

The OUA: From Establishment to AU

By: The African Economist

In: The African Economist, Vol. 4, N° 12

Publication: February 2003

The full article document has 7 -14 pages

Formation

There were various attempts at establishing an inter-African organisation before the OAU Charter was drawn up. In November 1958 Ghana and Guinea (later joined by Mali) drafted a Charter which was to form the basis of a union of African states. In January 1961 a conference was held at Casablanca, attended by the heads of state of the provisional government of the Algerian Republic (CPRA), Tunisia, Nigeria, Liberia and Togo declined the invitation to attend. An African Charter was adopted and it was decided to set up an African Military command and an African common Market.

Between October 1960 and March 1961 three conferences were held by French-speaking African countries, at Abidjan, Brazzaville and Yaounde. None of the 12 countries which attended these meetings had been present at the Casablanca Conference. These conference led eventually to the signing in September 1961, at Tananarive, of a charter establishing the Union Africaine et Malgache, later the Organisation Commune Africaine et Mauricienne (OCAM).

In May 1961 a conference was held at Monrovia, Liberia, attended by the heads of state or representatives of 19 countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic (ex-French), cote d'Ivoire, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia and upper Volta. They met again (with the exception of Tunisia and with the addition of the ex-Belgian Congo Republic) in January 1962 at Lagos, Nigeria, and set up a permanent secretariat and a standing committee of finance ministers and accepted a draft charter for organisation of Inter-African and Malagasy states.

It was the Conference of Addis Ababa, held in 1963, which finally brought together African states despite the regional, political and linguistic differences which divided them. The foreign ministers of 32 African states attended the preparatory Meeting held in May (Brazzaville) (now Republic of the Congo), Congo (Leopoldville) (now Democratic Republic of the Congo), cote d'Ivoire, Dahomey (now Benin), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanganyika (now Tanzania), Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Republic (Egypt) and upper Volta (now Burkina Faso).

The topics discussed by the meeting were: (i) creation of the organisation of African States; (ii) cooperation among African states in the following fields: economic and social education, culture and science; collective defence; (iii) decolonisation; (iv) apartheid and

racial discrimination v) effects of economic grouping on the economic development of Africa; vi) disarmament vii) Africa and the United Nations.

The Heads of state conference which opened on 23 May drew up the charter Of the organisation Of African unit y, which was then signed by the heads of 30 states on 25 May 1963. The charter was essentially functional and reflected a corn. promise between the concept Of a loose association of states favoured by the Monrovia Croup and the federal idea supported by the Casablanca croup, and in particular by Ghana.

Organisation

Assembly of Heads of State: The Assembly of Heads of state and government meets annually to coordinate policies of African states. Resolutions are passed by a two-thirds majority, procedural matters by a simple majority. A chairman is elected at each meeting from among the members, to hold office for one year.

Council Of Ministers: Consists of ministers of foreign affairs and others and meets twice a year, with provision for extraordinary sessions. Each session elects its own Chairman. prepares meetings of and is responsible to, the Assembly of Heads of state.

General Secretary : The permanent headquarters of the organisation it earlier out functions assigned to it in the Charter of the OAU and by other agreements and treaties made between member states. Departments: Political; Finance; Education, science, Culture and Social Affairs; Economic Development, and Cooperation; Administration and Conference. The Secretary general is elected for a four years by the Assembly of Heads of state.

Arbitration Commission: commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration: Addis Ababa; 1964; consists of 21 members elected by the Assembly of Heads of State for a five-year term; no state may have more-than one member; has a Bureau consisting of a president and two Vice-Presidents who shall not be eligible for re-election. Its task is to hear and settle disputes between member states by peaceful means.

Specialised Commissions: There are specialised. commissions for. economic, social, transport and, communications affairs. Education, science, culture and health; defence; human rights and labour.

Finance: Member states contribute in accordance with their united Nations assessment. No member state is assessed for an amount exceeding 20% of- the yearly regular budget of the organisation.

At its final meeting in July 2001, the organization of African unit y announced its decision to transform from OAU to AU (African Union) in the upcoming year. The launching of the AU took place on July 8 -10, 2002 in Durban, South Africa. The AU is led by the newly elected interim head, Amara ESSY, Ivory. coast's former foreign minister. The 53 African states who composed the OAU are members of the new

intergovernmental organization- the African union, which will be loosely modeled after the European Union and will be headquartered in Ethiopia.

The African Union was proposed by the Libyan leader Moammar Al Qaddafi as a more effective Institution for increasing prosperity in Africa. The AU was formally established in September 2001, in Sirte. The AU'S objective is to harmonize the economic and political policies of all African nations in order to improve pan-African welfare, and provide Africans with a solid voice in International affairs. Supporters of the AU believe it will have a stronger charter than the OAU, will be better funded and will have the "teeth" that the OAU lacked, including the power to create a common African parliament, a Central Bank, a common African currency and an international court of Justice. It is hoped that the AU will have the authority and ability to achieve economic and political integration among member states as well as work towards a common defence, foreign and communications policy: national boundaries will be blurred, armies merged, and a single passport introduced.

Principal Events, 1989-2000 1989

Jan. A meeting on apartheid, organised by the OAU, resulted in the formation of an African Anti-Apartheid committee.

May. The OAU Chairman undertook a mission of mediation between the governments of Mauritania and Senegal, following ethnic conflict between the citizens of the two countries.

July. The Assembly of Heads of state discussed the Namibian independence process, and urged that the UN should ensure that the forthcoming elections there would be fairly conducted. They reiterated requests that an international conference on Africa's substantial external debt should be held.

Sept.-Dec. The newly elected OAU Secretary- General Salim Ahmed Salim, attempted to mediate in the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal. In November a mediation committee, comprising representatives of six countries, visited Mauritania and Senegal.

1990

March. A monitoring group was formed by the OAU to report on events in south Africa. The OAU urged the international community to continue imposing economic sanctions on south Africa.

July. The Assembly of Heads of State reviewed the implications for Africa of recent socio- economic and political changes in Eastern Europe, and of the European community's progress towards monetary and political union.

1991

June The Assembly of Heads of state signed the treaty on the creation of an African Economic community (AEC). The treaty was to enter into force after ratification by two-thirds of OAU member states. The community was to be established by 2025, beginning with a five-year stages during which measures would be taken to strength existing economic groupings. The meeting also established a committee of heads of state to assist national reconciliation in Ethiopia; and gave a mandate to the OAU Secretary General to undertake a mission to assist in restoring political stability in Somalia.

1992

Feb.-March. The OAU was involved, together with the UN and the organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), in mediation between the warring factions in Mogadishu, Somalia. The OAU subsequently continued to assist in efforts to achieve a peace settlement in Somalia.

May. An OAU mission was dispatched to south Africa to monitor the continued violence in that country.

June-July. Proposals were advanced at the Assembly of Heads of state, held in Dakar, Senegal, for a mechanism to be established within the OAU for conflict management, prevention and resolution. These proposals were accepted in principle, but operational details were to be elaborated at a later stage.

Oct. The *Ad HOC* Committee on Southern Africa met in Caborone, Botswana, to discuss a report compiled by a team of OAU experts on practical steps to be taken towards the democratisation of South Africa. Plans to send a mission to monitor the Mozambican peace accord were announced.

1993

Feb. A session of the council of Ministers discussed the OAU'S serious financial crisis. The meeting agreed to allocate US \$250,000 to the creation of conflict prevention bureau, and a further \$250,000 for the purposes of [monitoring elections.

May. A pan-African Conference on Reparations for the suffering caused by colonialism in Africa, organised by the OAU together with the Nigerian government, was held in Abuja. The Conference appealed to those countries, which had benefited from the colonisation of Africa and the use of Africans as slaves (particularly European countries and the USA) to make reparations to African and their descendants, either in the form of capital transfers, or cancellation of debt.

June. Eritrea was admitted as the 52nd member of the OAU. The 29th Assembly of Heads of state resolved to establish a mechanism for conflict prevention and resolution. The mechanism's primary objective was to be anticipation and prevention of conflict. In

cases where conflicts had already occurred, the OAU was to undertake peace-making and peace-building activities, including the deployment of civilian or military monitoring missions. However, in the case of a conflict seriously degenerating, assistance would be sought from the United Nations.

