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THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON OAU'S
ACTIVITIES AND INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION IN
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH AND CULTURE

GENERAL REPORT



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GENERAL REPORT

Introduction:

1. In line with the previous practices of the OAU, the Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers which is held in February is mainly concerned with budgetary matters. It should be appreciated that for other activities, unless the programme was already started, and unless certain activities are already planned to fall between September and December - when reports for the February meeting are normally prepared - the time is usually too short for initiating action. For example, in matters of correspondence, it usually takes several months for letters written to Member States by the General Secretariat to be replied to. Most of the times this takes more than two months. However, the General Secretariat customarily presents to the Ordinary Sessions of the Council a report on the OAU activities and inter-African co-operation in educational, scientific, technological, health and cultural matters. This tradition is maintained.

2. Since the meeting of Heads of State and Government in Algiers last September, several matters arising from the decisions taken at that meeting were taken up. These include the formal approach to the LCA that the establishment of Centres of Excellence in Africa should become a Joint OAU/LCA programme¹. The LCA is still considering the request.

3. As for the proposed food reserves, two meetings were held in Kampala, during the African Regional Conference of FAO last November. The purpose of the meetings was to exchange views and to agree on the lines of action to be taken to enable a pilot scheme for the OAU's programme on regional stocks of food grains to be established in the region comprised of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

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1. Resolution CM/Res.171(XI).

4. During the FAO African Regional Conference, discussions were also held with some of the Ministers of Agriculture and officials from some Member States dealing with agriculture, concerning the actions to be taken to implement the OAU's decision to establish food reserves in their areas.

5. During the period under review, the OAU held two meetings, one concerning Phytosanitary matters which was held in Cairo, UAR, from 15th to 19th October, 1968, and the second one concerning Trypanosomiasis which was held in Bangui in Central African Republic from 12th to 16th November, 1968.

6. Officials from the Scientific and Cultural Department attended several Conferences of the UN Specialized Agencies. A Representative was sent to the Bi-annual Conference of Unesco which was held in Paris from 15th October, to 20th November, 1968. It is recalled that in one of the resolutions passed by the Council of Ministers, last September concerning the First All-African Cultural Festival which is to be held in Algiers from the 21st July to 1st August, 1969, Unesco was asked to give assistance towards the expenses that may arise in the staging of that Festival². As difficulties had arisen in the preliminary negotiations with Unesco, the Administrative Secretary General had to go to Paris personally to try and obtain the required assistance and support from Unesco.

7. The General Secretariat also sent a Representative to the IAEA General Conference in Vienna which was held from 24th to 30th September, 1968. At that sitting, the IAEA approved the IAEA/OAU Agreement of co-operation which is now ready for signature. Arrangements for the participation of the Agency in the African Symposium on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy were also discussed.

8. The General Secretariat also sent a Representative to the African Regional Conference of FAO which, as stated above, was held in Kampala, Uganda. Besides discussing matters relevant to agriculture and food production, that Conference also discussed the re-organization of FAO organs in Africa.

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2. Resolution CM/Res.168(XI).

9. These are among the main activities that took place between September and December and they are either dealt with in separate documents to this session of the Council of Ministers or they are covered under appropriate headings here under.

10. This opportunity is taken to inform Member States that preparations are now under way for the holding of the First Ordinary Session of the enlarged Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission. This follows the coming into force of the amendments to the OAU Charter after being approved by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. One of the amendments amalgamates the Educational and Cultural Commission, the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, and the Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission into the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission. In accordance with the established practices of the OAU, the meeting of that Commission will be preceded by that of the Scientific Council of Africa. The Scientific Council of Africa is expected to deal with not only the items to be presented to the Commission, but also to prepare the African position in the Conference on Science and Technology which Unesco is planning to hold in 1969.

11. Now that the financial outlay of Member States of the meetings of the Commissions has been cut down, and the three Commissions have been combined into one, it should be possible for Member States to send Ministers and officials concerned with these matters to attend only one instead of three meetings. Within the terms of reference given to it, which were inherited unaltered from the three previous Commissions, the Commission and Scientific Council of Africa should be able to deal with the technical and subject aspects of any projects that are presented to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for approval. Without this technical contribution of the Commission and the CSA, the OAU may find it difficult to appreciate fully and implement projects which could face technical difficulties that could have been avoided by fuller discussions of the kind that these organs of the OAU give to them. The provisional agenda for both the Commission and the CSA are being prepared and will be circulated in due course. In this connection, a circular note has been sent to Member States asking for items to be included on the provisional agenda of the Commission. Another circular note has also been sent to Member of the Scientific Council of Africa and to the Association of African Universities. In this way, the General Secretariat hopes to involve Member States and the relevant Institutions in the work which the CSA and the Commission are expected to deal with when they meet next.

12. Member States are aware that the Specialized Agencies of the UN and other Organizations continue to be active in Africa. In accordance with the role which Member States have given to the OAU, it is necessary to formulate proposals in all areas for future activities which would benefit their citizens and some of which could be used as a basis for active co-operation between the OAU and these organizations. Member States are seriously urged to prepare for participating in the meetings of both the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission and of the Scientific Council of Africa so as to contribute to that formulation of future proposals. The meetings are expected to be held in May or June, 1969, on dates to be announced later. Unless an invitation is received from a Member State to host these meetings elsewhere, they will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the Headquarters of the OAU.

EDUCATION:

General:

13. The main event in the educational and training fields was the recent OAU/UNESCO Conference on Education and Scientific and Technical Training in Relation to Development in Africa which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 1968. The recommendations that were passed at that Conference were adopted by the OAU³ and what remains to be done is their being implemented by Member States, the OAU, UNESCO and all the other organizations concerned.

14. Looking at the discussions which took place during that Conference, several common points were revealed by speakers from most African States. For example, in the field of primary education, there was the problem of inadequacy of secondary school places and jobs for primary school leavers. This problem which not only concerns the educational and economic planners but also the social workers in so far as the children who have been left idle after primary education need to be made more productive or otherwise useful to communities in which they live. Most speakers expressed concern at the inability of the present services and school places to absorb these children, and called for national, regional and continental efforts to try and see whether solutions could be found to these problems.

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15. As for secondary education, there was a general agreement among those present that the school places currently available are too inadequate for the needs of school-age children of most Member States. Speaker after speaker called for increased efforts to create more school places so as to provide the primary school leavers with places to go to, and so as to provide education for students going on to higher education and training, as well as for students entering into technical schools as middle grade technicians.

16. The present institutions of higher learning appear to be producing graduates above the targets which were set for them by previous educational conferences. However, when one looks at the number of expatriates still working or who are required to fill vacancies, within Member States, one is left in no doubt as to the need to step-up rapidly the number of graduates successfully coming out of the Universities. This matter was emphasized at the Nairobi Conference and resolutions were passed calling for increased national and regional efforts to ensure that there are enough institutions of higher learning to cater for higher education and training in Africa in all disciplines. Among the points expressed by some speakers was the one calling for Member States to give adequate emphasis to the education of women so as to ensure that they take their rightful places in the development of their countries.

17. Turning on to the educational and training targets that had been set by previous conferences, it was observed that these required revision in line with the present information, and changing development needs of Member States. In particular, Unesco, OAU and ECA were asked to gather the necessary data and information and to propose how the Addis Ababa targets in general education could be revised. While this process is going on, Member States were asked to continue to apply the targets that have been set and if possible, and indeed it is necessary that, these should be exceeded.

18. Turning back to the preparations for the holding of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission which will discuss among other things educational and training matters, it is observed that the Nairobi Conference passed a recommendation which called on Unesco and the OAU to ensure that "the data of subsequent regional meetings at ministerial level is chosen in such a way that their conclusions are available when the programme and budget to be submitted to the following General Conference of UNESCO is being prepared, in order that appropriate provision can be made for their implementation". It is in fulfilment of the desire of Ministers

of Education, and indeed of all Member States that the meeting of the Commission should be held next year so that any recommendations to Unesco could be presented in time for the draft budget that will be presented to Unesco's bi-annual conference in 1970. This is an additional reason why Member States are urged to prepare to participate fully in the Commission's meeting scheduled for May or June next year.

19. As has been mentioned in Previous reports, the number of teachers available in Member States is inadequate for the current and projected educational needs. The Conference expressed the wish that not only should institutions of teacher training be increased but also facilities should be made available for in-service training of Teachers. In these connections, the curricula for teacher training should be adapted to the local environment as well as being in keeping with the educational demands which a modern State and science and technology dictate. The Conference also called for research on more utilization of teachers so that those that are available may be enabled, through better equipment, methodology or higher student/teacher ration, to teach more students than they are doing at present.

Future Programme:

20. At the forthcoming meeting of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission, it is expected to look deeper in the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference on Education and Training to see which projects could be embarked upon so as to correct existing problems and to improve the educational and training opportunities available in Member States. It is hoped that attention will be paid to the problem of primary school leavers who are unable to continue with further education for lack of school places. In this connection, it is hoped that a meeting will be held as recommended by the Nairobi Conference under Unesco, ILO, ECA and OAU to advise or propose methods of absorbing usefully primary school leavers. It is likely that whatever is advised may entail the provision of increased training facilities in activities that can be undertaken in the rural and urban areas, as well as stepping up the popularization of handicrafts. Also the meeting could examine possibilities of creating national services which can be used for carrying out campaigns of an economical or social nature, for instance in forest planting, terracing of cultivateable land, road building, Health Centre building, and similar jobs that are labour-intensive.

While these are being done, a technical training programme could be injected into their daily activities to provide simple skills for the participants which they can use after serving their period in the national service. This programme of how to use school leavers also raises problems that require closer co-operation with the planners of national economic and social development. Projects which would include extensive apprenticeship could be worked out and agreed upon for implementation.

21. The Commission may also be able to examine the proposed ways of increasing teacher training institutions. The present supply of indigenous teachers is far too low compared to the present and projected educational needs. It is therefore necessary to consider how the present facilities could be stretched to train more and more teachers for the educational services of Member States and also to scout around for finances to supplement the efforts of Member States in building more teacher training institutions. The Commission should also be able to examine, and make proposals which would increase secondary school places within Member States. The General Secretariat proposed to the Conference in Nairobi, that where possible some of the secondary school facilities can be shared so as to expand the opportunities available, thus allowing primary school leavers to join secondary schools. It was recommended that Member States should examine the possibility of two or more schools sharing facilities so as to reduce costs and so as to stretch the services that can be obtained from the available teachers and funds to cover more students than is normal at present.

22. As for higher education, the General Secretariat is continuing with its activities to establish Centres of Excellence in Africa, while encouraging in general and through the Association of African Universities, the expansion of undergraduate institutions. There is a separate brief report on the present stage in the implementation of the programme to establish Centres of Excellence in Africa.

23. The OAU is also keen to participate in studies that UNESCO, ECA and others have been asked to carry out, which are designed to standardize school equipment and to stimulate production of textbooks so that these can be mass produced in Africa at costs that would be lower to Member States. Following the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference, studies will also be carried out with the view to establish instrumental centres for the design, manufacture, repair and maintenance of scientific apparatus and equipment as well as of other school equipment and of teachers' aids. The OAU, together

with UNICEF, OCHA and other Organizations, will carry out studies in these fields with a view to making recommendations that can be implemented to the benefit of educational and training services offered by Member States to their citizens.

HEALTH AND SANITATION:

General:

24. In the field of Health, the absence of qualified personnel within the General Secretariat has limited the activities which could be undertaken. Although it had been hoped that at least one Doctor would have been recruited at the Secretariat by September this year, this did not materialize. However, interviews have been already conducted with three Doctors and the necessary recommendations have been put to the Administrative Secretary General through the Recruitment Board for the recruitment of one of the three Doctors interviewed.

25. The OAU Office in Lagos organized an international meeting on Trypanosomiasis which was held in Bangui in the Central African Republic from 12th to 16th November, 1968. A report on the proceedings and recommendations of that meeting appears in the report by the OAU Office in Lagos.

26. It is regretted that the OAU Symposium on Bilharziasis which had previously been scheduled in Cairo in the United Arab Republic from 8th to 14th February, 1969, has had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The UAR is however free to proceed to organize the symposium as a regional, and not OAU, gathering. Preparations are being undertaken to hold the OAU symposium on a date and at a venue to be announced later.

Future Programme:

Future programmes in the health and sanitation fields await the recruitment of a Doctor into the Secretariat.

NUTRITION:General:

28. The OAU has been actively involved at three planes, in trying to improve the nutrition of the citizens of Member States. At the first plane, there is the programme to establish regional stocks of food grains in Africa. These food reserves when established would act as an insurance against food shortages and famines in Africa, as well as being available for trade with other African States. They could also be used for exports to non-African countries which need them.
29. The most recent activities in the implementation of that programme consisted of discussions between the Ministers of Agriculture or officials from the Ministries of Agriculture of Member States and a representative of the General Secretariat during the African Regional Conference of FAO which was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 18th to 30th November, 1968. During these discussions, the possibilities of establishing a pilot scheme in the region comprised by Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were examined further. Also separate discussions were held with Ministers or representatives of Member States regarding possibilities of implementing the programme in their States. A separate report on these discussions has been submitted to this session of the Council of Ministers and attention is drawn to it.
30. The second plane at which the OAU is active in the field of nutrition is in the work being carried out by its Scientific Bureaus presently located in the following places: The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Health in Muguga near Nairobi in Kenya, the Inter-African Soils Bureau in Bangui in the Central African Republic and the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Bureau in Yaounde in Cameroun. These scientific bureaus deal with some aspects of agricultural production which, among others, aim at providing sufficient food to the Member States. The activities of these bureaus are covered elsewhere in a separate report by the OAU Office in Lagos.
31. The third plane at which the OAU is active in the field of nutrition is in its support for the joint FAO/WHO/OAU nutrition unit which is located in Accra, Ghana, and in research activities in fields such as the production of high yielding seeds of cereals. Here again, these activities which are mainly in research, are covered in the report of the OAU Office in Lagos.

Future Programme:

32. The future programme in nutrition will mainly be in increased efforts to establish the proposed pilot scheme for regional stocks of food reserves as indicated in a separate report to this session of the Council of Ministers. It is also hoped that the next meeting of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission will examine possibilities of initiating some projects in salty and fresh water fisheries.

33. Contacts have been made to see what activities can be undertaken soon to establish the proposed Centre of Excellence in Food Science and Technology. The aim is to agree on the scope of studies to be carried out which would lead to the drawing up of a project plan for the proposed Centre of Excellence on Food Science and Technology. Discussions are also in progress on the others, i.e. the Centres of Excellence for Marine Science and Technology (which covers the exploitation of fishes) and for the Veterinary Science. It is hoped to pursue these discussions, and should any positive results be achieved, these will be reported to the Council of Ministers.

34. Returning to fishes, Member States along the Gulf of Guinea in Western Africa are reminded that the report on the Guinea Trawling Survey has now been circulated and should be studied closely. It is hoped that the Member States concerned will be able to bring forward ideas for new projects which can be undertaken during the proposed meeting of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission.

NATURAL RESOURCES:General:

35. The most important event in the field of natural resources that has occurred since the Algiers meeting was the holding of the African Regional Conference of FAO which was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 18th to 30th November, 1968.

(a) Agriculture:

36. At the Kampala meeting mentioned above, the FAO proposed several important activities in Agriculture. The agenda of the Conference embraced several topics ranging from food production, animal husbandry, forestry through research to co-operative action at various levels. But, of special interest at the conference was the presentation by FAO of a document entitled "the Strategy for the future work of FAO"⁴. This strategy which attempts to define areas of high priority for action in agriculture, selects five areas in which FO intends to concentrate its efforts as part of its overall contribution to agricultural and food production and development of Member States. The five areas selected are:

- (1) Work on high yielding varieties on basic food crops,
- (2) Filling the protein gap,
- (3) War on wastage,
- (4) The mobilization of human resources for rural development, and
- (5) Earning and saving foreign exchange.

37. Although there was a debate on these five areas during the Kampala Conference, it was agreed that Member States should study them more closely and communicate their comments or views to the FAO subsequently. The General Secretariat is also looking at these areas and may make its views known to the next Ordinary Session of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission.

