

Mauritius Declaration

In recent years the international scene has experienced severe upheavals resulting in the end of the confrontation between East and West.

This situation gives reason for hope, in view of the expectations it generates for a new world order. It has facilitated the resolution of serious regional conflicts, particularly in Cambodia; it has advanced the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa; and it has made possible the historic mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO.

Despite democratic progress in the world, this situation is the cause of serious concern and continues to pose serious threats both for international security and for the domestic security of states, as a result of the renaissance of extreme nationalist movements, political and religious fanaticism and armed confrontations, as well as greater risks of nuclear proliferation.

On the economic front, despite the existence of a few growth areas, the world is experiencing a widespread crisis with painful social consequences for general populations, a worrying increase in unemployment, greater inequalities and the growth of poverty.

In the countries of the South and specifically in Africa, the crisis is more dramatic still, as the result of the ongoing decline in commodity prices and the requirement to reconcile rigorous structural adjustment plans with the unavoidable need to deal with people's needs.

We, the heads of state, government and delegation of countries using French as a common language,

MEETING

in Mauritius to reaffirm our sense of community and reinforce our commitment to work together to create a better future for our citizens and the international community,

NOTING

that in the new international context, multilateralism is an indispensable tool for the attempt to resolve the problems faced by the international community,

SALUTE

the historic role played by the United Nations and the peacekeeping role of its forces, and repeat our full support for the Secretary-General of the United Nations in implementing his Agenda for Peace and his Agenda for Development, based on respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in the domestic affairs of States,