



ORGANIZATION OF
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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITÉ
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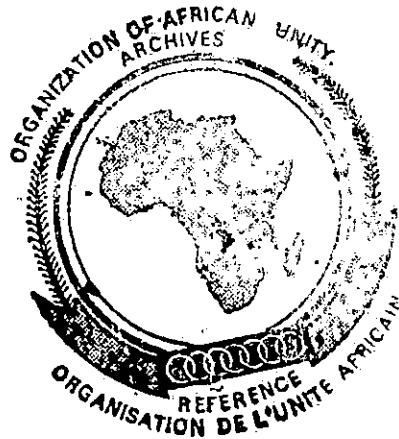
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CM/592 (XXIII)

Item No. : RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT



CM 0592

10p.

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THE OAU AND AFRICAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONSGENERAL

1. The first report (document CM/410) on African non-governmental organizations was submitted to the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1971. Since then, the Secretariat has been unable to report to the Council on the development of relations between the OAU and the said Organizations. The document submitted to the Seventeenth Session mentioned, among other things, the Pan-African Youth Movement, the All-African Women's Conference and the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. With regard to students, the report pointed out some specific problems, solutions to which the Secretariat feels should be found as quickly as possible, in order to facilitate more fruitful co-operation with those who are rightly regarded as Africa's leaders of tomorrow.
2. After taking note of the 1971 report, the Council of Ministers requested the Secretariat to continue with efforts to make these organizations effective in contributing to the OAU's policies for the total liberation, development, and unity of Africa. The General Secretariat has spared no effort to follow that request of the Council. The General Secretariat has developed relations with these organizations either by meeting with their leaders or through an exchange of correspondence, with a view to maintaining and strengthening co-operation with them in the common effort to promote the well-being of Africa.
3. The General Secretariat has done everything to give all material, financial and moral assistance to each one of these organizations within its means and as appropriate. Since 1967, the OAU has constantly lent them assistance. Sincere tribute should be paid to the United Nations; especially to its Special Committee on Apartheid, which launched and co-ordinated a campaign at the international level in support of the joint action by the OAU and the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) for example. Appropriate tribute should also be expressed to Africa's friends

and allies, particularly in the Third World, whose support has been equally valuable.

4. The OAU General Secretariat has always associated itself closely and effectively with the initiatives and actions taken by the various non-governmental organizations in the fields within their competence, in the interest of Africa. Special mention should be made here of the efforts made jointly by OAU and the SCSA. Indeed, the dynamic action taken by the SCSA and OAU enabled Africa to score two major victories in the field of international sport. Reference is here being made to the expulsion of racist South Africa and Rhodesia from the Olympic Games in Mexico and Munich respectively. In preparation for the 1976 Olympic Games, the OAU General Secretariat and the SCSA are gearing their action towards obtaining the expulsion of South Africa and Rhodesia from all world sport bodies and meets and the recognition by international sport bodies of the authentic representatives of the peoples of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA

5. Everyone is aware of the fact that it is South Africa's practice of racism which introduces politics into sports, and that this is part of the general question of apartheid. Africa's response to this heinous policy must therefore also be political and equally determined. The serious decisions which the African countries took during the Mexico and Munich Olympics, thanks to the dynamism of the SCSA, which collaborated fully with the OAU in the matter, is proof enough of this.

6. The General Secretariat also followed with great interest Africa's performance against the United States during the Africa versus U.S. sports match, held in Dakar, Senegal, on 4 and 5 August 1973. The meet was a return match to the one that took place in Durham, North Carolina, USA, in 1971. Eighty (80) of Africa's best athletes took part in the Dakar meet and demonstrated that we have come a long way athletically since 1971. The 1971 match was won by the U.S. with 101 points against Africa's 76. At Dakar, the U.S. still won but the points margin was considerably narrow; the U.S. scored 111 points against Africa's 101.

7. From August 11 to 17, 1973, Africa took on Latin America in a mini Olympic competition in Guadajara, Mexico. Athletics, basketball, association football and boxing featured in the competition; and while the continent's performance in the last three games could have been better, our young men and women excelled by scoring a total of 223 points against Latin America's 126 points in athletics.

