



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**
Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

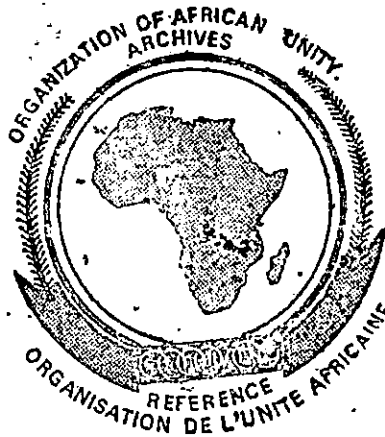
منظمة الوحدة الإفريقية
السكرتارية
ص. ب. 3243

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

أديس أبابا * Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION
FEBRUARY 1981
ADDIS ABAJA

CM/1084 (XXXVI)



CM-1084

MICROFICHE

APPLICATION FOR SUBVENTION BY
PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

The Secretary General
OAU
Addis Ababa

CM/1084(XXXVI)

Panafrican Women's
Organization (PAWO)

Algiers, 15 June 1980

Dear Sir,

Request for Subsidy

We have the honour, respectfully, to inform you of the record of activities carried out by the Panafrican Women's Organization (P.A.W.O) during the previous financial year of the General Secretariat presented at the 5th P.A.W.O. congress held in Tripoli from 3 to 9 March and which you singularly honoured by sending your representative.

As you may notice, Sir, no efforts have been spared to achieve this record. And yet we can assure you in all objectivity that this record neither matches our ambition or the deep aspirations of women who have placed their trust in us; this is due to reasons that you are aware of and which are mainly due to the limited funds at our disposal.

However, as you might have been informed by your Representative whose participation was greatly appreciated, all participants in the Congress welcomed the results contained in the progress report, for they mainly reflect the ardent desire of women to really participate, albeit modestly, in finding solutions to the numerous problems facing African women.

Sir, allow us to recall very respectfully that if P.A.W.O. has been able to pursue actively its activities in various fields, it was because of the great assistance that it receives from O.A.U.

The 5th Congress greatly appreciated the interest shown by OAU in P.A.W.O.'s activities and went on to stress the need to reinforce in future P.A.W.O.'s socio-economic activities through an intensive collaboration of P.A.W.O. with OAU and ECA. This is reflected in the action programme which was approved and which we attach to this request.

Next year is going to be a very busy year especially at this time when economic and political liberation struggles are gathering momentum and more so after the Lagos Economic Summit which did make its mark and where African Governments more than ever expressed their firm determination to work resolutely to resolve the socio-economic problems plaguing the continent.

P.A.W.O. which has always endorsed OAU recommendations and resolutions pledges to spare no efforts in implementing them.

In this regard, our programme in the short term includes:

- 1) the holding of a Seminar of Solidarity with Southern Africa (struggling people and frontline states) with a view to organizing a campaign for assistance by arousing public awareness of the prevailing situation,
- 2) the holding of a socio-economic seminar on women and development in collaboration with ECA and OAU,
- 3) the holding of a seminar on the legal status of African women,
- 4) the operation and organization of P.A.W.O.'s Information centre for liberation movements which was opened in Luanda in May 1980,
- 5) the publication of African Woman magazine,
- 6) P.A.W.O.'s participation in all OAU meetings (summit, budgetary sessions, conference of Labour Ministers),
- 7) P.A.W.O.'s participation in all UN Conferences and to specialized agencies dealing with the problem of the advancement of people especially women and children (participation in the Copenhagen conference),
- 8) operation of the permanent Secretariats (which number 5).

Sir, we are launching through you an appeal to the Advisory Committee to examine favourably our request, with the firm belief that you will help us to pursue the task we have taken upon ourselves to serve the people of Africa.

We wish you every success in the accomplishment of your lofty task and reiterate our assurance that we fully support the objectives of OAU and are determined to work with you for the implementation of its resolutions for the liberation and prosperity of the people of Africa.

For PAWO General Secretariat

SIGNED

Fathia Bettahar
Secretary General

It must also strengthen, with its member organizations, solidarity with women in African countries still under colonial domination. In this connection PAWO must:

- a) Encourage and bring new impetus to the solidarity action of member organizations for the benefit of Liberation Movement.
- b) Bring its material, political and material support to Liberation Movements in Africa by visiting refugee camps in countries where they exist.
- c) Encourage Member Organizations to organize solidarity weeks for Liberation Movements struggling for independence.
- d) The Panafrikan Women's Organization must itself organize seminars, symposia, conferences and meetings. In this regard Member Organizations must do everything possible to make the holding of such meetings possible.
- e) Calls on all its National Organizations to condemn any manoeuvres and action by imperialists to impose a neo-colonial solution to the liberation struggle of the people of Southern Africa.
- f) Organize the Liberation Movement Information Centre whose mission will be to collect and disseminate widely information with a view to arousing international and African awareness of the realities and successes of struggling people through such means as the publication of brochures, posters, radio and television and film shows.

II ECONOMIC ACTION

Economic development is a guarantee for true independence and is a determining factor for the improvement in the living conditions of the people of Africa.

