



ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية

السكرتاريه

ص. ب. 3243

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAINNE

Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS Addis Ababa اديس ابابا

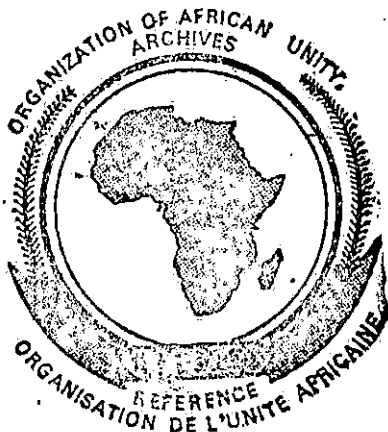
Nineteenth Ordinary Session

Rabat - June 1972

CM/462.

OAU INTER-AFRICAN CENTRES FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH  
IN AFRICA

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING



CM/462

MICROFICHE

OAU'S INTER-AFRICAN CENTRES FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCHIMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEEFIRST MEETING, 14 FEBRUARY 1972 ADDIS ABABAIntroduction

1. The first meeting of the Implementation Committee for the OAU programme to establish Inter-African Centres for Training and Research in Africa (or Centres of Excellence), was held on the 14th February 1972 at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Committee has five African Experts who were appointed by the OAU on the recommendation of the Scientific Council of Africa. Present at the first meeting were: Professor D.P. Wasawo, Head of the Department of Zoology of Nairobi University, Kenya; Professor Kosoike Thomas, Head of the Department of Engineering of Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, and Professor Abdelmalek Guessous, Professor of Physics of the Mohammed V University, Morocco. Apologies for inability to attend were received from Professor E. Adjanooun, Rector of the University of Dahomey, and from Professor E.M. Dafaalla, Professor of Bacteriology, University of Khartoum, Sudan.
2. The Implementation Committee was established by resolution CM/Res. 171(XI) of the Council of Ministers, which was duly endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 1968. In operative paragraph 2, that resolution established " an OAU committee responsible for following up implementation of the programme to set up 'centres of excellence' in Africa." The Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) was requested to recommend African Experts to serve on that Committee, and also to recommend appropriate terms of reference for it. On the advice of the CSA and by decision no CM/Dec.130(XV), the OAU appointed the five African Experts named in paragraph 1 above, and also approved the following terms of reference for that committee:-

The Implementation CommitteeTerms of Reference:-

- (1) To review, evaluate and co-ordinate the actions taken to establish, develop and promote Inter-African Centres for Training and Research in Africa, so as to ensure that their functions are in accordance with approved directives of the OAU, and that they serve the development needs of Member States.
- (2) To make recommendations to the OAU through the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission on any desirable changes in the programme.
- (3) To receive, evaluate and co-ordinate any proposals from the OAU appertaining to Inter-African Centres for Training and Research in Africa, and to give advice to the OAU on it.
- (4) To report bi-annually to the OAU through the Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Health Commission on its work.

3. Also present at the first meeting of the Implementation Committee was Professor M.O. Oyawoye from Nigeria, who was the Chairman of the Team of African Experts that drew up a draft project-plan for the OAU Centre on Earth Sciences. The General Secretariat was represented by Mr. J.D. Buliro - Assistant Secretary General in charge of Scientific and Technological Matters, Mr. K. Quagrine, Head of the Scientific and Cultural Department, and Mr. A.O. Odelola, the Executive Secretary heading the OAU Lagos Office.

Elections and Agenda:-

4. Professor D. Wasawo was unanimously elected chairman of that first meeting of the Implementation Committee, and the General Secretariat, its Rapporteur. The Committee further adopted the agenda appended hereon as an attachment.

Progress in implementing the programme:-

5. Mr. J.D. Buliro gave a verbal report on the stages reached in implementing the OAU programme on Inter-African Centres for Training and Research. It was reported that following discussions in various organs, the OAU decided to establish Inter-African Centres in ten disciplines - although the number to be established remains open. The ten disciplines selected so far are: listed in their order of priority: Earth Sciences; Applied Science and Engineering; Food Science and Technology; Water Resources, Planning and Development; Marine Science and Technology; Human Medicine and Pharmacology; Veterinary Science; Climatology and Meteorology; Basic Sciences and Social Sciences. The OAU had decided to establish the centre for Earth Sciences as a pilot scheme to provide experience and other information for the rest of the programme. A Team of four African Experts was subsequently appointed to draw-up a project-plan for that centre, and this had now been satisfactorily accomplished. Consideration of that draft project-plan of the centre for Earth Sciences was the main task before this first meeting of the Implementation Committee.

