



**ORGANIZATION OF
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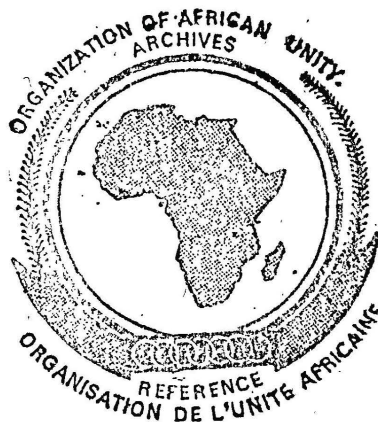
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
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CM/822 (XXIX)

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE 2ND CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS.
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT 10-14 JANUARY 1977



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PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. With reference to document CM/733 (XXVII) Ad.2 presented by the General Secretariat to the 27th Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Mauritius last year, and in accordance with resolution CM/Res.502(XXVII) adopted at the same Session, the General Secretariat of the OAU co-sponsored - with the ECA - the 2nd Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Association of Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA).
2. In compliance with the abovementioned resolution, the General Secretariat associated itself with the organisation of the conference from the beginning; it was represented and fully participated in the ECA/OAU/ASWEA ad hoc Working Committee which was entrusted with the responsibility of all Conference arrangements. The OAU also carried out a joint ECA/OAU mission to Egypt, in December 1976 in order to finalize the arrangements and organisation of the Conference with the Egyptian authorities.

Venue and date

3. The Conference took place at San Stefano Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt, from 10-14 January 1977.

Attendance

4. The Conference was attended by 38 delegations representing: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoro, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zaire and Zambia. There were observers from 26 International Organizations.

Pre-Conference meeting

5. To facilitate work, the Conference was preceded by an Expert Group meeting which took place in Alexandria from 7-10 January 1977. The Expert Group meeting discussed the different items of the Ministerial Conference from a technical point of view and submitted its report and recommendations to the Ministerial Conference.

Languages of the Conference

6. English, Arabic and French were the official working languages of the Conference.

Organization

7. The Conference was held at San Stefano Hotel Alexandria, Egypt. The Egyptian Government hosted two members of each country's delegation. The meetings took the form of a round table comprising all the attendants and no committees were established.

8. All delegates had the chance of visiting Mariut Centre, which Egypt has offered as the headquarters for the proposed African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development.

OAU Delegation to the Conference

9. (1) H.E. The Administrative Secretary-General
(2) Director, Economic and Social Affairs Department
(3) Social Affairs Officer

OPENING CEREMONY

10. The official opening ceremony took place at 10.30 Monday 10 January 1977. The inaugural address of H.E. President Anwar El Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, was delivered on his behalf by H.E. Mr. Mamdouh Salem, the Prime Minister. The Executive Secretary of the ECA, the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Executive Secretary of ECWA and the Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States addressed the Conference. A full text of the address of the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU is attached to this report as annex 1.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

11. The Conference elected the following office-bearers to constitute its bureau:

<u>Chairman</u>	:	Dr. Aisha Rateb, Minister of Social Affairs and Insurance, Egypt.
<u>First Vice-Chairman</u>	:	Dr. Matar N'Diaye, Ministre de la Santé publique et des Affaires sociales, Sénégal.
<u>Second Vice-Chairman</u>	:	Mr. Aden Mohamed Ali, Minister of Education, Somalia.
<u>Rapporteur</u>	:	Mr. Michel Meva'a M'Eboutou, Secrétaire général, Ministère des Affaires sociales, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. The following agenda was adopted by the Conference:

(1) Social Welfare within the context of national development

- (i) Framework of Social Welfare and its relatedness to other sectors;
- (ii) Planning for Social Welfare;
- (iii) Organization and administration of social welfare.

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(2) Priority/social welfare problems

 - (i) Family welfare and development;
 - (ii) Youth and national development;
 - (iii) Problems of urbanization and industrialization, migration and liberated countries;
 - (iv) The role of women in development;
 - (v) Welfare of the aged, handicapped and disabled.
- (3) Problems of rural transformation

 - (i) The need to develop the rural sector;
 - (ii) Obstacles to rural development;
 - (iii) Integrated approach to rural development;
 - (iv) Planning for rural areas;
 - (v) Strategies and objectives of rural development.
- (4) Training and Research in Social Development in Africa

 - (i) The scope of welfare and manpower consideration;
 - (ii) Welfare skills;
 - (iii) Social welfare training;
 - (iv) Social welfare training facilities in Africa;
 - (v) Regional co-operation in social welfare research and training;
 - (vi) Manpower policies;
 - (vii) The focus of research in Africa.
- (5) International co-operation in social development
- (6) Other business
- (7) Adoption of the final documents of the Conference

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE:

13. The Conference brought together Ministers of Social Welfare, Social Development, Rural Development, Youth and related fields of the region, UN and other specialized agencies inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations with interest in social welfare and development, to discuss current problems of concern in the field. The Conference also looked into the establishment and financing of a Regional Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development in Africa, United Nations and CM/Res. 502 (XVII) of the OAU, and approved its agreement.

PART IISUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS: STATEMENTS:

14. Ministers and Heads of delegation, as well as organization's representatives addressed the Conference. In addition to the country's statements on activities in the social field, heads of delegation touched on the different items of the agenda.

15. During the deliberations it was noted that the strength and power of Africa do not only rest in its natural resources but are inherent in the African man. Therefore Africa has to bestow great importance on social action with a view to community development and social welfare. It was recognized that the task of community development in Africa has to be carried out with full and free utilisation of its natural wealth and resources.