For this reason, the integration of women in national development is a vital goal. Consequently, PAWO and its Member Organizations should:

- a) Work with their respective Governments to enable African to exercise their full rights and dispose of their natural resources.
- b) Work towards the strengthening of an independent national economy by encouraging the recovery of resources, national production and especially a balanced consumption of local products.
- c) Work to change the unsuitable economic and social structures with a view to promoting new structures that meet the imperatives of Africa's evolution by adopting modern scientific and technological methods to improve production and productivity.
- d) Contribute to the struggle for the establishment of a New International Economic Order. In this regard, Governments should include in the various delegations to economic development conferences, representatives of national women organizations.
- e) Take the necessary measures to co-ordinate and effectively support national organizations in carrying out the following actions:
 - 1) The creation of co-operatives and industries in the rural areas through the mechanization and transformation of agro-pastoral and artisanal production in accordance with methods suitable to local conditions.
 - 2) The implementation of adequate vocational training programmes for the acquisition of technology for specific needs of the rural economy.
 - 3) The initiation and pursuit of activities which require a massive participation of women in decision-making, production and management.

4) The organization of seminars to train, inform women on the problems and needs of the national economy, the structure of national production and the international economic situation with a view to making them contribute to the conception and implementation of action programmes.

5) The organization of technical training seminars aimed at providing women with the necessary techniques to enable them occupy positions of responsibility in agro-industrial co-operatives.

6) Training seminars for leaders of national organizations.

7) Training seminars on project evaluation and preparation techniques for African women's organizations.

8) Briefing and training seminars for sharing experience among members from various countries.

9) Exploration of funding prospects for such ad hoc projects of PAWO and National Organizations as well, grinding mills, hotels, farms, kindergartens and nurseries.

10) Find markets for locally processed goods.

III SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTION

1) Socio-cultural development

The effects of colonialism are felt not only in the economic and political spheres but also in the social and cultural.

PAWO is aware that culture, education and employment are determining factors that make it possible for women to participate fully in the implementation of the economic, political, social and cultural goals of a country.

Thus, in view of the fact that the majority of African women cannot read and write, have no training, no employment, the Pan-African Women's Organization must:

- a) Encourage intensive training courses in such fields as health, agriculture and co-operatives,
- b) Promote the exchange of experience among national organizations,
- c) Organize training seminars on specific subjects at the regional and continental level,
- d) Encourage the creation of institutes for training and development of skills,
- e) Encourage Member Organizations to fight for the promulgation of Family Law in countries where it does not exist.
- f) Encourage the extension and flowering of Mother and Child Care Centres, kindergartens and nurseries,
- g) Co-operate with Youth Organizations for youth and child care,
- h) Award scholarships in co-operation with International Institutions.
- i) Contribute to the preparation and implementation of functional illiteracy programmes for the young,
- j) Organize an African culture Women's festival to promote mutual knowledge among African artists and make it possible to contribute in various ways to the affirmation of African personality and creative mind,
- k) Organize exhibitions so as to stimulate the creative mind of women in art and literature.
- l) Organize the exchange of women cultural troops to promote the knowledge of traditions, understanding and love among African women.

- m) Contribute actively to the success of the International Year of the Disabled by creating the necessary conditions for their rehabilitation.
- n) Educate the people with a view to curbing the hazards of accidents that can be a source of handicap to children.

2. Advertisement and Information

The Pan-African Women's Organization should launch a vast campaign to inform and brief women on its principles, objectives and what it must do to translate those objectives into every day reality:

In this regard, it must:

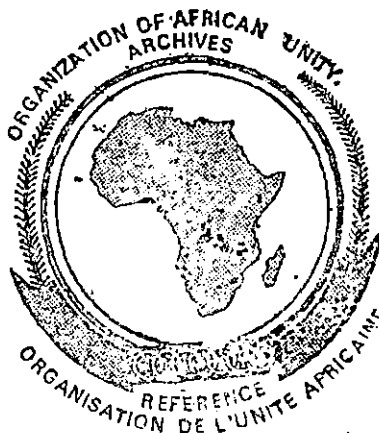
- a) Give a new impetus to the publication of its African Woman Magazine which will serve as link among African Women's Organization.
- b) Disseminate widely all PAWO's documents, the charter and its guidelines as well as the brochures that it will publish.
- c) Make use of all media (newspapers, radio and television) through its member organization in order to focus African Women's attention on its activities.
- d) To achieve its objectives, PAWO should use all the facilities at its disposal and make use of all that African Governments will provide to help it carry out its activities.
- e) Keep in touch with African Governments through its member organizations with a view to keeping the former informed and making them participate in its activities.
- f) Celebrate with pomp and pageantry, under the theme of solidarity, unity and determination, the African Women's Day which falls on 31 July, the anniversary date of the creation of PAWO.

- g) Organize periodic tours to be made by the General and Regional Secretariats in order to strengthen the mass media. Such tours will make it possible to assess the activities of the organization, ensure co-ordination and give a new direction to the action programme should the need arise.

IV. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Pan-African Women's Organization should strengthen and maintain closer relationships, based on mutual respect, with all Democratic International Organizations fighting for the same objectives so that they can all present a united front against the common enemy i.e. imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism and apartheid.

PAWO must have sustained relations and work in close collaboration with OAU, UNO and its specialized agencies. It must persevere in its collaboration with ECA and other competent International organizations in order to carry out successfully African plan of action and participate in the realization of the objectives of the United Nations Women's Decade.



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1981-02

Application for Subvention by Pan-African Women's Organization

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9612>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository