



ORGANIZATION OF
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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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Secrétariat
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twentieth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa, February 1973.

CM/488

PROGRESS REPORT

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GROUP OF EXPERTS

CM/Res. 280 (XIX)



PROGRESS REPORT
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GROUP OF EXPERTS
TO STUDY PRACTICAL METHODS FOR THE RAPID EXECUTION OF A
PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

Implementation of Resolutions: CM/Res.219(XV) and
CM/Res.280(XIX)

The 15th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa from August 24 to 31 1970, discussed, at great length, the present responsibilities of the OAU Secretariat in the economic and social fields. The Secretariat's role in these areas was reviewed with a view to giving clear directives for future action.

2. The outcome of the discussion was the "Memorandum on the Responsibilities and Role of the OAU in the Economic and Social Fields". Both the Memorandum and a Resolution, CM/Res.219(XV), were adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Resolution and Memorandum are attached as Annex I).

3. The resolution called for "a group of eight experts responsible for studying in co-operation with the General Secretariat...., practical methods for the rapid execution of this programme of priorities" contained in paragraph C of the Memorandum. The Council further requested "The General Secretariat of OAU to report to the next (16th) Sixteenth Session on the practical implementation of this resolution".

4. The Secretariat despatched a note verbale (Annex II) on the 29th of September 1970, requesting all Member States to nominate qualified candidates for the setting up of an expert group.

5. Responses were not encouraging. Very few Member States submitted candidates, and a number declined to nominate any. The majority, however, did not respond. As the Secretariat was required to report to the 16th Ordinary Session (February 26 - March 1971), a progress report (CM/370) was submitted.

6. At this session, the Council urged all Member States that have not communicated with the Secretariat to do as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, the Council appropriated U.S.\$6,000 for the implementation of resolution CM/Res.219(XV), and charged the Secretariat with the selection of appropriate candidates.
7. After the 16th Session, the General Secretariat despatched a second note verbale (Annex III) on April 5, 1971. None responded to this note. Under the circumstances, the Secretariat did not submit a progress report to the resumed 16th and 17th Ordinary Sessions. There was no progress to report. The 18th Ordinary Session was a budgetary one, no report was therefore submitted.
8. Progress was reviewed immediately after the 18th Session. Eight Member States have submitted two nominations each (16 names in all). Six others responded but declined to nominate any candidates.
9. On March 20, 1972, yet another note verbale (Annex IV) was despatched to all Member States that did not respond to earlier notes. No nominations followed this communication.
10. The 19th Ordinary Session reviewed the state of affairs and consequently adopted resolution CM/Res.280(XIX) (Annex V). In this resolution the Council decided that "the twentieth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers constitutes the deadline for the submission of candidates, beyond which the Secretariat would proceed to nominate the eight experts from the list in its possession and inform the twenty-first ordinary session of the Council of Ministers".
11. On 15th September 1972, the Secretariat sent ECO.30/GEN/920-72 (attached as Annex VI) to all Member States concerned. Two responded. Another note verbale (Annex VII) was despatched on December 5.
12. At the time of writing, positive responses with nominations came from twelve (12) Member States. Nine with two candidates each and three with one nomination each for a total of twenty-one (21) candidates. A list of responding Member States and their nominations is attached (Annex VIII) to this report.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Fifteenth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa - August 1970.

CM/Res. 219(XV)

RESOLUTION

ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLE OF OAU IN THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL FIELDS

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,

Referring to the programme of priorities contained in paragraph C of the attached Memorandum on the Responsibilities and Role of OAU in the Economic and Social Fields;

1. DECIDES to constitute a group of eight experts responsible for studying, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the OAU, ECA and ADB, and in consultation with any other international organization concerned with economic and social problems, practical methods for the rapid execution of this programme of priorities;
2. REQUESTS the General Secretariat of OAU to report to the next session on the practical implementation of this resolution.

CM/Res.219(XV)

MEMORANDUM ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

1. The Organization of African Unity was founded at a time when the United Nations, torn between the still little-known exigencies of the specific development of the African continent and the predominant interests of the industrial powers, but nevertheless accepting for the first time the collective responsibility of its members in the struggle against poverty, had already launched its First Development Decade.
2. Nothing perhaps presented more difficulty than outlining unambiguously and assuming with optimum effectiveness, the particular form and role that the Organization of African Unity should play in this action by the United Nations family to eliminate hunger, disease and ignorance from the world in general and from Africa in particular.
3. At the same time, however, nothing was then as clear, as specific and as firm as the determination of the founders of OAU to use the new Organization immediately, as a working framework to "harness the natural and human resources of our continent for the total advancement of our peoples in spheres of human endeavour". Hence:
 - the vital importance among the aims of the Addis Ababa Charter of co-ordinating and intensifying the co-operation and efforts of Member States "to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa";
 - the special emphasis placed on the machinery which would promote the rapid co-ordination and harmonization, within the structures of OAU, of the general policies of Member States in the economic, social, transport and communications fields;

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- the affirmation too, by the Heads of State and Government of OAU, of their determination to make this Organization the policy-making body and the driving and controlling force behind every undertaking aimed at the economic and social development of the continent;
- and, finally, the establishment of the Economic, Social, Transport and Communications Commission and an Economic and Social Affairs Department within the General Secretariat.

4. At a time when the United Nations having noted the weaknesses and failures of the First Development Decade, is launching its Second Development Decade, the Organization of African Unity has, more than ever, an urgent duty to reaffirm the commitments and determination of its leaders to make OAU the forerunner in the common struggle of the African peoples for economic well-being and social progress. What is more, OAU has a duty, after seven years of experience and research in the economic field, to consolidate its structures, rationalize its working methods and increase its means of action, in order to influence, more effectively than in the past, the economic and social development of the continent and, more particularly, co-operation between its Member States to achieve economic and social progress.

5. To this end, the OAU Member States have resolved to adopt the present memorandum, for the purpose of spelling out and reaffirming the commitments and responsibilities of OAU in the complex work of research and creation, upon which depends the accelerated development of the African peoples. Through the same instrument, Member States propose to record their agreements on working methods and on the means of action which must be adopted by the Organization of African Unity, if it is to play its full part with distinction in the economic and social fields in Africa and in the success of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

A. Commitments and responsibilities of the Organization of African Unity in the economic and social fields

1. The OAU Member States reaffirm their determination to co-ordinate and harmonize, within the Organization, their national and regional development policies, so as to promote the rapid and progressive integration of economies and markets, and the pooling of material and human resources on the entire continent.

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2. OAU Member States undertake to study developments in all problems relating to economic and social co-operation on the continent, so as to enable the Organization to lay down ways and means of taking joint action and of intervention which will gradually break down the barriers of all kinds that today curb or impede the progress of general economic development and inter-African co-operation. In this perspective, the policy-making bodies of OAU appreciate their obligation to analyse periodically, all the experiments in co-ordinated development undertaken at all levels between African States, with the aim of using the outcome and lessons of these experiments to common advantage.
3. The OAU Member States undertake to give effect to major joint decisions taken and concerted stands adopted with the Organization of African Unity, not only in the conception and execution of their national or regional economic planning schemes but also in the economic diplomacy.
4. The Organisation of African Unity recognizes the importance and appreciates the value of foreign contributions in general, and of contributions by the various organizations and agencies of the United Nations family in particular, which augment the concerted efforts of its Member Governments and its peoples in their struggle to achieve enhanced economic and social well-being. The Organization of African Unity undertakes to increase its co-operation with all international organizations. Nevertheless, the Organization of African Unity reaffirms its determination and reserves its right to promote, rationalize and control, in accordance with the legitimate interests of its peoples the activities and programmes of all these organizations in Africa.

B. Working methods and means of action

1. At each of their ordinary sessions, the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government will analyse the evolution of all problems of economic and social development on the continent, and more particularly inter-African co-operation. The purpose of such an analysis will be to single out in all sectors of development common African stands and to lay down practical methods of ensuring that these stands are triumphantly maintained.
2. The Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government will do everything possible to enable the Economic, Social, Transport and Communications Commission to resume and intensify its activities and to allow African authorities responsible for economic and social development to contribute effectively to the preparation of decisions and the adoption of common African stands in the fields of economic and social co-operation.

