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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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CM/1178 (XXXVIII)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE CO-ORDINATION
OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU SPECIALIZED AGENCIES



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OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OAU SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES

1. The Council of Ministers at its Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session adopted Resolution CM/Res.771(XXXIV) which amongst others called upon the Secretary-General of the OAU to follow up and co-ordinate the activities of the Specialized Agencies of the OAU and to periodically convene a meeting of the Heads of States of these institutions in order to better co-ordinate and harmonize their activities. Thus in accordance with the above Resolution, the General Secretariat convened a meeting of the Heads of OAU Specialized Agencies here in Addis Ababa on 10 - 11 June, 1981 whose summary of deliberations is attached to this report as an annex.
2. The meeting reviewed the existing co-operation between the OAU and its Specialized Agencies and came to the conclusion that even though there was close co-operation between the OAU and those Agencies, there was room for improvement within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos since the adopting Resolution of the Plan calls upon the Secretary-General of the OAU to implement it with the active support of the Specialised Agencies. In this connection, the meeting decided to establish a permanent institution called the Administrative Co-ordinating Committee consisting of the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Heads of the Specialized Agencies to co-ordinate and harmonise the activities and programmes of the OAU and its Specialized Agencies. This Committee would meet at least once a year. During the meeting the work programmes of each agency would be presented and harmonized with that of the others to avoid duplication and waste of Africa's meagre resources.
3. The meeting emphasised the need to review the co-operation agreements, where they existed, between the OAU and the Specialized Agencies and urged the signing of such agreements where they did not exist. The Heads of the Specialized Agencies regretted

that the OAU General Secretariat was not always represented at their meetings as required by the Co-operation Agreements. They counted on the moral and financial support of the OAU in the conduct of their business with other non-African international organizations. In an explanation, the General Secretariat pointed out that it had been limited by lack of finance and it would make the necessary effort to be represented at the right level at their meetings.

4. The General Secretariat informed the meeting about the steps it had taken so far in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. For the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, the General Secretariat had prepared a two-year operational work programme in which the role of the Specialized Agencies, in their respective areas of competence had been emphasised. The programme had been presented to the Agencies of UN System and would be presented to the 37th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. With regard to the implementation of the Final Act of Lagos, a consultant had formulated certain proposals on the modalities for preparing a draft treaty for the establishment of an African Economic Community.

5. The Heads of the Specialized Agencies also gave a brief account of the activities of their agencies in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and concluded that the strategy adopted by OAU in its operational work programme were complementary to their activities. The meeting resolved to take a united front in ensuring the successful execution of programmes and projects identified in the Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

6. In considering the relationship between the OAU and the UN, the meeting agreed that there was the need to revise the co-operation agreement between the OAU and the United Nations, taking into account the changing role of the OAU as indicated in the Lagos Plan of Action and the establishment of OAU Specialized Agencies since the coming into force of the old agreement. The Specialized

Agencies were in turn urged to sign co-operation agreements with their counterpart organizations in the UN System. In signing such an agreement, great caution should be exercised to avoid jeopardizing their own operations in Africa. The OAU should be kept closely informed about the joint activities of OAU Specialized Agencies and the Specialized Agencies in the UN System, especially in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

7. The meeting stressed the importance of OAU Specialized Agencies being recognised in their field of competence as executing agencies by the UN System. In this connection, the Specialized Agencies of the OAU should take appropriate steps; which would be fully supported by the OAU to obtain observer status with the UN System as well as recognition as an inter-governmental organization to the United Nations ECOSOC.

8. The meeting discussed at length the need for horizontal co-operation between the OAU Specialized Agencies and was assured that the already existing co-operation between them would be further strengthened with a view to promoting a co-ordinated development of the Continent.

9. Action Required

The Council is requested to take note of the action taken to implement Resolution CM/Res.771(XXXIV) by the creation of the Administrative Co-ordinating Committee consisting of the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Heads of OAU Specialized Agencies as members, to co-ordinate and harmonize the activities of the General Secretariat and the Specialized Agencies. The Council is also requested to suggest other measures that would further strengthen the bond of co-operation between the General Secretariat and its Specialized Agencies.



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