

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/5978
24 September 1965

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twentieth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

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

Letter dated 23 September 1965 from the Permanent Representatives of
Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo
(Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dahomey, Ethiopia,
Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi,
Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra
Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic,
United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The undersigned, Permanent Representatives of the African States, have the honour to request that an item entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity" be included in the agenda of the twentieth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Permanent Representatives of the African States consider that this item is of an important, urgent and non-controversial character and therefore they request its inclusion in the agenda of the twentieth session of the General Assembly, according to the relevant rules of procedure.

Your Excellency will also find, attached to this letter, an explanatory memorandum on this item.

(Signed) Tewfik BOUATTOURA Algeria	(Signed) Sori COULIBALY Mali
André NYANKIYE Burundi	Ahmed-Baba MISKE Mauritania
Jean-Baptiste BELEOKEN Cameroon	Dey OULD SIDI BABA Morocco
Michel GALLIN-DOUATHE Central African Republic	Ary TANIMOUNE Niger
Boukar ABDOUL Chad	S.O. ADEBO Nigeria
Jonas MOUANZA Congo (Brazzaville)	Canisius MUDENGE Rwanda
Théodore IDZUMBUIR Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ousmane Socé DIOP Senegal
Louis IGNACIO-PINTO Dahomey	Gershon B.O. COLLIER Sierra Leone
Tesfaye GEBRE-EGZY Ethiopia	Abdulrahim Abby FARAH Somalia
Bonjean François ONDO Gabon	Fakher-ED-DINE Mohamed Sudan
Alex QUAISON-SACKEY Ghana	Robert AJAVON Togo
ACHKAR Marof Guinea	Taïeb SLIM Tunisia
Arsène Assouan USHER Ivory Coast	Apollo K. KIRONDE Uganda
Burudi NABWERA Kenya	Mohamed Awad EL-KONY United Arab Republic
Nathan BARNES Liberia	John W.S. MALECELA United Republic of Tanzania
Saad M. ANGUDI Libya	John Boureima KABORE Upper Volta
John R. NGWIRI Malawi	F.M. MULIKITA Zambia

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In establishing the Organization of African Unity and formulating its Charter, on 25 May 1963, the African Heads of State and Government have reiterated their desire to strengthen and support the United Nations and reaffirmed their "dedication to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and acceptance of all obligations contained in the Charter".

The resolutions of the organs of the Organization of African Unity, i.e., the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers and the specialized commissions, reflect the determination of the African States to harmonize their policies with a view to promoting international co-operation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Charter of the Organization of African Unity was, after due ratification by the member States, registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations by His Majesty Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia, in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and article 26 of the charter of the Organization of African Unity.

The United Nations Secretary-General U Thant attended and addressed the first session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Cairo, in July 1964. He declared "that the adoption of the OAU charter was a welcome support to the United Nations" and stated:

"... the United Nations agencies have already begun to co-operate with the appropriate bodies of the Organization of African Unity and we look forward to a closer association in line with the provisions of the United Nations Charter."

In resolution S/6129 of 30 December 1964, the Security Council recognized the Organization of African Unity as a regional organization under Article 52 of the United Nations Charter and expressed its conviction "that the Organization of African Unity should be able to help find a peaceful solution to all the problems and disputes affecting the peace and security in the continent of Africa" and "requested the Organization of African Unity, in conformity with Article 54 of the Charter, to keep the Security Council fully informed of any action it may take under that resolution".

/...

Desirous of maintaining and promoting the closest co-operation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Organization of African Unity has held discussions or signed agreements with the following: UNESCO, WHO, the ILO, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It has welcomed the desire of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa to establish close contacts with the Organization of African Unity and its representatives have appeared many times before the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

During the recent visit made by this Committee in Africa, the administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity has held discussions with the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning a close co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa.

In order further to promote co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, it would be appropriate and desirable to extend a permanent invitation to the administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to attend the sessions of the General Assembly as an observer as the Secretaries-General of the Organization of American States and the League of Arab States have been invited under General Assembly resolutions 253 (III) and 477 (V), respectively. It should be noted that representatives of these organizations were subsequently invited to attend the Economic and Social Council.

Furthermore, it would be appropriate and desirable to request and authorize the Secretary-General to discuss with the Organization of African Unity the modalities for closer co-operation in various fields and to report with recommendations so that further action may be taken to this end.
