



ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية

السكرتариات
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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINE

Secretariat
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Thirty-third Ordinary Session

Monrovia, Liberia, July 1979

AFFILIATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS BY
THE EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR ORAL
TRADITION AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGE



APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS BY THE
EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR ORAL TRADITION AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGES.

The above Centre, a new Inter-governmental Association has applied for Observer Status with CAU in January 1979. It is a Regional Organisation with its Headquarters in Zanzibar in Tanzania, and has its main objective as follows:

- (a) "To manage and co-ordinate priority research projects of a Regional Character in the Member States in the fields of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;
- (b) To ensure Liaison with other national and international organizations with similar objectives;
- (c) To take all necessary steps to facilitate and stimulate active participation of African population in Cultural and linguistic research in the above State areas;
- (d) To assist in the training of research personnel in these fields;
- (e) To develop means of collection, analysis, conservation and diffusion of Oral Traditions and African Languages;

(f) To compile research findings and disseminate them to Member States and to advise them on the best ways to use the research findings to develop cultural history and national languages."

In accordance with the Charter of the Centre annexed to this paper, five Member States - Madagascar, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania having signed it, the Centre came into force on 29th September 1977, the date the five Member States signed it. The Centre will be officially inaugurated in July 1979 and the activities of the skeleton staff of the Centre are geared towards paving the way for this.

The Centre has also applied for finance from the OAU, and in support of this, the Embassy of Tanzania in Addis Ababa in its note forwarding the application states:

"Bearing in mind the financial problems facing this newly established Centre, the Embassy on behalf of all concerned Member States wishes to request that the EACRDTANAL two applications for observer status and financial assistance be included in the Agenda of the OAU Council of Ministers scheduled to take place in Nairobi in March 1979 for its consideration and substantial decision."

It was not possible to place the application before the Council of Ministers because no relevant documents were received from the Centre at that time. In accordance with the criteria for granting Observer Status with the OAU, applicants are required to forward copies of their Charter, their Memorandum of activities and statement of their sources of finances including latest balance sheet in sufficient quantities in all three languages of the OAU to the General Secretariat to facilitate circulation to Member States of the OAU."

In April 1979, the Centre forwarded insufficient documents, and was informed to hasten the despatch of the rest of its documents so that they can be circulated to Member States. This has not been done and the processing of the application has thus held-up. In accordance with the criteria for granting Observer Status with the OAU, the Secretariat cannot submit the application for the consideration of the Council of Ministers, unless it has been completely processed.

The application is however being submitted at instance of Member States and the Secretariat puts forward available documents of the Centre for the consideration of the Council. No doubt the Centre fulfils the aims and purposes of the OAU, and merits its recognition and support. As a matter of fact the OAU has its own Center in Niamey (Niger). The Secretariat strongly recommends, notwithstanding that the processing of the application has not been completed, that the request of the Centre be granted.

Annexed are:

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| Annex I | - Note Verbale from Sudan and Tanzania |
| Annex II | - Application from the Centre |
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CM/966(XXXIII)Add.4
Annex I

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Thirty-third Ordinary Session
Monrovia, Liberia, July 1979

NOTE VERBALE FROM SUDAN AND TANZANIA

No. 1/5/3/G 4th June, 1979

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan presents its compliments to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and has the honour to forward to the latter copy of a telex received from the organization of EACROTANAE requesting the Embassy to ask the legal Advisor of the OAU to include its request for observer status in the Agenda of the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Monrovia 6 - 15 July 1979.

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity the assurances of its highest consideration.

General Secretariat
Organization of African Unity
Addis Ababa

EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

Tel: 448155/7

P.O.Box 1077

Ref No. TZAC/0.10/G/1

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and has the honour to draw the latter's attention to the Embassy's Note Verbale No. TZAC/0.10/G/1 of 26th April, 1979, which accompanied various documents requested by the OAU's Chief Legal Adviser in his letter Ref. No. CAB/LEG/117/83 of 2nd February, 1979, in connection to the application of Observer Status by the Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages (EACROTANAL).

In view of the importance of this application, the Embassy is once again enclosing herein two copies in both English and French of the EACROTANAL's Charter and the Historical Background for their urgent circulation to all OAU Member States by the competent Office of the OAU Secretariat.

Furthermore, the Embassy wishes to refer to the letter Ref. No. EAC/16.2 of 7th April, 1979, in which the Director of EACROTANAL was requesting for the inclusion of their application on the Agenda of Monrovia Council of Ministers Meeting in July 1979.

Bearing in mind that this application has been raised since January, 1979, the Embassy hopes that the OAU Secretary-General will see to it that the aforementioned documents are circulated to all Member States for consideration and that EACROTANAL's application is included for mentioning in the Agenda Item of Monrovia Meeting.

The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity the assurances of its highest consideration.

Addis Ababa, 6th June, 1979

The Secretary-General,
Organization of African Unity,
Addis Ababa.

6th January, 1979

The Secretary-General
Organization for African Unity
Addis Ababa,
ETHIOPIA.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE
CAU FOR "THE EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR
ORAL TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN NATIONAL
LANGUAGES" (EACRUTANAL).

Since 1975, earnest discussions have been going on among several CAU Member States of Eastern Africa to set up the above Centre.

