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

Report of the Secretary-General.

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* A/32/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 November 1976, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/13 concerning co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of that resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to strengthen co-operation at the political, economic, cultural and administrative levels between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly with regard to the provision of assistance to the victims of colonialism and apartheid in southern Africa, and, in this connexion, draws attention to the Assistance Fund for the Struggle against Colonialism and Apartheid established by the Organization of African Unity;

"6. Draws once again the attention of United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia, to the continued need to take effective measures to associate closely the Organization of African Unity regularly with all their work concerning Africa;

"7. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned within the United Nations system to continue and intensify their co-operation with the Organization of African Unity;"

2. In paragraph 8 of that resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-second session a report on the implementation of the resolution and on the development of co-operation between OAU and the organizations concerned within the United Nations system.

3. The present report is submitted in accordance with this request of the General Assembly. It is based on contributions received from United Nations offices, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned within the United Nations system. It deals with actions taken since the last report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/31/217).

4. Other reports submitted to the General Assembly under related items of the agenda contain detailed information on action taken by the Secretary-General and by the bodies concerned in response to the relevant resolutions. Particular reference is made in this connexion to the report of the Secretary-General (A/32/87 and Add.1), submitted in accordance with resolution A/31/30, concerning the implementation, by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960).

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II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

5. The Chairman of OAU for the year 1976-1977, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, visited United Nations Headquarters on 14 October 1976. He addressed the General Assembly 1/ and had discussions with the Secretary-General on matters of common interest to the two organizations.
6. The Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, Mr. William Eteki Mboumoua, visited United Nations Headquarters on 13 October 1976 and discussed with the Secretary-General matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.
7. The Secretary-General was invited to address the fourteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, which convened on 2 July 1977 at Libreville. During his stay in Libreville, the Secretary-General had talks with the outgoing Chairman, Sir Ramgoolam, and with the incoming Chairman, His Excellency Omar Bongo, President of Gabon. He also met with many Heads of African State and Government and with leaders of the various liberation movements.
8. In his address to the summit conference, the Secretary-General expressed satisfaction at the close and constructive relationship which exists between the United Nations and OAU. He discussed African issues and reviewed some of the major political and economic problems that face Africa and the world community and in which the United Nations has been deeply involved. He stressed the need for continued vigour in the search for urgent and equitable solutions to these problems and expressed the hope that the steps taken towards the removal of dangers to international peace and security would meet with success.
9. The Secretary-General undertook further visits to Africa to open the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held at Maputo in May 1977, and the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, held at Lagos in August 1977. On both occasions, the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation to OAU for its support and co-operation in realizing these two important events. Particular mention was made of the efforts of OAU in the search for a solution to the problems of southern Africa.
10. At the invitation of OAU, the Secretary-General designated a representative to attend, as an observer, the twenty-eighth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, which met at Libreville from 24 to 30 June 1977.
11. As in previous years, the work of the executive offices of OAU in New York and Geneva has greatly enhanced communication and co-operation between the two organizations on day-to-day matters. The two Executive Secretaries have ready access to the various departments of the United Nations system and this arrangement continues to facilitate consultations on matters of common concern.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 31st meeting, paras. 31-97.

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

A. Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination

12. In March 1977, representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system held a meeting with a representative of OAU, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1892 (LVII) of 1 August 1974. The meeting reviewed the activities relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant United Nations resolutions with a view to achieving the effective co-ordination of those activities.

B. Division of Human Rights

13. In response to an invitation addressed to it in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1159 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, OAU arranged for a representative to participate as an observer at the thirty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, held at Geneva from 7 February to 11 March 1977. In addition, the following national liberation movements ^{2/} were also represented at the Commission's session: African National Council of Zimbabwe and South-West Africa People's Organizations. In accordance with the same resolution, OAU was also invited to send a representative to participate in the thirtieth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held at Geneva from 15 August to 2 September 1977.

14. The Division of Human Rights has continued its consultations with OAU officials in the preparation of various studies and reports relating to human rights and, in particular, the right of colonial peoples to self-determination and independence.

15. The OAU was invited, if it wished to do so, to report to the Commission on Human Rights, at its thirty-fifth session, on efforts made with a view to marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

C. Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

16. The Special Committee against Apartheid has continued to maintain close co-operation with OAU, which is represented in the Committee as an observer.

17. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 31/6 G of 9 November 1976, the Special Committee organized, in consultation with OAU, a World Conference for Action against Apartheid at Lagos from 22 to 26 August 1977. The Chairman and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, the Chairman, the Executive Secretary

^{2/} Unless otherwise indicated, the liberation movements mentioned in this report are those recognized by OAU.

and the Assistant Executive Secretary of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, as well as the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Executive Secretary of OAU to the United Nations, were invited to participate in the Conference.

18. On 15 October 1976, the Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations with the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU in New York, during which they agreed on various specific measures for concerted action with regard to the situation in southern Africa.

19. At the invitation of OAU, the Chairman of the Special Committee attended the session of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, held from 25 January to 5 February 1977 at Lusaka. He also attended the twenty-ninth session of the OAU Council of Ministers and fourteenth session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held at Libreville in June and July 1977.

20. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, the Chairman of OAU for the year 1976-1977, sent a message to the solemn meeting organized by the Special Committee on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 1977. The Executive Secretary of OAU to the United Nations attended the meeting and made a statement.

21. In March 1977, representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania were invited by the Special Committee for consultations. Financial provision was made for their travel and subsistence. These two movements, as well as the South West African People's Organization and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, were also invited by the Special Committee to attend the World Conference at Lagos. Financial provision was made by the United Nations for their participation in the Conference.

22. A representative of OAU participated in the Second International Trade Union Conference for Action against Apartheid, convened by the Special Committee at Geneva on 10 and 11 June 1977. Five representatives of trade unions of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe were also invited to this Conference, and financial provision was made by the United Nations for their travel and subsistence.

23. The Centre against Apartheid in the United Nations Secretariat has continued to maintain close liaison with OAU, particularly with regard to publicity against apartheid and assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements.

24. The Secretary-General has continued, in co-operation with the Committees concerned, to encourage greater contributions to the three United Nations programmes of assistance to southern Africans, namely, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and the United Nations Fund for Namibia. Contributions to these programmes in 1976 amounted to \$2,788,689.

25. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa has also continued to maintain close co-operation with OAU, especially with its bureau

for the Placement and Education of African Refugees. A representative of OAU attends meetings of the Advisory Committee on the Programme in an observer capacity.

D. Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization

26. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia continued to maintain a close relationship with OAU during the period under review. Both the Special Committee and the Council received the full co-operation of the Executive Secretary of OAU to the United Nations, who actively participated in the related work of the two bodies and their respective subsidiary organs in accordance with established practice.

27. A joint endeavour of the United Nations and OAU was the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia which was held at Maputo from 16 to 21 May 1977. The Conference was attended by delegations from 92 Member States, five national liberation movements, five observer missions and 27 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

28. Both the Special Committee and the United Nations Council for Namibia were represented at the meeting of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, held at Luanda in June 1977. Furthermore, the two bodies were represented at the twenty-ninth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers and the fourteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Libreville in June and July 1977.

29. The question of the formulation and provision of concrete programmes of assistance by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the liberation movements and the peoples of colonial territories, particularly those of Zimbabwe and Namibia, continued to be of special concern to the Special Committee and the United Nations Council for Namibia.

E. Economic Commission for Africa

30. With particular reference to the provision of assistance to the victims of colonialism and apartheid in southern Africa, ECA proposes to carry out an itinerant workshop for trainers in programmes to improve the quality of rural life for newly liberated areas. The co-operation of OAU will be sought in this endeavour.

F. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

31. UNIDO is currently reviewing its programme of assistance to Namibia and will eventually discuss it with OAU. Representatives of national liberation movements in Namibia and Southern Rhodesia have been invited to participate in the second

General Conference of UNIDO and the sessions of the Industrial Development Board. UNIDO further proposed a programme of training in industrial management to be organized by it and the liberation movements.

G. United Nations Children's Fund

32. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has maintained active collaboration with OAU in areas of mutual concern and with respect to assistance to the liberation movements. UNICEF's Regional Director for East Africa at Nairobi, and its representatives in Addis Ababa and in the United Republic of Tanzania have been given particular responsibility to maintain the closest possible co-operation with OAU and its various organs in this regard.

33. The UNICEF assistance programme to the liberation movements, developed in close collaboration with OAU, has been effectively implemented. At the end of 1976, a great proportion of the resources of \$1,403,000 available for such assistance had been delivered.

34. A new commitment of \$1,200,000 was approved by UNICEF's Executive Board in June 1977 for assistance to African liberation movements. ^{3/} This new commitment is already under active implementation and the beneficiaries are Zimbabwean children and women resident in Mozambique and Zambia, and Namibians in Angola and Zambia. Provision is also made for the continuation of assistance to the combined Liberation Movement Service Centre in the United Republic of Tanzania.

H. United Nations Development Programme

35. Co-operation between OAU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with respect to the situation in southern Africa has largely concentrated on delivering an effective and meaningful assistance programme to African liberation movements in such areas as education, health and agriculture. The Secretariat of the OAU Liberation Committee in Dar es Salaam has been the focal point for such a co-operation programme.

36. In response to the various resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, UNDP has awarded scholarships to African youth who had been denied educational opportunity in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. UNDP has also financed the establishment of schools in neighbouring countries for the children of refugees. Whenever possible, agricultural projects have been financed to enable members of national liberation movements to teach their people improved farming methods and food production. Several health centres have also been established to serve national liberation movements both as medical training facilities and as treatment clinics.

37. UNDP has substantially contributed to the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Namibia which is concerned with preparing the nucleus of Namibia's

^{3/} Recommendation of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/P/L.1717).

future civil service. Today, the Institute is operational with 100 students enrolled and many faculty members have been recruited.

38. Co-operation between UNDP and OAU is expected to be further intensified following the recent approval by the Governing Council of UNDP of \$6 million to respond to the rapidly increasing humanitarian needs of African liberation movements. In addition to this, UNDP is administering a trust fund of \$4 million which has been established within the Programme by voluntary contributions from a number of States.

I. World Food Programme

39. The Executive Director and Officers of WFP have held discussions with representatives of the liberation movements on various occasions during the period under review. Among other matters, procedures and conditions governing WFP aid were explained. A Senior Adviser of WFP in Lusaka was appointed to act as liaison officer responsible for co-operation with liberation movements in the area.

40. Two projects are currently under consideration to provide food aid to displaced persons from Zimbabwe and Namibia who are living in settlement camps in Zambia. These have involved discussions with the host Government, OAU and representatives of the Zimbabwean African Peoples Union and the South-West African People's Organization.

J. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

41. OAU was represented at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, held in October 1976. At the request of the Director of the OAU Bureau for Placement and Education of African Refugees, UNHCR placed an official at the disposal of the Bureau to assist it in providing opportunities to individual refugees.

42. As regards the protection of refugees, UNHCR maintained close contact with OAU with a view to promoting further accessions by its Member States to relevant international legal instruments, principally the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 4/ and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 5/ and the OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of the Problem of Refugees in Africa of 1969. 6/

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

5/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

6/ Organization of African Unity, Council of Ministers, eleventh session, Algiers, September 1968, document CM/228, annex II, p. 1.

