



ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE

Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

Addis Ababa - أديس أبابا

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa - February 1976

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS - INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE



CM 708

13p

MICROFICHE

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

(Application for Observer Status with the OAU)

The ICSW is a non-political, non-profit making, World Organization with its Headquarters in New York USA. In 1973 it set up an African Regional Branch with Headquarters in Nairobi. It is the African Regional Branch that is now seeking Observer Status with the OAU;

The purposes of the Council are:-

- (a) to provide a World-wide forum for the discussion of social welfare and related issues;
- (b) to foster the development of social welfare throughout the world;
- (c) to promote the exchange of information and experience among social workers, social agencies and other interested in social welfare throughout the world;
- (d) to facilitate and promote co-operation among international organization related to the field of social welfare.

Membership of the Council is world-wide, comprising National Committees and International Voluntary Organizations admitted to membership, which share an interest in Social Welfare field. Each National Committee represents the full range of Social Welfare in that country, including both voluntary and Government agencies. A Committee is autonomous as to form and Constitution see Annex I for full list of membership.

Source of Finance:

The revenues of the Council come from membership fees based on annual quota, and also from registration fees for the Council's various activities, see Annex II for activities of the Council.

Conditions for granting Observer Status

In accordance with CM/162/Rev.2 the conditions under which observer status can be granted to applications are as follows:-

"Any organization seeking to enjoy observer status shall attach to its request:

- (a) The convention, Charter or Statutes governing its functions;
  - (b) A memorandum describing its programmes and activities and indicating the number of its members or its supporters in one or more Member States; and
- 1) The request shall conform with the fundamental principles set forth in the Charter of the OAU;
  - 2) The activities of the body seeking observer status shall be in conformity with the objectives of the OAU.

#### General Remarks

Although it is the African Regional Branch of the Council that is seeking Observer Status with the OAU, it is proper to state that it is the World-wide Organization that is itself involved. This application may not be supportable on this ground. The regional branches of the Council are not independent of the main body, which would exert substantial pressure on them.

The purposes of the African Regional Branch or in fact the Organization may coincide with the purposes of OAU as far as Africa is concerned. But since the Branch is not independent the ultimate influence of the main body which may be at variance with African interest cannot be entirely ruled out. However, in spite of the foregoing the Council of Ministers may still wish to consider the application; in view of the tremendous benefit to Africa of the social activities of the Council.

If the regional branch of the ICSW can by any event be regarded as African, with sufficient autonomy to preclude external African influence, the application may be granted under Category C and this involves:

- a) The attendance of public sessions of the OAU Specialised Commissions during discussion of matters of particular interest to it.
- b) Right to communicate a written declaration to the Commission through the media of the Administrative Secretary-General and after approval by the Chairman of the Session.

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

Preamble

The International Conference of Social Work, in order to reflect the expansion of its interests, purposes and activities, hereby adopts the following Constitution which incorporates the modifications including the change of its name to The International Council on Social Welfare, while continuing its existence.

1. The International Council on Social Welfare (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") is a non-political, non-governmental, non-sectarian and non-profit organization for the field of social welfare.
2. The purposes of the Council are:
  - a. to provide a world-wide forum for the discussion of social welfare and related issues;
  - b. to foster the development of social welfare throughout the world;
  - c. to promote the exchange of information and experience among social workers, social agencies and others interested in social welfare throughout the world;
  - d. to facilitate and promote cooperation among international organizations related to the field of social welfare.
3. The Council's means of action are:
  - a. the organization of conferences on a world-wide and regional basis for all persons interested in or identified with the field of social welfare;
  - b. the promotion and conduct of study and research into questions related to the field of social welfare on a world-wide or regional basis;
  - c. the publication and distribution of documentary material on the field of social welfare;
  - d. assistance to National Committees and international organizations by the provision of such information and materials as may be feasible;

- e. the promotion of the interests of social welfare with the appropriate intergovernmental bodies;
  - f. all such other lawful activities as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above purposes.
4. Members of the Council are National Committees and international organizations admitted to membership by the Committee of Representatives.
- International organizations which become members shall retain full autonomy and full rights of their relationship with the various organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies.
5. The main organs of the Council are:
- a. the Committee of Representatives;
  - b. the Executive Committee;
  - c. the Secretariat.
6. In each country where there are organizations cooperating in the work of the Council there shall be set up one National Committee representative of the full range of social welfare in that country.
7. Each National Committee in membership has the right to appoint two representatives to the Committee of Representatives.
8. Each international organization in membership has the right to appoint one representative to the Committee of Representatives.
9. The members of the Council will:
- a. contribute to the policy-making of the Council;
  - b. further the purposes of the Council;
  - c. select their representatives in the Committee of Representatives;
  - d. contribute to the financing of the Council.

10. The Committee of Representatives will:
  - a. function as the governing body of the Council;
  - b. admit to membership National Committees and international organizations and terminate such memberships;
  - c. decide where the seat of the Council will be located;
  - d. elect officers and members of the Executive Committee from its own membership;
  - e. approve the budget.
  
11. The Executive Committee will:
  - a. carry out the policies and programme laid down by the Committee of Representatives;
  - b. supervise the management of the affairs of the Council;
  - c. prepare the budget of the Council for approval by the Committee of Representatives;
  - d. adopt and change the by-laws;
  - e. appoint the Secretary General;
  - f. exercise the powers of the Committee of Representatives in emergency situations requiring action to prevent damage to the Council and when the Committee of Representatives cannot meet, subject to ratification by the Committee of Representatives at its next meeting.
  
12. The Secretariat is responsible to carry out the duties assigned by the Committee of Representatives and the Executive Committee.
  
13. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Committee of Representatives present and voting, provided notice of the amendment is filed with the Secretary-General and submitted to the members of the Council at least 100 days before the meeting of the Committee of Representatives.

Between meetings of the Committee of Representatives, the Executive Committee may submit to the Committee of Representatives proposals for the amendment of the Constitution by a postal ballot. In the conduct of this ballot it shall submit the text of the proposed amendments in full and allow 100 days from the date of dispatch before closing the ballot. Any amendment submitted and voted upon under this procedure shall be regarded as an amendment of the Constitution provided it is supported by two-thirds of the members of the Committee of Representatives.

14. The Council may be dissolved by action of the Committee of Representatives by the same procedure and vote as required to amend this Constitution. In the event of dissolution the assets of the Council may be transferred only to an organization of similar scope and purposes as those of the Council.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

345 East 46th Street  
New York, New York 10017 USA

Memorandum of activities and  
organisation prepared for the  
Organization of African Unity

ACTIVITIES:

The ICSW is a permanent world organisation for agencies and government representatives and individuals concerned with meeting the social welfare needs of people everywhere.

Its biennial world forum and its regional conferences, seminars and activities provide avenues for the free exchange of ideas, techniques and knowledge.

Its consultative and information service make it a rallying point for international cooperation.

Its network of National Committees actively works for social progress in a large number of countries around the world.

Its international member organizations serve as channels for ICSW activities.

Its world forum provides a gathering place for social scientists, practitioners, administrators, educators, national and international leaders, professional and volunteer, to focus on the most vital public business of all - the well-being of the world's peoples.

At its meetings and discussion groups, experts present their findings and views, participants contribute their own experience and enrich their knowledge by exchanging ideas with people from other parts of the world and from countries with different value systems and techniques.

The proceedings of each Conference are published. They have an important place in the international social welfare literature. Study tours and seminars are designed to give participants some opportunity to see the host country and learn about its social welfare programs and services.



Regional Conferences, Seminars and other activities are organized periodically and offer ample opportunity for constructive discussion and individual as well as cooperative work on questions concerning the broad field of social welfare.

The ICSW publishes in its official languages, the proceedings of biennial forums, selected papers, a quarterly journal and newsletters.

#### ORGANIZATION:

Membership in the ICSW is made up of the National Committees and international voluntary organizations which share an interest in the social welfare field.

The basic working unit of the ICSW is the National Committee in each of the member countries. Each National Committee represents the full range of social welfare in that country, including both voluntary and government agencies, and is autonomous as to form and constitution. Each National Committee adopts its own Constitution and By-Laws.

Many international non-governmental organizations having important programmes related to the field of social welfare are members of the ICSW.

An up-to-date list of the members is shown in Annex III.

The International Headquarters is in New York, staffed by the Secretary-General. Assistant Secretaries-General head of the Regional Offices in Africa; Asia and the Western Pacific; Europe, the Middle East and Mediterranean Area; and Latin America and the Caribbean Area. The Secretary-General heads the North American Regional Office. There is a Geneva representative who serves as liaison officer between ICSW and the international organizations located there and a representative to the FAO in Rome.

#### OFFICIAL RELATIONS:

The International Council on Social Welfare serves as official consultant on social welfare matters to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Category 1), FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States.

#### FINANCING:

The revenues of the Council come from membership fees based on an annual quota and from registration fees for its various activities.

ICSW MEMBER COUNTRIES

Argentina	India	Paraguay
Australia	Indonesia	Peru
Austria	Iran	Philippines
Bangladesh	Ireland	Portugal
Belgium	Israel	Sierra Leone
Brazil	Italy	Singapore
Canada	Ivory Coast	Spain
Chad	Jamaica	Sri Lanka
Chile	Japan	Sudan
China, Republic of	Kenya	Surinam
Colombia	Korea	Sweden
Dahomey	Liberia	Sweitzerland
Denmark	Malawi	Tanzania
Ecuador	Malaysia	Thailand
Egypt	Mali	Togo
Ethiopia	Mauritius	Tunisia
Fiji	Mexico	Uganda
Finland	Nepal	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	United States of America
Gabon	Niger	Upper Volta
Germany, Federal Republic of	Nigeria	Uruguay
Greece	Norway	Venezuela
Guatemala	Pakistan	Vietnam Republic of
Hong Kong	Panama	Yugoslavia
		Zambia

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Caritas Internationalis  
Catholic International Union for Social Services  
Community Development Foundation  
Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration  
International Association of Schools of Social Work  
International Association for Volunteer Education  
International Council of Homehelp s Services  
International Council of Jewish Women  
International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services  
International Federation of Social Workers  
International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped

International Planned Parenthood Federation

International Social Service

International Union for Child Welfare

League of Red Cross Societies

Rehabilitation International

The Salvation Army

World Council for the Welfare of the Blind

World Y.W.C.A.



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Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

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# Request for Observer Status- International Council on Social Welfare

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