



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE**

Secretariat
B. P. 3243

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

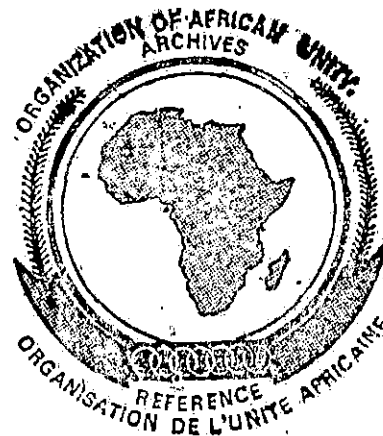
Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session
Port Louis 24 - 29 June 1976.

CM/748(XXVII)

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS

CO-ORDINATING CENTRE ON RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION
ON SOCIAL SCIENCES

" C E R D A S "



CM/748

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REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT OAU

CERDAS wishes to have OAU observer status.

The following text will concentrate on four items:

1. What is CERDAS.
2. CERDAS' activities.
3. Members of CERDAS' Governing Board.
4. CERDAS' status.

§.1. What is CERDAS ?

CERDAS is a Center created by UNESCO at the request of Africa States, members of UNESCO.

§.1.1. Historical Background.

At its seventeenth session in 1972, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a resolution requesting the Director General to take steps to help in the establishment of this centre.

The idea was that UNESCO should provide assistance to the governments and social science institutions of Member States in African south of the Sahara, who were to be responsible for establishing this African regional centre for social sciences.

In order to carry out this project, the UNESCO Secretariat conducted in-depth studies in several African countries (Cameroon, People's Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire) with a view to determining the level of development of their resources and their institutional infrastructure in the field of the social sciences. It also held several symposia and consultations with African social science institutions and social scientists. Following on these studies

and consultations, criteria were drawn up as guidelines for the choice of the most suitable site for the Centre, bearing in mind that it should be a pan-African institution devised for the purpose of effectively co-ordinating social science research and documentation in Africa. These criteria included the existence of adequate resources and facilities, the amount of experience acquired in the conduct and co-ordination of social science research and documentation activities, the language situation, intellectual traditions, the social science teaching tradition, the geographical situation and transport and communication facilities.

The Republic of Zaire was chosen as host country from among the African Member States which had offered to receive the Centre. Of course CERDAS belongs to all African States south of Sahara except Rhodesia and South Africa.

§.1.2. Functions of CERDAS.

The functions of the Centre are to promote regional co-operation between institutions of social science research and documentation in Africa south of the Sahara, and to contribute to the development of these disciplines throughout the region. The Centre will devote itself in particular to strengthening the contribution of the social sciences to the development efforts being carried out in the region, employing all those forms of fundamental applied research which aim to acquire knowledge of social realities to develop interdisciplinary, action-oriented methodologies, and carrying out research and documentation co-ordination activities at regional level.

§.1.3. Organs of CERDAS

- The Governing Board.

The Centre is administered by a Governing Board composed of:

- a) a representative of the National Executive Council;
- b) a representative of any other UNESCO Member State in Africa south of the Sahara making a substantial contribution to the running of the Centre and accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board;
- c) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
- d) a representative of any other intergovernmental organization making a substantial contribution to the running of the Centre and accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board.

The Governing Board is the Centre's decision-making body. It approves the Centre's programme and budget, examines the annual reports by the Director and approves the Centre's financial regulations and staff rules. It meets in ordinary session once a year.

The Board may invite regional or international non-governmental African organizations of universities or social science research institutions to be represented by observers at its meetings.

- The Standing Committee.

The Governing Board may delegate to a small Standing Committee, whose membership it fixes, such powers as it deems

necessary in order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between sessions.

- The Consultative Assembly

The Consultative Assembly is formed of the universities and research institutions of the States represented on the Governing Board, and its function is to make suggestions and recommendations to the Board concerning the preparation and implementation of the Centre's programme of activities.

- The Director

The Secretariat of the Centre consists of a Director and the supporting staff necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre. The Director is appointed by the Chairman of the Governing Board in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.

§.1.4. The Centre's resources.

The Centre's resources derive from sums allotted by UNESCO and Zaire, from contributions from the other UNESCO Member States in Africa south of the Sahara or from inter-governmental organizations, from payments it receives for services rendered and from gifts and legacies.

