

ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY
SECRETARIAT

P. O. Box 3243

ADDIS ABABA

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN
SECRETARIAT

B. P. 3243

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Fifteenth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa - August 1970.

CM/342

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION OF AN AFRICAN
YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW



PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION OF AN AFRICAN
YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

It was during the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers that the Algerian delegation requested the inscription of an item concerning the proposed publication of an African Yearbook of International Law, for the first time on the agenda of the said Council.

At the same Session, the Algerian delegation, in support of its proposal, prepared a memorandum which was distributed to all the participating delegations as document CM/290.

After unanimously appraising the Algerian proposal as a particularly laudable initiative, the Council postponed consideration on it to its Fourteenth Ordinary Session, and requested the General Secretariat to prepare a report on the implications of the regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law, to be submitted at that same Session.

Since the Secretariat was unable to prepare the report requested, the Fourteenth Ordinary Session decided to postpone the detailed consideration of the Algerian proposal, as well as any decision on it, to its Fifteenth Ordinary Session. This time, however, the Council decided that the report of the Administrative Secretary-General should be prepared, in co-operation with the Governments of Member States, African Universities and other Institutions concerned with International Law.

In accordance with this decision of the Council, the General Secretariat, sent on June 22, 1970, a note to all the Governments of Member States requesting them to kindly forward their views on the various implications of the regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law.

In the same Note, the Secretariat craved the indulgence of these Governments to intervene with African Universities and other Institutions concerned with International Law, for them to forward their observations on the proposed publication of an African Yearbook of International Law to the General Secretariat.

In its Note mentioned above, the General Secretariat raised three problems which, in its opinion, were of particular interest. The three points concerned financing, the basis upon which African research workers will constitute to the African Yearbook of International Law, and the question as to whether the African Yearbook of International Law should be a joint undertaking of all the African States, or if its publication should be assigned to one of them to which the others would give all the necessary financial, technical and material assistance.

Furthermore, it would be recalled that the Draft budgetary estimates for the African Yearbook of International Law, prepared by the Algerian Government was attached to Note LEG.80 GEN/791-70 dated 22 June 1970 and forwarded to Member States.

As soon as the Secretariat receives a fairly good number of opinions and comments from Member Governments, African Universities and other Institutions concerned with International Law, it will prepare the report on the publication by the OAU of an African Yearbook of International Law in compliance with the request of the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Council.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Council of Ministers to the interest attached to the views and suggestions of Member States on the various implications of the Algerian proposal. These will enable the Council to be fully informed while taking a final decision on the expediency and the conditions of the publication by the OAU of an African Yearbook of International Law, considering the great interest shown in the said proposal by all the participating delegations at the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Ordinary Sessions of the Council, and the need for Africa to publish an African Yearbook of International Law as its contribution to the development of international law in general, and understanding between peoples and nations.

11/1/70

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States and has the honour to remind them that following the discussions on the question of regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law, the Fourteenth Session of the Council of Ministers decided:

- 1) to postpone consideration of this matter to its fifteenth ordinary session;
- 2) to invite the Administrative Secretary-General to begin a study of the question of regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law in co-operation with the Governments of Member States, African Universities and Institutes and all other Institutions concerned with International law, with a view to submitting a report on this question to the fifteenth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers.

It would be recalled that during the Thirteenth Session of the Council of Ministers, the Algerian Government caused the distribution of a document as a working paper outlining its views on the aims and philosophy of the proposed African Yearbook of International Law, its contents, financial resources and finally, on the role of the Yearbook in question in the development of International Law in general.

At the same Thirteenth Session, the Algerian paper was distributed to all the participating delegations as document CM/320/Add.1.

Furthermore, the Algerian Government forwarded to the General Secretariat a provisional budget for the African Yearbook of International Law for 1970.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs will find hereto attached, a copy of the said provisional budget and document CM/320/Add.1.

In order to implement the decisions of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of Ministers, in other words, in order to co-operate with Member States and African Universities and Institutions concerned with International Law by preparing the report requested of it, the General Secretariat kindly requests Governments of Member States to state their views on the various implications of the regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law.