6. To avoid undue delays in handling the other centres, the OAU had already given the necessary approval and funds, for a Team of African Experts to draw up a similar project-plan for the Centre of Excellence on Food Science and Technology. The Scientific Council of Africa has recommended four African Experts for this task, who are awaiting approval by the OAU Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

7. Following discussions between the Secretariats of the OAU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) it had been suggested that it would be advantageous if the programme on Centres of Excellence could become a joint OAU/ECA one. The OAU approved this proposal in resolution CM/Res. 171 (XI). On its part, the ECA failed to formally adopt that proposal. However, informal co-operation continued with the ECA Department concerned. Under this informal arrangement, it has been agreed that the OAU and ECA should individually pick for implementation any of the approved centres, thus avoiding duplication and employing effectively the resources available for these purposes. The OAU approach is tending towards establishing institutions with an inter-African identity attached to or independent of existing national educational institutions. From available evidences, it appears that the ECA approach is to stimulate national educational institutions (universities) into expanding their facilities so as to enrol additional candidates from other African countries. In line with that informal arrangement, the ECA is pursuing the enlargement of several African universities which offer Applied Science and Engineering - the second centre on the approved list. The ECA has established a Panel of Experts of Africans and non-Africans on "Advanced institutes for Applied Science and Technology in Africa", which advises it on this subject. That Panel held its inaugural meeting at the University of Manchester in Britain, in August 1970, and a second meeting in Addis Ababa in August 1971. The OAU was represented at the first meeting. (The report of that meeting was received in March 1972).

8. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved to date, in implementing the OAU programme on Centres of Excellence. It also noted with regret, that no formal agreement had so far been reached, to make the programme a joint OAU/ECA Programme in spite of the efforts made by the OAU to that end. As for the difference in approach between the OAU and ECA in trying to establish the proposed Centres of Excellence, the Committee expressed the view that whatever arrangements that are agreed upon with ECA, the execution and

development of this programme should firmly be in OAU hands. In this way the OAU's objectives, priorities and methods of work would be respected and followed. The Committee therefore recommended that in all cases, the procedure adopted by the OAU should be followed, i.e. African Experts would be appointed by OAU to draw-up a project plan for each centre, and to suggest the best ways and means of establishing that centre. Thereafter those Experts would, where applicable as in the case of the Centre for Applied Science and Engineering, consult with ECA on the proposals in their draft project-plan. The post-consultation draft project-plan would subsequently be submitted to the Implementation Committee for processing and implementation by the OAU.

9. In connection with the Centre for Applied Science and Engineering therefore, the Committee recommended that the OAU procedures should be followed, and that a team of African Experts should be requested to draw-up a project-plan, which, due to the current involvement by ECA, should be handled as recommended above. Among the remaining seven centres, it was observed that the proposed syllabus for the Centre for Earth Sciences, covered a portion of the work that will eventually fall on the proposed centre for Water Resources. This fact will have to be taken into account when the latter centre is being considered for establishment. With this, the Committee concluded its deliberations on the verbal report covering the stages reached in implementing this programme.

Draft project-plan for the Centre on Earth Sciences:

10. On behalf of the Team of African Experts, which comprised Prof. A.L. Shata of Egypt, Dr. A.E. Nyema-Jones of Liberia and Dr. P. Ouedraogo of Upper Volta, the Team's Chairman, Professor M.O. Oyawoye from Nigeria, presented the draft project-plan for the Centre for Earth Sciences to the Committee. The draft was contained in document SC/EDC/2, entitled: "Project-plan for an OAU Inter-African Centre for Training and Research in Earth Sciences." The document has the following three attachments:-

- (a) A report on the First meeting of the Team,
- (b) "Report of the visit of the Team of Experts to some African States."
- (c) "Information received from Member States and African Universities."

These documents had been sent to the Members of the Committee well in advance of this meeting.

