



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
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مملكة الوحدة الأفريقية

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**ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICaine**

Secretariat

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



CM 0961

MICROFICHE

The Economic Charter adopted on the occasion of the celebration of the OAU Tenth Anniversary in 1973 affirmed, within the context of the establishment of a New International Economic Order, the sovereignty of African States regarding their own resources and recommended among other conditions, the definition of a system of Inter-African Technical Cooperation.

The idea itself was not new on several occasions, the Assemblies of Heads of State and Government, the Councils of Ministers and the meetings of African Ministers of Labour had seriously considered this subject. The twenty-third session of OAU Council of Ministers meeting in Mogadiscio in June, 1974 decided to go deeper into things and retain the item on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session. This was an opportunity to consider exhaustively the conditions of Inter-African Technical Cooperation. The document presented on that occasion by the General Secretariat stressed that we should go beyond a simple Inter-African Technical Cooperation and concern ourselves also with our cooperation with other institutions, especially, those of the UN system. In fact as a result of the different contacts with Mr. Doo Kingue, UNDP Regional Director for Africa, it appeared that Technical Cooperation could no longer be improvised, but re-conceived within a global dynamic policy.

The twenty-fourth session of the Council of Ministers, after considering this report, presented a Programme for Inter-African Technical Cooperation to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Without prejudice to other Technical Cooperation activities in Africa, this Programme aims essentially at:

- helping those of our states with sufficient qualified personnel to place them at the disposal of states which need them.
- facilitating comparison of Scientific and Technical knowledge and experiences in the field of development among African Countries.

With these aims clear in our minds, we had to find the necessary means:

- A) Legal framework. This is the Inter-African convention establishing the OAU Technical Cooperation Programme. Drawn up by a Committee of Experts and submitted to our states for comment, it was finally adopted in June 1975 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The convention defines the formalities for the recruitment of experts and utilization of the services while taking into consideration the Laws and Regulations of our states.

This convention had to be ratified by the 41 states which had adopted it so that it could come into force. Furthermore the 8 African States which have since become independent can also adhere to it. We have therefore invited each and every one to fulfil the necessary formalities. This is important.

- B) Bureau for Technical Cooperation and Assistance. This Bureau was established in accordance with article 23, operative part III of the convention establishing the programme.

The Bureau implements the Technical Cooperation Programme. In consultation with Member States, Organizations of the UN family and the different African Economic Communities. Its functions are therefore to:

- administer the Experts' Programme;
- collect, classify and disseminate information on experts available to the Programme;
- centralise applications for experts from Member States;
- help in the choice of candidates and communicate their Curriculum Vitae to Member States;
- facilitate all the negotiations between the country of origin of the expert and the host country.

C). Financial Element The 3rd operative part is the Technical Cooperation Fund. It finances the part of the programme dealing with the transportation of the experts and their families; it also balances the cost of the Programme, by financing the salary differentials existing between the OAU salary scales for consultants, Experts, Technicals and Workers of the Programme and local scales.

The Fund is administered according to OAU Financial Rules and Regulations and submitted for control by internal and external auditors of the OAU.

The structures have thus been provided. Our problems now are:

- 1) The slow implementation of the Programme
- 2) Unencouraging enthusiasm from both States and International Organizations.

We should however acknowledge that at the very early stage UNDP and ECA come to our assistance.

As the OAU Secretary-General had occasion to point out in various fora, besides the structures and the instruments, the real problem of cooperation finally lies in material means:

Indeed, the OAU Technical Cooperation Fund soon encountered its first difficulties. The twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers had decided that the Fund would not be financed by the OAU regular budget, but by voluntary contributions in cash and in kind (CM/Res./412(XXIV)). This measure having failed to produce the expected result, the Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, after considering a Report by the General Secretariat, decided to reconsider the mode of financing the fund: henceforth the Fund shall be fed by a regular allocation equivalent to 1/15 of the ordinary budget of the OAU and shall cover all the special funds with similar objectives existing within the OAU.

In the face of this uncertainty, the Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Libreville re-considered the issue. It therefore decided:

1. to reaffirm its resolutions CM/Res. 409 and 412 (XXIV), CM/Res. 479, 495 and 516 (XXVII) relating to OAU Inter-African Technical Co-operation Programme, as well as Resolution CM/Res. 572 (XXVIII) as requested by the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters;
2. to urge OAU Member States to ratify as early as possible the Inter-African convention establishing the OAU Technical Cooperation Programme;
3. to further urge Member States and Organizations of the UN family to lend their total support to this programmes by specially providing the OAU Secretariat with the necessary human, financial and material means;
4. to call on Arab Fund for Afro-Arab Cooperation to pay a sum of one million dollars to the OAU Technical Cooperation Fund, ... (CM/Res. 563 (XXIX)).

