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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
 OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN ADDIS ABABA	3 - 4	2
III. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS	5 - 8	2
IV. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	9 - 13	3
V. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA	14 - 18	5
VI. CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA	19 - 24	8
VII. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION	25 - 30	9

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 2863 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to intensify co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and invited the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned within the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to continue their co-operation with OAU. The Assembly also invited the Security Council to consider the request of OAU concerning the holding of meetings of the Council in an African capital.
2. The present report deals with action taken in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions and developments relating to the co-operation between the United Nations and OAU since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/8386).

II. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN ADDIS ABABA

3. In response to General Assembly resolution 2863 (XXVI) inviting "the Security Council to consider the request of the Organization of African Unity concerning the holding of meetings of the Council in an African capital", the Council decided, in its resolution 308 (1972), to hold meetings in Addis Ababa to consider "questions relating to Africa with which the Security Council is currently seized and the implementation of the Council's relevant resolutions".
4. The Council held 13 meetings in Addis Ababa from 28 January to 4 February 1972. The Chairman of OAU, the Administrative Secretary-General and the Chairman of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa were invited by the Council to make statements. The Council adopted four resolutions concerning Namibia, apartheid and the Territories under Portuguese administration [resolutions 309 (1972) to 312 (1972)].

III. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

5. Convinced that regional organizations have a vital role to play in any workable world order, the Secretary-General, as stated in the introduction to his report on the work of the Organization, ^{1/} has continued to seek closer relationships between OAU and the United Nations with a view to the attainment of their common goals.
6. On the occasion of the Security Council session at Addis Ababa in January and February 1972, the Secretary-General had the opportunity to meet the Chairman of OAU, the Administrative Secretary-General and other officials and to consult with them on all matters of mutual concern. Following the adoption of

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1A (A/8701/Add.1), section V.

Security Council resolution 309 (1972) inviting the Secretary-General "to initiate as soon as possible contacts with all parties concerned, with a view to establishing the necessary conditions so as to enable the people of Namibia, ... to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations", the Secretary-General kept the Chairman of OAU informed of the progress of his mission.

7. The Secretary-General addressed the ninth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and of the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU. On that occasion, the Secretary-General had talks with the Chairman of OAU and other African leaders concerning the mandate entrusted to him by the Security Council under resolution 309 (1972) and other matters.

8. During the period under review, OAU continued to be represented by observers in various United Nations bodies and, as indicated in past reports, was invited to attend meetings of a number of organs, including the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. It was represented at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights. In addition, OAU was invited to send observers to the United Nations seminar on the effects of scientific and technological developments on human rights, held in Vienna from 19 June to 1 July 1972, and the United Nations seminar on the status of women and family planning, held at Istanbul in July 1972.

IV. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

9. Following talks at Headquarters between the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU and the Administrator of UNDP, the latter submitted to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session, held in January 1972, a proposal for an agreement on mutual co-operation between the Administrator of UNDP and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU (DP/L.214). The proposed agreement provided for:

- (a) General co-operation on questions of common interest;
- (b) Exchange of information and documents;
- (c) Reciprocal representation at meetings;
- (d) Mutual co-operation on specific matters.

Under the proposed agreement, UNDP would consider technical assistance to the headquarters staff of OAU involving training, provision of fellowships and equipment, with a financial ceiling of \$50,000 a year. It was understood that the cost of such assistance would be counted against the regional indicative

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planning figure for Africa. It was also anticipated that larger projects might emanate from decisions of OAU involving intercountry, subregional or regional co-operation and there might also be programmes involving assistance, such as the provision of educational facilities for persons displaced from African territories under colonial rule or subject to racial discrimination, with the understanding that assistance thus provided would be counted against the indicative planning figure for the region as appropriate and as mutually agreed upon.

10. Following the approval of the proposals of the Administrator of UNDP by the Governing Council, consultations between UNDP and OAU have been held. It is hoped that an agreement will be concluded in the near future.

