

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**
SECRETARIAT
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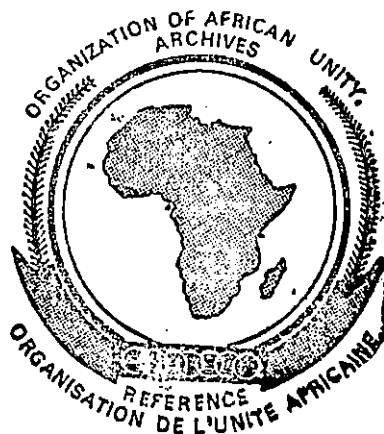
ADDIS ABABA

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**
SECRETARIAT
B. P. 3243

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Seventeenth Ordinary Session
June 1971.

CM/398

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE EXTENSION OF THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN GROUNDNUT COUNCIL
TO OTHER AFRICAN OILSEEDS



REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE EXTENSION OF THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN GROUNDNUT COUNCIL
TO OTHER AFRICAN OILSEEDS

1. In its Fifteenth Session the Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res.225(XV) on oilseeds, which appears as Annex 1 to this report. The resolution recognized the need for co-operation between African oilseed producers and entrusted the Secretariats of the OAU/ECA and the African Groundnut Council to convene a meeting of African oilseed producers with a view to studying the advisability of expanding the activities of the African Groundnut Council to include other oilseeds.
2. The same resolution requested the Working Party to draw up a report to be submitted to the next sessions of the OAU Council of Ministers, the General Assembly of the African Groundnut Council and the ECA with a view of implementing the recommendations.
3. In accordance with this resolution the OAU/ECA and the African Groundnut Council arranged for a meeting of the African Oilseeds Producers to be held from 20-23 April in Addis Ababa to be followed by a meeting of the African Groundnut Council to expedite the approval of the Working Group findings. Invitations were sent to all the OAU Member countries, but only 10 countries sent delegations to the meeting and one of them was present as observer. Of the remaining 9 countries 7 are members of the African Groundnut Council and only two were non-members.
4. After meeting for three days and studying the documentation prepared by the three Secretariats the meeting was of the view that the attendance was not representative enough to allow it to take a final decision on the question of expanding the activities of the AGC to include other oilseeds. However, the Working Group adopted the recommendations which appear in paragraph 17 of the Working Group's report appearing as an Annex II to this report acknowledging the necessity for African oilseed producers to present a common front in the world market and the need to evolve a central body which would harmonize their policies.

5. The meeting further recommended that another session of the Working Group should be convened by the OAU/ECA and AGC, as soon as possible and not later than early 1972 with maximum possible participation.
6. Pursuant to resolution CM/Res.225(XV) the report of the Working Group is herewith submitted to the Council for consideration.
7. The Council may wish to endorse the recommendation of the Working Group appearing in paragraph 17 of the report in which case financial resources should be made available in the 1971/72 budget for the required meeting.

CM/Res.225/B (XV)

RESOLUTION ON OILSEEDS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 31 August 1970,

Considering that the solidarity of African oilseed producers is a factor of unity;

Conscious of the interchangeability of most of these oilseed products;

Recognizing the existence of an African Groundnuts Council open solely to OAU Member States;

Taking note of this Council's decision to expand its field of activities to cover other African oilseed products;

1. APPROVES this decision;
2. EMPOWERS the OAU Secretariat, in conjunction with ECA, to convene a meeting of African countries which produce oilseeds with a view to studying the advisability of expanding the activities of the African Groundnuts Council to cover other oilseeds;
3. REQUESTS this working party to draw up a report to be submitted to the next sessions of the OAU Council of Ministers, the General Assembly of the African Groundnuts Council and ECA, with a view to implementing the recommendations.

