



ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat
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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE

Secretariat
B. P. 3243

• Addis Ababa •

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Fortieth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

27 February - 7 March 1984

CM/1229(XL) Rev. 1

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REVIEW OF CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE OAU



Introduction

At its 38th Session, the Council of Ministers in Resolution CM/Res. 913(XXXVIII)

"AWARE of the need to review the criteria in the light of the Organization's experience in granting Observer Status:

1. DECIDES to set up a Committee to review the criteria for granting OAU Observer Status with due regard to observations made by Member States contained in the report of Committee "A";
The Committee comprises the Member States of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters and any other Member States who so wish to be associated with the work of the Committee on the subject;
2. RECOMMENDS the suspension of consideration of new applications for Observer Status until the adoption of new criteria by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
3. CALLS on the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with the classified list of the Organizations that had already been granted Observer Status as well as other detailed information;
4. REQUESTS the Committee entrusted with the review of the criteria for granting OAU Observer Status to report to the 40th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;
5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to ensure the strict application of the present criteria governing the participation of Organizations that had already been granted Observer Status in the deliberation of the Organization and their access to documents".

The Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, sitting in its capacity as the Committee to review the present criteria for granting Observer Status, met from 28th November to 9th December 1983, and considered the criteria. After a thorough consideration the Committee observed that there was proliferation of requests for subventions from Organizations granted Observer Status, and remarked that the OAU could not afford to squander its fund. It felt that these organisations should find their own source of finances, and should not regard their Observer Status as giving them automatic right to subvention from the OAU.

The Committee agreed that the existing criteria for granting Observer Status were satisfactory, but noted that Member States did not strictly apply the rules. It therefore recommended that the existing Criteria for granting Observer Status as they stand at present were satisfactory, and that they should be applied strictly and discourage the granting of subventions. The criteria as they stand are annexed to this paper as annex A.

Annex A Current Criteria for granting Observer Status with the OAU.

Annex B Resolution CM/Res.913(XXXVIII)

Annex C Up-to-date list of Organizations granted Observer Status with the OAU.

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Annex A

CURRENT CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS
WITH THE OAU

CURRENT CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE OAU

At its 14th Session, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government approved the following criteria for granting observer Status with the OAU:-

Part I

1. Any organisation applying for Observer Status with the OAU will show its genuineness; its credibility; its Pan-Africanism; the impossibility of its being influenced by forces external and inimical to Africa. If it is a professional Organisation, it should include all various disciplines of the wider profession. For instance an Association of Engineers should include all Organisations of various disciplines of engineering, civil and mechanical, for the whole Africa. Any Organisation seeking Observer Status with the OAU should therefore:

- a) Have its objectives and activities conform with the fundamental principles and objectives set forth in the Charter of the OAU;
- b) Be an African Organisation, registered in Africa with its headquarters in Africa, Membership would be African, excluding South Africa and South West Africa, while minority Racist Governments are still in power in these places. Membership external to Africa should not have voting rights;
- c) Have sound financial basis. Sources of finance should be African. Donors external to Africa are to be clearly disclosed.

2. To the above end, the Organisation should be required to submit:

- a) a written application to the General Secretariat indicating its intention, at least six months before it can be considered by the Council of Ministers, in order to allow for sufficient time for processing the application;

b) its Constitution or Charter; up-to-date list of membership; sources of its finance, including copies of its most recent balance sheet; and Memorandum of activities, all in the main languages of the OAU in sufficient quantity to facilitate circulation to Member States;

3. If the Organisation is a non-governmental organisation, the particulars of at least five Member States of the OAU, that have intimate knowledge of it, and are prepared to sponsor it. One of these States should be that where the Organisation has its registered headquarters.

4. No application for Observer Status shall be submitted for consideration of the Council of Ministers, unless it has been fully processed by the General Secretariat.

5. The Memorandum of Activities should contain the past and present activities of the Organisation; its connections, including any connections external to Africa, and any other information, which will assist in determining its identity, especially its scope of activities (Ref. CM/784 (XXVIII)).

6. The Assembly also stipulated that:

The granting of Observer Status to an organisation entails no obligation on the Organisation of African Unity to grant subsidy to that organisation. The granting of subsidy to any organisation can be envisaged only in certain cases, in exceptional and urgent circumstances, when such subsidy represents a temporary and vital addition to the budget of the organisation enjoying observer status.

PART II. OBSERVER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OAU

1. a) All observers may be invited to be present in the public galleries for the inaugural and closing meetings of all OAU Conferences;

b) An observer at a meeting of OAU institution may participate in the proceedings of that institution only in accordance with the conditions laid down in Part III under.

