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Whole

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda\*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-first session of the Commission/  
Twelfth meeting of the Conference  
of Ministers

Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon  
17-21 April 1986

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF  
AFRICAN PLANNERS, STATISTICIANS AND DEMOGRAPHERS

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-12 March 1986)

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## A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 3 to 12 March 1986. The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
3. The following member States of the United Nations were represented by observers: The Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, Italy, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.
4. There were representatives from the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) and the United Nations Population Division.
5. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) were represented. The session was attended by representatives of the following specialized agencies: The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
6. The following inter-governmental bodies were represented: African Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), African Development Bank (ADB), the Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC), Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Institut sous-régional de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ISSEA), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC).
7. Observers were present from Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes de pays en voie de développement (CESD) Paris; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC); Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA), Kigali; Institut du Sahel (CILSS); Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE); International Statistical Institute's Research Centre (ISRC); Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (IBI); Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Statistics; Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC), Statistics Sweden and University of Ibadan.
8. Mr. Abdelhafid Rouissi (Morocco) was elected Chairman of the Joint Conference with Mr. E. Oti Boateng (Ghana) and Mr. Jean Mezui Mve (Gabon) as first and second Vice-chairman respectively and Mr. F. Modise (Botswana) as Rapporteur.

## B. AGENDA

9. The Joint Conference adopted the following agenda:

### Plenary meeting

1. Opening address
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Preparations for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the African Economic Crisis.
  - (a) A critical Review of the African Economic Situation
  - (b) Africa's Priority Programme for Recovery: Implementation at national, sub-regional and regional levels
5. Improving the management of African economies: some problematic areas
6. Technical and financial assistance in planning, statistics, demography and informatics and documentation.

### Planning committee

7. Election of officers
8. Agricultural credit and resource mobilization in the rural sector
9. Sectoral planning in subregional co-operative arrangement
10. African multi-national enterprises, collective planning and economic co-operation
11. Subregional perspectives: the CILSS countries
12. Report on the implementation of short-term forecasting systems and multi-sectoral planning models
13. Institute of Economic Development and Planning
14. The African Planners Association
15. Report on ECA planning activities (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995
16. Adoption of the report

### Statistics committee

17. Election of officers
18. The role of African statistical services in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action
19. Towards self-reliance in the development of statistical manpower
  - (a) General aspects
  - (b) Training
  - (c) Other issues
20. Report on statistical activities (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1985
21. African Statistical Association
22. Adoption of the report

Demography committee

23. Election of officers
24. ECA regional population training institutes (joint meeting of RIPS and IFORD Governing Councils)
25. Population dynamics in Africa
26. Report on population activities (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995
27. Adoption of the report

Informatics and Documentation committee

28. Election of officers
29. Training of documentation and information scientists in Africa
30. Improving co-operation among information scientists
  - (a) Association of documentation, information and library scientists in Africa;
  - (b) Association of computer scientists in Africa
31. Report on activities of PADIS (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995
32. Adoption of the report

Planning and Statistics (joint committee meeting)

33. Selected studies on:
  - (a) The industrial capacity utilization in African countries;
  - (b) Relationship between production and trade in African manufactured goods

Statistics and Demography (joint committee meeting)

34. Demographic data collection and analysis: Evaluation of the 1980 round of censuses in Africa

Planning and Demography (joint committee)

35. Kilimanjaro Programme of Action in Population: Follow-up on its implementation
36. The role of national family planning programmes in the ECA member States

Planning, Informatics and Documentation (joint committee meeting)

37. Issues in the dissemination of information for economic development planning

Statistics, Informatics and Documentation (joint committee meeting)

38. Selected issues in the development of statistical data bases

Demography, Informatics and Documentation (joint committee meeting)

39. Progress report on the population information network for Africa  
(POPIN-AFRICA)

Resumed plenary meeting

40. Other business

41. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Joint Conference

42. Review of committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions

43. Report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Plenary session

Opening address (agenda item 1)

10. The session was opened by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, ECA Executive Secretary, who welcomed participants and indicated that the fourth session of the Joint Conference was taking place at a critical time in the preparations for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, scheduled for 27 to 31 May, 1986. He also noted that the conference was the first meeting since the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted Africa's Priority Programme of Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 in July 1985.

11. He informed the meeting about preparations being made for the special session of the General Assembly and made observations on the priority programme and expressed the hope that the conference would provide inputs in the preparatory process.

12. He mentioned that in order to ensure that the preparation of the African submission was from the grass roots the OAU Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary fielded 10 joint OAU/ECA missions to all African countries.

13. He stated that following those missions drafts of individual country profiles covering various socio-economic data, the recovery needs of the countries and policy measures already taken or envisaged had been prepared.

14. He stressed that the country profiles would be an integral and very important part of the final document that Africa would present to the special session of the General Assembly and called on participants to assist in finalizing the drafts.

15. The Executive Secretary then made some observations regarding Africa's Priority Programme adopted by African Heads of State and Government in July 1985.

16. He observed that participants should concentrate in their work on the analysis of the critical areas in Africa's development process with special emphasis on the root causes of the multi-faceted crisis since they were entrusted with the responsibility of orienting planning mechanisms to translate the Priority Programme into actions and projects, and also monitor the implementation of the programme.

17. He mentioned that in the field of statistics considerable efforts had been made to strengthen African statistical services; however, those services needed to produce a broader range of reliable and timely demographic and socio-economic data. Thus there was the need to improve management and develop close relationships with policy makers and planners in order to facilitate priorities-setting in statistical data applications.

18. Further, he noted that the problems regarding population growth, uneven patterns of population distribution and refugees had not only persisted but had also been complicated by drought and desertification which had escalated in recent years.

19. He therefore indicated that actions aimed at responding to the long-term challenges of rapid population growth and natural and man-made calamities were needed.

20. In the area of informatics and documentation he stated that the technical committee to oversee the PADIS regional programme recommended by the third session of the Joint Conference had been established and was functioning.

21. He reminded participants that information programmes did not only mean libraries, statistical publications and other conventional services but also food security information systems, early warning and environmental monitoring systems, trade information systems and others which had a direct bearing on the promotion of collective self reliance and regional integration in the context of Africa's priority programme.

22. He therefore stressed that African countries needed to incorporate information plans in their national development plans.

23. The Executive Secretary also referred to the financial problems of the ECA-sponsored institutions - RIPS, IFORD and IDEP which were of particular interest to the Joint Conference.

24. He mentioned that the Governing Councils of the institutions would meet during the period of the Joint Conference and their reports would be presented to the Conference.

25. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary invited the participants to critically discuss the issues on the agenda for the conference and expressed the hope that his address had set the tone for the discussions.

A critical review of the African economic situation (agenda item 4(a))

26. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.12/5, an excerpt on "The overall trends in developing Africa 1984-1985". He informed the meeting that this document would serve as a background paper to help the Joint Conference in its deliberations on the critical economic and social conditions in Africa.
27. He gave a brief account of Africa's economic situation by highlighting the critical areas. The food supply situation which was so critical in the previous years due to drought and other calamities, except in a few countries, returned to normal in 1985. In spite of the recorded increase in value added of agriculture which rose by 3.2 per cent, still about 17 to 19 million Africans will require assistance this year at a cost estimated at US\$ 800 million. However, the recovery of agriculture is of a short-term character and was only due to better weather conditions rather than substantive increases in the level of productivity. Similarly, industrial crops suffered from slackening international demand. Crude oil production which represents a sizable share of the regional output was also constantly under pressure from a depressed market. The manufacturing sector, while enjoying some kind of a recovery in 1985, was impeded by fundamental problems relating to capacity utilization, management, input and power supplies.
28. On the whole, the regional output was up by 2.8 per cent in 1985, but per capita income experienced a decline of 12 per cent under the 1980 level. This, however, conceals wide disparities among geographical areas and income groups. Investment continued to fall and was 12.5 per cent lower than its 1980 level mostly attributed to the continued decline of oil revenues.
29. Exports declined by 4.3 per cent in 1983 due to the unfavourable performance of oil exporters whose exports fell by 6.6 per cent. At the same time, cereals imports increased by 20 per cent in 1984. As a result, Africa's share of world trade shrank to 4.2 per cent of world exports and only 4 per cent of world imports. The current account was in constant deficit and at present stands at 4 per cent of the GDP of the region. Net capital inflow stagnated at 9.7 billion mainly due to reluctance of private capital to commit itself in the region. To that effect, debt remains critical and reached \$162 billion by the end of 1985, and consequently debt service rose to \$20 billion or 29.6 per cent of exports of goods and non-factor services.
30. Debt was not, however, the only issue of concern. In fact, the need for policy reforms was felt more acutely than ever. In this regard, the Priority Programme for Economic Recovery adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the OAU called for a radical change in policies and priorities, particularly in favour of agriculture.
31. The representative of ECA then referred to the prospects in 1986. He indicated a slower growth of the regional output and in particular agriculture and unfavourable prospects of resource flows.

32. Finally, he hoped that the discussion that would follow would help in the identification of some of the issues to be raised at the Special Session of the General Assembly.

33. After the presentation made by the secretariat, there was a wide ranging discussion on the issues raised by the paper presented by the secretariat as well as on specific points concerning particular countries.

34. As most discussants congratulated the secretariat for the quality and scope of the document presented, they also indicated their wish to see more attention focussed on the causes of the crisis experienced by the region, which was not a mere cyclical phenomenon but was related to the structure of the economies and of the international environment.

35. It was stressed by some delegates that there was the need to analyse the crisis in the framework set by the Lagos Plan of Action and of the recommendations passed by the last Conference of Ministers. It was necessary to be informed of the way the targets set by the Lagos Plan of Action were implemented. At the same time, concerning the adjustment measures and reforms, particularly those proposed by the IMF and the World Bank, there was no clear alternatives provided to the Conference as to the precise meaning of the reforms proposed, as the socio-economic framework was quite different from one country to another. As for the projections prepared by the secretariat, the acuteness of the debt problem and the necessity to give it prominence in the prospects made for the African economy was stressed, as it was going to be a major issue in the current year.

36. Other delegates also stressed the importance of the debt issue which was a major hurdle for African development. They almost unanimously called for the setting up of a special committee which would study the debt problem and propose solutions for relief.

37. Several delegates called attention to aspects of the crisis which in their view had been neglected by the presentation. In particular they singled out landlockedness as a major growth impediment to many countries of the region. In a country like Mali, to quote an example, transport costs were as a result as high as 30 per cent of the total costs of imports. Also the problem of desertification had not been given enough weight though it was a major concern not only for the countries of the Sahel area, but for other countries in the region as well.

38. Apart from the well known internal problems, the external factor was singled out by some delegates as a particularly important determinant factor in the present crisis. When most countries of the region had weathered the 1974-1975 crisis, this had not been the case for 1980-1983, and the reason was that at that time African countries had exhausted their borrowing capacity. In this respect, it was important to remark that while international organizations and experts were advising countries to follow an export policy, developed countries were at the same time barring African exports through protectionist measures and limiting resource flows through high interest rates policies.

39. In this respect, questions were raised about the meaning of the liberalisation measures proposed by the IMF and it was underlined that countries with different policy frameworks were those where the measures were bound to have quite different meanings.

40. It was pointed out that there was the need for a social dimension in analysing the economic situation, as economic indicators were not sufficient to give a true picture of the situation. The political dimension was also to be taken into account since political mismanagement had played a key role in the crisis of the region.

41. African subregional co-operation was another sector quoted by a number of delegates which should be given more weight in the final document to be submitted to the forthcoming special session of the Conference of Ministers. There were in addition questions raised on particular points concerning specific countries.

42. The importance of industry in the development of the region was noted by participants. In particular it was important to realise that agriculture could not be expected to grow substantially without an industrial base which would supply it with vital inputs. The solution of importing these inputs from abroad was the wrong solution since imported technology was not in most cases adapted to the needs of the region. Therefore the concept of giving priority to agriculture without taking into account the necessary linkages with industry was to be rejected for a more integrated view of the development process.

43. In summing up the discussion, the representative of the secretariat emphasized that the document provided to the delegates was intended to serve as a background paper for discussion. This being the case, he remarked that the purpose of the document had been fulfilled since the discussion has been quite enriching and lively and had supplied numerous themes for further elaboration. He reminded the delegates that a special meeting on debt had already been proposed by the OAU heads of State and Government and that efforts were continuing to implement that proposition. Concerning the IMF adjustment packages, he recalled that the Commission had already published two special studies on the issues involved in the 1982-1983 and 1983-1984 Surveys of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa. These publications were available in the secretariat for distribution. Otherwise he noted that there was a lot of controversy surrounding the IMF and the problem of adjustment, and the secretariat could not do more than presenting and analysing the problems. Also the secretariat could not get involved in the political issues as important as they may be. This being said, he thanked the discussants for their pertinent suggestions. On specific points of information, these also were noted by the secretariat and would be taken into account as far as possible.

Africa's priority programme for recovery: Implementation at national, subregional and regional levels (agenda item 4(b))

44. In introducing the agenda item the Executive Secretary referred to parts of his opening address on the preparations for the Special United Nations General Assembly on the African Economic Crisis scheduled to be convened in New York from 27 to 31 May 1986. He indicated that in addition to the papers being prepared by the Preparatory Committee in New York, OAU and ECA are also presenting a comprehensive

document on the needs of African countries. In order to provide reliable data for the preparation of these documents, ten joint missions were sent to all 50 ECA member States. On the basis of information collected by these missions the preparation of the joint OAU/ECA document has started. Drafts of two parts of this document are being presented to the Joint Conference: one on country profiles and the other a statistical annex. The country profiles have been standardized to cover the following five items: overall economic performance since 1980; main areas of focus of the national recovery programme, 1986-1990; highlights of policy performance in support of the national recovery programme, 1986-1990; resources requirements for the national recovery programme; and estimates of debt servicing requirements. For most countries the information provided during the missions have enabled a summary of about two pages to be prepared. It has not been possible to include longer summaries since even with the average of two pages per country, the country profiles would occupy 100 pages. For a few countries no information has been available on the last two items listed above. The leaders of delegation to the Joint Conference were requested to examine these country profiles and the two tables in the statistical annex, make any amendments and submit their revisions to the ECA secretariat by Wednesday morning, 5 March 1986.

45. With respect to the statistical annex, Table 1 deals with basic statistical information such as area, population, population density, GDP, GDP growth rates, and level of external debt. Here again there are many gaps, especially with respect to the level of external debts for 1985, debt service ratios (obligations for 1984) and net resource flows.

46. Table 2 relates to the cost of the priority programme by sector, source of funding, subregion and country. Tables 3, 4 and 5 which were not provided to delegations relate to percentage distributions derived from Table 2.

47. It was stressed that in view of the very provisional nature of the drafts supplied to leaders of delegations, they should not be given wide circulation.

48. In the discussions which followed, questions were raised on the role the Joint Conference was supposed to play in the preparations for the Special General Assembly on the African Economic Crisis. It was suggested that a special committee be set up by the Joint Conference to review the documentation for the special session before the extraordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The secretariat however explained that the only parts of the document which were ready for distribution in draft form were those before the Joint Conference. The missions returned to Addis Ababa by the middle of February and had been working very hard since. But it had not been possible to submit any draft on the overall picture to the Joint Conference. However, the request that the drafts should be made available to countries before the Extraordinary session of ECA Conference of Ministers would be taken up with the appropriate ECA/OAU authorities.

49. Most delegations expressed their view that the time given to them to amend figures and to revise the country profiles was too short. They did not have the necessary data with them in Addis Ababa to enable them to do a satisfactory job.

Also the statistical tables should have had explanatory notes and the sources of the data indicated in all cases since the missions collected data from different organizations and in some cases these data were inconsistent. In reply, the representative of the secretariat indicated that the deadline of Wednesday 5 March was to enable those who had amendments to make while in Addis Ababa to do so. If further amendments can be telexed from the countries in time to reach the secretariat before the preparation of the final draft, then these can be taken into account. It is hoped that explanatory notes will be included in the section on the statistical tables.

Improving the management of African economies: some problematic areas  
(agenda item 5)

50. Under this item a representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.4/4: "Improving the management of African economies: some problematic areas". In doing so, the representative said that the document had originally been submitted to the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) at its sixth meeting held in Addis Ababa in April 1985. The document had been prepared as part of the background documents for the consideration of TEPCOW and the ECA Conference of Ministers on the economic issues on the provisional agenda of the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity. The Steering Committee which was charged with the preparation of the documentation on economic issues for the 21st Session of the Assembly had however, previously decided that the management of African economies would not be discussed as a separate item at that session. The sixth meeting of TEPCOW had accordingly only made a preliminary consideration of the issues raised in the document and had recommended that the document be submitted to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, a body more specialized than itself.

