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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS

(Addis Ababa, 3 - 9 April 1974)

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Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations was held in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 April 1974. It was opened by Mr. Nicholas M. Mugo (Kenya) who had been unanimously elected to serve as its Interim Chairman.

2. The following member countries of the Committee were represented:

Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo, Zaire and Zambia. Cameroon and Ethiopia were represented at the meeting as observers.

Agenda item 2: Election of officers

3. The meeting elected Mr. Nicholas M. Mugo (Kenya) as Chairman, Mr. Efono Ise (Zaire) as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Tahar Nejjar (Morocco) as Rapporteur.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda

4. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Election of officers

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Programme of work

5. (a) Composition and functions of the secretariat.

(b) Headquarters of the Association

6. Rules of procedure of the Association

7. Budget of the Association

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report.

Agenda item 4: Programme of work

5. In introducing the programme of work (E/CN.14/WP.1/76; OAU/TRAD/64; E/CN.14/ATC.15), the representative of the interim secretariat indicated that it had been drawn up taking into account the Constitution of the Association and the need for making the secretariat an effective instrument for promoting the objectives of the Association. It had been drawn up on a two year basis; namely 1975 to 1976, but it was to be understood that until the secretariat was fully operational much of the work required would be undertaken by the interim secretariat. After considerable discussion, the programme of work suggested by the interim secretariat was adopted.

Agenda item 5(a): Composition and functions of the secretariat

6. The representative of the interim secretariat introduced the document on the Secretariat of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (E/CN.14/WP.1/77; OAU/TRAD/65; E/CN.14/ATC.16) and stated that the proposals contained therein represented the minimum staff requirements to enable the Association to perform its functions. In the discussion that followed, amendments were made to the terms of reference of the Association and to the job description of the Secretary-General. It was agreed that one of the basic functions of the Secretary-General was to submit an annual report of the activities of the Association to the General Assembly in accordance with the Association's rules of procedure.

7. There was considerable discussion as to whether the posts in the secretariat should be distributed on a sub-regional basis. The committee recommended that while care should be taken to ensure that the secretariat staff was properly qualified, consideration should also be given to the need for ensuring a fair distribution of posts, taking the sub-regional balance into account.

Agenda item 5(b): Headquarters of the Association

8. In introducing the document on the headquarters of the Association (E/CN.14/WP.1/78; OAU/TRAD/66; E/CN.14/ATC.17), the representative of interim secretariat pointed out that the document had been prepared merely to provide a guideline to member States of the Association which might wish to have its headquarters located in their territory. Considerable discussion took place on the modalities to be followed, and it was agreed that the document represented an adequate guideline as to what might be expected of a member State wishing to host the Association. It was pointed out that facilities required by the Association, such as telephones and electricity, would be provided by the host country on mutually agreed terms. It was agreed that the secretariat should expand the document under consideration by adding a section on the criteria for deciding the location of the headquarters of the Association.

Agenda item 6: Rules of procedure of the Association

9. The representative of the interim secretariat introduced the paper on the rules of procedure of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (E/CN.14/WP.1/72; OAU/TRAD/62; E/CN.14/TAC/13), and explained that the rules proposal therein were based on existing procedures followed by ECA and OAU which, in the case of the Association, had been modified for simplicity of application. After considerable discussion, the rules were examined paragraph by paragraph and were adopted with amendments.

Agenda item 7: Budget of the Association

10. The document on budget proposals of the Association (E/CN.14/WP.1/75; OAU/TRAD/63; E/CN.14/ATC/14) was introduced and discussed in considerable detail. Amendments to the budget were suggested and recommended for consideration and possible adoption at the first meeting of the General Assembly. The Meeting examined the formula for determining the share of the budget to be paid by each member State. Three possibilities were discussed. First, the budget could be divided equally on the basis of a flat rate. However, it was felt that that solution might place too heavy a burden on some States. Second, the assessment be made in accordance with the OAU scale of assessment; and third, it could be made on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the contributions to be paid by the members of the Association would be assessed on the basis of the OAU scale of assessment.

11. It was agreed that the secretariat would notify each member State of the amount of its contribution after the first meeting of the General Assembly and that it would be for each State to honour its obligations.

12. The question of voluntary contributions from member States as well as from interested international organizations was considered to be of great importance to the running of the Association. The Committee therefore recommended that an appeal should be made for the payment of voluntary contributions to the Association. The Association would also seek subsidies from other international organizations, such as the United Nations. It was agreed, however, that voluntary contributions so obtained would not affect the level of the contribution of each member country to the budget.

Agenda item 8: Other business

13. The representative of the interim secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 3 of article XV of the Constitution which provided that the Constitution should provisionally come into force upon the signature of twelve States. He pointed out that for the Association formally to enter into operation, it was required that twelve member States signatory to the Constitution should ratify it. The secretariat therefore appealed to member States which had not already ratified the Constitution to take the necessary measures to ratify it as soon as possible. An appeal was also made to those members of OAU and ECA which had not already done so to sign the Constitution, preferably before the first meeting of the General Assembly of the Association to be held in September 1974.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the report

14. The report was considered and adopted.

ANNEX

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

E/CN.14/WP.1/70 OAU/TRAD/60 E/CN.14/ATC/12 and Corr.1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.14/WP.1/69/Rev.1 OAU/TRAD/59/Rev.1 E/CN.14/ATC/11/Rev.1 and Corr.1	Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations.
E/CN.14/WP.1/72 OAU/TRAD/62 E/CN.14/ATC/13	Rules of procedure of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
E/CN.14/WP.1/75 OAU/TRAD/63 E/CN.14/ATC/14	Budget proposals of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
E/CN.14/WP.1/76 OAU/TRAD/64 E/CN.14/ATC/15	Work programme and priorities (1974-1976) of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
E/CN.14/WP.1/77 OAU/TRAD/65 E/CN.14/ATC/16	Secretariat of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
E/CN.14/WP.1/78 OAU/TRAD/66 E/CN.14/ATC/17	Headquarters of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations.