

confusion over who is researching what. It is therefore crucial to liaise with other groups and organisations working in the same field.

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JOURNAL OF AFRICAN MARXISTS FIRST COLLOQUIUM ON CRISIS AND TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA, AUGUST 11-13, 1986, CONCLUDING STATEMENT

We are pleased to be able to include this Statement from the Conference of a journal with whom we have collaborated over the years. Their emphasis on the struggle for democratisation echoes one of the strong messages coming from the 1986 ROAPE Conference.

The Colloquium was attended by over a hundred participants from the following countries. Angola, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The following movements were present: The New Democratic Movement (NDM), The United Front (UF), The Green Book Study (GBS), The Trade Union Congress (TUC), The Committee for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR), The Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guards (KNRG) — all from Ghana; SWAPO, ANC, Socialist Workers and Farmers Party of Nigeria (SWFP); Ligue Democratique du Senegal (LD/MPT); the Peoples' Union of the Cameroon (UPC). The Colloquium fulfilled the main objectives of the *Journal of African Marxists* which is to provide a forum for the exposition of the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism in the conditions of Africa. The meeting noted that the continent is locked in a deep and fundamental crisis of neo-colonialism and concluded that the solution is revolution and social transformation.

The view emerged that there is a need to advance the struggle for the use of scientific socialism as a guide to political and economic independence in Africa.

It was felt that a major concern of Marxist-Leninists in Africa is to struggle for the democratisation of society. Without this, there can be no progress or development. Therefore Marxist-Leninists should strengthen democratic organisations and join in political struggles in defence of human rights which is a crucial issue in Africa today. To this end we should co-operate with all progressive forces in Africa.

African Marxists should promote the causes of the labouring people — the workers and peasants, the oppressed and the disadvantaged in society for their economic, political and social rights.

The Colloquium gave serious consideration to the question of the liberation of women and concluded that this is a fundamental problem which must be advanced with all vigour. Participants recognised the need to improve the practices within existing movements and organisations with regard to the woman question. Women must be fully integrated into all levels of struggle to ensure that they take their rightful place as equals with the achievement of democratic and socialist societies.

The meeting expressed solidarity with the ANC and SWAPO and strongly supported the campaign for mandatory comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime. It condemned the positions of Reagan and Thatcher on South Africa and the hypocritical attitudes of the EEC.

The meeting demanded the removal of all foreign military bases from Africa and resolutely condemned the present invasion of Angola by nazi South African troops. The stand of the frontline states against South Africa was warmly acclaimed.

The participants expressed their solidarity with the non-aligned Movement summit to be held shortly in Harare, Zimbabwe, and urged the Heads of States to take a firm stand against apartheid and imperialism.

In pursuance of all the above, the Colloquium urged the development of close co-operation between all progressive forces on the continent and the realisation of concrete solidarity in spirit and action.

In line with its international outlook, the Colloquium affirmed the need for solidarity with all socialist and progressive forces throughout the world.

The meeting warmly thanked the Ghana National Committee of the *Journal of African Marxists* for their tremendous effort in convening the Colloquium; the Ghana Institute for Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) for the use of their facilities, the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution for their participation, support and the warm message received from the political counsellor for the Economic Development of the CDR's and through them the Government of Ghana.

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