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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINE
Secretariat
B. P. 3243

Addis Ababa اديس ابابا

ORIGINAL: French
DISTRIBUTION: General

CM/987 (XXXIII)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Thirty-third Ordinary Session
Monrovia, Liberia,
July 1979

# REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

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# REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

1. The activities undertaken by the OAU General Secretariat in the field of afro-arab Co-operation since the Khartoum Summit can be considered from two points of view. Firstly the OAU General Secretariat, in collaboration with that of the League of Arab States, spared no efforts in implementing the decisions taken by the Standing Commission at its Third Ordinary Session held in Niamey (Republic of Niger). The Fourth Session of the Standing Commission and of the First Session of the Joint afro-arab Council of Ministers were prepared and organized in this context.

2. Secondly, the OAU General Secretariat endeavoured to implement some provisions of Resolutions CM/Res.668 (XXXI) and CM/Res.669 (CCCI) adopted in Khartoum by the Council of Ministers in July 1978.

3. With regard to the latter point, the Secretariat, by its note CAB/AA/21 transmitted to all the OAU Member States in August 1978, asked them to communicate to it their short, medium and long term orientations and priorities which should serve as a guidance to the OAU Committee of Twelve for afro-arab Co-operation during its deliberations at the session of the Standing Commission.

4. It was in this same connection that, the General Secretariat of the O.A.U followed closely the work of African Specialized Institutions entrusted with the in-depth study of the reports of the Afro-Arab working groups. For this purpose, there were contacts and consultations between the Secretariat and the heads of the competent departments of such specialized institutions as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the African Development Bank (ADB). All these meetings aimed at devising the best means of collaboration and co-ordinations between the action of the Afro-Arab institutional organs and the activities of these Specialized Institutions. On this occasion, an emphasis was laid on the technical assistance of the latter so as to strengthen and consolidate the objectives of the Afro-Arab Co-operation as defined by the Cairo Summit.

5. It is in this context that the O.A.U General Secretariat addressed letters to the ADB, BADEA and ECA on 7 August 1978, urging them to make concrete proposals on short and long term programmes with a view to implementing the whole Economic and Financial Declaration adopted by the Afro-Arab Summit in Cairo.

With regard to the implementation of Resolution CM/Res.669 (XXXI), the O.A.U Secretariat has already worked out a draft co-operation agreement between the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and itself. The project has already been submitted for consideration and decision to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, in Nairobi.

7. Coming back to the activities of the General Secretariat with respect to the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the Third Ordinary Session in Niamey; it must first be recalled that the Standing Commission, after examining attentively the reports of the four Afro-Arab working groups established during the 1977/1978 financial period, had adopted among others, the following specific recommendations:

a) To send the reports of the working groups submitted to the Commission, to the General Secretariat of the OAU and the League of Arab States so that their studies might be completed through the African and Arab Specialized Institutions and the results of these studies submitted to the groups which will, in turn, present them to the Standing Commission at its next session;

b) To authorize the Co-ordinating Committee for the Afro-Arab Co-operation to determine the date and venue of the First Ordinary Session of the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Council in the period beginning in September and ending in December 1978;

c) To authorize the Secretaries-General of the OAU and the League of Arab States to study ways of organising, after consultation.

- the joint meeting of African and Arab Information Ministers;
- the joint meeting of African and Arab Labour Ministers.

8. With regard to the implementations of the recommendation relating to the proceedings of the Afro-Arab working groups which have been considered by the Standing Commission in Niamey, the Secretary-General of the OAU had sent, since 23 June 1978, all the reports to such African specialized institutions as the ADB, the EC, the AFCC, the PATU, the Union of African Railways, and to all the specialized offices of the OAU. These reports were accompanied by the basic documents of the Cairo Summit on Afro-Arab Co-operation, the report of the Third Session of the Standing Commission and a working paper entitled "TERMS OF REFERENCE" by the two Secretariats.

These Specialized African Institutions were as technical organ, specifically asked, in each in its field:

a) to draw up a short, medium and long term draft programme of co-operation between Africa and the Arab World in the light of the indicative priorities mentioned in the report of each Afro-Arab Working group;

b) to communicate to the OAU General Secretariat by order of priority, the projects already, or being studied, the financing of which could be considered on and realized in the context of Afro-Arab Co-operation;

c) to communicate every other project proposal with their technical data, likely to render the Afro-Arab Co-operation in each sector of the areas under consideration concrete and dynamic.

9. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States has, for its part, organized the meetings of the specialized Arab institutions and agencies from 1 to 10 October 1978. The Arab institutions and agencies which took part in these proceedings were:

> The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the Arab Labour Organization, the Industrial Development Centre, the Civil Aviation Council of Arab States, the Arab Broadcasting Union and the B.A.D.E.A.

10. The representatives of both Secretariats met in Cairo from 7 to 10 October 1978 to prepare a single report on the proceedings of the African and Arab Specialized Institutions.

11. The synthesis of the proceedings of these African and Arab institutions were the subject of a separate report presented to the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission in Kuwait; it is appended to the present report.

12. At this same meeting in which participated the representatives of the two Secretariats in Cairo, it was decided to consider and finalize the agenda and connected documents which would jointly be submitted to the Co-ordinating Committee and the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission.

13. The O.A.U Secretary-General was regularly in touch with his counter part of the League of Arab States, by exchanging messages so as to determine the dates and places of the meetings of the Standing Commission and the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference. Thus, on an invitation of the Government of Kuwait, the two Secretaries-General of the O.A.U and the League of Arab States decided that the meeting of the Standing Commission be convened from 3 to 5 December.

14. While drawing up the agenda and documents, the two Secretariats were in consultations, each, on its part, with their respective Committees of Twelve for Afro-Arab Co-operation.

The OAU Committee of Twelve for Afro-Arab Co-operation met on 18 October and 2 December in Addis Ababa and Kuwait respectively with a view to considering the draft agenda and documents jointly drawn up by the two Secretariats for the Standing Commission.

The Committee of Twelve of the League of Arab States met on 25 November and 3 December in Cairo and Kuwait respectively so as to look through the draft agenda and documents to be presented to the Standing Commission.

15. The Co-ordinating Committee for the Afro-Arab Co-operation composed of the two Secretaries-General, the two co-chairmen and the two rapporteurs held its meeting in Kuwait on 2 and 3 October 1978. At that meeting, it examined and adopted the agenda and documents drawn up for the Standing Commission then, it dealt with practical and administrative problems concerning the functioning of the executing institutional mechanisms of the Afro-Arab Co-operation.