The General Secretariat is of the opinion that the regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law poses serious problems, three of which are particularly worth mentioning.

Financing should be placed at the head of these problems. It is quite evident that the first budget of the African Yearbook of International Law will be fully financed by all African States if the policy-making bodies of OAU decide finally to make it the responsibility of all Member States. What will become of it later? That will depend partly on the success of the proposed African Yearbook of International Law. If the Review is a real success, it is probable that it can, in no small measure, contribute to its financing.

In any case, before the Review comes to stay, it should be expected, that at least, for some time, it will be mainly financed from external resources. These resources will consist principally of contributions from African States and partly of aid from certain international Organizations or possibly private donations to the Review.

Once the budget of the Review has been drawn up and the amount to be contributed by Member States fixed, it would be necessary to explore ways and means of ensuring the regular payment of this contribution in full. This is not the least aspect of the problem of financing.

In the second place, it would be necessary to agree in unambiguous terms on the basis upon which African research workers will feed the Review. Since all African States are suffering at varying degrees from the lack of highly qualified cadres, it is only realistic that Governments cannot do without the services of their most eminent jurists permanently.

Highly qualified research workers are constantly indispensable in their countries of origin owing precisely to the fact that there are only a few of them.

The policy-making bodies of OAU should therefore explore practical and effective ways of ensuring that the African Yearbook of International Law receives "the permanent collaboration of a group of research workers" from all quarters.

The effective and indispensable collaboration of the most eminent African jurists will depend upon the solution of this problem.

Finally, it is worthwhile finding out if the African Yearbook of International Law should be OAU's responsibility, in other words, that of all its member States or if one of these States should be entrusted with its publication and the others give it all the necessary technical and financial assistance. The establishment of the Administration of the Review (Headquarters, composition of the Board of Directors, recruitment of permanent staff, etc., etc.,) will depend upon the reply to this question.

In view of all these problems and the other implications relating to the regular publication of an African Yearbook of International Law, especially, those outlined by the Algerian Government in document CM/320/Add.1, the General Secretariat would like to have the opinion of all Member States so as to enable it submit to the fifteenth session of the Council of Ministers, a comprehensive report embodying every possible information that could enable the Council to take will-thought-out decisions.

The General Secretariat would further be grateful to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs for their intervention with Universities and Institutions concerned with International Law for their points of view on these very problems.

Since the Fourteenth Session of the Council of Ministers has instructed the Administrative Secretary-General to arrange for all the documents to be discussed by the next session of the Council to be forwarded to the Governments of Member States, at least 30 days before the opening of sessions at which these documents are to be discussed, it would be highly desirable that Member States forward their replies to the various problems enunciated above to the General Secretariat as early as possible, so as to enable it conform to the instructions of the Council of Ministers.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the Organization of African Unity, the assurance of its high consideration.

Addis Ababa,

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AFRICA DIVISION

DRAFT BUDGETARY ESTIMATE FOR
THE AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW - 1970

<u>Code No</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>Appropriations in dollars</u>
Chapter 1 : <u>Staff emoluments</u>		
Part 1 : <u>Permanent Staff</u>		
01	Salary of the Permanent Secretary (or director of the Drafting Committee)	9,600.00
02	Salary of one documents officer	6,000.00
03	Salary of two typists	3,000.00
04	Salary of two translators	6,000.00
05	Salary of a storekeeper	1,500.00
06	Salary of technicians for maintenance	2,000.00
Total of Part 1		28,000.00
Part 2 : <u>Temporary Staff</u>		
<u>Payment of external collaborators non-members of the Yearbook office</u>		
07	Six articles for the "Doctrinal Section"	3,000.00
08	Seven studies (Section entitled "Studies and articles")	2,100.00
09	African Law Reports	400.00
10	Chronology of International events concerning Africa	400.00
11	Bibliography on international law in Africa	2,000.00 (1)
Total of Part 2		7,900.00

- (1) The systematic Bibliography will be exceptionally long for the first issue of the 1970 Yearbook since it will contain all works done since the beginning of the second half of the century in international law (1950-1970). This explains the amount given.