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
AFRICAN GROUNDNUT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

23 April 1971.

Working Group on the Extension of the
activities of the African Groundnut Council
to other African Oilseeds

Addis Ababa, 20-23 April 1971.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE EXTENSION OF THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN GROUNDNUT COUNCIL
TO OTHER AFRICAN OILSEEDS

1. The Working Group set up to study the advisability of expanding the activities of the African Groundnut Council to cover other oilseeds met in Addis Ababa, from 20 to 23 April 1971. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Groundnut Council.

2. The terms of reference of the Working Group, established under resolution No. CM/RES-225(XV) of the OAU Council of Ministers, were to study the advisability of expanding the activities of the African Groundnut Council to cover other oilseeds and to report to the next session of the OAU Council of Ministers, the General Assembly of the African Groundnut Council and ECA, with a view to the implementation of its recommendations.

3. The following countries participated in the work of the Group:

Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Congo (People's Republic of)

Gambia

Ivory Coast

Mali

Nigeria

Senegal

Sudan

Togo

Tunisia (Observer)

4. The opening meeting was presided over by Mr. Gratien POGNON, Assistant Secretary General of OAU. After inaugural addresses by Mr. Gratien POGNON, Mr. Jacques DIOUF, Executive Secretary of the African Groundnut Council and Mr. E.K. NY PAN, Chief of the ECA Division of Trade, Fiscal and Monetary Affairs, representing the ECA Executive Secretary, the Working Group elected its officers as follows:

Mr. J.A. EWEKA (Nigeria) : Chairman

Mr. K.H. FRIEGOUM (Sudan) : Vice-Chairman

Mr. Alexandre AKAKPO (Togo) : Rapporteur

5. The Group adopted the following agenda:

- i) Election of the Chairman and other officers
- ii) Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work
- iii) Analysis of world problems in oilseeds, oils and fats, as they affect African producers.
- iv) Experience of the African Groundnut Council, and possibilities of co-operation between African countries in the field of oilseeds
- v) Objectives and proposals to meet the problems identified
- vi) Consideration of a draft agreement on the establishment of an African Oilseeds Council
- vii) Other business
- viii) Adoption of the report

6. The Group studied a number of documents emanating from OAU, ECA and AGC, enumerated at the end of the report.

7. A general debate enabled the various participants to exchange their views on the problems of African oilseeds and appropriate measures for solving such problems.

8. Under Agenda item 3, the Group discussed the repercussions on African producers of current conditions on the world market for oilseeds, oils and fats and identified the following problems:

- i) Instability on the supply side.
- ii) Interchangeability of oilseeds on the world market.
- iii) Violent fluctuations in prices.
- iv) Difficulties in market access.
- v) Falling share of developing countries in the export of oilseeds.
- vi) Tendency to stagnation in import demand in the major importing countries.
- vii) Tendency of groupings of developed countries to squeeze out African countries in the world market.
- viii) Factors leading to high cost of production, collection and storage of oilseeds
- ix) Lack of co-ordination among African oilseeds producers in the field of scientific research

- x). Lack of co-ordination among national governments with regard to external markets.

9. Under Agenda item 4, the AGC Executive Secretary made a statement concerning the Council's experience with regard to co-operation among African countries on oilseeds, pointing out both the successes it had met with and the obstacles it had encountered. The Group decided to bear this in mind when formulating its recommendations to the OAU Council of Ministers.

10. Following its deliberations, the Group was convinced of the need for joint action on the part of the African oilseed producer countries, and adopted the following guidelines for recommendations on such action:

- i) Effective solidarity among African oilseed producers is a factor of African Unity
- ii) The principle of equity should be taken into account so as to ensure that the interests of all member States will be safeguarded and that all oilseed products will be treated equally
- iii) African oilseed producers should aim at presenting a united front on the world market as regards in particular the production and marketing of their products
- iv) Any duplication of efforts with work already undertaken or under way at the national and international levels should be avoided.
- v) The interests of African rural producers should be given due consideration and safeguarded at both the national and international levels.

11. The Group then set up a Sub-committee on objectives and proposals to meet the problems identified. Its terms of reference were as follows:

- i) To study the advisability of expanding the activities of the African Groundnut Council to cover other oilseeds
- ii) To examine other alternative institutional arrangements which would meet the world problems identified, as they affect the African producers, taking into account the detailed debates and the shades of view in the plenary and the experience of AGC
- iii) Recommendations to the plenary meeting on 23 April 1971.

12. The Working Group examined the Report of the Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 23 April 1971. It adopted that Report and the Recommendations which appear therein. The text of the Report is reproduced below:

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON OBJECTIVES AND
PROPOSALS TO MEET THE PROBLEMS
IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Sub-committee met on 21 and 22 April 1971, under the Chairmanship of Mr. K.H.B. FRIEBOUM, Head of the delegation from Sudan.

14. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee were:

- (a) To study the advisability of expanding the activities of the African Groundnut Council to cover other oilseeds;
- (b) to examine other alternative institutional arrangements which would meet the world problems identified, as they affect the African producers, taking into account the detailed debates and the shades of view in the plenary and the experience of AGC.
- (c) to submit recommendations to the plenary on 23 April 1971.

15. After an exhaustive exchange of views among the various delegations and in order to decide on the objectives and proposals to meet the problems affecting African oilseeds, the Sub-Committee requested the Secretariats to place the underlisted documents at its disposal:

- i) "Summary of the problems affecting African oilseeds producers as identified by the working group on the extension of the activities of the African Groundnut Council to other African Oilseeds."
- ii) "Guidelines for the Working Group".
- iii) "Comparison between the Statutes of the African Groundnut Council and the Draft Statutes of the African Oilseed Council."

16. After considering the various points of its terms of reference in the light of the above documents, the Sub-Committee made the following recommendations for the Working Group.

17. The Sub-Committee

Taking into consideration the problems which affect the oilseed products as stated by Working Document No.1, No.2, No.3;

Considering that African producers of oilseeds should aim at presenting a common front on the world market and, in particular, as regards production and marketing of their commodities;

Agreeing on the urgent necessity for all African oilseed producers to evolve a central body which would harmonize their production and trade policies in order to present a united front on the world market;

Noting the intention of the AGC to have as a long-term objective the expansion of its activities to cover other African oilseeds;

Strongly supporting that intention of the AGC;

Bearing in mind the necessity of maximum participation in the Working Group of African oilseed producers;

Recommends

1. that another session of the Group be convened by the OAU, ECA and AGC, as soon as possible and not later than early 1972, with maximum possible participation;
2. that the OAU take appropriate steps, with the ECA and AGC and the other African countries, to pursue this objective.

18. At the end of its deliberations, the Working Group adopted this report.

19. Pursuant to Resolution CM/Res.225(XV) of the OAU Council of Ministers, this report will be transmitted to the next sessions of the OAU Council of Ministers, the General Assembly of the African Groundnut Council, with a view to implementing the above mentioned recommendations.



LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Provisional Agenda.
2. Expansion of the African Groundnut Council to cover other oilseeds: Economic, Institutional and Juridical aspects. (M71-433)
3. Expansion of the African Groundnut Council to cover other oilseeds: Economic, Institutional and Juridical aspects. (Addendum 1)
4. Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on objectives and proposals to meet the problems identified (WP No. 1).
5. Summary of the problems affecting African oilseeds producers as identified by the Working Group on the extension of the activities of the African Groundnut Council to other African oilseeds. (WP. No. 2)
6. Guidelines for the Working Group (WP. No. 3)
7. Comparison between the Statutes of the African Groundnut Council and the Draft Statutes of the African Oilseed Council (WP.No.4)
8. Convention creating the African Groundnut Council.
9. Statutes of the African Groundnut Council reviewed in October 1968.
10. Resolution on Oilseeds. (CM/Res.225(XV))

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