2. The main objectives for the Centre are detailed in the document outlining the historical background of the Centre, which is attached with this letter. However, for the sake of clarity, these objectives are stated in outline below:-

- (a) To manage and coordinate priority research projects of a Regional character in the Member States in the fields of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;
- (b) To ensure liaison with other National and International Organizations with similar objectives;
- (c) To take all necessary steps to facilitate and stimulate active participation of African population in cultural and linguistic research in the above stated areas;

(d) To assist in the training of research personnel in these fields;

(e) To develop means of collection, analysis, conservation and diffusion of oral traditions and African languages;

(f) To compile research findings and disseminate them to Member States and to advise them on the best ways to use the research findings to develop cultural history and National Languages.

3. The basis of cooperation in the Centre for the participant Member States as well as the organizational set-up are contained in the Charter which was signed by five Member States in Zanzibar on 29th September, 1977; namely Madagascar, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania. The Charter is attached with this letter. However a substantial number of states in Eastern Africa had shown keen interest and actively participated in the deliberations which culminated in the signing of the Charter. It is greatly hoped that many if not all will seriously come forward to sign the Charter and join the Centre once its benefits become more visible as the Centre becomes fully operational.

4. SACROTANAL has full support of UNESCO.

5. As an instrument meant to promote the development and preservation of Culture as well as the promotion of African National Languages for the African Member States within OAU would give the Centre an advantage of being able to associate itself with the relevant deliberations of the Organization and to be in a better position to carry out its functions more in line and according to the aims and objectives of the OAU in this regard.

6. It may perhaps not be relevant just to mention here that a similar Centre with same objectives is centred in Niamey (Niger) and it is our understanding that this enjoys already the observer status in the OAU.

7. The purpose of this letter is two fold:

- (a) To bring to the attention of the OAU the existence of this Centre, and
- (b) To formally apply for the Observer Status in that Organization.

Yours respectfully,

(G. Tioakweitira)

Chairman of Administrative Committee
Of SACROTANAL

cc: 1. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of
SACROTANAL,

P.O. Box 456,
ZANZIBAR.

" 2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Dar es Salaam.

" 3. Tanzania Embassy,
Addis Ababa,
ETHIOPIA.

Enclosures:-

1. Charter of SACROTANAL
2. Historical Background of SACROTANAL

CHARTER OF THE EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH ON ORAL TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN
NATIONAL LANGUAGES

DAR es SALAAM (ZANZIBAR) SEPTEMBER 29, 1977

PROLOGUE

The Governments of the following States: The Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Comorô, the Provisional Military Government of socialist Ethiopia, the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Mauritius, the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Seychelles, the Somali Democratic Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the National Executive Council of the Republic of Zaïre.

Being conscious of their responsibilities to revive, promote, evaluate and diffuse African Culture;

Recalling Resolution 3.313 of the 17th Session and paragraph 3149 of the Approved Programme and Budget 18C/5 for 1975/76 approved by the UNESCO General Conference of 1972 and 1974 respectively which invite the Director General to help to establish centre for the study of Oral Traditions and the promotion of African National languages;

Recalling Recommendations 3 and 36 of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa held at Accra, Ghana, from 27th October, 1975 to 6th November, 1975 which request the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the member states to give top priority to the aforesaid resolutions;

Recalling Articles 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, of the Cultural Charter for Africa adopted by the Heads of African states at their summit meeting in Port Louis, Mauritius, July 2-6th, 1976 which calls for the African states to recognize the imperative need to develop African Languages so as to ensure their cultural advancement and promote the economic and social advancement, to implement reforms necessary for the introduction of African Languages into Education at all levels, the establishment of inter-African Cultural co-operation as a contribution to mutual understanding of, and enrichment of national and African cultures; to establish and develop institutions for exchanging information, documentation and research at regional, sub-regional and pan-African levels;

Convinced of the immediate need for the implementation of the aforesaid recommendations and resolutions;

Agree to establish the EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ORAL TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGES (BACROTANAL) which shall be governed by the following dispositions;

PART I: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 1

The Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages, hereinafter referred to as BACROTANAL, is a regional institution established by common accord of the States which are signatory to this Charter.

ARTICLE 2

The Headquarters of BACROTANAL shall be established at Zanzibar in the United Republic of Tanzania.

ARTICLE 3

SACRATANAL is endowed with a legal personality.

ARTICLE 4

SACRATANAL shall have the following objectives:

1. To co-ordinate and manage priority research projects of a regional character by overseeing the planning and funding for such projects through funds obtained from Governments of Member States, UNESCO, OAU, other International Organizations and individuals;
2. To assure liaison with other National and International Organizations with similar objectives in the field of culture and to develop co-operation between national and International Research Institutions in the implementation of this charter;
3. To take necessary steps in order to:
 - facilitate scientific research in the domain of African Languages and Oral Traditions;
 - stimulate the active participation of African population in cultural research and development;
 - assist in the training of appropriate personnel and help to equip national centres with adequate technical means in their work;

4. To strengthen and activate projects of sub-regional and or national centres of academic or cultural association, and of other organizations devoted to promoting research and development of history, languages and culture;
5. To develop means of collection, analysis, conservation, and diffusion of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;
6. To encourage research on Oral Traditions and African Languages by the organization of seminars, and international conferences as well as local competitions and the attribution of prizes and awards in order to encourage healthy exchange between researchers and those interested in promoting cultural development;
7. To edit, publish and disseminate cultural documents (which are relevant by their character to cultural development) related to Languages and Traditions of Eastern Africa;
8. To mobilize Eastern African linguistic resources with a view to enhancing the contribution of culture to the economic and social development of regional and African continental communities.

