

New Directions

Volume 1 | Issue 4

Article 5

6-1-1974

Pan African Congress Resolutions

Editorial Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections>



Part of the [African History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Staff, Editorial (1974) "Pan African Congress Resolutions," *New Directions*: Vol. 1: Iss. 4, Article 5.
Available at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol1/iss4/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Directions by an authorized editor of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.



PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS . . .**On Science and Technology****On Culture****On Economic Development**

The following are highlights from key resolutions of the Sixth Congress.

ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**CONSIDERING THAT:**

Science is the study, by observation and experiment, of the phenomena of nature and human development, the study of human society and human thought. As such, it remains accessible to all the peoples of the world;

As a result of colonial and neo-colonial exploitation, African peoples have experienced a temporary retardation in the acquisition and development of a contemporary science and technology;

Africa possesses huge repositories of raw materials which, when utilized in the interest and for the welfare of the working African masses, and when utilized for the happiness of mankind would then contribute to the socio-economic transformation of African societies. Therefore, technology and science must contribute to the liberation and progress of Pan African territories which still remain under the yokes of imperialism and colonialism. Moreover, technology and science must enable Pan African societies to overcome neo-colonialism.

THEREFORE, the Sixth Pan African Congress was assembled in Tanzania from June 19-27, 1974—

A) For the assessment of Pan African skills

1. RECOMMENDS that, through self-reliance, technical skill development for the masses be mobilized;

2. RECOMMENDS that Pan African scientists and technologists be strongly encouraged to exchange and co-ordinate scientific information, scientific and training techniques—for the benefit of All African societies and the Pan African working class;

3. RECOMMENDS that the provision of scientific and technological services should not be for exploitation of man by man.

Being aware that due to the acute shortage of scientists and technologists in their countries, most Pan African countries are continually recruiting scientists and technologists from non-Pan African countries to meet their urgent requirements. The Congress appeals to the Pan African countries while recruiting scientists and technologists from abroad, for equal qualification and experience where possible to give preference to Pan African scientists and technologists. Similarly the Congress appeals to Pan African scientists and technologists in offering their services to give preference to work in Pan African countries notwithstanding the superficial differences in remuneration that may exist between the terms and conditions of service in a Pan African country in contrast to a non-Pan African country.

4. RECOMMENDS to give top priority to scientific and technological education including progressive political and ideological concepts to prevent the "brain drain" in the Pan African communities.

B. For technology and the development of natural resources

1. RECOMMENDS that all Pan African countries consider the fields of effective co-operation using their scientists and technical experts in exchanging information and experience in implementing the provisions of the African Convention of 1968 on the preservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

2. RECOMMENDS that there be overall development planning among Pan African countries for the efficient utilization of their natural resources. Furthermore, countries which share common resources should consult each other about the use and development of these resources.

3. RECOMMENDS that all Pan African countries draft policies to conserve water, oil and mineral resources and prevent their pollution and depletion.

4. STRONGLY ENCOURAGES African scientists and technologists to develop ways to use solar, nuclear and other energy sources in order to conserve hydraulic, oil and other energy resources.

5. SUGGESTS that African scientists and technologists develop ways to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to improve the lives of the African masses and that all Pan African people condemn the use and testing of nuclear power for warfare.

6. RECOMMENDS that a high priority be placed on the identification and optimal utilization of Pan African natural resources. Moreover, ENVIRONMENTAL considerations *must* accompany all proposed scientific and technological projects for the development of those natural resources.

C. For Health and Nutrition

1. AFFIRMS that health care is a basic right. Therefore no one, whether urban or rural, should be denied health services because he cannot afford them.

2. RECOMMENDS that Pan African countries organise health services in favour of the masses as one of top priorities and institute in their countries social medicines for the benefit of the workers.

3. RECOMMENDS that the emphasis of health care delivery systems focus on preventive medicine. Furthermore, health education classes be provided for the masses so that they can be responsible for their own health care.

4. AFFIRMS that the priorities of health care be determined by the health needs of the people.

5. RECOMMENDS that paramedical teams be recruited and trained from among the people in the area to be served.

Continued on Page 29



6. RECOMMENDS that the African cooperative concept of team delivery of medical services emphasize the working unity of traditional modern physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of illness;

7. DECLARES that Pan African peoples condemn the genocidal use of drugs and experimentation of the same and condemn all artificial insemination research on people.

8. RECOMMENDS that Pan African people develop agricultural programmes with emphasis on meeting the nutritional needs of our people and preventing famine. □

ON CULTURE

Culture emanates from the people because they are creative and the agents of change in society. Culture enables Man to bring order into his life and transform the world. It therefore embraces all that is social, political, economic and technical.