38. However, in passing, one can say a few things about the selected areas. Before doing so, it is worthwhile to repeat that there was a very lively debate on the five areas of concentration selected by FAO in Kampala. While all delegates welcomed this approach of setting the goals to which activities and effort would be concentrated, most of them indicated that these priorities did not sometimes coincide with those of some of the States. In this connection, a plea was made by several delegates who called on FAO to assure them that in cases where areas of priorities differ from the five selected by FAO, financial and technical assistance will be forthcoming from FAO. In his summing up of the position, the Director General of FAO indicated that this approach to the future activities

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4. Document GL 51/IX of 19th September, 1968.

of FAO had been considered necessary so as to have something to 'sell' to the donor countries. Establishing such a plan would also assist in the mobilization of public opinion both in the donor and receiving countries for support of agricultural projects. The Director General also indicated that machinery had already been established within the FAO Secretariat to undertake the work required in preparing and launching actions in the five areas selected and that possible donors of aid had already been approached. He assured the Conference that the efforts of FAO will not exclude other areas of priorities decided upon by individual Member States.

39. In passing it would appear that one would not differ very much with the five areas selected for the concentrated effort, especially seeing that Member States of the OAU are at different development levels particularly in the field of agricultural production and productivity. However, when considering the moves by the OAU to establish regional food reserves in Africa which initially would be in four grains, i.e. maize, wheat, rice and millets and sorghums, one would welcome the "work on high yielding varieties of basic food crops" and the "filling of protein gap". It is recalled that in the report presented to the Algiers meetings concerning the proposed establishment of food reserves, there was an implicit hint that once adequate quantities of staple foods are maintained, attention will have to be turned to keeping or storing other food-stuffs which are necessary for giving balanced diets to human beings. Therefore, when looked at from this angle, one can say that the FAO plan to concentrate efforts in the two areas quoted above, would definitely be of assistance to or complementary to the plan of the OAU to establish regional food reserves in Africa. One cannot provide only carbohydrates (i.e. in providing the cereals) without also providing protein giving foods such as dried milk, beans, preserved meat, fish, etc. Therefore the OAU and FAO will need to work closely together both on the OAU programme for establishing food reserves and on the FAO programme to produce high yielding varieties of basic food crops and of filling the protein gap.

40. The FAO's intention to concentrate action on "a war on wastage" is based mainly on the desire to reduce the wastage of food during harvesting, transportation and storage. This is one of the cases the Secretariat had brought to the attention of Member States in 1967 in one of the documents relating to the storage of food. FAO's moves in this direction of saving food-stuffs is therefore worthwhile.

41. "The mobilization of human resources in rural development" is a complex subject which goes beyond the borders of pure agriculture. It is recalled that this subject was the topic of extended discussions during the OAU/UNESCO Conference on education and training, especially in connection with primary school leavers. Certainly, the improvement and mechanization of peasant agriculture will go along way towards making agriculture to support higher populations and higher incomes in the rural areas. But then one is aware of the normal occurrences whereby any mechanization of agriculture and in particular, any increase in agricultural productivity usually cuts down the number of peasants required to work on land, and this in turn releases considerable manpower which has to be absorbed in other sectors of the economy. Such manpower, unless it has received adequate education and is trained in some skills, could cause considerable problems to the Government. Therefore this programme is complex and required concerted action between FAO, UNESCO, OAU and the Member Governments so as to ensure that a multi-directional approach to this problem is worked out and implemented. However, it is hoped that FAO and UNESCO will take the lead in stimulating effective action in this connection and that other organizations such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization will also be brought in so that education, training, agricultural development and industrialization can be undertaken simultaneously to avoid negative problems arising from excessive idle labour.

42. Turning now to the last area of concentration selected by FAO, "earning and saving foreign exchange", this again is a complex problem which affects or is relevant to all the sectors of the economy. However, it would be interesting to see what proposals FAO will make in this connection and these are awaited with interest.

43. As already mentioned, the five areas of high priority selected by FAO are being considered and it is hoped to present a report to the Commission concerned when it meets.

44. OAU activities in the agricultural field have continued to be done by the three scientific bureaus already established which deal with animals, plants and soils. These included the holding of a meeting on plant health matters, in Cairo, UAR, from 15th to 19th October, 1968. A report on these is included in the report from the OAU Lagos Office.

(b) Minerals:

45. It has not been possible to convene a meeting of the OAU Committee on Minerals and Geology. However, once the plans for the meeting are completed these will be advised to Member States together with the date and venue of that meeting. As has been stated before, minerals, as a source of income for overall development, and as a factor in industrialization, are very important to the planned activities of Member States. Therefore, anything that the OAU can do to stimulate action in increased effective exploitation and development of minerals would assist in the efforts of Member States to raise the standards of living of their citizens.

(c) Water Resources:

46. In Africa, some States are naturally endowed with a lot of water, while others are not. A concerted approach by OAU Member States could make them use their water resources more extensively. Training of professionals and undertaking of research at the proposed Centre of Excellence on Water Resources, Planning and Development would very much assist this process. As in the case of other Centres, discussions are being held which would lead to the actual establishment of that Centre in Africa.

(d) Deserts:

47. It is recalled that the General Secretariat published a document in which it drew attention to the need to:

- (i) control and eliminate the present expansion of African deserts, and
- (ii) undertake economic activities which would make the deserts yield more food, minerals, or foreign currency for the benefit of the States concerned.

48. An informal meeting of these States was held in Kinshasa, Congo, in 1967 during the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (in Committee C) at which it was agreed that a meeting should be organized between those States to discuss possible areas of national or common action in making the deserts to serve the needs of man, especially in the production of food and in mining activities. Proposals have been made in the next financial year for this

meeting to be held and it is hoped that the necessary approval will be given so that the action may be initiated to utilize the desert areas to assist in the efforts of Member States concerned to raise the standards of living of their citizens.