PART II - ORGANIZATION STRUCTURES

A. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ARTICLE 5

- a) The supreme organ of EACROTAAL shall be a council of

Ministers responsible for Culture of the Member States (hereinafter called the Council of Ministers);

- b) The Council of Ministers shall elect its Chairman from its members for a period of two years rotating among the Member States.

ARTICLE 6

The Council of Ministers shall meet once every two years to receive and review progress report and other necessary information on the activities of BACRCHAN from the Administrative Committee.

ARTICLE 7

The Council of Ministers may hold an extraordinary session if more than one third (1/3) of the Member States so requests. Such extra-ordinary session shall be convened by the Secretariat in consultation with the Current Chairman.

ARTICLE 8

The Council of Ministers shall confirm the appointment of the Executive Director upon recommendation and advise of the Administrative Committee.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 9

The Council of Ministers shall establish the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee shall comprise of the following members:

Two Representatives from each State:

- (i) One representative from National Institutions concerned with research on and promotion of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;
- (ii) A second representative nominated by the Ministry of Culture of the Member States.

ARTICLE 10

The Members of the Administrative Committee shall remain in office for a period of two (2) years, and may be re-nominated for another term.

ARTICLE 11

The Administrative Committee shall:

1. Meet in one Ordinary Session every year;
2. Meet in an extra-ordinary Session convened at the request of at least one third of the Member States;
3. Elect its Chairman, from among its members whose term of office expires at the beginning of the next session of the Committee: he may be re-elected, but wherever possible, the office of the Chairman shall rotate amongst the representatives of the Member States.

4. Nominate the Executive Director by a two third majority of its Member States present and voting for a period of 4 years and may be renominated for another term;
5. Determine the annual programmes of scientific research activities;
6. Set the budget and the financial contribution for each Member State.

C. THE SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 12

The Secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director; Under the direction of the Executive Director, there shall be:

- The Director of Administration and Finance;
- The Director of Research and Publications;
- The Director of Technical Services;

ARTICLE 13

The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Council of Ministers through the Administrative Committee for the administration of the SECRETARIAT.

The responsibilities of the Executive Director shall include:

- the execution of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers and the Administrative Committee;

- liaison with the Governments of the Member States and International Organizations;
- the organization of training, seminars, symposia, and other meetings;
- supervision of research projects as decided by the Administrative Committee;
- being Secretary to the Council of Ministers and the Administrative Committee;
- soliciting and accepting on behalf of the SACROTANAL gifts, bequests, and other donations made to SACROTANAL, provided that this is approved by the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 14

- (a) The Director of Administration and Finance shall be responsible for:
 - administrative matters pertaining to personnel and finance;
 - office services;
 - up-keep of office equipment, buildings and other properties.
- (b) The Director of Research and Publications shall be responsible for co-ordination of research activities, documentation and publications.

(c) The Director of Technical services shall be responsible for all technical services including filming, photography, recording and reproduction.

ARTICLE 15

The Director of Administration and Finance, the Director of Research and Publications, the Director of Technical Services and all technical personnel shall be recruited by Advertisement of Vacant Posts in Newspapers and other Mass Media of the member states. Applications will be received, reviewed and evaluated by the Appointments Committee and names of successful candidates will be submitted to the Administrative Committee for approval of appointments. Whenever possible, selection and appointment should be based on Membership distribution.

PART III - BUDGET

ARTICLE 16

SACROTANAL SHALL HAVE AUTONOMOUS BUDGET constituted by financial contributions and donations by Member States, UNESCO, OAU and other International Organizations and by monies resulting from the sale of materials it produces (publications, films, tapes, records, etc.).

ARTICLE 17

The financial contributions of Member States shall be calculated either on the basis of the OAU formula or as may otherwise be determined by the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 18

BACROTANAL shall take all the necessary steps in order to obtain financial aid from various other sources, be they Governments, International Organizations, Foundations, individual donors, etc.

Nevertheless, none of these financial sources either should or will bring into question the objectives defined in Article 4 of this Charter.

PART IV - ACTIVITIESARTICLE 19

The activities of BACROTANAL shall consist of:

- the execution of the programme laid down by the Administrative Committee;
- the co-ordination of regional programmes;
- the maintenance and renewal of the documentary and technical apparatus, and materials;
- the training and up-grading of technical personnel;
- the reproduction, conservation, and diffusion of documentation concerning African Traditions and Languages of the region concerned;
- the provision of regular information to national institutions concerned with research so that they are kept up to date on the activities of BACROTANAL.

PART V - AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTERARTICLE 20

This Charter can be amended, at the request of one or several Member States. Amendments to the Charter shall come into force for all members of EACRDTANAL when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds majority of the Member States, and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures by two thirds of the Member States of the EACRDTANAL.

