



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية  
السكرتاريه  
ص. ب. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

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B. P. 3243

اديس ابابا .\*. Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-First Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa, May 1973.

CM/516

REPORT ON THE UTILIZATION OF AFRICAN  
ADVISERS BY OAU.



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1. This request by the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity is aimed at obtaining from the Twenty-First Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the Tenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, authorization to have recourse to African Advisers of OAU, particularly in the economic, social transportation and communications fields. In order to do this, OAU will draw up a list of African experts specialized in each field of these activities. It will consult this list in order to recruit, experts in accordance with needs and the financial resources available, to undertake studies of vital interest to the Organization.

2. The Advisers of OAU, as is the case for all the other International Organizations, will be African Experts with their own work and their own occupations at the University, Research Institutes or elsewhere, whose knowledgeable assistance is sought in case of need.

3. The authorization sought from the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government is a decision of principle. Policy-making bodies of OAU have already decided that when a project involves financial implications, the latter must first be ascertained and submitted to the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters, for approval, before steps are taken to implement the project in question.

4. Thus, if, within the framework of the implementation of a decision by policy-making bodies of OAU, the Secretariat feels the need and necessity to have recourse to the services, advice or studies of an Adviser in a given field, it will first ascertain the financial implications, which will be submitted, in accordance with the previous instructions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, to the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters.

5. However, considering on the one hand, that certain detailed, highly-technical studies in depth are often quite costly, and, on the other, that external aid, without political conditions, to finance such technical studies, is available in Third World Countries or International Organizations, the General Secretariat would like to request the authorization of the Council of Ministers to be able to negotiate this external aid for the financing of certain of these studies. The General Secretariat of OAU wishes to draw the attention of the Council of Ministers to the fact that such a procedure is already operational at OAU solely for the implementation of projects of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission in Lagos, and that it is operating normally without prejudice to the political independence of our Organization.

6. Utilization of/or resort to the services of advisers is, at the present time, established practice in all International Agencies, those of the United Nations Family, and other important International African and Non-African Organizations.

7. The request of the General Secretariat of OAU is justified by the increasing role and responsibilities of OAU in the economic and social field which, in turn, necessarily results in an increase in the volume of work handled by the Economic and Social Department of the General Secretariat of OAU.

8. As you are aware, the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers adopted the Memorandum on the role and responsibilities of OAU in the economic and social field. The Nineteenth Session of the Council of Ministers appointed a Committee of Experts to study practical methods for the implementation of the OAU's programme of priorities in the economic and social field.

9. The General Secretariat of OAU, in accordance with the last decision of the Twentieth Session of the Council of Ministers, has already designated the eight Experts who will be assigned this task. (CM/Res.280 (XIX)). All this conspires to strengthen and clarify the role of OAU in the economic and social field, besides increasing its responsibilities.

10. It should be recalled that the preamble to the Charter of the Organization of African Unity stresses the duty of responsible political authorities in Africa to place the natural and human resources of our Continent in the service of the general progress of our peoples in all the fields of human endeavour. And one of the objectives is precisely to co-ordinate and intensify the co-operation and efforts of Member States in the economic and social, transport and communications fields, to afford better living conditions to the peoples of Africa.

11. The Charter of 25 May 1963 had, among the number of Specialized Commissions, provided for the Economic and Social, Transport and Communications Commission. Unfortunately, the General Secretariat of OAU had, in the past, encountered enormous difficulties in convening this Commission to examine problems of an economic and social nature which arose - and continue to arise - in Africa. If this Commission had met regularly, it would have greatly facilitated the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the General Secretariat. Unfortunately, it did not, and it is to be feared that the General Secretariat will continue to encounter the same difficulties in this field. Even by convening the Economic and Social Commission, the latter's work can only be effective if it disposes of basic technical documents drawn up by experts.

12. In the past, the Organization of African Unity had a tendency to appear as an exclusively political Organization. The fact that the Economic, Social, Transport and Communications Commission was not in a position to meet to regularly review the various problems with which the African Continent is faced in these crucial fields in order to suggest appropriate solutions to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government has aggravated this impression, with all its unfortunate and erroneous implications.

