

ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

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ADDIS ABABA

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE

SECRETARIAT

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RELATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
WITH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



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1. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), at its ninth session, prepared and put into effect a number of changes designed on the whole to make this African branch of ECOSOC more effective in a practical sense, in promoting the economic and social development of the African peoples. Resolution 190 (IX) (Annex I) which has since been ratified by ECOSOC and the General Assembly, and adopted by the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU recommends, among other things, "that reports on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa be presented regularly for the consideration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in order that the Commission might enjoy the necessary political support;" It is now recognized that such political backing is a sine qua non for the implementation of any programme by intra-African organizations in general and those organizations which, like ECA or the African Development Bank, are primarily concerned with the promotion and realization of African development projects relating to the economic market and the social progress of a number of African countries, a sub-region or the continent as a whole.

2. By adopting ECA resolution 190(IX), the OAU top-ranking political officials gave unqualified approval to all measures which would bring the problems, difficulties, progress and achievements of ECA to their notice, so that these might be examined and common decisions taken. In so doing, they agreed to keep a close eye on developments taking place in this important branch of the United Nations and follow them up so as to give firmer backing to its efforts, orient its activities more effectively to serve the interests of Africa, and use its skills and resources to greater advantage. These pre-occupations which are dictated by the need to avoid

duplication and ensure the full use of existing organizations also hold good for the African Development Bank. This institution which was established in August 1963 "to contribute to the economic development and social progress of Member States individually and collectively" has the vital task of promoting African domestic savings and channelling their resources towards the financing of projects or programmes "which by their nature or scope are of interest to several Member States" or "aim at giving the economies of its members an everincreasing degree of complementarity and developmng their external trade in an orderly manner".^{1/}

3. There is certainly no need for further emphasis of the vital role the African Development Bank can play in Africa's economic growth. What is worth noting is that ADB has so far failed to receive the necessary backing from the political bodies of OAU. The result is that as regards the raising of share capital, extending membership to OAU Member States and the exercise of speed in handling ordinary and special transactions, there is a disquieting degree of lethargy which tends to increase. Similarly, there is a deterioration in the relations of some of the Bank's organizations, particularly the Board of Governors, and the office of the President with the staff who should be a well-knit, coherent unit if the Bank is to operate efficiently. What is even more serious is the fact that these general difficulties have gradually brought on an open crisis in the Bank's executive machinery, through the recent resignation of the President. Whatever the reasons for his resignation, it underlines the need for increased political support for the activities and progress of the African Development Bank from all Member States and, therefore, from OAU. In fact, officials responsible for intra-African co-operation within the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government cannot remain indifferent to the situation.

^{1/} Unofficial translation

4. As in the case of ECA, it is not sufficient for the President of the Bank and the Secretary-General of OAU to maintain a more or less sustained measure of co-operation. Co-operation between them as set out in a tripartite arrangement signed at Addis Ababa on 13 February 1969 (Annex 2) by the Executive Secretary of ECA, the President of the Bank and the Secretary-General of OAU, would benefit if it were institutionalized in the form of a permanent agreement like the one which links the UN Secretariat to the OAU General Secretariat, and guarantees permanence in the procedures for mutual consultations, exchange of information, mutual attendance at meetings that go beyond the present holders of office: the President of the Bank or the Secretaries of ECA and OAU.

5. In fact, as matters stand, there is every reason why the Council of Ministers should give serious thought to the best method for enabling the OAU political bodies to be better acquainted with progress and problems involving the ADB. This would enable them at any moment to give it the necessary political backing, and make a better use of its resources and skills. In the final analysis, this is the best way to strengthen the Bank. The General Secretariat believes that such a policy could be largely based on the ECA machinery as established at the ninth session and provided for in Resolution 190 (Annex I) which, if applied would make for better integration than in the past the practical action by ECA in the overall struggle of the African Peoples and Governments to put an end to economic and social underdevelopment.

