

*Publications. Annual Statistical Bulletin; Annual Report; OPEC Bulletin (monthly); OPEC Review (quarterly); Facts and Figures (occasional); OPEC General Information and Chronology.*

### Further Reading

Al-Chalabi, F., *OPEC at the Crossroads*. Oxford, 1989  
Skeet, *OPEC: 25 Years of Prices and Policies*. CUP, 1988

**OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** The OPEC Special Fund was established in 1976 to provide financial aid on advantageous terms to developing countries (other than OPEC members) and international development agencies whose beneficiaries are developing countries. In 1980 the fund was transformed into a permanent autonomous international agency and renamed the OPEC Fund for International Development. It is administered by a Ministerial Council and a Governing Board. Each member country is represented on the Council by its finance minister.

The initial endowment of the fund amounted to US\$800m. At the start of 1996, pledged contributions totalled US\$3,435m., and the fund had extended 659 loans totalling US\$3,272.6m. of which US\$2,295.9m. or 70.2% was for project financing, US\$724.2m. (22.1%) for balance-of-payments support and US\$252.5 (7.7%) for programme funding.

*Headquarters:* POB 995, A-1011 Vienna, Austria.

*Website:* <http://www.opec.org>.

*Director-General:* Dr Yesufu Seyyid Abdulai (Nigeria).

## ARAB MAGHREB UNION

Founded in 1989 to promote political co-ordination, co-operation and 'complementarity' across various fields, with integration wherever and whenever possible.

*Members.* Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia.

By late 1996, joint policies and projects under way or under consideration included: the establishment of the Maghreb Investment and Foreign Trade Bank to fund joint agricultural and industrial projects; free movement of citizens within the region; joint transport undertakings, including railway improvements and a Maghreb highway; creation of a customs union; and establishment of a common market.

A Declaration committing members to the establishment of a free trade zone was adopted at the AMU's last summit in Tunis. In Nov. 1992, members adopted a charter on protection of the environment.

*Headquarters:* 27 rue Okba, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco.

*Secretary-General:* Mohammed Amamou (Tunisia).

## ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)

*History.* On 25 May 1963, the heads of state or government of 32 African countries, at a conference in Addis Ababa, signed a charter establishing an Organization of African Unity. Membership comprises 53 of the 54 African countries. The only state that is not a member is Morocco, which withdrew in 1985 following admittance of the disputed state of Western Sahara as a member in 1982. In Nov. 1995, the following countries were suspended from voice and vote for failure to pay their dues: Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Sao Tome e Principe, Seychelles and Sierra Leone.

*Aims.* OAU's chief objectives are the furtherance of African unity and solidarity; the co-ordination of political, economic, cultural, health, scientific and defence policies; the elimination of colonialism in Africa; and the defence of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

*Activities.* In June 1991, the heads of state of member countries signed a treaty to create an Africa-wide economic community by 2000, and in 1993, a mechanism was adopted for conflict prevention, management and resolution by the OAU.