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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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الجمعية العامة للمجلس الوزاري

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
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Port Louis, Mauritius
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CM/751(XXVII)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE MEETING
OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF PANAFTEL

The Establishment of
Pan-African Telecommunications Union

I. BACKGROUND

At its Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session in February 1975, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res.404 (XXIV) on the Establishment of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union.

2. To implement the above resolution, the OAU in collaboration with other members of the Co-ordinating Committee of PANAFTEL, the ECA, ADB and ITU organized the Conference of African Telecommunications Administrators (Kinshasa 3 - 16 December 1975).

3. At this Conference, where the General Secretariat was well-represented, many resolutions were passed ranging from the establishment of an African Telecommunications Union to a system of Satellite Communications.

4. At the end of the Conference, a Steering Committee composed of nine members (Algeria, Botswana, Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Central African Republic and Zaire) was appointed. Guinea was selected as Chairman of the Committee and Zaire as Secretary.

5. The Steering Committee was mandated to study the draft convention or constitution on the basis of the various proposals put forward by the OAU General Secretariat and member countries. It will also study all aspects connected with the functioning of the Union, including administrative and financial matters, and will be assisted in this by the OAU, ITU, ECA and ADB.

6. The Kinshasa resolution requested the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to do everything possible to facilitate the work of the Steering Committee. It further requested him to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries before the end of October 1976 in Addis Ababa on the Organization of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union.

7. To implement the resolutions adopted at the Kinshasa Conference in December 1975, the OAU General Secretariat prepared document CM/715 (XXVI) which was presented to the 26th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (Addis Ababa, 23 February - 1st March 1976) relating to paragraphs 5 and 6 above.
8. In conformity with resolution CM/Res.471(XXVI) adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and in line with the Kinshasa resolutions, a meeting of the PANAFTEL Steering Committee will be convened in Addis Ababa from 9 - 13 August 1976, while the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, will be convened in Addis Ababa before the end of October 1976.
9. The General Secretariat was represented at the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee Meeting (Geneva 12 - 13 May 1976) at which the preparations being made to convene the Conference of Plenipotentiaries scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa before the end of 1976, were fully discussed. The timing of the Conference will be determined by the necessity to circulate the Draft Constitution prepared by the Steering Committee to all Member States who will form the Pan-African Telecommunications Union for their examination and comment prior to the Plenipotentiaries Conference.
(Report of the Committee is reproduced as Annex I attached).

II. Financing of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network

10. Operative para.4 of Resolution No. 5 (Co-ordination of Telecommunication Development) adopted at the Conference of African Telecommunication Administration (Kinshasa, 3 - 16 December 1976) requests:
- (a) African Governments to pursue and increase the investment efforts they are already making for the development of telecommunications, which will culminate in the PANAFTEL Network.
 - (b) ITU/UNDP to continue and increase their assistance until 1981:
 - (i) by increasing the number of Regional Advisers on telecommunications in view of the recent accession to independence of many African States, the foreseeable further development of the PANAFTEL Network and the growing importance of the role played by the Regional Advisers in the implementation of the project;

- (ii) by providing the necessary means to pursue the continental co-ordination project entitled, project RAF/73/023 "Implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network", taking into account the time-table of execution of the various parts of the project and the new transmission routes and switching centres which will be planned and installed during that period;
- (iii) by making possible the successful completion of the frequency control and management project RAF/71/232 which shall take account of the technical potentialities of the various countries and of the use of the PANAFTEL Network.