16. Speakers, unanimously emphasized the concept of social development which departed from traditional curative social welfare to a developmental one (participation of people in the development process).

17. The idea of institutionalizing the Conference was expressed by many delegation leaders. This lead to the adoption of resolution I (II)(See part III)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING

18. In order to facilitate the work of the Conference, specially the technical aspects, an Expert Group meeting preceded the Conference. The Expert Group meeting deeply discussed and reviewed all the agenda items particularly the establishment of an African Centre for applied research and training in social development and its draft agreement. The final report of the Expert Group Meeting was introduced to the Conference endorsed the Experts report.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

As Social development became an integral component of development in general, Africa must proceed from remedial social action to a more dynamic and preventive one, reflecting the African values history, culture, traditions and conditions.

19. Objectives of social development or social welfare

(a) in the socio-economic field:

- to induce individuals to become receptive to innovations, to seek progress and to become self-sufficient;
- elimination of hunger and raising nutrition levels;
- improvement of housing conditions and community services especially among low-income groups;
- extension of health services to reach the whole population;
- elimination of unemployment.

(b) in the cultural and political field:

- provision of cultural facilities to all sectors of population (eradication of illiteracy);
- to harmonize traditional social life and technological and modern life.

20. To attain these objectives, the services of social development must be re-oriented and the personnel well trained. Complying with the objectives and directives of national development plans, administrators and policy-makers have to promote and support these services.

21. It was outlined that social development;

- should ensure an improvement in the existing social situation as a whole, the growth of the social well-being of each individual and of his cultural and spiritual development;
- requires better utilization and mobilization of human resources and full participation of all peoples in a joint endeavour to strive for common goals;
- requires an integrated and balanced approach to all aspects of the well-being of members of society.

22. In formulating guidelines to social development planning, priority should be given to the following programmes:

- (i) programmes designed to reach the majority of people, particularly those in the rural areas;
- (ii) programmes to promote economic self-sufficiency;
- (iii) programmes which will stimulate social reform;
- (iv) programmes which are preventive and developmental;
- (v) programmes which are integrated and have multiplier effect;
- (vi) programmes designed to help children, women and youth;
- (vii) programmes which help to promote general health (provision of housing and raising levels of nutrition).

23. Training of national cadres for social development was strongly emphasized.

24. The major obstacles to the progress of social development were outlined as follows:

- (a) Racial discrimination
- (b) Sex discrimination
- (c) Illiteracy
- (d) Rapid population growth
- (e) Capital concentration in the hands of minority

SOCIAL WELFARE TRAINING AND RESEARCH

25. During the discussion the following points were outline:

Social welfare training has been slow in receiving recognition in African training institutions and universities. This is a sad reflection on the status accorded to social work as a field of study and to welfare as a profession by African Governments and universities. There are lingering doubts as to whether social welfare can be treated as an academic discipline because of its dependency on other social science disciplines.

26. African social welfare personnel have laid more emphasis on practice, skill and action rather than on research and academic work.

27. Social welfare workers in Africa should be particularly sensitive to the constantly changing needs of the African people.

28. Local leaders, including women, should be assisted through special training programmes so that they become more effective in their voluntary work.

29. Social welfare administrators should be trained in human relations and in administration.

30. Indigenous services should be carefully studied so that they can be taken into account in courses, field placements and teaching materials.

31. Social welfare training centres in Africa should take into consideration the production and use of locally developed teaching materials.
32. There should be emphasis on training of trainers and educators.
33. Continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of social welfare training is extremely important. The effectiveness of social welfare workers in the field should be measured periodically, not only during their training but also after their graduation.
34. Membership of African Social Welfare Training Institutions in international social welfare organisations such as the Association of Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) should be encouraged and promoted.
35. Research should compliment training programmes.
It should include:
 - (i) comparative studies of social problems in Africa
 - (ii) studies of techniques of and strategies for social development
 - (iii) studies to improve the quality and methods of training
 - (iv) Evaluative studies of welfare strategies, policies and programmes
 - (v) Techniques and strategies for disseminating research findings.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOCIAL WELFARE

36. A problem which inevitably arise when many organisations with specialized interests operate in the same field is that of the risk of conflict and general lack of cooperation leading sometimes to duplication or to waisted effort.

37. International co-operation in social welfare has much to gain in the following areas:

- (i) The development of social welfare policies and programmes in relation to the requirements of social development;
- (ii) The establishment of desirable integration between social welfare programmes and programmes in allied fields;
- (iii) The elaboration, testing and refinement of suitable methods and techniques of social welfare planning;
- (iv) Improving the administrative and delivery structures of social welfare programmes;
- (v) The training of social welfare personnel, specially at the administrative, policy planning and executive levels;
- (vi) The initiation of comparative research.

38. The importance of African co-operation was strongly stressed, specially in the area of training of leaders and trainers for social work, and technical assistance. It was stated that African experts have thorough understanding of African circumstances, history, resources, traditions and values.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR APPLIED RESEARCH
AND TRAINING IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

39. It was the consensus of the Conference that a regional Centre for applied research and training in social welfare and social development should be established in Africa. Reasons adduced for the establishment of such a Centre and consideration concerning its nature and objectives with a view to enabling it serve the needs of developmental social welfare in Africa are contained in the preceding two sections of this report. A resolution to that effect was adopted by the Conference (see Resolution 2(II) in Part Three).

40. Having resolved to establish the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, the Conference adopted an agreement on its establishment, which incorporates the Constitution of the Centre. (see Part IV annex I).

