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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 16 August 1976 from the Permanent Representatives  
of Benin and Romania to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Joint Solemn Declaration of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Benin, signed at Neptun (Romania) on 23 July 1976 by Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Mr. Mathieu Kerekou, President of the People's Republic of Benin.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this Declaration circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 33 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Thomas S. BOYA  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of the  
People's Republic of Benin  
to the United Nations

(Signed) Ion DATCU  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of the  
Socialist Republic of Romania  
to the United Nations

\* A/31/150.

ANNEX

Joint Solemn Declaration of the Socialist Republic of Romania  
and the People's Republic of Benin

The Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Benin,

Taking into consideration the relationship of close friendship and co-operation existing between the two countries and their peoples,

Motivated by a common desire to develop the relationship of co-operation between the two States, in all areas of mutual interest, on the basis of respect for the principles and rules of international law,

Aware of the responsibility of all States, whatever their political, economic and social system and their level of development, for the establishment of a climate of peace and security in the world,

Appreciating the fact that the solidarity and cohesion of all the progressive, democratic and anti-imperialist forces are an essential prerequisite for the promotion of the process of innovative transformations leading to the establishment of a new democratic and equitable system of relations between nations,

Noting the special contribution made by the African peoples to the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism and racism and for the establishment of a system of justice, understanding and close co-operation among all nations on our planet,

Noting with satisfaction the victories won by the African national liberation movements in their just struggle for national independence and being determined to continue to give every support to the national liberation movements in the Territories still under colonial domination,

Resolved to continue to contribute to the struggle for the final abolition of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and the policy of apartheid, for the elimination of the old policy of domination and injustice, interference in the internal affairs of others and the oppression of some peoples by others, and for the establishment in international life of a new policy based on firm respect for international legality and ethics and for the right of each nation to decide its own destiny,

Convinced of the need for the establishment of a new international economic order which will permit the unimpeded development of each nation in accordance with its aspirations and its legitimate interests,

Stressing the need for greater efforts at the national and international levels to ensure the more rapid advancement of the developing countries and to reduce the gap between those countries and the developed nations,

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Reaffirming their support for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their determination to contribute to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in international life,

Convinced that general and complete disarmament, and first and foremost nuclear disarmament, is a vital factor for the guaranteeing of peace in the world,

Expressing their firm conviction that relations between States should be based on respect for the sacred right of each country to full sovereignty, to national independence and to security,

I. Solemnly declare their common will:

To maintain and develop their relationship of close friendship and co-operation in all areas;

To extend and diversify trade and economic and technical co-operation on a mutually advantageous basis and in areas of common interest;

To take measures designed to develop their co-operation in transportation, industry, agriculture and geology, by the establishment of suitable methods and arrangements for co-operation;

To expand and enhance their co-operation in science, culture, sports and tourism, in order to promote a better knowledge of the material and spiritual values of the Romanian and Beninese peoples;

To extend and intensify their co-operation in political and diplomatic matters, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, within or outside international organizations.

II. Solemnly declare their common will to base their mutual relations and their relations with all other States on the following principles:

1. The sacred right of every State to a free existence, to independence and national sovereignty, to peace and to security;

2. The inalienable right of every people to decide its fate alone, to choose and develop freely its political, economic and social system in accordance with its wishes and its own interests, without any foreign interference, and the obligation of every State to struggle for the complete abolition of colonialism;

3. The complete equality of rights of all States, regardless of their size, geographical location, level of development, social system, membership or non-membership of military alliances;

4. The sovereign right of every people to development and progress and to exercise full sovereignty over its natural resources;

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5. The obligation of States not to interfere, in any form or under any pretext or circumstance whatsoever, in the internal or foreign affairs of other States;

6. Respect for the inviolability of frontiers and for the territorial integrity of each State, which requires States to refrain from any attempt to undermine the national unity and territorial integrity of another State, since such action constitutes a serious threat to peace and international security;

7. The obligation of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force and from any constraint of a military, political, economic or other nature against any other State;

8. The imprescriptible right of each State to defend itself against any threat to its sovereignty and its national independence, which implies recourse to all means, including military means, in the event that it is subjected to armed aggression;

9. The obligation of all States to settle their international differences in all circumstances by peaceful means;

10. The right of every State to participate on an equal footing in the discussion and solution of international problems of common interest;

11. The right and duty of States, irrespective of their social system, to co-operate in all matters, on a basis of mutual advantage, with a view to promoting the economic and social advancement of all nations, particularly of the developing nations, and maintaining international peace and security;

12. The right of every State to have free access to the achievements of science and technology;

13. The obligation of States to carry out faithfully the commitments which they have made, in accordance with international law.

The fundamental principles of international law mentioned above are closely linked and each principle must be interpreted in the context of the other principles.

III. Solemnly declare their common resolve to work resolutely with other States in order to:

Develop relations of friendship and co-operation with all States, on the basis of the principles mentioned above;

Contribute to the final eradication of colonialism in Africa and in all other regions of the world, and to the abolition of all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid in southern Africa;

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Establish relations based on complete equality of rights among all the nations of the world and respect for the right of every people freely to choose its social and political system;

Co-operate with each other and with other States for the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in the world, for the democratization and greater effectiveness of the United Nations, and for the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the promotion of co-operation among all States, irrespective of their social system, in order to create a better and fairer world;

Make their contribution, together with other nations, to the implementation of specific and effective measures designed to eliminate underdevelopment and to bring about nuclear disarmament with a view to strengthening international peace and security;

Participate actively in the international negotiations aimed at achieving a just settlement of the complex problems of the international situation.

IV. With a view to implementing the provisions of this Solemn Joint Declaration, the Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Benin declare their common willingness to intensify their consultations in the future, at various levels, through the diplomatic channel and through the exchange of visits and periodic meetings of their representatives.

Done at Neptun, on 23 July 1976, in duplicate in the Romanian and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For  
the Socialist Republic of Romania

(Signed) Nicolae CEAUSESCU  
President of the Republic

For  
the People's Republic of Benin

(Signed) Mathieu KEREKOU  
President of the Republic

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