11. In his presentation -- and since the Members of the Committee had already read the draft Project-plan- the Chairman of the Team drew the Committee's attention to the salient points in the document. He emphasised that the objectives set out for the proposed Centre for Earth Sciences, would have to be followed scrupulously. The "teaching" staff at the centre should preferably be those with long industrial experience, he said. He observed that the equipment proposed for the Centre was the best and most up to date, and that it was capable of providing rapid sampling without fatigue. Students will have to be bilingual, and the centre will offer courses to this end. For possible sites, several cities had been considered and three had been short-listed i.e. Yaounde in Cameroon, Nairobi in Kenya and Rabat in Morocco. He entered a caveat that before the Team could make a final recommendation in this regard, it would be necessary for it to make extensive visits of the possible sites for the Centre. Finally, he emphasised that the proposed Centre for Earth Sciences was basic to development in Africa, and was of Strategic importance. Therefore, he said, it was important that all Member States should give the project the necessary co-operation and varied support that it required, that the OAU should pay for the initial capital expenditure and the regular recurrent expenditure, and that the OAU should maintain in its hands, the management and development of the Centre.

12. During its consideration of the draft project-plan, the Committee made minor amendments to the draft including the following:- In chapter III: "Structure of the Centre", the Assistant Director General (Training and Technical Service) would become: Deputy Director General and the Assistant Director General (Finance and Administration) would become: Director of Administration. In paragraph 19.f. of the same chapter the words: "as appropriate" were deleted as applying to student representation on the two Boards concerned, thus making their representation a must.

13. The Team had in paragraph 21 of the same chapter, requested the Implementation Committee to propose "...the composition and life of the Council and the tenure of its chairman". Accordingly, the Committee proposed as follows:

GOVERNING COUNCIL - Composition

<u>Representatives</u> <u>from</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>period</u> <u>of service</u>
OAU	9	5 years
CSA	1	2 "
Association of African Universities	1	2 years
Host Government	1	" "
Director General	1	- -
Board of Management	1	1 year
Teaching Staff	1	1 year
Student Body	1	1 year
 Total Membership	 16	

The Council will decide on other conditions appertaining to the chairman, and will establish its own rules of procedure. The Chairman will be appointed by the OAU, as recommended by the Team of Experts. The Governing Council must produce regular reports on the activities and development of the Centre.



14. The Committee accepted the request of the Team of Experts that, before a final recommendation on the site of the Centre is made, the Experts should visit the short-listed cities for a more detailed examination of their suitability. It was further reported that Yaounde - although central and with a bilingual population -- raised enormous problems due to thick forest-cover, high humidity and other climatic disadvantages, all of which could substantially increase the recurrent expenditure. The Committee subsequently eliminated Yaounde from the short-list, leaving Nairobi and Rabat to be visited by the Experts. In a move to reduce costs without reducing the effectiveness of the visits, the Committee directed that the chairman and one other Expert of his choice, should undertake the visits. The visits to the two cities would be carried out during the month of April 1972, and in any case before the OAU meetings in Rabat next June. The Experts would make their final recommendation on the site for the Centre to the Implementation Committee, which will in turn report to the Rabat meetings of the OAU
15. With these amendments and observations, the Committee formally adopted the draft project-plan to the Centre for Earth Sciences.
16. The Implementation Committee expressed its deep gratitude to the Team of Experts for the excellent work done. The Committee was of the opinion that the Team had produced a first class project-plan that was relevant to African needs, was practical in its proposals, and whose implementation would contribute substantially to the rapid development of the Member States. It further expressed the hope that this excellent work by African Experts would convince those member states that are not yet so convinced, to use African Experts on similar assignments. It requested the Secretariat to convey its gratitude and congratulations to the Members of the Team of African Experts.
17. Due to shortage of time, the Committee could not adopt the report of this meeting. It was agreed that the Rapporteur (Secretariat),

would forward a draft report of the proceedings and conclusions of this meeting to the Members present as soon as possible. They in turn, would forward any amendments they may have, to the Chairman, who would assemble and send them to the Secretariat for incorporation in the Committee's report. The latter would be presented to the Council of Ministers and to the Assembly of Heads of State in June 1972 in Rabat, Morocco. Having completed its agenda the Implementation Committee concluded its first meeting on the evening of the 14th February 1972.

MARCH 1972  
ADDIS ABABA.

ATTACHMENT

CM/46.2

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
OAU PROGRAMME ON INTER-AFRICAN  
CENTRES FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH  
(CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE)

First meeting - 14 February 1972 - Addis Ababa

AGENDA

1. Opening.
2. Election of Chairman and Rapporteur.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Review of the progress achieved in implementing the OAU programme on Inter-African Centres for Training and Research,
5. (a) Presentation of the draft project-plan for the Centre for Earth Sciences,  
(b) Consideration of that draft project-plan.
6. Adoption of the meeting's report.
7. Closure.



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

---

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

---

1972-06

# OAU Inter-African Centres for Training and Research in Africa: Implementation Committee report of the first meeting

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/7720>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*