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ADDIS ABABA

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

SECRETARIAT  
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CM/321 Add. I

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Fourteenth Ordinary Session  
February/March 1970  
Addis Ababa

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION YEAR - 1970



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION YEAR - 1970Introduction

1. In 1967, the United Nations designated 1970 as the INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION YEAR. This decision was further elaborated in resolution No. A/RES/2412(XXIII) of 23 December 1968, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 23rd session. The Secretary General of the United Nations was requested, "with the assistance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization" to report to the General Assembly on the preparations being made to observe 1970 as International Education Year. However, UNESCO was expected to "assume primary responsibility for the preparation and execution of an international concerted programme". In March 1969, UNESCO wrote to the OAU, notifying the latter of the decision of the United Nations, of the tentative list of activities that had been approved, and inviting the OAU to consider how it "can participate in the International Education Year programme". Copies of both the letter from UNESCO, the resolution of the UN General Assembly and the resolutions of the 15th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (ref. no. 1.111 and 1.112) on this topic are attached hereon. It will be noted that most of the activities listed in the programme fall on national governments.

2. Being an intergovernmental organization, and considering the limited means available to it, the OAU could undertake only a few of the activities included in the programme for the occasion, and, two of these were actually selected, i.e.

(1) "public information"

(2) "Discussion of important education and training at a policy-making level."

However, as the appropriate Commission, the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission met in 1969<sup>1</sup> - a year before 1970 - and is due to meet in 1971 - a year after - both of these activities could not easily be undertaken in 1970. But considering that in 1970, the resolutions on education and training adopted by that Commission will actually begin to be implemented, and considering also that the implementation of the resolutions adopted in 1968 by the OAU/UNESCO Conference held in Nairobi on Education and Scientific and Technical Training in Relation to Development in Africa<sup>2</sup> should be going into full swing in 1970, there are in fact enough approved activities whose carrying out would make the celebration of 1970 as the International Education Year, a complete success.

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1. Document CM/287(Part 1)

2. Document CM/232 (Part 5)

In view of these, the General Secretariat subsequently opted to limit its participation to presenting a short document to this session of the Council of Ministers, with the hope that the Council of Ministers may adopt an appropriate resolution supporting the activities to be undertaken in the International Education Year. This was notified to UNESCO, and, this is the short document promised on that event.

Programme for the International Education Year:

3. According to operative paragraph 3 of the resolution of the General Assembly, the United Nations recommended that "States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency to take stock of the situation with respect to education and training in their countries and to plan and initiate or stimulate action and studies linked to the objectives and themes of the International Education Year in the context of their preparation for the Second United Nations Development Decade." The objectives and programme of activities for the event, as drawn up by UNESCO and approved by the United Nations General Assembly, are as outlined in resolutions 1.111 and 1.112 of UNESCO, copies of which are attached.

4. Of the eight objectives approved for the International Education Year, four appear to be particularly relevant to the development needs of OAU Member States, i.e. -

- (a) "training of middle and higher level personnel for development",
- (b) "democratization of secondary and higher education",
- (c) "adaptation of education (both general and technical) to the needs of the modern world, especially in rural areas",
- (d) "pre-service and in-service training of teachers."

Within these and other objectives, Member States are expected to undertake specified activities, within specified "General concepts and practices" - also defined in the attached resolutions of UNESCO. The actions expected to be taken by Member States include one calling on "educational authorities, public and private, to initiate such new activities as may be needed for the same purpose" (i.e. for the International Education Year). Also, Member States are requested "to make a special effort in order to increase financial resources for educational development". This last one could present some countries with problems, seeing that already high percentages of their annual budgets are being devoted to education and training. However, a trial could be made by such Member States, and by the rest to comply with this request: any investment in the development and training of human resources is bound to have a healthy effect on their economies.

5. As is to be expected, some obligations fall on the U.N. family of organizations and on other organizations such as the OAU. Specific obligations rest on organizations that are sources of internationalized external aid. In this latter case, the resolution of the General Assembly of the U.N. is very direct: it requested "the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the organizations of the United Nations systems concerned to provide within available resources all possible assistance to Governments, especially those of the developing countries, in their efforts to pursue the objectives formulated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the International Education Year". The implications of this request, especially in relation to the securing of cheap loans or grants, is very clear. All Members of the OAU are included among the "developing countries", to which this part of the resolution is applicable and they should therefore receive "all possible assistance" from those organizations. It is hoped that the competent international organizations which give internationalized finance will fulfil their obligations in connection with this request. As for the OAU, with its very limited resources, one would expect that, and indeed, it should participate in other relevant activities such as stimulating action in, and encouraging or sponsoring studies leading to, better educational and training services within Member States.

Possible OAU contribution:

6. The OAU and its Member States, would be guided in their actions by the resolutions adopted by two recent meetings on education and training. The first of these was the joint 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 second, was the first ordinary session of the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1969. This emphasis on recent resolutions does not in any way imply that previous resolutions, which are still applicable or relevant, should be ignored. No. To do so would be a waste of resources, and could also upset any plans that were based on those other resolutions. The emphasis on recent resolutions is however justified in so far as these have taken into account the latest circumstances obtaining within Member States, the latest knowledge or know-how available, and if the up-dating of previous resolutions had been considered and acted upon.

7. Among the activities falling on the OAU out of the duly approved<sup>3</sup> resolutions of the Nairobi Conference, there appear to be prospects that three of these will be started in 1970. Firstly, with the expected appointment of a team of experts to draw up a project plan for the pilot centre of Excellence on Earth Sciences, it will be possible in the current year, to inaugurate the permanent Committee which the Nairobi Conference recommended<sup>4</sup> that should be set up "to review continuously the execution of the programme concerning the Centres of Excellence, and co-ordinate the activities and promote the expansion of the latter." The Centres of Excellence, (or Training and Research Institutions) when established, are expected to offer to Africans, opportunities for advanced training, especially in scientific and technological disciplines, and also to provide facilities for research and development aimed at solving development problems met by Member States. Secondly, the task of revising the Addis Ababa and other targets on education and training, which was recommended by the Nairobi Conference, is expected to be started in March 1970. When completed, the targets should, it is hoped, give Member States goals for their educational and training services, which take into account the condition of their economies, without ignoring modern standards of such services and the demand for them arising from increasing human expectations. This task is to be undertaken joint by OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNESCO as was recommended. Thirdly, it is hoped to lay a foundation during 1970, for an Educational Revolving Fund. This was the subject of one of the resolutions of the Nairobi Conference<sup>6</sup>. The Fund, when established, is expected to assist Member States in expanding, improving and developing their educational and training services, by offering them cheap loans. Of the resolutions adopted by the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission in June 1969, the one dealing with Pre-Primary Education<sup>7</sup>, would begin to be implemented in 1970. While it is conceded that the financial and human resources available to governments of Member States may not allow them to participate fully in pre-primary education, yet modern psychological studies indicate, and the proper educational preparation of future citizens demand, that appropriate and adequate governmental attention be paid to pre-primary education. These and similar activities arising from the resolutions already approved, would provide the OAU with a chance to contribute to the International Education Year - even if these activities form part of the continuing process by Member States and by the OAU to improve, expand and develop the Educational and Training services offered by their governments to their citizens.

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- 3. Resolution No. CM/Res.170(XI) bestowing OAU's authority on the Nairobi resolution.
  - 4. Resolution IX operative paragraph 2.e - Centres of Excellence and Educational Revolving Fund - Nairobi Conference.
  - 6. Resolution IX.B - Centres of Excellence and Education Revolving Fund - Nairobi Conference.
  - 7. Resolution ESCHC/Res.1(I)

8. 1970 is also the beginning of the second development decade of the United Nations. From most reckonings, it appears that the first development decade miserably failed to satisfy the expectations of OAU Member States. The difficulty of measuring the success of such decades, on the basis of visible achievements of the governments of Member States paid for from local resources, arises from the fact that the present expectations of most Africans, and the demands of a "modern" State, are so many and varied, that for the time being, anything done by such governments to satisfy them is bound to fall short of those expectations and demands. But, the efforts of developed countries and of sources of internationalized finances to assist developing countries in their development needs, can be measured vis-a-vis their known capacities to pay, and, in the case of the first development decade, these were disappointing. The same cannot be said of the individual efforts of most of the OAU Member States. Indeed, one of UNESCO's report to the Nairobi Conference indicated that most Member States were spending comparatively large percentages of their annual budgets on education and training<sup>8</sup>. In 1965, and covering 18 countries, a survey showed that the lowest figure was 6.9% and the highest 26.4% of the national budgets. In view of the reportedly increasing enrolment of school-age children in schools and in training institutions, it is likely that those high percentages have been maintained or exceeded. This is to be expected. The current scarcity of educated officers, and of middle-grade and higher-grade technical personnel, and the need for an educated public in Member States, demand more than this. As mentioned elsewhere above the sources of internationalized finances, and the developed countries, in giving their aid to developing countries such as the OAU Member States, did not fulfil the expectations of the first development decade. The prospects for improving on their performance in this respect for the second development decade that is now beginning, are unknown. On their part, the OAU Member States cannot afford to relax in their efforts to provide modern and expanding educational and training services to their citizens: they need educated and trained personnel (and one may add, masses) in order to achieve accelerated development, and adequate progress, and - perhaps, in order to maintain national cohesion and stability. One can therefore expect increasing local efforts by Governments of Member States to expand, modernize and develop their educational and training services during the second development decade that is being launched this year by the International Education Year.