8. These remarkable performances rightly constitute feathers in the cap of the SCSA. The OAU can rightly congratulate itself then for having been steadfast in rendering financial support to the SCSA; that financial support must be seen to have in no small measure contributed to the successes which the SCSA has registered. In keeping with the above-mentioned steadfast interest which the OAU has shown in the SCSA and the latter's work, the General Secretariat took an active part in the SCSA's 5th General Assembly, held in Lagos (Nigeria) from 2 to 4 January 1973, on the occasion of the Second All-Africa Games another feather in the SCSA's cap.

PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT (PYM)

9. The OAU General Secretariat also maintains very good relations with the Pan-African Youth Movement (PYM). Youth, needless to say, constitute the most active and dynamic force of our society. Youth, as is well-known, is the period of physical and intellectual development. While co-ordinating its activities with those of OAU, the PYM carries out its work independently, in keeping with the characteristics of the young. As its General Secretariat constantly affirms, it devotes full attention to work, studies (diversions - sports activities and relaxation). "Good health, good work and good education", is what the PYM advocates for the youth while stimulating their action and making them play a full and active part in support of the progressive forces in Africa.

10. This important youth movement which has been granted OAU Observer status since 1970, organized in Conakry (Guinea), under the enlightened chairmanship of the Prime Minister of that country, from 9 to 11 October 1972, an important meeting of the Committee for Assistance to Liberation Movements.

The sole purpose of this meeting was: "to seek effective ways and means of intensifying and generalizing the armed struggle in the territories still under foreign domination with the conscious participation of independent countries of Africa and the world."

11. This is further proof of the Pan-African Youth Movement's deep devotion to the cause of the oppressed and exploited peoples of Africa and the world. "Our historic duty, youth of Africa, dictates that we side with the oppressed and exploited peoples in their struggle", the PYM declared. "Honour and Victory to the peoples who are struggling to restore freedom, justice, friendship, peace and solidarity among nations", our youth cried.

12. Like the SCSA, the PYM has long endeavoured to strengthen its relations with the General Secretariat. It has considered it a duty to inform the General Secretariat regularly of its various activities, already under way or planned, within the framework of its programme of action. It may be said in general that in its activities the PYM has always enjoyed the material and moral support of OAU. This is why, for its first Pan-African Youth Festival, organized in Tunis in July 1973, the PYM requested financial assistance from our Organization. In examining the request made by the PYM, the Council of Ministers, at its Twentieth Session, unanimously recognized that it was an all African event which deserved OAU's support and encouragement. The Council, therefore, granted the sum of US\$52,600^{to PYM} for the staging of the Festival, which was another success both at the level of organization and structure.

13. During this first Pan-African Youth Festival, the participants were afforded the opportunity to measure the solidarity of all the youth of the continent in their common struggle for the development of their respective countries, genuine independence, the elimination of colonialism and racism, in particular, in the Portuguese colonies, South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia. The meeting, which took place at the continental level, definitely contributed to better understanding and the realization of African Unity. The Council of Ministers understood this so well that it recommended that all Governments of OAU Member States should do their utmost to ensure that this first Pan-African

Festival was fully successful. It will be recalled that this festival, whose interest will not have escaped the notice of anyone, had already received OAU's support during the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Council.

14. The leaders of the PYM state that it is because they were "motivated by the sincere desire to take an active part in the true rehabilitation of Africa in all areas that they decided to give this first festival the theme "Independence, Solidarity and Unity".

15. The OAU General Secretariat hopes that the Pan-African Youth Movement will work untiringly to achieve the full and complete integration of all youth movements not affiliated with it; for the General Secretariat has come up against certain initiatives taken by certain youth movements which call themselves pan-African but act without the knowledge of the PYM, which has been recognized by OAU since 1970. This situation is liable to create misunderstandings, lead to confusion and divide the youth of Africa. Today, Africa seeks unity in all fields and at all levels of social life. It is therefore highly desirable that the Council of Ministers appeal to all the committees of youth movements which have not yet done so, to strengthen the Pan-African Youth Movement, which already has OAU Observer status.

