



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat
B. P. 3243

الرئيس اديس ابابا

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Second Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa - February/March 1974

CM/562 (XXII)

SPONSORSHIP OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. AMADOU-MAHTAR
M'BOW TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF U.N.E.S.C.O.



SPONSORSHIP OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. AMADOU-MARTAR
M' BOW TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF U.N.E.S.C.O.

I. Procedure employed in placing the item on the agenda
of the meeting of the Council of Ministers

A telex from Mr. Assane Seck, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal, dated 16 January 1974, requested the General Secretariat of OAU to include the item concerning the nomination of Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow to the post of Director-General of UNESCO with a view to the forthcoming elections scheduled to take place in October 1974.

Inclusion of the item on the agenda of the Council of Ministers would require a study of necessary ways and means with a view to securing the collective support of Member States of the Organization for the nomination of Mr. M'Bow.

II. Explanatory Note (according to a document of the Permanent
Delegation of Senegal to UNESCO)

Origin of the nomination

During the Summit of African Heads of State in Addis Ababa in May 1973, the President of the Republic of Senegal was approached by the Heads of State, who informed him that Mr. René Maheu would not seek re-election upon the expiry of his term of office in 1974 and that the Organization possessed a high-ranking African whom they would unanimously support.

Consequently, they expressed the hope that President Senghor would nominate Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, and they expressed to him their firm intention to endorse this nomination. Whereupon the President replied that, out of courtesy, he would feel obliged to inquire as to the intentions of the current Director-General before proceeding with their request.

Position of Mr. René Maheu

The Permanent Delegate of Senegal to UNESCO, Mr. Blaise Senghor, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board, was entrusted by President Senghor with the fact-finding mission to Mr. René Maheu, who in June told him that, on the one hand, he hoped to retire and, on the other, that there was a broad consensus, within the Organization, that the next Director-General of UNESCO should be someone from the Third World. It was therefore, according to him, up to the Third World to unite and select a suitable candidate to continue his policy of aid to the Third World and the maintenance of a multiplicity of cultures.

Mr. M'Bow seemed to him to be the candidate most qualified by reason of his abilities and personality. He added that if the Third World was not sufficiently disciplined and awake to its interest to agree on a choice, he would be prepared to agree, as some were requesting him, to remain at his post for a few years more, though without completing a third term.

The Nomination

On the basis of the report of his Permanent Delegate, President Senghor sent Dr. Fuad Sarruf, Chairman of the Executive Board, a letter dated 12 November 1973, in which he officially nominated Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, current Deputy Director-General of UNESCO for Education, to the post of Director-General of UNESCO when the term of office of the current Director-General, Mr. René Maheu expired in 1974.

In this letter, President Senghor rightly stressed that he had taken the initiative in this nomination because M'Bow was a native of Senegal, but that he had also done so at the explicit request of several African countries whose Heads of State had expressed such a wish on the occasion of the recent OAU Summit which took place in May 1973 in Addis Ababa.

Moreover, he laid stress on the historical significance of this African nomination, for it seemed to him an appropriate time for a son of Africa to at last assume the directorship of an international organization whose activity is highly regarded by the Third World,

especially as regards understanding among all peoples, and the safeguarding of their cultural identity and international cooperation with respect for the dignity of each, which is the pledge of a just and lasting peace.

In a letter dated 12 November 1973, he informed the African Heads of State that, in response to the desire expressed at the OAU Summit, he had officially nominated Mr. M'Bow. He also requested that, in accordance with the assurances he had received, to join in his efforts, by sending, at their earliest convenience, a letter to the President of the Executive Board of UNESCO formally proposing to him the nomination of Mr. M'Bow. Indeed, he deemed it appropriate that OAU Member States, whose nominee Mr. M'Bow was to be, should be among the first to nominate him and vigorously support his nomination. He added that as everyone was aware, African nominations to the directorship of international organizations had hitherto been unsuccessful because our countries had not, generally speaking, been sufficiently vigilant or determined to foil the manoeuvres of groups of better-organized and more determined countries.

Action in connection with OAU

In a letter dated 12 November 1973 to General Gowon, Head of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and current OAU Chairman, President Senghor expressed the hope that OAU would, without loss of time, undertake vigorous action in support of the African nomination of Mr. M'Bow.

While continuing his initiatives, President Senghor deemed, moreover, that what was at stake was so important for the African continent that vigorous OAU action was of the highest importance and the utmost urgency.

Consequently, the Council of Ministers was being called upon to sponsor the nomination of Mr. M'Bow on behalf of OAU and to request the Administrative Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the success of that nomination.

III. CURRICULUM VITAE

AMADOU-MAHTAR M'BOU

Date of Birth: 20th March 1921

Place of Birth: Dakar (Senegal)

I. HIGHER EDUCATION

1946 - 1947 : Preparatory Years: School of Electrical Engineering, BREGUET, Paris.

1948 - 1951 : Faculty of Arts - Paris University,

II. CAREER

1951 - 1953 : Professor - Rosso College (Mauritania)

1953 - 1957 : Director of the services for Basic Education, Senegal, and Head of Missions on Basic Education (Literacy, Social Education and Community Development).

1957 - 1958 : Minister of National Education and Culture in the first Government of Senegal during the period of internal self-government.

1958 - 1964 : Teacher - Lycée Faidherbe - Saint-Louis - Senegal.

1964 - 1966 : Professor Ecole Normale Supérieure (Dakar).

1966 - 1968 : Minister of National Education.

1968 - 1970 : Minister of Youth and Culture.

1968 - 1970 : (Member of Parliament) National Assembly of Senegal -
Municipal Adviser Saint-Louis Commune - Senegal.

Since November: Deputy/Director-General for Education - UNESCO
1970

III. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH UNESCO

- Chairman of the UNESCO National Commission (1966-1968).
- Head of the Delegation of Senegal to the 14th Session of the General Conference (1966).
- Elected Member of the Executive Board of UNESCO (October 1966).
- Head of the Delegation of Senegal to the Conference on Education, Scientific and Technical training as related to development in Africa (Nairobi 6th to 27th July 1968) and Vice-Chairman to this Conference.
- Head of the Delegation of Senegal to the 15th Session of the General Conference (1968).
- Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Education of the Programme Commission of the 15th Session of the General Conference.
- Chairman of the Group of African Member States.
- Chairman of the Group of "77".
- Chairman of the Programme and External Relations Commission of the Executive Board of UNESCO (1968-1970).

IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES CONCERNING EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Chairman of the Committee of Experts on the reform of History and Geography Courses in French-speaking Africa and Madagascar (Abidjan 1965).
- Chairman of the VIth Pan-African Congress on Prehistory and Quarternarian Studies - Dakar 1967.
- Head of the Senegalese Delegation to the 1st All-African Cultural Festival and Chairman of the Symposium on African Culture (Algiers 1969).



V. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- President of the ~~Association of African Students in Paris~~ (1948-1951).
- President and then Secretary-General of the Federation of Black African Students in France (1950 - 1951).
- Honorary President of the Senegalese Society of History and Geography Teachers (since 1966).

VI. PUBLICATIONS

1953 - 1957 Different monographs on villages.

- Preliminary enquiry on Badiana Village (Casamance) Basic Education - St. Louis (Senegal), November 1953.
- Preliminary enquiry on Dembakandé Village (Senegal River Valley Region), Basic Education - St. Louis - March 1954.
- Preliminary ^{enquiry} on Mangaroundou Village (Casamance) Basic Education St. Louis - April 1954 and African Education - Dakar - new series No. 31, 1955.
- Preliminary enquiry on Séoudebou Village (Boundou), Basic Education - St. Louis - May 1954.
- Preliminary enquiry on Gaya Village (Senegal Delta), Basic Education - St. Louis May 1955
- Progress reports on various basic educational missions - Basic Education - St Louis (Senegal) and "Education Africaine", Dakar

1963-1970 - Afrique Africaine (African Africa) (on collaboration basis), Editions Clairefontaine - Lausanne (Switzerland) 1963.

- "Le Continent Africain" (The African Continent), Editions Clairafrique - Dakar - 1965.
- Geography textbook for primary school-children (on a collaboration basis), Edition Journaux - Caen.

- "AFRICA" - Geography textbook for Secondary Schools in French-speaking African countries and Madagascar.
- Co-Director of the collection of textbooks on History (new programmes) for the use of French-speaking Secondary-School Students of African and Malagasy countries.

Editions Hatier, Paris

Vol. 1 - Origins to VIth Century (1969).

Vol. 2 - VIIth to XVth Century (1970).

(6 other volumes to be published).

- Many reports and communications on the problems of Education and Youth in Senegal.
- "Dossier d'Afrique" (Facts Africa) (Collaboration) - Editor Marabout - Brussels (1970).
- Essay on Education and Culture - Dakar (1970).

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Annex I

AFRICAN GROUP UNESCO

THE BUREAU OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

Having had, during its meeting of the 16th January 1974, an extended exchange of view on the candidature of Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, ADG for Education, presented by Senegal, to the position of Director General of UNESCO, the election for which will take place at the 18th Session of the General Conference,

Recalling the communication from Secretariat of OAU (PL/PGM/1/1-73) of the 9th August 1973, and that of the President of the African Group at UNESCO on the 19th of December 1973, concerning the same candidature,

Further recalling the ardent and legitimate desires of African Heads of States for the advancement of Africans in view of assuming responsibilities in directing international organizations,

Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Senegal for this important and timely initiative,

Taking cognizance with great satisfaction of the massive and growing support to this candidature not only from the whole of Africa but also from countries outside our region,

Hopes fervently that the African Member States shall be massively supported in their efforts by other geographic groups,

Reaffirms unanimously and without any reservations its support to this African candidature.

The African Group

Having met the 11th February 1974, in order to adopt the strategy concerning the African candidature for the position of Director-General of UNESCO

Considering that Senegal has presented the candidature of Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow for the position of Director General of UNESCO

Recalling the communication from the Secretariat of OAU (NO. PL/GPM/1/1-73 of the 3rd August 1973) and also the statement of the Bureau of the African Group (of 17th January 1974)

Adopts this statement as its own

Notes with great satisfaction the support being given to this candidature by countries from different regions of the world

Hopes fervently that all the groups would accord their support without reservation to this African candidature which already appears in effect as a candidate from the Third World

Urges the Bureau to undertake to this effect the appropriate canvassing and action without delay.

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