

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/244
15 October 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Thirty-fourth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE COUNCIL OF ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY
IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 12 October 1979 from the representatives of Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamihiriya, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On behalf of the undersigned States members of the Council of Arab Economic Unity and in accordance with instructions from our Governments, we have the honour, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to request the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen)
Salah Omar AL-ALI (Iraq)
Hazem NUSEIBEH (Jordan)
Abdalla Yaccoub BISHARA (Kuwait)
Mansur Rashid KIKHIA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
Ahmed Ould SID'AHMED (Mauritania)
Mohamed Sharif MOHAMUD (Somalia)
Ali Ahmed SAHLOUL (Sudan)
Hammoud EL-CHOUFI (Syrian Arab Republic)
Ali HUMAIDAN (United Arab Emirates)
Ahmed Ali AL-HADDAD (Yemen)

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) was established under the terms of the Arab Economic Unity Agreement between members of the League of Arab States pursuant to decision No. 85 of 3 June 1957 in which the Arab Economic Council approved this draft agreement, which entered into force on 30 April 1964 after its ratification by five Arab States. Its secretariat, which was subsequently established, began its work in June 1964.
2. The CAEU membership currently consists of 12 Arab States, each of which is represented in the Council by its Minister of Economy, Trade or Finance or by an alternate holding a rank not lower than Deputy Minister.
3. The CAEU secretariat, which is based at Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, has the function of implementing and following up the decisions of the Council.
4. The Council is an autonomous legal entity established for the purpose of:
 - (a) Ensuring freedom of movement of persons and capital between member States, the free exchange of national and foreign goods and products, freedom of residence, work and employment, freedom to engage in economic activity, and freedom of transport, transit, ownership, bequest and inheritance;
 - (b) Endeavouring to establish a single Arab customs territory with unified customs tariffs, legislation and regulations;
 - (c) Concluding joint trade and payments agreements with other countries;
 - (d) Co-ordinating Arab policies in the fields of agriculture, industry and trade; unifying economic, labour and social security legislation; and co-ordinating monetary and fiscal policies and regulations in States members of CAEU with a view to the unification of the currency;
 - (e) Liberalizing trade between the Arab countries through the establishment of the Arab Common Market;
 - (f) Endeavouring to implement Arab economic integration programmes in accordance with the objectives laid down in the charter of CAEU and the decisions of the Arab Economic and Social Council.
5. The Council plans to promote the Arab Common Market, whose membership currently comprises seven Arab States but will be increased to 10 States with effect from the beginning of 1980, by developing the scope and ensuring the proper implementation of its regulations, expanding its membership, co-ordinating the

economic development plans of all the Arab States, endeavouring to formulate a common Arab development plan and providing the means for its realization and for the implementation of its projects, including the financing needed for the latter, through concerted efforts on the part of Arab financial institutions for the programmed funding of the projects in the plan.

6. The Council is endeavouring to co-ordinate Arab economic integration in its external aspects by keeping in close touch with developments in the world economy. The CAEU secretariat participates in committees, meetings and conferences of regional and international organizations.

7. The Council obtained observer status in the Economic and Social Council under the terms of decision 109 (LIX) of 23 July 1975 and the CAEU secretariat has had a permanent observer at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the meetings of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva for the past two years. The Council is also participating in the work of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea under the terms of Conference decision 3067 of 30 March 1978 and has concluded a co-operation agreement with the United Nations Development Programme. Consultations are currently taking place with a view to the conclusion of co-operation agreements between the CAEU secretariat and UNCTAD, GATT and the International Trade Centre. The CAEU secretariat is also preparing co-operation agreements with a number of regional economic organizations and, in particular, with the Latin American Economic System.

8. The granting of observer status in the United Nations to the Council of Arab Economic Unity at the present time, when efforts are being directed towards the study and planning of the third United Nations development decade, would enable the Council to achieve its regional objectives in the Arab States, which constitute an area of vital importance for the economies of the entire world.