51. The representative of the secretariat explained that the focus of the document was on certain areas of management which were either not treated in some recent publications on the management of African economies or if treated, were yet to be acted upon by African Governments. The areas concerned were: measures for fruitful and sustainable collaboration and co-operation between the government and other decision-making units in the economy; effective mobilization and utilization of financial resources; deepening knowledge of the natural resource raw material base; keeping wealth-generating resources intact and productive; and foreign resources and African development and economic growth. It was further explained that in the coverage of these issues the point of departure had been the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, namely, national and collective self-reliance and internally-generated and self-sustaining economic growth and development, both of which have implications for resource mobilization and its effective use.

52. In the discussion which followed the presentation of the document, several delegations commended the secretariat for the initiative it took in preparing a document on such an important issue which provided much food for thought. It was noted that the subject was a complex and difficult one particularly in the context of the number of member States to which it was addressed and their different economic and political philosophies. Nevertheless, a number of representatives wished that the document were more empirical, drawing on specific country experiences with respect to the issues raised. Some felt that management problems

in areas such as agriculture, industry, economic co-operation, joint ventures, trade and the external environment, as well as the role of education and training should have been discussed in the document. For the future it was recommended that work should concentrate on the separate treatment of these and other related issues taking due consideration of practical experiences in the various countries. It was further noted that management problems in African countries had both internal and external dimensions which were not clearly differentiated in the document. It was also observed that the analysis could also have been based on a theoretical framework. It was indicated that a historical analysis of Africa's economic management problems if undertaken could help to better understand the present situation.

53. With regard to the specific issues raised in the document, some representative stressed the importance of the private sector in the development process. It was noted that the private sector in African countries was in most cases extensions of business concerns in the industrialized countries. It was therefore important for governments to act urgently on the need to cultivate and harness an indigenous private sector and to enhance the role of such a sector in national development. The essential role of public enterprises especially in high risk ventures and in projects that require heavy initial investment and long gestation periods was underscored, and it was generally agreed that there was need to rationalize the operations of these enterprises so as to enable them perform effectively. However, with respect to the point made in the document that users of the services of public enterprises should pay for them, many participants expressed the view that this could be contrary to the fundamental objectives of meeting the basic needs of the people. It was noted that political, economic and social conditions vary so much from country to country that general advice on how to turn public enterprises into profit-making entities could only be of indicative value.

54. Some delegates emphasized the need to strengthen the link between planning, programming and budgeting and the increased use of co-operatives as well as contractual arrangements between government and public enterprises as effective mechanisms for ensuring the vigorous control and management of resources.

55. With respect to education and training, representatives expressed the view that while they were necessary, what was equally important were the measures taken to retain manpower. It was important for the right environment including conducive working conditions to be created so as to arrest the drain of skilled manpower from African countries.

56. The point was made that the type and quality of technical assistance had changed over the years. Technical assistance was assuming a crucial role especially in the private sector. There was however need for government to pay special attention to the hidden costs of technical assistance which could be very high. The terms and conditions of external aid needed also to be reviewed.

57. In his reaction to the discussion, the representative of the secretariat said that the observations on the focus of the document and the related problems of what should have been included were well taken. It should however be noted that the document was supplementary to other documents and its main purpose had been to address some issues which were usually left out in discussion on management of

economies. Including all other relevant issues in the document would have made it unmanageable and inappropriate for a conference of this nature. The conclusions of the document represented the lowest common denominator in view of the multiplicity of philosophical and ideological orientations in the region. As stated in his presentation, the point of departure had been the Lagos Plan of Action, the implementation of which called for hard choices in the use of resources since resources were limited at any time. He emphasized the role of the private sector which he said had a lot of potential and that governments had to make up their minds on whether or not to nurture this sector. The findings on public enterprises might not be applicable in all cases but there was definitely a case of demanding economic prices from some sectors of society for services rendered by public enterprises. The representative of the secretariat acknowledged the fact that external problems were real problems but African governments should control those aspects of the external environment that were within their reach such as for instance searching for alternative export markets.

Technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography, informatics and documentation (agenda item 6)

58. For the discussion of this item, the Conference had at its disposal two documents: "ECA's Technical Assistance in Planning, Statistics, Population and Informatics and Documentation" (E/ECA/PSD.4/5) and "United Nations Technical Assistance to Development Planning, Statistics and Population in Africa, 1984-1985" (E/ECA/PSD.4/6). The latter which was prepared by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) was introduced by the representative of the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) at the request of the ECA secretariat. The former was introduced by a representative of the secretariat.

59. The representative of UNSO summarized the activities of DTCD in the three areas of major interest to the Joint Conference, namely development planning, statistics and population. He explained that the technical co-operation under review was provided in response to the expressed needs and requests of recipient countries for developing their national capabilities in these areas with a view to attaining self-reliance in undertaking their development programmes.

60. In the area of development planning, during the period 1984-1985, DTCD executed 47 country projects in 33 African countries. These activities had been concentrated in projects in comprehensive national development planning. Increasingly, however, the need for assistance in more specialized areas of planning are being detected. Thus DTCD also assists African Governments in regional, subnational planning, integrated rural development, integration of women into development, etc.

61. In statistics, during the period 1984-1985, 79 country projects were in operation in 38 African countries. The country projects were executed by DTCD with substantive support from the United Nations Statistical Office which worked in close collaboration with the Statistics Division of ECA. Such assistance was requested in the specialized fields of national accounts, trade statistics, economic statistics including industrial statistics and price statistics, population and housing censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, household surveys, and computer processing of statistical data.

62. DTCD has continued its assistance to African countries in demographic and population training, analysis of demographic data necessary for formulation and implementation of population policies and the integration of population in national development planning. During the period 1984-1985, DTCD executed 63 population projects in 33 countries. The analysis of census data constituted the largest number of projects supported in these countries during this period. DTCD has continued to collaborate with ECA in providing assistance to the African countries in their population programmes and projects.

63. The representative of the secretariat indicated that ECA's technical assistance in the fields indicated was delivered mainly through the substantive divisions concerned (Socio-economic Research and Planning, Statistics and Population Divisions and PADIS). The Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office (TACOO) ensures the management and co-ordination of such assistance.