Encouraged by this decision, we forwarded anew the texts of the convention to Member States for ratification.

The letters the Secretariat received recently gave us the hope that progress is being made in several states with regard to fulfilling this formality.

OAU has also undertaken investigations in all Member States so as to take census of the available qualified personnel and man-power requirements. As work progresses we also hope to prepare an index-card on the consultations which we shall complete in relation with ECA which has an appreciable experience in this field. We have also increased and strengthened our actions with International and Inter-Governmental Organizations. Thus, we have established monthly

contacts with those in charge of cooperation at the UNDP and ECA. The UNDP has placed at our disposal up to 1981 an amount of US\$50,000 a year for the training of the OAU Staff.

D) Some Positive Response. In fact, UNDP has especially accepted to assist us in the launching of the Technical Cooperation Programme. A pilot programme has been drawn up for the 8 newly independent countries.

What do we think about this? Surely the response needs some reflexion. At a meeting held in February 1976 with the OAU Secretary-General, the UNDP Regional Director for Africa, Mr. M. Doo Kingue, after examining the areas of cooperation between the two Organizations, defined as this programme as a way of assisting the OAU.

It was a pilot project concerning 10 applications for experts and financed by the regional IPF. Such activities were based on the understanding that African Governments would be ever ready to contribute to the OAU Inter-African Technical Cooperation Programme.

UNDP would finance the trip and pay the per diem of the African expert and his family. The donor country and the recipient country would bear the other expenses including salary.

This year already, the Republic of Djibouti, Sao Tome e Principe and the Republic of Cape Verde have utilised our Programme for the recruitment of experts. The procedures contained in the convention were applied in their favour. But the donor states were slow in making offers. On the other hand the Government of Seychelles has contacted OAU for the training of Scenario-writers in the field of production and shooting of films. We have got in touch with the States most qualified in this area.

However, we should not conceal the difficulties we are facing. Technical Staff are difficult to come-by and the cost appears exorbitant for some countries.

E) Other activities In Africa itself; in September 1974 and in collaboration with the ECA, we convened the first meeting of African Inter-Governmental Organizations. Pursuant to the recommendations made by the participants, members of the Provisional Bureau which met in 1974 and 1975, recommended that the OAU should convene a Constituent Meeting of the Conference of African Inter-Governmental Organizations. The Twenty-Seventh Session of the Council of Ministers accepted this Recommendation. A draft constitution of this Conference has already been prepared.

Our participation in the meetings of Experts of Inter-Governmental Organizations of West Africa convened by ECOWAS offered us the opportunity to realise the urgent need to facilitate cooperation among Inter-Governmental Organizations and ensure the coordination of their activities.

Similarly our activities in Africa should also be coordinated in all fora where issues relating to the development of our States and the welfare of their peoples are being discussed. In this regard, the Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers requested that the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to be held in Argentina in 1978 should constitute a decisive stage in the establishment of a New International Economic Order. (CM/Res. 560(XXIX)). Having known the date and the agenda of this Conference, our next concern was to approach our States to ensure a concerted and dynamic action. A document on this matter was submitted to the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers which adopted Resolution CM/Res. 659(XXXI).

We cannot to-day talk of OAU Technical Cooperation without including with Afro-Arab Cooperation and its conditions. As the OAU Secretary-General told the First Ministerial Afro-Arab Conference in DAKAR (19-22 April 1976) we tend to forget that every cooperation can be likened to a plant. It can germinate and blossom only on a fertilized and manured ground. This reality is even truer with Afro-Arab Cooperation.

However, it was above all the First Afro-Arab Summit which, by adopting 4 main Documents, finally sealed the Afro-Arab Cooperation Charter.

These were:

1. POLITICAL DECLARATION which more especially emphasised the strengthening of the struggle against imperialism, racism, zionism and reaffirmes the belief of African and Arab States in the principle of non-alignment, peaceful co-existance and the establishment of a just international economic order;
2. DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION on Afro-Arab Cooperation which defined the principles and the framework of the collective and individual action of African and Arab countries for Afro-Arab Cooperation on the political diplomatic, economic and financial, as well as commercial, educational, cultural, scientific technical and information fields;
3. DECLARATION ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION emphasises the consolidation of resources and Arab and African Financial Institutions in the interest of African and Arab peoples. The Declaration outlines a global programme for Afro-Arab Cooperation in the economic technical and financial fields;

4. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE FOR THE REALIZATION OF AFRO-Arab COOPERATION. This document sets up the mechanisms and defines the instruments for the implementation of the declarations and basic options expressed by the African and Arab Heads of State and Government, enshrined in the Declaration and Programme of Action on Cooperation thus institutionalised.