3. In order to facilitate this analysis of economic and social problems by the policy-making bodies, the General Secretariat will increasingly apply itself to following closely the work of African regional groups and that of international organizations concerned with the problem of economic and social development, and to report thereon to every session of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State.
4. Member Governments of OAU will set up, within their own national structures responsible for economic and social development, offices for liaison with the Secretariats of OAU and ECA, with a view to providing both of these organizations with information pertaining to their own economic and social progress, which would help these organizations to improve their preparatory work for the deliberations of the policy-making bodies.
5. The African regional groups for economic co-operation will also set up, within their own structures, a liaison system with the Secretariats of OAU and ECA.
6. The responsible administrative officials of the various regional groups for inter-African co-operation will meet under the auspices of OAU to harmonize/and co-ordinate the main aspects of their experiments in the field of co-operation.
7. The OAU General Secretariat will strengthen its co-operation with ECA and ADB as well as with other African Organizations, in order to undertake in concert with these Organizations, the preparation of studies and reports which would enable the policy-making bodies to be in a better position to appraise and analyse the African economic and social situation.
8. Within the framework of the international organizations of an economic and social character, and more especially at major meetings of the specialized agencies of the United Nations family African delegates, with the assistance of the OAU General Secretariat will constitute themselves into "African Groups" so as to consult each other and to take common African stands on the form, aims and methods of programmes executed by these institutions for the benefit of Africa.
9. With the aim of ensuring effectively the constant joint defence of African interests within the executive boards or governing bodies of the major international organizations, OAU Member States will endeavour to entrust their representation in these bodies to those Member States which have the human and material resources to make this representation genuine, permanent and effective.
10. The Council of Ministers should provide the OAU General Secretariat with all the necessary means to increase its possibilities for studying economic and social programmes for the continent, as well as the requisite facilities for strengthening its activities, in the administrative co-ordination of work performed by the "African Groups" within international organizations of an economic and social character.

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C. Economic and social priorities of the Organization of African Unity

To discharge its commitments and responsibilities, in accordance with the working methods and its means of action, OAU shall give priority to putting into effect the following programmes, without this list being considered exhaustive:

1. Intensification of regional co-operation with a view to defining and carrying out projects of concern to the markets of several countries.
2. Mobilization of domestic financial resources in order to establish African funds in the service of development.
3. Acceleration of the process of industrial development on the continent, with particular emphasis on multi-national projects.
4. Increased inter-African trade through improved knowledge of the economic resources and production of each country.
5. Harmonization and co-ordination of legislation and customs procedures.
6. Intensification of monetary co-operation and institution of payments agreements between African States.
7. Promoting the construction of an all-African road network.
8. Co-operation between African air transport companies with a view to increasing trade and promoting tourism.
9. Provision of an All-African telecommunications system (Addis Ababa Plan).
10. Joint utilization of higher educational systems and systems for the training of supervisory staff in the fields of economic and social development.
11. Harmonization of social and labour legislation.
12. Institution of a system of inter-African Technical assistance (exchange of trained staff and manpower).
13. Assistance to African non-governmental organizations to help them achieve unity and to associate them with OAU's work.

REF: ECO. 50/3/1282-70

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States and has the honour to refer to resolution CM/Res. 219(XV) passed by the Fifteenth Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government in their last meetings from 24th August - 3rd September 1970 in Addis Ababa, and to draw the attention of all Member States to operative paragraph one of the afore-mentioned resolution calling for the establishment of a group of eight experts to study, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the OAU, the ECA and the African Development Bank, and in consultation with any other international organizations concerned with economic and social problems, practical methods for the rapid execution of the programme of economic and social priorities adopted by the Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The General Secretariat would be much obliged to Member States if each of them would communicate to it as soon as possible and not later than the middle of December 1970 the names of two experts who could serve in this group. From among these names the Sixteenth Council of Ministers meeting in February will select the group of eight experts which will be responsible for the study.

A copy of resolution CM/Res.219(XV) is enclosed herewith for the use of the appropriate authorities.

While thanking the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States in advance for their co-operation, the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to them the assurances of its highest consideration.

ADDIS ABABA, 29th September, 1970.

To the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs
of all OAU Member States.

ECO 50/3/350.71

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States and has the honour to refer to its note verbale Ref. ECO.50/3/1282-70 of 29th September 1970 on resolution CM/Res.219(XV) passed by the Fifteenth Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government in their last meetings from 24th August - 3rd September 1970 in Addis Ababa, and to draw the attention of all Member States to operative paragraph one of the aforementioned resolution calling for the establishment of a group of eight experts to study, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the OAU, the ECA and the African Development Bank, and in consultation with any other international organizations concerned with economic and social problems, practical methods for the rapid execution of the programme of economic and social priorities adopted by the Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The General Secretariat would be much obliged to Member States if each of them would communicate to it as soon as possible and not later than the end of April 1971 the names of two experts who could serve in this group. From among these names the resumed Sixteenth Session of the Council of Ministers meeting in June 1971 will select the group of eight experts which will be responsible for the study.