64. In the field of planning, he reported that ECA undertook a variety of technical assistance and advisory services to African countries during the period 1984-1985. These included assistance in the preparation of a national economic recovery interim plan, in the establishment of short-term forecasting systems, in the critical evaluation of the economic and social situation, in the round table meetings with donors, etc. In the field of statistics, technical assistance was delivered mainly through operational activities under projects supported by UNDP and UNFPA namely the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP), the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), the National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP) and the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics. In the field of population, the secretariat provided advisory services to member States in the formulation and implementation of population variables in development planning and in the evaluation of family planning programmes, in analysis of demographic data, etc. The two regional institutes, RIPS and IFORD, provided demographic training.

65. Finally, in the area of informatics and documentation, PADIS provided assistance to member States in the assessment of existing infrastructures, selection of suitable computer configurations, training of management and technical staff, the transfer of methods and standards for the processing of bibliographic information, etc.

66. Before general discussions were opened on the two reports, representatives of various United Nations agencies, donor countries and other multilateral agencies and institutions described briefly their programmes of technical co-operation.

67. Mention was made of increased activity by FAO in agricultural statistics and planning, especially the series of workshops which led up to the establishment of an Association of Agricultural Planners in Africa. It was reported that ILO provided assistance to African countries in the field of labour statistics and household surveys through regional advisers based in Africa, with further assistance from ILO headquarters. In the area of planning, the joint ILO/UNFPA

project entitled "Population, Human Resources and Development Planning in Africa" was presented to the Conference. It was explained that UNIDO's priorities were to help set up industrial programmes oriented to increasing agricultural productivity and food self sufficiency. Delegates were invited to request UNIDO assistance in industrial planning with a view to decreasing the vulnerability of their national economies. The representative of UNICEF emphasized the survival and development of children as one of the main focuses of planning. He congratulated statistical offices for the work that had already been carried out on monitoring the welfare of women and children and assured them that UNICEF would continue its positive and flexible support. The WHO representative drew attention to plans for mounting, jointly with ECA, UN Statistical Office and other collaborators, a workshop to increase the skills of national statisticians and health managers to plan and implement health and health-related surveys and to produce training materials and guidelines for such surveys.

68. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany outlined the extent of his country's contribution to development in Africa and recognized the importance of planning skills as well as basic data on the population and the economy. He drew attention to the work of the Munich Centre for Advanced Training and the scholarships available for studying economics at German Universities. The representative of France said that technical assistance provided by France was becoming more and more concentrated on skilled economists and national accountants, particularly in the context of the need to develop a capacity to negotiate on equal terms with international agencies. However the real shortage of well qualified macro-economists and national accountants led to recruitment difficulties. The representative called for improved co-ordination between bilateral and multi-lateral programmes of technical assistance. The representative of the USSR drew attention to the training of specialists in national economic planning and statistics from developing countries which is conducted in the Soviet Union. Requests for such training were fully satisfied. The forms and methods of co-operation between the USSR and developing countries in the field of planning are constantly being improved, and a legal basis had been established.

69. The Swedish representative outlined the type of assistance which is being offered by Sweden in the fields of economic planning and statistics, and invited delegates to discuss this further with him if they so wished. The United Kingdom representative explained that the broad objective of his country's technical co-operation programme was institution building. Particularly those concerned with food security, population programmes, rural development and economic management. He described the current work to establish programmes in a number of African countries which would improve the ability of statistical offices to meet the needs of information users. He stressed that necessary administrative procedures for initiating the programmes needed to be followed through as quickly and efficiently as possible.

70. The representative of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation outlined the role of his organization in technical co-operation with Commonwealth member States. He also briefed the conference on the deliberations of the 10th Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians on the subject of Technical co-operation. They had considered that broad international projects such as WFS, NHSCP and STPA were more effective than ad-hoc and unco-ordinated assistance. He endorsed

the need for greater co-operation between donors and emphasized the need to strengthen the regional advisory services. The observer from the International Statistical Institute drew attention to the technical co-operation activities of the Institute and to the establishment of the ISI Research Centre in 1982, and invited participants to take advantage of these facilities for national statistical purposes. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities explained that the technical assistance provided by EEC (funded by the European Development Fund or the Statistical Office of the European Communities direct) was designed according to the priorities set by countries which were signatories of the Lome Convention, in particular in the food domain. These activities were carefully co-ordinated with the member States of the EEC.

71. In the discussions which followed, several representatives suggested that a report on the DTCD and other agencies executed projects should include local costs or government contributions to the projects in addition to the project budget provided from external funds. A breakdown of the budget by various components would also have been useful. The representative of UNSO indicated that while local costs were an important element for a project, it was difficult or, in many cases, impossible to assess the amount actually incurred. Although each project document specified the government contributions pledged by the government, the actual costs expended were seldom recorded or reported. Regarding the breakdown of the budget by components, such as personnel, training, equipment, etc., he replied that it would be possible if the ECA requested DTCD to do so in the future.

72. Some representatives remarked that the effectiveness of technical co-operation programmes should be assessed in order to utilize limited funds more effectively. The representative of UNSO replied that a similar request was made at the 1985 session of the Statistical Commission and, although it was recognized it was very difficult to do so, the statistical office was studying ways to measure the effectiveness of technical co-operation in statistics, including indicators of improvement in the availability of the targetted statistics.

73. It was suggested that various donor agencies and donor countries should co-ordinate more vigorously their technical co-operation projects. The representative of UNSO responded that although efforts were being made towards co-ordination of technical co-operation programmes, the co-ordination of day-to-day operations of various projects could only be achieved at local level, such as through the UNDP-Office in the country.

