



ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY  
Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية  
السكرتاريه  
ب. ص. ب. 3243

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

Addis Ababa . . . اديس ابابا . . .

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Thirty-ninth Ordinary Session

Tripoli, Libya

26 July - August 1982

CM/1188 (XXXIX) Part IV

Add. 2

Rev.1

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE PAN AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (PATU)

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

The Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Kinshasa in January 1982 marked an important stage in the life of the Union. It constituted the paramount activity during the 1981/1982 period and permitted the Union to evaluate the work done during the last four years with a view to improving the orientation of the Union's future development. To that it would be worthwhile adding the organization of various preparatory meetings and the numerous contacts it necessitated, on the one hand with Member States and, on the other, with African regional and international Organizations and various Institutions interested in the activities and in the development of African telecommunications.

2. The General Secretariat in the present Annual Report prepared in pursuance of the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 6 of the Convention, briefly outlines the main activities of PATU during the 1981/82 period.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Personnel Division

a) Drafting of the Rules and Regulations

3. During the period under review, the General Secretariat commenced to draft the Rules and Regulations that would govern both the statutory and non-statutory staff of the Union taking into consideration the recent arrangements adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and particularly those remarks and comments made during the Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. These documents were presented for consideration and approval by the Fifth Session of the Administrative Council.

b) Recruitment of Staff

4. The total strength of the staff members now amounts to thirty representing the five sub-regions of the OAU and comprising two elected officials, eleven statutory staff members and seventeen non-statutory staff members.

Conferences, Information and Documentationa) Conferences

5. The General Secretariat prepared and organized:

- The Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;
- The Second Session of the Committee of Eleven and the Inter-Agency Meeting in Lagos, October 1981;
- The Special Session of the Administrative Council;
- The Fifth Session of the Administrative Council.

b) Information

6. An editorial committee and a publishing section have been established within the General Secretariat with a view to producing and issuing a PATU information bulletin which will begin to appear shortly.

Finance

7. Of the US\$800,000.00 total budget voted for the 1981/1982 fiscal year, the General Secretariat received US\$460,195.00 from 26 Member States in the course of the year representing 57.52% of the budget; total expenditure amounted to US\$683,102.82 on May 31, 1982, which represents 85.38% of the budget.

II. TECHNICAL MATTERSRadio Communications

8. During the year under review, specific attention was given to the task of defining achievable objectives. In order to benefit from

the studies and experience of other Organizations in facilitating studies especially in the area of radio propagation, close collaboration is being established with African researchers in Kenya and the Congo and with ITU. In the latter case, a fellowship which will enable the Expert on Transmission to take a familiarization study at the CCIR and IFRB in Geneva, has already been obtained from the ITU.

9. PATU participated in the XVth Plenary Assembly of CCIR in Geneva in February 1982 where special emphasis was laid on both the interest that there exists for developing countries to follow those activities and the role that the regional Organizations, such as PATU, have to play therein.

#### Maintenance

10. PATU, in conjunction with ITU, undertook some activities with a view to implementing PANAFTEL RAF 80/018 (UNDP-ITU) Regional Maintenance Project.

The preparatory phase of the project is aimed at making the authorities of Administrations aware of the need to give priority to maintenance and make available to the technicians responsible for maintenance services the methods and technical know-how for planning and ensuring maintenance of equipment.

11. PATU experts, with the help of their ITU colleagues, jointly organized a regional maintenance workshop in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, from 2 to 9 February 1982. Seventeen countries attended the Seminar.

12. The main object of the RAF 80/018 project is to lay down and apply norms for maintenance and quality of service for the PANAFTEL network commensurate with standards applicable to the international network.

13. Together with PATU and the ITU, participants critically examined the working condition and maintenance of telecommunications equipment in Africa and attempted drawing up a national plan of the action for maintenance.

After the exercise, the Workshop came up with the following ideas which are liable to bring about improvements in the quality of maintenance carried out on African telecommunications network. These ideas were the subject matter of two documents:

- a) One Recommendation advocating mainly the setting up of appropriate national machinery for monitoring maintenance jobs and sub-regional Committees specialized in maintenance work. Such a structure exists in the Eastern and Southern African sub-regions and a similar one is going to be set up by the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS in West Africa upon the proposal by PATU and ITU in the statutory sub-Committee for telecommunications.

