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ORGANISATION DES ETATS
AFRICAINS
BUREAU
P. O. BOX
CM/715 (XXVI)

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa, February, 1976.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION



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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

1. Resolution CM/Res.404 (XXIV) on the establishment of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union was adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in February 1975. This resolution, after having approved the establishment of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, requests the Administrative Secretary-General to report to the Council of Ministers on the future progress of its Implementation.

2. This implementation was begun during the Conference of African Telecommunications Administrations held in Kinshasa (Zaire) from 3 - 16 December 1975, under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee of PANAFTEL: the OAU, ITU, ECA and ADB. The main purpose of this Conference was to study ways and means with a view to the establishment of a Pan-African Telecommunications Union.

3. Furthermore, the purposes and objectives of this Conference were to:

- Follow up the implementation of the PANAFTEL scheme
- Study ways and means with a view to coordinating the Pan-African Telecommunications Network
- Study methods to modernize national telecommunications networks
- Ensure methodical and integrated sub-regional telecommunications services
- Harmonize development agreements between the continent's national telecommunications administrations.

4. The OAU and ECA Secretariats had prepared a draft constitution for the Pan-African Telecommunications Union to facilitate the work of the Conference. And it was in the light of aforesaid Resolution CM/Res.404 (XXIV) of the OAU Council of Ministers and

of the draft constitution that the Conference of African Telecommunications Administrations made a lengthy study concerning the establishment of a "Pan-African Telecommunications Union".

5. The Conference adopted a resolution in which it decided to establish the Pan-African Telecommunications Union in accordance with the desire expressed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the OAU Summit Conference held in Kampala (Uganda) in July/August 1975. This resolution is reproduced as an annex to the present report.

6. To this end, a Steering Committee composed of nine members: (Algeria, Botswana, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Central African Republic and Zaire) was appointed by the Conference. The task of this Steering Committee will be to study a draft convention or constitution on the basis of the various proposals put forward by the OAU General Secretariat. It would also be studying all aspects connected with the functioning of the Union, including administrative and financial matters, and would be assisted in this by the OAU, ITU, ECA and ADB.

7. The resolution requests the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to do everything possible to facilitate the work of the Steering Committee. It further requests him to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries before October 1976 in Addis Ababa on the organization of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union.

8. The present report is being submitted to the Council of Ministers in order that:

- The OAU General Secretariat may receive the necessary directives with a view to the implementation of the annexed resolution.
- The OAU Council of Ministers recommends the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters to approve necessary expenditure for the meeting of the Steering Committee and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the establishment of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union to be held in Addis Ababa in October 1976.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

The Conference of African Telecommunication Administrations
(Kinshasa, 3 - 16 December 1975),

Considering OAU Resolution CM/Res.404 (XXIV) approving the creation
of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union,

Conscious of the need to ensure orderly development of regional tele-
communications services at a pace commensurate with the political, economic
and social development of Africa,

Considering that there is a need arising out of the current develop-
ment of Pan-African telecommunications for collective action in the detailed
planning and management of the projected regional telecommunications network,

Convinced of the need for a Pan-African organization making possible
the coordination of telecommunications development policies in Africa and
the harmonization of operational arrangements among the national telecommu-
nication administrations of the continent,

Taking cognizance :

- a) of the draft constitution, prepared by the OAU and ECA after
taking due account of the views of the ITU,
- b) of all pertinent proposals submitted to this Conference,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish the Pan-African Telecommunication Union in accordance with the wish of the Heads of State and Government of OAU as expressed in the OAU Summit Meeting held in Kampala (Uganda) in July 1975,
2. To establish a Steering Committee of nine members, consisting of two from each sub-region and one member from Zaire in its capacity as host of this Conference, who shall serve as Secretary.

The terms of reference of the Steering Committee shall be:

- a) To prepare a Draft Constitution or Convention on the basis of various proposals made or to be made by the General Secretariat of the OAU and by African telecommunication Administrations;
- b) To study all aspects of the operation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union, including financial and administrative matters.

The Steering Committee may be assisted in its work by the ITU, ADB and ECA;

REQUESTS:

1. The General Secretariat of the OAU to take all necessary steps to facilitate the work of the Committee;
2. The Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to convene a plenary Conference in Addis Ababa before the end of October 1976 in connection with the Organization of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union, on the basis of an agenda prepared in collaboration with the Steering Committee;
3. The Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to convey this Resolution to the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the OAU.



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The Establishment of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union

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