



ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243.

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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
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Secretariat  
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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE INTER-AFRICAN CULTURAL FUND



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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE INTER-AFRICAN CULTURAL FUND

I. BACKGROUND

1. One year ago, the Council of Ministers, meeting in its 35th Session in Freetown submitted for approval by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government the constitution establishing the Inter-African Cultural Fund within the OAU (vide CM/1055(XXXV)).

2. It is to be recalled that the purpose of the Fund is to sustain and promote cultural studies and programmes with particular reference to:

- a) transcription, teaching and promotion of the use of national languages so as to make them suitable for the dissemination of information and development of science and technology;
- b) collection, preservation, use and dissemination of oral tradition;
- c) adaptation of school curricula to development requirements and to the African national socio-economic realities;
- d) promotion of cultural activities, encouragement of creative artists and assistance to the creative activities among the people;
- e) protection and encouragement of creative artists and cultural properties;
- f) repurchase of all African objects of art of substantial value in foreign museums outside independent Africa;
- g) construction of a museum of African arts;

- h) development of permanent cultural research and establishment of African cultural centres;
- i) modern scientific research into African traditional medicine and medicinal plants;
- j) study of the similarities and differences between cultures of Member States, promotion of joint studies into the origins of such aspects of the cultures as languages, music, anthropology, popular culture and the like.

3. The Recipients of the Fund shall be:

- a) African national and regional public associations dealing specially with the promotion of cultural development and to which the fund shall be an additional intellectual, financial and technical resource;
- b) Private African associations whose objectives conform to those of the fund and whose activities contribute to the promotion of culture and the creative arts;
- c) Individuals who may wish to seek assistance from the fund in the fields above, particularly in African creative arts;
- d) Private African associations and individuals seeking assistance from the fund shall first of all submit their applications to the Governments of the countries where they have their Headquarters in the case of associations and to the Governments of their countries of origin in the case of individuals.

4. The Sources of the Fund shall be:

- a) Assessed contributions in cash and kind from OAU Member States;
- b) Voluntary contributions in cash and in kind from Governments, institutions of the United Nations system, public and private institutions, international or national institutions and associations or private individuals;

- c) Interests accruing to the Fund's resources.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

5. At the end of the Freetown Summit in July 1979, the OAU General Secretariat circulated the constitution of the Inter-African Cultural Fund to all Member States. This in fact included the amendments proposed by Member States and some of those made by delegations at the Commission's meeting.

6. The OAU Secretary-General initiated contacts with UNESCO, ADB and BADEA.

The outcome of those initiatives is already being felt as evidenced by the participation of the OAU General Secretariat in the 4th Session of the Governing Board of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (UNESCO) held in Paris from 7 to 9 April 1981. The meeting studied the possible fields of cooperation between the International Fund and the Inter-African Fund. Such a cooperation is at any rate in keeping with the very cordial relations between the OAU and UNESCO. The OAU General Secretariat is happy to inform the Council of Ministers, that at the April Session the Governing Board of the International Fund granted an amount of 15,000 US Dollars in aid to the Inter-African Fund. Moreover, the deliberations of the Session left no doubt about the sincere interest that the international community takes in Africa's initiatives to promote its culture.

7. The ADB on its part responded on 9 June 1980 to the OAU Secretary-General's initiative and proposed that a joint meeting be convened to look into the ways and means of getting the Inter-African Cultural Fund off the ground. If such a meeting is convened before June we shall report on the outcome to the Council of Ministers. Other possible donors could be involved in that meeting.

## III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

8. The time has come to shift to a more action-oriented phase of activities. The General Secretariat thus intends to publish and extensively circulate a

brochure in the OAU working languages giving the necessary information on the Fund.

9. In conformity with Article 10 dealing with transitional provisions of the constitution, the OAU Secretary-General "shall take all appropriate preparatory measures for the launching of the Fund and the setting up of the Board of Directors. To this end, and until the Fund has adequate resources, the Secretary-General shall meet the necessary expenses from the funds approved by OAU Council of Ministers."