Up to the present time, CERDAS has received US\$ 140,000 from UNESCO, US\$ 60,000 from Zaire, 500,000 CFA from Togo and 400,000 CFA from Senegal. The following countries have strongly promised to fund CERDAS: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Cameroon, Zambia, etc.

§.2. CERDAS' activities.

The agreement concerning the establishment of CERDAS headquarters in Zaire was signed on 23 September 1974 between UNESCO and Zaire. Professor Mpekese Bongoy was nominated CERDAS' Director ad interim on October 1974.

1. From October 1974 to August 1975, CERDAS' administrative direction tried to create an adequate infrastructure in the following three fields: Secretariat (administration), documentation and research. At the present time, CERDAS has an efficient Secretariat, a growing documentation service that is greatly assisted by UNESCO and many African research Institutions and universities. CERDAS regularly receives documents from the following African institutions: Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research NISER (Ibadan, Nigeria), Makerere Institute of Social Research (Kampala, Uganda), Institute of Development Studies, IDA (Nairobi, Kenya), Institute of Ethiopian Studies, I.E.S., (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Institute of African Studies, I.A.S., (Lusaka, Zambia), Centre d'Ethno-Sociologie de l'Université (Abidjan, Cote-d'Ivoire), Office National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, ONAREST (Yaounde, Cameroun), Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, I.N.R.S. (Lomé, Togo), Institute of Statistics, Social and Economic Research, ISER (Accra, Ghana), Association des Universités Africains (Accra, Ghana), Economic Commission for Africa, E.C.A. etc...

In the field of research, CERDAS actually coordinates and funds 7 research in the following countries: Ethiopia, (Professor Fecadu Gedamu), Kenya (Professors I. Diallo et C. Dikoume), la Tanzania (Professor Bujra), Ivory Coast (Professors Meme-Fote et Touré), Zaire

(Professeurs Bongoy et Lumpungu). These scientific research conducted by Africans using a methodology defined by themselves, are based on fundamental considerations of integrated development of rural and urban areas of some African countries. CERDAS' programme for 1977-80 includes various activities in other African sub-saharan countries.

In August 1975 CERDAS organized a meeting of research team leaders in Kinshasa. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for September 1976, in Douala, Cameroon.

2. From September 1975 to March 1976, Professor Mpekese Bongoy, Director a.i., and Dr. A. Bujra (from Kenya), Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, realised 2 missions in Africa for CERDAS. The first mission, 6 September - 4 October 1975, took them to Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Senegal. The second mission, 11 February - 7 March 1976, took them to Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Gabon.

CERDAS' activities for 1977-1980 include missions to all other sub-saharan countries that CERDAS' consultants have not visited yet, except, of course, Rhodesia and South Africa.

CERDAS has organized some meetings in 1976: meeting of social science experts in April, and the meeting of CERDAS' Governing Board in May, etc. All these meetings are held in Africa and all future CERDAS' meetings will take place in Africa.

3. CERDAS is determined to enlarge and improve its documentation service, identify research projects that reflect major preoccupations of African governments, identify capable and interested African researchers, organize meetings

for different African Scholars and social scientists interested on development oriented research, etc. It will be recalled that one of the principal aims of CERDAS is to allow African researchers to define African problems from their own African perceptions and experiences, and not by using alien methods and procedures which do not fit well with our African context. In this way CERDAS contributes to speed up the process of total mental decolonization of Africa and, especially, of African researchers.

§.3. Members of CERDAS' Governing Board

Article 4 b of CERDAS' statuts states that CERDAS' Governing Board is composed of a representative of any sub-saharan African country (Rhodesia and South Africa excluded) that makes a substantial contribution to the running of the Center.

The 2 CERDAS' missions mentioned above and various letters sent to all concerned African countries (letters sent to UNESCO national Commissions and the Ministries of Education) by the Director a.i. of CERDAS, have urged all countries to pay a US\$ 1,000 contribution to CERDAS in order to become members of CERDAS' Governing Board.

The following countries have accepted to contribute and have thus become members of CERDAS' Governing Board: Togo, Senegal, Zaire and Ethiopia. UNESCO is also represented in the Board by an African delegate designated by UNESCO's Director General.