2. An Observer may have access to OAU documents provided that they are:

- a) Not of a confidential nature;
- b) Ones dealing with matters of interest to the observers concerned.

Distribution of OAU documents shall be against payment in those cases where there is no reciprocity.

3. Observers may be expressly invited to attend private meetings during discussion of a subject in which they are concerned.

4. With the express authorization of the Chairman, observers may participate in the proceedings of meetings to which they are invited. Although they may participate in the proceedings, observers shall not have the right to vote.

5. Observers may be authorized by the Chairman of the Conference to make a statement on a matter on which they are concerned, subject to the text of the statement being communicated before hand to the Conference Chairman, through the OAU Secretary-General.

6. The Conference Chairman may give the floor to observers in order to enable them to reply to questions which might be addressed to them by Member States.

PART III. SPECIAL PROVISIONS DEALING WITH PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS IN THE WORK OF OAU SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS

1. Observer Status shall be granted under the following categories:

- a) Category A, this shall include:

- i) Governments in exile and the liberation movements of African territories under colonial domination, which are recognized by the OAU;
 - ii) African inter-governmental organisations which have important interest in most of the activities of OAU Member States and which are composed of a substance number of OAU Member States.
- b) Category A Observers may:
- i) Attend all public sessions;
 - ii) Request the inclusion of certain items of particular interest to them on the provisional agenda.
 - iii) Make a written or oral statement on a matter of special interest to them;
2. a) Category B This shall include:
African inter-governmental organisations having a specialized competence, and having interest in the activities of the OAU;
- b) Category B observers may:
- i) attend all public sessions;
 - ii) Make a written or an oral statement in the meeting of an OAU Specialized Commission on a matter of special interest to them, subject to the approval of the Chairman of the session;
 - iii) Reply to questions which the meeting, or Member States, might address to them.
3. a) Category C This shall include:
- i) Inter-African non-governmental organizations, associations or unions;
 - ii) Inter-African non-governmental institutions;
- b) Category C Observers may:
- i) Attend the public session of the OAU Specialized Commissions during discussion of a matter concerning them;
 - ii) Communicate a written declaration to the Commission through the OAU Secretary-General and with the approval of the Chairman of the session.

PART IV: FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The provisions of the General Convention on Privileges and immunities, and those relating to the Headquarters Agreement of the OAU, shall not be applicable to observers, save for those regarding facilities provided for the granting of visas.
2. Observers shall themselves be responsible for expenses incurred as a result of their travel to and from, and their stay at the, venue of the Conference.
3. These Rules may cease to apply to any institution enjoying the advantages of observer status if the Council of Ministers consider that the institution has ceased to satisfy the requirements laid down in these criteria.

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Annex B

RESOLUTION ON THE REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OAU
OBSERVER STATUS - CM/Res.913 (XXXVIII)

RESOLUTION ON THE REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OAU(L) OBSERVER STATUS - CM/Res.913 (XXXVIII)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, from 22 to 28 February 1982,

Recalling the criteria for granting OAU Observer Status adopted by the Sixteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

Aware of the need to review the criteria in the light of the Organization's experience in granting Observer Status:

1. DECIDES to set up a Committee to review the criteria for granting OAU Observer Status with due regard to observations made by Member States contained in the report of Committee "A",

The Committee comprises the Member States of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters and any other Member States who so wish to be associated with the work of the Committee on the subject;

2. RECOMMENDS the suspension of consideration of new applications for Observer Status until the adoption of new criteria by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
3. CALLS on the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with the classified list of the Organizations that had already been granted Observer Status as well as other detailed information;
4. REQUESTS the Committee entrusted with the review of the criteria for granting OAU Observer Status to report to the 40th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to ensure the strict application of the present criteria governing the participation of Organizations that had already been granted Observer Status in the deliberation of the Organization and their access to documents.

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Annex C

UP-TO-DATE
LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS GRANTED OBSERVER
STATUS WITH THE OAU

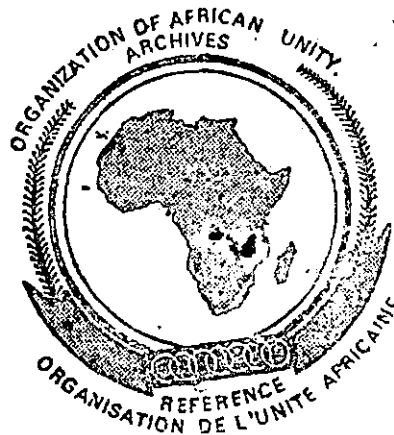
NAME OF ASSOCIATION NOM DE L'ASSOCIATION AND HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS	DATE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS DATE OBTENUE LE STATUT OBSERVATEUR	SESSION
1. Pan-African Youth Movement B.P. 72 Plateau Saulière Alger - Algérie	31st August, 1970	15th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
2. Secretary General Association of Schools of Medicine B.P. 102 Khartoum Sudan	31st August, 1970	15th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
3. Secrétaire Général Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad B.P. 727 Ndjamena - Tchad	31st August, 1970	15th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
4. Secretary-General Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) P.O.Box M386 Accra - Ghana	4th April, 1974	22nd Session of C.M. Kampala
5. The President Association for Social Work Education in Africa P.O.Box 1176 Addis Ababa	4th April, 1974	22nd Session of C.M. Kampala
6. The President Union of African Journalists S/C C.U.I.J.P.L.F. Cité Bergère 75009 - Paris France	21st February, 1975	24th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa

NAME OF ASSOCIATION NOM DE L'ASSOCIATION AND HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS	DATE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS DATE OBTENUE LE STATUT OBSERVATEUR	SESSION
7. Secretary General West African Science Association P.O.Box 7 Legon Accra - Ghana	21st February, 1975	24th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
8. The Director Encyclopaedia Africana Project P.O.Box 2797 Accra - Ghana	21st February, 1975	24th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
9. Adm. Sec. General Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa P.O.Box 30087 - M.A. Addis Ababa	1st March, 1976	26th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
10. Secretary General Federation of African Org. of Engineers P.O.Box 1583 Cairo - Egypt	1st March, 1976	26th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
11. Secrétaire Général Comité Régional de l'org. Mondiale pour la Promotion Sociale des Avcugles 81 Avenue de Londres Tunis (TUNISIE)	3rd July, 1976	27th Session of C.M. Mauritius

NAME OF ASSOCIATION NOM DE L'ASSOCIATION AND HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS	DATE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS DATE OBTENUE LE STATUT OBSERVATEUR	SESSION
12. Secrétaire Général Association Inter.Pour le Developpement de la Documentation, Librairie en Afrique. B.P. 375 Dakar - Sénégal	3rd July, 1976	27th Session of C.M. Mauritius
13. Secretary General African Airlines Association P.O.Box 20116 Nairobi - Kenya	3rd July, 1976	27th Session of C.M. Mauritius
14. The Director, Centre for the Co-ordination of Research and Documentation in Social Sciences (CERDAS) B.P. 30123 Kinshasa - Zaire	3rd July, 1976	27th Session of C.M.
15. Le Président Congrès International des Etudes Africaines B.P. 11122 Kinshasa - Zaire	3rd July, 1976	27th Session of C.M.
16. Secretary-General Inter-African Parlia- mentary Union B.P. 1381 Abidjan - Cote-D'Ivoire	4th March, 1979	32nd Session of C.M.

NAME OF ASSOCIATION NOM DE L'ASSOCIATION AND HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS	DATE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS DATE OBTENUE LE STATUT OBSERVATEUR	SESSION
17. Secrétaire Général Org. Africaine des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques B.P. 288 Lomé - Togo	4th March, 1979	32nd Session of C.M.
18. Executive Director Eastern African Centre for Oral Traditions and African National Languages (EACROTANAL) P.O.Box 600 Zanzibar - Tanzania	15th February, 1980	34th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
19. Président de l'Union des Villes Africaines B.P. 2051 Dakar-Sénégal	1st March, 1981	36th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
20. Director, General African Cultural Institute (A.C.I.) B.P. 01 Dakar - Senegal	1st March, 1981	36th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
21. Executive Secretary Science Education Programme for Africa P.O.Box 9169 Accra - Ghana	1st March, 1981	36th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa

NAME OF ASSOCIATION NOM DE L'ASSOCIATION AND HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS	DATE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS DATE OBTENUE LE STATUT OBSERVATEUR	SESSION
22. President Société Africaine de Culture 19, Rue Vincent B.P. 1 Dakar - Senegal	1st March, 1981	36th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
23. Association Inter- national du Festival Mondial des Arts Negres (FESTAC) Dakar - Senegal	1st March, 1981	36th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
24. African Reinsurance Corporation Lagos - Nigeria	1st March, 1981	36th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa
25. Inter-African Coffee Organization B.P.V. 210 Abidjan - Ivory-Coast	26th June, 1981	37th Session of C.M. Nairobi
26. African Regional - Standardization Organization	22nd February, 1982	38th Session of C.M. Addis Ababa



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