190 (IX) Relations with the Organization of African
Unity^{27/}

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Appreciating that the Commission is an economic and social organization established to serve the needs of the African region and that its activities should complement those of the Organization of African Unity and other African inter-governmental organizations in the economic and social development of the region,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of the terms of reference of the Commission by which it is empowered to initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for economic and social development in Africa and paragraph 12 by which it is enabled to establish liaison with inter-governmental organizations in Africa,

In accordance with article II of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, which entrusts to that organization responsibility for co-operation between independent States of Africa in economic and social fields, and to this end, the co-ordination and intensification of their efforts so as to promote better living conditions for the peoples of Africa,

In keeping with the decisions taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity to remain the highest body for encouragement and orientation in matters of economic and social policy development on the African continent,

Taking into account the desire reiterated many times by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to collaborate closely in utilizing to the maximum, the complementary characteristics and possibilities of the two organizations, in the interest of African development,

^{27/} See also resolution 132 (VII) of the Commission.

Recalling the various resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations,

Recalling the Agreement on Co-operation signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity,

1. Agrees that close and rational co-operation should be promoted within the political bodies and the policy-making organs of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, and to this end:

2. Calls upon:

(a) African ministers and senior officials in charge of economic and social development henceforth to co-ordinate closely their activities within the framework of the Commission at its ministerial level and the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity;

(b) African ministers and senior officials working within the framework of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity to be constantly guided by decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in economic and social matters;

3. Recommends that reports on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa be presented regularly for the consideration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in order that the Commission might enjoy the necessary political support;

4. Requests the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa to pursue all forms of desired co-operation and to find the best ways and means of increasing the efficiency of such co-operation in the interest of the development of Africa and to report regularly to the policy-making bodies of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.

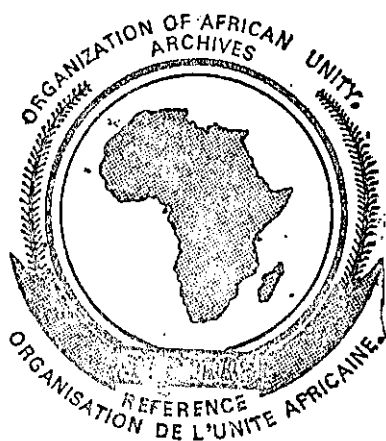
General Principles and Procedures for the Harmonization of the Activities of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, and the African Development Bank.

The President of the African Development Bank, Mr. Mamoun Beheiry, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Diallo Telli, met on the 11th and 12th February 1969 in Addis Ababa to discuss ways of increasing the effectiveness with which they will jointly serve Africa and to consider how best they could assist in the preparation of a common position in international affairs, both inside and outside the continent regarding the economic and social development of Africa. The complementary nature of the functions and activities of the three organizations was emphasized and fully appreciated, and it was agreed that there was need for greater co-operation and co-ordination amongst the organizations at all appropriate levels within the framework of their respective functions. The purpose is to assure maximum services to the member States of the Organization.

- A. The President of the ADB, the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU agreed on the following:
1. A flexible and effective system of co-operation will be established.
 2. Periodic meetings will be held for consultations in fields of common interest.
 3. The three organizations will endeavour to co-ordinate their positions on major issues affecting the economic and social development of member States.

- B. To this end, the following procedures were agreed to:
1. They will meet at least twice a year. The date and venue of such meetings will be determined by agreement.
 2. To facilitate effective consultations it was agreed that there should be as far as possible exchange of views on programmes and activities.
 3. Policy decisions of any of the three institutions which are of interest to the others would be exchanged for suggestions and comments regarding implementation. Such communications should be sent not later than a month from the time the decision has been taken and suggestions and comments thereon submitted within a month of receipt of the relevant communication.
 4. The ECA, OAU and ADB would attempt:
 - (a) To evolve a common position on all development problems in Africa.
 - (b) To define jointly, where appropriate, a uniform African view in all meetings concerned with economic development sponsored by international organizations.
 5. There should be consultations prior to all important meetings in the economic and social fields sponsored by any of the three organizations.

Addis Ababa, 13 February 1969.



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