Recommendations

11. In conformity with this resolution, the Co-ordinating Committee of PANAFTEL (ECA, OAU, ITU and ADB), meeting in Geneva from 12 - 13 May 1976, made the following recommendations, and requested that these recommendations be submitted to the 27th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers meeting in Mauritius in June 1976 for its consideration:

- (a) That, although sources of finance have been identified for over 90% of the basic PANAFTEL Network, there still remain a number of portions of the Network for which no definite finance has been identified.
- (b) Invites the UNDP to consider favourably the financing of the regional advisory posts which are considered a useful element for the region in order to harmonize the development efforts of member Governments.
- (c) Appeals to bilateral and multilateral institutions to provide funds for technical assistance with a view not only to implementing the PANAFTEL Network but also to ensuring its proper operation and maintenance.
- (d) Calls upon the Administrative Secretary-General to transmit a resolution drafted by the Committee to the 27th Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

12. ~~Draft resolution on the Pan-African Telecommunication Network~~ adopted by the Co-ordinating Committee of PANAFTEL (Geneva, 12 - 13 May 1976) and Resolution No. 5 adopted at the Conference of African Telecommunication Administration (Kinshasa, 3 - 16 December 1975) are reproduced and attached as Annexes.

13. In light of the above recommendations, the Council of Ministers may wish to consider the Draft Resolution on the Pan-African Telecommunication Network.

Attachments to this Report

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

- a) Report of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network — Annex I.
- b) Resolution No. 5 on PANAFTEL adopted in Kinshasa - December 1975) Annex II.
- c) Draft Resolution on the Pan-African Telecommunication Network - Annex III.

REPORT OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

The Co-ordinating Committee for the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network, meeting in accordance with Resolution CM/Res.309(XXI) of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, met at ITU Headquarters on 12 and 13 May 1976, to discuss the progress being made in the implementation of the network and related subjects concerning telecommunications in Africa. The Co-ordinating Committee has the honour to submit the following report to the Council of Ministers:-

In accordance with OAU Resolution CM/Res.404(XXIV), the Second Conference of African Telecommunication Administrations was held in Kinshasa from 3rd to 16th December 1975. The Conference was attended by high level delegations from 41 African countries. Detailed discussions took place covering all aspects of telecommunications policy and development in Africa. The most important decision of the Conference was to establish a Pan-African Telecommunication Union for which the Plenipotentiary founding Conference should take place in Addis Ababa before the end of 1976. The Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity was charged with the preparatory work for this Plenipotentiary Conference and a Steering Committee consisting of two member countries from each of the four sub-regions in Africa together with Zaire as Committee Secretary was chosen to draft the Constitution of the Union and the financial and operating arrangements for its working.

In addition to the Resolution on the Pan-African Telecommunication Union, a number of other Resolutions bearing on various aspects of telecommunications operation and development were adopted by the Conference.

The PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee has during its meeting of 12th and 13th May 1976, brought its work up to date by discussing the report of the Conference of Kinshasa and by examining the action which has been taken since the Conference to respond to the demands made by the African countries there assembled and also to assess the progress being made with the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network as it was originally defined and with the further extensions which were called for during the course of the Conference.

Pan-African Telecommunication Union

It is confirmed that the preparatory work for the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union is going ahead. Although it has not been possible to call a meeting of the Steering Committee in April or May as foreseen at the Kinshasa Conference, it is now hoped that such a meeting will take place not later than August of 1976, and that the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union will be held before the end of the year. The timing of the Conference will be determined by the necessity to circulate the Draft Constitution prepared by the Steering Committee to all Member States who will form the Pan-African Telecommunication Union for their examination and comment prior to the Plenipotentiary Conference, and should take into account other conferences scheduled to take place during the last quarter of 1976.

Financing of the PANAFTEL Network

Although sources of finance have been identified for over 90% of the basic PANAFTEL Network there still remain a number of portions of the network for which no definite finance has been identified. The scope of the network has been considerably extended by demands for additional links made by African Administrations at the Kinshasa Conference and these too will require financing at a later stage. The African Development Bank assisted by the other members of the Co-ordinating Committee is continuing to try to identify sources of finance for those parts of the network which have not yet secured financial support. It will continue to undertake this task for the extensions of the network. A number of new investment

3. Implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network

The Committee noted that the UNDP was continuing to support the project aimed at coordinating the installation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network but that owing to the present liquidity crisis there is a shortfall of funds to enable the full programme of assistance to be provided. The Committee approved the principle that financial institutions responsible for funding the various sections of the Network should be approached in an attempt to make good the shortfall and ensure that the full programme is carried out.

