



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية  
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

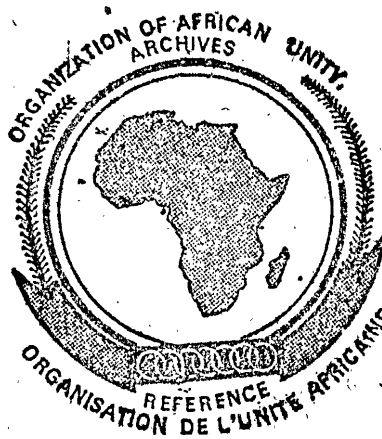
Secretariat  
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Addis Ababa - Addis Ababa

CM/787(XVIII)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION  
February 21 - 28 1977  
TOGO, LOME

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR SUBVENTION BY THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN  
UNIVERSITIES



CM0787

**MICROFICHE**

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Request for Subvention for the year 1977/78

Ref: A/15/CONF.SF.1

Accra, 5th November 1976.

The Administrative Secretary-General,  
Organization of African Unity,  
P.O. Box 3243,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dear Sir,

BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1977/78

APPLICATION FOR OAU ANNUAL SUBVENTION

The Organization of African Unity has recognised the important role of universities in the economic and social development of Africa.

The African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems held at Abidjan in 1973 was attended by the Secretary-General of the A.A.U who seized the opportunity to appraise the Ministers on the work of the Association and the contribution it was making to the development of Higher Education and the training of high level manpower in Africa. Thereupon the conference adopted the following resolution pledging full support for the programmes of the A.A.U.

"... Give full support, through their respective states and the Organization of African Unity, to the Programmes of the Association of African Universities and other institutions for the fostering of co-operation in particular areas of training and research, most especially the teaching of African relevant foreign language, the extension of training facilities to meet specific shortage of middle and high-level African personnel, the investigation of economic, social, cultural, scientific technological problems that are of particular importance for African development, and the exchange of university teachers and students ...."

The Above resolution was subsequently approved by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at the 10th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity in May 1973.

The UNESCO Conference of Ministers of Education of African Member States meeting in Lagos between January 27 and February 4, 1976 stated in their Recommendation 25, among other things:

"... The Conference recommends to the African governments, the OAU and the African universities that they consider as a matter of urgency the provision of adequate and regular financial support to the Association of African Universities.."

The above resolutions and recommendations had raised our hopes somewhat. Unfortunately we have been saddened with the inadequate subventions the OAU has been giving us. The following amounts have been paid to A.A.U. by OAU so far:-

\$83,170	for the fiscal year	1974/1975
\$50,000	" " " "	1975/1976
\$75,000	" " " "	1976/1977

In spite of the above subventions and other irregular financial contributions from other sources, AAU has been unable to carry out all of its activities in full swing. I am therefore writing on behalf of the Executive Board to renew the application of the AAU for the OAU annual subvention for the fiscal year 1977/78. What we need for the year 1977/1978 is \$400,000. The breakdown of the activities is as follows:-

(1)	The Documentation Centre	\$80,000
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The importance of this centre in collecting, classifying and disseminating information about all African universities cannot be over-emphasized. For two years, this centre has been funded by a grant of \$115,000 from the Ford Foundation. These funds have

been discontinued in 1974, and the centre has since been sustained by the meagre budget of the Association. It is to be pointed out therefore that this centre is in real danger of collapse if funds cannot be identified to sustain it. This centre serves as a link of communication between African Universities, research institutes and governments. Its activities include:

- The Publication of the Bulletin (2 Bulletins a year)  
The Bulletin serves as a forum for the discussion of research findings and other topics. It gives information on topics of general interest of higher education.
- The Publication and distribution of a monthly list of Staff Vacancies in African Universities.
- The compilation and the distribution of the list of people seeking appointments in African Universities.
- The preparation of abstracts of research being carried out in African Universities, and the distribution of these to research workers in Africa.
- The revision of the directory of African Universities giving up-to-date information on courses available in each university both at the undergraduate and graduate level.
- The report of General Conferences
- Material and supplies.

(2) Language Training

\$90,000

This particular activity of AAU was designed to break the language barrier by encouraging the teaching of the major working languages of French, English and Arabic in member

universities. We have made small beginnings in this direction, thanks to funds made available to us by the French government and the Inter-University Council of Great Britain. Although member universities have been sending to us many applications to arrange for their personnel to be provided with language training, we have been very slow, obviously due to inadequate funds. Pending the availability of adequate funding, we envisage a movement of 40 university staff members from East Africa to go to suitable Universities in West Africa for a five week intensive language training.

A similar group of francophones would likewise go to suitable universities in East Africa for an intensive course in English. We also envisage a one way movement of Portuguese speaking students from Mozambique and Angola to undergo language training in French and English as follows: Mozambic students going to Zambia and Angola students going to Brazzaville, Students and professors from Madagascar can also go to Zambia for English. Our fiscal department has estimated a \$90,000 price tag for this exercise.

(3) Modernization and Improvement of University curriculum through Seminars, Workshops and Conferences \$120,000

It has been our intention to organize disciplinary workshops of about 50 University teachers to discuss curriculum and content of their discipline, in view of modernizing and improving the teaching of the subject. So far we have held a successful workshop in Mathematics; preparations are under-way for workshops projected in History, African Linguistics, Pathology and Chemistry. Our estimates give \$25,000 per workshop. It is our wish that once specialists of a discipline meet, it is up to them to see how they can organize themselves in promoting further contacts and consultations.

It is interesting to know that the mathematicians have decided to form a Pan-African Mathematical Union. Other organizations have been formed and have been affiliated to AAU. These are:

- (i) The Conference of Engineering Education in Middle Africa,
- (ii) The Standing Conference of African Universities Libraries,
- (iii) The Association of Teachers of Political Science,
- (iv) The Association of Teachers of Education in Africa,
- (v) The Association of Medical Schools and Faculties,
- (vi) The Association of Faculties and Colleges of Agriculture.

The Deans of Faculties of Sciences will meet in April 1977 in Yaounde, Cameroon, to form the Association of Faculties of Sciences, and they have indicated their intention to be affiliated with AAU. We certainly encourage these developments to see to it that African specialists meet and exchange ideas and organise themselves in such a way that they can be mutually useful. On many occasions, we have been approached for funds by these various groups to finance the initial arrangements for meetings, and of course we have been slow due to lack of funds. Our estimates for 4 workshops give \$120,000.

- (4) Meetings of heads of African Universities and Executive Board of AAU                      \$25,000

The complexity of problems of Higher Education and the implementation of true co-operation among African Universities call for one meeting a year of all heads of African Universities. A meeting of this kind must be organized by AAU and might be held consecutively with the annual meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of African Universities. This exercise gives an annual estimate of \$25,000.

(5) Staff Exchange \$60,000

To enable professors to visit other universities and take part in research and teaching in Sciences, Technology and Social Sciences. We envisage a movement of 50 professors in all directions within Africa. Our estimates give \$35,000. On the basis of an average air fare of \$700 per person and a per diem of \$50 for 10 days, we would need \$60,000.

(6) International Conferences \$25,000

It is now an accepted practice to invite organizations such as ours to international meetings on our own budget. In the past AAU would shy away from many such invitations because of financial strain. Now that AAU has obtained consultancy status with UNESCO, OAU, and IAU (International Association of Universities) we are obligated to attend a number of international meetings at which AAU's views have to be expressed and defended. We need \$25,000 for that purpose.

The total amount requested is \$400,000.

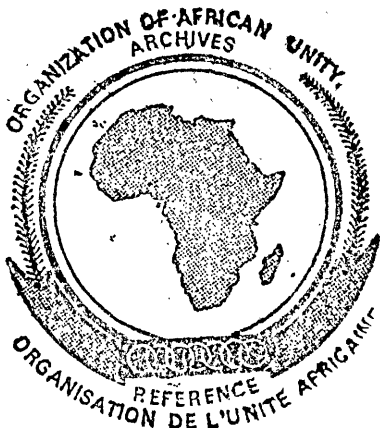
I am enclosing two copies of our audited accounts for year ended June 30, 1976, and a separate document on our activities.

I shall be pleased to appear before the appropriate committee to provide additional information and statistics you may require on these requests.