74. A few representatives complained of the high costs of external experts and suggested the use of local experts, or experts from other development countries within the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries. The representative of UNSO remarked that owing to the global shortage of competent experts in such fields as national accounts and data processing, etc., it was inevitable to pay high salaries to hire competent experts. He pointed out the fact that DTCD was already utilizing in several projects local experts available in the country or in nearby countries where competent candidates could be found.

75. Some delegates felt that, from the table on various DTCD and other agencies executed projects, a few countries were receiving disproportionately large sums of assistance whereas others received very little. The representative of UNSO remarked that the total amount of assistance to each of developing countries for a certain period was determined in advance based on the pre-determined formula, such as IPP of the UNDP assistance, and the allocation of the total funds into various projects was made at Government request according to its priority needs. DTCD or other international agencies could only assist the Government in identifying the needs and formulating appropriate projects of the Government. In this regard he suggested that national planning office or statistical office should ensure at the preparatory stage of the UNDP country programming that development planning or statistical projects were included in the country programme. He added that, in the area of statistics, DTCD, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office and the ECA Statistics Division, would be ready to assist countries in identifying important areas of statistics to be included in the next country programmes.

76. In reply to a question, the representative of the secretariat indicated that the Department of Demography and the UNFPA-supported project within the UDEAC Secretariat were working in close collaboration and that it was difficult to separate their activities.

77. Some delegates pointed out that assistance in the areas of planning and statistics, especially national accounts, should be strengthened.

78. The delegation from Cameroon noted that the contributions of his country to the running costs of IFORD were omitted in the report of the secretariat.

79. Finally, the Conference expressed its deep appreciation on the assistance provided by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and institutions to the African region in the fields of planning, statistics, population, informatics and documentation. It wished that this assistance be continued and increased.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Election of Officers and Agenda (agenda item 7)

80. Mr. Baba Top (Senegal) was elected Chairman of the Planning Committee with Mrs. M. Motselebanc (Lesotho) and Mr. A. Nituigize (Burundi) as First and Second Vice-Chairman respectively. Mr. P.B. Rweyemamu (United Republic of Tanzania) was elected Rapporteur.

Agricultural Credit and the Mobilization of Resources in Rural Areas (agenda item 8)

81. In presenting document E/ECA/PSD.4/7 relating to a study on "Agricultural credit and the mobilization of resources in Rural Areas", the representative of the secretariat underscored the fact that agricultural credit, in the absence of correct institutional and development policies, has little impact on rural development. It is but one component among several that must be carefully co-ordinated to have any effect on production. Its effectiveness is largely determined by the land tenure, price, interest rate, marketing, extension services, taxation and savings policies. Addressing these complex and interconnected problems in compartmentalized manner is of little use. He also indicated that the financial infrastructure in Africa, that is, banking and finance have tended to be less and less village-oriented and more and more drawn to the urban seats of power, authority and financial patronage. Commercial banks tend to cluster in urban areas and concentrate on funding large farming enterprises, consumer-based industries and the foreign trade sector. Central banking policy has done little to assist in harnessing the financial system in support of rural development, while the specialized agricultural development banks have not yet made an appreciable dent in rural areas. The co-operative movement which was intended to spearhead a process of rural transformation has been of limited success in many countries.

82. On the issue of interest rate policy, the representative of the secretariat underscored the fact that the average interest rate charged for agricultural credit is well below the average rate of inflation, and in most cases the level of interest rates has been legally fixed and the number of instances in which these fixed rates have been revised is very small. Low interest rates are seriously eroding the viability of financial institutions to cater to the credit needs of the rural sector. They tend to generate an excess demand for institutional funds. This, in turn, results in the lending institutions becoming highly selective of borrowers with too much emphasis placed on collateral and assets. This becomes a credit rationing device that automatically excludes farmers of small means who have no collateral to pledge.

83. The representative also pointed out that realistic prices encourage farmers to increase production. Unremunerative producer prices not only have an adverse impact on production but also lead to the smuggling of food supplies across borders where prices are higher. In addition, low retail prices for some food staples stimulate the consumption of those staples overtime replacing consumption of non-subsidized staples. As a result, non-subsidized staples such as millet and cassava are pushed out in urban areas by staples like wheat and rice thereby creating a greater dependency on food imports.

84. As regards resource mobilization, the ECA representative pointed out that an important aspect which is often overlooked is its dependence on agricultural development and the attendant structural reforms. If savings are to be enhanced, personal incomes should of necessity rise. Not even a well-thought out policy will succeed if personal incomes stagnate. In addition, in the African context, the problem of resource mobilization is not confined to increasing the volume and rate of savings but extends to ensuring that a rising marginal rate of savings is expressed in financial form. In this regard, the opening of a network of branches within easy access to the rural population could have a far-reaching impact on resource mobilization. Finally, the ECA representative cautioned that the mere integration of credit in the framework of development planning is not enough. The banker's perspective of agricultural credit is his concern with institutional viability while the planner's perspective is to attain increased agricultural production. As a result, the integration between the credit institution and the Planning Department of the Ministry of Agriculture should be pursued at both the policy-making and the operational or field level.

85. Participants congratulated the secretariat on the excellent and detailed study. Some of the participants suggested to revise slightly the recommendations made in the report in more specific terms so that the study can be used as a valuable reference point. Other participants emphasized the need to take into account agricultural credit in agricultural planning to make the study more encompassing. In the course of the discussion, a delegate stressed the need to carefully examine the working of central banking policies in Africa as they have avoided financing agricultural credit to an appreciable degree. The mere earmarking of certain percentages by commercial banks to finance agriculture has not attained the desired results. Appropriately restructured lending policies which facilitated access to rural agricultural borrowers should be pursued simultaneously. The ECA secretariat was asked to commission a follow-up paper to explore this problem in greater depth. The retraining of those who formulate and implement agricultural policies was also emphasized.

