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Thirty-third session

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

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL  
CO-OPERATION WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 14 September 1978 from the representatives of Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Canada, Central African Empire, Chad, France, Gabon, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta and Zaire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the signatory countries, members of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, and by order of our respective Governments, we have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation with the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached to the present letter.

(Signed) André ERNEMANN (Belgium)  
Patrice HOUNGAVOU (Benin)  
Barthélémy MAKOBÉRO (Burundi)  
William H. BARTON (Canada)  
Paul Vessiot TANGA (Central African  
Empire)  
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Ignace KARUHLJE (Rwanda)  
Taibou Amadou BA (Senegal)  
Akanyiri-Awunyo KODJOVI (Togo)  
Ali HACHANI (Tunisia)  
Johnson Umaru NDIRMBIE (United Republic  
of Cameroon)  
Aissé MENSAH (Upper Volta)  
KABEYA wa MUKEBA (Zaire)

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equality and the achievement of international co-operation in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and public health spheres are among the purposes of the United Nations.
2. The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation has been assigned by its sponsors goals similar to the ideals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. The Agency, as the expression of a new solidarity and an additional instrument for the rapprochement of peoples, has as its main purpose the affirmation and development among its members of multinational co-operation in sectors pertaining to education, culture, science and technology.
3. The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation was established by a convention concluded at Niamey on 20 March 1970 and registered with the United Nations on 11 July 1978.
4. In accordance with the provisions of its charter, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation carries out its work in co-operation with the various international and regional organizations. The Agency, whose motto is "equality, complementarity, solidarity", reflects a desire for co-operation, which is perceived as a profound aspiration of peoples, and responds to an exigent international ethic.
5. The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation consists of:
  - (a) 26 member States

Belgium	Luxembourg
Benin	Mali
Burundi	Mauritius
Canada	Monaco
Central African Empire	Niger
Chad	Rwanda
Comoros	Senegal
Djibouti	Seychelles
France	Togo
Gabon	Tunisia
Haiti	Upper Volta
Ivory Coast	Viet Nam
Lebanon	Zaire
  - (b) Two associate States

Lao People's Democratic Republic  
United Republic of Cameroon

(c) Two participating Governments

New Brunswick  
Quebec

Membership in the Agency is not restricted but can be extended to other countries which are willing to abide by the basic documents and which may wish to participate in its activities and be associated with the mission uniting its members.

6. Created to promote co-operation, interchange and development, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation provides a framework within which peoples and cultures from every continent, or a total of 200 million human beings, work together.

7. The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation organizes periodic meetings of ministers and official representatives of its constituent member countries. At these meetings the Agency's work policies are set, the main outline of its programme of activities is adopted, and the measures relating to multilateral co-operation programmes are defined.

8. The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation is concerned with a broad range of activities, which can be divided into three main sectors:

(a) Development;

(b) Education and scientific and cultural co-operation;

(c) Promotion of national cultures and languages (the Agency encourages cultural activities in the national languages of the member countries).

The many practical applications are in such areas as rural development, administration, information, science, medicine and teaching. In order to carry out the multilateral co-operation programmes in the various sectors of its activity, the Agency has a budget funded by the contributions of member countries.

9. In accordance with the spirit of its charter, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation has already established a dense network of links with the United Nations system. It now co-operates with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, and the Office of Technical Co-operation of the United Nations. In addition, the Agency requested and was granted special observer status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1976.

10. Closer relations between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation will facilitate the endeavours of both organizations in the field of international co-operation. Therefore, the undersigned Governments have

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decided to request observer status for the Agency with the General Assembly and, to this end, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the Assembly of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation with the General Assembly".

11. The States members of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation are confident that their desire to see the Agency make an even greater contribution, in the sectors with which it is concerned, to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations will be well received by the States Members of the United Nations.

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