13. However, others are aware that OAU is a comprehensive undertakings for the liberation of Africa. It is imperative for the latter to free itself, not only politically and culturally, but also economically, that it to say from the servitude of foreign

economic and financial dependence, misery, hunger and malnutrition - in a word, from under-development.

14. The General Secretariat of OAU is thus through practical efforts, endeavouring to place itself in a position to bring out the comprehensive character of the work of OAU: on the threshold of this second decade of OAU's existence in which economic and financial problems will certainly preponderate, the General Secretariat deems that the time has come for OAU to have at its command the financial resources for the achievement of its economic objectives at no great cost.

15. OAU will be called upon to play an increasingly prominent role in the shifting picture of present-day International affairs, mainly dominated by crises that are especially characterized by the universally-felt need for multilateral negotiations on the most crucial problems of International trade, development and monetary matters.

16. The General Secretariat of OAU, besides its participation in the work of International Agencies like UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITU, ILO, FAO and ECA, etc., which are technical agencies, finds it necessary to deal with a certain number of technical studies, at the request of policy-making bodies and Member States, alone or in co-operation with other International Agencies.

17. The following are some examples:

- study of multinational air lines;
- study of the creation of a multinational African Civil Aviation Company;
- study of the creation of an OAU Postal Administration;
- study of the creation of an African Telecommunication Union;
- study of the implications, for African countries, of the adoption of International Transport by Freight Containers and their adherence to International Conventions on the subject, etc.....

18. The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity asks only for additional financial resources, a decision of

of principle, to enable it to successfully carry through the tasks that have been assigned to it, mainly in the economic, social, transportation and communications fields, financial resources, moreover, which are inseparable from the normal activities of International Organizations at the present time.

19. When it is realized that the struggle for economic independence and development is a political one, it can be truthfully affirmed that no African organization is better placed to assist African States - in all their best interests - in this important field.

20. For this reason it is necessary and indispensable to authorize the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to have recourse to the services of African Advisers, particularly in the economic, social, transport and communications fields.

21. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the General Secretariat of OAU is the principal branch empowered to follow the day-to-day technical and other developments affecting Africa in the economic, social, commercial, transport and communications fields.

22. This Department disposes of an insufficient number of economists, specialists and engineers in the field of trade to be able to take an effective part in all technical meetings it has to attend in this field, and accomplish all the work expected of it.

23. Rather than request authorization to recruit additional staff for this Department, which would swell the Organization's budget, we simply request, that, in case of need, the services of Advisers be sought; which would place us in a more favourable working posture.

24. Moreover, the Organization of African Unity, in general, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular, have no special ties with African universities and African experts who are engaged in advanced research work on problems of trade, development, finance, transport and communications in Africa.

25. In addition to the fact that the recruitment of Advisers would make better known in these circles the work, aims and aspirations of the Organization of African Unity, it would also enable the latter to acquaint itself with the views of African specialists on these problems which are so important for the future of our Continent.

26. On the other hand, the experience of foreign technical assistance in Africa has not been a completely happy one. It has transpired that not only is it difficult for an expert to be effective and productive while working in a sort of "political vacuum", but also that many foreign technical assistance experts have not been sufficiently effective and productive because they were not imbued with African realities.

27. Now that Africa is self-sufficient in African experts of international standing, in certain fields such as those of economics, trade, transport and communications, it is essential to associate them with the carrying through of the comprehensive task of OAU, while hoping that their advice and views will be clear to African concerns and realities in the field of development.

28. For all the foregoing reasons, the General Secretariat of OAU sincerely hopes that the Twenty-First Session of the Council of Ministers and the Tenth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government will appreciate the urgent need to provide our Organization with the necessary financial resources for the realization of its economic and social objectives and the improvement of the output of the General Secretariat of OAU.



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# Report on the utilization of African advisers by OAU

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