ECOWAS also intends to finance a sub-regional Seminar on maintenance in connection with Project RAF 80/018, in co-operation with PATU and ITU.

- b) An additional Programme to Project RAF 80/018 was suggested by PATU on the strength of the fears expressed by participants and critical factors that emerged from the analysis of the situation of telecommunications networks in African countries. This programme comprises a series of measures to be taken by the Administrations and Specialized Agencies with a view to creating more favourable conditions for formulating an efficient maintenance policy.

14. After assessing the cost of the activities contemplated by ITU and PATU, the need was felt to seek the assistance of Financing Institutions, especially African, and Inter-Governmental Economic Organizations. The availability of financial resources will

enable both Organizations to ensure the follow-up of Project RAF 80/018 in the various Administrations and provide, where necessary, technical assistance for drawing up and implementing national maintenance plans.

Project of Regional Telecommunications Satellite (AFROSAT)

15. In October 1981, the Committee of Eleven held its Second Working Session. A study was made of the initial findings of the preliminary survey on needs conducted by the Secretariat through a questionnaire drawn up by the Committee.

The quality of the findings has shown that the questionnaire was not an appropriate medium for such a survey.

16. The Committee requested that a statutory instrument was necessary for conducting such studies. Therefore, rules and regulations were drafted by the secretariat and submitted to the Special Meeting of the Committee; which took place in Kinshasa from the 28th to 29th June 1982. That meeting adopted them after some amendments.

The Committee whose mandate was renewed for four years by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries also drew up its programme of preparatory studies for the implementation of the projects and the evaluation of the first phase of this programme (studies of the needs and pre-investments) US\$ 1,260,000.

The Committee emphasized the urgent need for it to be provided with the necessary financial resources for the accomplishment of the mandate given to it by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

17. The Secretariat participated in certain meetings on the ITU and the Federal Republic of Germany AMIT/IRD Project on rural telecommunications as a member of the Steering Committee. This Project contains a substantial "satellite" component:

- Consideration of the summary of the Final Report on the prefeasibility studies in October 1982. The Report showed that the AMIT/IRD Project for a regional satellite system called for serious studies;
- Examination of the findings of the AMIT/IRD prefeasibility studies by government Experts during a Seminar organized by

ITU with the assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany in March 1982 in Addis Ababa and the Final Report confirmed the basic proposal advocating the creation of an exclusive satellite network for rural telecommunications in Africa.

18. The Addis Ababa "Seminar-Conference" also aimed at the integration of studies (on the satellite project) undertaken by various Organization. The AMTT/IRD project was presented as the basic project by its promoters, contrary to the opinion of PATU and Specialized African Organizations (UAPT) and URINA) which consider the UNTACDA SAP-01 Project (AFROSAT-AFSAT) as a specific project. A recommendation was voted proposing the setting up of a Co-ordinating Committee within which PATU shall be responsible for the technical secretariat (OAU-ECA-ITU-UNESCO-PATU-UAPT-URINA).

19. The Committee of Eleven was convened in Kinshasa to consider the finding of the AMTT/IRD Meeting held in Addis Ababa and to examine the ITU proposal for feasibility studies. The views and findings of the Committee are reflected in a Report submitted to the Administrative Council.

The Committee of Eleven and the Administrative Council requested that the AMTT/IRD Recommendation Doc. No. 20 be submitted to the 1st Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of PATU scheduled to be held in Nairobi from 2 to 3 October, 1982 for consideration and decision (see Resolution AC/V/82/Res. 10 attached).

20. The Secretariat was informed that the EDF had approved the PATU request in December 1981 for 2,000,000 FF to finance surveys and studies on needs, as part of the AFROSAT Project. The funds will be made available to PATU upon ratification by the Administrative Council.

The Council recommended that all other possibilities be explored for the successful completion of the project studies. Member States of the Committee were requested to bear the transport cost and subsistence allowances of their delegates and experts on mission.

#### Industrialization

21. Preparations are underway for the initial phase of the regional project for the promotion and development of telecommunications industries in Africa. Emphasis is laid on the preliminary survey on the state of progress in the manufacture of telecommunications material in Africa and preparations for a regional Seminar.