43. Upon the request of the Government of Angola and in response to the High Commissioner's appeal of 23 August 1976, OAU contributed \$13,244,000 towards the United Nations programme of humanitarian assistance to Angola.

44. UNHCR has strengthened its relations with African liberation movements. Three of these movements, the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West African People's Organization of Namibia, were represented at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Committee. At the request of the liberation movements concerned, UNHCR assisted in the transfer of Soweto students from countries bordering on South Africa to other countries in Africa. It also prepared an emergency relief programme for refugees from Zimbabwe in Zambia and provided Namibian refugees in Angola with medical supplies.

K. International Labour Organisation

45. ILO/OAU co-operation has continued, particularly in the matter of assistance to African liberation movements. Throughout the year, there have been numerous exchanges and contacts between representatives of the two organizations at the highest level. In March 1977, the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Office, accompanied by the Regional Director for Africa, met the Executive Secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee at Dar-es-Salaam and discussed with him possible joint action by the two organizations to aid African liberation movements, particularly those of Namibia and Zimbabwe.

46. Through the good offices of the OAU Refugee Bureau, the ILO has been in contact with representatives of SWAPO with a view to inviting Namibian nationals to attend an accelerated training course in labour administration at Geneva. Contacts have also continued at Geneva and in Africa with representatives of SWAPO and of the Zimbabwe liberation movements, with the aim of finalizing a more detailed programme of technical assistance in several fields.

47. The International Institute for Labour Studies contributed to ILO/OAU co-operation by arranging a regional seminar on the subject of the economic and social development of southern Africa, which took place from 19 April to 24 June 1977 successively at Lusaka, Nairobi and Geneva. Nationals of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa attended this seminar, which was held in close co-operation with OAU. The seminar enabled participants, most of whom had been chosen from the liberation movements and with their consent, to study intensively the various aspects of the economic and social development of the countries of southern Africa.

48. The ILO has recently published a report on discrimination in employment in Namibia. This is the first document of its kind and was submitted as a working document to the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia held at Maputo in May 1977.

Productivity is particularly low in the case of food crops; vanilla production also has very low yields. Soils have become exhausted for lack of fertilizer.

7. Infrastructure

28. The roads which were constructed are predominantly in the lowland areas along the coastlines, especially in Grande-Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli. In many cases access to inland villages is, at best, by tracks suitable only for 4-wheel drive vehicles. The resultant difficulty in marketing for the inland villages contributes to the dependence on food imports.

29. Other physical infrastructure is also inadequate, with the exception of civil aviation, for which reasonably satisfactory facilities were developed. The Comoros lack a deep-water port at which ships other than coastal vessels can call. The islands thus face problems similar to those of land-locked countries - long distances to foreign markets and dependence on ports of neighbouring countries. The resultant transportation cost is a serious burden to a country heavily dependent on external trade.

30. None of the urban areas has a comprehensive distribution system for water supply. The provision of water is particularly difficult on Grande-Comore where, because of the porosity of the soil, there are no perennial rivers. Supply in most places depends on wells or rain-water-storage cisterns, some of which are public and some private. The cisterns in particular are inadequate for a growing population, especially in the dry season. Equally serious, they are a health problem, as many of them are old and badly maintained.

31. Electricity development is both inadequate and uneven. Total power consumption at 12 kilowatt hours per person per year is very low. Generation and distribution are most developed on Grande-Comore, mainly in and near Moroni, while on Anjouan, public supply is concentrated in the two main towns and, on Mohéli, it is only just being developed.

8. Budgetary position

32. The Comoros have long suffered a deficit economy. During the pre-independence period, government services relied on external support from France, as domestic current revenues were constantly less than current expenditures. Moreover, many essential services were paid for directly by France. In 1974, the year before independence, total French aid is estimated to have been \$US 25 million, or about two and a half times the domestic revenues. While it is true that about half of this sum represented the cost of French technical co-operation, and some of the services were for the needs of the expatriate community, nevertheless the external budgetary assistance was vital.

