

INTRA-AFRICAN CULTURAL FUND



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**INTRA-AFRICAN
CULTURAL
FUND**

PART I

ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE FUND

"THE IDEA . . .

. . . of establishing a **CULTURAL FUND** within the **OAU** so as to make available to Member States additional resources which will contribute exclusively and meaningfully to cultural development and promote intra-African cultural co-operation can be found as stipulated in:

1. THE OAU CHARTER

"That our duty is to harness the natural and human resources of our continent for the total advancement of our peoples in all spheres of human endeavour . . . (preamble)

. . . To these ends, the Member States shall co-ordinate and harmonize their general policies, especially in the following fields:

**Educational and Cultural Co-operation;
Scientific and Technical Co-operation"**

2. THE CULTURAL CHARTER

"adopted at Port Louis in 1976 by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity which recommends the

"creation of an intra-African fund for the support and promotion of cultural studies and programmes". (Art. 31)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND

The constitution of the Fund was adopted by the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held at Freetown in July 1980.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The fund aims at achieving the proposals, suggestions and recommendations contained in:
 - (a) The Pan-African Cultural Manifesto, OAU-Algiers, 1969;
 - (b) The Inter-governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa, Africacult UNESCO-OAU-Accra, 1975;
 - (c) The Cultural Charter for Africa, OAU-Port Louis, 1976;
 - (d) The Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000, OAU-ECA-Monrovia, 1979;
 - (e) The Symposium on Science and Culture as bases for development in Africa, OAU-Libreville, 1981.
2. To be integrated into the Lagos Plan of Action.
3. For the promotion of a self-reliant and self-sustaining development.

These proposals, suggestions and recommendations can be summed up in the following two main objectives:

1. Development of Culture in Africa;
2. Intra-African and international co-operation in the field of culture.

1. DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE

This consists in laying the foundations for a dynamic *African cultural identity* based on a *heritage* of values and a valuable asset of *creativity*.

The Fund must consequently encourage and support initiatives aimed at:

(a) Identifying, restoring, safeguarding, rehabilitating and promoting African cultural heritage in its material, intellectual, moral, artistic and concrete expressions;

(b) Promoting handicrafts, village and rural technology and services;

(c) Making African languages modern working tools as well as tools of communication and dissemination of knowledge, so as to express the real feelings of the people; translating in these languages literary, historical, philosophical and scientific works which constitute the common heritage of mankind;

(d) Encouraging the development of African studies and their practical uses in such fields as traditional medicine, pharmacopoeia, handicraft, technology, art, oral literature, history and African philosophy,

(e) Encouraging African inventors to reflect the feeling of the people in their works;

(f) Combating all forms of alienation, cultural oppression and technology by carefully integrating them in the cultural universe of these peoples;

(g) Encouraging innovations, creativity and initiative by organizing notable competitions for technological and practical inventions, and by instituting prizes for researchers and inventors;

(h) Setting up appropriate mechanisms and bodies to ensure the integration of works of culture in industries and enterprises as well as in the domestic and social environments;

(i) Developing cultural industries in Africa as well as means of having more direct and greater contacts with the peoples through audiovisual aids and the mass media.

The objectives can be attained through cultural and scientific publications, researches, debates, exchange of views, travels, cultural activities and radio cultural programmes as well as the establishment and expansion of cultural centres, homes and units, through meetings, documentation and the dissemination of scientific and cultural programmes.

2. CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

The aim is to arouse in our young States national and continental awareness, *restore and consolidate the basis of the African cultural unity* by respecting and appreciating regional, national and local characteristics.

Furthermore, cultural co-operation must be such that it makes *Africa keep abreast with the time* by asserting its cultural values.

In this connection the Fund can help to:

(a) Create and sustain regional and pan-African institutions, associations and groups that would bring the people of Africa nearer to each other;

(b) Increase cultural exchanges through exhibitions, symposia, seminars, film shows, youth, women and workers meetings as well as meetings of intellectuals and leaders so as to promote greater mutual understanding;

(c) Facilitate, among different countries, the movement of experts and the circulation of documents and achievements based on authentic and significant experiences in all fields of thought and practical life;

(d) Develop, in particular, the exchange of economic, social, cultural and teaching programmes among African radios, televisions and film companies;

(e) Stimulate regional and pan-African associations, institutions and groups to exchange views, harmonize their actions and, if possible, prepare joint interdisciplinary programmes so as to ensure greater efficiency;

(f) Promote a "new pedagogy geared to African Unity" so that it does not remain the preserve of political circles alone. To this end, encourage schools, occupational and political circles and the public at large to reappropriate the traditional African values of solidarity and mutual respect.