11. During the visit to New York of the Chairman of OAU and the Administrative Secretary-General, which took place on the occasion of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, they held consultations with the Secretary-General and various Secretariat units concerned in regard to the implementation of the various General Assembly resolutions recommending action by United Nations agencies on the subject of decolonization, particularly Assembly resolutions 2704 (XXV) and 2874 (XXVI). The consultations dealt in particular with the ways in which the organizations of the United Nations system could, within their respective mandates and spheres of competence, assist in extending further assistance to peoples from the colonial Territories in Africa, as called for by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. They also explored the role to be played in that regard by OAU which, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolutions, is in a unique position to ascertain the needs of the people concerned and to recommend, for sponsorship by the respective Governments, suitable projects which might be undertaken with the co-operation of the organizations of the United Nations system.

12. Further discussions were held in January 1972 at Addis Ababa on behalf of the Secretary-General with the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU on the steps which should be taken, with due regard to the arrangements for co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, in order to complement and facilitate the measures being taken or envisaged by the specialized agencies. These discussions centred on the possibilities of expanding the flow of assistance to refugees from the colonial Territories and of achieving better co-ordination between the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and those of OAU, particularly in the field of educational and training assistance to peoples of those Territories.

13. The relevant activities of the agencies and programmes concerned, namely, UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, the World Food Programme, WHO, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, were reviewed in the annual report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1971-1972 submitted to the Economic and Social Council (E/5133, paras. 38-48).

V. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
AND THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

14. During the period under review, co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and OAU took many forms, including the holding of meetings jointly organized or jointly sponsored, meetings organized by the Commission with the participation of OAU and the undertaking of joint projects and studies.

15. The following conferences, meetings, seminars or working groups were jointly organized or sponsored by both ECA and OAU during the period between 1 September 1971 and 31 August 1972:

(a) African Ministerial Meeting preparatory to the third session of UNCTAD and meetings of the African Group at the session

The African Ministerial Meeting preparatory to the third session of UNCTAD was jointly sponsored and organized by ECA and OAU. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa from 8 October to 14 October 1971 and was designed to harmonize African positions on the various issues to be discussed at the third session. It led to the adoption of an "Action programme".

The meetings of the African Group at the third session of UNCTAD were jointly serviced by the secretariats of ECA and OAU.

(b) All-African Trade Fair

The Commission collaborated with OAU in conducting a pre-Fair workshop, on 4 October 1971, for the directors of the pavilions of the First All-African Trade Fair, organized by OAU, and held from 23 February to 3 March 1972. The Commission participated in the Fair at the invitation of OAU and was responsible for a pavilion depicting United Nations activities in Africa.

(c) OAU regional food reserves project for East Africa

The Commission contributed, through the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, to the identification/formulation of a regional food reserves project for East Africa, initiated by OAU.

(d) Addis Ababa educational targets

An OAU/UNESCO/ECA joint secretariat arrangement exists for the purpose of undertaking studies which would provide a basis for the possible revision of the Addis Ababa educational targets. A meeting for this review was held in September 1972.

(e) Conferences of Ministers of Industry

The Commission was co-sponsor, with OAU, of the First Conference of Ministers of Industry, held at Addis Ababa in 1971. The Second Conference of Ministers of Industry, jointly sponsored by ECA, OAU and UNIDO, is

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scheduled to be held at Cairo in October 1973 and preparations for this are under way.

16. The OAU was invited to be represented at the following meetings organized by ECA:

(a) Symposium on intra-African trade

The Commission, at the request of the Heads of State of OAU and in co-operation with OAU, organized a symposium on intra-African trade between 28 February and 3 March 1972, in conjunction with the First All-African Trade Fair.

(b) Preparatory Committee of the Association of Trade Promotion Organization

The Commission convened two meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the Association of Trade Promotion Organization, on 4 March 1972 and from 5 to 7 July 1972. The OAU was invited to both meetings and actively participated in them.