AFRICAN STUDENTS

15. Unfortunately, the General Secretariat's efforts to maintain meaningful liaison with African student organizations have not been very fruitful. The Secretariat still does not have all the information concerning the existing African student associations or organizations in and outside Africa. The difficulty may be attributed to poor co-ordination between the General Secretariat and the Governments of Member States on this matter, and to the limited financial resources which have prevented the Secretariat from establishing initial contacts with the organizations concerned.

16. The Secretariat has, however, been able to establish contact with the All-African Students Union, which is based in Accra, Ghana. The OAU General Secretariat was invited, for the first time, to attend a Conference of the All-

African Students Union, which included students from territories still under colonial domination. This meeting was held in Kumasi, Ghana, from 14 to 20 July 1972. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, the Secretariat was unable to send a representative to the Conference. From the documents communicated to the Secretariat, however, it would appear that the Union is an organization of students from English-speaking countries only. This association therefore appears to be pan-African in name only. In any case, the Union has written to the General Secretariat seeking recognition as well as financial assistance from the OAU.

17. The Secretariat hopes to meet the leaders from the various student movements in Paris this year during the World Youth Conference, which has been postponed and will probably meet this time at the UNESCO Headquarters, to establish with them a sound basis for close co-operation. Meanwhile, an appeal has been made to all Governments to lend their assistance to the General Secretariat, by providing names and addresses of associations of university and graduate students from their countries. The Secretariat will meanwhile be getting in touch with universities and other institutions of higher learning to obtain some of the relevant information.

ALL AFRICA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

18. The All-Africa Women's Conference (AAWC) has continued to co-operate with the OAU General Secretariat. The AAWC has regularly communicated with the General Secretariat, thus enabling the General Secretariat to check the use made of the financial assistance given to that organization by the Council of Ministers. Similarly, it has always taken care to inform the General Secretariat of its programmes of activities. The General Secretariat, for its part, has never spared any efforts to give administrative and technical assistance to the Conference whenever the need has arisen for such assistance.

19. There is no doubt that the Conference can become a very considerable social and political force on the African continent. It is in a position to contribute to the economic and social development of Africa and help substantially in the liberation struggle. Its major concern is to organize itself

on the basis of the real interests of African women in the rural and urban areas. Nevertheless, one of the main obstacles to its efforts is the paucity of cadres. If it is true that the shortage of cadres is a general problem on our continent, the lack of femal cadres is even more acute and actually constitutes a serious handicap for the AAWC. This puts on us an obligation to intensify vocational and political training of female cadres, to enable them to have a fair understanding of the problems of Africa's future, our people's struggle to overcome under-development and their fight against imperialism and neo-colonialism, and to play therein a role commensurate with their real potential.

20. The AAWC is aware of this situation and is committed to the struggles to create economic, social and cultural conditions likely to promote the emancipation of the African woman. On behalf of all the mothers of the continent, the AAWC solemnly appeals to all African Governments to take the necessary measures to assist the young African girl to develop fully and without let or hindrance. The General Secretariat hopes that co-operation with the AAWC will expand even more in future and that it will be more actively associated with the work of this organization of the women of our continent.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

21. Regarding Voluntary Service in Africa, the General Secretariat was happy to witness the establishment, during the First All-African Trade Fair in Nairobi in 1972, of an all-African Volunteer Organization. The organization's objective is to follow in OAU's steps on a voluntary basis. Through its voluntary services, it hopes to fill the cultural and other gaps between the peoples of Africa, make them aware of the African Youth, its belonging to one Africa and through youth exchange, help Africans to know and devote themselves unreservedly to the development of Africa. The Organization was supposed to stage a seminar in Nairobi at the beginning of 1973. The Secretariat has not been informed if the seminar did indeed take place but doubts that it took place at all.

22. The General Secretariat is also pleased to inform the Council of the establishment of a Rural and Urban Youth Association. For reasons yet unknown to the General Secretariat, the Association has its headquarters in Paris (4 Square Patenere). One of the aims of this Association is said to be the encouragement of effective participation of the peoples of Africa in building African Unity.

23. The General Secretariat commends this report to the attention of the Council.

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