The on-going survey shows that kinds of material and equipment are manufactured or assembled in African countries:

1. Cables: 7 countries (Kenya, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Zambia, Cameroon).
2. Telephone sets: 5 countries (Mauritius, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt).
3. Radio sets: 4 countries (Egypt, Swaziland, Cameroon, Zambia).
4. Television sets B/W: 4 countries (Egypt, Swaziland, Zambia, Cameroon).
5. Poles: 2 countries (Kenya, Sudan).
6. Switching equipment: 2 countries (Algeria, Egypt).
7. Colour Television sets: 2 countries (Egypt, Swaziland).
8. PVC tubes: 1 country (Cameroon).
9. Components: 2 countries (Mauritius, Egypt).
10. Transmission equipment: 1 country (Egypt).

22. Negotiations with Algeria, which will host the Seminar, are still under way. On the basis of proposals made by that country, the Secretariat is suggesting that the Seminar takes place from 20 - 28 November 1982. As soon as the suggestion is accepted by the Algerian Administration, invitations will be sent to African States and foreign participants.

23. A meeting is envisaged between PATC and UNIDO, co-sponsoring the Seminar, with a view to preparing documents and deciding how to implement the \$ 125,000 budget earmarked for the project by the United Nations Fund for Industrial Development. Organizations interested in this field and industrial firms have confirmed their commitment to participate actively in the Project.

24. UNDP has allocated \$ 100,000 for Phase II of the feasibility studies to be conducted jointly in 1983 by PATU, ITU and ECA by virtue of OAU Resolution CM/Res.9C2 (XXXVII).



Operations

25. Tasks under operations are wide as they are important, not only during the stage of implementing the Panafrican Telecommunications network, but also in the ongoing strategy of maintaining coordinated and viable services at continental and international level. The PATU Convention places emphasis on this area of the Union's work since it is through effective operational arrangements that the routing of intra-African telecommunications traffic via transit centres outside the continent can be overcome.

Tariffsa) For Eastern and Southern Africa

26. Within the tariff area, it is significant to report the completion during the year under review of a telephone and telex tariff study for the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa sub-regions. This was in pursuance of Recommendation No.2 of the Third African Telecommunications Conference, Monrovia, 1980. It is also pertinent to mention the commendable co-operation and active participation of the countries in the two sub-regions which enormously contributed to the completion of the study.

27. At a Conference of the two sub-regions held in Arusha, Tanzania, 17th May to 4th June, 1982, the two sub-regions agreed to adopt the recommended tariffs. They also assigned PATU, jointly with ITU, the task to continue with studies on special services such as leased circuits, broadcasting services, data and telegraph services.

b) Study for Central Africa

28. Taking a similar approach as adopted in the above mentioned sub-regions, a study on telephone and telex tariffs has been initiated in co-ordination with countries in the Central Africa sub-region.

A tentative programme covering this study was prepared at a meeting of the Central Africa sub-region held in Yaounde, in March this year. This programme will be implemented in collaboration with ITU.

#### Harmonization of tariffs

29. The harmonized tariffs now exist in the North, West, Eastern and Southern Africa sub-regions. This remains to be done in Central Africa and at the regional level. PATU will undertake action in this regard in collaboration with ITU and its TAF Group as well as other African Organizations concerned namely, UAPT, PANA and URTMA in keeping with the provisions under Recommendation No.2 of the Monrovia Conference.

#### Traffic accounting procedures

30. A study of accounting procedures has been initiated in collaboration with the ITU in pursuance of Recommendation No.3 of the Monrovia Conference. The study is in progress and should eventually cover selected countries in all the sub-regions of Africa in order to give a balanced view on the procedures now in practice as well as a solid base for future action. This matter will be reviewed in subsequent reports.

#### Traffic routing arrangements

31. This aspect is fundamental to the establishment of a reliable Pan-African Telecommunications Network. Agreed routing arrangements are not only necessary for traffic operational purposes, but they are also required among other things for accounting and network management.

32. Except for the Central Africa sub-region, the Monrovia Conference adopted traffic routing arrangements within the other sub-regions.

There are two significant activities that need to be reported in this regard, namely the efforts to convene a meeting of the Central Africa sub-region to adopt a traffic routing plan - two previous attempts in Brazzaville, July 1981, and in Yaounde, March 1982, having failed to attract adequate participation.

The second activity concerns the establishment of a telecommunications operational network based on the already agreed traffic routing plans utilising PANAFTEL links (including links by satellite) both existing ones and those ones yet to be introduced. Information in this area is being collected with the primary objective of establishing an intra-African telecommunications operational network.

Preparation and co-ordination of proposals for the work of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi October 1982.

33. With the assistance of a Task Force, convened by the Secretariat and comprising Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Zaire, the Secretariat was able to compile specific proposals on the ITU Conference. These were presented to the PATU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Kinshasa, 12 - 29 January, 1982 and adopted as a basis for positions of the African Group at the Nairobi Conference. Work on Conference proposals will continue as working documents of other countries proposals have to be studied and their impact on the African Group proposals and other new ideas they may contain, assessed.

Training and Technical Co-operation

34. The efforts of the General Secretariat of PATU to promote training for Africans have simultaneously been orientated towards Administrations of Member States and towards foreign countries and International Organizations.

a) Towards Member States

35. The task of conducting a census of African senior staff of telecommunications with a view to establishing a data bank that would serve as the basis for mutual assistance to be fostered among States, on one hand, as well as the one regarding existing or projected national or multinational training centers (profiles, programmes, capacity, etc.) on the other, has been undertaken. In pursuance of the stipulations of Resolution 2S/CPL/82/Res. 7, the General Secretariat took the necessary steps to contact ITU, INTELSTAT as well as UNDP with a view to providing the Government of Uganda with the necessary assistance for implementing the Training Centre for Space Communications (SATCOM).

b) Towards foreign countries and International Organizations

36. The co-operation links woven between PATU and a good number of foreign countries and International Organizations have produced the fortunate result of the generous offer of possibilities of study or training for African telecommunications officials.

It is in this context that we must consider:

- the offer made by the PT Company of Switzerland to organize from 23 August 1982 for 7 weeks, a course in Business Management;

- the joint organisation by the PT Company of Switzerland and the Rufisque Multinational School for Telecommunications of a refresher course for 12 weeks;
- the award of 5 new fellowships in 1982 for English-speaking candidates and 5 others in 1983 for French-speaking candidates, by the European Space Agency;
- the following have made concrete promises for study course offers:
  - . USSR (30 to 40 scholarships)
  - . Bulgaria (5 to 6 scholarships)
  - . Hungary (10 scholarships)
- the award by ITU to PATU in favour of 3 of its officials of fellowships for refresher courses at ITU headquarters in Geneva (Operations Expert: October, 1982); Transmission Expert and Head of Conferences, Information and Documentation: early 1983);
- a regional training programme is being drawn up in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Rufisque Multinational School for Telecommunications (Senegal) and the one of the Mano River Union in Freetown (Sierra Leone) expressed a great interest for this Project;
- the award of scholarships for refresher courses by the French Agency for Technical, Industrial and Economic Co-operation (ACTIM) to Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and the Secretariat.

III. RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES

Headquarters Agreement

37. The General Secretariat continues to enjoy the facilities extended to the Union by the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire in the framework of the Headquarters Agreement signed in 1978. In the course of the year, however, the Zairean authorities informed the Secretary-General that some clauses of the Agreement relating to franking facilities for telecommunications services, housing and transportation facilities for the elected Officials and Heads of Departments must be reconsidered with a view to re-negotiating or deleting them.

38. The matter was subsequently examined by the PATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries which instructed the Secretary-General to renegotiate the Headquarters Agreement with the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire. The renegotiation meeting was held in Kinshasa from 11 to 18 May, 1982.

39. Taking part in the meeting were:-

- Zaire: The Department for PTT, representing the Executive Council.
- PATU: The Secretary-General of PATU assisted by delegates from Congo, Guinea and Kenya.

40. A report was prepared on the work of the meeting and presented to the PATU Administrative Council.

Members of the Union

41. The Union's present membership is 43 States. They are:

- |                             |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Algeria                  | 16. Ghana                   | 32. Senegal      |
| 2. Angola                   | 17. Guinea                  | 33. Sierra Leone |
| 3. Benin                    | 18. Guinea Bissau (*)       | 34. Sudan        |
| 4. Burundi                  | 19. Ivory Coast             | 35. Swaziland    |
| 5. Cameroon                 | 20. Kenya                   | 36. Tanzania     |
| 6. Central African Republic | 21. Lesotho                 | 37. Togo         |
| 7. Chad                     | 22. Liberia                 | 38. Tunisia      |
| 8. Comoro Islands (*)       | 23. Libya                   | 39. Uganda       |
| 9. Congo                    | 24. Madagascar (*)          | 40. Upper Volta  |
| 10. Djibouti (*)            | 25. Mali                    | 41. Zaire        |
| 11. Egypt                   | 26. Mauritania              | 42. Zambia       |
| 12. Equatorial Guinea       | 27. Morocco                 | 43. Zimbabwe     |
| 13. Ethiopia                | 28. Niger                   |                  |
| 14. Gabon                   | 29. Nigeria                 |                  |
| 15. Gambia                  | 30. Rwanda                  |                  |
|                             | 31. Sao Tome & Principe (*) |                  |