In conclusion we would like to say that people are in the habit of saying that Technical Cooperation among developing countries and, especially, among Africans is an undertaking for mutual self-help in development. We would like to add that it is a duty of solidarity. And should I be asked solidarity with whom? My answer will be that of the Algerian JAZAIRY: "Solidarity among countries of the Third World, in arms", or that of the Beninese Albert TEVOEDJRE: only this solidarity helps to identify a concerted stand on specific objectives or on common and global objectives in line with the right of the peoples; solidarity which at the same time helps to set up complementary development mechanisms. To achieve these objectives:

- a) African countries should further harmonize their Economic and Social Policies so as to facilitate multinational cooperation in all possible fields among developing countries;
- b) Technical Cooperation among African countries should, when possible and necessary, be accompanied with economic cooperation among these countries;
- c) It would be desirable to define a number of objectives for Technical Cooperation among developing countries in general and among African Countries in particular; namely, promotion of

collective self-reliance in the field of economic development; promotion of integration at a sub-regional level, etc;

- d) The creation of sub-regional organizations should be encouraged if none exists already, so as to strengthen further bilateral and sub-regional cooperation and stimulate regional and inter-regional cooperation

REPORT ON THE OAU EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN GENEVA ON
MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KHARTOUM
RESOLUTION CM/Res.657(XXXI)

1. In order to implement the above-mentioned Resolution, discussions were held between the OAU and UNCTAD Secretariats. An agreement on principle was reached on the best method to adopt to achieve the objectives of this Resolution, and in particular paragraph 5 thereof, that is to hold a series of regional Conferences starting with the Africa and Latin America regions. Other Conferences could be held between Africa and Asia and Latin America and Asia, on the basis of the experience from the first Conferences.
2. It will be noticed that the Khartoum Resolution was a follow-up of resolutions of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (Manila, 26 January - 7 February, 1976) and Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (Mexico City, 13 - 21 September, 1976). These resolutions present a substantial number of demands to UNCTAD. The UNCTAD Council on Trade and Development has also set up an open Governmental Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) (See Resolution 142(XVI) of 23 October, 1976), which approved a Work Programme on ECDC by its Resolution 1(I), which stresses mainly support measures that developed Countries and Organizations of the United Nations system can take in favour of ECDC.

MEASURES TAKEN BY UNCTAD

3. In accordance with its terms of reference, the UNCTAD Secretariat undertook operational technical studies. UNCTAD has the means to finance, prepare a basic technical documentation and supplement support measures in favour of ECDC, as contained in the terms of reference of its Committee on ECDC, and in its Work Programme. But in order to ensure the success of its

enormous technical and operational assistance tasks envisaged in the mandates adopted in Manila and Mexico City on the promotion of ECDC, the UNCTAD Secretariat would need greater financial means than it presently have at its disposal.

4. With the help of UNDP, UNCTAD has been able to pursue successfully its mission to developing countries during the last ten years and, it should be well emphasized, that this co-operation has of later widened its scope.

5. UNCTAD is now of the stage of finalizing studies and vital pre-operational programmes on ECDC as requested by its Committee on ECDC, which should provide a technical basis for tackling the operational phase defined during the Group of 77 Conferences in Manila and Mexico City. To this end, it has made important provisions in its own regular budget and the budget for the consultants. Besides it was made to rely on the highly appreciable complementary assistance offered by UNDP. This phase should end in the course of the last quarter of 1978 and will coincide with a series of meetings of great interest to ECDC (Board of Trade and Development 30 August - 15 September 1978; Committee on ECDC, 2 to 13 October, 1978; Regional Meeting of the Group of 77 December, 1978, January 1979; Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77, Arusha, February 1979 and the Fifth UNCTAD Conference, Manila, May, 1979).

6. The accomplishment of the above studies phase which represents a significant part of UNCTAD responsibilities to ECDC will no doubt open the way to a number of Programmes of Action and the Developing Countries will be able during the meetings mentioned in the preceding paragraph, to assess progress made and agree on new and matured decisions for the future. If the present indications bear fruit (No matter the conclusions arrived at by the recent African Summit Conference and the Second UN Conference on Environment and Development),

in Khartoum or the results of the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade) we can foresee in all assuredness that the end of the current work phase will be the forerunner of a larger more complex and longer Programme of Action which should progressively lead to the creation of a collective self-reliance system among the developing countries; within which the ECDC strongly supported by the TCDC would be the key factor.