Intra-African Co-operation must not be limited to political circles and the elite only; neither should it be only at the level of intellectual speculation. It concerns, directly, the people, workers, peasants and artisans who also want to share the knowledge and the know-how. They, particularly, should be made familiar with the achievements of their counterparts living in similar environments.

RESOURCES

Apart from the customary contributions from OAU member States, appeal is also made for voluntary contributions in kind or cash from African and non-African Governments, Institutions of the United Nations System, public or private institutions, national or international institutions, associations or private individuals. The Fund may accept also works of arts or royalties on copyrights.

Voluntary contributions from African States, public or private companies, inter-governmental and non-governmental institutions, foundations, associations and individuals are in line with the provisions of the Africacult Conference held at Accra in 1975, which recommended (Nos. 30 and 31) that:

(a) The principle of *self-sufficiency and self-reliance* should be applied and put into concrete reality;

(b) Consideration should be given to the adoption of legislative provisions which make it binding on the country's non-governmental, industrial, commercial, financial and other establishments to make annual financial contribution to the nation's cultural activities.

It behoves, therefore, OAU member States to organize a sensitization and information campaign and, where necessary, to take the appropriate measures to implement these provisions. It is possible to stimulate informal and indirect contributions. In

this connection, Africa Day, which falls on 25 May of each year is perfectly suitable. Such an anniversary could be commemorated more effectively by organizing extensive cultural activities throughout Africa.

With part of the proceeds, the public would be able to contribute annually to the Fund.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE FUND

The following can benefit from the Fund:

1. African national and regional public institutions specially responsible for cultural promotion and development, to which the Fund could provide supplementary intellectual, financial or technical assistance;
2. African private organizations whose objectives are in line with those of the Fund and whose activities contribute to the promotion of cultural activities, creative arts, scientific research and exchanges;
3. Individuals, especially African creative artists and researchers who may seek assistance from the the Fund in the areas.

PART II

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INTRA-AFRICAN
CULTURAL FUND**

CONSTITUTION OF THE FUND

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 1 to 4 July 1980,

Recalling the objectives set out in the Cultural Charter for Africa as well as in the Algiers Pan-African Cultural Manifesto,

Recalling the conclusions of the Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa (Accra, 27 October to 6 November 1975),

Recalling the conclusions of the Organization of African Unity Symposium on African Development Prospects for the year 2000 (Monrovia, 12 to 16 February 1979),

Recalling the directives and measures contained in the Declaration of Commitment of the Organization of African Unity Heads of State and Government (Monrovia, July 1979),

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

Establishment of the Fund

An "Intra-African Cultural Fund", hereinafter referred to as "the Fund", shall be set up within the Organization of African Unity.

AFRICLE II

Objectives

The Fund's resources shall be devoted to the sustenance and promotion of cultural studies and programmes in the following areas:

(a) Transcription, teaching and promotion of the use of national languages with a view to making them suitable for the dissemination of information as well as for scientific and technological development;

(b) Collection, preservation, use and dissemination of oral tradition;

(c) Adaptation of school curricula to the development requirements and national and African socio-cultural realities;

(d) Promotion of cultural activities, encouragement of creative artists and assistance to the creative cultural activities among the people;

(e) Protection and encouragement of creative artists and cultural properties;

(f) Re-acquisition of all African objects of art of significant value in foreign museums outside independent Africa;

(g) Construction of a museum of African arts;

(h) Development of continued research and the establishment of research centres in the field of cultural activities;

(i) Modern scientific research into traditional medicine and African pharmacopoeia;

(j) Study of the similarities and differences between the cultures of member States and promotion of joint studies on the origins of such aspects of the cultures as languages, music, anthropology, popular culture and the like.

ARTICLE III

Operations

1. The operations of the Fund may take the following forms:

(a) Intellectual and technical assistance;

(b) Various forms of financial assistance, including investments, loans, subventions, award of fellowships and participation in cultural activities;

(c) In general, all other forms of activities which the Board of Directors may deem to be in line with the fundamental objectives of the operational policies of the Fund.

2. Beneficiaries of the Fund ;

(a) African national and regional public institutions specifically responsible for cultural promotion and development to which the Fund could provide supplementary intellectual, financial and technical assistance;

(b) African private organizations whose objectives are in line with the Fund and whose activities contribute to the promotion of cultural activities and creative arts;

(c) Individuals, especially African creative artists who may seek assistance from the Fund in these areas;

(d) African private associations and individuals seeking assistance from the Fund shall first of all submit their applications to the Governments of the countries where they have their headquarters, in the case of the association, and to their countries of origin in the case of individuals.