9. Chronic trade deficit.

33. The Comoros also have a deficit economy in that they have regularly imported more than they exported, at least for the past 20 years. Although exports have progressed fairly steadily, the over-all trade deficit rose gradually from about \$530,000 in 1956 to over \$14.7 million in 1974. The trade coverage ratio of exports to imports dropped over the same period from about 78 per cent to about 37 per cent. A significant factor in this growing trade deficit has been the increasing dependence on imported rice as a staple food-stuff.

B. Post-independence developments.

1. New economic, social, financial and administrative problems.

34. A newly independent country inheriting such a complex of problems would in any case find it difficult to make rapid social and economic progress, at least without substantial external assistance. In the case of the Comoros, however, the new country has had to deal with several additional serious problems within the first two years of its independence.

35. The General Assembly has recognized that the new State of the Comoros comprise the four islands of Grande-Comore, Anjouan, Mayotte and Mohéli. It has not been possible for the Government of the Comoros to bring the island of Mayotte within the jurisdiction and the economy of the new State because of a continuing dispute with France over Mayotte's political status. The Government emphasized to the Mission that, apart from the political aspects of the problem, the continued separation of Mayotte from the rest of the islands constituted a serious obstacle to the economic integration and development of the State.

36. The Government informed the Mission that, immediately after the Comoros' declaration of independence on 6 July 1975, France terminated its financial aid to the Comoros' recurrent budget. This aid had amounted to 41 per cent of that year's budget. The sudden cessation of a major source of finance presented a serious financial crisis for a poor country with very limited material and financial resources.

37. The financial problem was greatly worsened when, on 28 November 1975, France announced that all French officials would be withdrawn; they left on 15 December. In addition, all French financial support for government services in the Comoros was then terminated. Most key services were left largely or wholly unstaffed and developmental activities were halted. In some cases, essential services were paralysed. Only the staff of the Caisse centrale de coopération économique remained, to administer the currency system.

38. The next problem arose from the urgent repatriation of about 17,000 Comorians from Madagascar in January 1977. Besides the administrative effort of absorbing and resettling an instant increase of 6 per cent in the population, the Government has been obliged to continue paying monthly subsistence allowances to the

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58. In the field of social development, arrangements were made, in co-operation with OAU, for the second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs in January 1977. The secretariat undertook a mission with OAU to examine facilities available in member States interested in acting as host to the Regional Training and Research Centre in Social Development.

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

59. Co-operation with OAU has been increased. In its consultative status with UNCTAD, OAU received all documents and invitations to UNCTAD meetings. In the field of technical co-operation, a large number of projects, consistent with the aims and objectives of OAU, are implemented in Africa at country and inter-country levels. Many of these projects are directed towards a greater collective self-reliance of the region through the strengthening of economic integration movements, the facilitation of transit operations between land-locked countries and their neighbours, the promotion of co-operation in the monetary field, the expansion of trade among African countries, etc.

60. The UNCTAD secretariat maintained close links in the preparation of a report by the OAU office in Geneva on the Common Fund which was submitted to the OAU Conference in Libreville, in June/July 1977. UNCTAD has also undertaken to co-operate in the preparation of a joint OAU/ECA/UNCTAD Regional African Meeting on the Common Fund during the summer of 1977. Assistance to OAU and ECA in the establishment of an African Centre on Transfer and Development of Technology is also being provided by UNCTAD.

C. United Nations Environment Programme

61. The Executive Director of UNEP visited the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa in August and September 1976 and took the opportunity to meet and discuss matters of mutual concern with senior officials of OAU.

62. In addition, consultations in February and March 1977 led to the joint organization of the OAU Symposium on Drought and the UNEP/ECA Regional Preparatory Meeting on Desertification in Nairobi, 7/ 12 to 16 April 1977, embracing the African countries south of the Sahara. OAU further co-operated with UNEP in the organization of the Algarve Regional meeting on Desertification for the Mediterranean countries, held in Portugal in March and April 1977. OAU has been invited to participate in the United Nations Conference on Desertification from 29 August to 9 September 1977 in Nairobi.