16. The Co-ordinating Committee for Afro-Arab Co-operation, in the light of the less encouraging results of the proceedings of the working group already established, first noticed that role of some executive organs of Afro-Arab Co-operation as defined by the basic documents of Cairo could not really meet the hopes entertained by the authors of these documents. This is particularly in line with the urgent need for a redefinition of the role, mandate and working context of the

Afro-Arab working and specialized groups, by taking into account the existence of other specialized organs and institutions operating in the context of Afro-Arab Co-operation. A flexible, rapid and effective mechanism with a view to co-ordinating the activities of all these institutions should be established so as to reach fully the targets set by the Cairo Summit.

17. The administration of the Special Fund established at the Cairo Summit for the operation of the executive organs of Afro-Arab Co-operation has also been considered attentively by the Co-ordinating Committee. The latter noticed the practical difficulties arising in the administration of this joint Special Fund by the two Secretaries-General of both organisations in the absence of unified financial regulations likely to enable this Fund to achieve its targets and purpose, independently of the regulations in force as regards the administration of the regular budget of the two Organizations. Taking into account the specific character of the Joint Fund, special financial regulations should be made.

18. Taking into consideration the difficulties encountered at the operational stage of the Joint Budget, the following recommendations have been made so as not to tie the operation of the Special Fund to the rigid regulations of either organization, since these might lead to some obstacles:

a) The account of the Special Fund should be distinct from those of the two Organizations;

b) this Special Fund should be governed independently by unified financial regulations, appropriate to its nature and approved by the Standing Commission;

c) Each Secretariat should appoint an official who will follow the operations of the funds so as to make a regular report to the Co-ordinating Committee;

d) The Co-ordinating Committee will, through its two Secretariats, appoint financial experts to draw up these regulations, taking into account the programmes and common aspect of the Special Fund.

19. There is every reason to note that the two Secretariats have already worked out a common provisional formula with a view to settling the expenses of the Joint Special Fund.

20. The Afro-Arab Standing Commission held its Fourth Ordinary Session from 3 to 5 December 1978 in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Moumouni Djermakoye, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Niger and Chairman of the African Group and His Excellency Abdul Aziz Hussein, State Minister of Kuwait responsible for the affairs of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Arab Group.

21. The African and Arab Specialized Institutions such as the AfDB, the BADEA, the ECA, the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to Arab and African countries, the ALESCO, the ACESD and the UNDP attended the meeting of the Standing Commission as observers.

22. The meeting was opened in the name of His Highness the Emir of the Kuwait State, Sheikh Jaber al Ahmed Al Sabbah by the Acting Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al Ali Al Salem Al Sabbah, Minister of Information.

23. Considering its agenda item by item, the Standing Commission made a detailed and an in-depth study of the following chapters:

Report on the proceedings of Specialized African and Arab Institutions in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Session of the Standing Commission, and the need for the establishment of Specialized Afro-Arab groups.

24. Considering the two documents presented under the same chapter the Commission observed once more that the procedure adopted until now to appoint the experts invited to participate in the meetings of the Afro-Arab working groups could not lead to good and effective results. The Standing Committee had, in fact, formerly deplored the poor results obtained at the meetings of these working groups because most of the participants were not real experts. So long as this aspect of the problem which is of crucial importance for the future of Afro-Arab Co-operation will not be seriously considered by each State Member party to the Afro-Arab Co-operation, the objectives and the programme of action determined by the Afro-Arab Summit will remain a dead letter.

25. Convinced that the present structures and the operating procedures of the executive mechanisms of the co-operation should be regularly adapted to the realities and circumstances of the operational set up, the following decisions were taken by the Standing Commission:

a) Maintain existing working groups;

b) Widen the scope of the terms of reference of the working group in charge of financial matters, a group which will be henceforth known as:

"Working group in charge of financial, economic and commercial matters". For this purpose, the Committee requested the meeting of the working group within the shortest possible time so as to study co-operation problems in the field of trade;

c) authorize the two Secretaries-General of the OAU and the League of Arab State to proceed to the choice of experts from the Member States having to participate in the proceedings of the working group established;

d) Call upon African and Arab Specialized Institutions (the AfDB, the BADEA and the ECA) to closely work in collaboration with the two Secretariats in the implementation of the Afro-Arab Co-operation programmes.

2. Consideration of the Draft Budget of the Joint Afro-Arab Special Fund for the operation of the Executive Organs of Afro-Arab Co-operation (June 1979 - May 1980)

26. In taking this item, the Co-ordinating Committee informed the Standing Commission of the practical, and management difficulties encountered by the two Secretariats in formulating and administering the joint budget since each Secretariat will apply the rules governing its regular budget in the absence of appropriate regulations conceived for the Special Fund. It is

in this context that the Co-ordinating Committee recommended in its report to the Standing Commission the opening of a separate account for the Afro-Arab Special Fund at each Secretariat and the appointment of experts to work out financial regulations governing this Fund in accordance with its programmes and objectives.

While taking into account these considerations, the Committee examined and adopted the 1979/80 budget estimates amounting to US$ 635,166 (the contribution of each organisation being US$ 317,583).

Both Secretariats were entrusted with the elaboration of unified financial regulations in order to harmonize the administration and operations of the Joint Special Fund.

3. Reports of the Economic, Financial and Technical Institutions operating within the framework of the Afro-Arab Co-operation

- Economic and Financial Report of the BADEA

27. The report presented by the President, Director General of the BADEA at the meeting of the Standing Commission in Kuwait covers four major points:-

- Evolution of the Arab aid to Africa - showing with figures the financial resources which Arab countries have been transferring to African States since 1973. The report shows that the over all commitments of Arab countries to Africa amounted to US$ 3130 million at the end of 1977, but of this total of US$ 3,130 million nearly two thirds, either US$ 2,049 million have directly been pledged by seven Arab aid giving countries, the differences representing the commitments of the BADEA, the FSA, the FAT, the OPEC Special Fund, the Islamic Development Bank and the IMF oil facilities.

- Geographical distribution of the Arab aid to Africa

In this chapter the report of the BADEA shows that out of the US$ 2,845,607 already distributed, West Africa had a share of 56 per cent and East Africa 44 per cent. Two thirds of the Arab aid to Africa are given on concessional terms, the yearly average (from 1973 to 1977) of the financial assistance given to Africa being in the region of US$ 400 million.

- akdown of the Arab aid to Africa per sector (from 1973 to 1977)

The consideration of the BADEA report shows that the aid to the balance of payments benefitted from the greater part of Arab financial transfers, either 29.24 per cent, followed by transports and communications, 12.28 per cent, social services 9.68 per cent, mining industries 8.5 per cent, energy 6.6 per cent.

- Methods and conditions of the Arab Aid.

The report underlines that the orginality of the Arab aid to Africa lies in its united character. Arab financial transfers are definitive and constitute, in the full sense of the term, a "loss of assets". The other characteristic of the Arab aid is that it is granted on flexible and concessional terms (the gift element being at least 25 per cent).

28. After the presentation of the BADEA report by its Director-General, Dr. Chedly Ayari, the Standing Commission considered the progress report of the Arab Technical Assistance Fund to African and Arab countries.

29. The report was presented and commented on by the Secretary of the Arab Technical Assistance Fund. Introducing his report, he stressed that the Arab Technical Assistance Fund to African and Arab countries, one of the organs of the General Secretariat

of the Arab League, was established in 1974, by the resolution adopted by the Arab Summit at its 7th Session. Its aim and purpose is to provide technical assistance to African and Arab States, by sending Arab experts to the countries concerned, by granting followships and scholarships and by financing training programmes of workers and technicians in various fields of economic, social and educational development.

With respect to what is so far realized, the Fund has, until 15 November 1978, granted 246 fellowships and scholarships and financed the work of 235 experts to 22 African and Arab countries.

Its Board of Directors has just approved the financing of the work of 158 experts and the grant of 91 fellowships and scholarships.

30. The Vice President of the African Development Bank (ADB) in his oral account insisted on the multilateral character which should prevail in relations of Afro-Arab Co-operation according to the spirit of Cairo. Judicious choices should therefore be made in resources mobilization and use.

31. While stressing that Afro-Arab Co-operation was built on solidarity, the Vice President of the ADB indicated the fields of action in which Afro-Arab Co-operation should be developed, namely:

- Encouragement of consulting and engineering firms between Arab and African Groups;
- Promotion of fields and sectors of common interest such as mining, naval construction and sea transport, agricultural development and industrialization.
- Collaboration of the Secretariats of the OAU and the Arab League with the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) so as to draw up a draft investment codes for Arab enterprises and capital in Africa; the draft would be submitted to the Standing Commission and Ministerial Conference for approval before its ratification by African States;

- A meeting leading to a common accord between the ADB and the BADEA and the Arab National Funds should be considered by the two Secretariats of the OAU and the Arab League in order to examine the question of co-financing of projects in Africa;
- Concrete measures should be designed by monetary authorities of the Arab countries to facilitate the access of the ADB to their capital markets;
- The ADB and the BADEA should meet at the beginning of each year inorder to coordinate and harmonize their annual programmes;
- The Arab National Funds should undertake missions of study and contact in Africa with the assistance of the ADB and the BADEA.

32. Having heard the reports of the specialized institutions, the Standing Commission asked the latter to strengthen their co-operation and co-ordination with a view to better serving the objectives of Afro-Arab Co-operation.

33. The Standing Commission then examined the agenda, the date and venue of the first joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference. The Commission has authorized the two Secretaries-General of the OAU and the Arab League to make the necessary arrangements and fix the date. As regards the venue, the Standing Commission welcomed Libya's invitation to host the Conference after the date would have been fixed.

34. Concerning the dates and venues of the joint meeting of the African and Arab Information Ministers the Commission welcomed Tunisia's invitation to host the meeting and authorized the two General Secretariats to decide on the date in consultation with the Tunisian Government. As regards the date and venue of the Joint Meeting of African and Arab Labour Ministers, the Standing Commission also asked the African party to decide on the date and venue of this first conference, while noting that Kenya and Senegal were willing to host it.

35. The OAU and the Arab League Secretariats took the necessary steps after the meeting of the Standing Commission in Kuwait with a view to implementing the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the meeting.

36. It was in that respect that the OAU general secretariat communicated the report of the proceedings of the 4th session of the Standing Commission to all Member States by note CAB/AA/9 of 21 December 1978. All member countries having experts in the fields and sectors mentioned at the 4th session of the Standing Committee in Kuwait were also asked to inform the OAU general secretariat so that the latter might consult with the secretariat of the League of Arab States with a view to drawing up a schedule of meetings of the Afro-Arab working groups already established. A large number of messages were sent later to member states but there was no reply. Contacts are still going on between the two secretariats so as to draw up the schedule of the meetings of the working groups, taking into account the situation prevailing at the level of the general secretariat of the League of Arab States.

37. It should be recalled here that in preparing the first ordinary session of the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference the Standing Commission at its meeting held in Kuwait from 3 to 5 December 1978, accepted the invitation of the Libyan Government to host the Afro-Arab Conference in Tripoli, the General Secretariat took the necessary steps after the Kuwait meeting to fix the dates of this Conference in consultation with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The Libyan Government therefore suggested to the two Secretariats to hold the meeting in the second half of May 1979.

38. Considering the large number of meetings scheduled for May 1979, the OAU General Secretariat suggested that the meeting be held in the first half of June 1979. Since the proposal was accepted by the host country, the League of Arab States was informed on 14 February 1979 and asked to give its views. The dates proposed for the meetings of the Standing Commission and the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference were also communicated to the OAU Member States for their views and appropriate arrangements.

39. During the thirty-second session of the Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, the representatives of the two Secretariats had consultations with the representative of the Libyan Government so as to draw up the schedule of the preparatory meetings at tripartite level, thus facilitating the preparations of joint documents and harmonizing the material and technical organization of the Conference.

40. The representatives of the Libyan Government and of the Arab League Secretariat agreed to convene the first tripartite preparatory meeting at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 April 1979. The messages confirming the participation of the two representations in this meeting were later communicated to the OAU General Secretariat.

41. A meeting in which participated the representatives of the OAU Secretariat and the delegation was held at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 3 to 5 April 1979. The Delegation of the Secretariat of the Arab League did not attend.

42. The meeting considered the organizational, administrative and technical matters of the Conference, attempted to assess material and physical needs and things already available in each field.

43. The General Secretariat of the Arab League was informed of the findings of this preliminary meeting; another meeting between the two Secretariats and the Libyan Government should also take place in Tripoli early May 1979 for the drafting of documents and the preparation of the joint Conference.

44. It should be noted that it was impossible to establish contacts between the two Organizations in April, this crippled and hampered coordination and consultation, in dispensable factors for the effective organization and success of such an important Conference. There was no reply to the regular messages transmitted by the OAU to the headquarters of the League of Arab States.

45. There were problems of organization and programming as a result of the postponement of the meeting to a later date. Taking into account, the periodicity of the Conference, it was scheduled for September 1978. It is now almost impossible to hold it in 1979. The Conference would take a decision on the date and venue of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference scheduled for March 1980. It is almost impossible to convene a joint Ministerial meeting between July 1979 and March 1980, unless it is held immediately before the summit, this is the only possible assumption.

PREPARATION OF THE JOINT AFRO-ARAB MEETING OF AFRICAN AND ARAB INFORMATION MINISTERS

46. During the 4th ordinary session held in Kuwait, the Standing Commission was informed of the invitation of the Tunisian Government to host the first joint Afro-Arab meeting of African and Arab Information Ministers, once the date of this meeting is fixed.