86. Some delegates expressed the view that the problem of agricultural credit was not only the shortage of credit but the capacity to absorb it. Others mentioned that in some countries, the conditions set by financial institutions were extremely stringent and a small segment of the rural population have access to credit facilities. Other delegates pointed out that increasingly the income of the rural population was extremely vital both in terms of enhancing the farmers' credit worthiness and in mobilising resources. In many instances, factors beyond the control of farmers such as climatic hazards, insect infestation, drought and low producer prices adversely affect the ability of farmers to have increased access to credit in financial institutions. The setting up of a mechanism for effective recovery of loans, the difficulty to pledge land as collateral to the credit institution due to the customary land tenure system, the absence of organized marketing infrastructure both for food and export crops were cited as the other major problem areas.

87. In responding to the question posed by the delegates concerning the impact of high interest rates on the cost of production of farmers, the ECA representative pointed out that this argument ignores the opportunity cost of money, the foreign exchange risks and the real cost of staff and administration that are involved in financial intermediaries. In addition, agricultural lending is one of the most costly things that formal institutions do because of geographic dispersion, collateral problems, the small size of the loans made, and the risks inherent in farming. In many countries, interest rate ceilings make it virtually impossible for formal lenders to realize enough revenue to cover costs, especially if the lender is serving a large but poor rural population. Increasing the interest rate that these lenders charge would strengthen rather than undermine their financial viability. The ECA representative further pointed out that financial institutions in Africa have a social responsibility to show ingenuity and resourcefulness to mobilize resources from the traditional household sector and channel them to economic development.

88. The Planning Committee drew up recommendations in respect of Agricultural Credit and the Mobilization of Resources in Rural Areas.

89. On the basis of the information and ideas contained in the background document, the participants agreed that the problems in this area are complex and revolve essentially around a set of inter-related challenges. Among these challenges are the relative availabilities, advantages and disadvantages to the small farmer, as perceived by the farmer himself, of formal and informal credit sources and their effect on the interest of the small farmer in formal credit mechanisms. The credit worthiness of the small farmer, as defined by possible credit sources, under conditions of usually low and unstable incomes particularly from food crops, weak market infrastructures, ineffective low protection from the hazards of the weather and market conditions constitute another set of problems in this area.

90. On the basis of these inter-related challenges to the farmer, as well as existing or potential credit institutions the Committee agreed that the role of the State, consists essentially in raising the farmers credit worthiness and interest in formal credit mechanisms through the following credit and resource promotion measures, among others:

- incentive and stable prices for agricultural products;
- the improvement of creditor/farmer relations, including the removal of bureaucratic and unfavourable conditions that produce a crisis of confidence between potential creditors and borrowers;
- the removal or minimization of discriminatory features in land and other property ownership and/or use patterns, particularly against women, the landless and poor farmers that render access to formal credit difficult, if not impossible, and the general improvement of access by hitherto excluded groups;

- improved risk management in favour of potential - borrowers and creditors, notably through the promotion of crop and livestock insurance whenever possible and the improved management of risks to farmers incomes and products due to natural factors like climatic variability and the activities of pests at the pre and post-harvest levels as well as institutional factors like market instability. The banker should have monetary and credit policies which reflect the conditions that prevail in Africa today. It was further suggested that the study be published for reference purposes throughout Africa.

Sectoral Planning in Subregional Co-operation Arrangements (agenda item 9)

91. The representative of the secretariat presented the document "Subregional planning in subregional arrangements", E/ECA/PSD.4/8. He noted that the study was undertaken in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos with special focus on how the objective of the African Economic Community could be achieved through the consolidation and appropriate evolution of existing subregional structures. As a first phase, the study dealt with only two sectors namely agriculture and industry and had limited itself to some selected subregional co-operation arrangements in Africa. Other studies on the planning of the other sectors would continue to be undertaken.

92. The representative of the secretariat outlined the following characteristics in regard to sectoral planning at the subregional level in Africa:

- (a) A general absence of concrete subregional plans on which sectoral projects can be articulated.
- (b) Many subregional structures continue to be constrained by political sensitivities.
- (c) There are no linkages (horizontal and vertical) between national plans within the subregion. This poses the problem of how to harmonise plans to avoid duplication of effort.
- (d) Donors are not attuned to subregional project financing. The most prevailing project financing is for national projects.
- (e) There is a perceptible shortage of skilled manpower to undertake sectoral planning at a subregional level.

93. The representative of the secretariat said that as a result of these constraints the effectiveness of carrying out subregional projects is greatly impaired. He further said that the eventual evolution of subregional structures into an African Economic Community by the year 2000 might not be attained if deliberate steps are not taken to overcome the constraints. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the specific recommendations of the document on how to redress this state of affairs. Particular emphasis is put on the possible role that the ECA subregional MULPOCs could play in sectoral planning at the subregional level, especially in respect of harmonization of national and subregional plans.

94. Several participants congratulated the secretariat on the quality and clarity of the paper. In the ensuing discussion, various impediments to sectoral planning at the subregional level were cited, including:

- (a) Differences in national priorities and levels of development;
- (b) Difficulties of achieving co-ordination of national plans at the subregional level since subregional structures cannot become supranational entities;
- (c) The political feasibility of joint planning for sensitive areas like food and water resources;
- (d) The weakness of planning capacities even at the national levels;
- (e) The unavailability of resources needed to strengthen planning;
- (f) The economic crisis of the recent years which has forced governments to focus more attention on national problems than subregional co-operation.

However, it was indicated that some subregional groupings, in particular, ECOWAS have elaborate subregional plans to revitalize the economies of member States.