July. A seminar on the AEC was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, concerned with the popularisation of the treaty establishing the Community. Lack of re. sources emerged as one of the main barriers to the actual creation of the Community.

Sept. The OAU announced the immediate removal of economic sanction against South Africa, following the approval by the country's Parliament of a bill to establish a transitional executive council prior to the democratic election, scheduled to be conducted in April 1994.

Oct. The OAU Secretary-general condemned an attempted military coup in Burundi, in which the President and six Cabinet ministers were killed, and the subsequent civil unrest.

Nov. A summit conference of African ministers of foreign affairs, conducted in Addis Ababa, resolved to establish a 200-member OAU protection and observation mission to Burundi, and appealed for international financial and material support to assist the mission. The ministers approved the principles for the establishment of a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution. The meeting suggested that 5% of the OAU

budget, but not less than US \$ 1 m, be allocated for an OAU Peace Fund to finance the mechanism, and that \$ 0.5m. be made available for 1993.

Dec. A meeting of 11 African Heads of State approved the establishment of the Peace Fund and called for contributions from the international community. A draft statement of the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution, issued by the OAU Secretary-general, expressed support for the efforts to resolve the conflict in Somalia and emphasised the need to promote national reconciliation. 1994

Feb. The council of Ministers reaffirmed its support for the results of elections in Burundi, which were conducted in 1993, and endorsed the establishment of an OAU mission to promote dialogue and national reconciliation in that country. The Council condemned anti-government forces for the escalation of violence in Angola.

April. The OAU mission to South Africa participated as observers of the electoral process. An OAU delegation visited Nigeria and Cameroon to investigate the border dispute between the two countries.

May. South Africa was admitted as the 53rd member of the OAU.

June. Consultations with each Of the conflicting parties in Rwanda were conducted by the OAU. The Assembly of Heads of State, meeting in Tunis, approved a code of conduct for inter-African relations, in order to strengthen political consultation and co-operation for the promotion of security and stability in the region. Nine countries were nominated to serve on the central committee (Organ of the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution. The military component of the OAU mission in Burundi was now deployed in that country, and its man- date was extended until mid-September. (The mission was subsequently granted three-monthly extensions of its mandate.

Nov. The secretary-general, noting the Organisation's serious financial situation, warned that most activities of the regular budget for 1994/95 would have to be suspended. certain sanctions were to be Imposed on any country that had not paid its contribution in full by 1 June 1995.

1995

March. An extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers, held in Cairo, Egypt, adopted an agenda for Action, which aimed to stimulate African economic and social development. The document emphasised the importance of peace, democratic government and stability In achieving development targets. It also assessed Africa's role in the world economy and the need for structural reforms of countries' economies, in particular in view of agreements reached under the CA TT Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. The OAU, together with representatives of the UN and the Commonwealth secretariat, dispatched a special mission to Sierra Leone, in order to assess means of facilitating the peace process in that country.

April. A meeting of the conflict mechanism's central organ, held in Tunis, Tunisia, reviewed OAU peace initiatives. The meeting urged OAU member states to offer humanitarian aid to consolidate the peace process in Angola and for further OAU assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia. A seminar, organised jointly by the OAU and the International Committee Of the Red Cross, assembled military and civil experts in Yaounde, Cameroon, to discuss the issue of land-mines.

May. An 81member OAU observer group was deployed to monitor a general election in Ethiopia. The group confirmed that the electoral process had been 'free and fair' .

June. At the 31st Assembly of Heads of state, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Secretary-General observed that the OAU's peace-keeping role had been severely affected by the failure of member states to pay their contributions. Sanctions were to be imposed on those countries which had failed to pay 25% of their arrears by the end of June. (Liberia and Somalia were exempted from this deadline) The meeting endorsed a proposal to establish a conflict management centre, provisionally in Cairo Egypt, to strengthen the OAU's raie in conflict prevention. The situation in warring African countries was discussed, as well as the problem, of large-scale refugee and displaced

populations in the region .In addition, member states urged the International community to end the application of sanctions against Libya.

Sept. An extraordinary meeting Of the conflict mechanism's central organ condemned the at- tempted assassination of Egypt's President Mubarak prior to the Heads of state meeting in June. The committee censured Sudan for protecting the alleged perpetrators Of the attack and for sup- porting other terrorist elements in the country .