10. To this end, the General Secretariat proposes to the Council of Ministers to take the following measures:-

- 1) Decide that the Inter-African Cultural Fund shall be launched in the course of 1982, and request the OAU Secretary-General to take necessary steps in that direction;
- 2) Appeal to Governments of Member States, institutions of the United Nations system, public and private bodies, international and national associations and individuals to contribute to the financing of the fund in consonance with Article 4 of the Constitution;
- 3) Authorise the OAU Secretary-General to initiate the necessary contacts to that end;
- 4) Request the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to provide the fund with adequate financial resources;
- 5) Thank the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (UNESCO) for its financial contribution to the establishment of the Inter-African Cultural Fund.

IV. ANNEX: CONSTITUTION OF THE FUND

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Freetown, Sierra-Leone from 1st to 4th July 1980,

Recalling the objectives set out in the Cultural Charter for Africa as well as in the Algiers Pan-African Cultural Manifesto;

Recalling the conclusions of the Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa (Accra, 27 October - 6 November 1975);

Recalling the conclusions of the OAU Colloquium on African Development Prospects for the year 2000 (Monrovia, 12 - 16 February 1979);

Recalling the directives and measures contained in the Declaration of Commitment of the OAU Heads of State and Government (Monrovia, July 1979).

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 : Establishment of the Fund

An "Inter-African Cultural Fund", hereinafter referred to as "the Fund", shall be set up within the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Article 2 : Objectives

The Fund's resources shall be devoted to the sustenance and promotion of cultural studies and programmes in the following areas:

- a) transcription, teaching and promotion of the use of national languages with a view to making them suitable for dissemination of information as well as for scientific and technological development;
- b) collection, preservation, use and dissemination of oral tradition;
- c) adaptation of school curricula to the development requirements and national and African socio-cultural realities;

- d) promotion of cultural activities, encouragement of creative artists and assistance to the creative cultural activities among the people;
- e) protection and encouragement of creative artists and cultural properties;
- f) re-acquisition of all African objects of art of significant value in foreign museums outside independent Africa;
- g) construction of a museum of African Arts;
- h) development of continued research and the establishment of research centres in the field of cultural activities;
- i) modern scientific research into traditional medicine and African pharmacopoeia.
- j) study of the similarities and differences between the cultures of Member States, and promote joint studies on the origins of such aspects of the cultures as languages, music, anthropology, popular culture and the like.

### Article 3 : Operations

The operations of the Fund may take the following forms:

- a) intellectual and technical assistance;
- b) various forms of financial assistance, including investments, loans, subventions award of fellowships and participation in cultural activities;
- c) in general all other forms of activities which the Board of Directors may deem to be in line with the fundamental objectives of the operational policies of the Fund.

2. BENEFICIARIES OF THE FUND

- a) African national and regional public institutions specifically responsible for cultural promotion and development to which the Fund could provide supplementary intellectual, financial or technical assistance;
- b) African private organizations whose objectives are in line with the Fund's and whose activities contribute to the promotion of cultural activities and creative arts;
- c) Individuals, especially African creative artists who may seek assistance from the Fund in these areas;
- d) African private associations and individuals seeking assistance from the Fund shall first of all submit their applications to the Governments of the countries where they have their Headquarters, in the case of the association, and to their countries of origin in the case of individuals.

Article 4: Resources

1. The resources of the Fund shall be constituted by :
  - a) assessed contributions in kind or cash from OAU Member States;
  - b) voluntary contributions in kind or cash from Governments, institutions of the United Nations System, public or private institutions, national or international institutions, associations or private individuals;
  - c) interests from the Fund's resources.
2. The Fund may accept works or arts or royalties on copy-rights.



3. Contributions from non-African funding sources, as indicated in Article 1, paragraph (b) and Article 2, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors of the Fund for approval.
4. The resources of the Fund shall be paid into a special account maintained by the OAU Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of the OAU Financial Rules.
5. Contributions to the Fund and other forms of assistance may be made only for purposes defined by the Board of Directors. Contributions meant for certain programmes or specific projects may be accepted, on condition that the implementation of the programmes or the projects shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Contributions to the Fund shall be free from any political strings.
6. The costs for the operations of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and any subsidiary body and the expenses relating to the staff, shall be met from the resources of the Fund.

Article 5: Board of Directors

A. Composition

1. The Fund shall be administered by a Board of Directors composed of fifteen members appointed by the OAU Secretary-General on the basis of equitable geographical and cultural representation. Members of the Board shall be appointed in their personal capacities.
2. Members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed for a four year term and shall be re-eligible; but no member shall be re-elected for more than two consecutive terms.
3. In the case of death or resignation of a member, he may be replaced by the Secretary-General for the remaining period of his term, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 above.

4. The Secretary-General or the substitute so appointed by him, shall participate in all meetings of the Board, the Executive Committee and all the subsidiary bodies established by the Board without voting rights.

5. Natural and juridical persons not members of the Board, which contribute to the resources of the Funds, may take part in the meetings of the Board, without voting rights.

6. The Board may invite representatives of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in its meetings as observers.

B. Functions

7. The Board of Directors shall, according to conditions established by the present constitution, enjoy a wide intellectual and functional autonomy within the OAU.

8. The Board shall define the principles governing the activities of the Fund, taking into consideration the overall objectives of the OAU.

9. In keeping with the objectives defined in Article 2, the Board shall endeavour to encourage projects resulting from the implementation of new plans and methods, and measures which shall help promote research and experiments in cultural and communications activities, with particular attention to operations which may produce multiple effects.

10. The Board shall decide on the utilisation of the resources of the Fund.

11. The Board shall take all measures it may deem fit for the preparation and implementation of the Fund's activity programme.

12. The Board shall be consulted on the appointment of the Director of the Fund.

13. The Board may establish subsidiary bodies as it may deem necessary.

14. The Secretary-General may, as and when necessary, refer to the Executive Council, all matters relating to the operations of the Fund. In this case, and if the Secretary-General requests, the Board shall refrain from taking any final action until the matter has been considered by the appropriate body.

C. Procedure

15. The Board shall meet in ordinary session once a year. It may however meet in an extra-ordinary session, if convened by the OAU Secretary-General or at the request of half of its members.

16. The Director of the Fund shall participate in the meetings of the Board, without voting rights and shall be in charge of the Board's Secretariat.

17. The Board shall adopt its own rules or procedure.

Article 6: Executive Committee

1. The Board of Directors shall set up an Executive Board composed of the Chairman of the Board and four members elected from among the members of the Board of Directors.

2. As a general rule, the Executive Board shall meet twice a year.

3. The Executive Board shall carry out duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Article 7: Director

1. The Director of the Fund shall be appointed by the OAU Secretary-General after consultation with the Board of Directors.

2. The Director of the Fund shall formulate proposals on measures to be taken by the Board of Directors and ensure the implementation of the Board's decisions.

3. The Director may establish contacts with international, regional or national, state or private organizations, natural or juridical persons for the implementation of the Fund's activities.

4. The Director shall endeavour to encourage voluntary contributions, or all other forms of resources in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.

Article 8: Staff

1. The Director of the Fund, and the staff seconded to the Fund by the Secretary-General shall be members of the OAU and shall be governed by the provisions of the OAU Staff Rules and Regulations.

2. The Director may recruit other staff members on temporary basis, and in accordance with the appropriate OAU Rules and Regulations for the implementation of specific activities of the Fund.

Article 9: Reports

The OAU Secretary-General shall submit a report on the activities of the Fund to each ordinary session of the Council of Ministers. The Report shall also be presented to the natural or juridical persons contributing to the Fund.

Article 10: Transitional Provisions

The Secretary-General of the OAU shall take all appropriate preparatory measures for the launching of the Fund and the setting up of the Board of Directors. To this end, and until the Fund has adequate resources, the Secretary-General shall meet the necessary expenses from the funds approved by OAU Council of Ministers.



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