Thirty-seven out of the 43 above-mentioned countries participated in the Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Kinshasa in January 1982 and signed the revised Convention of the Union. The countries marked with an asterisk are old members which were not represented at the Kinshasa Conference, but still enjoy the status of membership of the Union by virtue of being signatories to the Addis Ababa Convention (Addis Ababa, December 1977), while ratification of the second Convention is awaited.

Contributions of Member States.

42. The following States have paid their contributions to PATU budgets:

Fiscal year 1978/1979

- |                             |             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Algeria                  | 6. Congo    | 11. Guinea Bissau |
| 2. Benin                    | 7. Djibouti | 12. Kenya         |
| 3. Burundi                  | 8. Egypt    | 13. Libya         |
| 4. Cameroon                 | 9. Ethiopia | 14. Madagascar    |
| 5. Central African Republic | 10. Guinea  | 15. Mali          |

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 16. Morocco   | 21. Tanzania    |
| 17. Niger     | 22. Uganda      |
| 18. Nigeria   | 23. Upper Volta |
| 19. Senegal   | 24. Zaire       |
| 20. Swaziland | 25. Zambia      |

Fiscal year 1979/1980

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Algeria                  | 11. Kenya       |
| 2. Benin                    | 12. Libya       |
| 3. Burundi                  | 13. Madagascar  |
| 4. Congo                    | 14. Mali        |
| 5. Central African Republic | 15. Morocco     |
| 6. Djibouti                 | 16. Niger       |
| 7. Egypt                    | 17. Senegal     |
| 8. Ethiopia                 | 18. Swaziland   |
| 9. Guinea                   | 19. Upper Volta |
| 10. Guinea Bissau           | 20. Zaire       |
|                             | 21. Zambia      |

Financial Year 1980/81

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Algeria                  | 12. Equatorial Guinea     |
| 2. Benin                    | 13. Kenya                 |
| 3. Burundi                  | 14. Libya                 |
| 4. Cameroon                 | 15. Mali                  |
| 5. Central African Republic | 16. Morocco               |
| 6. Congo                    | 17. Nigeria               |
| 7. Djibouti                 | 18. Swaziland             |
| 8. Egypt                    | 19. Sao Tome and Principe |
| 9. Ethiopia                 | 20. Upper Volta           |
| 10. Guinea                  | 21. Senegal               |
| 11. Guinea Bissau           | 22. Zaire                 |
|                             | 23. Zambia                |



Financial Year 1981/1982

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Algeria           | 13. Lesotho             |
| 2. Benin             | 14. Libya               |
| 3. Burundi           | 15. Madagascar          |
| 4. Congo             | 16. Mali                |
| 5. Djibouti          | 17. Morocco             |
| 6. Egypt             | 18. Nigeria             |
| 7. Ethiopia          | 19. Sao Tome e Principe |
| 8. Equatorial Guinea | 20. Sierra Leone        |
| 9. Guinea            | 21. Swaziland           |
| 10. Guinea Bissau    | 22. Tanzania            |
| 11. Kenya            | 23. Upper Volta         |
| 12. Ivory Coast      | 24. Zaire               |
|                      | 25. Zambia              |

43. The statement of arrears paid in respect of the 1981/1982 budget is as follows:

1. Ivory Coast.....	21,120.00
2. Guinea Bissau.....	3,385.00
3. Upper Volta.....	3,660.00
4. Kenya.....	729.44
5. Lesotho.....	9,780.00
6. Madagascar.....	2,490.00
7. Nigeria.....	30,785.00
8. Uganda.....	10,710.64
9. Senegal.....	6,150.00
10. Sierra Leone.....	9,420.00
11. Tanzania.....	22,611.00
12. Zambia.....	40,132.12
	<u>160,973.20</u>

Working visits

44. The Secretary-General visited top officials of the Administrations of the following Member States:

Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea (October 1981)

Libya (November 1981)

Senegal (March 1982).