Code No	DESCRIPTION	Appropriations in dollars
Part 3 : <u>Expenditure on Travel and Studies</u>		
12	Reimbursement of travel expenses of members of the Governing Body (two Meetings per year in Algiers)	20,000.00
13	Reimbursement of extraordinary expenses for studies	5,000.00
14	Travel expenses of permanent staff	5,000.00
Total of Part 3		30,000.00
Total for Chapter I		66,000.00
Chapter II : <u>Expenditure on office equipment and services.</u>		
15	Office supplies	1,000.00
16	Office equipment	3,000.00
17	Heating, lighting, maintenance and renting of premises	800.00
18	Telephone	1,000.00
19	Postage	1,000.00
20	Printing of the Yearbook (5,000 copies in English) (5,000 copies in French)	25,000.00
Total for Chapter II		31,800.00
Chapter III : <u>Assistance.</u>		
Assistance for research : Cultural and educational action		
21	Awards for the two best legal works (two prizes)	2,000.00
22	Scholarships to two African Students for theses in international law	2,000.00
Total for Chapter III		4,000.00
General total for the first issue of the 1970 African Yearbook of International Law in French and English		
Chapter I		66,000.00
Chapter II		31,800.00
Chapter III		4,000.00
		101,800.00

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CM/290

THIRTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

ADDIS ABABA, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1969

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
"THE AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW"
SUBMITTED BY ALGERIA

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "THE AFRICAN YEARBOOK
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW"

I. INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Now that the majority of African countries have regained their independence, are exercising full sovereign rights and have established and developed increasingly closer international relations, the time seems to have come to give African jurists and those carrying out research on Africa a means of expression whereby they can state their views on questions of international law in relation to the continent. Consequently, it was deemed appropriate to establish an African Yearbook on International Law.

Its chief merit is that it will fill a gap for in the African world there is nothing comparable with the Canadian Yearbook, the British Yearbook, the Annuaire français de droit international the Soviet Yearbook on International Law, etc. It will also have the merit of reflecting genuine African concepts in the field of international law, thus contributing to its development and its wealth.

It is a well-known fact that Africa did not take part in the drafting of the rules which for centuries have governed international relations. For about 15 years, however, the African continent, which rejects certain standards of traditional international law, has proposed to take a more active part in drawing up rules concerning the international community as a whole. The quality of the African Yearbook of International Law should be such as to fulfil the continent's wish for an international law free from the obsolete elements of power, domination, force and inequality.

II. OBJECTIVES AND AIMS OF THE YEARBOOK

This yearbook will be sponsored by a committee composed of African Ministers of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Education. Thus it can act as a tribunal open to all who wish to express the African jurist's point of view and promote the development of international co-operation and understanding. It will also be open to contributions from foreign jurists interested in African problems so long as priority is given to Africans.

What will distinguish the African Yearbook from other similar publications is the choice of subjects and the spirit in which they will be dealt with.

1. The African Yearbook will, first of all, tackle problems connected with Africa's emergence on the international scene, with a view to bringing out the style of the new African States, faced with their new responsibilities, and reviewing their contribution to the life of the international community.

2. The Yearbook will also deal with all the inadequacies from which Africa is suffering, either because many territories are still under foreign rule or because the place given to Africans and Africa in the international organizations is not what it should be.

3. It will be useful to show Africa's actual or potential contribution to international law, which from a law conceived by a small group of nations is being transformed into a truly universal law.

This effort should be seen in the context of, and co-ordinated with, that which all Member States, and particularly those of the Third World, are called upon to make in order to decolonize traditional international law.

III. CONTENTS OF THE YEARBOOK

The African Yearbook of International Law will include the following sections:

1. First, a special place will be reserved for doctrinal studies concerning Africa in particular.
2. Secondly, regular articles will deal with current legal matters (African conferences of a political, economic, social or cultural nature; inter-African treaties; African regional organizations; African Liberation Movements, etc.).
3. The study of jurisprudence will cover African courts vis-à-vis international law, the OAU Arbitration Commission and, lastly, the International Court of Justice in so far as it is of special concern to Africa.
4. A diplomatic section will give as wide a coverage as possible to the activities of African ministries and will deal, for instance, with accession to treaties, diplomatic relations, etc.