(c) West African seminar on intra-regional co-operation in agriculture

The OAU sent representatives to the seminar on the promotion of intra-subregional economic co-operation and commodity trade policies in the field of agriculture, held at Bathurst in December 1971, in recognition of the significance of the political dimension in multinational co-operation.

(d) Meeting of experts on scientific and technological research in Africa and utilization of its results

The OAU has been invited to participate in the forthcoming ECA-sponsored meeting of experts on scientific and technological research, to be held at Abidjan in November 1972.

(e) Regional harmonization of development plans

The OAU was invited to participate in the ECA Seminar on Approaches to the Regional Harmonization of Development Plans, held in Addis Ababa from 29 November to 3 December 1971.

17. Co-operation between ECA and OAU has also involved the following joint projects and studies:

(a) ECA/OAU Joint Meeting on Trade and Development

The seventh ECA/OAU Joint Meeting on Trade and Development was held at Geneva in September 1972. Invitations to Governments to participate in the meeting were extended jointly by the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU. A number of studies were prepared by the two secretariats for submission to the meeting.

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(b) OAU/ECA Intra-African Technical Assistance Programme

The OAU and ECA are jointly working on a proposal for the establishment of an Intra-African Technical Assistance Programme for the employment of scarce trained manpower by member States.

(c) OAU Refugee Programme

The Commission is co-operating with OAU in matters relating to the training of African refugees. Co-operation in seeking scholarships and study facilities for refugees is a continuing activity. At the request of OAU, a short paper on possible fields of employment for African refugees is currently being prepared by ECA and data to be supplied by OAU on qualified refugees will be utilized.

(d) Training of OAU librarians

Two staff members of OAU have been trained by ECA in library services and have been working as library assistants at OAU.

(e) ECA/FAO/OAU African Livestock Development Study

Through the work programme of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, ECA is undertaking a joint study with OAU on livestock development in Africa, of which phase I, covering seven countries in eastern and southern Africa, is nearing completion, and preparations for phase II on West Africa are under way.

(f) Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking

In connexion with Economic and Social Council resolution 1706 (LIII) and in response to an invitation from the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, an inter-secretariat committee of OAU, ECA and the ILO is currently sponsoring a field study into an allegation that workers from certain African countries were being induced to work, under substandard conditions, in a number of European countries.

(g) Pan-African Phyto-sanitary Control Programme

Co-operation with OAU in Pan-African phyto-sanitary control measures is being worked out in close consultation with the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division.

(h) Integrated approach to rural development

The OAU is a member of the African Regional Intra-Agency Committee on Rural Development (ECA, FAO, the ILO, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP and OAU), which was established by the Commission at its ninth session to promote and co-ordinate the work of the Commission and assist voluntary agencies in integrated rural development.

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18. Additionally, in the framework of the co-operation between the two organizations, ECA is maintaining close contact and liaison with the OAU-sponsored campaign against rinderpest. It assisted in the preparations for the OAU-sponsored seminar on arid zone and savannah research, held at Khartoum in May 1972, and has begun assistance to OAU in establishing a Natural Resources Division. As a member of the Co-ordinating Committee and the Working Group of the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees, ECA has actively participated in the work of both organs, since their establishment in 1968. The Commission has also extended technical assistance to the OAU Bureau in respect of the preparation of its budgetary appropriations for 1972-1973.

VI. CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

19. Close co-operation regarding the situation in southern Africa has developed between the two organizations in the light of General Assembly resolution 2505 (XXIV) and in pursuance of specific provisions of several other resolutions of the General Assembly. The United Nations bodies concerned with southern Africa - particularly the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Special Committee on Apartheid and the United Nations Council for Namibia - have held frequent consultations with OAU and close contact was also maintained by secretariat units concerned with problems of southern Africa. As reports of the United Nations bodies include detailed information on the matter, reference is made here only to a few of the main developments.