ARTICLE IV

Resources

1. The resources of the Fund shall be constituted by:

(a) Assessed contributions in kind or cash from the OAU Member States;

(b) Voluntary contributions in kind or cash from governments, institutions of the United Nations system, public or private institutions, national or international institutions, associations or private individuals;

(c) Interests from the Fund's resources.

2. The Fund may accept works of arts or royalties on copyrights.

3. Contributions from non-African funding sources, as indicated in Article I, paragraph (b) and Article 2, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors of the Fund for approval.

4. The resources of the Fund shall be paid into a special account maintained by the OAU Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of the OAU Financial Rules.

5. Contributions to the Fund and other forms of assistance may be made only for the purposes defined by the Board of Directors.

Contributions meant for certain programmes or specific projects may be accepted, on condition that the implementation of the programmes or the projects shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Contributions to the Fund shall be free from any political strings.

6. The costs for the operations of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and any subsidiary body and the expenses relating to the staff, shall be met from the resources of the Fund.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

A. *Composition*

1. The Fund shall be administered by a Board of Directors composed of 15 members appointed by the OAU Secretary-General on the basis of equitable geographical and cultural representation. Members of the Board shall be appointed in their personal capacities.

2. Members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed for a four-year term and shall be re-eligible; but no member shall be re-elected for more than two consecutive terms.

3. In the case of death or resignation of a member, he may be replaced by the Secretary-General for the remaining period of his term, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 above.

4. The Secretary-General or the substitute so appointed by him, shall participate in all meetings of the Board, the Executive Committee and all the subsidiary bodies established by the Board without voting rights.

5. Natural or juridical persons not members of the Board, which have contributed to the resources of the Fund, may take part in the meetings of the Board, without voting rights.

6. The Board may invite representatives of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in its meetings as observers.

B. Functions

7. The Board of Directors shall, according to conditions established by the present constitution, enjoy a wide intellectual and functional autonomy within the OAU.

8. The Board shall define the principles governing the activities of the Fund, taking into account the over-all objectives of the Organization of African Unity.

9. In keeping with the objectives defined in Article II, the Board shall endeavour to encourage projects resulting from the implementation of new plans and methods, and measures which shall help promote research and experiments in cultural and communications activities, with particular attention to operations which may produce multiple effects.

10. The Board shall decide on the utilization of the resources of the Fund.

11. The Board shall take all measures it may deem fit for the preparation and implementation of the Fund's activity programme.

12. The Board shall be consulted on the appointment of the Director of the Fund.

13. The Board may establish subsidiary bodies as it may deem necessary.

14. The Secretary-General may, as and when necessary, refer to the Executive Council, all matters relating to the operations of the Fund. In this case, and if the Secretary-General so requests it, the Board shall refrain from taking any final act until the matter has been considered by the appropriate body.

C. Procedure

15. The Board shall meet in ordinary session once a year. It may however meet in an extraordinary session, if convened by the OAU Secretary-General or at the request of half of its members.

16. The Director of the Fund shall participate in the meetings of the Board, without voting rights, and shall be in charge of the Board's Secretariat.

17. The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

1. The Board of Directors shall set up an Executive Board composed of the Chairman of the Board and four members elected from among the members of the Board of Directors.

2. As a general rule, the Executive Board shall meet twice a year.

3. The Executive Board shall carry out such duties as may be assigned to it by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Director

1. The Director of the Fund shall be appointed by the OAU Secretary-General after consultation with the Board of Directors.

2. The Director of the Fund shall formulate proposals on measures to be taken by the Board of Directors and ensure the implementation of the Board's decisions.
3. The Director may establish contacts with international, regional or national, state or private organizations, natural or juridical persons for the implementation of the Fund's activities.
4. The Director shall endeavour to encourage voluntary contributions, or all other forms of resources, in accordance with the provisions of Article IV.

ARTICLE VIII

Staff

1. The Director of the Fund, and the staff seconded to the Fund by the Secretary-General shall be members of the OAU and shall be governed by the provisions of the OAU Staff Rules and Regulations.
2. The Director may recruit other staff members on temporary basis, and in accordance with the appropriate OAU Rules and Regulations, for the implementation of specific activities of the Fund.

ARTICLE IX

Reports

The OAU Secretary-General shall submit a report on the activities of the Fund to each ordinary session of the Council of Ministers. The report shall also be presented to the natural and juridical persons contributing to the Fund.

