

peoples. Democracy is not a model to be superimposed on certain states, but an objective to be achieved by all peoples."¹

f) In these circumstances, many participants have become concerned that Africa risks becoming marginalized. As one participant said, "People were pessimistic about Asia barely a quarter-century ago. A Nobel Prize laureate in economics wrote in *Le drame de l'Asie* that industrial logic was incompatible with Confucian and Buddhist tradition. Southeast Asia was thought to be doomed to economic stagnation, famine and war." This proves that pessimistic forecasts can turn out to be wrong, and that trends can be reversed. With conflicts, problems of development take on an urgent nature. Moreover, as the heads of state and government pointed out in the action plan for development and economic integration adopted at the Lagos Summit of the OAU, it is necessary "to emphasize everything concerning human resource development, beginning with the elimination of illiteracy." Human development is a decisive factor in development in general and conflict prevention. Since the 1970s, the dominant concept of development, determined until then essentially in terms of economic growth, has expanded to include the well-being of the individual, making him or her not only a factor of production but also the purpose and means of development.

g) Africa has not stood idly by in the face of these new challenges. A powerful movement of transformation toward a market economy is under way in many countries and sub-regions. Decentralization is also developing in the management of public affairs. At another level, democracy is gaining ground; among its many achievements are the African Human Rights Court.

The emergence of the OAU's conflict prevention mechanism is a valuable asset. It has already enhanced its credibility through successes in the field. The African Centre for Training in Conflict Prevention and Settlement, the Libreville and Nigeria mediations, and the resolution of part of the Tuareg issue all give evidence of the vitality of Africa and the OAU.

h) These efforts deserve the support of la Francophonie. Far from being a structure imposed on Africa, the institution actually emerged there from the determination of Africans, a majority of whom are its members. Its objectives and Africa's coincide, as do its projects and those of the OAU. One participant pointed out that since the Chaillot and Mauritius summits, the heads of state and government of la Francophonie have highlighted the importance of peace and security issues; they have stressed the scope of the tasks ahead; and they have invited members of the international community to become more involved in preventing, managing and solving crises.

i) Some speakers pointed to la Francophonie's lack of political power at a time of major challenges, particularly that of maintaining peace. They recommended combining efforts with inter-African organizations on conflict prevention issues. However,

¹ This and other quotations have been translated from the French.