§.4. CERDAS Statuts

Whereas the General Conference, by resolution 3.211 adopted at its seventeenth session, authorized the Director

General to provide assistance to universities and research institutes for the establishment of a Centre for the Co-ordination of Social Science Research and Documentation for Africa south of the Sahara,

Desirous of concluding an agreement with a view to ensuring the establishment and operation of the said Centre and to defining the terms and conditions governing the aid that it shall be granted,

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, hereinafter called "the Organization", and the National Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire, hereinafter called "the National Executive Council", have agreed as follows:-

Article I

The National Executive Council agrees to take, in 1974, any measures which may be required for the setting up in Kinshasa, Republic of Zaire, and as provided for under this Agreement, of a Centre for the Co-ordination of Social Science Research and Documentation for Africa south of the Sahara, hereinafter called "the Centre".

Article 2

The Centre shall be an autonomous institution at the service of the Member States of the Organization in Africa south of the Sahara.

Article 3

The functions of the Centre shall be to promote regional co-operation between institutions of social science

research and documentation in Africa south of the Sahara, and to contribute to the development of the social sciences. The Centre will devote itself to improving the contribution of the social sciences to the development efforts being carried out in the region, to acquire knowledge of social realities and to develop interdisciplinary, action-oriented methodologies, and carrying out research and documentation activities at regional level.

Article 4

1. The Centre shall be administered by a Governing Board composed of:

- a) a representative of the National Executive Council;
- b) a representative of any other Member State of the Organization in Africa south of the Sahara making a substantial contribution to the running of the Centre and accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board;
- c) a representative of the Director-General of the Organization;
- d) a representative of any other intergovernmental organization making a substantial contribution of the running of the Centre and accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board.

2. The Governing Board shall elect its own Chairman.

3. The Governing Board shall have all the powers required of the running and administration of the Centre. It shall approve the Centre's programme and budget. It shall examine the annual reports submitted to it by the Director of the Centre, as provided for under Article 8 below, and it shall issue him with such directives as it thinks fit. It shall approve the Centre's financial regulations and staff rules.

4. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session once a year. It shall meet in extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairman, either on his own initiative or on that of the Director-General of the Organization, or at the request of at least half the Board's members.

5. The Governing Board may invite regional or international non-governmental organizations of universities or social science research institutions to be represented by observers at its meetings and at the sessions of the Consultative Assembly.

6. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 5

In order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between sessions, the Governing Board may delegate to a small Standing Committee, whose membership it fixes, such powers as it deems necessary.

Article 6

1. The Consultative Assembly of the Centre shall be formed of the universities and research institutions of the States mentioned in Article 4, paragraph 1 (f).

2. The function of the Consultative Assembly shall be to make suggestions and recommendations to the Board concerning the preparation of the Centre's programme of activities and the implementation of that programme.

3. The Governing Board shall convene the Consultative Assembly and shall draw up its rules of procedure. These rules

shall lay down the terms and conditions governing the participation of the universities and institutions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 7

1. The Secretariat of the Centre shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.

2. The Director shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Governing Board in agreement with the Director-General of the Organization.

3. Subject to the decisions of the General Conference of the Organization and the signing of an appropriate agreement, the Director may be accorded, at the request of the Governing Board, the status reserved for operational and executive personnel provided by the Organization under the UNESCO-PAS programme or any other equivalent programme that might be approved by the General Conference of the Organization.

4. The other members of the Secretariat may comprise:

- a) members of the Organization's staff who, pursuant to Article 12 of this Agreement, would be made available to the Centre, as provided for by the Organization's regulations;
- b) agents who, pursuant to Article 12 of this Agreement and subject to the decisions of the General Conference and the signing of an appropriate agreement, would be made available to the Centre by the Organization, at

the request of the Governing Board, under the UNESCO-PAS programme or any other equivalent programme that might be approved by the General Conference or the Organization;

- c) any person appointed by the Director in accordance with procedures laid down by the Governing Board or the Standing Committee.

Article 8

The Director shall discharge following duties:

- a) he shall direct the work of the Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Governing Board;
- b) he shall prepare the draft programme and budget to be submitted to the Governing Board;
- c) he shall prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Governing Board and the Consultative Assembly, and submit to them any proposals that he may deem useful for the administration of the Centre;
- d) he shall draw up and submit to the Governing Board reports on the Centre's activities;
- e) he shall represent the Centre in law and in all civil acts.

