

**ORGANIZATION OF
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twelfth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa - February 1969

CM/268

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT ON THE TWELFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, HELD AT AFRICA HALL - ADDIS ABABA FROM
17TH FEBRUARY, 1969 TO SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 1969



REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR ON THE TWELFTH ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - 17TH TO 22ND
FEBRUARY, 1969, ADDIS ABABA

1. The Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers was formally opened at 4.35 p.m. on Monday 17th February, 1969, in Addis Ababa, by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I the Emperor of Ethiopia. In the chair was one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Eleventh Session, the Honourable E.H.K. Mudenda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia.
2. In his address to the Council, the Emperor stated among other things, that the addition of Mauritius, Swaziland and Equatorial Guinea to the OAU Membership, served to strengthen the efforts of the OAU to liberate those African countries that were still under colonial or minority and racist rule. He pointed out that the tragic death of Dr. Mondlane the late President of FRELIMO, should inspire African freedom fighters in the areas under alien and oppressive rule, to greater efforts so as to accelerate the liberation of their countries. He hoped that the troubles in other parts of the world, such as in Nigeria, the Middle East and in Vietnam, would be ended soon, under peaceful and amicable arrangements. He emphasized the need to work rapidly towards economic independence so as to strengthen political independence and to raise standards of living. After the address, the Foreign Ministers of Morocco, Upper Volta and Liberia proposed separately votes of thanks to the Emperor.
3. Equatorial Guinea which had attained independence in October 1968, and which had already been admitted unanimously into the OAU, took its seat among OAU Member States for the first time.
4. The following office-bearers were elected for the Twelfth session by acclamation:-

Chairman	-	H.E. Ato Ketema Ytfru - Foreign Minister of Ethiopia
1st Vice-Chairman	-	H.E. Mr. Vincent Rwamero - Deputy Foreign Minister of Uganda
2nd Vice-Chairman	-	H.E. Sayed Ali Abd El Rahaman El Amin Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan
3rd Vice-Chairman	-	H.E. Mr. Joachim Hunlede - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo
Rapporteur	-	H.E. Mr. Nicholas Mondjo - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo(Brazzaville).

5. For the agenda of the session, the Council agreed to add to the items published in document CM/237, an item asking for financial aid towards the fight against onchocerciasis (an eye disease) in the Entente States (Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Togo, Upper Volta and Niger). Also an item was added requesting for observer status for the Senegal River States Organization. The agenda comprising 33 items, was subsequently approved. The items were mainly budgetary or financial matters, plus the now familiar items covering political matters and inter-African co-operation in economic, social as well as in educational, scientific cultural and health matters. These items were allocated, as is the established practice, to the Plenary which also handled budgetary and financial matters usually assigned to the Committee on Administrative, Institutional and Financial Matters, to the Committee on Political matters and the Committee on Inter-African Co-operation in the remaining fields. The Leader of the Delegation of the United Arab Republic requested, and was permitted to deliver under "Any other Business", a

statement on the latest developments in the conflict in the Middle East.

6. As is the established practice of the OAU, the entire proceedings of the session were taped. Also summary records of the session were taken. These records, which will be produced and circulated to all Member States contain comprehensive details of the discussions, decisions and recommendations made by the Council in the Twelfth Session. This then allows this report to concentrate on the main decisions and recommendations made at that session. It is recalled here that the regular February session of the Council of Ministers is usually devoted to the budget and to other financial matters of the OAU - without, of course, ignoring any relevant or important cases that might arise concerning the OAU.

7. The Council heard the report of the Administrative Secretary-General which among other things, briefly mentioned the achievements of the last meetings of the Assembly and the Council of Ministers in Algiers, Algeria, last September, and also touched on developments since that time. On the budgetary proposals, the Administrative Secretary-General indicated that "the General Secretariat has scrupulously borne in mind the principle of austerity which has become a basic policy in the OAU Secretariat without sacrificing however fresh demands which the normal growth of the Organization entails". He then asked the Council to approve the budget as presented so as to provide the OAU with "an adequate budget and a team of competent and devoted staff" to enable it to carry out its programmes and to fulfil its objectives.

8. The Council then considered items on the agenda on administrative, institutional and financial matters. On financial matters, the Council took into account the report of the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters. The Council was pleased to note from the

report that by and large, the management of OAU finances by the Administrative Secretary-General and his staff had improved admirably although there was still need for better supervision of the regional offices and the management of their finances. However, it urged that when establishing an order of priority, the principle of "controlled expansion" should be borne in mind with due regard to the resources available.

9. On the 1969/1970 budget, the Council noted with satisfaction that the Committee had, for various reasons indicated in its report, recommended a cut of more than US\$ 400,000 for the General Secretariat and US\$ 212,000 for the Commission on Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration. The Council subsequently adopted the entire 1969/1970 budget as recommended by the Committee in document CM/239/Rev.1 and CM/243/Rev.2.

