

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE REQUEST  
SUBMITTED BY THE UNION OF AFRICAN RAILWAYS FOR THE STATUS OF  
A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

The Union of African Railways was formed in Addis Ababa in April 1973, and was accorded recognition by the OAU Heads of State during their 10th Summit in Addis Ababa in June 1973.

2. At the June 1973 Conference in Addis Ababa, a Chapter on Transport was included in the "African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence" which recommended that under the joint auspices of AU and ECA the Union of African Railways should assume responsibility for the co-ordination of work in the field of railway development in order to facilitate the establishment of inter-African linkages:

- a.) By introducing uniform standards when new railway lines are constructed or rolling stock is to be replaced, or new tracks laid;
- b.) By promoting the construction of links between existing unconnected lines where this is justified;
- c.) By promoting the construction of extensions particularly for the development of land-locked countries.

3. Furthermore, paragraph 2 of Article II of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity stipulates that Member States "shall co-ordinate and harmonize their general policies in all fields including matters relating to economic co-operation, transport and communication".

4. In line with these recommendations, a resolution was adopted by the members of the Union of African Railways, meeting in its third General Assembly from 20 to 25 October 1975 in Kinshasa. Operative paragraph 3 of the said resolution called on the OAU to grant the UAR the status of specialized agency similar to the one granted AFCAC.

5. Referring to the above resolution, the OAU Secretariat formally included in the agenda of the Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers the UAR's request for the status of a specialized agency of the OAU.
6. The Council of Ministers, meeting in Addis Ababa from 23 February to 1 March 1976, decided that the OAU General Secretariat should study the matter in depth and prepare a paper on it to be submitted to the Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Mauritius in June 1976.
7. Recognizing the importance and development of railroad transport system in most Member States of the OAU, and in view of the fact that any concerted effort in this industry will not only bolster the economic development of those regions concerned but also promote to a large extent the socio-economic development of other States outside the contracting parties, the Council of Ministers may wish to grant the Union of African Railways the status of specialized agency similar to the one already granted the African Civil Aviation Commission.
8. The Council of Ministers at its 27th Ordinary Session may also wish to mandate the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU and the Secretary-General of the Union of African Railways to meet as soon as possible and prepare a draft co-operation agreement between the OAU and the UAR. This draft agreement would be presented to the Council of Ministers at its 29th Ordinary Session for its consideration.
9. In short, the agreement to be drafted should provide for the following:
  - a) Active participation of OAU in all the activities of UAR, including the meetings of the Bureau and Plenary Sessions of the Commission;
  - b) The need for OAU to receive and comment on draft provisional agenda of the Commission's Plenary Session;
  - c) Presentation by UAR of annual reports to the OAU policy-making bodies;

- d) Attendance by UAR of the regular sessions as well as other meetings of the OAU and active participation therein;
- e) Need for UAR to have its own, autonomous Secretariat, the running of which would be financed by UAR's regular budget, and if need be by further financial support from the OAU;
- f) Establishment of an OAU/UAR Co-ordinating Committee, which would hold regular meetings at which other African organizations with common interests with UAR (e.g. ECA, ADB etc...) might be invited.

Attachments to this Report:

10. Attached to this report are the following documents:-

- a) Note Verbale from the Secretariat of the Union of African Railways — Annex I
- b) Resolution of the Union of African Railways adopted at the Third General Assembly of UAR which met in Kinshasa in October 1975 — Annex II

Copy

U.A.C.  
Kinshasa

UNION AFRICAINE  
DES CHEMINS DE FER

UNION OF AFRICAN  
RAILWAYS

Date: 18 November 1975  
Reference: UAC/SG/SP/441/75

The Secretary-General of the Union of African Railways presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and has the honour to transmit herewith the resolution adopted by the Third General Assembly of the Union of African Railways held in Kinshasa, Republic of Zaire from 20 to 25 October 1975, requesting the OAU to grant to the Union of African Railways the status of specialized body similar to that granted to the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFUAC).

The Secretary-General of the Union of African Railways requests the Secretary-General to kindly submit the matter to the OAU Council of Ministers.

The Secretary-General of the Union of African Railways avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the OAU Secretary-General, the assurance of his highest consideration.

Signed

The Secretary-General

Adama Diagne

Secretary-General  
OAU  
Addis Ababa

1976-06

# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Request Submitted by the Union of African Railways for the Status of a Specialized Agency of the Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9660>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*