Article 9

1. The Centre's resources shall derive from sums allotted by the Organization and the National Executive Council, from such contributions as it may receive from the other Member States

5. The National Executive Council shall authorize the entry, free of visa charges, the sojourn on its territory and the exit of any person invited to attend the sessions of the Governing Board and the Consultative Assembly, or proceeding to the Centre on official business.

6. The goods, assets and income of the Centre shall be exempted from all direct taxes. Further, the Centre shall be exempted from the payment of any fees or taxes with respect to equipment, supplies and material imported or exported for its official use.

7. The Centre may have accounts in any currency, hold funds and foreign exchange of any kind and transfer them in accordance with the exchange regulations in force.

8. The National Executive Council shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against the Organization, against members of its staff or against other persons employed by the Centre, and shall hold the Organization and the above-mentioned persons harmless against any claims or liabilities resulting from the operations of the Centre under this Agreement, except where it is agreed by the Organization and the National Executive Council that such claims or liabilities arise from the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such persons.

Article II

1. The National Executive Council agrees to make available to the Centre free of charge and for as long as the Centre shall remain in existence, the facilities necessary for its effective functioning on a permanent basis (premises, fittings, furniture, basic equipment, etc., and, in general, the basic facilities of the Institute of Economic Research

in Kinshasa), it being understood that the specific needs associated with the extension of such individual research and exchange projects as may be included in the Centre's programme by the Governing Board shall be covered by the Centre's operating budget.

2. The National Executive Council further undertakes to contribute up to 50 per cent of the Centre's operating budget, which shall be established annually by the Governing Board.

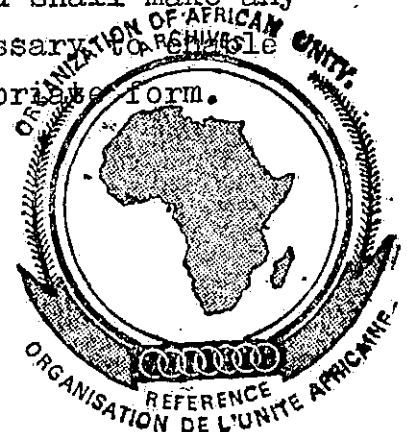
Article 12

The Regular Budget of the Organization for 1973-74 provides funds of US \$ 60,000 for the establishment and operation of the Centre. Subject to the decision which may be taken by the General Conference at any of its subsequent sessions, future contributions shall be determined by exchange of letters between the National Executive Council and UNESCO.

Article 13

1. The present Agreement is concluded for a period ending 31 December 1974. It may be renewed by agreement between the two parties, subject to the decisions of the General Conference.

2. Upon the expiration of this Agreement, the National Executive Council shall decide, in consultation with the other members of the Governing Board referred to in Article 4, which provisions of the Agreement it wishes to maintain in force, except those committing the Organization, and shall make any further arrangements that should prove necessary to enable the Centre to continue its work in an appropriate form.



3. The present Agreement may be revised by agreement between the National Executive Council and the Organization.

4. The present Agreement shall come into force upon its signature. IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized, have signed the present Agreement.

Done at Paris the twenty-third day of September 1974, in two copies in the French language.

Bokonga Ekanga Botombele
For the National Executive
Council of the Republic of
Zaire.

René Maheu
For the United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization.

Note: Article 13 is no longer actual since UNESCO and Zaire have already renewed the establishment agreement. This renewal allows CERDAS to function normally now, after a probation period (September - December 1974).

Zaire has recognised a juridical status to CERDAS.

Final Note.

CERDAS was created at the request of African States Members of UNESCO. It is a totally African, intergovernmental Center. It fights for total academic and scientific independence of Africa.

CERDAS' task could be facilitated if CERDAS remained in close contact with OAU and shared closely OAU's main preoccupations and objectives. This is why CERDAS administrative Direction and Governing Board ask the OAU's Ministerial Council to decide that CERDAS be allowed observer Status of OAU.

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1976-06

Request for Observer Status- Co-ordinating Centre on Research and Documentation in Social Sciences "CEDRAS"

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