10. As regards the item on the Review of levels of Salaries and structures of the General Secretariat, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that a Sub-Committee of experts should be set up to carry out a more detailed study of this matter.

11. The Council also adopted, with minor amendments, other recommendations on the agenda as submitted by the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters contained in document CM/239/Rev.1.

12. On the request for a subvention by the Entente countries to finance a campaign against onchocerciasis, the Council felt that this was a highly important and well-deserving request that required necessary financial support. Consequently, it decided that funds be made available by the General Secretariat from savings and that the possibility of establishing a Special Fund for this purpose be explored.

13. The perennial issue of the OAU Emblem was discussed and once again, the Council rejected the designs submitted as unsuitable and instructed the General Secretariat to organize another competition for consideration at the next session.

14. When the reports of the other Working Committees were tabled in the Plenary, it was noted that the Committee on Political matters had failed to approve its report - although it had approved one Declaration on decolonization and several recommendations to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The Declaration on decolonization took note of the progress achieved in the various theatres of the liberation struggle and urged freedom fighters to exert more efforts towards their final goal - independence and freedom under majority rule. On the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, the Council made several recommendations to improve efficiency and increase the support of Member States. In particular the Council asked the Administrative Secretary-General "in conjunction with the Sub-Committee appointed by the Advisory Committee on Budgetary matters" to investigate among other matters "..... the root-cause of non-contribution by Member States to the Special Fund and the reasons accounting for the loss of enthusiasm in the Liberation Committee." The Council also approved a recommendation relating to the Bureau of Placement and Education of Refugees, which called for more support to the Bureau from Member States.

15. In economic and social matters, the Council approved six recommendations. These included calls for studies to be made by the General Secretariat on "Commodity Price Stabilization" and on possibilities of establishing a "Union of African Chambers of Commerce". One of these recommendations dealt with desirable actions to be taken by Member States

concerning the International Monetary Fund, UNCTAD, African Civil Aviation Commission, and labour matters. In the case of I.M.F., Member States were urged to participate in the bringing about of the "I.M.B Special Drawing Rights Scheme", and also among other things, to work for "a general and special increase in the fund's quotas as a means to provide additional reserves coupled with an exemption from, or else a reduction to a reasonable level, of the gold portion of the quotas." On the preparations for the first All-African Trade Fair expected to be held in Nairobi, a statement was submitted by the Government of Kenya indicating that the next stage in the carrying out of a feasibility study should be in collaboration with the Secretariat. A report will be submitted to the OAU later.

16. In the fields of Education, science, cultural and health, the Council approved recommendations on the First All-African Cultural Festival, campaigns against rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia and one arranging for a re-examination of the proposal to create a Pan-African News Agency. By the time the Council met, it took note with pleasure of the preparations then being carried out by the Government of Algeria, to stage the First All-African Cultural Festival, and congratulated it for the exceptional effort it had made so as to welcome the Festival." The Council was also informed of the considerable financial and technical aid which UNESCO had given to the Festival, and it expressed its thanks for this help. Member States were urged not only to prepare fully for participating in the Festival, but also, among other things, "to grant substantial financial contributions which are necessary for the success of this important Cultural Festival."

An additional OAU contribution of US\$ 580,000 was made towards the estimated Festival (non-Algerian) budget of US\$ 1,443,208. Previously the OAU had contributed a sum of US\$ 70,000 to the Festival. The two recommendations on the cattle diseases mentioned above dealt mainly with the co-operation required between Member States to make the campaigns more effective. Finally, in this group of subjects, the Council approved the agreement of co-operation between OAU and WHO, which was to be forwarded to WHO for approval.

17. There were reservations entered by some Member States on one or other of the recommendations approved. These were appropriately recorded in the reports of the Committees which initially dealt with the recommendations concerned.

18. The Leader of the Delegation of the United Arab Republic was granted permission to give his statement on the conflict in the Middle East in accordance with his previous requests. He appraised the Council of Ministers of the developments in the Middle East since the last meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Algiers, Algeria, last September. It was noted that parts of UAR were still occupied inspite of the resolution of the UN Security Council of 22 November, 1967, calling for them to be evacuated and which the UAR declared itself "prepared to implement.....". The Council of Ministers took "cognizance of the UAR statement to abide by Resolution AHG/Res.53(V) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, in Algiers in September, 1968."

19. The Council, having completed its agenda decided that the next ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government will be held from 6th to 10th September, 1969, to be preceded by that of the Council of Ministers from 27th August to 4th September, 1969, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



1969-02

Rapporteur's report on the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, from 17th February 1969 to Saturday 22nd February 1969

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