45. The Assistant Secretary-General visited Ethiopia in February 1982 and Kenya in May 1982.

46. These visits fall within the context of the necessary contacts which should exist between the Union and its Member States to further arouse their interest in the Union's activities.

#### Other activities

47. Negotiations are going on with Algeria to have her host a Seminar on the promotion of African telecommunications industries in November 1982.

48. Consultations have been carried out with the Kenyan Administration in order to agree practical arrangements relating to the organisation of the First Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of PATU scheduled to be held in Nairobi on the 2nd and 3rd October 1982.

#### Appeal to African Skills

49. In compliance with the provisions of Resolution UNCTADA/CEA/81/016 passed by the Conference of Ministers on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, meeting in Addis Ababa in March 1981, the Ivory Coast Firm SAFRITEL (African Company for Industry and Technology) has established contacts with PATU with a view to fostering with the latter relations of co-operation in line with the terms of above-mentioned Resolution. The Managing Director of the firm paid a working visit to the Headquarters of the Union in December 1981. The General Secretariat would like to entertain the hope that similar moves will be forthcoming from other African firms and Telecommunications Research Bureaux.

The Secretariat will register them through contact with Member States. The Union must promote a dynamic co-operation with such entities and eventually envisage in the short or long run to consider them as associate members of the Union under conditions that will have to be determined.

#### IV. RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

##### With UNIDO

50. The Secretary-General signed in November 1981 in Vienna with the UN Executive Director a Co-operation Agreement between PATU and UNIDO. Furthermore, discussions relating to the organization and funding of a Seminar on the promotion of telecommunication industries in Africa, the first phase of a ten-year industrialization programme, were held.

51. The General Secretariat maintains a close collaboration with UNIDO with a view to defining the implementation of the first phase of the project and to this effect, a representative of UNIDO paid a working visit to the Headquarters of the Union in Kinshasa in December 1981.

##### With the EDF

52. In November 1981 in Brussels, the Secretary-General submitted to the EDF a request for funding the continuation of the requirements study for the regional telecommunications by satellite network (AFROSAT).

##### With ITU and UNESCO

53. In Geneva in November 1981, the Secretary-General had discussions, on one part with the Secretary-General of ITU, and on the other, with the Director-General of UNESCO relating to an application for assistance in view of the holding in January 1982 of the Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of PATU. UNESCO accorded an initial financial assistance of US\$16,000.00 which was brought up to US\$21,000.00 to be used in acquiring a large type reproduction machine.

expected to arrive shortly. PATU submitted to UNESCO a Draft Co-operation Agreement which has been presented to the Fifth Session of the Administrative Council of PATU for consideration.

With the Mano River Union

54. In January 1982 in Kinshasa, during the Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of PATU, the Secretary-General and the representative of the Mano River Union signed a Co-operation Agreement between PATU and MRU.

55. The PATU/UNIDO and PATU/MRU Agreements have been approved by both the Administrative Council and Conference of Plenipotentiaries of PATU.

With ECA and ADB

56. PATU proposed to each of these two Organizations a Draft Co-operation Agreement which was submitted to the Fifth Session of the Administrative Council of PATU for consideration.

With PANA, AFCAC and URTNA

57. In March 1982 in Dakar, the Secretary-General had discussions with the Director General of PANA, the Secretary-General of AFCAC and the Secretary-General of URTNA. The discussions were centred on the development of co-operation between PATU and each of the three Institutions, particularly with regard to the implementation and the operation of PANAFTEL and the pursuit of AFROSAT Project. With PANA and AFCAC, the discussions were on the strengthening of the OAU/Specialized Agencies Administrative Committee of Co-ordination.

V. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries  
of PATU (Kinshasa, 12 - 29 January, 1982)

58. The Union received generous assistance from the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire in connection with the organization of the Second Session of the Conference of PATU Plenipotentiaries. The General Secretariat reiterates, on behalf of the Union, its deepest gratitude to

the Zairean leaders for this very appreciable assistance.

59. The Conference registered 190 participants from 37 Member States and 19 African and International Organizations, among which were the OAU and ITU. The latter was represented by its Secretary-General. Sixteen Ministers and Deputy-Ministers and eleven Ambassadors participated in the Conference.