This work will be a major contribution to the realization of the New International Economic Order.

The role of UNDP

7. There exists an imbalance between the requests made by the Developing Countries to UNCTAD on this issue, and the resources at the latter's disposal. So far, it has been possible to meet these demands one way or the other; but the needs are going to increase very rapidly. In the light of these circumstances, a basic agreement between UNDP and UNCTAD to support ECDC with an important element of CTCD has become quite necessary. Such an arrangement would allow UNCTAD to assist the Group of 77 in respecting the mandates defined in Manila and Mexico City, and the Council of African Ministers in Khartoum, in the same way that it would allow for the respect of the resolutions which could be adopted by them on this issue in future (in particular at the Vrindavan Conference of February 1979). It should cover a minimum time period - not less than 3 years - and arrive at an indicative figure enough to allow the work to be planned efficiently.

8. Thanks to such an agreement, it would be possible to anticipate a period of intense and effective cooperation between UNDP and UNCTAD and the regional organizations, during which cooperation they would be in a position to contribute significantly to a task which is of vital interest to all and which would benefit all the developing countries as well as the International Community as a whole.

9. It should be understood that developing countries delegations are particularly interested in achieving their objectives relating to ECDC and that their preoccupation is centred to a large degree on UNCTAD which they have charged with a major responsibility in this regard. Moreover, the United Nations System has set up a unit within UNCTAD to be in charge of cooperation of all the activities of the United Nations Organizations on the issue of ECDC.

10. The various meetings in the following months, to discuss ECDC, call for a decision to be taken as soon as possible on the problem of acquiring the necessary funds for the realization of its assigned objectives. The earlier developing countries will be assured of a global solution to their problems, the sooner they will be in a position to embark on their common action towards achieving a system of "Collective Self-reliance".

The role of OAU Member States

11. An official and positive declaration on this issue by the OAU Member States in the course of their preparatory meeting (25 to 27 August), to the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in Buenos Aires, would be of the greatest importance. That would constitute a practical manifestation of positive support given by large group of countries to assist the Group of 77 achieve its objectives and thus contribute to taking a positive stand by the UNDP Administrator. Such a declaration of OAU Member States could include the following points:-

- i) to insist that United Nations Member States strengthen their support for the United Nations General Secretariat including UNCTAD, UNIDO, to ensure that Member States of the UN increase their support for the UN General Secretariat as well as UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, the Specialised Agencies and Regional Commissions;

- ii) to support the UNCTAD Secretariat both in its role as technical Secretariat of the Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Payments Agreements and Monetary Cooperation, set up in Bangkok in July, 1978 and as a supporting Secretariat for the Inter-Secretariat Advisory Group established by the Secretariats of the Organizations of the Groups for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries at the meeting of the Working Party on Trade Expansion and Regional Economic Integration among Developing Countries, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 August, 1978;
- iii) to lend technical and financial support to the UNCTAD Secretariat's programmes of research, promotion and operational activities for the support of the Programme on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries adopted in Mexico City in September 1973, and the decision of the Group of 77 on the implementation of this Programme;
- iv) to support the UNCTAD Secretariat and regional organizations responsible for both the preparation of regional meetings of the Groups of Developing Countries for Sub-regional economic co-operation and the preparation of bilateral meetings of Secretariats and Governments of the various developing regions;
- v) to support the Regional Conference of the African and Latin America Regions to be held in principle in 1979, as a starting point for the identification of problems of mutual co-operation.

The OAU and SELAY General Secretariats will decide on the date and venue of this Conference which is being sponsored by UNDP.

In the light of the above, Member States of the OAU are requesting the UNDP to regularly increase its assistance to the UNCTAD Secretariat.

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY

The Member States of the ONU met in Buenos Aires from 25 to 28 August to consider the various Documents submitted to the UN Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC). After examining their plan of action and identifying problems of particular interest, they decided inter alia to:

1. APPROVE the philosophy and principles enshrined in the Kuwait Declaration on 5 June 1977, affirming that the TCDC is a conscious, systematic and politically motivated process, designed to establish various links among developing countries and secure a historical imperative resulting from the need for a new international economic order;
2. CONSIDER TCDC within a wider context of the New International Economic Order with a view to promoting and attaining the following objectives:
 - a) promote the policy of self-reliance in developing countries by placing emphasis on their power of creativity in order to find solutions to their development problems;
 - b) promote and strengthen the policy of national and collective self-reliance in developing countries through the exchange of experiences, the distribution and collective use of their resources as well as through the development of their complementary capabilities;

c) strengthen the ability of developing countries to identify and analyse together their main development problems and formulate the necessary policies and strategies in the conduct of their international economic relations and the current negotiations within the Plenary Committee on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order;

d) increase and improve the quality of international co-operation and render more effective the use of resources for a global technical co-operation.

