



Sixteenth session  
Agenda item 22 (c)

ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA

AFRICAN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to bring to the attention of the Members of the General Assembly the following observations by the Director-General of UNESCO concerning the Outline of a Plan for African Educational Development.

Observations of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

2. In its resolution 837 (XXXII) entitled "African educational development", the Economic and Social Council, at its thirty-second session, invited the attention of the General Assembly to the Outline of a Plan for African Educational Development adopted by the Conference of African States held at Addis Ababa in May 1961. This document has been placed at the disposal of the delegations to the General Assembly, and the Director-General of UNESCO accordingly feels that it might be useful to offer a few comments in connexion therewith.

3. The Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa was convened in pursuance of resolution 1.2322 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its eleventh session (November-December 1960). It was held under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the Economic Commission for Africa, and in full association with all the other United Nations agencies concerned. The twenty-fifth report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (document E/3495, paragraph 47) made the following statement on the Conference, in its chapter on "Education and Training":

"At its last session, the General Conference of UNESCO decided to 'convene a conference of African States in 1961 with a view to establishing an inventory of educational needs and a programme to meet those needs in the coming years'. This conference is to be held under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa in 1961, in full association with all other agencies concerned. Educational needs and the elements of a programme to meet those needs are to be considered both independently and within the economic, social and cultural context of Africa, attention being focussed on the most urgent needs calling for concerted action during the coming years. This meeting will clearly represent a most important step towards the establishment of an effective programme of education in Africa. All agencies concerned have participated in planning and manning the Conference and a further review at the working level of the results and implications of the Addis Ababa Conference will be necessary."

4. The Conference stressed that education, if wisely planned, was a productive investment which contributed to economic growth, and that the content of education should meet the needs of economic development. Taking as its point of departure this concept that educational planning should be a part of economic and social development planning, the Conference adopted the Outline of a Plan for African Educational Development, to which the Economic and Social Council invites the attention of the General Assembly.

5. This plan covers two stages: 1961-1965 and 1965-1980. It is expected that, at the conclusion of the short-term plan, primary school enrolment for the continent as a whole will have increased from 40 to 51 per cent of the age-group concerned and secondary school enrolment from 3 to 9 per cent, while the percentage of enrolment in higher educational establishments will be 0.2. By 1980, the date of completion of the long-term plan, it is intended that 100 per cent primary school enrolment shall have been achieved, in accordance with the ideal embodied in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while the enrolments for secondary education would be 23 per cent and for higher education 2 per cent of the age-groups concerned. It should be noted that the Conference decided to give priority to secondary education during the next five years, with a view to remedying the lack of trained personnel from which the States of Africa are now suffering.

6. The cost of the short-term plan has been estimated at \$4,150 million, \$2,840 million of which would be provided from local resources while the deficit

would have to be covered by contributions from abroad (\$140 million for 1961, \$150 million for 1962, \$260 million for 1963, \$310 million for 1964 and \$450 million for 1965). For the long-term plan, contributions from abroad would reach their maximum in 1970, when they would total \$920 million as against \$870 million in local funds, dropping to \$400 million in 1980 as against \$2,200 million in local funds. After 1980, financing would be provided entirely by the African States themselves. The Conference also recommended that the objectives of the plan and the estimated cost of its implementation should be re-examined at a further conference to be convened jointly by UNESCO and the Economic Commission for Africa in 1963. That conference would compare and analyse the national educational development plans drawn up in the meantime, and ensure their integration with economic and social development programmes.

7. After noting the results of the Addis Ababa Conference, and particularly the "Outline of a Plan for African Educational Development", the Executive Board of UNESCO at its fifty-ninth session, agreed "that the Director-General should present the report of the Conference and the outline of a plan for African educational development to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session, together with the comments of the Executive Board". It invited Member States and Associate Members from Africa, "with the aid, as appropriate, of UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Africa and the specialized agencies, to implement the recommendations and decisions for the development of education in Africa set forth in the two documents" and "to consult and co-operate for the provision of better specialized education and scientific services at a lower cost". It further invited "Member States and Associate Members in other regions, the United Nations and specialized agencies, the international non-governmental organizations and foundations to help and contribute to the greatest possible extent in the realization of the plans and programmes for African educational development established at the Conference".

8. The Director-General is doing everything possible to help the African States carry out this plan, in close co-operation with the other United Nations agencies concerned and in accordance with the arrangements agreed upon by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.