60. The following were elected as officials of the conference:

- Chairman .....: Zaire
- First Vice-Chairman .....: Uganda
- Second Vice-Chairman.....: Senegal
- Third Vice-Chairman .....: Swaziland
- Rapporteur .....: Morocco

Proceedings took place in plenary and in five Committees:

- Administrative and Legal Committee
- Finance Committee
- Technical Committee
- Credentials Committee
- Drafting Committee.

61. In plenary sessions and at committee level, the Conference discussed a wide range of matters, the most important of which were:

- Revision of the Addis Ababa Convention (December 1977);
- Consideration of PATU activities carried out by the General Secretariat and the Programme of Work for the future;
- Election of the Member States of the Administrative Council;
- Election of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General;
- Consideration of the progress made on the PANAFTEL network and connected activities;

- Training and technical co-operation;
- Satellite communications.

62. At the end of its deliberations, the Conference adopted a new Convention (Kinshasa, 1982) which will be submitted at the appropriate time to Member States for ratification.

63. The Conference also adopted the following Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 1 - Special Resolution on participation in the Conference;
2. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 2 - Financial Assistance granted to the Union by Government of the Republic of Zaire;
3. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 3 - Relating to the Union's accounts for the 1978/1979 to 1980/81 fiscal years;
4. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 4 - Determining the ceiling of the four-year budget of PATU for 1982/1986;
5. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 5 - Relating to the approval of PATU's four-year programme of activities (1982/1986);
6. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 6 - Progress made in the implementation of the Panafriean Telecommunications Network (PANAFTEL);
7. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 7 - Relating to Regional Training Centre for Satellite Communications (SATCOM) in Kampala, Republic of Uganda;

8. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 8 - Relating to Regional Satellite Communications Network project (AFROSAT);
9. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 9 - Relating to the organization of frequency management services in the Administrations;
10. Resolution 2S/CPL/82 Res. 10 - Relating to African Telecommunications Day.

64. Elections were held and Messrs. Mamadou Bobo CAMARA, of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea and Rajabu Mabula YUSUF, of the United Republic of Tanzania, were elected respectively Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

65. The following 13 States were elected members of the Administrative Council:

- |             |                |                 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Algeria  | 5. Ivory Coast | 8. Liberia      |
| 2. Congo    | 6. Kenya       | 9. Morocco      |
| 3. Ethiopia | 7. Lesotho     | 10. Togo        |
| 4. Gabon    |                | 11. Upper Volta |
|             |                | 12. Zaire       |
|             |                | 13. Zambia      |

66. The question of increasing the membership of the Administrative Council was discussed and it was agreed that the number be increased from 13 to 18. The election of the additional members of the Council will take place during the Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries due to be held in Nairobi at the time of ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (September-November, 1982).

Meetings

67. The General Secretariat organized Union meetings and Participated in meetings and conferences conducted by other Institutions in the course of the year under review:

- The Second Session of the Committee of Eleven and Inter-Agency Meeting was held in Lagos from 5 to 10 October 1981 under the auspices of PATU. Its aim was to define the practical measures to be taken in the implementation of the AFROSAT Project, the harmonization and utilization of the studies undertaken by the various African and International Organizations;
- The Special Session of the Administrative Council preparatory to the Second Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;
- The Union was represented at the following Conferences and Meetings;
- The fourteenth Annual Conference for Eastern and Southern Africa (Gaborone, 24 August - 8 September, 1982). Representatives: the Secretary-General and the Operations Expert.
- The First Joint Meeting ECOWAS/PANAFTTEL (Freetown, 26 - 31 October, 1981). Representative; the Transmission Expert.
- Maintenance Workshop (Ouagadougou, 3 January - 20 February, 1982). Representative: the Switching and Transmission Experts.
- The XXXVIII Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU (Addis Ababa, February 1982). Representative: the Deputy Secretary - General.
- The XVth Plenary Assembly of CCIR (Geneva, 15 - 26 February, 1982). Representative: the Secretary-General;