Looking forward to hearing from you and thanking you in advance for your kind attention and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Y.K. Lule  
Secretary-General.



PROGRAMMES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN  
UNIVERSITIES DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR OAU ANNUAL  
SUBVENTION

The Programmes and activities of the Association over the last two years arise out of the objectives of the Association of African Universities as set out in its Constitution. These are:

- a) "To promote, interchange and co-operation among University institutions in Africa.
- b) To collect, classify and disseminate information on higher education and research, particularly in Africa.
- c) To promote co-operation among African institutions in curriculum development, and in the determination of equivalence of degrees.
- d) To encourage increased contact between its members and the international academic world.
- e) To study and make known the educational and related needs of African University institutions and as far as practicable to co-ordinate the means whereby those needs may be met.
- f) To encourage the development and wider use of African languages.
- g) To organize, encourage and support seminars, conferences between African University Teachers, Administrators and others dealing with problems of higher education in Africa".



The translation of these objectives into practical terms saw the establishment of the following programmes and activities:

- i) The operation of the Inter-African University Scholarships Programme.
- ii) The operation of the Documentation Centre at the Secretariat of the Association.
- iii) The operation of a Programme of Staff Exchanges.
- iv) The organisation of special programmes for intensive training in the use of English and French.

During the period under review the Association continued to operate a programme of student exchanges. The total number of students on the programme now is 746 from twenty-four countries and studying in 44 African universities.

During the period under review our documentation centre has performed the following functions:

- a) Collected information on member universities and published two editions of the Directory of African Universities.
- b) Prepared an abstract of on-going research in African Universities for distribution.
- c) Published three issues of the Bulletin of the AAU containing information on matters of common interest to all universities including articles on topical subjects, academic events and important university announcements.

- d) It has received and published monthly lists of vacancies in member universities.
- e) It has provided universities with lists of people seeking employment in member universities.
- f) It has published three reports on Research and Teaching Facilities in the following fields: (i) Medicine, Dentistry & Pharmacy. (ii) Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Forestry and the Biological Sciences. (iii) Engineering Education and the Physical Sciences.

#### Meetings of Executive Board

During the period under review the Executive Board of the Association met five times as follows:-

- 1) April 1974 at the University of Benghazi (now University of Garyounis) Libya.
- 2) November 1974 at the University of Cairo, Egypt.
- 3) March 1975 at the University of Ghana, Accra.
- 4) December 1975 at the University of Ghana, Accra.
- 5) June 1976 at the University of Niamey, Niger.

These meetings are designed to review the work of the Secretariat, to approve estimates, programmes and means of strengthening cooperation and links between African Universities.

### Organization of Seminars and Workshops

The purpose of these seminars is to exchange views and experiences and innovations and current experiments in the university curricular and content with the view of bringing about modernisations and improvements in university teaching. Each seminar or workshop is preceded by a meeting of a preparatory committee which decided on the scope of the Seminar, commissions, papers and draws up a programme of operation. Each Preparatory Committee is composed of about ten Professors representing various regions, language groups and systems of education.

During the period under review, three preparatory committees met to prepare for workshops in the following fields:

- a) History, Legon, September 1974.
- b) Mathematics, Kumasi, January 1975
- c) Pathology, Lagos, September 1974.

Following these meetings, a large Mathematics workshop was held at the University of Dakar and was attended by Mathematicians from all regions of Africa.

### Attendance at International Meetings

The AAU was invited to participate in the following meetings:

- a) The conference convened of Ministers of African member states of UNESCO responsible for the application of Science and Technology to Development (CASTAFRICA) and convened by UNESCO in Dakar in January 1974.