PART VI - PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIESARTICLE 21

The EACRDTANAL, its Staff members and its property shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are provided for mutatis mutandis by the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

PART VII - FINAL PROVISIONSSIGNATURE AND ENTRY INTO FORCE:ARTICLE 22

1. This Charter shall be open for signature in the United Republic of Tanzania to all States enumerated in the Preamble until December 31, 1977. It shall enter into force after it has been signed by or, on behalf of at least three of the States referred to in the Preamble.

2. The United Republic of Tanzania shall notify all States mentioned in the Preamble each such signature as provided in paragraph I of this Article.

3. The original instrument, done if possible in African Languages and in English and French, all texts being equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania which shall transmit certified copies thereof to all States referred to in the Preamble.

ADHESION AND ACCESSION

ARTICLE 33

(a) The States enumerated in the preamble and not having signed the agreement by December 31, 1977 may eventually adhere or accede to it;

(b) Their instruments of adhesion or accession shall be deposited with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania which shall inform all Member States as well as those States which might have declined the membership.

(c) Any Independent Sovereign African State within the prescribed Eastern African Zone not included in the preamble may at any time notify the Executive Director (through the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania) of its intention to adhere or accede to this Charter;

(d) The Executive Director shall on receipt of such notification as in paragraph (c) of this article, communicate a copy of it to all Member States. The decision of each Member State shall be transmitted to the Executive Director, who shall,

upon receipt of the required number of votes, communicate the decision to the State concerned;

(e) The admitted State shall then deposit its instrument of adhesion or accession in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this article.

REGISTRATION OF THE CHARTER

ARTICLE 24

This Charter shall, after coming into force, be registered with the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations through the Organization of African Unity Secretariat in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARTER

ARTICLE 25

Any question which may arise concerning the interpretation of the Charter shall be resolved by decision of the Council of Ministers whose decision on the matter shall be final and binding on all Member States of SACRUMAL.

WORKING LANGUAGES

ARTICLE 26

The working languages of the SACRUMAL shall be English and French provisionally, and as soon as possible African Languages.

ARTICLE 37 WITHDRAWAL OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

of the United Republic of Tanzania.

ARTICLE 37

1. Any Member State may withdraw from SACROTAANAL at any time after the expiration of one year from the date on which it became a member by giving written notice of its withdrawal to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania which shall forthwith notify all other Member States of SACROTAANAL of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal.

2. Withdrawal shall become effective at the date of receipt of such notice of withdrawal by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Provided that any member state withdrawing from the SACROTAANAL shall, nevertheless remain liable for the fulfilment of its obligations to the SACROTAANAL including the payment of contributions in respect of the current financial year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments signed this Charter on the date appearing under their signature.

His Excellency Mr. Mengiste Desta,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

For the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable Ramiliarison Henri,
Vice Minister of the Ministry of
Revolutionary Culture and Art,
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable RAKOTO Ignace,
Minister of University and Scientific Research,
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

September 29th, 1977.

Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Hai,
Director General Department of Culture,
Ministry of Culture and Information,
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable Isaac A. Sepetu,
Minister for Information and Broadcasting,
For the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable Smile Mworoza,
Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture,
For the Government of the Republic of Burundi.

September 29th, 1977.

EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ORALTRADITIONS AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGES

(EACROTANAL)

P.O. Box 600

ZANZIBAR

16th January, 1979

The Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages (EACROTANAL) has opened its doors and started functioning with the beginning of this year. The skeleton staff of the Centre which consist of the Executive Director, the Director of Finance and Administration, the Director of Technical Service, the Director of Research and Publications, the Administrative Officer and his assistant have all been appointed. They started paving the way for the official inauguration of the Centre in July 1979.

Background

The Centre falls within UNESCO's Ten year-Plan for the study of Oral Traditions and Development of African National Languages. This plan evolves out of UNESCO's belief that culture is the essence of a nation's destiny and identity, and that African Culture is embedded in African Languages and Oral Traditions.

The Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural policies in Africa which was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the OAU in Accra in October/November 1975 also reiterated this need and called for the establishment of national and regional Centres. Resolutions concerning this issue are articulated in Recommendations number 3 and 4 of the above-mentioned conference.

By their approval of the African Cultural Charter, in their Summit Conference held in Mauritius in July 1976 the African Heads of State endorsed the plans aiming at the promotion of African Culture and study of African Languages and Oral Traditions.

Initially the SACOTANAL was supposed to serve fourteen States from Eastern Africa, namely the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Comoro, Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Mauritius, the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Seychelles, the Somali Democratic Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zaire. The following five countries have signed the agreement which brought the Centre into existence: The Government of the Republic of Burundi; the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. It is anticipated that some of the states mentioned above will join the Centre.

Organizational Structure

The governing organs of the Centre include:-

- (a) The Council of Ministers consists of the Ministers of Culture in the Member States. The Chairman for the present session is Mr. E. Kissassi, Honourable Minister of Culture and Sports, Government of Tanzania (Zanzibar).