Culture is essentially dynamic, that is to say, it is both rooted in the people and geared towards the future. We must return to our sources, our values; not because we should be engulfed in them, but to make a critical assessment in order to eliminate factors that have become outdated and inhibiting, factors that are foreign, misleading and alienating, introduced by colonialism and select those factors which are sound, bring them up to date and make them universal.

The man of Pan African culture must identify with this people and assume his responsibilities fully. Through his involvement, he should make possible the radical transformation of minds in order to fight under-development more effectively. Culture emanates from the people and should remain with them.

We should at all costs ensure that it's not exploited by a minority class or caste. In view of our historical situation, Pan African culture should be a weapon for the liberation and establishment of socialized societies. In order to be truly popular, it should, as far as possible, be expressed in the languages of our peoples.

Our cultural policy should be our objective and constructive assessment of the cultural policy of neo-colonialism which is no longer violence but has assumed a refined, insidious and therefore very dangerous form. To be of mutual service to Pan African peoples, Pan African Culture should be in the service of Africa and inspired by it. To be effective, it should avoid all racial, religious and ethnic considerations—and take into account the historical situation of all Pan African peoples. To achieve these objectives we must:

1. In our schools, attach great importance to scientific and technical subjects. At all levels of education, pupils and students should be involved in productive activities. The school must be an instrument in the service of the people.

2. In our educational programmes, make sure, first and foremost, that the child knows his locality, his nation, Africa and finally the world; we must also rehabilitate our values and heroes who were treated with contempt by colonialism.

3. In our various countries, oppose neo-colonialist and imperialist literature which pours contempt on the people and their values.

4. Make African languages written languages and media for expressing scientific thought.

Continued on Page 30

Discussing Congress at its conclusion were **Dr. Robert E. Lee**, an American dentist now residing in Ghana and **Ras Makonnen**, (left) a native of Guyana now living in Kenya who participated in the 1945 Congress in Manchester, England.

Pan African Congress Resolutions

Continued from page 29

30

5. Democratise education by making it free and accessible to all children up to the highest level of their ability.

6. To organise adult education everywhere to arouse political awareness against all forms of domination and increase our productivity.

7. To ensure the emancipation of the Pan African woman by giving her all her political and legal rights and by allowing her to participate in the production process.

8. Each Pan African state should review its present educational system in order to remove any neo-colonialist influence and speed up the training of cadres. We should make every effort to reduce foreign technical assistance by training our own nationals.

9. To facilitate communication between our cadres and the Pan African masses, we should use our national languages as media of instruction in our universities.

10. We should avoid rejecting our own techniques and traditional means of communication which should rather be reviewed and modernized.

11. We should attach great importance to traditional medicine and modernize it.

12. We should translate into our languages, literary, philosophical and scientific works capable of accelerating our development.

13. The Sixth Pan African Congress suggests that May 25 should be celebrated in future as the Pan African Day. On that day, the peoples and Pan African States throughout the world should rally together and vigorously reaffirm their solidarity. □

ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I. Economic Development Through Self-Reliance

CONSIDERING that every man has a right to self determination, justice and human dignity and respect.

AWARE that justice, human dignity and respect cannot be obtained in a situation where one man or group of men is being exploited, oppressed and dehumanised by another or is dependent on another.

AWARE FURTHER that inequality, exploitation, oppression and human injustice and indignity are the products of colonialism, capitalism, imperialism, neo-colonialism and zionism.

DESIROUS of bringing exploitation, oppression, injustice, indignity, and dependence to an end.

NOW THEREFORE this Sixth Pan African Congress resolves that:

1. In planning their development, the African people should avoid aping the pattern of capitalist development which puts

emphasis on growth and the development of 'things' rather than on the liberation of man. Development must aim at making the African people self-confident and capable of relying upon themselves.

2. All the African peoples should thus seek to free themselves from colonialism, neo-colonialism, capitalism and imperialism by coordinating their efforts to take full control of their economies and placing the means of production, distribution and exchange in the hands of the people themselves then ensuring that the surpluses realized therefore be fully ploughed back and used to develop the national economies for the benefit of all the people.

3. Since it is the prevalence of multi-national companies and corporations that deprives the Pan African world and progressive people of their freedom and benefits from their own resources, all the African governments and peoples and the Third World must see the disengagement of their internal economies from monopoly capitalism and its instrument, the multi-national corporations.