A copy of resolution CM/Res.219(XV) is enclosed herewith.

While thanking the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States in advance for their co-operation, the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to them the assurances of its highest consideration.

ADDIS ABABA, 5 April 1971.

To the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs
of all OAU Member States.

ECO 50/3/200-72

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States and has the honour to refer to note verbale ECO.50/3/1282-70 of 29 September 1970 and note verbale ECO.50/3/350.71 despatched to all Member States on 5 April 1971. Both letters pertain to resolution CM/Res.219(XV) passed by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Operative paragraph one of the aforementioned resolution reads as under: (The Council of Ministers)

- "1. Decides to constitute a group of eight experts responsible for studying, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the OAU, ECA and ADB, and in consultation with any other international organization concerned with economic and social problems, practical methods for the rapid execution of this programme of priorities;"

The programme of priorities referred to was adopted during the 15th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and is entitled "Memorandum on the Responsibilities and Role of the Organization of African Unity in the Economic and Social Fields."

The General Secretariat is now contemplating calling this expert group. All Member States are kindly requested to submit qualified nominees. Qualified because the task of assessing the scope and potential of the role and responsibilities to be assigned to the OAU General Secretariat in the economic, social and transport fields does require some expertise. Names and curriculum vitae would go a long way in facilitating the task of selecting eight suitable experts from among the nominees. Though deadline dates could be counter-productive, it is felt that after nearly two years (Resolution was passed on August 1970) reasonable haste might be useful.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

ADDIS ABABA, 20th March, 1972.

To all Member States of the OAU.

CM/Res.280(XIX)

RESOLUTION ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERT GROUP
TO STUDY THE ROLE OF THE OAU IN
THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TRANSPORT FIELDS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Nineteenth Ordinary Session, in Rabat, Morocco, from 5 - 12 June 1972,

Recognizing the need for urgent action by all the Member States who have not yet submitted candidates for the Expert Group which is to study practical methods for the rapid execution of the programme of priorities on the responsibilities and role of the OAU in the Economic, Social and Transport Fields;

Reaffirming the need to implement ~~resolution~~ CM/Res.219(XV) adopted in August 1970;

APPEALS to those Member States who have not yet submitted nominations to do so as a matter of urgency;

DECIDES that the twentieth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers constitutes the deadline for the submission of candidates, beyond which the Secretariat would proceed to nominate the Eight Experts from the list in its possession and inform the twenty first ordinary session of the Council of Ministers.

ECO 30/GEN/920-72

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States and has the honour to refer to the following resolutions and note verbales:

- Resolution CM/Res.219(XV) adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session in August 1970;
- Note verbale ECO 50/3/1282-70, despatched to all Member States on 29 September 1970;
- Note verbale ECO 50/3/350/71, despatched to all Member States on 5 April 1971;
- Note verbale ECO 50/3/200-72, despatched to all Member States on 20 March 1972;
- Resolution CM/Res.280(XIX) adopted by the 19th Ordinary Session at Rabat, Morocco.

Operative paragraph one of the first resolution CM/Res.219(XV) reads as under: (The Council of Ministers)

- "1. Decides to constitute a group of eight experts responsible for studying, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the OAU, ECA and ADB, and in consultation with any other international organization concerned with economic and social problems, practical methods for the rapid execution of this programme of priorities;"

The programme of priorities referred to was adopted during the 15th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and is entitled "Memorandum on the Responsibilities and Role of the Organization of African Unity in the Economic and Social Fields".

The General Secretariat should like to draw the attention of Member States to the time element involved between the adoption of resolution CM/Res.219(XV) and CM/Res.280(XIX). The numerous note verbales referred to demonstrate the fact that responses to the request to implement the first resolution were not satisfactory. Consequently, the 19th Ordinary Session of the Council took up the issue again (two years later) and adopted resolution CM/Res.280(XIX).

In this resolution the Council reaffirmed "the need to implement Resolution CM/Res.219(XV) adopted in August 1970". Furthermore, it "appeals to those Member States who have not yet submitted nominations to do as a matter of urgency".

It further "Decides that the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers constitute the deadline for the submission of candidates, beyond which the Secretariat would proceed to nominate the Eight Experts from the list in its possession and inform the twenty-first ordinary session of the Council of Ministers".

The General Secretariat feels that both geographic and linguistic representation is essential in setting up this Group of Experts. Approximately two years has elapsed as a consequence of attempting to fulfil this need. Resolution CM/Res.280 (XIX) in bringing in a deadline, is specific on the desirability of no further delay in arriving at an equitable distribution of this Group of Experts. Having waited for over two years, reasonable haste might be appropriate at this stage.

The Secretariat, therefore, appeals to all Member States that have not responded thus far to do so as a matter of urgency. Two qualified candidates are requested from each Member State. The responsibility of the Expert Group to study the role of the OAU in the economic, social and transport fields is both wide in scope and serious in intent.

The Secretariat hopes to call the First Meeting of the Group immediately after the 21st ordinary session of the Council which coincides with the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the Organization scheduled for May 1973.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States of the OAU the assurances of its highest consideration.

ADDIS ABABA, 15 September 1972.

MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE OAU.

ES/ECO/22/1

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States and has the honour to refer to its Note verbale ECO.30/GEN/920-72 on the implementation of Resolution CM/Res.280(XIX) despatched, on September 15, 1972, to Member States concerned.

The note verbale appealed to Member States who did not respond to earlier communication on the Establishment of an Expert Group, of eight members, to nominate candidates on a priority basis.

The first resolution CM/Res.219(XV) calling for the setting up of the Expert Group was adopted in August 1970.

In June 1972, the Council of Ministers adopted resolution CM/Res. 280(XIX). In this resolution the Council "decides that the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers constitutes the deadline for the submission of candidates, beyond which the Secretariat would proceed to nominate the Eight Experts from the list in its possession and inform the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers".

Two years and four months after the adoption of CM/Res.219(XV), twelve (12) Member States have responded. The Secretariat has in hand a total of 21 candidates.

The Secretariat, therefore, appeals to all Member States that have not yet responded to do so as a matter of urgency. Two qualified candidates are requested from each Member State.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of all Member States of the OAU the assurances of its highest consideration.

ADDIS ABABA, 5th December, 1972:

TO THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF ALL MEMBER STATES.

Encl. Resolution CM/Res.280(XIX).



MEMBER STATES WITH NOMINATIONS BY REGION

REGION	COUNTRY	NOMINATES/Names of Candidates
<u>EAST:</u>	Kenya	1. Mr. Arthur Elphas Osanya-NYNEQUE
	Uganda	1. Mr. Joje William Boyd WADDIMBA
<u>CENTRAL:</u>	Burundi	1. H.E. Joseph NDABANIWE 2. Mr. Balthasar MAPANGO
	Cameroon	1. Mr. Robert NAAH 2. Mr. Jules MEVAA
	Peoples Rep. of the Congo	1. Mr. Dieu Donne MANU MAHOÚNGOU 2. Mr. Andre MOULOU
<u>SOUTHERN:</u> ^{1/}	Swaziland	1. Mr. James NXUMALE 2. Mr. E. BHEMBA
<u>WEST:</u>	Ghana	1. Mr. ADEAMPONG 2. Mr. E.R.K. DWEMOH
	Guinea	1. Mr. Diallo NASSIROU 2. Mr. Soumah IBRAHIMA
	Mali	1. Mr. Oumar MAKALOU
	Nigeria	1. Dr. H.M.A. ONITIRI 2. Mr. OKUBOYEJO
<u>NORTH:</u>	Egypt	1. Dr. Fath-Alla EL KHATIB 2. Dr. Sherif LOTFI
	Sudan	1. Mr. Yousif Mohamed ABDALLA 2. Mr. Omer Ali OMER

Total Responses

East:	2	countries,	2	candidates
Central:	3	"	6	"
Southern:	1	"	2	"
West:	4	"	7	"
North:	2	"	4	"

TOTAL 12 countries, 21 candidates

^{1/} AHG/Dec.75(IX) recognizes a fifth region entitled "Southern".

1973-02-05

Progress report on the establishment of a group of experts CM/Res. 280 (XIX)

Organization of African Unity

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