47. At its 2nd ordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 9 April 1979, the Conference of African Information Ministers was informed of the steps taken by the OAU and LAS Secretariats with respect to the joint Afro-Arab Organs with a view to organizing the joint Conference of African and Arab Information Ministers.

48. The Tunisian delegation informed the Conference that the Government of Tunisia was prepared to list the joint meeting of the African and Arab Information Ministers in the first half of November 1979.

49. Closing discussions on this item of the agenda, the Conference adopted Resolution CM/Res.2(II) by which it requested the Secretariats of the two Organizations to fix after consultations, the final date of this joint meeting.

50. During discussions, it was thought necessary to convene a preparatory meeting of Afro-Arab information experts in order to prepare the Conference of African and Arab Information Ministers.

51. For that purpose, it was decided that the African Group will be represented at this meeting of experts by the following five countries: TUNISIA/BENIN/BURUNDI/BOTSWANA AND TANZANIA.

52. The OAU General Secretariat immediately brought to the knowledge of the LAS General Secretariat the decision of the Conference asking the LAS to decide on a suitable period for the joint meeting of the information experts.

PREPARATION OF THE JOINT AFRO-ARAB MEETING OF AFRICAN AND ARAB LABOUR MINISTERS

53. Joint Afro-Arab activities in labour and social matters were undertaken at different levels and have been going through various stages since the first Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo. It was in this spirit of solidarity that the Labour Council of Ministers of the Arab League and the OAU Labour Commission have expressed in their respective meeting, the wish to convene a joint Afro-Arab meeting of African and Arab Labour Ministers.

At the 4th ordinary session of the Standing Commission held in Kuwait, it was decided that the final date of this joint Conference be fixed by the two Secretariats, after consultation. It was also agreed that the General Secretariat of the OAU would be in consultation with the African States which made their intention to host the Conference.

54. A preparatory meeting grouping representatives of Arab Labour Organization and OAU Labour Commission was held at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 April in conjunction of the joint meeting of African and Arab Ministers.

55. The representatives of the two Organizations considered at this joint preparatory meeting practical methods with respect to:

- the preparation of the draft agenda of the joint Conference of African and Arab Labour Ministers;
- administrative, technical and financial arrangements for the success of the Conference;
- date and venue of the Conference.

With respect to the last item, the two parties agreed that the joint Afro-Arab Conference of African and Arab Labour Ministers be convened in April 1980, the final date will be decided, of common accord by the Secretariats of the two Organizations.

56. Participants in this meeting thought it necessary to hold a meeting of Afro-Arab labour experts in preparation for the joint meeting of African and Labour Ministers.

57. The OAU Labour Commission meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Mogadiscio, from 26 to 29 April 1979, was informed in an ad hoc report (Doc.LC/EXP/2(II)) of the activities jointly undertaken by the OAU and LAS Secretariats in connection with the declarations of the first Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo.

58. The Commission adopted at its closing session Resolution LC/Res.1(IV) on Afro-Arab Cooperation in labour, employment, manpower and dated social matters by which it commends the efforts made by the OAU Secretary-General to implement the Declarations of the first Afro-Arab Summit Conference particularly in matters of Labour and Social Affairs;

- calls upon the Secretaries-General of the OAU and the League of Arab States (LAS), with the co-operation of specialized African and Arab Institutions, to take the necessary steps and hold consultations so as to co-ordinate and strengthen joint Afro-Arab activities in matters of labour and social affairs.

- requests the Secretary-General of the OAU to get in touch with his counterpart of the League of Arab States (LAS) to consider the possibilities of drawing up a medium and long term co-operation programme in conjunction with the Arab Fund of Technical Assistance to African and Arab countries.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETINGS OF AFRO-ARAB WORKING GROUPS

59. As regards the establishment of the Afro-Arab Working Groups and the Organization of their respective meetings, it was decided by the Standing Commission at its Fourth Session held in Kuwait that the five groups already established be maintained and the Secretaries-General of the two Organizations entrusted with the task of choosing experts from national lists to be communicated by Member States to each Secretariat.

60. It is in the respect that Circular CAB/AA/9 of 21 December 1978 was transmitted by the OAU General Secretariat to all Member States, asking them to communicate to it names of experts in different fields and sectors.

61. It should be emphasized here that the situation which has been prevailing at the LAS Secretariat since March 1979 did not favour the holding of consultations for the programming of the meetings of the Afro-Arab Working Groups. A brighter situation will lead to a co-ordinated action in order to inject a new life into Afro-Arab activities which seem to be paralysed at the present time.

62. The General Secretariat would finally like to stress that Afro-Arab Co-operation is no longer a dream, but a reality, the institutional structures and mechanisum of which are already at the operational stage. These structures and mechanisms should however be constantly adopted to dynamic situations, factor of development and progress.

63. On the whole, all State Members, collectively and individually have their role to play for the success of the enterprise through their instructions and orientations in the choice of the priorities of this co-operation.

64. African and Arab peoples are still prompted by the will and determination solemnly shown at the first Afro-Arab Summit which took the form of an act of faith and commitment to continue to look for ways and means of closer ties of solidarity and co-operation through their representatives at all levels.

CM/987(XXXIII)
Annex I

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Thirty-third Ordinary Session
Monrovia, Liberia, July 1979

# REPORT OF THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRO-ARAB STANDING COMMISSION KUWAIT, 3-5 DECEMBER, 1978

# REPORT OF THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRO-ARAB STANDING COMMISSION KUWAIT, 3-5 DECEMBER, 1978

The Afro-Arab Standing Commission held its Fourth Ordinary Session from the 3 to 5 December, 1978 in Kuwait under the co-Chairmanship of His Excellency Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger and Chairman of the OAU Committee of Twelve, and His Excellency Abdul Aziz Hussein, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of Kuwait, and Chairman of the Committee of Twelve of the League of Arab States.

2. The representation on the African side was as follows:

ALGERIA, BOTSWANA, CAMEROUN, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, GABON, KENYA, LIBERIA, NIGERIA, NIGER, TOGO and the Secretary-General of the OAU.

On the Arab side the representation was as follows:

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, STATE OF KUWAIT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, TUNISIA, MOROCCO, LIBYA, SYRIA, IRAQ, SOMALIA, LEBANON, MAURITANIA, PALESTINE, and the Secretary-General of the LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.

Also present at the meeting as observers were TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZAIRE, and the SUDAN, as well as the African Development Bank, BADEA, the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African and Arab Countries, ECA, AFESD, ALESCO and UNDP.

3. The meeting was officially opened, on behalf of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait Sheik Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabbah, by the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Information, Sheikh Jaber Al Ali El Salem Al Sabbah.