Oct. OAU observers monitored the conduct of elections in Zanzibar and attempted to mediate between the parties when the vote failed to se- cure a decisive result.

Nov. A 50-member OAU observer group was deployed to monitor elections in Algeria, as part Of an international team.

1996

Feb. The Council of Ministers reiterated the OAU's readiness to promote and support dialogue and reconciliation in Burundi. However, the meeting did not support military intervention in that country, despite a UN report proposing international co-operation with the OAU to establish a standby force for Burundi.

March. The UN Secretary-General launched a system-wide Special Initiative on Africa, which was based on the development objectives outlined in the OAU Agenda for Action. Funds were to be allocated under the Initiative to strengthen the OAU's capacity for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

May-June. The OAU assisted the International Peace Academy to conduct a meeting of international organisations, in Cape Town, South Africa, to promote the OAU'S conflict mechanism, under the theme of 'Civil Society and Conflict Management in Africa'.

July. The 32nd Assembly of Heads of State agreed to support a plan, formulated earlier that month by the Governments of Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia, to send troops to Burundi in a peace- keeping capacity. The Assembly requested logistical and financial support from the international community for the initiative. In a separate declaration OAU leaders expressed their support for Boutros Boutros-Ghali's candidacy for a second term as the UN Secretary-General. The endorsement was opposed by the president of Rwanda, pasteur Bizimungu, who condemned the lack of UN protection afforded to his country during the civil unrest in 1994. At the end of July, following a military coup in Burundi, the OAU endorsed a decision of seven east and central African states to impose economic sanctions against the new regime.

Oct. The OAU Secretary-General cautiously endorsed a US proposal to establish an African military force for the protection Of civilian populations in areas of conflict. A regional committee of the OAU declared its support for the continuation of the economic embargo against Burundi.

Nov. An OAU delegation; meeting with the heads of state of eight African countries in Nairobi, Kenya, supported the establishment of an international humanitarian force, to be sent to Zaire (although this was never deployed).

Dec. The OAU president, in an attempt to overcome the impasse reached regarding the election of a new UN Secretary-General (owing to US opposition to Boutros-Ghali, confirmed that African nations should propose alternative candidates for the position.

1997

Jan. The UN and the OAU appointed Muhamed Sahnoun as a joint Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region.

Feb. The 65th session of the Council of Ministers, meeting in Libya, expressed its support of that country in the face of sanctions imposed upon it by the international community. The OAU welcomed the newly-elected Secretary-General of the UN, the Chairman, Kofi Annan. The situation in Zaire was discussed and an extraordinary summit of the OAU'S conflict management mechanism was scheduled for March. Further donations to the OAU peace Fund were requested.

March. A special summit of the OAU organ on conflict prevention, management and resolution, which was attended by delegations from both the Zairian government and the rebel AFDL forces, called for an immediate cease-fire and concluded a provisional agreement for negotiations between the two sides based on a five-point plan that had been formulated by Sahnoun and approved by the UN Security council in February.

June. The Assembly of Heads of state, meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, condemned the military coup in Sierra Leone, which took place in May, and endorsed the intervention of ECOMOC troops in order to restore a democratic government in the country. The OAU stated that future coups in the continent would not be tolerated, and the importance of universal human rights to be established across Africa was reiterated throughout the meeting. The first meeting between ministers of the OAU and the European Union was held in New York, USA. The inaugural meeting of the African Economic Community took place.

July. The UNDP donated US \$3m to the OAU conflict management mechanism. An OAU observer group was deployed to monitor elections in Liberia.

Aug. The OAU appointed a special envoy to the Comoros, Pierre Yere, following 11 declaration of independence by separatists on the islands of Nzwani and Mwali.

Oct. Chiefs of Defence Staff, meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, proposed a series of measures to strengthen the capacity of African countries to lead peace-keeping missions in the region, which included the establishment of operations, training and early-warning units.

Nov. A group of OAU military observers was reported to have been dispatched to the Comoros.

Dec. The OAU organised an international conference, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which aimed to resolve the dispute between the Comoran Government and the secessionists and to initiate a process of political dialogue in a separate meeting OAU ministers of justice adopted a protocol approving the creation of a permanent African court of human rights (based on the African charter of Human and People's Rights, signed in 1981).