ARTICLE X

Transitional provisions

The Secretary-General of the OAU shall take all appropriate preparatory measures for the launching of the Fund and the setting up of the Board of Directors. To this end, and until the Fund has adequate resources, the Secretary-General shall meet the necessary expenses from the funds approved by OAU Council of Ministers.

MESSAGE FROM H.E. EDEM KODJO, SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)

By adopting the Cultural Charter for Africa in Port Louis, Mauritius, in 1976, the Heads of State and Government had accomplished an act, far-sighted in nature.

As formulated, the Cultural Charter covered and improved upon the various theoretical provisions already made by the African Community since the First Congress of African Writers and Artists held in Algiers in 1956 and 1969, the Inter-governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa organized by UNESCO in co-operation with the OAU in Accra, Ghana, in 1976 and the 1969 Algiers Pan-African Manifesto.

The adoption of the Cultural Charter in 1976, the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980 and the convening of the First Congress of Scientists, laid down the basis of a planned programme for a global and an integrated development of the continent.

What remained to be done was the establishment of a flexible and practical machinery capable of promoting, more significantly, the socio-cultural factors and scientific programmes.

Our Heads of State and Government have paved the way for us by adopting the instruments establishing an Intra-African Cultural Fund at their Summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in July 1980. The establishment of that Fund will further enhance the development of culture, intra-African and international cultural co-operation, and stimulate scientific programmes. These developments are taking place at a time when new prospects are opening for

Afro-Arab Cultural co-operation and UNESCO is launching the Second Decade of Cultural Policies and Development for the international community.

What role does Africa hope to play within the context of this Cultural Policy Decade? It will have to assert and effectively promote its own identity, and fully project its personality; true though it is that the continent, more than ever before, should participate in current world trends. In recent times this identity has served as pivotal base for resisting the adversities of history and as a driving force for the national liberation movements. The notion of cultural identity has acquired a new dimension in keeping with present day concerns. It should be used as the basis for a self-reliant and self-sustained development by involving the grass-roots of society. No longer must there be a time set aside for cultural development and another for economic or technical development, but rather, a harmonious blending of all these "sectors" into a global "dimension", integrated into the life of African peoples.

These are, in the main, the objectives that our Heads of State and Government have assigned the intra-African Cultural Fund. UNESCO was the first to offer us invaluable assistance through its Director-General, Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, followed by a substantial contribution from the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture. Some friendly countries have already manifested their interest in this undertaking.

In this connection, we strongly hope that this bond of co-operation will extend further yet. I, therefore, appeal in all earnestness, to the international community, friendly and sister States, and to all Maecenas, so that together we may strive to ensure the success of this new venture.

MESSAGE FROM AMADOU MAHTAR M'BOW
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNESCO

It is with deep interest that UNESCO welcomed the decision taken by the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity to establish an Intra-African Cultural Fund as enshrined in the Cultural Charter for Africa.

The Inter-governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa organized by UNESCO with the co-operation of the Organization of African Unity afforded the African countries the opportunity to demonstrate their will to commit themselves resolutely to the search for modes of development best suited to their originality, give culture its rightful place in the over-all development process and pursue a cultural co-operation policy which are factors of peace, equilibrium and encouragement.

For the entire African continent, the notion of cultural identity has, ever since, become the key idea which could make its development both original and fruitful. In this decisive moment of the continent's history, going back to the sources of African genius will be a necessary stage towards the identification of all the creative potentialities of the continent and the surest guarantee for any future solidarity and responsibility.

The creation of a new Fund, therefore, forms part of the widespread wave of cultural assertion sweeping across Africa today. I am therefore particularly happy to note that the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture established in 1974 by the UNESCO General Conference to help develop the cultural values, artistic creativity and international and regional cultural co-operation was able to contribute to the launching of the activities of the Intra-

African Cultural Fund to which UNESCO will in fact spare no effort in lending its moral and technical support.

Hoping that many Governments, Institutions, Associations and individuals will contribute to the effort of the community of African nations, I wish to express to you my most sincere wishes for the success of this important endeavour.

**MESSAGE FROM FELIPE HERRERA, CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, UNESCO**

In view of Africa's rich and varied culture, and the invaluable contributions the African genius has continued to make to the world from time immemorial, a privileged position has been accorded to Africa by the UNESCO Fund for the Development of Culture.

It was against this background that the UNESCO Board of Directors hailed, with enthusiasm, the decision of the Organization of African Unity to establish the Intra-African Cultural Fund, and approved subvention to facilitate the formation of the Fund's initial capital.

I wish to associate myself with the UNESCO Director-General in wishing this amicable initiative of the community of African nations, every success.

Litho United Nations, Addis Ababa (U N E C A) ● 082 - 425
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