The practical value of this section, as an instrument in the work of diplomats, is one that cannot be overstressed.

5. A section on international events concerning Africa will be of obvious documentary interest.
6. The bibliographical section will be divided into three parts:
 - (a) a bibliography of all types of publications on Africa (treaties, monographs, theses, etc.);
 - (b) a bibliography of periodicals listing articles and reports on African problems;
 - (c) a critical bibliography, i.e. a record of publications of special interest to Africa.

To be comprehensive, the three bibliographical sections might, for instance, start from 1950. A great many publications concerning Africa have, in fact, appeared during the past two decades.

7. The latter part of the Yearbook will be devoted to the presentation of documents such as treaties, agreements, conventions, laws, diplomatic notes, a record of the accession of African countries to international conventions, etc.

The Yearbook will fulfil its promise and better serve its purpose as a guide to information and study if its documentation is as complete as possible. In addition to the foreign scientific publications sent to the Yearbook on a reciprocal basis, there will be the publications of all the United Nations bodies and legal committees, and particularly those of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice and the International Law Commission, as well as the compendium of the procedure followed by United Nations bodies, the series of international arbitral awards, the United Nations Legislative and Administrative Series, the Status of Multilateral Conventions of which the Secretary-General is the depositary, the United Nations Juridical Yearbook, the compendium of the procedure followed by the Security Council, etc. ^{1/}

^{1/} unofficial translation of publications.

The criginators of the African Yearbook of International Law hope to establish a very large international law library at its headquarters.

IV THE AFRICAN YEARBOOK, A POLE OF ATTRACTION FOR AFRICAN JURISPRUDENCE

The African Yearbook of International Law will be a starting-point for intense legal activity: congresses of African jurists, less formal meetings held by the same jurists at irregular intervals, the publication of monographs dealing with African problems, private competititve examinations for young African lawyers, etc.

The Yearbook will be the medium and the occasion for an organized gathering of African jurists for the study of the problems of international law facing Africa.

Moreover, Resolution 2099 of 20 December 1955 of the United Nations General Assembly lists a number of direct assistance and exchange activities which, by their very nature, would concern the African Yearbook of International Law, the activity, programmes and orientation of which are connected with matters of interest to the United Nations. With this prospect, one can only regard with approval the training and refresher courses for teachers of law, advanced students and young officials, who would thus have an opportunity to improve their knowledge of international law. The same would apply to regional seminars which, by bringing together eminent specialists and senior officials, would be the ideal setting for a discussion of problems of international law of general interest.

All these activities will lead to a more complete fulfilment of the objectives set forth in the Yearbook, which are similar to those that the General Assembly of the United Nations set itself in its Resolution 2099 of 20 December 1955. The General Assembly is drawing up a programme of assistance for the teaching, study, dissemination and better understanding of international law.

One of the first indications of the success of this programme will be the establishment of a list of experts and specialists in international law prepared to help developing countries.

The programme provided for other methods of assistance which so far have not been fully applied.

In the first place, measures were envisaged to promote and co-ordinate the programmes of international law at present implemented by States, organizations or agencies.

In addition to the advisory services of experts, there are to be other forms of assistance and direct exchange such as seminars, training and refresher courses, scholarships for further training, the supply of publications and the establishment of law libraries as well as translations of important legal works.

Paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned resolution provides for an advisory committee of ten Member States, invites UNESCO to co-operate with the United Nations in encouraging the implementation of this programme of assistance, and requests the Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to study the means of giving international law its appropriate place in the activities of the Institute.

The idea of publishing the Yearbook is thoroughly in keeping with the prospects opened by the above-mentioned United Nations resolution, and it is a very appropriate way of studying and disseminating international law in Africa.

V. FINANCING OF THE AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

To implement this vast and ambitious programme, very large financial contributions are required, most of which can be obtained from African governments, institutions and organizations, as well as from international organizations or non-African scientific bodies, which will devote themselves to the support of this useful venture for the promotion of international law and a better understanding of African ideas in the matter.

An appeal for financial assistance may also be made in accordance with United Nations Resolution 2099. Such assistance could be provided in various ways.

In the first place, it could be provided under Part V of the ordinary budget of the United Nations as assistance concerning all the international legal aspects of development projects and in the framework of the programme of advisory services in the sphere of human rights, as assistance concerned with international law.

Assistance in certain aspects of international law concerning economic, social or administrative development could then be requested in the context of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

VI. LANGUAGES

The African Yearbook of International Law will be published simultaneously and separately in the working languages of the OAU. The Yearbook will thus be assured of readers in Africa and throughout the world.

VII. TITLE OF THE PUBLICATION

African Yearbook of International Law,
Annuaire africain de droit international.

SOME SUBJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE DEALT WITH IN THE YEARBOOK

The following list of subjects of interest to African jurists, which might be dealt with in the doctrinal section of the Yearbook, is selective rather exhaustive. These subjects could be grouped together under the following main headings: (1) the emergence of Africa on the international scene; (2) African aspirations; (3) the actual and potential contributions of Africa to International Law.

I. Africa in international Organizations and Conferences (representation etc.)

- Organization of African Unity;
- legal personality of African Federations;
- African Economic Unions;
- International waterways in the light of inter-African agreements;
- Pan-Africanism and International Law;
- Legal foundations of African Unity;
- Integration in East Africa;
- African geopolitics and its legal implications;
- Africa and the former colonial powers;
- African regionalism and the OAU;
- Bandung and the decolonization of Africa;
- The role of Africa at the United Nations;
- Economic Commission for Africa;
- Relations between Africa and the international economic blocs;
- Integration in West Africa;
- Nationalism and internationalism in Africa;
- Problems of federalism in Africa
- International aid to Africa and its legal aspects;
- The OAU and the settlement of inter-African disputes;
- African States and international labour agreements;
- The Monrovia Group;
- The 1963 Addis Ababa Assembly;
- African diplomatic representation in the world;
- Neutralism and Africa.

II. Legal aspects of mercenary activities in Africa

- The legal status of Africans and African Liberation Movements;
- Dependent territories of Africa;
- Apartheid;
- The minority government of Rhodesia;
- Decolonization;
- Oil and mining concessions;
- The theory of permanent sovereignty over natural resources and its application in Africa;
- International trade relations of African States;
- Definition of aggression in the light of local conflicts of African concern;
- Decolonization and economic development;
- Legal status of foreign investments in Africa;
- Specific problems arising from the application in Africa of Conventions implemented by the ILO;
- Monetary areas and Africa;
- European minorities in the new African States;
- The Commonwealth and the French Community;
- The OAU and the struggle against colonialism;
- Legal aspects of the use of violence in the struggle against colonialism.

III. The influence of the new African States on the law of inheritance in matters pertaining to sovereignty

- The Group of 77 and the economic problems of Africa;
- Africa and the European Common Market;
- African States and the treaties concluded prior to their independence;
- Legal problems connected with oil concessions;
- The 1965 Franco-Algerian oil agreements;
- African Development Bank;
- Treaties between North African countries;
- Legal aspects of technical co-operation in Africa;

- African trends in international relations;
- The concepts of international law in the new African constitutions;
- Africa and Europe;
- Eurafrika: the possibilities of institutional co-operation between Africa and Europe;
- Economic aspects of African independence;
- Africa and World Peace.

CONCEPTION OF THE AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Yearbook is sponsored by the African Ministers of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Education, and is conceived as a non-governmental scientific publication designed for the study and advancement of international law, with particular emphasis on African opinions in this field.

The responsibility for publishing the Yearbook should be entrusted to a Council and an Editorial Board.

The Council:

It is suggested that the Council should be composed of a maximum of twelve members, selected from among the most eminent African jurists and representing all the regions of the continent.

The members of the first Council should be appointed in consultation with the universities and other African institutions concerned with studies in international law, such as the African Institute of International law, the Egyptian Society of International law, the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, etc...

The Editorial Board

A group of two or three young jurists will be responsible for documentation and other editorial work in the working languages of the OAU.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Fourteenth Ordinary Session,
Addis Ababa, February/March, 1970.

AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
INTRODUCTIVE NOTICE



AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Introductory notice

I. - At a time when most African countries have achieved independence and are exercising fully their sovereign rights and entering into ever expanding diplomatic relations, it seems appropriate to avail African jurists and research workers interested in African questions of a medium which enables them to express their point of view on international law problems concerning the continent. The publication of an African Yearbook of International Law answers this need.

The Yearbook will certainly fill a gap since, in Africa, there is not yet a publication comparable to the British Yearbook of International Law, the Canadian Yearbook of International Law, the Soviet Yearbook of International Law or l'Annuaire francais de droit international, to mention only a few. It will have, no doubt, the merit of reflecting truly African viewpoints on international legal problems and will thus contribute to the evolution and the enrichment of international law.

It is indeed well known that Africa has had very little to do with the creation of the rules which for several centuries now have been regulating international relations. But for the last fifteen years or so the African continent, which contests certain norms of this classical international law, has been intending to participate more actively in the formulation of new rules concerning the international community as a whole. It is hoped that the African Yearbook of International Law will have such a high standard as to fulfill the ambitions of the continent regarding its contribution to the creation of an international law free from the out-dated factors of power, domination and inequality.

II. - Aims and philosophy of the Yearbook.

The Yearbook will have a permanent group of research workers but will also be widely opened to all shades of opinion, without partiality and with no other particular orientation than the desire to express the African point of view and to favour international cooperation and understanding. Although priority will be given to African jurists, it will also publish contributions by foreign jurists interested in African problems.

The distinctive feature of the African Yearbook, as compared to other publications of its kind, will be the choice of the topics discussed and the spirit in which they will be treated.

1) The Yearbook will concern itself, in the first place, with the problems related to the emergence of Africa on the international scene, in order to emphasize the attitude of African States towards their new international responsibilities and to take stock of their contribution to the life of the international community.

2) The Yearbook will also deal with the deficiencies still present on the African scene, whether because certain territories are still subject to a foreign sovereignty, or because certain States do not enjoy their full political or economic sovereignty or because Africa or African nationals do not have in the international organizations the place which is rightly theirs. Under this topic come all the questions related to decolonisation, to neo-colonialism and to the evolution of international organizations.

3) It is interesting to show the actual and potential contributions of Africa to international law which, having been created by and for a small group of nations, is now being transformed into a really universal order. This effort should be coordinated with that which is being made by other States, specially the developing countries, for the "decolonisation" of classical international law.

III. - Contents of the Yearbook.

The African Yearbook of International Law will contain the following sections.

1) A doctrinal section.

In this section, general problems of international law could be treated, with special emphasis on their relation to Africa. Examples of questions to be treated with in this section are: the recent contribution of Africa to the evolution of International Law, the Law of economic development, the legal philosophy of new states, the principle of self determination in Africa and so on ...

It is in the papers published in this section that an authentic and original African legal thought could be best expressed.

2) A section of "articles and studies".

In which will be published works dealing with specific points of International Law and case studies of a more technical, than philosophical character such as:

a) - The activities of the O.A.U. (annual summits, Foreign Ministers meetings, permanent and adhoc commissions, General Secretary and so on)

b) - Regional organizations in Africa (political or economical)

c) - The liberation movements in Africa

d) - Africa and the international organizations (Africa and the U.N.O.; Africa and the specialized agencies of U.N., Africa and the European common market etc....)

e) - Political and economic conferences interesting Africa.

(the tri-continental conference, the conference of the 77 developing nations, the Islamic conference etc....)

f) - A diplomatic chronicle which will provide a survey as complete as possible of the practice of African Foreign Offices and will deal, inter alia, with such matters as adhesion to treaties, recognition of States and the establishment, suspension and severing of diplomatic relations. The practical importance of this subject is obvious, as it will faithfully reflect the practice and trends of African States in international relations and could thus be a useful working instrument for diplomats.

g) - Relations between the old colonial powers and the independent African States which will deal with such problems as state succession, economic cooperation, trade relations etc... Each subject matter will deal with in relation to each geographic division of the continent.