4. In pursuit of self-reliance, efforts must be made to bring the rural sector into full play with a view to balancing the benefits going to the urban and rural sectors; workers and peasants should determine the production policies and targets of their respective establishments.

5. The pattern of economic development in all African economies, and indeed Third World countries, should be such as to enable them:

- (a) Trade more and more among themselves to this end, regional and sub-regional co-operation becomes imperative.
- (b) Change the nature of commodities being traded from primary to finished or semi-finished which can give them more stable price structures.
- (c) Dictate to the developed countries the terms at which their goods are sold.
- (d) Make maximum use of local resources—human, financial, and material.

6. Foreign "AID" should *never* be made the basis of development but merely a supplement to the people's own efforts.

7. Developed countries should be asked to write off all past loans to increase the resource capacity of the developing countries. Developed countries should be made to compensate the developing countries of all the resources they have extracted from them.

II. Democratisation of Internal Institutions

CONFRONTED by the severe economic and financial crises which sweep across the world and whose consequences are made severely felt by the under developed countries.



CONSIDERING the juridical conditions imposed by the capitalist developed countries on the underdeveloped countries, within international economic and financial organizations.

AWARE of the fact that the judicial structures of international economic and financial agencies are designed to prevent the underdeveloped countries from enjoying the freedom of trade which is one of the legitimate right of mankind.

CONVINCED that all countries are sovereign and should establish relations of equality with one another in every sphere, particularly in the economic and financial fields.

HAVING REGARD to the undemocratic nature of the U.N.O. [United Nations] Charter inevitably entailing situations which perpetuate injustice within the specialised and other international agencies dealing with economic and financial matters.

AWARE of the imperative need for the underdeveloped countries to react against economic imperialism in order to regain their dignity.

The Sixth Pan African Congress

RESOLVES THAT:

- (1) The Charter of the U.N.O. be re-examined and in particular the membership of the Security Council and the right of veto reserved for the permanent members be removed in order to fairly represent the continents of the Third World.
- (2) A study be made of the structure of the international economic, financial and monetary institutions in particular the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank with a view to democratising them.
- (3) Appeals to the Organisation of African Unity experts and the group of 77 to submit to the next assembly of the UNO technical survey on the democratisation of the aforesaid agencies.
- (4) There is absolute need for the countries of the Third World to come together in dealing with the developed countries in these international financial and political agencies.

III. Resolution on the Struggle Against Economic Imperialism with Special Reference to Multi-national Corporations

CONVINCED THAT the current domination of African and Caribbean economies by Western imperialism, which is manifest by the multinational corporations of the United States, Canada, Western Europe and Japan must be fought by a Revolutionary Pan African alliance of forces.

BEARING IN MIND that political freedom has no meaning for the masses of African people in the absence of a correspondingly full economic freedom.

AWARE that economic independence and self-reliance requires the control of the principal material resources located within the territories of African and Caribbean states,

RECOGNIZING that imperialism is a world-wide system and that the struggle against imperialism must therefore be a world-wide struggle.

AWARE of the current activities of regional economic organisations and economic ministries of individual states in Africa and the Caribbean,

(1) *AFFIRMS* the solidarity of the Pan African World with the struggle of the Arab World against the oil monopolies and international imperialism,

(2) *DENOUNCES* the architects of the current international division of labour which maintains the system of unequal exchange and exploitation,

(3) *CALLS* for an end to foreign investment in Southern Africa and calls on all African, Caribbean, Arab and other friendly states to impose a total embargo against the fascist regimes of South Africa, Portugal and Southern Rhodesia,

(4) *AFFIRMS* the inalienable right of African and Caribbean states to control the use and disposition of their territorial waters and the air above them, and calls on these states to assert these rights in appropriate international forums so as to obtain a general World recognition of their sovereignty of these matters.

(5) *RECOMMENDS* the development of concrete programs of cooperation among the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), The Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), The Arab Trade Union Federation (ATUF), and Pacific Labor Organizations for the purpose of coordinating their use of the weapon of selective strikes and other work sanctions in the struggle against multinational corporations.

(6) *RECOMMENDS* that African regional and sub-regional economic organizations should permit the participation of counterpart organizations in the Caribbean and North America.

(7) *RECOMMENDS* the establishment of a common currency among African States, or to move towards a general convertibility of currencies to permit free trade among the African and Caribbean Countries.

CALLS on our government to use our own resources effectively by adopting policies and programmes that ensure that the masses of our people enjoy the surplus generated from our resources, and we strongly condemn the exploitation of man by man internally or internationally.

CALLS on African states that are richly endowed with rich natural resources to cooperate with other African countries not so richly endowed with natural resources. The solidarity between