



CM/12 (XXVI)

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

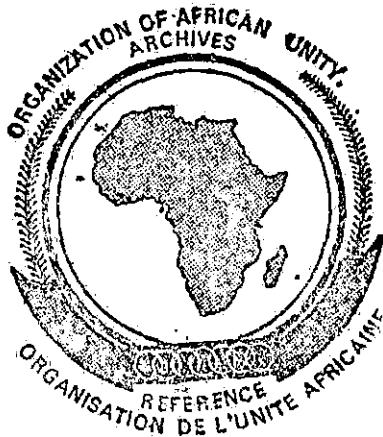
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa, February 1976

REPORT ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION



CM 0722

RRP **MICROFICHE**

REPORT ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

Pursuant to Resolution AHG/Res.73 (XII) adopted during the 12th Ordinary Session of the Summit Conference of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Kampala from 28 July to 1st August 1975, the Secretary General, in implementation of the recommendations of this Resolution:

1. Forwarded to Member States through note Verbale N° CAB/GM/70/II/32 dated 21 August 1975 two copies of the 1st draft of the Declaration and Programme of Action on Afro-Arab Cooperation for their study. The observations expected from Member States after considering the document within a period of 2 months were not forwarded to the Secretariat by the set date limit. Through note Verbale Ref. CAB/GM/70/II/86 dated 22 December 1975 to Member States the Secretary-General recalled the contents of Note verbale CAB/GM/70/II/32 of 21 August 1975 with a view to receiving before the 24th December 1975, comments on the draft document forwarded them for their study.

The following countries have since sent their replies:

Tanzania, Gambia, the People's Republic of Benin, The Democratic Republic of Sudan, the United Republic of Cameroon, Morocco, Senegal and Lybia.

2. With regard to consultations by the OAU Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the Arab League on the date and venue of the Joint Ministerial meeting of the OAU and the Arab League, the Secretary-General has received a proposal for the Joint meeting to be held at the Headquarters of the Secretariat of the Arab League on the 20th March 1976.

The Secretary-General has accordingly informed the Sub-committee of Ambassadors of the Committee of 12 at a meeting held at the Secretariat on the 19th December 1975.

The proposal of the Arab League is based on the following factors:

- a) The OAU Council of Ministers will be meeting in an Ordinary Session in February 1976 and could, at that meeting, take their stand on the 1st Draft Declaration and Programme of Action on Afro-Arab co-operation.
- b) The Ministers of the Arab League will be holding their Ordinary Session in Cairo on the 15th March 1976 and could then take their position on the document.
- c) The two Councils of Ministers could then meet from the 20th of March in Cairo to adopt the Draft Declaration and Programme of Action to be submitted to the Afro-Arab Summit Meeting. The two Councils would also propose the date, venue and possible agenda for the Summit.

3. The Sub-Committee of Ambassadors of the Committee of 12 accepted the principle of forwarding these proposals first to the Ministerial Committee of 12, which in turn, would submit them to the Council of Ministers.

It should be mentioned that during the meeting of the Sub-Committee, it was felt that in considering the proposals, due attention should be given to:

- a) The date: the succession and number of meetings scheduled to be held from January (Extraordinary Session, Liberation Committee meeting, Council of Ministers, etc.)
- b) The venue: The need to maintain some equilibrium; in other words, to keep in mind the fact that each of the two Joint Meetings (Ministerial and Summit) should be held in an Arab country and in an African country south of the Sahara or vice versa.

The Secretary-General informed Members of the Sub-Committee of Ambassadors of the interest the Republic of Senegal has shown in the process leading to the convening of the Afro-Arab Summit and Senegal's readiness to host, if it were asked to do so, the Joint Ministerial Meeting after March. The Secretary-General however pointed out that it was not a former proposal made as a counter proposal to the former proposal by the Arab League but a mere expression of its readiness.