3) A section of "African law reports".

In this section will be reproduced and commented the decisions of the conciliation and arbitration commission of the OAU, the decisions of International courts or international arbitral and administrative tribunals as much as they touch upon problems which interest the continent; the decisions of African national courts relating the international law problems.

4) A chronological section of international events concerning Africa.

The first yearbook being that of 1970 the chronology will deal with events as from January 1st, 1970.

This section will mention, for the record, such events as African conferences of political, economic, social and cultural nature, treaties between african states, the activities of african regional organizations and of african movements of liberation and so on.

5) A bibliographical section which will contain:

- a) - A systematic listing of books and articles dealing with african problems.
- b) - An alphabetical list by authors' names and,
- c) - A book review of selected works of special interest to Africa.

To be comprehensive, these three bibliographical divisions should cover the period from say 1965 to date.

6) A documentary section.

A final section of the yearbook will contain texts of treaties, conventions, agreements, statutes, diplomatic notes, lists of African States adhering to multilateral agreements, statistics of African votes in international organizations etc...

This section will be a most useful as a source of information and an instrument for research works. It is intended to be as complete as possible. Use will be made of all the available publications such as those of the U.N., of the international court of Justice, of the U.N. International Law commission, as well as all the scientific periodicals which the yearbook will obtain by way of exchange or otherwise.

It is the ambition of the promoters of the African yearbook of International Law to establish in its head quarters a legal library containing the largest possible member of international law books and periodicals, this filling a gage of which all African Jurists are aware.

IV. - The Yearbook as a rallying point for African Legal science

The A.Y.I.L. is intended to be the focus of an intense juridical activity: conferences of African jurists, non-periodical symposiums and group meetings, publication of books dealing with legal problems with special reference to Africa, prizes for young Africans doing original research work, etc....

The Yearbook could thus offer the means of coordinating the work of African jurists and of mobilising their efforts in view of giving an impetus to African legal science.

The General Assembly resolution No. 2099 of December 20, 1965 provides for certain measures of assistance and exchange which could be channelled through the Yearbook.

In this perspective courses are to be organized for the benefit of young professors of law, advanced students and civil servants, intended to give them the possibility of expanding their knowledge of International law. Regional symposiums will be held in which specialists and senior civil servants of many countries could discuss international legal problems of general interest.

The sum of these activities will enable the Yearbook better to achieve its goals, which are the same as those of the General Assembly as expressed in its above mentioned resolution. In fact this resolution sets forth a program of assistance comprising teaching, study, better comprehension of and wider interest in international law.

We are of the opinion that the Yearbook could be a considerable contribution towards the realization of the aims of this resolution of the United Nations and would constitute a very appropriate instrument for widening the interest in, and spreading the study of, international law in Africa.

V. - Financial resources of the A.Y.I.L.

It is obvious that the implementation of this vast and ambitious program requires not only offices and a team of editors - two elements which are already available - but also considerable financial means to which a fair contribution of all concerned is indispensable.

Without excluding possible contributions by international organizations and non-African scientific bodies, it is to be expected that African organizations, institutions and Governments will whole-heartedly uphold a project of which the services for a better understanding of international law and for the furtherance of truly African standpoints in this field are self-evident.

VI. - Languages

The A.Y.I.L. will be published simultaneously in two editions : one in English and the other in French. These languages being the two most widely used in Africa, the Yearbook will thus address itself to the greatest possible number of readers in the continent. Outside Africa the Yearbook could be of use to all jurists able to work in one of these two internationally important languages.

VII. - Title and premises

Title : "African Yearbook of International law"

"Annuaire africain de droit international"

Address : 7, avenue Pasteur, Algiers, Algeria.

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1970-08

Progress report on the publication of African yearbook of international law

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/7475>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository