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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE  
Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

اديس ابابا \* \* Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
29th Ordinary Session  
June 23 - 30 , 1977  
Libreville, (GABON)

CM/814 (XXIX)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE  
4TH MEETING OF THE INTER-AFRICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN  
MEDICINAL PLANTS AND TRADITIONAL  
PHARMACOPOEIA



CM 0814

MICROFICHE

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ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Formal Opening
  - Election of Rapporteur
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Organization of work.
2. Review of the recommendations of the 2nd Inter-African Symposium on Medicinal Plants (Cairo 7 - 12 July, 1975).
3. Follow up of work executed in the project JP.27 in Cairo and IFE Universities (Future work - Finance).
4. Extension of the project JP.27 to the four other regional countries - Dakar - Kampala, - Brazzaville - Tananarive.
5. Examination of the situation in the other national Centres of Researches on medicinal plants (Sudan, Ghana, Mali, Benin; etc.).
6. Training of specialist in medicinal plants:
  - a) Centres for training
  - b) Financing the training programmes
  - c) Exchange of personnel
  - d) Visits.
7. Publication of an index of all African vegetable species, the chemical principles of which have been or are being studied.
8. Establishing the Inter-African Union of all Pharmacists.
9. Others.

Item 1: FORMAL OPENING

This will be extremely informal. It is expected that the Executive Secretary will welcome the Panel to the meeting and that the Chairman of the Panel will give a fitting reply. Since the Panel has its own officers already, suggestions for election of rapporteurs will no longer be necessary. It will however be necessary for the Committee to adopt its agenda and organize the hours at which it will work. The Executive Secretariat would suggest that the Committee should work from:

9.30 - 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 - 6.30 p.m.

- Item 2: These reports are expected to be provided by the Universities of Cairo and Ife.
- Item 3: The Executive Secretariat would expect members of the Committee to make suggestions on future methods of financing this project in a more effective way, bearing in mind the fact that the WHO is now actively interested in the project.
- Item 4: The Committee is invited by the Secretariat to seriously consider research centres, particularly in francophone OAU Member States.
- Item 5: The Secretariat would expect contributions from all participants on this item.
- Item 6: The Secretariat would expect the Committee to direct itself to the problems of inter-African and International training of specialists in medicinal plants. The Secretariat would particularly wish the Committee to take cognisance of the interest of HWO in the problem of research in African Medicinal Plants in making recommendations on this item.

- Item 7: Publications are existing in respect of a number African countries about the index of the flora in such countries. It will be in the interest of Africa that the Inter-African Committee should take comprehensive view of the possibility of the systematic organization of this programme of work possibly in cooperation and with the assistance of the WHO.
- Item 8. The Executive Secretariat would welcome the views of members of the Committee on the feasibility on an Inter-African Union of Pharmacists. This is particularly important since inter-African medicinal plants work is not the pressure of pharmacists only.
- Item 9. The Secretariat as of now has no suggestion for 'Any other business', but it is expected that members of the Committee might bring up issues for discussion.

LIST OF WORKING DOCUMENTS

## 1. Annotated Agenda.

- L(76) - Development of Medicinal Plants and Traditional Pharmacopoeia in Africa - (North African Centre Cairo) Progress Report 24th January, 1976.
- L(76)9 - The Drug Research Unit (University of IFE Third Annual Report 1975).
- L(76)10 - Report and Recommendation of the Second OAU/STRC Inter-African Symposium on Traditional Pharmacopoeia and African Medicinal Plants (Cairo 7-12 July, 1975).
- CAMP(76)1 - Request for Equipment and Development of the National Institute for Researches on Traditional Pharmacopoeia and Medicine - Mali.
- CAMP(76)2 - Actual State of the Research on Medicinal Plants and Traditional Pharmacopoeia at Senegal.
- CAMP(76)3(a) - Colloquium Report of the meeting of Council of Africa and Malagasy for Higher Education (CAMES) and Pharmacopoeia Traditional Medicine - Niamey, 7 - 10 June, 1976.
- CAMP(76)3(b) - Institut National de Recherches sur la Pharmacopoeie et la Medecine Traditionnelles (Mali).
- CAMP(76)4 - Request for Aid to Laboratory of Analysis and Research on Medicinal Plants in Abidjan (I.Coast).
- CAMP(76)5 - Medicinal Research in Tanzania.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF INTER-AFRICAN COMMITTEE ON  
MEDICINAL PLANTS