- (b) The Administrative Committee which includes two members from each Member State; one representing national institutions working on the promotion of oral traditions and African national languages, and the second representing the Ministry of Culture. The present Chairman of the Administrative Committee is Mr. G. Tibakwitiira, Principal Secretary, Ministry of National Culture and Youth, United Republic of Tanzania.
- (c) The Secretariat, which is headed by the Executive Director consists of: The Executive Director, the Director of Administration and Finance, the Director of Research and Publications and the Director of Technical Services.

Objectives of the Centre

The following are among the major objectives of the Centre:

- (a) To initiate, promote and co-ordinate research of a regional nature pertaining to oral traditions and African National Languages;
- (b) To develop means of collection, analysis, conservation and diffusion of Oral traditions and African National Languages;
- (c) To edit, publish and disseminate cultural documents related to languages and traditions of Eastern Africa;

- (d) To assist in the training of the proper personnel;
- (e) To assure liaison with other national and international organizations with similar objectives.

Buildings:

The Government of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania has kindly provided a suitable building for housing the Centre. UNESCO has already sent some essential equipment for the Centre.

Budget:

The Centre is financed by contributions of Member States, assistance from UNESCO and OAU as well as by contributions from international organizations and foundations whose objectives concur with those of BACRDTANAL.

.....
SAYYID H. HURREIZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

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TION AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGES.

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In April 1979, the Centre forwarded insufficient documents, and was informed to hasten the despatch of the rest of its documents so that they can be circulated to Member States. This has not been done and the processing of the application has thus held-up. In accordance with the criteria for granting Observer Status with the OAU, the Secretariat cannot submit the application for the consideration of the Council of Ministers, unless it has been completely processed.

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The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity the assurances of its highest consideration.

General Secretariat
Organization of African Unity
Addis Ababa

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EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

Tel: 448155/7

P.O.Box 1077

Ref No. TZAC/0.10/G/1

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and has the honour to draw the latter's attention to the Embassy's Note Verbale No. TZAC/0.10/G/1 of 26th April, 1979, which accompanied various documents requested by the OAU's Chief Legal Adviser in his letter Ref. No. CAB/LEG/117/83 of 2nd February, 1979, in connection to the application of Observer Status by the Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages (EACROTANAL).

In view of the importance of this application, the Embassy is once again enclosing herein two copies in both English and French of the EACROTANAL's Charter and the Historical Background for their urgent circulation to all OAU Member States by the competent Office of the OAU Secretariat.

Furthermore, the Embassy wishes to refer to the letter Ref. No. EAC/16.2 of 7th April, 1979, in which the Director of EACROTANAL was requesting for the inclusion of their application on the Agenda of Monrovia Council of Ministers Meeting in July 1979.

Bearing in mind that this application has been raised since January, 1979, the Embassy hopes that the OAU Secretary-General will see to it that the aforementioned documents are circulated to all Member States for consideration and that EACROTANAL's application is included for mentioning in the Agenda Item of Monrovia Meeting.

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The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity the assurances of its highest consideration.

Addis Ababa, 6th June, 1979

The Secretary-General,
Organization of African Unity,
Addis Ababa.

6th January, 1979

The Secretary-General
Organization for African Unity
Addis Ababa,
ETHIOPIA.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Reference is

APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE
CAU FOR "THE EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR
ORAL TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN NATIONAL
LANGUAGES" (EACRCTANAL).

Since 1975, earnest discussions have been going on among several CAU Member States of Eastern Africa to set up the above Centre.

2. The main objectives for the Centre are detailed in the document outlining the historical background of the Centre, which is attached with this letter. However, for the sake of clarity, these objectives are stated in outline below:-

- (a) To manage and coordinate priority research projects of a Regional character in the Member States in the fields of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;
- (b) To ensure liaison with other National and International Organizations with similar objectives;
- (c) To take all necessary steps to facilitate and stimulate active participation of African population in cultural and linguistic research in the above stated areas;

(d) To assist in the training of research personnel in
and other fields;

(e) To develop means of collection, analysis, conserva-
tion and diffusion of oral traditions and African
languages;

(f) To compile research findings and disseminate them to
Member states and to advise them on the best ways to
use the research findings to develop cultural history
and National languages.

3. The basis of cooperation in the Centre for the participant Member States as well as the Organizational set-up are contained in the Charter which was signed by five Member States in Zanzibar on 29th September, 1977; namely Madagascar, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania. The Charter is attached with this letter. However a substantial number of states in Eastern Africa had shown keen interest and actively participated in the deliberations which culminated in the signing of the Charter. It is greatly hoped that many if not all will seriously come forward to sign the Charter and join the Centre once its benefits become more visible as the Centre becomes fully operational.

4. BACROTANAL has full support of UNESCO.

5. As an instrument meant to promote the development and preservation of Culture as well as the promotion of African National languages for the African Member States within OAU would give the Centre an advantage of being able to associate itself with the relevant deliberations of the Organization and to be in a better position to carry out its functions more in line and according to the aims and objectives of the OAU in this regard.

6. It may perhaps not be relevant just to mention here that a similar Centre with same objectives is centred in Niamey (Niger) and it is our understanding that this enjoys already the observer status in the OAU.

7. The purpose of this letter is two fold:

- (a) To bring to the attention of the OAU the existence of this Centre, and
- (b) To formally apply for the Observer Status in that Organization.

Yours respectfully,

(G. Tibakweitira)

Chairman of Administrative Committee
Of SACROTANAL

cc: 1. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of

SACROTANAL,

P.O. Box 456,

ZANZIBAR.

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Dar es Salaam.

3. Tanzania Embassy,

Addis Ababa,

ETHIOPIA.

Enclosures:-

1. Charter of SACROTANAL

2. Historical Background of SACROTANAL

CHARTER OF THE EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH ON ORAL TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN
NATIONAL LANGUAGES

(ZANZIBAR, SEPTEMBER 29, 1977)

PROLOGUE

The Governments of the following States: The Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Comoro, the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia, the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Mauritius, the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Seychelles, the Somali Democratic Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the National Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire.

Being conscious of their responsibilities to revive, promote, evaluate and diffuse African Culture;

Recalling Resolution 3.313 of the 17th Session and paragraph 3149 of the Approved Programme and Budget 18C/5 for 1975/76 approved by the UNESCO General Conference of 1972 and 1974 respectively which invite the Director General to help to establish centre for the study of Oral Traditions and the promotion of African National Languages;

Recalling Recommendations 3 and 36 of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa held at Accra, Ghana, from 27th October, 1975 to 6th November, 1975 which request the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Member States to give top priority to the aforesaid resolutions;

Recalling articles 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, of the Cultural Charter for Africa adopted by the Heads of African states at their summit meeting in Port Louis, Mauritius, July 2-6th, 1976 which calls for the African States to recognize the imperative need to develop African Languages so as to ensure their cultural advancement and promote the economic and social advancement, to implement reforms necessary for the introduction of African Languages into Education at all levels, the establishment of inter-African Cultural co-operation as a contribution to mutual understanding of, and enrichment of national and African cultures; to establish and develop institutions for exchanging information, documentation and research at regional, sub-regional and pan-African levels;

Convinced of the immediate need for the implementation of the aforesaid recommendations and resolutions;

Agree to establish the EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ORAL TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGES (BACROTANAL) which shall be governed by the following dispositions;

PART I: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 1

The Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages, hereinafter referred to as BACROTANAL, is a regional institution established by common accord of the States which are signatory to this Charter.

ARTICLE 2

The Headquarters of BACROTANAL shall be established at Zanzibar in the United Republic of Tanzania.

ARTICLE 3

SACROTAHLA is endowed with a legal personality.

ARTICLE 4

SACROTAHLA shall have the following objectives:

1. To co-ordinate and manage priority research projects of a regional character by overseeing the planning and funding for such projects through funds obtained from Governments of Member States, UNESCO, OAU, other International Organizations and individuals;
2. To assure liaison with other National and International Organizations with similar objectives in the field of culture and to develop co-operation between national and International Research Institutions in the implementation of this charter;
3. To take necessary steps in order to:
 - facilitate scientific research in the domain of African Languages and Oral Traditions;
 - stimulate the active participation of African population in cultural research and development;
 - assist in the training of appropriate personnel and help to equip national centres with adequate technical means in their work;

4. To strengthen and activate projects of sub-regional and of national centres of academic or cultural association, and of other organizations devoted to promoting research and development of history, languages and culture;
5. To develop means of collection, analysis, conservation, and diffusion of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;
6. To encourage research on Oral Traditions and African Languages by the organization of seminars, and international conferences as well as local competitions and the attribution of prizes and awards in order to encourage healthy exchange between researchers and those interested in promoting cultural development;
7. To edit, publish and disseminate cultural documents (which are relevant by their character to cultural development) related to Languages and Traditions of Eastern Africa.
8. To mobilize Eastern African linguistic resources with a view to enhancing the contribution of culture to the economic and social development of regional and African continental communities.

PART II - ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

A. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ARTICLE 5

- a) The supreme organ of EACROTANAL shall be a council of

Ministers responsible for Culture of the Member States (hereinafter called the Council of Ministers);

b) The Council of Ministers shall elect its Chairman from its members for a period of two years rotating among the Member States.

ARTICLE 6

The Council of Ministers shall meet once every two years to receive and review progress report and other necessary information on the activities of EACRCAAL from the Administrative Committee.

ARTICLE 7

The Council of Ministers may hold an extraordinary session if more than one third (1/3) of the Member States so requests. Such extra-ordinary session shall be convened by the Secretariat in consultation with the Current Chairman.

ARTICLE 8

The Council of Ministers shall confirm the appointment of the Executive Director upon recommendation and advise of the Administrative Committee.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 9

The Council of Ministers shall establish the Administrative Committee.

Annex III

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The Administrative Committee shall comprise of the following members:

Two Representatives from each State:

(i) One representative from National Institutions concerned with research on and promotion of Oral Traditions and African National Languages;

(ii) A second representative nominated by the Ministry of Culture of the Member States.

ARTICLE 10

The Members of the Administrative Committee shall remain in office for a period of two (2) years, and may be re-nominated for another term.

ARTICLE 11

The Administrative Committee shall:

1. Meet in one Ordinary Session every year;
2. Meet in an extra-ordinary Session convened at the request of at least one third of the Member States;
3. Elect its Chairman, from among its members whose term of office expires at the beginning of the next session of the Committee: he may be re-elected, but wherever possible, the office of the Chairman shall rotate amongst the representatives of the Member States.

ARTICLE 11

4. Nominate the Executive Director by a two third majority of its Member States present and voting for a period of four years, and may be renominated for another term.

5. Determine the annual programmes of scientific research and activities;

6. set the budget and the financial contribution for each Member State.

ARTICLE 12. THE SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 12

The Secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director; Under the direction of the Executive Director, there shall be:

- The Director of Administration and Finance;
- The Director of Research and Publications;
- The Director of Technical Services;

ARTICLE 13

The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Council of Ministers through the Administrative Committee for the administration of the SECRETARIAT.

The responsibilities of the Executive Director shall include:

- the execution of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers and the Administrative Committee;

- liaison with the Governments of the Member States and International Organizations;
- the Organization of training, seminars, symposia, and other meetings;
- supervision of research projects as decided by the Administrative Committee;
- being secretary to the Council of Ministers and the Administrative Committee;
- soliciting and accepting on behalf of the SACROTANAL gifts, bequests, and other donations made to SACROTANAL, provided that this is approved by the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 14

- (a). The Director of Administration and Finance shall be responsible for:
 - administrative matters pertaining to personnel and finance;
 - office services;
 - up-keep of office equipment, buildings and other properties.
- (b). The director of Research and Publications shall be responsible for co-ordination of research activities, documentation and publications.

(c) The Director of Technical Services shall be responsible for all technical services including filming, photography, recording and reproduction.

ARTICLE 15

The Director of Administration and Finance, the Director of Research and Publications, the Director of Technical Services and all technical personnel shall be recruited by Advertisement of Vacant Posts in Newspapers and other Mass Media of the member states. Applications will be received, reviewed and evaluated by the Appointments Committee and names of successful candidates will be submitted to the Administrative Committee for approval of appointments. Whenever possible, selection and appointment should be based on Membership distribution.

PART III - BUDGET

ARTICLE 16

BACROTANAL SHALL HAVE AUTONOMOUS BUDGET constituted by financial contributions and donations by Member States, UNESCO, OAU and other International Organizations and by monies resulting from the sale of materials it produces (publications, films, tapes, records, etc.).

ARTICLE 17

The financial contributions of Member States shall be calculated either on the basis of the OAU formula or as may otherwise be determined by the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 18

BACROTANAL shall take all the necessary steps in order to obtain financial aid from various other sources, be they Governments, International Organizations, Foundations, individual donors, etc.

Nevertheless, none of these financial sources either should or will bring into question the objectives defined in Article 4 of this Charter.

PART IV - ACTIVITIESARTICLE 19

The activities of BACROTANAL shall consist of:

- the execution of the programme laid down by the Administrative Committee;
- the coordination of regional programmes;
- the maintenance and renewal of the documentary and the technical apparatus, and materials;
- the training and up-grading of technical personnel;
- the reproduction, conservation, and diffusion of documentation concerning African Traditions and Languages of the region concerned;
- the provision of regular information to national institutions concerned with research so that they are kept up to date on the activities of BACROTANAL.

PART V - AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER

ARTICLE 20

This Charter can be amended at the request of one or several Member States. Amendments to the Charter shall come into force for all members of EACRDTANAL when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds majority of the Member States, and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures by two thirds of the Member States of the EACRDTANAL.

PART VI - PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

ARTICLE 21

The EACRDTANAL, its Staff members and its property shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are provided for mutatis mutandis by the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

PART VII - FINAL PROVISIONS

SIGNATURE AND ENTRY INTO FORCE:

ARTICLE 22

1. This Charter shall be open for signature in the United Republic of Tanzania to all States enumerated in the Preamble until December 31, 1977. It shall enter into force after it has been signed by or on behalf of at least three of the States referred to in the Preamble.

2. The United Republic of Tanzania shall notify all States mentioned in the Preamble each such signature as provided in paragraph I of this Article.

3. The original instrument, done if possible in African Languages and in English and French, all texts being equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania which shall transmit certified copies thereof to all States referred to in the Preamble.

ADHESION AND ACCESION

ARTICLE 33

(a) The States enumerated in the preamble and not having signed the agreement by December 31, 1977 may eventually adhere or accede to it;

(b) Their instruments of adhesion or accession shall be deposited with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania which shall inform all Member States as well as those States which might have declined the membership.

(c) Any Independent sovereign African State within the prescribed Eastern African Zone not included in the preamble may at any time notify the Executive Director (through the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania) of its intention to adhere or accede to this Charter;

(d) The Executive Director shall on receipt of such notification as in paragraph (c) of this article, communicate a copy of it to all Member States. The decision of each Member State shall be transmitted to the Executive Director, who shall,

upon receipt of the required number of votes, communicate the decision to the State concerned;

(e) The admitted State shall then deposit its instrument of adhesion or accession in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (c) of this article.

REGISTRATION OF THE CHARTER

ARTICLE 24

This Charter shall, after coming into force, be registered with the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations through the Organization of African Unity Secretariat in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARTER

ARTICLE 25

Any question which may arise concerning the interpretation of the Charter shall be resolved by decision of the Council of Ministers whose decision on the matter shall be final and binding on all Member States of SACRUMAL.