Future Programme:

49. The General Secretariat is hopeful that the proposed meeting of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission will be held so that future action in the exploitation of natural resources, and particularly in agricultural, mineral and water resources sectors may be discussed and defined. As indicated above, the General Secretariat hopes to submit to that meeting its views on the five areas of high priority selected by FAO in the agricultural field, and it is hoped that ideas would be forthcoming which can be drawn up into projects which the FAO could be asked to consider adopting.

50. In the field of minerals, the Secretariat has included in the draft budget for the following year a proposal to set up a team of experts to draw up a project plan for a Centre of Excellence in Geology, Geophysics and Mineralogy. At this Centre, it is hoped to train highly qualified personnel for such activities as prospecting, mining, and refining of minerals. With their own local people trained in these fields, Member States would be enabled to plan more accurately their activities in the exploitation and development of their mineral wealth. Also, plans are underway to hold a meeting of the OAU Committee on Minerals and Geology, and the necessary finances have been included in the draft budget for 1969/70.

51. Should the financial request for the holding of a meeting on the utilization of the deserts and semi-deserts be approved, it is hoped to make specific proposals which could stimulate discussions on possible areas of action. It is hoped that the meeting, if it is held, could define such projects which could be undertaken both at national or regional levels for the benefit of the Member States concerned.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH:General:

52. The development of science and technology and research starts with the appropriate teaching of the science subjects, i.e. physics, chemistry and mathematics. The Nairobi Conference on education and training emphasized the need to popularise the teaching of science subjects in schools so that more and more students may take up these subjects at the intermediate and higher educational levels. Proposals, such as increased science programmes on radio and television services, higher salaries for scientific occupations, awards for performances in scientific subjects and the association of scientists in the planning stages of projects, were mentioned as some of the actions that could lead to the popularization of science subjects.

53. Turning to the actual teaching of the subjects, the Conference called for a study to be made with a view to establishing instrumentation centres where scientific apparatus and equipment could be designed, manufactured, repaired and maintained. It is hoped that UNESCO will initiate action in connection with this study and that the OAU and the ECA will collaborate with it. Also in the teaching of science subjects, which, it should be mentioned, also include biology, the Conference called for the encouragement of a general study of the environment by students on a scientific and systematic basis. The teaching of technology should also be introduced into schools at an early age so as to acquaint the youth of Member States with the technological structures and processes of some of the things they come across in their day to day activities. The Conference called for a stepping up of experimental and practical lines in the teaching of science subjects.

54. Turning to the adults, the Conference called for an increase of technical training of adults so as to expand their vocational opportunities. Unesco was asked to study possibilities of setting up technical teacher training institutions from which technical teachers could come to undertake not only technical jobs for school children, but also for adults.

55. After making provision for all these with the view to encouraging the learning of science by students, and the expansion of the scientific and technical education, the Conference called for the education of parents in simple scientific subjects and processes. Such teaching of science to parents, or to the population at large, helps to create the necessary motivations, atmosphere and background from which students who can be encouraged to learn or take scientific subjects. It is important also in that the general teaching of simple science and scientific processes to the population at large helps to create the right atmosphere for innovations which help to create a demand for sophisticated articles, and which in turn act as stimulant to both small and large scale industries.

56. Turning to research, the terms of reference of the scientific bureaus of the OAU have been expanded to include a limited amount of research work. This is a move which the Secretariat considers important so as to create a nucleus for the OAU research activities, especially in the agricultural sector. Where possible, therefore, the scientific personnel at the scientific bureaus will be encouraged and given the means to undertake limited amount of research in their respective disciplines.

Future Programme:

57. The General Secretariat hopes to present to the proposed meeting of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission, a case to encourage and initiate action in Africa on the transfer of technology from outside Africa to Africa especially in connection with small scale industries. As has been mentioned in previous reports, all Member States of the OAU are classified as under-developed or developing countries. The initial industrialization of these countries will mainly depend on borrowing ideas from the industries which are at present obtaining in the developed countries. This borrowing of ideas would be restricted both by the markets available as well as by the resources which can be mobilized by these countries. However, when looking at small scale industries, it is possible to device industries whose scale of operation is in keeping with the markets and resources available within the Member States individually or jointly. This is a matter in which the OAU Member States stand to gain provided that it is done soon and with their support.

58. These proposals will be drawn up and it is hoped they will receive the support that they deserve especially when seeing that they are meant to step up the industrialization and hence the economic, social and political development of the Member States of the OAU.

59. It was reported at the last meetings in Algiers that plans were being made for the holding of an African Symposium on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. A representative of the OAU visited the IAEA and held discussions with the Agency's officials concerning that symposium. The discussions went on very well and more discussions are envisaged before the end of this year to finalize the arrangements for that symposium. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the symposium will be held in Kinshasa from the 28th July to 1st August, 1969. The Preparatory Committee for the symposium met in Addis Ababa from the 18th to 20th December, 1968, and previewed the abstracts of the working papers to be presented to the symposium. Following this meeting, the necessary information was circulated to Member States, to the CSA Members and to the other parties concerned. It is hoped that many African scientists who are usually engaged in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, or who aspire to be active in that field - whether it be in medicine, industry, agriculture, training, etc., etc. - will make every effort to attend that meeting. Member States are kindly requested to provide the necessary funds for these scientists to come and contribute to the discussions. Out of the recommendations of that symposium, it is hoped to obtain several projects which can be implemented by Member States individually or jointly as part of their economic and social development.

60. It is worth repeating that the proposed Centres of Excellence, and in particular the eight disciplines initially selected are both in the applied science field. The successful establishment of these Centres of Excellence will contribute immensely to the rapid growth of science, technology and research within Member States.

CULTURE:

61. In the cultural field, all efforts are being concentrated on the successful preparations for and staging of the First All-African Cultural Festival. At the kind invitation of the Government of Algeria, the Festival is due to be held in Algiers from 21st July to 1st August, 1969. There is a separate document on the First All-African Cultural Festival to this session of the Council of Ministers to which attention is invited.

CAU Emblem:

62. Still in the field of cultural affairs, the question of choosing the CAU emblem is not yet settled. Here again there is a separate document to this session to which attention is invited.

OTHER MATTERS:(i) Agreements with IAEA, FAO, UNESCO and WHO:

63. It is pleasing to report that the policy making organs of IAEA, FAO and UNESCO have approved the agreements between these organizations and the OAU. It is hoped that by the time this session is held in February, 1969, these agreements will have been signed in accordance with the directives received from the Council of Ministers⁵.

64. The agreement with WHO has not been completed yet. It is recalled that the draft WHO/OAU agreement was forwarded to Member States for their consideration⁶. The comments that have been so far received from some of the Member States are contained in a separate document to this session of the Council of Ministers. It is hoped that the Council will take final action on this draft so that it can be forwarded to WHO for approval and for signature, subsequently.

(ii) Regional Office of FAO in Africa:

65. At the Kampala meeting of the African Regional Conference of FAO, the reorganization of FAO, and in particular of its Regional Office in Africa, was debated at great length. It is recalled that, one of the proposed changes was that the Regional Office should be moved from its present site in Accra, Ghana, to Addis Ababa and be placed under the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. The preliminary information on this proposal had been circulated to Member States by the Secretariat, at the request of Cameroun, which was serving on the Re-organization Committee. After an extended debate on this subject,

...../20

5. Resolution No. CM/Res.120(IX)

6. Note No. CS/HEAL/1 of

which was at times rather bitter, the Conference adopted a resolution which, while recognizing "the benefits which would result from having the Regional Office of FAO and the Headquarters of O.A.U. located in the same place, requests the maintenance, for the immediate future and without prejudicing any future decision, of the present location of the FAO Regional Office".

STAFF POSITION:

66. The only change that has occurred from what was reported previously is that two members of staff have left the services of the OAU at the Headquarters. Efforts are being made to replace them as well as to fill the other vacancies that are existing in the Scientific and Cultural Department both at the Headquarters and in the field.

67. Proposals have been put to the Council for the establishment of a Planning and Co-ordinating Unit within the Scientific and Cultural Department. The reasons behind this request are provided in an explanatory note to the request, and appear in the draft 1969/70 budget to which attention is invited.

TO CONCLUDE:

68. The Secretariat is pressing forward with the implementation of the four main projects under the Scientific and Cultural Department. These are the Programme on Centres of Excellence, the programme on regional stocks of food grains, the first All-African Cultural Festival and the anti-rinderpest campaign. It can be said that the progress so far achieved in these, is satisfactory, and more work on them is being planned and done. Also, the normal work done by the Secretariat, including the Lagos Office and the Scientific Bureaus (which during this period, included the holding of two technical meetings) continues to be done as planned. While continuing with these activities, plans are being laid for the holding of the first Ordinary Session of the enlarged Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission, which will be preceded by the third session of the Scientific Council of Africa. Member States have been invited to send in items for the agenda of that session of the Commission, and a positive response is anticipated. It should be emphasized that, since the OAU has given itself the role of being the "conceiver" of projects and programmes in Africa, that Commission should meet so as to fulfil that role, and so as to provide ideas on which the OAU would co-operate in action with FAO, IAEA, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO. Member States should prepare to send delegates to, and effectively participate in, those meetings of the CSA and the ESCHC.

69. Finally, financial requests have been included in the draft 1969/70 budget for various projects and items, wuch as a team of three African experts to draw up a project-plan for the pilot Centre of Excellence that should be established. It should be remembered that all these financial requests are derived from previous resolutions or directives of the OAU. The OAU should always be ready to demonstrate its continuing faith in its own resolutions, directives and programmes, by providing the financial means to carry them out. It is only after then, that outsiders could be called upon to supplement or fill the gaps left. Let the OAU progress and grow by effectively implementing its own resolutions, directives and programmes.

ADDIS ABABA - DECEMBER 1968.



CM/253/Add.1

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

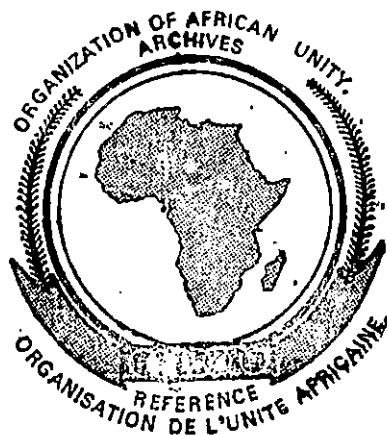
Twelfth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa - February 1969

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON
INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION AND OAU'S ACTIVITIES IN
THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
CULTURE AND HEALTH

GENERAL REPORT

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION



REPORT OF THE
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION
October 1968 to March 1969

The Administrative Secretary-General is happy to report that the Inter-African Scientific and Technical co-operation of the CAU has continued as in previous years having regard to the available manpower and the financial resources of our organization. In Annex I to Document 232 of the report of the Administrative Secretary General to the Algiers Meeting, a detailed account of the various co-operative projects on which Member States were taking joint action were listed. Some of these are the Fisheries Survey, Food Crop Research, Disease eradication projects like the Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia and Trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness. Work on these projects have continued. Since most of the projects will continue for some years to come, it is fair to record in this report the progress made within the past five months only. However, the discussion of the moderate progress made will show not only the successes in our endeavour but also the difficulties that confronted the Secretariat in the execution of the programme.

1. Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest

The first two Phases of this project has been completed in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroun, Niger, Dahomey, Togo, Ghana, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and Mali. The only problem in these states at present is that of Conservatory measures. At the Inter-State Meeting at which senior Governmental Officers and Ministers of these states were present in 1965, it was agreed as follows:-

"Each Country undertakes:

- (i) To vaccinate with a recognized Rinderpest vaccine the annual calf-crop at least once per year in two successive years. These animals will be marked with the clover-leaf ear-punch so that any animal over two years old will have two such ear-marks.
- (ii) To vaccinate and ear-punch all animals detected without clover-leaf ear-punches.

- (iii) To keep neighbouring countries informed of the state of affairs in respect of Rinderpest through the liaison officers, and by means of annual scheduled meetings convened by STRC. In particular, each country will notify all concerned by the most rapid means possible of any outbreaks of Rinderpest, stating the number of animals involved and geographical grid location of the outbreak.
- (iv) In the case of an outbreak of Rinderpest, to implement the accepted Control measures as quickly as possible and under professional veterinary supervision. It is essential to verify by a recognized laboratory the etiology of the infection. Recognized control measures would include strict quarantine of all infected herds and in-contacts, a slaughter of all infected animals within a radius of 10 miles and payment of compensation for animals slaughtered.
- (v) To have veterinary authorities maintain strict surveillance over the movements of migratory and trade cattle which shall be furnished with valid vaccination certificates.
- (vi) To provide adequate legislation to permit the undertaking of the requirements of paragraphs 1 to 5 above.
- (vii) These measures will be subject to annual review."

This matter is now assuming tremendous importance because the whole of Western and Central Africa has almost been covered by the campaign. To prevent colossal waste of funds and a relapse of fresh outbreaks with its attendant high mortality in livestock, the Council of Ministers is invited at this meeting to pass a resolution urging all OAU Members to adhere strictly to the minimum conservatory measures outlined above as soon as the mass inoculation campaign is over in each state. The Secretariat will like to add that it has put a highly competent veterinarian (Dr. Sall) on this assignment. He will visit all Member States concerned to ensure that these measures are undertaken.

Phase III of the campaign now in progress in Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Guinea, the rest of Tchad, Ivory Coast and Mali will be completed towards the end of 1969. It will then be important that conservatory measures be taken to maintain the standard of vaccination against the disease in these states on the same lines as in Phases I and II states.

The formal launching of the Campaign in Eastern Africa was held in Nairobi in the middle of November, 1968. Some 50 participants from Livestock and Veterinary departments of the Governments of Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as representatives of laboratories like EAVRO in East Africa, Farcha in Tchad and Zeit in Ethiopia were present at the meeting. There were also experts from the FAO, UNDP, EEC, SCA, USAID, IADF, ODM, I.S.I.V.T. and the East African Community.

This business meeting afforded the experts the opportunity to undertake detailed and careful planning of the campaign in the entire zone of operation with the aid of maps and statistical data supplied by the scientists from Member States, the laboratories and the various international agencies. Plans for the field activity in each state were synchronized with one another and procedures for co-operating at the inter-State boundaries were agreed upon bearing in mind the different circumstances of each country. Through the medium of the OAU International Co-ordinator, joint use of facilities like publicity materials and vaccination equipment were agreed upon. The meeting also laid the foundation for concerted action between the laboratories (producing vaccines) and the field officers (using the vaccines) of various countries so also to ensure an uninterrupted supply of vaccine throughout the period of the campaign. Some of the important recommendations of the meeting are as follows:

"(i) Extension of JP 15

It RECO MMENDS that the present southern boundaries of the JP 15 Campaign in Eastern Africa be reviewed; the OAU Secretariat should seek to combat both Rinderpest and CBPP in Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia and Malawi on the Eastern sea board of Africa if necessary; that activities in Western and Central Africa should also be extended to the Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo (Brazzaville), and Congo (Kinshasa) if necessary.

(ii) Animal Production

The Meeting RECOMMENDS that the OAU Secretariat should sponsor production and marketing of African Livestock in World Market. International Organizations like the OIE should be encouraged to inform the world of the efforts of OAU States to make their livestock disease free and therefore marketable.

(iii) Appreciation to Donor

The Meeting was appreciative of the financial grants and Technical assistance made so far by the USAID, AEC, ODM, F.A.C., UNDP and other donor agencies and appeals to them to step up the volume of financial and technical assistance to Member States so as to improve the value of the livestock industry in Africa both as a means of earning foreign currency and as a source of cheap protein.

(iv) Free Movement of Staff

Following the agreement by participating states to encourage close contact and discussion prior to the vaccination exercise in the field campaign, the meeting APPEALS to the authorities in each state to promote free movement across inter-state borders for veterinary officers, inoculators and others connected with the field work on the campaign. The International Co-ordinator and his Deputy should also be accorded easy movement in the interest of effective supervision and co-ordination of the field campaign."

2. Trypanosomiasis or Tsetsefly Research (Sleeping Sickness)

The Council of Research workers in Trypanosomiasis known as the International Scientific Council on Trypanosomiasis Research (ISCTR) met in Bangui, Central African Republic, in mid November, 1968. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of research work on and the success in field control of Trypanosomiasis or Tsetsefly (sleeping sickness) in Africa since 1966. About 47 experts from research Centres in Africa and from international organizations participated in the work of the conference and well over 50 technical papers were discussed dealing with research work on animal and human trypanosomiasis.