4. Regional Telecommunications Advisers in Africa

The vital role played by the ITU's Regional Telecommunications Advisers in Africa was recognized by the Co-ordinating Committee which expressed great concern at the possible restriction of this activity owing to the shortage of UNDP funds. The Committee approved the proposal emanating from the Kinshasa Conference that the number of Regional Telecommunications Advisers should be increased from 3 to 4 in order to accommodate the pressing needs of the newly independent countries in Southern Africa. The Committee particularly wishes to draw this recommendation to the attention of the Council of Ministers and the Heads of State and Government and to request their support in obtaining UNDP funding for this and other essential activities.

5. Rural Telecommunications

The Committee noted the activities of the ITU in the technical assistance field aimed at developing telecommunications in the rural areas of African countries particularly in the region of the Sahel and in those countries known as Least Developed Countries. The Committee wishes to see this activity continued and proposed that approaches be made to the various special funds already set up or to be set up to aid development in those areas of Africa.

6. Development of Maritime Radiocommunications in Africa

The Committee took note of the present serious state of maritime radiocommunications around the African coasts and the detrimental effect which this has upon the economies of all African countries. The Committee supports the efforts of the ITU to modernize and develop maritime communications in the region.

7. Satellite communications

The Committee noted the great interest of many African Administrations in making use of satellite communications to improve their networks. It was further noted that two seminars concerning satellite communications would be held during the course of 1976 and that a World Administrations Radio Conference for the planning of the Broadcasting Satellite service under the auspices of the ITU is scheduled for the first quarter of 1977. The Committee also took note of the desirability of combining common carrier telecommunications with sound and television broadcasting especially for educational purposes in the use of satellite communications. The Committee examined possible ways of implementing Resolution No. 16 of the Kinshasa Conference which calls for the survey of a regional satellite communications system and decided to adopt a similar strategy to that used in implementing the PANAFTEL Network.

8. Manpower requirements

The Committee agreed that there is an urgent need for a survey of Manpower requirements in telecommunications and strongly supports the proposals that such a survey should be carried out jointly by the ECA and the ITU. The ECA hopes to be able to obtain bilateral financing for this survey.

9. Staff training

The Co-ordinating Committee supports the strategy that financial institutions funding the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network, should be approached with a view to their setting aside an element in the form of services, or funds to ensure the training of the staff required to maintain the equipment when it has been installed.

10. Training for sound and television broadcasting services

The Committee noted the activities being carried out in the field of training for sound and television broadcasting services and agreed with the proposals to approach financial sources in addition to the UNDP to fund this activity.

11. Establishment of Instructor Training Centres in Africa

The Committee noted that Instructor Training is already taking place in a number of existing national and multinational training centres in Africa. The Committee feels that there remains a need for specialized instructor training centres but that this need will, only be clearly defined after the proposed telecommunication manpower survey and that action in this area can be decided upon when the results of the manpower survey are known.

12. Reorganization of telecommunications Administrations

The Committee took note of the demands by a number of African Telecommunication Administrations for assistance in reorganizing their management structures. The Committee also noted that such a reorganization was frequently called for by financing institutions to enable them to assess the viability of the operations which they proposed to finance. The Committee suggests therefore that assistance with such reorganization be provided to any Administration requiring it and that any financial institution calling for reorganization of an Administration should itself be asked to provide the funds for the technical advice necessary to carry out the reorganization.

Conclusion

The Co-ordinating Committee stresses that the follow-up work of implementing the PANAFTEL Network is a continuing process and proposes to carry on with its search for funds for the full development of telecommunication in Africa. The Committee will continue to hold meetings at regular intervals and will report progress to the Heads of State and Government.

For the Administrative Secretary-General
of the Organization of African Unity

E.E. MLAMBO

For the President of the
African Development Bank
E. TETEGAN

Secretary-General of the
International Telecommunication
Union

Mohamed MILI

For the Executive Secretary of
The Economic Commission for Africa
W.F. COLEMAN

Resolution No. 5

COORDINATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of African Telecommunication Administrations
(Kinshasa, 3 - 16 December 1975),

Having studied the documents submitted by Administrations and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on continental and sub-regional co-ordination,

Noting the need for such continental and sub-regional co-ordination to be strengthened and improved upon,

Recommends that Administrations hold sub-regional co-ordination meetings at least once a year to consider all technical, administrative and financial issues relating to the implementation of the PANAFTTEL Network;

that the Regional Advisers on telecommunications should continue to give assistance in the sub-regional co-ordination of the PANAFTTEL Project,

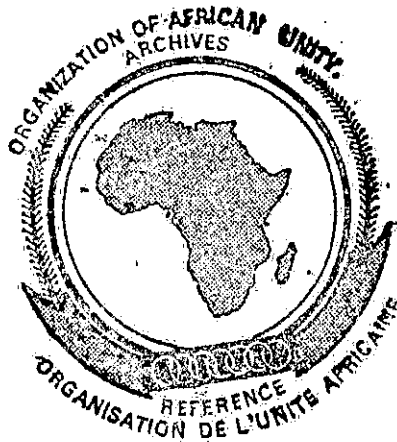
Endorses the document PANAFTTEL/KIN No. 53 submitted by the ITU on the management of telecommunication Administrations and,

Urges the Administrations contemplating reorganization to submit the necessary requests in order to secure UNDP/ITU assistance in that field;

Requests

1. African Governments to pursue and increase the investment efforts they are already making for the development of telecommunications, which will culminate in the PANAFTTEL Network.
2. ITU/UNDP to continue and increase their assistance until 1981:
 - (a) by increasing the number of Regional Advisers on telecommunications in view of the recent accession to independence of many African States, the foreseeable further development of the PANAFTTEL Network and the growing importance of the role played by the Regional Advisers in the implementation of the project;

- (b) by providing the necessary means to pursue the continental co-ordination project entitled, project RAF/73/023 "Implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network", taking into account the time-table of execution of the various parts of the project and the new transmission routes and switching centres which will be planned and installed during that period;
- (c) by making possible the successful completion of the frequency control and management project RAF/71/232 which shall take account of the technical potentialities of the various countries and of the use of the PANAFTEL Network.



DRAFT

RESOLUTION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

The Council of Ministers of the OAU meeting in its Twenty-Seventh Session in Port-Louis, Mauritius in June/July 1976,

Having considered the report of the Administrative Secretary-General Document No. CM/751 (XXVII),

Appreciating the efforts of the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee (OAU, ITU, ADB, ECA) which led to the organization of the Second Conference of African Telecommunication Administrations held at Kinshasa from 3 to 16 December 1975,

Notes with satisfaction the 3rd progress report of the Committee and endorses actions proposed to be taken as a follow-up to the Kinshasa Conference Resolutions,

Notes with appreciation the efforts of the UNDP to provide technical assistance funds in the field of telecommunications,

1. CALLS the attention of the UNDP to Resolution No. 5 of the Kinshasa Conference and in particular to the need for the creation of the post of a 4th Regional Adviser who shall be charged with the responsibility of effectively assisting the newly independent countries in Southern Africa;
2. INVITES the UNDP to consider favourably the financing of the regional advisory posts which are considered a useful element for the region in order to harmonize the development efforts of member Governments;
3. APPEALS to bilateral and multilateral institutions to provide funds for technical assistance with a view not only to implementing the PANAFTEL Network but also to ensuring its proper operation and maintenance;
4. CALLS UPON the Administrative Secretary-General to transmit this Resolution to the concerned organizations and to submit periodic reports to the Council of Ministers of the OAU on the work of the Co-ordinating Committee on the implementation, operation and maintenance arrangements being made for the Pan-African Telecommunication Network.

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