63. OAU has undertaken to co-operate with UNEP in the preparations for the African Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles, sponsored by the Government of Algeria. Furthermore, the two organizations have been represented in each other's policy-making bodies and technical organs.

^{7/} These meetings were attended by many international organizations, including WHO and WMO.

64. The OAU Council of Ministers took note with appreciation of the joint effort made by OAU, ECA and UNEP in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Desertification.

D. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

65. The ECA Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the African Ministers in Kinshasa in February and March 1977 adopted a resolution concerning accelerated industrialization in Africa. The resolution, inter alia, called upon the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Director of UNIDO to co-operate closely in defining the areas, aspects and modalities of international consultation on redeployment and development of the world industrial capacity. They were also called upon to organize regional consultation meetings to supplement and develop the African position, in preparing the global consultations being conducted in pursuance of the Lima Declaration. UNIDO is taking all necessary steps to implement the resolution.

E. United Nations Development Programme

66. Efforts are being pursued to implement the co-operation agreement between OAU and UNDP signed in 1975. These efforts have focused on the possibility of expanding the capacity of OAU to undertake certain projects by providing assistance for the purpose of training its staff. In this connexion, an amount of \$50,000 per year has been allocated under the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa to assist the OAU secretariat. The first fellowship (documentation and conference services) financed under this programme was awarded towards the end of 1976.

67. In addition, the African Civil Aviation Commission, which has recently become a specialized agency of OAU, considered at its fifth Plenary Session, held in May and June at Lomé, proposals for the establishment of a network of civil aviation training centres in Africa, based on a UNDP-financed African manpower and training survey (project RAF/73/006).

68. In order to ensure the best co-ordination possible between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, on the one hand, and OAU and the headquarters, on the other hand, a Liaison Office for these organizations was opened in Addis Ababa on 1 June 1977. A representative of OAU also participated in the proceedings of the Governing Council of UNDP at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions, in January and June 1977.

F. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

69. The Institute has invited the OAU secretariat to participate in a number of meetings of interest to Africa, including a conference on African development strategies and the future, held at Dakar in July 1977, a colloquium on women and decision-making in the United Nations, held in Austria in July 1977, and a research panel on United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, held in New York in March 1977.

70. Contacts with OAU and ECA have shown that there is a considerable need for training programmes for African conference officers. Subject to the availability of funds, the Institute plans to organize in 1978 a programme for African conference officers, in consultation with OAU and other interested organizations.

G. International Labour Organisation

71. Close consultations take place regularly between the two organizations at Addis Ababa, between the ILO Regional Office for Africa and the OAU secretariat, and at Geneva, between the OAU permanent delegation and ILO headquarters.

72. The ILO has maintained regular and continuous contact with OAU in the course of visiting missions to Africa by officials and experts. It provided technical assistance for the practical preparation and proceedings of the first Conference of senior African labour administrators at Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 November 1976.

73. Jointly with OAU and with the financial assistance of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the ILO arranged a seminar entitled, "Labour, population and development planning" at Yaoundé from 20 November to 4 December 1976.

74. During the period covered by this report, OAU was represented at meetings of the ILO Governing Body and at the sixty-third session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva from 1 to 22 June 1977. At OAU's invitation, the ILO took part in meetings held under OAU auspices, including the fourteenth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Labour at Freetown from 29 March to 2 April 1976, the Second Conference of African Ministers for Social Affairs at Alexandria from 10 to 14 January 1977, and the session of the African Labour Commission (formerly Conference of African Ministers of Labour), held at Tripoli in April 1977.

H. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

75. FAO participated in the sessions of the OAU Council of Ministers and the Assemblies of the Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Libreville, in June and July 1977.

76. Through its Freetown Declaration, the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held at Freetown from 2 to 12 November 1976, has requested FAO to co-operate with OAU and ECA in drawing up a Regional Food Plan to enable member States of the OAU to be self-sufficient in food within a period of 10 years, and to submit the Plan to the next FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

77. FAO made arrangements to collaborate with OAU in servicing the meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food, in line with a decision taken by the seventeenth session of the FAO Conference of November 1975, and with Economic and Social Council resolution 2038 (LXI) of 5 August 1976.

78. Through its regional office at Accra, FAO assisted OAU during the past year in a number of specialized areas in the context of the control and eradication of plant and animal diseases. A regional project on tick-borne cattle diseases and tick control was completed in December 1976. At the request of the OAU Inter-African Bureau of Animal Research, FAO is considering the establishment of regional centres to ensure the continuity of the work started by the regional project.

I. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

79. UNESCO has been represented at many meetings organized by OAU dealing with subjects related to its programme. In this context, the Director-General personally attended the fourteenth OAU summit held at Libreville from 2 to 5 July 1977.

80. UNESCO assisted OAU in reorganizing its conference services. To this end, it made experts available to OAU on short-term assignments and provided training for an OAU official.

81. Also within the framework of its regular programme, UNESCO has continued to co-operate with the OAU Centre d'études linguistiques et historiques par tradition orale at Niamey by means of a research contract and by supplying equipment.

J. World Health Organization

82. WHO has continued its co-operation with OAU in a number of fields, including the joint OAU/FAO/WHO Regional Food and Nutrition Commission for Africa. WHO maintains a staff member on this project and the more significant steps taken have been the preparation of food and nutrition summaries covering the majority of countries in the Africa region.

83. The WHO Regional Committee, at its twenty-sixth session, stressed the need for the development of pharmaceutical industries in Africa. In the light of this, discussions have taken place between OAU, the African Development Bank, WHO, ECA and UNIDO. Following those discussions it was decided that a feasibility study should be undertaken and the terms of reference for the study were completed in April 1977 by a consultant mutually agreed to by the organizations concerned.

84. WHO, in collaboration with OAU and FAO, has been involved in the organization, at Nairobi in September 1977, of a joint FAO/OAU/WHO leadership training seminar on African Trypanosomiasis, originally recommended by the OAU/International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC). In addition, the OAU/ISCTRC meeting on trypanosomiasis, held at Banjul, Gambia, in April 1977, was attended by several WHO staff members from the WHO Regional Office in Brazzaville and from the WHO headquarters in Geneva.

85. WHO is in continuous contact with OAU concerning the development and support of research activities in Africa, including the planning of an OAU/WHO seminar on goitre and the formulation of a project for the establishment of a school hygiene service in the Comoros.

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86. In this context, WHO is in contact with the OAU Health Bureau with a view to having that body present specific regional programmes to the appropriate political levels of OAU. It is hoped that this will lead to more active representation by WHO in the OAU Council of Ministers and OAU representation in the meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, so that matters of common interest can be elaborated in the decision-making process.

K. World Bank

87. During the period under consideration, the Bank's staff continued to benefit from formal and informal exchange of views with the OAU staff, through meetings at the OAU head office in Addis Ababa, during missions in various countries and at various interagency meetings. The Annual Meeting of the Bank provided a similar opportunity.

L. International Monetary Fund

88. OAU was invited to attend in an observer capacity the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of IMF, held at Manila in October 1976. A Fund representative participated in the meeting of representatives of United Nations organizations and agencies with a representative of the secretariat of OAU, held at Paris in March 1977.

M. Universal Postal Union

89. OAU has been invited to participate in several meetings of UPU, including the meeting of its Executive Council, held at Berne from 12 to 18 May 1977. In addition, arrangements have been made to associate OAU with the periodic meetings of UPU and the African regional organization concerned with technical co-operation.

N. International Telecommunication Union

90. The Co-ordinating Committee for the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network is composed of OAU, ECA, the African Development Bank and ITU. The Committee met at Geneva in May 1976 and its recommendations towards the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network and the development of telecommunications in Africa were submitted to and supported by the OAU Council of Ministers.

91. ITU continued to be invited to all major meetings of OAU and was represented at the twenty-sixth session of the OAU Council of Ministers and at other meetings. In addition, ITU has actively participated in preparatory activities and meetings, such as the sessions of the Steering Committee of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union (PATU), held in Addis Ababa in August 1976. Advice was given in the formulation of a Draft Convention for PATU, which was prepared along the lines of the ITU Convention. ITU was also invited to participate in the Conference of

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Plenipotentiaries convened by OAU in Addis Ababa in May 1977 to deliberate on the Draft Convention of PATU.

O. World Meteorological Organization

92. The WMO is giving consideration to the most effective way of responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 2038 (LXI) on co-operation between the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food and the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies. In this connexion, OAU has been invited to offer its suggestions.

P. Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

93. Since the establishment of the co-operation agreement between IMCO and OAU in 1974, a close co-operation has been maintained between the two organizations on all matters relating to maritime transport. Consultations have also been carried out with regard to the establishment of regional maritime academies in west and east Africa. Furthermore, the IMCO regional adviser in Africa is available for consultation and co-ordination with OAU on activities of mutual interest to both organizations in the maritime field.

Q. International Atomic Energy Agency

94. During the past year, consultations and co-operation continued in line with the co-operation agreement concluded between IAEA and OAU in September 1968.

R. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

95. A main area of co-operation between GATT and OAU continues to be the present Multilateral Trade Negotiations at Geneva. A number of States members of OAU are participating actively in these negotiations, and are also taking full advantage of the services provided to country participants by the Special Assistance Unit of the GATT secretariat.

96. GATT has informed the OAU secretariat of its readiness to consider any candidates put forward by the secretariat for participation in the GATT trade policy courses.

V. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION
AND PUBLICITY

97. The Office of Public Information of the Secretariat has continued its co-operation with OAU through all the information media available to it, including press, publications, films, television, radio, and the United Nations information centres.

98. The Press and Publications Division continued to disseminate information on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU through press releases and in periodicals, including the monthly UN Chronicle, the bi-monthly bulletin United Nations and Southern Africa, and the quarterly Objective: Justice. The International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held at Maputo, was covered extensively in these publications. Coverage was also given to statements made by representatives of OAU to the General Assembly, the Security Council, 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 against Apartheid and other United Nations bodies, as well as to statements by United Nations spokesmen, particularly the Secretary-General, at meetings of OAU.

99. The Radio and Visual Services Division of the Office of Public Information continued to cover and publicize the activities undertaken by OAU within the framework of the United Nations. Events which were particularly productive in this context included the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa, the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe, the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, as well as a number of meetings of major United Nations organs. For this coverage and publicity, the media of radio, television, film and photographs were used.

100. In addition, early in 1977 the African Section of the Radio Service produced a special programme on co-operation between OAU and the United Nations. On several occasions throughout the year, the Section also recorded interviews with the OAU representatives and utilized this material in its programmes, particularly UN Africa and L'Afrique à l'ONU.

101. The Photographs and Exhibits Section continued to cover various meetings and events taking place under the sponsorship or with the participation of OAU.

102. As in previous years, the Policy and Programme Section of the OPI External Relations Division instructed 56 Information Centres and Services to publicize the activities of OAU and to continue to co-operate in furthering the aims and objectives of the Organization in Africa. In this connexion, information material on the evils of apartheid, racial discrimination and decolonization was sent to the Information Centres for distribution to representatives of the news media, educational institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition, the Directors of the United Nations information centres were requested to prepare special reports on information coverage of and "feedback" obtained on the OAU meeting which took place in Libreville.