3. FURTHER WELCOMES the statement by the Algerian Vice-Minister in charge of African Affairs reaffirming the will of his country to work resolutely towards the reactivation of Afro-Arab Cooperation;

4. WELCOMES WITH SATISFACTION the proposal by the Republic of Algeria to host the 12th Session of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation during the first half of April 2001;

5. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to implement as expeditiously as possible, Council Decisions CM/472 (LXX) and CM/537 (LXXII) and submit to the 74th Ordinary Session of Council a report incorporating, in particular, a study on document CM/info (LXVII) on Afro-Arab Cooperation presented by Egypt.

CM/Dec.578 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON SOMALIA

Council:

1. WELCOMES the successful outcome of the Somali National Conference, the establishment of a Transitional Assembly and the election of Mr. Abdiqassim Salad Hassan as President of the Transitional Government of Somalia;

2. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to President Ismael Omar Guelleh and the people of Djibouti for their sustained efforts which made this achievement possible;

3. FURTHER WELCOMES the decision adopted by the Eighth Summit of IGAD held in Khartoum, the Sudan, in November 2000, regarding the situation in Somalia as well as the efforts undertaken by H.E. Omar Hassan El-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, Current Chairman of IGAD, pursuant to the above-mentioned decision, to assist and facilitate the Somali national reconciliation process and the reconstruction efforts in Somalia;

4. ENCOURAGES the Transitional National Government to pursue the path of dialogue and engage those faction leaders who were not part of the Arta process to join the reconciliation efforts and CALLS on all parties to display the necessary political will and disposition in order to bring the national reconciliation process to a successful conclusion;

5. URGES OAU Member States and the wider international community to provide the necessary assistance to support the reconciliation efforts pursued by the Transitional National Government of Somalia;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary General, working closely with IGAD, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the wider International Community, to continue to support the Transitional National Government in its efforts to sustain reconciliation and reconstruction in Somalia.

CM/Dec. 579 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON WOMEN AND GENDER

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary General on the activities relating to women and gender;

2. REQUESTS the Secretary General as well as Member States, to take all appropriate measures to ensure that women are appropriately represented in decision making processes in the OAU;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General to support the consultative process through the African Women’s Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD), the Regional Economic Communities, the Economic Commission for Africa and other key stakeholders so