Because of the importance of this field of research to Africa, the OAU seeks active co-operation with WHO and FAO in the encouragement of the eradication of this scourge from Africa. The problem affects both animal and human health and require considerable financial resources in execution. If council approves the funds requested by the Secretariat, it is expected that the Executive Committee of the ISCTM would meet this year to map out the areas of further research in Trypanosomiasis and explore United Nations support for research and training and for field eradication projects both at the national and at the regional levels. Some of the recommendations of the Bangui Meeting are as follows:

"(i) Meeting of the Executive Committee

The Conference deplored the fact that the executive committee of the council against trypanosomiasis did not meet regularly once a year as had been planned in the regulations of the committee.

It RECOMMENDATIONS that the Committee should meet once a year to advise on

- (a) priorities in research and control programmes,
- (b) support for research on trypanosomiasis,
- (c) allocation of funds for research and control measures, and
- (d) initiation of new lines of research.

(ii) Appeal to OAU states

The Council unanimously recognized the need to carry on the work of watchfulness and of action against trypanosomiasis in all the member countries, and it requests all Member States of OAU concerned to put at the disposal of researchers medical doctors, the financial means and additional trained personnel to ensure the success of field action to eradicate the disease."

3. Contagious Bovine Fluoro-Pneumonia Research and Field Control:

First moves at eradication of this disease at the regional level was taken in 1965 when veterinarians of the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania submitted a proposal to the OAU Secretariat for a joint campaign against CBPP in their common border. This was followed up by the Secretariat and it has been possible to get some external financial assistance to launch this scheme late in 1968 simultaneously with the rinderpest eradication project. So far,

Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania will be covered by this simultaneous vaccination project. The Secretariat has asked its technicians to examine the possibility of expanding the coverage to include Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo (Kinshasa) and Congo (Brazzaville).

Discussions at the Technical meeting on Rinderpest Campaign in Nairobi last November revealed that time is now opportune for OAU to sponsor a field eradication project of the CBPP in Western and Central Africa too on the same lines as the rinderpest campaign. Up to now the OCAM, OERS and Entente groups of States have indicated the need for a massive campaign against this other scourge of livestock. In order to ensure a thorough and effective coverage of all states, the Secretariat proposes that all OAU States should agree that Livestock disease control and eradication are areas of common concern to all OAU States and that the OAU Secretariat should handle the problem on the same lines as the Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest which has proved to be an accomplished success so far. The OAU Secretariat personnel handling this aspect of our activity have acquired considerable experience in project evaluation and costing as a result of their experience on several other surveys and it would be to the credit of our organization if the planning, evaluation and actual field activity were handled at our inter-African Secretariat.

The Council of Ministers is therefore invited to approve that the Secretariat should study ways and means of undertaking joint and co-operative campaign against CBPP in all affected OAU States on the same lines as the Rinderpest Campaign; that other African economic groups should co-operate with the OAU Secretariat on this project to avoid wasteful duplication of effort; and that the FAO, the UNDP and other agencies should co-operate with the OAU Secretariat on this project as they are doing in the case of the rinderpest campaign.

4. Panel of Scientific Experts

Last year, the Council of Ministers was informed that the Secretariat was inviting nominations from Member States of Scientists with appropriate qualifications to constitute the panel of scientific advisers in some areas of research and development. These are Panels of Geology and Mineralogy, Oceanography and Fisheries, Mechanization of Agriculture and the African Medicinal Plants Research. The Secretariat hopes to convene meetings of

these panels during this year to consider inter-African policy issues in some priority development aspects like:-

- (a) Training of indigenous African research workers at post-graduate level as well as middle grade or technical level;
- (b) Feasibility of establishing Research and Training Institutes or improvement of existing facilities in these disciplines;
- (c) The problem of systematic exploitation and conservation of ocean and river resources including the need for international Conventions (Oceanography and Fisheries);
- (d) Planning new studies and pre-investment joint co-operative survey in areas of common or regional interests; and
- (e) Determination of research priorities.

5. Other Activities

All other activities of the Organization in the field of Technical and Scientific co-operation have continued. The Cereal Crop Research which deals with improvement of maize, sorghum and legumes production have continued and it is hoped to convene a meeting of research workers co-operating in this project sometime in October, 1969, to review the achievements and explore further research opportunities on grain crops.

All the Technical Bureaux namely the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Health (IBAH) in Nairobi, the Interafrican Phytosanitary Commission (IAPSC) in Yaounde, and the Interafrican Bureau of Soil (BIS) in Bangui have continued with their activities as in previous years. It is now hoped that with additional funds and personnel they would be able to undertake research work. The BIS in Bangui, is however still very short of hands despite repeated appeals for soil scientists to man the Bureau.

A meeting of technician of Member Governments dealing with Plant Quarantine matters is scheduled to meet in Lagos from 8th to 11th April, 1969. The meeting will review the present position of pest control in Africa and the machinery for plant quarantine to prevent importation of diseased vegetative materials or seed into the continent. In view of the fact that Agriculture (and allied industry) is very important to the economy

of all OAU States, ~~it is imperative that~~ African States take concerted action to protect their economic interest; otherwise, ~~agricultural products~~ which are the bulwark of the economies of our states might be ruined through neglectful importation of fruits, vegetative materials or seeds of any type.

6. Scientific Council of Africa (CSA)

It is expected that the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) will meet sometime in May, 1969, to assess the progress of inter-African co-operation in Scientific, Technical and Educational fields and to make policy suggestions to the OAU on research and development work in Africa.

ADDIS ABABA - JANUARY 1969



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