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8. Document No. UNESCO-OAU/CLATA/Ref.1 of 16 April 1968.

In Conclusion:

9. The OAU should therefore, in addition to carrying out the tasks entrusted to it by Member States, also encourage these Member States to participate fully in the activities of the International Education Year - as part of continuing efforts to supply Africa with the educated and trained personnel and populations that are required for her rapid development. Of course, the ultimate aim of development in Africa, is to provide higher standards of living to the citizens of Member States. The Council of Ministers may therefore wish to adopt a resolution -

- (a) reaffirming the decision of the United Nations to observe the International Education Year in 1970;
- (b) inviting individual Member States to participate fully in the programme of activities for International Education Year as part of the continuing efforts to improve, expand and develop their educational and training services; and
- (c) urging the Administrative Secretary-General to undertake such activities in 1970 as have been duly approved by the OAU, in the fields of education and training, which may contribute to the success of the International Education Year.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization  
Place de Fontenoy, 75 Paris-7e

Reference DG/1.1/69.038

Date 28th March 1969

Subject: International Education Year (IEY)

Sir,

I have the honour to recall that 1970 has been designated International Education Year by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and that I have been authorized by the General Conference of Unesco to assume primary responsibility for the preparation of an international concerted programme for the Year and to propose themes and objectives for the programme to Member States, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and other Specialized Agencies and institutions within the United Nations family. The relevant resolutions - General Assembly resolution 2412 (XXIII) and General Conference resolution 15 C/1.112 - are attached for your information.

As you will see from these texts, International Education Year is intended primarily as an occasion for national action to mobilize energies and inspire initiatives in education and training. The field to be covered is a broad one, involving the entire range of education and training within the context of development. Indeed, I have stressed to Member States that national programmes should not be confined to education in its narrowest sense, but should interest and concern all agencies dealing with social and economic matters as well as the educational authorities proper.

As a complement and framework to national programmes, international action forms an essential part of the International Education Year design. In view of the responsibility which we carry at the international level, I should like to invite you to consider urgently how your Organization can participate in the International Education Year programmes. In particular you may wish to examine the objectives and principles set out in General Conference resolution 1.112 and see whether your programme could contribute such activities as:

- (a) studies and surveys of education and training problems;
- (b) operational projects, especially those of an innovatory character;



(c) public information

(d) discussion on important education and training issues at a policy-making level.

I should be grateful if you could inform me, if possible by 30 June, of your plans and of the extent to which I may count on your co-operation in the programme for the International Education Year.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Enclosures:  
2 Annexes

(Signed)  
Malcolm S. Adiseshiah  
Acting Director-General



Resolution 1. 111 and 1.112 adopted by the General  
Conference of Unesco at its fifteenth session

1.111 Member States are invited, should the General Assembly of the United Nations declare 1970 as International Education Year:

- (a) to take stock of the existing situation in their respective countries with respect to education in its broad sense;
- (b) to initiate or stimulate studies on problems relating to improving the situation with particular reference to the objectives and themes which will have been adopted for special attention under the International Education Year;
- (c) to encourage educational authorities, public and private, to initiate such new activities as may be needed for the same purpose;
- (d) to make a special effort in order to increase financial resources for educational development;
- (e) to participate effectively in the international programmes to be conducted by the United Nations system under the auspices of the International Education Year;
- (f) to launch a programme of action comprising practical measures for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and for the promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment in education, and to integrate it in their educational development plans.