1998

Feb. The OAU concluded an agreement with La Francophonie to co-operate in economic and cultural areas.

March. The OAU declared its support for ECOWAS efforts in restoring President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah to power in Sierra Leone. A nine-member OAU ministerial mission visited the Comoros in an attempt to further a peaceful solution to the dispute; however, it was prevented from conducting discussions with the separatist leaders in Nzwani.

June. Fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia dominated discussions at the 34th Assembly of Heads of state, held in Burkina Faso. It was agreed to send a delegation to attempt to resolve the dispute. The Assembly also considered economic issues affecting the region, and resolved to disregard certain economic and humanitarian sanctions imposed against Libya, owing to that country's refusal to release two people suspected of the bombing of a US aircraft over the United Kingdom in 1988. The OAU leaders reiterated their support for the proposal of the Libyan authorities that the suspects be tried in a neutral venue. The OAU agreed to establish a seven-member International Panel of Eminent Personalities to examine all aspects of the genocide that occurred in Rwanda in 1994; a special trust fund was to be established to finance its activities. (The Panel met for the first time in October.)

July. An OAU delegation conducted discussions with the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities in an attempt to conclude a peace settlement. The OAU Secretary-General also expressed support for efforts to negotiate a settlement between the conflicting parties in Guinea-Bissau.

Aug. The OAU expressed its concern at the escalating violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in particular the involvement of armed forces from other countries in the region, and resolved to send a mission to negotiate a cease-fire. An OAU ministerial committee (comprising representatives of Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Zimbabwe) pursued efforts to negotiate an accord between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The proposed OAU framework agreement was based on a US-Rwandan peace plan, presented to both sides in June, and included implementation of an immediate cease-fire, the initiation of peace discussions and recognition of the positions prior to the start

Of hostilities in May. At the end of August delegates of the SADC held talks at OAU headquarters, and urged an Immediate cease- fire by ail sides in the Congolese conflict.

Sept. The OAU secretary-General supported a request of the Sudanese Government for an international commission of Inquiry to be established to examine the US air strike on a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, in retaliation to terrorist bombing Incidents in August.

Nov. A meeting of the OAU mediation committee on the Eritrean/Ethiopian dispute was held in Ouagadougou.

Dec. A special meeting of the conflict resolution mechanism, at the level of heads of state, was held to pursue n peace settlement in the DRC. The ongoing Eritrean-Ethiopian dispute and the unstable security situation in Angola were also considered. A special OAU Ministerial Meeting on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons convened, in Khartoum; the meeting urged member stales to Implement efforts to mitigate problems associated with the mass movement of populations, and to promote humanitarian assistance efforts.

1999

Feb. A high-level OAU delegation, including the Chairman and Secretary-General, replaced the previous ministerial committee on a visit to Eritrea, following the country's refusal to negotiate with a representative of Djibouti. In early February an OAU delegation conducted talks with representatives of the Nzwani separatist factions and the government or the Comoros; however, the negotiations railed to conclude an agreement on a political settlement to the conflict or on the establishment or an OAU peace- keeping mission.

March. An OAU mission visited the authorities in Ethiopia and Eritrea to pursue efforts towards settling the conflict. The Chairman of the OAU cancelled a special summit meeting on African conflict scheduled to take place at the end or March, owing to controversy over the extension or invitations to rebel leaders from those countries affected by civil conflict. A meeting of the councillor Ministers appointed the president or Zambia, Frederick Chiluba, to co-ordinate efforts to resolve the conflict in the DRC. The meeting also imposed sanctions against eight countries that had railed to pay their annual contributions to the Organisation for two years. The sanctions denied nationals from those countries the right to vote or to work at the OAU offices, which resulted in a substantial reduction in personnel at OAU headquarters.

April. The first OAU conference on human rights, at ministerial level, was convened in Mauritius. An Inter-Island conference was held, under OAU auspices, in Antananarivo, Madagascar, to conclude arrangements for a new political union in the Comoros. At the end or the month, however, the Government or the CamarDs was removed by army officers following renewed unrest. The OAU condemned the coup, but urged the Nzwani representatives to sign the agreed framework.

May The OAU announced the withdrawal of the military component of its observer mission in the Comoros. A new round of talks with the heads of government of Eritrea and Ethiopia was initiated to provide for a cessation of hostilities.

July. The summit meeting, held in Algiers was concerned with the economic development of Africa and prospects for greater integration, as well as ongoing conflict in the region. The meeting re- requested the Secretary-General to send a fact- finding mission to Somalia to assess its post- conflict needs. The OAU also appointed a senior Algerian army general to chair a Joint Military Commission in the DRC, which was to be established according to the terms of a peace accord signed earlier in July. Heads of state declared that the Organisation would not recognise any authority in a member state which assumed power illegally. An African convention for the prevention and combating of terrorism was signed, which included provisions for the exchange of information to help counter terrorism and for signatory states to refrain from granting asylum to terrorists. The meeting also declared that 2000 was to be the Year of peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa.

Sept. An extraordinary summit meeting was convened in Sirte, Libya, at the request of the Libyan leader Colonel Qaddafi, in order to promote African unity and to demonstrate African solidarity with Libya. The meeting determined to establish an African Union, based on the principles and objectives of the OAU. A new charter was to be adopted by 2001. In addition, heads of state declared their commitment to accelerating the establishment of regional institutions, including an African parliament, court of justice, and central bank, as well as the implementation of an economic and monetary union. The Ethiopian government rejected the final technical arrangements for implementation of the framework peace plan, which had been approved by Eritrea in August, on the grounds that they did not ensure the return of disputed territories to their status prior to the start of the conflict.

Oct. A conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal, jointly organised by OAU with UNIDO, the ECA, the African Development Bank, and the Alliance for Africa's Industrialisation.

Dec. The OAU Chairman, president Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, urged the removal of UN sanctions against Libya. The OAU condemned the military's seizure of power in Cote d'Ivoire.

2000

Feb. The OAU imposed economic sanctions against the Nzwani separatists in the Comoros, including the immobilisation of their overseas assets and urged the co- operation of OAU members in implementing these. The OAU dispatched a special envoy to mediate between Eritrea and Ethiopia; the Ethiopian administration reiterated its dissatisfaction with the technical arrangements deemed no longer negotiable by the OAU for the framework peace plan, which in other respects it was prepared to approve.

March. An OAU conference unanimously approved a peace plan for Somalia that had been drafted in late 1999 by the Djibouti president (and IGAD Chairman), Ismael Omar Gelleh. Further punitive measures were imposed against the Nzwani separatists in the Comoros, including the suspension of telephone communications, and restrictions on oil deliveries and sea and air traffic.

April. The OAU participated in an EU-Africa summit, held in Cairo, Egypt.

May. In early Mayan initiative by the OAU'S special envoy to mediate indirect communications ('proximity talks') between Eritrea and Ethiopia' failed, and was followed by a serious escalation of their conflict. The OAU urged an immediate cessation of hostilities and commitment from both sides to pursuing a peaceful resolution. Indirect negotiations, mediated by the OAU and envoys of the EU and USA, resumed in late May.

June. The OAU, EU and USA continue to mediate proximity talks between Eritrea and Ethiopia, culminating, in mid-June, in the conclusion of a cease- fire agreement, which was formalised at Algiers. The Algiers accord stipulated the immediate cessation of hostilities and withdrawal by bath sides to the positions that had been held prior to the commencement of the conflict. Meanwhile, a UN peacekeeping force was to be deployed to supervise the disputed border area. subsequently negotiations were to be convened on the implementation of the OAU framework agreement July. At the annual summit meeting, held at Lome, Togo, OAU Heads of State signed a draft treaty on the establishment of the African Union, which was to enter into force following ratification by two-thirds of member states' governments. It was envisaged that the African Union would be inaugurated, and would thereby replace the OAU; one year after the endorsement of the draft treaty. At the end of July the OAU announced that it was to send observers to the Horn of Africa to monitor the implementation of the Algiers cease-fire accord.

Descriptors: African Organisations, Regional Integration, OAU, African Union, Regional Cooperation.

Contact: Mrs. Emma EYOB OR Solomon YILMA
P.O.Box 115 Area Code 1110, Stohagsvagen 31 A, S-724 65
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Västeras, Sweden
Tel.: (251 1) 66 21 22