

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY
SECRETARIAT
P. O. Box 3243**

ADDIS ABABA

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRIICAINE
SECRETARIAT
B. P. 3243**

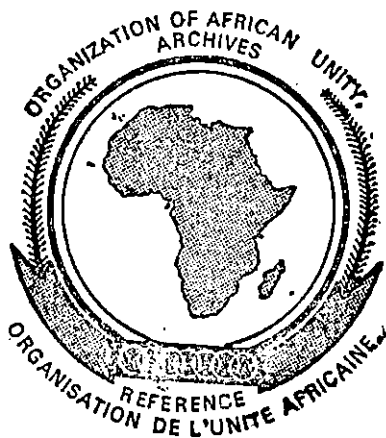
CM/200

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
10th Ordinary Session
~~Luanda~~ - February 1968.

Addis Abeba

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF AFRICA



CM0200

MICROFICHE

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF AFRICA

In resolution No. CM/Res.114(IX) which was adopted by the ninth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers and approved by the fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in September, 1967, in Kinshasa, Congo, the OAU accepted "in principle the proposal to set up a Central Fund for the travelling expenses of CSA Members;", and invited "the Administrative Secretary General to study the financial implications of this new proposal and to report to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers". A copy of that
.... resolution is attached hereon.

It is recalled that the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) was one of the permanent organs that were taken over from the former Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA) on 1st January, 1965. At that time, the CSA was independent of the CCTA, but the two co-operated closely in that the former was established for the purposes among which was the one calling on it to furnish the latter with "objective scientific opinion" in the fields in which CCTA was competent to act. In this connection the role of the CSA was "to advise CCTA and to give full scientific value and cohesion to inter-African co-operation". It consisted of eminent scientists who were appointed by the CSA in their individual rights as representatives of their particular scientific disciplines. The CSA also had the objective, among others, of proposing "research projects of Common interest" to the member governments. The CSA was founded in 1950, following a scientific conference held in 1949.

When the CCTA was absorbed into the OAU on 1st January, 1965, the permanent organs that it then had, had to be fitted within the provisions of the OAU Charter. Most of these, however, became part of the General Secretariat of the OAU, but with specific functions under the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (STRC). In its second ordinary session in January, 1965, held in Lagos, Nigeria, the STRC recommended among others in resolution STR/Res.8(II) that "the Scientific Council of Africa shall be the principal organ for formulating the scientific, technological and research programmes of the STRC and

for co-ordinating and harmonizing the programmes of the various national scientific councils within its (STRC) terms of reference". In resolution STR/Res.9(II), the STRC also recommended among other things, that "the Scientific Council should be composed of eminent scientists, one to be nominated from each member country". "The Council should have the power of co-optation to fill deficiencies with respect to scientific fields". These were among the resolutions of the STRC, which were later approved by the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. With this new lease of life and reformation, the CSA started to function again. The CSA meets once in every two years in line with re-scheduling of the frequency of the meetings of the OAU Commissions.

The first ordinary session of the CSA was held in Lagos in December, 1965. Out of 22 Members that had been appointed by Member States, only 12 attended that meeting. The second ordinary session of the CSA was held in Addis Ababa in April 1967. Out of 31 Members, only 19 attended. The quorum for the biannual meetings of the CSA is half of its membership.

In accordance with the present practices of the OAU, Member States pay for the expenses of their representatives at the CSA meetings, while the OAU pays for the technical (or essential) conference services.

During both meetings, Members of the CSA who attended expressed concern at the fewness of their numbers who were present. From the reports received by the General Secretariat before and during these meetings, the following three main reasons appear to have been responsible for the non-attendance by some Members of the CSA:

- (1) Inability to be absent from their stations due to pressure of work;
- (2) Shortage of funds on the part of some States, to defray the expenses of their representatives at the meetings; and
- (3) Possible lack of interest in the work of the CSA by some of the representatives.

Taking these one by one, the General Secretariat received on the two occasions, messages from some members of the CSA stating that they would not attend the meetings due to pressure of work. To avoid this obstacle, and in recognition of the fact that all members of the CSA,

being eminent scientists, scholars or academic administrators, could not be expected to be always free to attend meetings of the CSA, the Member States were invited to appoint Alternate Members. Several States have already done so. The Alternate Member would attend meetings of the CSA if the Member is unable to do so, or, he may even also attend when the Member is present. With the appointing of Alternate Members to the CSA, the way is prepared for 100% attendance at its meetings.

Turning to the possibility of shortage of funds of some Member States, it should be made clear that there are no written advices on this point from Member States. However, verbal statements on it, were made by some Members of the CSA. Another occurrence that was often quoted was that during the life of the CSA prior to 1965, when the former OCTA used to pay for the expenses of CSA Members from subscriptions, there was always adequate attendance of CSA's meetings. It was said that, the availability of institutional funds for their expenses, enabled Members of the CSA to attend meetings as and when required.

Lastly, as for the possible lack of interest in the work of the CSA by some of the Members, this is based on deductive evidences resulting from the non-reply by them, of the communications sent to them. If the interest was there, such Members would at least acknowledge receipt of the communications, and at best, indicate why they are unable to attend the meetings.

This would then appear to be the brief background to the case.

At the last session of the USA, those who attended recommended for a review of the question of creating an institutional central fund to pay for the travelling expenses of the CSA Members when attending its meetings. It is on this recommendation that the resolution No.CM/Res. 114(IX) referred to above, is based and which called for this submission of the possible implications of the proposal.

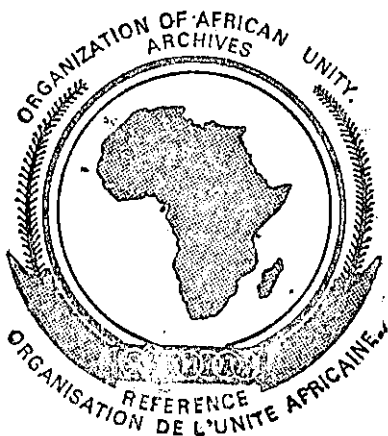
If such a fund was created, it would cost the OAU an estimated figure of US.\$ 26,000 per two years, arrived at as under:

38 return tickets economy on an average price of US.\$560 each	US.\$21,280
Per diem for 5 days to cover hotel boarding & lodging US.\$25 each	US.\$ 4,750
	<hr/>
T O T A L	US.\$26,030
say <u>US.\$26,000</u>	=====

In deciding on this subject, the Council is invited to take into account the present policy of the OAU, which is stated elsewhere above, i.e. "all expenses incurred by delegates to conferences be borne by the delegates themselves irrespective of the venue of the conference", (vide document AHG/15 of 15th September, 1966): That statement followed the report of the Institutional Committee and was approved by the Council of Ministers (in its sixth ordinary session) and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting in its Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa in November, 1966. That policy was decided upon in line with the present thinking that the financial burden on the regular budget of the OAU should be reduced to within limits which Member States can afford to defray from their present scarce and meagre resources.

The Council is therefore invited to decide, bearing the above points in mind, on whether or not there should be a central OAU fund from which the Travelling expenses of CSA Members will be paid in future.

Addis Ababa - January, 1968.



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1968-02

Travelling expenses of Members of the Scientific Council of Africa

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/7324>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository