



**ORGANIZATION OF
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE MEETING BETWEEN
OAU SECRETARIAT AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
HELD IN NAIROBI FROM 5 TO 7 JUNE 1980



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The Meeting which was convened by the United Nations Secretary General in consultation with the Secretary-General of the OAU in response to General Assembly resolution A/RES/34/21 of 20 November, 1979 was held in Nairobi from 5 to 7 June 1980. The resolution emphasized the need to strengthen the relation between the UN system and the OAU Secretariat. In operative paragraph 15 the resolution requested the United Nations Secretary-General "in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to arrange for a meeting to be held in Africa before the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, between representatives of the Organization of African Unity and the organizations within the United Nations system to study means of effective implementation of programmes of mutual concern, including assistance to liberation movements".

The meeting was attended by the OAU Secretariat and the Secretariats within the United Nations System.

The following organizations within the UN system were represented:

UNDP, UNHCR, GATT, UNIDO, WFP, UNESCO, WMO, IMCO, IBRD, IMF, WHO, FAO.

2. It was agreed during the first session that the meeting would be jointly chaired by the OAU representative and the UN representative. In this connection Dr. Peter ONU Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Political Matters of the OAU and Mr. Farah, under Secretary of the United Nations Special Political Questions were appointed joint Chairmen.

3. During the opening session the Secretary-General of the OAU delivered a keynote address in which he underlined the importance the OAU attached to the need to strengthen and intensify the existing cooperation between the OAU Secretariat and the UN Secretariat and the various specialized agencies so as to effectively tackle the numerous problems facing the African Continent. In this regard he highlighted the major responsibilities entrusted to the OAU in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the African Heads of State and Government at the First Economic Summit held in Lagos on April 1980. It would be impossible for the OAU to discharge these responsibilities without active cooperation of the UN systems.

4. The Under Secretary-General of the UN also delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the UN in which he wished the meeting success. He emphasized the commitment of the United Nations to cooperate fully in solving the Continent's problems. The Secretary-General assured the meeting of the fullest cooperation of the UN systems.

5. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and all the participants expressed themselves in forthright and frank manner. The meeting arrived at agreed conclusions on future cooperation which are annexed to this Report. It was agreed that this first meeting was extremely constructive and it was further agreed that similar meetings would be held in future at least once a year.

CONCLUSIONS OF MEETING BETWEEN OAU SECRETARIAT AND UNITED NATIONS SYSTEMHELD IN NAIROBI FROM 5 TO 7 JUNE 1980

1. The meeting recognized the need to facilitate further exchanges of information between the Secretariat of the OAU and the secretariats of the United Nations system so as to enable officials of both the United Nations and OAU to better understand the structure of each others organization. To this end it was agreed that both the OAU and United Nations Secretariats would make available to each other all available facilities including working contacts and documentation on regular basis and that pertinent decisions and resolutions would be expeditiously transmitted to appropriate organs for necessary action. It was further agreed that the United Nations Secretariats will provide copies of all relevant documents to the OAU library and that they would also provide the OAU secretariat with a list of current publications. The OAU secretariat would contact agencies concerned for any special requests it might wish to make for the achievement of the objective of maximum co-operation between the OAU and the UN system.

2. The United Nations agencies were requested by the OAU Secretariat to advise it on training and research facilities which could be available to the OAU and to indicate resources to be earmarked for implementation. To this effect, it was recognized that some UN agencies had already taken initiatives in this regard. Similar information was requested by OAU in respect of technical assistance to the General Secretariat of OAU. The OAU Secretariat would respond to these programmes on the basis of the information to be provided by the agencies, as well as on the basis of its identified technical assistance and training needs and requirements. The meeting noted that UNDP has already made concrete proposals to the OAU for technical assistance to the Secretariat of OAU with special reference to the needs for training in order to enhance the capacity of the OAU to meet its responsibilities.

3. Regarding the question of dissemination of information, DPI and other relevant UN agencies were requested to make available to the OAU a list of relevant publications, films and tapes and to co-ordinate their activities in the field with OAU agencies in African capitals concerned. The OAU requested the UN, particularly the DPI, to give more publicity to the problems of the African continent in order to create a greater awareness and understanding of African problems. In connexion with the above, the need was also recognized in view of the rapidly expanding role of the OAU on economic development matters, for the UN to broaden the scope of its existing information on Africa to include increased information on African economic development matters. In this context the following specific actions should be pursued:

- (a) The Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) should be requested to co-ordinate and enhance the information activities of the organization of the United Nations system with regard to African continent;
- (b) Consultations to be held between OAU, UNDP and UN/DPI to find ways and means of providing technical assistance for training of OAU information officers;
- (c) Public information activities of the organization of the United Nations system and particularly UN/DPI in technical and economic and social fields concerned Africa to be expanded;
- (d) OAU should be invited to participate as observer in the deliberations of the United Nations Committee on Information;
- (e) Assistance should be provided to Pan-African News Agency by UN/DPI on the same basis already provided to Non-Aligned Pool of News agencies;

(f) Liaison on public information activities should be improved between OAU and UN/DPI at New York, Geneva and Addis Ababa;

(g) OAU would avail itself more systematically of the services that United Nations Information Centres in Africa can provide. Of a total of 60 UNICs 20 are located in Africa. In addition those countries where an information centre is not established UNDP Resident Representative Offices act as information centres;

(h) UN/DPI would make available to OAU a list of its publications, films and tapes (sound and video). Subsequently OAU will be provided with those materials it will consider to be relevant to its information activities.

4. On the question of relations between the United Nations system and the OAU Secretariat, it was agreed that the United Nations specialized agencies should intensify their co-operation with the OAU specialized agencies. This would include the signing of co-operation agreements, where these do not exist, and existing ones reviewed, as well as the reciprocal granting of observer status at their meetings. It was suggested that annual calendars of meetings and relevant programmes of both the OAU and the UN specialized agencies should be exchanged to facilitate their co-operation. The United Nations agencies were requested to involve the OAU specialized agencies more in their work and to inform them of any project undertaken for the benefit of Member States. In the discussions on this matter it was noted that the political weight of Africa should be brought to bear on decisions in the policy-making organs of the UN system, particularly on budgetary matters, in favour of Africa.

5. OAU Secretariat stated that Africa should be given its fair share of representation within the United Nations Secretariat and the

specialized agencies. In this connexion it was pointed out that Africa was inadequately represented, within the United Nations system. The OAU hoped that agencies would review their recruitment policies to ensure effective African representation particularly at policy making level within the United Nations systems and the deployment of Africans in other continents. In this connexion there was a need to review the quota system for recruitment within the UN system. The OAU undertook to co-ordinate action in this regard. The UN system undertook to make available to the next joint meeting a statement giving detailed information on the recruitment policies and the number of professional staff (and their grades) of their respective Organizations in so far as they pertain to African nationals at Headquarters, in the field, offices and in projects. In this respect the OAU requested a comparison of the position of Africans with nationals of other regions be included in the statement. This comparative table should be transmitted to the OAU in good time for it to be able to draw the necessary conclusion which will then be submitted to the next joint meeting of the OAU Secretariat and the UN system.

6. The OAU appealed to the UN and Specialized Agencies to increase their efforts for the mobilization of the necessary resources for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was emphasized that the Lagos Plan of Action represented a comprehensive and collective blue-print of Africa's economic needs over the coming twenty-years. The meeting took note of the statement of the Secretary-General of the OAU concerning the role of culture in development and the objectives of the Cultural Charter of Africa. It urged the UN specialized agencies to assist OAU in implementing the activities that are planned by the OAU within this framework in order to complete the Lagos Plan of Action.

7. The OAU also informed the meeting that it was planned to hold a special meeting on the Lagos Plan of Action between the OAU Secretariat and the ECA Secretariat as soon as the Freetown Summit is over to harmonize the roles of the two Secretariats principally concerned with the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. The OAU Secretariat would keep in close consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, regarding the implementation of the Plan which will be circulated to all the agencies as soon as possible. The specialized agencies welcomed the initiation of the Plan and undertook to give it careful consideration. The OAU would undertake the responsibility for identifying specific areas where co-operation would be sought from the specialized agencies.

8. With respect to special assistance to Chad it was agreed that the UN Specialized Agencies should make contingent preparations so that as soon as conditions allow they can render assistance to that country to restore the infrastructure which has been completely destroyed.

9. The meeting agreed that there was a need to give greater emphasis to social problems facing the continent. In this connexion it was further agreed that the relevant agencies would give all necessary assistance and support to the newly established African Regional Centre for Research and Social Training in Tripoli.

10. The meeting also agreed on the need for a comprehensive study of the question of migratory workers by the OAU in close co-operation with the relevant United Nations Agencies.

11. On the question of refugees the meeting welcomed the measures that are currently being taken by the UNHCR in collaboration with the OAU/BPEAR

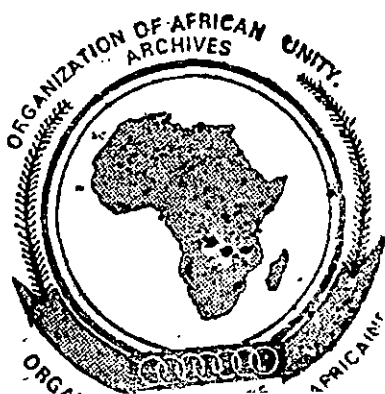
in the implementation of the Arusha Conference Recommendations on Refugees, and expressed the hope that other UN agencies will continue to play their role in implementing these recommendations. The OAU requested the UN agencies to create more awareness of the problems and needs of African refugees who constitute more than half of the total world refugee population. The OAU, although noting with appreciation UNHCR's successful efforts in mobilizing increased resources for African refugee programmes, still expressed concern at the inadequate financial resources allocated by the international community to African refugee problems. To this end the OAU indicated that it would initiate action towards the holding of an international conference on African refugees. The UN agencies were requested to increase their assistance to the African refugees through participation in and active follow up of programmes established by UN Inter-Agency missions, constituted with a view to assessing the comprehensive needs of the refugees and the effects of their presence on the social and economic structures of the receiving countries. In this connexion attention was drawn to the desperate situation existing with respect to over 250,000 refugees from Chad in Cameroon, and other neighbouring countries, and the United Nations agencies were requested to furnish all necessary assistance to alleviate their condition.

12. On the question of handicapped persons, attention was drawn to the resolutions of the Council of Ministers in Nairobi and Monrovia on the subject which drew attention to the plight of handicapped persons and the need to involve them in national life. In this connexion reference was made to the proposed OAU meeting on handicapped persons and the need for the active participation of the relevant UN agencies to ensure concrete action to assist these unfortunate persons and to protect the population from diseases which cause such handicap. On their part the UN agencies mentioned efforts that they were making to deal with this problem.

13. On the question of co-operation with regard to the situation in Southern Africa, the OAU expressed satisfaction with the active assistance and co-operation it has received from most of the UN agencies. The OAU called on all agencies to increase their assistance to SWAPO (Namibia), ANC and PAC (South Africa) to accelerate the liquidation of colonialism and apartheid in Africa. The OAU requested UNEPSA to furnish it with a list of names of all recipients of its scholarships from its inception. The meeting expressed the hope that the World Bank and IMF which have legal constraints against giving assistance to liberation movements would do their best to ensure that appropriate amendments to the statutes were made to make it possible for them to give the necessary assistance to liberation struggle. These two organizations explained the situation of their respective agencies. It was also pointed out that there is urgent need to master additional resources through the promotion of Inter-Africa activities for National Liberation Movements and that the National Liberation Movements should increasingly be involved into sub-regional and regional activities to facilitate their early participation and integration into African programmes. The meeting agreed that despite the current financial constraints, UNDP should continue with its efforts of raising more funds to facilitate implementation of on going programmes of assistance to National Liberation Movements and their possible expansion.

14. Attention was drawn to the urgent need of special economic assistance programmes for African Frontline States whose economies have been seriously affected by the liberation struggle.

15. The meeting agreed in principle to hold periodic consultations between the OAU Secretariat and Secretariats of the UN system to discuss matters of mutual concern and to follow-up decisions of the Nairobi meeting. There was unanimous agreement that the meeting was extremely useful and constructive. It was also agreed that in principle such meetings should be held at least once a year. In that connexion it is recommended that the next meeting should be held in Geneva in April 1981. It was also agreed that such meetings should not preclude regular bilateral meetings between the OAU and the organizations of the UN system.



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Report of the Secretary-General on the meeting between OAU Secretariat and the United Nations System held in Nairobi from 5 to 7 June 1980

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