitations to attend the Conference, either as participants or observers, should be issued by the Secretary-General.

#### 5. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

21. Limited facilities will make it possible to hold only two meetings with simultaneous interpretation at the same time.

22. Because simultaneous interpretation will undoubtedly be required for plenary meetings, which will be devoted mainly to policy statements, the Organizing Committee recommends that the Conference should establish one Committee of the Whole to prepare the texts of both the political declaration and the programme of actions and measures for approval by the plenary. The Committee of the Whole should meet in closed session and should, as appropriate, assign its morning meetings to the consideration of the declaration and its afternoon meetings to the consideration of the programme of actions and measures. Informal working groups may, as appropriate, be established by the Committee of the Whole. The task of the working groups would be to carry out consultations among participants and to reflect the trend in the plenary meetings with a view to expediting the work of the Committee of the Whole.

23. Because of the limited time available, each delegation participating in the Conference should restrict itself to one policy statement in plenary and should endeavour to limit the duration of that statement.

#### 6. DOCUMENTATION

24. Documentation of the Conference should consist of the following:

- (a) Background information prepared by the Secretariat.
- (b) A compilation of relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, OAU and the non-aligned movement;
- (c) Information on the present situation (to be submitted by the national liberation movements of Zimbabwe and Namibia).

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(d) Information which the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system should be invited to submit on their assistance programmes;

(e) Documents submitted by interested non-governmental organizations which the Organizing Committee may decide to circulate to participants.

25. To avoid heavy transportation costs, the documents referred to above, except in the case of late submissions, will not be available for distribution at Maputo. The Secretariat will have in its possession a very limited number of copies for reference purposes only. Participants will, however, be expected to bring such documents as they require. To facilitate this, the Secretariat should make available to participants in New York not less than two weeks before the commencement of the Conference a list of published documents, including the most recent reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia, together with copies of documents prepared for the Conference by the national liberation movements concerned, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

26. If participants or observers wish to circulate documents after the deadline of two weeks prior to the Conference, they should be required to deliver not less than 400 copies of such documents to Maputo in English and French texts as required. Exception will be made for the national liberation movements concerned which may, if needed and subject to the availability of resources, be given assistance in this connexion by the United Nations Secretariat at Maputo.

## 7. OTHER MATTERS

27. Subject to any directives which it may receive from the parent bodies, the Organizing Committee will continue to study and report on other matters relating to the Conference, in particular:

- (a) Guidelines for procedure;
- (b) Information brochure for participants and observers;
- (c) Officers of the Conference;
- (d) Eminent personalities to be invited;
- (e) Publicity;
- (f) Conference facilities;
- (g) Draft political declaration;
- (h) Draft programme of actions and measures;

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- (i) Conclusion of the Conference;
- (j) Report of the Conference;
- (k) Publication of the political declaration and programme of actions and measures;
- (l) Other matters relating to the Conference.

28. To assist it in the above studies, the Organizing Committee has decided to maintain its Working Group.

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