4. The Sub-Committee requested the Secretary-General to gather information on:

- A. the distribution of the US \$ 200 Million of the Relief Fund by the Arab League and ADB.
- B. the position of the Second instalment of US \$ 200 Million dollars promised.
- C. the contributions promised by oil producing African States following the missions of the Committee to Congo, Gabon and Nigeria.
- D. the negotiations between the two Secretariats on the formula used for distributing sums allotted to States; a formula designed to avoid any suspicions from any quarters.

Regarding the first instalment of the Relief Fund, the following is the position as communicated by the bodies that managed it:

The initial amount of US \$ 20 Million dollars was reduced to 14 45 millions US \$ following a decision by Algeria, a donor country for the sum of US \$ 5.55 million dollars to be paid to it. The following is a break-down of how the balance was distributed among the recipient countries:

Cameroon	2,850,000
Ghana	4,400,000
Guinea	800,000
Guinea-Bissau	1,000,000
Niger	2,700,000
Upper Volta	<u>2,700,000</u>

US \$ 14,450,000

B. With regard to the second instalment of the Relief Fund, the situation as was communicated by the General-Secretariat of the Arab League is as follows:

Following the meeting of the Committee of Arab Ministers held on the 21st of October 1975, it appears that:

1. The granting of half a million dollars from the Relief Fund to the Cape Verde Islands, has been effected.
2. Saudi Arabia and Qatar have paid their contributions to the Relief Fund.
3. Recommendations have been made to other Member countries of the Arab League to pay their contributions to the Relief Fund.
4. Half a million dollars has been granted to the Comoro Islands.

C. According to information received from the ADB, neither Nigeria nor Congo nor Gabon have as yet paid their contributions to the Relief Fund.

The Secretary-General has forwarded Note Verbales to the Embassies of Nigeria and Gabon in Addis Ababa, as well as a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo for information on the matter.

D. The information sought from the Arab League on the matter and on point B has not yet been given.

5. The sub-Committee of Ambassadors expressed the view that with regard to the distribution of the second instalment of the Relief Fund, another criteria should be established by the Committee of 12 with the technical cooperation of ADB and ECA taking into account new developments since the Dar-es-Salaam Meeting in August, 1974 and especially, the international economic situation and the increase in the number of independent States. The ADB declared its readiness to assist in the drawing up of the new criteria.

6. The Secretary-General would like to inform the Council that in implementation of Res. CM/Res.395 (XXIV),

he has submitted a proposal to the Advisory Committee on Financial and Budgetary Matters on the structure of the Afro-Arab Cooperation section to be established with the Cabinet of the Secretary-General.

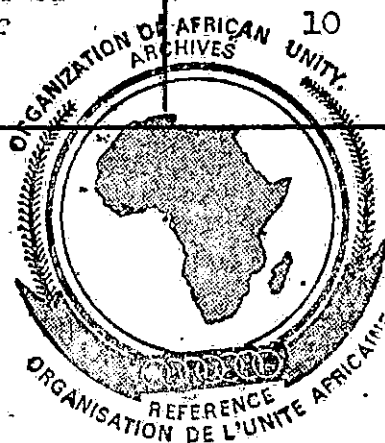
The Committee accepted the principle of creating a division headed by a Chief of Division (Grade P.4) assisted by Coordinator (Grade P.2) and two bilingual secretaries. Arrangements under way for the recruitment of these officers.

The Secretary-General is of the view that the structure of the division should, for the present, be temporal and that provision should be made for its modification in future to strengthen it to cope with an organized and developed Afro-Arab Cooperation.

7. The Secretariat which has very close relations with the ABED has been informed of the initial activities of that institution.

The ABED has already taken action on the financing of following projects on the request of certain member countries. These operations amount to 85.5 million dollars.

COUNTRY	PROJECTS	AMOUNT IN MILLIONS OF US \$
Cameroon	Harbour	10
Congo	Railways	10
Benin	Cement	8
Ghana	Cocoa	5
Lesotho	Roads	2.5
Madagascar	Roads	5
Niger	Roads	7
Senegal	Cattle	3
Tanzania	Corn	5
Ivory Coast	Cement	10
Upper Volta	Railways	10
Zaire	abduction of water	10



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