The Commission listened to an Emiri address welcoming the participating delegations to Kuwait and emphasizing the importance of economic co-operation among Third World States. The Emiri address also referred to the close relations existing between African and Arab peoples and their sincere desire for co-operation among themselves. It also called for greater co-operation among African and Arab States. In this regard, mention was made of the positive and constructive achievements of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab co-operation throughout its previous three sessions in all fields of co-operation, supported by the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity.

The Emiri address emphasized that the Palestinian question in its various aspects represents one of the main common preoccupation of Arab and African States, in view of its repercussions and direct effects on all of them. In this context, it referred to Kuwait's appreciation for the constant support extended by the African peoples and States to the Arab Nation in its struggle against Zionist aggression.

The Emiri address called for withstanding and repelling zionism and racism as well as for continuous assistance to the African peoples still struggling for liberation from racism and apartheid.

Then followed speeches by the Chairman of the Arab side and the Chairman of the African side, both of whom stressed the need for the historic Cairo Declaration becoming the basis for further and greater Afro-Arab co-operation. The two Secretaries-General of the OAU and the League of Arab States in their replies emphasized the crucial role of Afro-Arab co-operation in the attainment of a new economic order and the fight against racism and zionism. Both Secretaries-General expressed their gratitude to the Government of Kuwait for the hospitality extended to all delegates.

4. When H. E. The Acting Prime Minister was escorted out of the Conference Hall, the Commission resumed its work in camera and elected the following Bureau:

Co-Chairmen: African side: NIGER
Arab side : KUWAIT

Rapporteurs: BURUNDI for the African side
MOROCCO for the Arab side

Drafting Committee:

ALGERIA, NIGERIA, SOMALIA and TUNISIA

5. The Standing Commission then adopted the following Agenda:

1. Report of the Co-ordinating Committee.
2. Joint Report of the two Secretaries-General of the OAU and the LAS.
3. Report on the work of the African and Arab Specialised Institutions regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission.
4. Establishment of the Afro-Arab Specialised Panels.
5. 1979-1980 Draft Budget of the Special Fund for running the Executive Bodies of Afro-Arab Co-operation.
6. a) The Economic and Financial Report of BADEA (from June to December, 1978)
   b) The Report of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African and Arab Countries.
7. Draft Agenda of the First Ordinary Session of the Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference and its date and venue.
8. Dates and venues of:
   a) The joint meeting of the African and Arab Ministers of Information.
   b) The joint meeting of the African and Arab Ministers of Labour.
9. Any other business.

6. The Commission examined the joint Report of the two Secretaries-General on the activities of the two Secretariats for the period June 1978 to December, 1978 and it was adopted. The Commission reiterated the need to invite the Heads of Working Groups to sessions of the Standing Commission whenever their reports are to be considered. The Commission agreed that full records of meetings are kept and distributed.

7. The Commission considered the report on the outcome of the work of the specialized African and Arab institutions and the document relating to the establishment of the Afro-Arab specialized panels, which had earlier been examined by the Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting. It was felt that the report on the work of the specialized African and Arab institutions had only identified areas of concern in various fields without providing any detailed study of the problems.

In adopting the two documents under review, the Standing Commission decided:

a) To maintain the existing Working Groups
b) To enlarge the mandate of the Working Group on Finance to cover financial, economic and trade matters and to amend its name accordingly.
c) To invite the Specialized African and Arab Institutions, particularly ADB, BADEA, and ECA to work closely with the two Secretariats in the execution of Afro-Arab co-operation Programmes.

8. The Commission considered the Draft Budget for 1979/80 submitted to it, and it was approved. The two General Secretariats were entrusted with the responsibility of working out unified financial rules and regulations regarding the management of the joint Special Fund.

9. During the consideration of the economic and financial reports of BADEA and AFTA, the Commission also heard oral reports from the President Director-General of BADEA, the Executive Secretary of AFTA and the representative of ADB. Thereupon it called on the Arab and African financial institutions to strengthen their existing co-operation and co-ordination so as to serve better the cause of Afro-Arab co-operation.

10. The Commission adopted the following Draft Agenda of the First Session of the Afro-Arab Council of Ministers:

1) Official opening:
   - Address by the Head of State of the Host country
   - Addresses by the Chairmen of the African side, the Arab side and the two Secretaries-General of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States.
2) Adoption of the Agenda.
3) Election of the Bureau and Drafting Committee
4) Organization of work
5) Joint report on the activities of the two General Secretariats on the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States in the various fields of Afro-Arab co-operation.
6) Report of the two General Secretariats on the activities of the economic, financial and technical institutions concerned with Afro-Arab co-operation.
7) Promotion of the means of co-operation between States of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States in political and boycott fields against the racist regimes in Southern Africa and the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine.
8) Any other business

It should be noted that item (5) of the Agenda was concerned with the general issues of Afro-Arab co-operation, while item (6) dealt with specific and technical issues of co-operation.

11. The Commission left the question of the date and venue of the First Ordinary Session of the Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference to the two Secretaries-General for decision. At this juncture, the Chairman announced that the Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya offered to host this Conference.

As regards the date and venue of the meeting of the First African and Arab Ministers of Information, the Commission welcomed the invitation extended by Tunisia to host this Conference, and mandated the two Secretariats to decide upon the date in consultation with the Government of Tunisia.

Furtheremore, the Commission asked the African side to decide upon the date and venue of the First Joint Afro-Arab Ministers of Labour Conference.

12. The Commission extends its deep gratitude and appreciation to the Emir of Kuwait and to his Government and people for hosting this Session of the Ministerial Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation and for the efforts they have exerted to ensure the success of the Session.

CM/987 (XXXIII)
Annex II

# GENERAL REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE WORK OF THE SPECIALIZED AFRICAN AND ARAB INSTITUTIONS

The Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation in its Third Ordinary Session in Niamey, Niger from 5 - 7 June 1978 adopted a resolution to refer the reports which were submitted to it by the Working Groups to the two Secretariats of the OAU and the LAS in order to complete their study through the African and Arab specialized establishment. Accordingly the institutions have studied and submitted the following report:

IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Committee recommended the following priorities:

1) Intensifying the productivity of agricultural resources; that is to increase the yield of the exploited or semi-exploited land, and to increase the productivity of agricultural work. This embraces the use of modern methods and the requirements of agricultural production on a large scale. The average production - whether for land unit or labour unit - is comparatively minute for most farm products in Africa and the Arab World.

With reasonable effort, it is possible to achieve high averages of development in productivity through introducing the simple methods of technology (fertilizers, pesticides, pest control).

Agriculture in Africa and the Arab World is different from that of most regions of the Third World in Asia where agricultural production has become so intensified that it is difficult to increase productivity without very expensive investment. The rate of using agricultural fertilizers, for example, is at its lowest in Africa and the Arab World. Such agricultural inputs are not known in all regions.

2) Promotion of basic framework for agriculture, and the establishments which serve the agricultural sector. The achievement of agricultural development requires the set-up of African and Arab establishments and organs in the fields of marketing, crediting, extension, prices, agricultural services and research work.

Associated with the basic framework are the promotion and improvement of systems of tenure, water resources, and the coordination of the pricing policy.

3) Developing the infrastructure which serves the agricultural sector basically represented in road networks, communications and means of transport. There is no doubt that the lack of development of the transport sector due to historical, natural and geographical circumstances, represents a main obstacle in the path of development in Africa and the Arab World.

4) Concentration on the production of food products and medium demands for local industry. The rate of increasing food production in Africa and the Arab World is much less than that in all other developing regions. Even, it does not cope with the rate of the increase of population since the early seventies. At the same time, terms of trade within the African and the Arab World have not risen due to problems of transport as well as customs barriers. Consequently the percentage of "self-sufficiency" has dropped, food products importation increased considerably.

As regards Regional and National Programmes for agricultural development, according to priorities, the following are recommendations:

1) <u>Developing land and water resources</u>

The programmes for the development of land and water are not bound by political frontiers between nations. It is thus necessary before deciding upon a programme in this field that there should be organs and establishments in the African and Arab countries to be entrusted with coordination and planning.

It is noteworthy that there is interest in this method of Afro-Arab cooperation althouth it is not very effective at the present time. Examples of this method are:

- The Organization of the Chad Lake Basin: This includes four countries geographically bordered with the lake whose water level is decreasing to a dangerous limit.
- The Organization of the Niger River Basin: This includes nine countries, and aims at coordinating the activities of hunting, hydrology and river transport.
- River Senegal Development Organization.
- Great Lakes Group countries.
- Joint Committee to combat drought in the coast area.
- Countries of the Nile Valley
- Countries of Wabe Shebele River.

Such Organizations, in spite of their insufficient activity at present, represent a step on the right path toward African-Arab cooperation in fields that can only be handled through collective effort.

2) Programmes for the pest control and for land reclamation:

Like those of land and water development, these programmes require collective effort and joint work. In fact, the disinfection of areas striken by diseases such as the Tse-Tse fly, river blindness, and trypanosoma, lies within the framework of "Land reclamation" being considered an effort toward the provision of new agricultural resources for economic exploitation, in addition to its health and environmental.

projects. Associated with this programme are those projects for the establishment of laboratories for the production of serum, drugs, and vaccine. Also, the combat of desert and migrant locust attacks require effective coordination and cooperation among all countries in a collective way that aims at wiping out its swarms in areas of reproduction. Perhaps the danger of the locust attacks this year is an evidence of the importance of exerting efforts in this sphere.

3) Programmes for food reserve, storage and processing:

These programmes include the preparation of plans for reserve stored foods on the national and regional levels, and the coordination of storage and manufacturing projects. There are efforts made in this respect, examples of which are the cooperative projects of sugar in Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau (under study through Arab Bank and Abu Dhabi Fund), and the fertilizers production project between Togo and Nigeria.

4) Programmes for marketing and the coordination of price and tarrif policies:

This represents a wide field for the promotion and development of agricultural production in Africa and the Arab World. Efforts have been launched as in the case of the African Malagasy Sugar agreement and the African Peanuts Council which aims at the exchange of views among participating countries as regards plans for production and marketing as well as endeavouring to secure fair prices in Afro-Arab countries and in international markets. However

the efficacy of such organization is still limited in view of limited financial resources and trained manpower as well as the traditional commercial and marketing barriers between the African and Arab countries.

5) Research and Training Programmes:

Great importance is attached to these programmes. The shortage in experience in various technical and administrative fields, as well as in the planning, directing and preparing of projects -- all this represents a strenuous obstacle confronting agricultural development efforts in both African and Arab World.

6) Integrated Rural Development Programmes:

This type of programme is regarded as one of the most successful patterns of development programmes in Africa and the Arab World owing to their adherence to the African and the Arab way of life. These programmes require technical skill, planning, and highly administrative skills. They should provide projects, credit institutions, as well as institutions for extension and marketing, in addition to the technical sides, projects for plant and animal production, and drinking water. Therefore, we could mention some of the projects under execution as the National Corn Project in Tanzania, and the Rural Development in Rwanda, etc.

Priorities of projects recommended for execution in the short run:

1) Food crops production particularly cereals. Although Arab and African countries are regarded among the net cereal importing countries, there are still great possibilities to achieve fast increase in the production of these crops at reasonable expenses.

2) Improving methods of grazing and animal production including immediate projects such as those of combating animal diseases, developing graze lands, establishing water centres, cattle paths, and projects for medium term through selecting the breeds and improving methods of animal husbandry.

3) Fishing through developing the traditional sector and introducing modern methods of fishing, the building of fishing boats, facilities for ports, freezing, marketing and manufacturing.

4) Frame structure particularly those projects related to improving surface, sea and river transport within Africa and the Arab World so that it would be possible in the long run to join Africa with Arab ports. This necessitates coordination with the priorities of projects of the transport and communication sector.

5) Rural Development, extension, Credit and Marketing.

6) Training and technical experience:

Specialized agricultural establishments can play an active role in this field.

7) As for those projects connected with the production of traditional tropical and sub tropical industrial crops, it is necessary to make sure that the carrying out of those projects would not keep the economies of Afro-Arab countries tied to those of the industrialised countries. Feasibility studies are also necessary.

II MINING, INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES

Mining

a) Indentifying the African and Arab agencies and experts in the field of mineral resources with the aim of mutual coordination, cooperation, and exchange of experience and data.

b) Entrusting the African and Arab specialized organs and establishments with the preparation of a geological, mineral and hydrogeological map of Africa and the Arab World with the aim of specifying the resources of mineral wealth and subterranean water. This is done through the intermediary of the two Secretariats General.

c) Establishing a holding mining company with an Afro-Arab capital for the extraction of minerals which have proved to be economically and technically feasible for exploitation; also to endeavour to process those minerals locally whenever possible.

Industry

a) Establishing a holding Afro-Arab Company with an Afro-Arab capital for the production of factory equipment in the African and Arab Worlds. This industry is the basis of other industries and its set up eliminates the utter dependence of importing equipment from the industrialized countries.

b) Devoting special attention to the industries which serve agricultural development such as fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural equipment, tractors and means of transport. This is to be done through a panel formed to prepare a preliminary study in order to specify the needs of the African and Arab markets, and the possibility of fulfilling those needs by means of the existing industries if possible or the establishment of new industries, taking into consideration the studies currently available to both sides in this respect.

c) Entrusting the specialized organs of each side, through the two Secretariats, with surveying the abundant natural resources in African and Arab countries, to study the possibility of their exploitation, as a preliminary step toward the establishment of joint African-Arab companies which endeavour to convert them locally into semi-processed or finished products instead of exporting them as raw materials.