WORKING LANGUAGES

ARTICLE 26

The working languages of the SACRUMAL shall be English and French provisionally, and as soon as possible African Languages.

SECTION OF MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 27.

1. Any Member State may withdraw from SACROTANAL at any time after the expiration of one year from the date on which it became a member by giving written notice of its withdrawal to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania which shall forthwith notify all other Member States of SACROTANAL of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal.
2. Withdrawal shall become effective at the date of receipt of such notice of withdrawal by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Provided that any Member state withdrawing from the SACROTANAL shall, nevertheless remain liable for the fulfilment of its obligations to the SACROTANAL including the payment of contributions in respect of the current financial year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments signed this Charter on the date appearing under their signature.

His Excellency Mr. Mengiste Desta,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Ethiopia to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.
For the Provisional Military Government of socialist Ethiopia.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable Ramiliarison Henri,
Vice Minister of the Ministry of
Revolutionary Culture and Art,
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable RAKOTO Ignace,
Minister of University and Scientific Research,
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

September 29th, 1977.

Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Hai,
Director General Department of Culture,
Ministry of Culture and Information,
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable Isaac A. Sepetu,
Minister for Information and Broadcasting,
For the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

September 29th, 1977.

The Honourable Emile Mworoha,
Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture,
For the Government of the Republic of Burundi,

September 29th, 1977.

EASTERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ORAL
TRADITIONS AND AFRICAN NATIONAL LANGUAGES

(BACROTANAL)

P.O. Box 600

ZANZIBAR

16th January, 1979

The Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages (BACROTANAL) has opened its doors and started functioning with the beginning of this year. The skeleton staff of the Centre which consist of the Executive Director, the Director of Finance and Administration, the Director of Technical Service; the Director of Research and Publications, the Administrative Officer and his assistant have all been appointed. They started paving the way for the official inauguration of the Centre in July 1979.

Background

The Centre falls within UNESCO's Ten year-Plan for the study of Oral Traditions and Development of African National Languages. This plan evolves out of UNESCO's belief that culture is the essence of a nation's destiny and identity, and that African Culture is embedded in African Languages and Oral Traditions.

The Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural policies in Africa which was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the OAU in Accra in October/November 1975 also reiterated this need and called for the establishment of national and regional Centres. Resolutions concerning this issue are articulated in Recommendations number 3 and 4 of the above-mentioned conference.

By their approval of the African Cultural Charter, in their Summit Conference held in Mauritius in July 1976 the African Heads of State endorsed the plans aiming at the promotion of African Culture and study of African Languages and Oral Traditions.

Initially the SACROTAAL was supposed to serve fourteen states from Eastern Africa, namely the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Comoro, Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Mauritius, the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Seychelles, the Somali Democratic Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zaire. The following five countries have signed the agreement which brought the Centre into existence: The Government of the Republic of Burundi, the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. It is anticipated that some of the states mentioned above will join the Centre.

Organizational Structure

The governing organs of the Centre include:-

- (a) The Council of Ministers consists of the Ministers of Culture in the Member States. The Chairman for the present session is Mr. E. Kissassi, Honourable Minister of Culture and Sports, Government of Tanzania(Zanzibar).

- (b) The Administrative Committee which includes two members from each Member State; one representing national institutions working on the promotion of oral traditions and African national languages, and the second representing the Ministry of Culture. The present Chairman of the Administrative Committee is Mr. G. Tibakwitira, Principal Secretary, Ministry of National Culture and Youth, United Republic of Tanzania.
- (c) The Secretariat, which is headed by the Executive Director consists of: The Executive Director, the Director of Administration and Finance, the Director of Research and Publications and the Director of Technical Services.

Objectives of the Centre

The following are among the major objectives of the Centre:

- (a) To initiate, promote and co-ordinate research of a regional nature pertaining to oral traditions and African National Languages;
- (b) To develop means of collection, analysis, conservation and diffusion of Oral traditions and African National Languages;
- (c) To edit, publish and disseminate cultural documents related to languages and traditions of Eastern Africa;

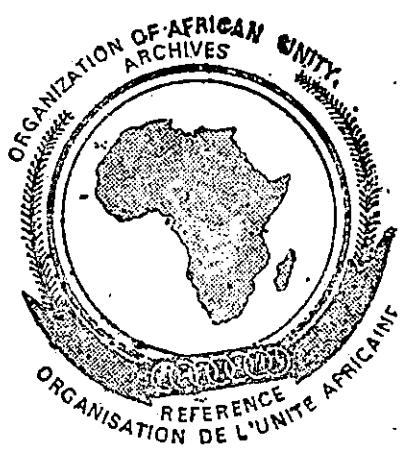
- (d) To assist in the training of the proper personnel;
- (e) To assure liaison with other national and international organizations with similar objectives.

Buildings:

The Government of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania has kindly provided a suitable building for housing the Centre. UNESCO has already sent some essential equipment for the Centre.

Budget:

The Centre is financed by contributions of Member States, assistance from UNESCO and OAU as well as by contributions from international organizations and foundations whose objectives concur with those of BACRUTANAL.



SAYYID H. HURRIE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

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1979-07

Application for Observation Status by the Eastern African Centre for Oral Tradition and African National Languages

Organization of African Unity

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