41. Concerning the sitting of the Centre, the Conference duly noted the formal detailed offer by the Egyptian Government to provide host facilities for the headquarters of the Centre as well as other offers made by the Governments of the Sudan, Morocco, Ghana, Libya, Senegal and Liberia.

42. A resolution was subsequently adopted requesting the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the OAU Administrative Secretary-General, to sound Governments of all ECA Member States on the provision of host facilities for the headquarters of the Centre, and to submit his findings, through the OAU General Secretariat, to the forthcoming session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU due to convene in Libreville, Gabon, in June, 1977, for a final decision. (see Resolution 3(II) in Part Three).

OTHER BUSINESS

43. The Conference considered a proposal put forward for the African countries to adopt a charter for social action which would set out the basic principles of social action at the national and regional levels, outline the strategies to be followed to promote sound social development and emphasize the need to enhance co-operation among African countries in the field of social welfare and development. A resolution was adopted entrusting a small committee with the preparatory work related to the drafting of the charter and other pertinent issues (see Resolution 4(II) in Part Three).

44. Some delegations drew the attention of the Conference to the decision reached in San-Juan, Puerto Rico, in July 1976, to convene the next session of the ICSW, IFSW, and IASSW biennial meetings in Israel in 1978. The Conference agreed that every possible effort should be made to change the venue and that if these efforts failed all African countries should boycott those meetings. The Libyan Arab Republic offered to host the ICSW Congress due to convene in 1978, and that offer was duly noted.

45. The Conference also noted a proposal by Sudan to convene a meeting of ministers responsible for women's affairs in African and Arab countries to consider the role of women in the economic and social development of their countries so as to ensure the effective participation of women in national development.

46. Informed of the earthquakes which had hit some parts of Zaire, resulting in the loss of human lives and severe material damage, the Conference requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to address, on its behalf, a cable of condolences to H.E. President Mobutu Sese Seko, President of the Republic of Zaire.

47. The Conference accepted with thanks the proposal made by the delegation of Togo on behalf of the Government and people of its country to host the third Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs and decided that its third Session would convene in Lome in 1979.

48. Finally, the Conference unanimously adopted a motion of thanks to the President, Government and People of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the host facilities provided for the Conference, and for the warm and brotherly hospitality extended to the participants. The text of this motion appears in part Three of this report as Resolution 5 (II).

PART III

RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND INSTRUMENTS ADOPTED BY THE
CONFERENCE

1 (II) Institutionalization of the Conference of African
Ministers of Social Affairs.

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs.

Convinced that social welfare policies and programmes play a primary dynamic role in national development and in economic and social development,

Emphasizing that the ultimate aims of development are social progress, higher levels of living and social justice,

Considering that the new orientation of social welfare in the African context toward preventive and developmental tasks call for concerted and continuous action on the action on the part of African Governments,

Aware that a standing Conference of Ministers of social affairs in the region would serve these purposes,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity in collaboration with the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system to convene every two years a Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to articulate policies for social development undertakings in the region, to promote the training of manpower development for social welfare in the region, and particularly to review the progress of and make proposals in respect of the activities of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to present to the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs periodic reports on the progress and activities of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development.

2 (II) Establishment of an African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development.

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Recognizing the desirability of promoting national aims and aspirations in the field of social development through the mobilization of social and other resources for the economic and social development of their respective countries

Bearing in mind the need for the joint formulation of principles and a common strategy for social development programmes at the national and regional levels for the promotion of training and manpower development for social welfare activities,

Aware of the necessity in Africa for advanced training, comparative studies and research, and assistance in the production of training materials,

Recalling the recommendations of the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare urging the establishment of regional social welfare centres for advanced training and research,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1406 (XLVI), in which the Council, invited the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to establish in the regions "regional social welfare research and training centres for advanced training (including training of teachers), comparative studies and assistance in the production of indigenous training materials",

In keeping with resolution CM/502 (XXVII) concerning the establishment of a regional research and training centre for social development adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-seventh Session and endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fourteenth Session,

Realizing that the establishment of an African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development would serve the above purposes,

1. Resolves that there be established in Africa a Centre to be known as the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development;

2. Urges Member Governments of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to take the necessary steps to accede as soon as possible to the agreement establishing the Centre;

3. Calls Upon African States, the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations bodies, donor countries and other organisations to give financial and other support for the establishment, organization and operations of the Centre and the achievement of its objectives;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to take all necessary steps to co-ordinate action leading to the establishment and functioning of the Centre, and to ensure that its activities are co-ordinated with those of existing training and research institutions in the African countries.

3 (II) Location of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development.

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Grateful to the Government of Egypt for its generous offer of extensive physical facilities for the headquarters of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, which physical facilities were inspected with satisfaction by the Conference,

Conscious of the fact that, in addition to the formal detailed offer of the Government of Egypt to provide host facilities for the headquarters of the Centre, the Governments of Ghana, Morocco, the Libyan Arab Republic and the Sudan have also offered to provide host facilities for the headquarters of the Centre, and that the details of the offers of the Governments of Ghana and the Libyan Arab Republic are yet to be set out,

Having reached the consensus that, without prejudice to the firm detailed offer to provide host facilities for the headquarters of the Centre made by the Government of Egypt, or to those made by the Governments of Ghana, the Libyan Arab Republic, Morocco and the Sudan, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa should obtain further information concerning the offers so as to make it possible for a decision to be taken,

Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in consultation with the Administrative Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, to sound out the governments of all Member States of the Economic Commission for Africa as soon as possible concerning the provision of host facilities for the headquarters of the Centre, so as to enable him to submit the results of his consultations through the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity to the fifteenth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which is to be held in July 1977 in Libreville, Gabon, for a decision to be taken at that session.

4 (II) African Charter for Social Action

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Recognizing the importance of social development within the framework of over-all national development,

Convinced of the necessity of working for the improvement of living and working conditions in all African countries,

1. Agrees to the principle that an African Charter for Social Action should be adopted which would lay down the general objectives of social development in Africa and outline the methods to be followed for the fulfilment of those objectives;

2. Entrusts an Ad-hoc Committee composed of six Member States of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity and of one representative each of the Secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, with the preparation of a draft of the Charter;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize a meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee and to circulate the draft prepared to all Member States of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity for study and comments;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit the comments received to the Ad-hoc Committee, and to have the final draft of the proposed charter submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, at its third session.

5. (II) Motion of thanks to H.E. Anwar El-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and to the Government and People of Egypt.

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation to H.E. Anwar El-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and to the Government and People of Egypt, for hosting the Conference,

Further expresses its appreciation for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Egypt, as well as for all the facilities extended by the Government to ensure the smooth functioning of the Conference and its success, in an atmosphere of co-operation and brotherly feelings;

Requests the Chairman of the Conference, H.E. Dr. Aisha Rateb, Minister of Social Affairs and Insurance, to convey the greetings and thanks of the participants to the President, the Government and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

OTHER DECISIONS

1. The 1978 Session of the ICSW, IFSW, and IASSW biennial meetings

Having considered a memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Libyan Arab Republic and a draft presented by the delegations of Egypt, the Libyan Arab Republic, Mauritania, Somalia, and the Sudan, related to the venue in Israel of the 1978 social welfare congresses, the Conference agreed:

- (a) That every possible effort should be made to have the venue changed;
- (b) That all African countries should boycott the meetings in Israel if the efforts to change the venue did not yield any result.

The Conference noted that the Libyan Arab Republic had offered to host the 1978 ICSW Congress.

2. Meeting of Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs.

The Conference took note of a proposal by the Sudan that a meeting of African and Arab Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs should be convened to consider the role of women in economic and social development with a view to ensuring their effective participation in national development.

3. Third Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

The Conference accepted with thanks the offer extended by the Togolese delegation, on behalf of the Government and people of Togo, to host the Third Session of the Conference. It decided that the third session would be held in Lome in 1979.

NOTE: Togo has recently withdrawn its invitation

PART IV

AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
AFRICAN CENTRE FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Contracting Governments to this Agreement

Recalling resolution 1406 (XLVI) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council inviting the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions to consult with governments on the establishment of regional social welfare research and training centres for advanced studies and assistance in the production of indigenous training materials;

Recalling further resolution 502 (XXVII) adopted by the Twenty-seventh Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the establishment of an African Centre for Research and Training in Social Development, and endorsed by the Fourteenth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

Recognizing the necessity for regular meetings of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to, inter alia, give policy guidelines and take other steps with respect to research and training in social development in the various countries of the African region;

Recognizing the desirability of promoting national aims and aspirations in the field of social development through mobilization of social and other resources for the economic and social development of their respective countries;

Convinced of the necessity to achieve the harmonization of principles and a strategy for social development programmes at the regional level, and to facilitate the training of required manpower for social development;

Further convinced of the necessity for the region of an institution for advanced training, comparative studies and research, and co-operation in the production of indigenous training materials;

Realizing that the establishment of an African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development would serve these purposes:

AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

PART ONE

THE CENTRE AND ITS OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE I

Establishment

There is hereby established by this Agreement a centre to be known as the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre"), which shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE II

Objectives of the Centre

It shall be the objective of the Centre to assist the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity as follows:

- (a) by providing training of high-level personnel required for research and training, and the promotion of social development programmes;
- (b) by the organization of seminars, the undertaking of applied research programmes and the development of indigenous teaching and research materials;

- (c) by undertaking or contributing towards, research aimed at the development of rural development programmes;
- (d) by contributing to the formulation of national strategies for social development programmes;
- (e) by providing assistance to national universities and social work institutions in the field of training;
- (f) by initiating and maintaining relations with other centres, institutions and organizations having objectives or engaged in activities similar to those of the Centre, within and outside the African region; and
- (g) by engaging in such other activities calculated to further the objectives of the Centre.

PART TWO

STATUS OF CENTRE AND STAFF

ARTICLE III

Status of the Centre

1. To enable it to fulfil its purposes and the functions with which it is entrusted, the Centre shall possess, in the territory of each member State of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, juridical personality independent of such States and shall not be considered as forming part of any Government. To these ends, the status, privileges, immunities and exemptions set forth in paragraphs 2 to 7 of this Article and in Article IV and V of this Agreement shall be accorded by such State.

2. The Centre shall have the capacity:

- (a) to enter into contracts;
- (b) to acquire and dispose of immovable or movable property; and
- (c) to sue and be sued.

3. The Centre, its property and assets shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process except insofar as in any particular case it has expressly waived its immunity;

provided however that no waiver of immunity shall extend to any measure of execution.

4. The premises of the Centre shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the Centre shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, administrative, judicial or legislative action.

5. The archives of the Centre, and in general all documents belonging to it or held it, shall be inviolable.

6. 1/ Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the Centre, its assets, income and other property shall be exempt from all forms of direct taxes:

Provided however that such tax exemption shall not extend to the owner or lessor of any property rented by the Centre.

2/ Articles imported by the Centre for official purposes shall be exempt from customs duties and restrictions on imports and exports, it being understood that customs duty may be payable at the appropriate rate on all or any of the articles imported in accordance with this sub-paragraph, if such articles are sold or disposed of locally, unless they are sold to persons or bodies entitled to purchase such goods without the payment of duty.

3/ The Centre shall in respect of any transaction to which it is a party, be exempt from taxes, recording fees and documentary taxes.

7. 1/ The members of the Conference and of the Governing Board of the Centre, who are not otherwise officials of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, or of the Organization of African Unity or its specialized agencies, attending meetings of, or convened by, the Centre, shall, while exercising their functions and during their journey to and from the territories of the members of the Centre, enjoy the following privileges and immunities:
- (a) immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal and official baggage;
 - (b) immunity from legal process of any kind and in respect of words spoken or written and of acts performed by them in their official capacity such immunity to continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned may have ceased to be representatives of the members of the Centre;
 - (c) inviolability of all papers and documents;
 - (d) the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags;
 - (e) exemption in respect of themselves and their spouses from immigration restrictions, alien registration or national service obligations;
 - (f) the same facilities in respect of currency or exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign Governments on temporary official missions; and
 - (g) the same immunities and facilities in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys.

- 2/ In this Article, the expression "member of the Conference of the Governing Board" shall be deemed to include all representatives, advisers, technical experts, and secretaries of delegations.

ARTICLE IV
Status of Staff

Staff members of the Centre, who are not otherwise officials of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies of the United Nations or the Organization of African Unity or its specialized agencies, shall:

- (a) be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
- (b) be exempt from taxation on salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Centre;
- (c) be immune from national service obligations;
- (d) be immune together with their spouses and dependent children from immigration and alien registration;
- (e) be accorded the same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to officials of comparable ranks forming part of diplomatic missions;
- (f) be given, together with their spouses and dependent children and relatives, the same repatriation facilities in time of international crisis as diplomatic envoys;
- (g) have the right to import for their personal use free of duty and other levies, prohibitions and restrictions on imports, within the first twelve months of arrival:
 - (i) their furniture, household and personal effects;
 - (ii) one motor vehicle purchased before customs clearance or from bonded warehouse.

ARTICLE VMiscellaneous

1. Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity undertake to accord to all members of the Conference and the Governing Board, all staff Members and experts providing advice or assistance to the Centre, such facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the exercise of their functions in connexion with the Centre.
2. The privileges and immunities set out in Articles III and IV of this Agreement are accorded not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves, but in order to safeguard the independent exercise of their functions in connexion with the Centre. Consequently, the Executive Director of the Centre shall have the right and duty to waive the immunity of any staff member of the Centre in cases where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Centre.
3. All trainees of the Centre who are not nationals of the country concerned, shall have the right of entry into, sojourn in, transit through and exit from the territory of each member of the Centre when such entry, sojourn, transit or exit is necessary for their training. These rights shall be granted promptly and free of charge.
4. The Centre shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connexion with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in Articles III and IV of this Agreement and in this Article.

5. The Centre shall as soon as practicable enter into an agreement with the government of the country where its headquarters is situated concerning the provision of premises, facilities, services, privileges and immunities for the purposes and efficient operation of the Centre.

6. Officials of the United Nations or specialized agencies of the United Nations or the Organization of African Unity or its specialized agencies performing functions in connexion with the Centre shall respectively enjoy appropriate privileges and immunities provided under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the specialized agencies, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Organization of African Unity, as the case may be.

PART THREE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRE

ARTICLE VI

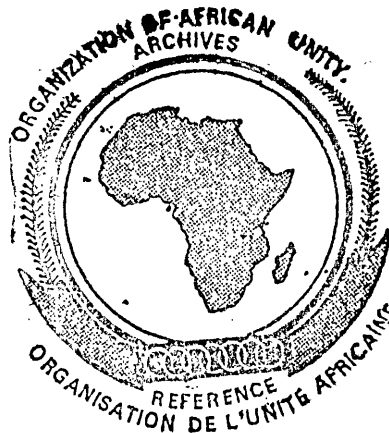
Organs of the Centre

The Centre shall have the following organs:

- (a) the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs;
- (b) the Governing Board;
- (c) the Technical Advisory Committee;
- (d) the General Secretariat; and
- (e) such other organs as may be established by the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs.

ARTICLE VIIConference of African Ministers of Social Affairs -
composition, functions and meetings

1. The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference"), shall be the supreme organ of the Centre.
2. The Conference shall consist of the Minister responsible for Social Affairs in each member State of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.
3. The Conference shall:
 - (a) determine the general principles and policies of the Centre;
 - (b) approve the programme of activities, budget and audited accounts of the Centre;
 - (c) appoint the Executive Director of the Centre;
 - (d) establish such other organs of the Centre as it may deem necessary for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Centre, and prescribe rules for such organs for the conduct of their business; and
 - (e) generally perform such other functions as may be necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Centre.
4. The Conference shall meet once every two years at the direction of its Chairman. The Chairman shall convene extraordinary meetings of the Conference at the request of two-thirds of its members.
5. The Conference shall adopt its own rules of procedure.



ARTICLE VIII

The Governing Board - composition, functions and meetings

1. The Governing Board shall consist of:
 - (a) the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, who shall be the ex-officio Chairman;
 - (b) a representative of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity;
 - (c) two representatives from each of the four sub-regions of Africa designated by the Conference for two years in conformity with the English alphabetical order;
2. The Executive Director of the Centre, who shall be the Secretary of the Governing Board, shall attend in a consultative capacity.
3. The Governing Board shall, subject to such directions as the Conference may give:
 - (a) submit for the approval of the Conference the programme of activities, budget and the audited accounts of the Centre;
 - (b) appoint the Auditor of the Centre;
 - (c) propose for the approval of the Conference the contributions to be paid by the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity;
 - (d) make regulations with respect to the activities of the Centre including staff, administrative and financial matters, and Co-operating States and Organizations;

- (e) designate the Co-operating States and Organizations which may serve on the Technical Advisory Committee;
 - (f) consult the Technical Advisory Committee on matters within its competence; and
 - (g) present annual reports to the Conference on the progress and activities of the Centre.
4. The Governing Board shall meet at least once a year at the direction of its Chairman.
5. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
6. At the end of each of its meetings, the Governing Board shall adopt a report which shall be circulated to all Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity and, as appropriate, to States and Organizations with which the Centre co-operates.

ARTICLE IX

Technical Advisory Committee - composition, functions and meetings

1. The Technical Advisory Committee shall consist of:
- (a) a representative of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
 - (b) a representative of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity;
 - (c) the Executive Director of the Centre, who shall be the Chairman;
 - (d) one senior staff member of the Secretariat of the Centre representing the professional staff of the Secretariat of the Centre;
 - (e) four African specialists designated by the Governing Board of the Centre;

- (f) the President of the Association for Social Work Education in Africa;
 - (g) the Director of CERDAS (Centre for Co-ordination of Research and Documentation in Social Science for Sub-Saharan Africa);
 - (h) such Co-operating States and Organizations as may be designated by the Governing Board;
 - (i) such specialists or representatives of institutions, the advice of which may be useful to the Centre, as the Governing Board may co-opt on any particular matter.
2. The Technical Advisory Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
3. The Technical Advisory Committee shall:
- (a) assist the Executive Director of the Centre in the preparation of the programme of activities and budget of the Centre;
 - (b) advise the Governing Board and the Executive Director of the Centre on specific technical matters brought to its attention;
 - (c) execute such tasks as may be entrusted to it by the Governing Board.
4. The Technical Advisory Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

ARTICLE X

The Executive Director and the Secretariat of the Centre

1. The Executive Director of the Centre shall be the head of the General Secretariat of the Centre. He shall, subject to the directions of the Governing Board:
- (a) control and co-ordinate all technical and administrative activities of the General Secretariat of the Centre;

- (b) recruit, control and promote staff of the Centre;
- (c) prepare and submit for the consideration of the Governing Board the programme of activities and budget of the Centre;
- (d) prepare and submit for the consideration of the Governing Board the annual contributions and other special fees to be paid by the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity;
- (e) collect and receive contributions, fees and debts due to the Centre as well as contributions from other sources;
- (f) administer the property and assets of the Centre;
- (g) cause proper accounts of the Centre to be kept and ensure their timely auditing and presentation to the Governing Board;
- (h) represent the Centre in its relations with States, individuals, corporations and other bodies or entities;
- (i) exercise such powers and discharge such duties as are conferred or imposed upon him elsewhere by this Agreement and perform such other functions as may be delegated to him by the Governing Board;
- (j) implement the decisions of the Conference and Governing Board and the programme of activities of the Centre;
- (k) keep abreast of developments in all matters relating to the objectives of the Centre; and
- (l) prepare for the approval of the Governing Board draft regulations governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Centre.

2. The Executive Director of the Centre or any person acting for the time being as such, shall after consultation with the Governing Board, as appropriate, act on behalf of the Centre for the purposes enumerated in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 2 of Article III and in Article V of this Agreement.

PART FOUR
FINANCIAL PROVISION

ARTICLE XI
Financial Resources

1. The annual contributions to be paid by the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity shall be determined on the basis of a scale of contributions proposed by the Governing Board which shall be adopted by the Conference, concurrently with the budget of the Centre. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the Conference shall be required for the adoption of the scale of contributions and of the budget.
2. Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity may be required to make special contributions in kind or cash, in respect of programmes or projects carried out in their territories. The nature and extent of such contributions shall be determined by the Conference and provided for in agreements entered into by the parties concerned.
3. The timing, mode of payment and currency of contributions in cash shall be determined by the Conference.
4. The Executive Director of the Centre shall submit to the Governing Board at each annual meeting a report on contributions due under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

5. The Executive Director of the Centre shall, after consultation with the Governing Board, have the power to accept gifts, legacies, grants, loans and other contributions in cash or in kind from governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental or national organizations or institutions, and from other sources, provided that such gifts, legacies, grants, loans or other contributions are intended for the furtherance of the objectives of the Centre.

ARTICLE XII

Expenses

1. The Executive Director of the Centre may incur expenses for its administrative and operational purposes in accordance with an approved programme of activities and within the limits of a budget of the Centre.

2. Expenses incurred by representatives of member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity or Co-operating States and Organizations and by their alternates and advisers, as well as expenses incurred by observers, for the purpose of attending meetings of the Conference, the Governing Board, the Technical Advisory Committee or other organs of the Centre, shall normally be borne by the respective governments or organisations.

PART FIVE

EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE CENTRE

ARTICLE XIII

Relationship with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity

1. The Centre shall maintain close working relationship with the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity which in turn, shall within the limits of their resources, assist the Centre in the achievement of its objectives.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Agreement, the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa or the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity shall, as appropriate, be entrusted by the Conference with the responsibility of seeking assistance from co-operating States and Organizations for the implementation of approved projects of the Centre and acting as the executing agency in respect of such projects in respect of which it has been able to obtain assistance.

ARTICLE XIV

Relationship with Co-operating States and Organizations

The Centre shall seek and maintain active co-operation with States not member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations or institutions (collectively referred to in this Agreement as "Co-operating States and Organisations"), which are desirous of assisting the Centre in achieving its objectives.

PART SIX

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XV

Amendment of the Agreement

1. This Agreement may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Conference.
2. No amendment to this Agreement shall be considered by the Conference unless it shall have been notified to all the members of the Conference three months prior to such consideration.

ARTICLE XVI

Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute that may arise concerning the interpretation or application of any of the provisions of this Agreement which cannot be settled by the parties to the dispute shall be submitted to the Conference.

2. If the Conference cannot reach a decision on the dispute, or if the decision of the Conference is not accepted by the parties to the dispute concerned, either party to the dispute may request that the matter be submitted to arbitration by an Arbitral Tribunal composed of three members who shall be nominated as follows:

(a) each party shall nominate one arbitrator;

(b) the third arbitrator, who shall be the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal, shall be chosen by agreement between the Arbitrators nominated by the parties.

3. If the Arbitral Tribunal is not constituted within a period of three months from the date of the request for arbitration, anyone of the parties to the dispute may request the Chairman of the Conference to make the necessary nominations, except that in cases where the Centre is a party to a dispute, the nominations shall be made by the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

4. The decision of the Arbitral Tribunal shall be binding on the parties of the dispute.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall be without prejudice to the choice of any other mode of settlement that the parties concerned may decide upon.

ARTICLE XVII

Dissolution

The Centre may be dissolved by agreement of two-thirds of the members of the Conference at a meeting of the Conference and upon such agreement, the Conference shall appoint a sub-committee for the liquidation of the Centre and prescribe for such sub-committee its terms of reference.

ARTICLE XVIII

Final and transitional provisions

1. This Agreement of which the English, French and Arabic texts are equally authentic shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
2. This Agreement shall remain open for signature at the office of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa from the First day of April 1977 to the Thirtieth day of September 1977.
3. This Agreement shall enter into force in respect of all the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity when ratified by half of these States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.
4. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Copies of these instruments shall be deposited with the Administrative Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity.

5. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa shall transmit certified copies of this Agreement and information concerning ratification of this Agreement to all Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.
6. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement and until the establishment of the General Secretariat of the Centre, the functions of the General Secretariat shall be performed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement on the dates appearing under their signatures.

Second Conference of African Ministers
of Social Affairs

Alexandria (Egypt)

10 - 14 January 1977

Address by

H.E. Mr. William Eteki Mboumoua
Administrative Secretary-General
Organization of African Unity

Mr. Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

That the Egyptian Government accepted with admirable perseverance to host and organize twice in ten years the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs is indeed an act of faith above and beyond gestures and tokens. An act of faith giving priority to the human element over economic factors, priority to social development, that is to seeking and establishing a harmonious relationship not only with material objects and assets but also with the human being within our orbit and with life itself. Let us pay a deserved tribute to the Egyptian Government, without forgetting to express our gratitude for its refined hospitality. To you, Mr. Prime Minister, we would like to address our respectful gratitude and commend your sustained interest in and concern for the activities of our continental organization.

Mr. Prime Minister,

It would be but fair to admit that very early the independent States of Africa had perceived the problems arising out of the social context and become aware of the need to put the social problem in its due place, namely at the top, when drawing up national development strategies, in action or study programmes of International Organizations and in the various approaches to scientific research.

Thus, at least at the level of declarations of intent, they confirmed the priority of the "social" over the economic as a prerequisite to development.

Indeed, no National Charter, Governmental Proclamation, preamble of a Constitution fail to refer to "social justice", to a well-balanced national development, to a social policy geared to improve the conditions of life of the masses and to favour sustained endeavours for cultural and social progress.

One even notes that, when attempting to implement this social policy, very often, alas, by an undiscerning imitation of approaches conceived by countries of the industrialized northern hemisphere and a pretentious pursuit of the same objectives of these countries, we only succeed in impeding the thrust of development, in its strict sense, and in perpetuating the imbalances of the international society which adversely affect us.

This observation is in no way intended to induce States not to meet the challenge issued by the social context. On the contrary, it is meant to urge our States to decolonize themselves also in that field or, in other terms, to choose their own criteria of social development, "a new strategy able to tackle directly the causes of poverty, rejecting the thesis of those who claim that it is possible to secure higher levels of well-being through the accumulation of wealth generated by the higher strata of society and affirm that such wealth could infiltrate downwards to reach the masses. This obviously implies the disappearance of privileged classes and vested interests and the taking of decision aimed at redistributing the economic power held by lagging groups who are opposed to change".

Indeed, it has been said that "the aspiration to a new international order is first and foremost the will to break definitely all links with a specific past. It goes even further; it is a revolution of hopes because what is at stake is the promotion of principles governing the organization of society and of the economy in which equal opportunities take over the place of privileges and dependence phases out in favour of dignity.

"The establishment of the new international economic order should be both prerequisite action and the material foundations of social development". Those are the words said recently by the Director of the International Institute of Social Studies.

"In order to ensure the transition towards that order, it should be necessary to guarantee the participation of the concerted approval of those mainly concerned".

Thus, at a time when the most alarming debate of our times is our normative and functional quest for a new international economic order calling for the joint administration of each community's development and sanctioning the principle of solidarity; at a time when African countries have been able, at first between themselves and later on in conjunction with other developing countries, to pave the way towards a common outlook and strategy designed to impose a new international economic order, it is only natural that those responsible for social problems should strive together to define their approach and strategies and to ensure as well that the social implications of a new world economic order are not neglected or at best under-estimated.

As we have stated previously, African countries have taken due account of problematic social factors. Indeed, since the Cairo meeting of 1967 and the International Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Welfare held in New York in 1968, efforts have been made in Africa, as elsewhere, in the fields of research, documentation and training where social welfare and development are concerned. Mention could be made in particular of the establishment in 1971 of an Association for social education in Africa, of the symposium held in 1972 on training and refresher courses for social workers, of the setting up in Zaire of a Coordinating Centre for Research and Documentation in the field of social science for sub-Saharan Africa.

Hence, the convening of this Second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs is timely and we are glad that OAU has been able, with the very active participation of ECA, to launch it.

The time has come indeed for those responsible for social development, just like those responsible for other sectors (such as Labour, Health, Education, Culture, Economy, Agriculture, Information and Industry), to institutionalize their programmes of mutual concertations with a view to widening their normative outlook and defining their operational strategy. The purpose of such an action would be to organize intra-African cooperation in the field that concerns us most also to serve as a dynamic element designed to protect our interests within the various international organizations dealing with social development problems.

This institutionalized Conference could play what appears to us as an indispensable part in the effort to shed some light on the concept itself of "social affairs". It is no secret to anyone that by diluting or scattering the "social" concept among the various forms of national endeavour, it would be impossible to keep it within the accepted bounds. Such actions would not favour global reflection or rigorous planning. Some department or other of Education, Health, Culture, Agriculture or Labour would of necessity jealously strive to promote its own "social" outlook; a fact that would paradoxically lead to social inequalities.

True, the planners are as a matter of principle, vested with the authority of duly taking into account all the factors. Nevertheless, the task of national planners would be made easier were they to enjoy some sort of global orientation, some orderly vision that has been projected by those, in fact, responsible for social development.

We are fully convinced that the OAU Economic and Social Commission which it has been decided to reactivate would be of considerable assistance in harmonizing, planning and rationalizing the social objectives disjointedly and independently pursued at present within the framework of sectorial ministerial meetings.

I have spoken earlier of the need for inter-African cooperation and I notice that this item has found its rightful place on the Agenda of the Conference. We are constantly seeking intra-African cooperation and African integration which are, in fact, the reason why the OAU has been set up in the first place.

As it happens, yours is a privileged part of this cooperation, indeed more than any other, since the causes we uphold are so much alike and common to us all.

I believe that the eventual setting up of the "African Regional Centre for Research and Training in Social Development" is a unique strategic step towards promoting as well as organizing this cooperation. However, it is to be hoped that this Centre will be complementary to the one that has been jointly set up with UNESCO in Zaire, instead of being a mere duplication of the latter.

Moreover, the proposed Centre should not be an administrative instrument of the ECA. It should have an African structure as regards its orientation, its programmes and functions and, finally, it should widen the scope of its activities through the development of its regional and sub-regional subsidiaries while remaining a higher body for intensive research and enlightened perspectives deeply rooted in African tradition.

Here as well as elsewhere, the clear and firm political will of the States is needed. Your task is to instigate this will together with setting up the Centre while contributing to its orientation, organization and development. Without this political will, the debate would be idle and the discussion on the technical means of implementation would be purely academic. It would lose its operational usefulness. The OAU on its part, is prepared to stir up and sustain that political will. Should you decide to set up this Centre, I would submit the project, as soon as possible, to our political bodies (Council of Ministers, Conference of Heads of State and Government) for its formal adoption and integration as a specialized operational organ within our structures.

I have also mentioned international cooperation. To be realistic and effective, it is a fact that this cooperation needs a number ^{of} successive approaches. It is often achieved within the framework of converging force of solidarity; consequently, it is clearly strategic.

Thus, do we conceive Afro-Arab Cooperation which will progressively organize itself and which, we hope, might find here, in Egypt, on this African soil, its irreversible institutional structure.

Why would the African Regional Centre for Research and Training in Social Development fail to become speedily one of the very first links of Afro-Arab solidarity and complementarity which we strive to establish? I believe that a meeting of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs is scheduled to be held within the coming few days. Should they endorse the idea, the African Centre could become an Afro-Arab Centre, and the two United Nations institutions, both at African and Middle East levels, would jointly cooperate for its establishment.

This seems to us to be a practical foundation for organizing a cooperation which is both delicate and uncertain and which raises understandable apprehensions here and there, but of which the whole world recognizes the need, indeed the pressing urgency as a highly important strategic means of achieving a new international economic order.

Mr. Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is indeed the new order. This new order requires an art and a will on the basis of which "the economic thought and economic techniques, having ignored the spurious dilemma of the choice between economic development and social development, shall accord public health, education, family welfare, rural development and workers' participation, their rightful place among the most productive investments, thus recognizing that man, in the final analysis, is both the means and ultimate end of this development".

We have reached a time of necessary and essential changes which must take into account the successes of our political liberation action. We stand ready to pursue with determination our action of self-focused development.

Within this context, as you are doubtlessly aware, your role and your responsibilities are more topical and greater. You, as well as the economists, and all vital forces of our emerging nations should ask yourselves those questions which Nietzsche so admirably worded.

Where do we wish to go? Where are we led by this pressing passion which supersedes all other passions? Why this desperate flight in this direction where, until now, all suns have waned and dimmed out? Shall it be said of us one day that we, also, sailing always towards the setting sun, hoped to reach an unknown India, but that we were doomed to fail before the infinite? Or else, my brothers, or else ...?

I wish you success in your work.



1977-06

Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the 2nd Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,.Alexandria, Egypt 10-14 January 1977

Organization of African Unity

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