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT: Prof. E. ADJANOHOUN (Bénin)

VICE-CHAIRMEN/

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Prof. M. Darwish SAYED (Egypt)  
Prof. M. KOUMARE (MALI)

MEMBERS/MEMBRES:

Dr. E.A. SOFOWORA (Nigeria)  
Dr. Oku AMPOFO (Ghana)  
Dr. N.K. MUBIRU (Uganda)  
Dr. P.S. MADATI (Tanzania)  
Dr. Moussa DAFPE (Sénégal)  
Prof. A.L. DJAKOURE (IVORY COAST)  
Dr. G. DINGA (Congo)  
Prof. R. RATSIMAMANGA (Madagascar)

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

- CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT: Professor E. ADJANOHOUN,  
Directeur Général de la Recherche,  
Scientifique et de la Formation pour  
l'Education,  
B.P. 1310,  
COTONOU (Republique Populaire du Bénin)
- MEMBERS/MEMBERES  
CONGO Dr. G.A. DIANGA,  
Laboratoire National de Santé Publique,  
B.P. 120,  
BRAZZAVILLE (République Populaire du Congo)
- EGYPT/EGYPTE Professor M. Darwish SAYED,  
Vice-Rector  
Cairo University,  
GIZA - Arab Republic of Egypt.
- IVORY COAST/  
COTE D'IVOIRE Dr. d'Etat K.Z. COULIBALY,  
Laboratoire d'Analyses Médicales et de  
Recherche de la Gare d'Adjamé,  
B.P. 3686,  
ABIDJAN-ADJAME (Côte d'Ivoire)
- MADAGASCAR Professor R. RATSMAMANGA,  
Institut Malgache de Recherches Appliquées,  
B.P. 3833,  
TANANARIVE (Madagascar)
- MALI Professor M. KOUMARE,  
Directeur Général de l'INRPMT,  
Chef du Département des Sciences  
Pharmaceutiques à la Faculté de  
Médecine et Pharmacie,  
B.P. 1746,  
BAMAKO (Mali)
- NIGERIA Dr. E.A. SOFOWORA,  
Drug Research Unit,  
Faculty of Pharmacy,  
University of IFE,  
ILE-IFE (Nigeria).
- TANZANIA Dr. P.S. Madati,  
Principal Chemist,  
Government Chemical Laboratory,  
P.O.Box 164,  
DAR-ES-SALAAM (Tanzania).



SECRETARIAT

Mr. A.O. ODELOLA,  
Executive Secretary,  
OAU/STRC,  
P.O.Box 2359,  
LAGOS (Nigeria)

Mr. A.H.A. RAZIK,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
OAU/STRC,  
P.M.B. 2359,  
LAGOS (Nigeria)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

The 4th Meeting of the Inter-African Committee on African Medicinal Plant and Traditional Pharmacopoeia was declared open by the Chairman Professor Adjanooun. He invited the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC to address the meeting.

In his brief address, the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC to address the meeting.

In his brief address, the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC, Mr. A.O. Odelola thanked the Chairman and the distinguished scientists present for honouring the invitation of the Secretariat to meet for a review of the work done at the Cairo meeting. He informed the committee that the OAU Council of Ministers has been extremely liberal in its support of scientific research and has therefore granted the STRC a sum of US.\$60,000 for the current financial year to support JP.27 African Medicinal Plant Research and Development. He was particularly appreciative of the presence of most of the members of the committee in view of their very heavy responsibilities in their respective countries. He appealed that items on the Agenda be given careful consideration so that the Secretariat might be in position to take follow-up action on the report and recommendations of the Cairo meeting.

In his opening address the Chairman of the Committee Professor Adjanooun of the Republic of Benin reported on the meeting of CAMES at which he represented the Committee and also informed the committee of his visits to Ife, Bamako and Brazzaville during which he inspected the progress of African Medicinal Plant work in these centres. He also

informed the committee of the work himself and Dr. Sofowora did with the assistance of a member of the Secretariat Mr. Razik on the editing of the scientific papers of the Cairo meeting.

After his address, the committee elected Professor Koumare and Dr. Sofowora as Rapporteurs. The committee then organized its business agreeing to work from 9 - 1 p.m. and 3 - 7 p.m. each day.

Before the committee commenced on other items of the agenda, Professor Darwish Sayed of Egypt informed the committee of his election as an executive member of F.I.P. i.e. International Federation of Pharmacists. The Chairman congratulated him on his appointment on behalf of the committee.

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RECOMMENDATIONSRECOMMENDATION I

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the edited version of the Cairo report should be circularised to all Member States.

RECOMMENDATION II

A Newsletter in African Medicinal Plants should be published every six months in English and French by the OAU/STRC. The editorial board was composed as follows:-

Professor ADJANOHOUN ) - Joint Editors  
Dr. E.A. SOFOWORA ) -

Professor Darwish SAYED  
Professor KOUMARE  
Mr. A.H.A. RAZIK

RECOMMENDATION III

The OAU/STRC should further encourage the close cooperation between researchers in various institutions and Universities throughout Africa.

RECOMMENDATION IV

Member States should be URGED to ensure that research going on in their countries on medicinal plants are geared towards industrial application. It further RECOMMENDS that efforts should be made by each Member State to see that appropriate expertise is developed to transform research information into practical use rather than merely create archives for scientific publications.

RECOMMENDATION V

After reviewing the up-to-date report of the JP.27 work going on in Ife and in Cairo, the Committee CONGRATULATED the two centres for having put into very good use the OAU funds made available to them thus far. The Committee AGREED that the existing 60,000 US.\$ for the current financial year be distributed as follows:-

JP.27 - Ife - 15,000 US Dollars

JP.27 - CAIRO - 15,000 US Dollars

and a token grant of 5,000 US Dollars each be awarded to the following six centres:

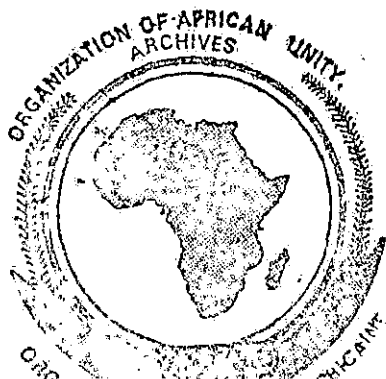
Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Congo, Mali,  
The People's Republic of Benin and Madagascar  
to encourage these centres to get established.

RECOMMENDATION VI

The Committee strongly RECOMMENDS that the Executive Secretariat of OAU/STRC should renew its appeal to international organizations (in particular WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, International Organizations, Governmental and non-Governmental and any other donor agencies) for financial assistance and cooperation in the field of medicinal plant research and utilization.

RECOMMENDATION VII

The OAU/STRC should compile data from Member States as to available existing resources for the compilation of an African pharmacopoeia. The data required are as follows:



- 1) Drug legislation decrees or registration office and laws of pharmacy and poisons.
- 2) Countries that possess national pharmacopoeias in Africa.
- 3) Drug industries, either governmental or private.
- 4) Syndicates, or any medical and pharmaceutical association in each country.
- 5) Faculties of pharmacy or Drug research centres or quality control laboratories in each Member State.
- 6) Manpower available (i.e. pharmacists and dispensing assistants etc.)

#### RECOMMENDATION VIII

With a view to effective industrial exploitation of medicinal plants, the Committee RECOMMENDS that a centre should be established for collecting information on existing and future markets for the common medicinal plants of each country. The same centre (which could be a unit within OAU/STRC) should coordinate the setting up of standards for the drug plants produced on a uniform commercial scale by Member States.

#### RECOMMENDATION IX

The Committee RECOMMENDS the setting up of legislation in each Member State which will stop the indiscriminate exportation of medicinal plants from Africa.

RECOMMENDATION X

The Committee RECOMMENDS that each Member State should strengthen national research institutes in their routine pharmaco-dynamic research potential.

RECOMMENDATION XI

The setting up of a modern physico-chemical instrument centre in Africa is strongly urged in order to avoid the security risk involved when active constituents of plants are sent outside Africa for physico-chemical analysis.

The possibility of obtaining such service from the national research centre in Dokki, Cairo, Ife and Ibadan (Nigeria) should be locked into by the Executive Secretariat of OAU/STRC.

RECOMMENDATION XII

The Committee ACKNOWLEDGES the present move of WHO to encourage Member States to incorporate traditional medicine into their primary health care system. This is in line with the aspiration of the OAU/STRC and it is RECOMMENDED that the Executive Secretary of the OAU/STRC should make WHO aware of its wealth of knowledge over the years in the field of medicinal plants and traditional healing methods. The OAU/STRC should encourage greater cooperation and collaboration with the WHO in tackling this huge task.

RECOMMENDATION XIII

The Committee NOTES that the Executive Secretariat already sponsors exchange visits between researchers and it RECOMMENDS that permanent contact between researchers, through exchange programmes and visits, should be further pursued. This will avoid duplication of work among Member States and ensure greater cooperation.

RECOMMENDATION XIV

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the symposium on African medicinal plants should be held every three years instead of five.

RECOMMENDATION XV

The next Inter-African symposium on African Medicinal Plant should take place in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) sometime between 15 and 30th of September, 1978.

The Executive Secretariat is requested to consult with the Government of Ivory Coast with a view to fixing an appropriate date for the next symposium. The Secretariat should then convey the result of its consultation to all Member States.

RECOMMENDATION XVI

The Inter-African Committee on medicinal plants should hold its next meeting in Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) 26-28 September, 1977. This recommendation should be conveyed to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania with a view to obtaining the necessary agreement to be host for the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION XVII

The Committee RECOGNIZES the existence of training facilities for specialists in African Medicinal Plant in:

Tananarive	-	middle level manpower
Ife	-	higher level manpower
and in Cairo	-	higher level manpower.



The Committee SUGGESTS that the OAU/STRC should seek funds from international organizations to finance these training programmes.

### RECOMMENDATION XVIII

In respect of publication of an index of all the work done in the field of African medicinal plants, the Committee set up the following sub-Committees to collate the necessary information:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>(1) <u>Botanical-Ethnobotanical</u><br/>Professor ADJANOHOUN<br/>Dr. Ake ASSI</p>                   | <p>(3) <u>Pharmacology-Pharmacodynamics-Clinicals</u><br/>Professor KOUMARE<br/>Professor COULIBALY<br/>Dr. AMPOFO</p> |
| <p>(2) <u>Phytochemistry</u><br/>Prof. Darwish SAYED<br/>Dr. SOFOWORA<br/>Dr. MADATI<br/>Dr. DINGA</p> | <p>(4) <u>Aspects of Pharmaceutical Techniques</u><br/>Prof. RATSIMAMANGA<br/>Dr. MUBIRU</p>                           |

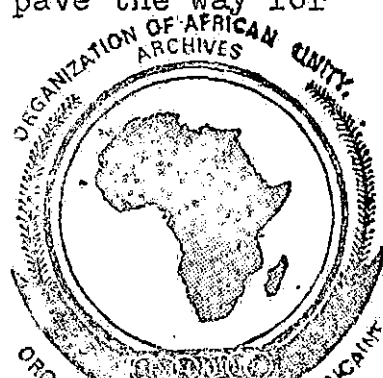
### RECOMMENDATION XIX

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the members of its panel who will attend WHO's Regional Technical Committee meeting holding in Kampala, 8-15 September, 1976 should jointly represent the Inter-African Committee on African Medicinal Plants and present its policy and Recommendations to WHO. The Committee HOPES that it will in future be invited to the relevant deliberations of WHO in this discipline.

### RECOMMENDATION XX

Efforts should be made to establish an Inter-African Union of Pharmacists. A task force was set up to pave the way for this. The task force comprises:

- Professor Darwish SAYED (Convener)  
Dr. F.A. SOFOWORA  
Dr. COULIBALY



RECOMMENDATION XXI

Professor Darwish SAYED was MANDATED to present the policy and views of the Committee at the meeting of International Federation of Pharmacists holding on 6th September, 1976 in Warsaw, Poland. It is the view of this Committee that the number of African representation on the Council of FIP should be increased to reflect a truly international nature of that federation.

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# Report of the Secretary General on the 4th Meeting of the Inter-African Committee on African Medicinal Plants and Traditional Pharmacopoeia

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