Energy

a) The African and Arab countries intensified the efforts exerted to identify the sources of hydro-electric energy, and sources of coal and its varieties in those countries. Data related to those sources are to be collected for the Afro-Arab specialized bodies for the study of developing those sources and securing their good exploitation in a way that would guarantee joint African and Arab interest.

b) Planning joint programmes to encourage the use of the comparatively cheap natural gas resources in those industries which consume large amounts of energy and which have their required raw materials in Africa or the Arab World, e.g., aluminium industry.

c) Encouraging the set up of oil refineries on the African shores.

d) On establishing electric power generators in the individual countries, it is recommended that the design should conform to a long-term plan with the aim of establishing a network to convey eletric power as a set up toward overall linking among groups of African and Arab countries in accordance with their geographical nature, and the density of population.

It is also recommended that general and standardized specifications be prepared for the networks to convey power within individual countries, and between adjacent countries.

Water Resources

Entrusting specialized organs and establishments in African and Arab countries with the task of surveying water resources through the hydro-geological map referred to in recommendation No. 2, mining, in order to identify those resources, and consequently, exploit them fully.

## III. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Recommends

The establishment of four specialized panels of experts from both sides to revise and evaluate the studies already made, and submit preliminary studies on various projects in each of the following four fields with the aim of:

a) Accentuating the importance of the projects of a complementary nature,
b) Suggesting practical ways for their execution.

The four fields are:

Surface transport

This includes Highways, Railways, Pipelines, Inland Waterways through rivers and lakes. The aim being the set up of an integrated map for surface transport in order to link among African countries, to link among Arab countries and to join the African and Arab worlds together, the Specialized panel of experts should submit a schedule for the carrying out of the projects which it recommends.

Priorities should be given to the projects carried out in the less developed landlocked and insular countries within an integrated system on a regional or sub-regional basis.

Civil Aviation

A. a) Air transport

Comprehensive survey of:

i) The present status of operating the African-Arab Airlines network to identify the characteristics, density and economics of operating these lines.

ii) Planning jointly to strengthen the operation of the African-Arab lines in view of the results of the economic analysis of the present net lines as provided by the above-mentioned comprehensive review.

iii) Planning jointly to strengthen the air transport fleets in a way that secures the achievement of the aims of the previously mentioned joint plan.

iv) Setting up joint centres for the training of pilots and their assistants, the crew and those working in the field of passenger service, air traffic, marketing; strengthening manpower in African-Arab air transport to cope with international averages, with a view to the size of the suggested air fleet, in accordance with the previously mentioned joint planning.

v) Setting up main centres for the maintenance and overhauling of planes; the exchange of engines and spare parts for planes, in a way that secures the achievement of economic savings, and increasing the rate of the exploitation of the air-fleet.

vi) Planning the method of cooperation between African and Arab Organizations for air transport in the following fields:

a) The exchange and renting of planes.

b) Cooperative purchasing of aviation equipment and provisions.

c) Achievement of balance between freight required to be transported and available traffic.

d) Coordination of time-tables for flights.

e) Exchange of ground traffic.

f) Participation in the provision and operation of organs for the service facilitation of air transport operations.

g) Exchange of commercial agencies for the marketing of Afro-Arab airlines flights.

h) Formation of a joint department for undertaking of marketing research work, and planning a joint policy for the fares and prices of the Afro-Arab air transport.

i) Joint exploitation of the Afro-Arab Airlines through expanding conclusions of trade-partnership agreements and joint operation of the airlines whose circumstances of operation necessitate as such.

B) Air Navigation

Study the strengthening of capabilities of African and Arab airports, and completing the required services, air navigation facilities, and aviation safety, e.g.

i) Forecast services.
ii) Runways, sub-runways and ground service.
iii) Services and facilities of navigation communications for safety of aviation.

C) Sea transport and Ports

After reviewing and evaluating the studies already prepared, the specialized panels will undertake preliminary studies with the aim of establishing sea transport regional companies, and African-Arab companies with joint capital, in order to eliminate the obstacles from which many of the present national companies suffer, and so that the Afro-Arab companies proposed might satisfy their needs in the field of sea transport. The panel will also make a study of the conditions of African and Arab ports with the aim of their development in order to achieve speed in loading and unloading, to coordinate and promote mutual cooperation and to remove bottle-necks which many ports suffer from.

D) Communications

This include telecommunications, postal services and broadcasting.

As for telecommunications, the specialized panel was made aware that the execution of trans-African telecommunication network (PANAFTEL) is progressing at the same time in which Arab organizations endeavour to link Arab countries with an integrated network.

The specialized panel recommended to be formed, has to study the present situation in both cases, lay down the programmes, submitting proposals to join the African and Arab worlds through those two networks.

In the field of postal services, the specialized panel, in collaboration with the specialized regional organs present in Africa and Arab World, will start a preliminary study with the aim of presenting practical suggestions that would help the promotion of postal services between Africa and Arab World.

As for broadcasting, the specialized panel, in collaboration with the present regional and national organs, will study the present status with the aim of presenting practical suggestions that would help the development of technical broadcasting services between African and Arab countries.

## EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND INFORMATION FIELDS

### Education and Culture

a) Exchange of experts in the fields of general and technical as well as higher education with the aim of raising its standards in African and Arab countries.

b) Exchange of visits and scholarships in the field of teacher training, technical and higher education.

c) Exchange of curricula and textbooks, and equivalence of certificates,

This can be carried out through the following projects:

a) Exchange of experts in the field of education

This programme aims at exchanging experts of university professors in African and Arab universities, researchers in educational and scientific centres, and high officials of the Ministries of Education, Culture and Scientific Research in the countries of both groups. Invitations for professors and researchers and high officials are required in order to participate in teaching in joint research work, or the exchange of views.

b) Training courses and scholarships

This includes the establishment of training courses for translators, teachers, administrators and librarians. The training courses which are

specially prepared in African languages including Arabic, deal with educational planning and documentation, school and university libraries and secretarial work. This requires:

i) sending trainers for short periods to help training on the spot;

ii) offering scholarships to participate in other courses,

iii) scholarships for post-graduate studies.

c) <u>African-Arab Committee for Textbooks</u>

This programme aims at finding a suitable form of exchanging expertise and knowledge among experts and officials of Africa and Arabs in the field of textbooks in order to introduce sound data about African and Arab culture, as well as joint contemporary issues.