1.112 The Director-General is authorized:

- (a) to assume primary responsibility, in collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system and taking into account the suggestions presented by them, for the preparation and execution of an international concerted programme;
- (b) to advise Member States, in co-operation, as appropriate, with other agencies, bodies and organs of the United Nations system, on the principal objectives on which they should focus their attention and concentrate their efforts, so as to contribute to the framing of a global strategy for education for the Second Development Decade;

- (c) to propose for this purpose to Member States, the international organizations of the United Nations system and the other governmental and non-governmental international organizations concerned, the following objectives, concepts and practices:

### Objectives

- (i) functional literacy for adults;
- (ii) equal access of girls and women to education;
- (iii) training of middle and higher level personnel for development;
- (iv) democratization of secondary and higher education;
- (v) transition from selection to guided choice in secondary and higher education;
- (vi) adaptation of education (both general and technical) to the needs of the modern world, especially in rural areas;
- (vii) development of educational research;
- (viii) pre-service and in-service training of teachers;

### General concepts and practices

- (ix) educational technology - the new methods and media;
  - (x) life-long integrated education;
  - (xi) reconciliation in education of a spirit of tradition and preservation of the intellectual and moral heritage with a spirit of renewal;
  - (xii) promotion of ethical principles in education, especially through the moral and civic education of youth, with a view to promoting international understanding and peace;
- (d) to orientate specific projects provided for in the Programme and Budget for 1969-1970, such as studies, operational programmes, regional and international conferences and public information activities, so as to make them contribute fully towards the realization of the above-mentioned objectives of the International Education Year;

- (e) to turn to account the studies conducted on the occasion of the International Education Year for defining the principles of long-term educational planning;
- (f) to transmit to the General Assembly of the United Nations the text of the present resolution;
- (g) to report to the General Conference, at its sixteenth session, on Unesco's participation in the International Education Year and the general outcome of the activities undertaken in that connexion.

United Nations  
General Assembly

A/RES/2412 (XXIII)  
23 December 1968

Twenty-third Session  
Agenda item 38

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On the report of the Second Committee (A/7404)  
2412 (XXIII). International Education Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2306 (XXII) of 13 December 1967, by which it decided to observe an International Education Year and provisionally designated the year 1970 for this purpose,

Noting with satisfaction Economic and Social Council resolution 1355 (XLV) of 2 August 1968, particularly the invitation to all the United Nations agencies, bodies and organs to participate in the preparation of programmes of concerted action within the context of an overall strategy for development during the next decade and in close co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting with appreciation that consultations between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the interested specialized agencies have taken place and that the International Education Year was reviewed at a meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in October 1968,

Noting with appreciation the resolution on the International Education Year adopted on 19 November 1968 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fifteenth session, and in particular the fact that the organization would assume primary responsibility for the preparation and execution of an international concerted programme,

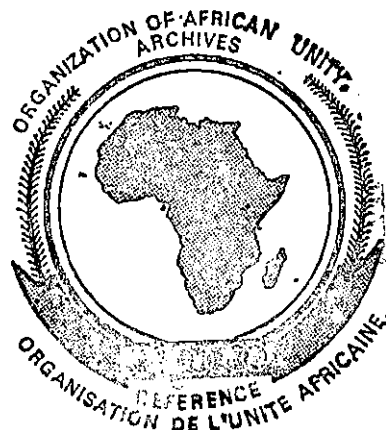
Recognizing that education in a broad sense is an indispensable factor in the development of human resources which is essential to ensure the attainment of the goals of the second United Nations Development Decade,

1. Decides to designate 1970 as International Education Year;

2. Endorses the programme of action for the International Education Year set out in the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and described in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General<sup>1</sup> to the Economic and Social Council<sup>1</sup> and the General Assembly<sup>2</sup>;
3. Recommends States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency to take stock of the situation with respect to education and training in their countries and to plan and initiate or stimulate action and studies linked to the objectives and themes of the International Education Year in the context of their preparation for the Second United Nations Development Decade;
4. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide within available resources all possible assistance to Governments, especially those of the developing countries, in their efforts to pursue the objectives formulated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the International Education Year;
5. Further requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session, on the progress achieved by the organizations of the United Nations family in the preparations for the International Education Year.

1745th plenary meeting,  
17 December 1968.

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1. E/4518
  2. A/7239 and Add.1



1970-02

# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on Educational, Scientific, Cultural, Health and Related matters

Organization of African Unity

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