20. As in the past, OAU continued to be represented as an observer on the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Special Committee on Apartheid and the United Nations Council for Namibia through the Office of the Executive Secretary of OAU at the United Nations.

21. At the meetings of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples held in Africa during April 1972, the representatives of OAU, including the Administrative Secretary-General and other senior officials of its General Secretariat, took an active part in the Committee's consideration of the situation in the colonial Territories in Africa. The Special Committee has also, within the context of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolutions 2704 (XXV) and 2874 (XXVI), continued to consult with the General Secretariat of OAU and, through it, with the national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in southern Africa concerning the assistance to be extended to their peoples by the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system. On the basis of these consultations, the Special Committee adopted a number of concrete recommendations which were incorporated in its report to the General Assembly (A/8723 (Part V), chap. VII).

22. The United Nations Council for Namibia has, within the context of General Assembly resolution 2871 (XXVI), continued to consult closely with OAU. The

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President of the Council, in February 1972, met with the Deputy Administrative Secretary-General and other senior officials of OAU in Addis Ababa for consultations concerning various aspects of the Council's work. The Council was represented by a delegation of its members at the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Rabat in June 1972. Consultations were held in relation to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, established under General Assembly resolution 2872 (XXVI), as well as matters relating to co-ordination of assistance to Namibians through the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees, issuance of travel documents to Namibians and participation of the Namibians in the work of the Council. These consultations have been undertaken, as appropriate, both by the Council and by the Acting United Nations Commissioner for Namibia.

23. The Special Committee on Apartheid and the Unit on Apartheid of the United Nations Secretariat have continued to maintain liaison both with OAU headquarters and the Office of the Executive Secretary to the United Nations on questions relating to the situation in South Africa. The OAU participated in the special session of the Special Committee in March 1972.

24. The Secretary-General communicated to all Member States a memorandum from the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU concerning the establishment of the OAU Assistance Fund for the Struggle against Colonialism and Apartheid and an appeal by the Special Committee on Apartheid for contributions to this fund. Several Member States have made contributions in response to these communications.

VII. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION

25. During the period under review, close contact was maintained between the Office of Public Information at Headquarters and the Information Service at ECA, on the one hand, and OAU on the other. A variety of information media were utilized both at Headquarters and at information centres, particularly in Africa, to disseminate information about matters of common concern to OAU and the United Nations, particularly the problems of colonialism and apartheid in southern Africa and the Security Council session held at Addis Ababa in January and February 1972.

26. The relevant activities of OAU were widely reported in various United Nations publications. A special issue of United Nations and Southern Africa (Bulletin No. 2) dealt with the "african dossier" presented to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session by the President of Mauritania in his capacity as Chairman of OAU. In addition, the quarterly entitled Objective: Justice printed extensive excerpts from this address, as well as an interview with the OAU Assistant Secretary-General concerning problems of southern Africa.

27. The Office of Public Information further provided intensive press, radio, television, film and photo coverage of OAU participation in the meetings of the Security Council at Addis Ababa in January and February 1972 and of the meetings

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of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Africa in April and May 1972.

28. Similarly intensive coverage through all appropriate media and outlets was provided for the address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa on 27 January 1972 and before the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Rabat, on 12 June 1972.

29. Intensified co-operation between OAU and the United Nations was also one of the themes of the twelfth annual Triangular Fellowship Programme, which was organized at Headquarters by the Office of Public Information in co-operation with UNESCO from 1 to 26 May 1972 and took the form of a seminar for African radio broadcasters from Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Uganda. At the request of the Office of Public Information, the OAU representative in New York attended the seminar and addressed the participants on the subject "The United Nations and the Organization of African Unity".

30. Assistance was given to the OAU office in New York in arranging for press conferences on United Nations premises for OAU officials. On request, OAU was provided with press releases and with copies of remarks by the United Nations spokesman relating to African problems.