This relates to the textbooks on geography, history, social sciences and languages. The work of the Afro-Arab joint Committee necessitates the following-up of the content of textbooks, decide upon the suitable content so as to create mutual understanding and suitable atmosphere for cooperation in the different fields.

d) <u>Afro-Arab Committee for the equivalence of school and university certificates</u>

The increasing number of African and Arab learners in each other's countries requires the

equivalence of school and university certificates awarded by both sides in order to eliminate obstacles before students when moving from one country to another. So, the scientific bases for this equivalence have to be determined, studies made, decisions and recommendations issued.

Establishment of an Afro-Arab university and research centres in order to facilitate the undertaking of scientific studies on the basis of civilized Afro-Arab relations and their joint cultures, and to participate in the course of human civilization past and future. A Committee for the undertaking of a feasibility study will be set up.

This can be carried out through the Afro-Arab Committee for the study of the establishment of Afro-Arab universities.

Preliminary studies will define the objectives of establishing this university in the light of the specialized practical needs of Afro-Arab universities and their responsibilities. Such a study will state the general plan for admittance, specify specializations, explain system of scholarships, decide upon site of university or the different sites where its specialized institutes may be set up.

Establishment of close relations in sports, theatrical and artistic fields through agreements and programmes arranged for these purposes. This can be arranged out through:

- arranging Afro-Arab artistic weeks by sending integrated musical and singing groups on tours of a fortnight each, to play in two or three capitals;
- exchanging broadcasting programmes and films.

Encourage the movement of writing, translation, publication and the study of manuscripts aiming at acquainting them with the African and Arab cultural aspects.

a) Facilitate the exchange of publications. in order to carry out this, it is suggested that the specialized organs in OAU and LAS submit a list of textbooks, publications and manuscripts which serve the aim of promoting Afro-Arab cooperation to be translated and issued in the official languages of the two organizations. The Committee receives help of experts to fix expenses for the translation of suggested textbooks and publications.

b) A joint Committee of experts will be formed in order to select books suitable for translation, decide upon the languages to/from which translations are made, estimate costs anticipated for translation and the capabilities of printing and distribution.

5. Study the historical roots of Afro-Arab cultural relations, and examine the negative consequences of the foreign influence on Afro-Arab relations.

The programme of study aims at rewriting the Afro-Arab history, and studying their mutual relations. This requires the establishment of a specialized joint Committee that draws an executive programme for collecting manuscripts and documents, and undertaking the studies required, translating and publishing them.

6. Drawing courses of study for the main African languages and Arabic for various school stages.

This requires drawing integrated courses to teach African languages and Arabic for adults and children. Each course-unit comprises a textbook, an accompanying dictionary and aids. These are to be prepared within an Afro-Arab cooperation framework through specialized experts.

Information and Tourism

1. Invite those responsible for the mass media in the countries of the two groups and organs acting in the sphere of Afro-Arab cooperation to harmoniously implement joint programmes for the realization of the objectives of Afro-Arab cooperation, particularly those which have been laid down during the respective meetings and gatherings of the OAU and the Arab League in these fields.

And in order to promote cooperation in the fields of information between the African and the Arab States, recommends encouraging the exchange of radio and

television programmes between the Radio and Television organs of the States of the two regions, and to support the efforts accomplished in these fields between the National African Broadcasting Federation and the Arab States Broadcasting Union.

2. Exchange of news between the Press Agencies in the African and Arab countries and consideration of the possibility of setting up such agencies in regions which lack such agencies.

3. Continue the Afro-Arab dialogue which started at Khartoum symposium in January 1976 and the Sharjah Symposium in December 1976 by holding similar symposia in an African country, the date of which is to be agreed upon while following up the implementation of the recommendations of those symposia.

4. Encourage and develop regular contacts and meetings between professional unions and syndicates acting in the fields of journalism and tourism.

5. Consolidate and encourage Afro-Arab tourism through the dissemination of information and study the possibility of setting up an appropriate body to encourage investments in this field.

Labour and Social Affairs

In implementation of the recommendations of Afro-Arab Working Group in the Social, Cultural, Educational and Information fields, the panel suggests the following programme for cooperation:

A) The aims of the Afro-Arab programme for cooperation in the field of labour and labourers

i) Integration between Afro-Arab expertise and capabilities in the field of labour and labourers.

ii) Participation in social and economic development in the African Continent and the Arab World through the cooperation in forming and training the technical cadres which are required for development plans and programmes in the various fields of work in African and Arab countries.

iii) Promoting the mutual ties and relations between African and Arab States and peoples.

B) Fields suggested for cooperation in the field of labour

i) Training and developing manpower and human resources.

ii) Industrial security, health, and vocational safety.

iii) Labour culture and social services.

iv) Labour administration (developing the framework of labour administration).

v) Union training.

vi) Work legislation.

C) Methods of providing technical aid

i) Providing labour administrations and labour unions with equipment and tools that help them perform their tasks.

ii) Receiving delegations and providing scholarships in Arab establishments (Ministries of Labour, Unions and Institutes of Labourers).

iii) Arranging training courses and seminars on labour and labourers in Arab and African Specialized Institutes.

iv) Delegating specialized experts in labour and labourers to help African and Arab countries develop their labourer establishments.

v) Undertaking research work and joint Afro-Arab studies in the field of labour and Labourers in collaboration with African and Arab Research Institutes.

vi) Exchanging information, bulletins, books, and other publications in various labour fields.

D) Proposed Executive Programmes

1) Organizing a number of training programmes in English and French in the following fields:

- Administration
- Vocational security and safety
- Work inspection
- Social insurance

- Manpower planning
- Legislation
- Professional training
- Cooperatives

Topics of grants:

Will be determined according to agreement between the Arab and African Ministries of Labour.

Venue of Training:

African and Arab Ministries of Labour and specialized institutes.

Training experts: Africans and Arabs.

Duration of grants: Short-term grants.

2) Organizing, periodically and annually, a number of advanced courses on vocational security and safety for the personnel who are responsible for vocational security in African and Arab countries.

3) Labour culture:

A number of grants will be allocated for the labour union information for Africa and the Arab World.

Topics of grants: will be determined according to agreement between the bodies concerned.

Levels of trainees: Higher cadres in labour unions.

Duration of grants: Short terms.

Venue of training: African and Arab Institutes for Labour, Culture and work research affiliated to both organizations.

4) Providing labour administrations and training centres in the African and Arab States as well as African and Arab Labour Unions with their requirements of equipment, tools and preparations that help them carry out their tasks such as printing machines, typewriters and small cars.

5) Establishing an Afro-Arab Institute for vocational training, and another for Afro-Arab labour studies and social affairs. It is proposed that a specialized committee be established to carry out the feasibility study for these two projects.

It is noteworthy to point out that the First Afro-Arab Union Conference held in Algeria has recommended the establishment of an Afro-Arab Institute for union studies and research work, supervised by the African Trade Union Organization and the International Union of Arab Labourers.

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# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation

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