3. DRAW attention to the need to implement specific measures in favour of the following categories of countries with a view to mounting the necessary structures and strengthening their capacity in participating more effectively and comprehensively in all TDCD activities:

a) the thirty least developed countries, twenty-one of which are in Africa;

b) the twenty most seriously affected countries, eleven of which are in Africa;

c) the land-locked countries in Africa;

d) the Sahelian and other countries victims of natural disasters as well as other countries having economic and social problems, given the very high degree of impediment these disasters cause to development process;

e) the newly independent African countries.

4. PROPOSE that the Inter-Governmental Bureau for the Formulation of Policies, supervision and progress appraisal of the activities, be constituted by an open Ministerial Committee.

This will ensure an effective and comprehensive participation of all developing countries.

Thus as recommended in the Resolution of the OAU Summit, it would be most appropriate that the members of such a committee are Ministers of Planning (or Ministers so appointed).

The TCDC Ministerial Committee whose responsibilities will include the formulation of policies to promote TCDC activities and ensure their implementation will have to meet at least once every two years.

5. STRENGTHEN the implementation in collaboration with UNDP, the UN Specialised Agencies concerned, and the Technical Co-operation Department for the Development of the UN Secretariat, the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions etc. The important aspects and operations of the TCDC would conform with the activities of the UN Development System and ensure that TCDC targets are in line with overall technical co-operation objectives. The functions of this Executive Board would include among other things:

- a) the implementation of TCDC policy measures adopted by the TCDC Ministerial Committee;
- b) Co-ordination of the activities of the TCDC Secretariat within the framework of the UN System;
- c) proposal of new ideas and views for the promotion of TCDC.
- d) preparation of a yearly report for the Inter-Governmental Bureau (TCDC Ministerial Committee).

6. ESTABLISH a TCDC Unit within UNDP. The functions of this Unit should especially be to:

- a) act as a catalyst in order to promote TCDC activities within the UNDP Regional Offices;
- b) assist governments, if they so request, to develop specific TCDC projects;
- c) supervise the implementation of TCDC activities as approved by the Executive Board;
- d) preserve and up-date the INRES Register and the needs of individual developing countries;
- e) establish an information bureau for TCDC activities; and
- f) design systems, procedures and ways and means for the practical realization of TCDC.

7. FIX certain areas of priority for the TCDC, such as: transport and communications, economic co-ordination, labour, education, health and manpower.

contacts with those in charge of cooperation at the UNDP and ECA. The UNDP has placed at our disposal up to 1981 an amount of US\$50,000 a year for the training of the OAU Staff.

D) Some Positive Response. In fact, UNDP has especially accepted to assist us in the launching of the Technical Cooperation Programme. A pilot programme has been drawn up for the 8 newly independent countries.

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However, we should not conceal the difficulties we are facing: Technical Staff are difficult to come-by and the cost appears exorbitant for some countries.

DECLARATION

Measures to be taken to implement the
Khartoum Resolution CM/Res.657 (XXXI)

The Member States of the Organization of African Unity, holding their Preparatory Meeting in Buenos Aires from 25 to 27 August 1978, and having discussed the Document submitted by the General Secretariat, agreed:

- i) to ensure that Member States of the UN increase their support for the UN General Secretariat as well as UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, the Specialised Agencies and Regional Commissions;
- ii) to support the UNCTAD Secretariat both in its role as technical Secretariat of the Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Payments Agreements and Monetary Co-operation, set up in Bangkok in July 1978 and as a supporting Secretariat for the Inter-Secretariats Advisory Group established by the Secretariats of the Organizations of the Groups for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries at the meeting of the Working Party on Trade Expansion and Regional Economic Integration among Developing Countries, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 August 1978;
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- iv) to support the UNCTAD Secretariat and regional organizations responsible for both the preparation of regional meetings of the groups of developing countries for sub-regional economic co-operation and the preparation of bilateral meetings of Secretariats and Governments of the various developing regions;
- v) to support the Regional Conference of the African and Latin American Regions to be held in principle in 1979, as a starting point for the identification of problems of mutual co-operation. The OAU and SEL General Secretariats will decide on the date and venue of this conference which is being sponsored by UNDP.

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