- Meeting of OAU/UN Specialized Institutions (Geneva, 6 - 8 April, 1982). Representative: the Director of the Operations and Technical Co-operation Department;
- Eighth Session of the Conference of the ECA Ministerial Conference (Tripoli, 27 - 30 April, 1982). Representative: The Director of the Operations and Technical Co-Operation Department;
- Second Joint Meeting ECOWAS/PANAFTEL (Cotonou, 26 April - 5 May, 1982). Representative: the Switching Expert;
- The UAPT AFSAT Technical Committee (Dakar, 18 - 19 May, 1982). Representative: the Switching Expert;
- The First Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of PAFU (Arusha, 24 - 29 May, 1982). Representative: the Chief of Personnel;
- The Sixteenth Annual Conference for Eastern and Southern Africa (Arusha, 17 May - 4 June, 1982). Representatives: the Deputy Secretary-General and the Operations Expert;
- PANAFTEL Co-ordination Meeting for Central Africa sub-region (Yaounde, 15 - 16 March, 1982). Representative: the Operations Expert;
- Meeting of the Co-ordination Committee for the Plan Committee for Africa (Yaounde, 17 - 19 March, 1982). Representative: the Operations Expert.

A meeting on the financing of PANAFTEL that was jointly convened by the members of the PANAFTEL Co-ordination Committee (OAU, ECA, ADB, ITU, PATU) at the ADB headquarters in Abidjan in May 1982 was postponed until September 1982 (13 - 15 September, 1982). The Financing Institutions have been invited to the meeting.

## VI. CONCLUSION

68. An important stage has just been reached with the conclusion of the Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union. The four years thus completed constitute not only a sum of experiences for a young and growing Organization, but they have also helped to define the basis on which the General Secretariat will build its future strategy and action.

Indeed, it is very important to emphasize that the Conference gave Member States and the General Secretariat itself, an opportunity for an introspective examination of the performance of the Union over the past four years of its existence. Revised Convention, with Rules and Regulations, as well as Resolutions have been adopted and these will guide the Secretariat in its future work.

69. In the coming period, PATU, as a Specialized Agency of the OAU, will give the highest attention to ensuring the closest co-ordination of its work, particularly in the policy areas with the OAU Secretariat. PATU continues in fact to be confronted with a lot of difficulties, obstacles and interferences which are put in its way in the fulfilment of its actions and which can only be detrimental to its progress. Considering the impact of telecommunications on the political independence of our States and their social, cultural and economic integration, it is absolutely necessary, as we stated earlier, that the OAU General Secretariat should further support and protect PATU, especially where there is duplication of efforts on the part of any other Institution, which can not in any case be justified as far as co-ordination and development of telecommunication networks and services in Africa.

70. African Ministers for Telecommunications expressly requested, during the Second Session of the Conference of PATU Plenipotentiaries held in January 1982 in Kinshasa, that all matter relating to telecommunications at the African regional level be submitted to them through the organs of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union set up with the purpose of taking decisions or in other cases for giving views and suggestions to the OAU or its other organs to take a final decision. The Ministers of Telecommunications would like to see PATU play fully its role.

71. PATU will assume its role in a responsible manner basing its action on the stipulations of the OAU Charter, the Union's Convention, the OAU/PATU Co-operation Agreement and the decisions and directives of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and Administrative Council and by so doing reinforce further the co-operative links with other African and International Organizations and very particularly with its parent-Organizations the OAU, lead Agency for the Lagos Plan of Action. In this regard, the Administrative Council, meeting in its Fifth Session adopted the Resolution No. 10/CA/V.82 on the role of PATU which is attached to this report.

72. The OAU's success in its fight for the economic, social, cultural and self-reliant development of Africa will depend as is the case with the UN at the world level, on the success of its own Specialized Agencies.

Mutual, effective and positive consultation is required at the Secretariats of the parent-Organization and its Specialized Agencies in order to avoid inconsistencies that could arise between some of the Organizations.

73. The 1982/83 Work Programme of the General Secretariat of PATU will be carried out with sustained effort. Specific missions will be undertaken as much as possible by Heads of Department and Experts of the Secretariat in the five sub-regions of Africa (Northern, Southern, Western, Central and Eastern) with a view to acquainting themselves with the realities of these sub-regions to identify problems of all nature (equipment, networks, operations, maintenance, tariffs, planning, management, training, inter-States co-operation, etc.) and in collaboration with national senior staff members, work out various short, medium or long term acceptable solutions. The Secretariat will endeavour as and when necessary to utilise national skills and avails itself the inter-Agency co-operation in the attainment of these types of objectives. In this way, it is hoped that significant result will be attained.

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

---

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

---

1982-07

# Report of the Secretary-General on the Activities of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9855>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*