- b) A meeting organised at the Nairobi UNESCO office in August 1975 to consider the improvement of Science teaching in African Universities.
- c) A regional meeting of Experts representing institutions in high level engineering education in the African Region convened by UNESCO in Nairobi in August 1976.
- d) A round table conference of Experts and Consultants convened by UNESCO in Dakar in June 1974 to advise on future developments of Higher Education in the Africa Region.
- e) Two meetings of the Administrative Board of the International Association of Universities held in New York and Paris.
- f) Attended as observers, the meetings of the OAU Council of Ministers and Heads of State in 1974, 1975 and 1976.
- g) The meeting of Ministers of Youth and Culture organised by UNESCO in Accra in October 1975.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

REF: A/15 CONF.SF.1

Accra, November 5, 1976

Mr. William Eteki Mboumoua,  
 Executive Secretary-General,  
 Organization of African Unity,  
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dear Sir,

I am addressing this note to you in order to seek your personal and official support and assistance to the programmes of the Association of African Universities. A copy of our Constitution is enclosed herewith for your information on our aims and objectives which you will find are in line with the objectives of the OAU, particularly with respect to inter-African cooperation.

As you already know, the AAU was granted observer status by the OAU some years back and at the meeting of the Heads of States held in Addis Ababa in May 1973, the following Resolution pledging full support to the programmes of the AAU was adopted. This Resolution, among other things, urged the OAU and <sup>the</sup> respective governments

"..... to give full support through their respective states and the Organization of African Unity, to the Programmes of the Association of African Universities and other institutions for the fostering of co-operation in particular areas of training and research, most especially the teaching of African relevant foreign language, the extension of training facilities to meet specific shortage of middle and high-level African personnel, the investigation of economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological problems that are of particular importance for African development, and the exchange of university teachers and students ....."

This Resolution inspired the AAU to put in an application for annual subvention beginning with the Fiscal Year 1974/75. The result of this application was a grant of \$100,000 (subsequently reduced to \$83,170) which though not adequate for the job in hand was an encouraging beginning. The following year this subvention instead of being raised was in fact cut down to \$50,000. This was naturally disappointing to the AAU and appeared to represent a decline of interest. However, as you will recall, when the Ministers of Education of Member States met in Lagos in February this year, they renewed and reinforced, on behalf of their governments, the interest already expressed in the work of the AAU as illustrated by the following Resolution which was

passed.

"The Conference,

"Bearing in mind that the creation of the Association of African Universities is predicated on the philosophy of assisting the various African Universities to pool ideas and resources in the areas of education and research geared to the intellectual, social, political and economic development of Africa,

"Noting with satisfaction the progress that the Association of African Universities has made in promoting higher education among Member States through the exchange of students and professors, organisation of inter-university seminars and workshops, study tours and documentation,

"Conscious of the co-operation which already exists between Unesco and the Association of African Universities in the field of higher education, and the need to strengthen this co-operation,

"Considering that hitherto the greater source of funding for the Association is derived from sources outside Africa,

"Aware of the fact that the interest of the African countries would best be served by the Association, if it derives the bulk of its funding from African Governments,

"Recommends:

- (a) to the African Governments, the OAU and the African Universities that they consider as a matter of urgency the provision of adequate and regular financial support to the Association of African Universities;
- (b) to Unesco that it takes steps to strengthen the existing working relations between it and the Association of African Universities, and find ways and means of providing financial support to the Association."

This Resolution was submitted to the OAU through Mr. Neureddine Djoudi, the Assistant Secretary-General for Scientific and Cultural Affairs who represented the OAU throughout the Conference. However, it appears to have got stuck up in some file at your headquarters and has since not seen the light of day. It was not presented to the Council of Ministers either in Addis Ababa early this year or in Mauritius later in July,

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and as a result it was not put before the Heads of State in Mauritius this year. The Resolution has not therefore had any impact on the size of the subventions given by the OAU to this organization although this was clearly what it had been intended for by the Ministers of Education.

I have today, 5th November, submitted to you through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, a new application for a subvention for the Financial Year 1977/1978. In doing so we have met as we have done in the past, the conditions laid down by the Council of Ministers including the submission of our audited accounts.

The purpose of this letter as stated above, is to seek your assistance to ensure that due regard is given to the two resolutions quoted above when deciding on the size of the subvention to be given to the AAU requests that the subvention be made on a regular rather than on a fluctuating basis.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Y.K. Lule  
Secretary-General

c.c. Dr. A. Mahtar M'Bow  
Director-General of Unesco.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) A.A. Ali,  
Commissioner for Education,  
Federal Government of Nigeria.

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# Consideration of Application for Subvention by the Association of African Universities

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