95. The Committee noted a statement made by the observer of ICAO in which he indicated that usually international airports, especially major ones, operated more efficiently and had better financial results when they were managed by autonomous authorities or parastatal organizations rather than by government departments. He stated that in order to assist States to consider ways and means of improving the economies of their international airports ICAO was organizing workshops on this subject. One of these workshops was scheduled to be held in Nairobi in July 1986 for States of the PTA subregion.

96. A number of proposals on how planning at the subregional level could be enhanced were mentioned. These proposals relate to:

- (a) The need to design subregional projects that would interest member countries in a subregion and that would at the same time lead to comparative advantages and profitability;
- (b) The imperative of developing convergent national policies at the macro and sectoral levels;
- (c) The necessity to strengthen planning at the national level so as to give subregional planning a sound base;
- (d) The need, especially in industry, to move towards national master plans with projects that could be implemented regionally such as rolling mills etc.

97. In replying to the various questions raised, the representative of the secretariat thanked the participants for their very pertinent questions. He emphasized the fact that planning at the subregional level was of vital importance for the attainment of the objectives of an African Economic Community by the year 2000 as envisaged in the Final Act of Lagos. He noted that there was an increasing convergence of priorities of the different African countries which would make subregional co-operation and planning more feasible. In response to the issue of sensitive sectors like agriculture and water resources, it was also emphasized that joint planning in such sectors was both feasible and desirable. With political will, African co-operation could overcome many of the problems that hinder economic integration. He emphasised the fact that the purpose of subregional plans was not to replace national but rather to ensure that there is some mechanism that would enable the harmonisation of national ones planning with the subregional objectives and programmes. Regarding the scepticism about the attainment of the target of an African Economic Community, the representative of the secretariat acknowledged the existence of problems but underscored the importance of making all necessary efforts to make the target attainable.

African Multinational Enterprises, Collective Planning and Economic Co-operation  
(agenda item 10)

98. In presenting document E/ECA/PSD.4/9 on "African multinational Enterprises, Collective Planning and Economic Co-operation" the Director of IDEP hinted that it was imperative for Africa to create its own transnational enterprises if it was to rid itself of economic stagnation. He said that the fact that Africa is peripheral to the world economy imposes constraints on its ability to manouvre. The turbulent economic situation of the 1970s which began with the first oil crisis in 1973 has resulted in huge external debts and explosion of subsidies, both of which have seriously rocked the economies of almost all African countries. The IDEP Director said that the endeavours so far taken by African countries by setting up subregional groupings were good but they were not sufficient. By way of illustration, he said the gradual removal of tariffs among countries of a subregional grouping would certainly enhance trade among them but it would be more beneficial to such countries to set up joint production enterprises. He said the eventual solution to African economic development is to set up transnational enterprises which would undertake production on a continental scale. They would be owned by the African countries themselves and would be launched in the framework of an African Economic Community.

99. In the ensuing discussion, the possibility of setting up continental enterprises if it is still a difficult task to have harmonization at the level of subregional groupings was questioned. It was also indicated that it was still too early to judge whether or not the present subregional endeavours have failed, given that most of them were started after the promulgation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos hardly six years ago. Some participants also stressed that the goal would not be attained for a long time and that what is more practical is to strengthen the endeavours that have been started in the subregional groupings. In this connection, it was stated that it was not co-operation alone that would achieve development for African countries, but economic integration. He said that setting up transnational enterprises by itself could not ensure an economic breakthrough for Africa if there are no deliberate steps to attain economic integration.

100. Some participants indicated the importance of regional co-operation particularly for small countries. It was also indicated that establishing African joint ventures and enterprises would be useful in this regard. It was, however, pointed out that such an approach already existed.

101. In responding to the observations made by the participants, the IDEP Director said that strengthening co-operation in the subregional groups would certainly enhance continental co-operation. Regional groupings could set up regional enterprises. The idea was not really new but what was new was the approach. Instead of each African country setting a mini-project here and another there, African countries should endeavour to create enterprises that encompass one regional grouping or more.

#### Subregional perspectives of CILSS countries (agenda item 11)

102. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.4/10 relating to the study entitled "Subregional Development Prospects: the CILSS Countries". He recalled that this study had been undertaken by the secretariat in collaboration with the Institut du Sahel in accordance with resolution 501(XIX) of the 10th session of the ECA Conference of Ministers recommending that perspective studies at national and subregional levels be undertaken in Africa to enable a clear evaluation of measures to be taken to ensure the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA). The representative indicated that the essential objectives of the study were to evaluate the economic policies of the CILSS member States in the light of the experience of the past ten years (1973-1983) as well as outline areas for the attainment of greater complementarity of the economies of the subregion to enable the countries to establish an indigenous and self-sustaining development base as called for in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

103. Regarding the social and economic evolution in the CILSS countries during the 1973-1983 period, he outlined the principal problems that have confronted the subregion as:

- (i) the quasi-permanent drought which has occasioned a fall in agricultural production of almost 35 per cent compared to the normal production levels;
  - a chronic and growing cereal deficit and a permanent recourse to massive cereal imports and food aid;
  - enormous loss of herd;
  - the degradation of environment with accelerated desertification of the subregion;
  - rapid increase in the population accompanied by a high rural exodus and a rapid growth of cities.
- (ii) the stagnation in food production along with the fast population growth resulted in a fall in per capita cereal output and chronic undernourishment, despite the increase in both food aid and imports.

- (iii) in regard to energy, there is great dependence on the outside for the supply of petrol products and very high consumption of wood and charcoal.
- (iv) there has been industrial stagnation and the small transport infrastructure available has not been able to satisfy the needs of the population and to enhance subregional co-operation.
- (v) the fall in the production and export prices has led to a chronic deficit in public finance and an unfavourable balance of payments position. In the period of ten years, the external debt increased seven-fold and debt servicing by 3.4 times. Expenditures on final consumption account for 91 per cent of GDP. Gross capital formation grew in real terms by 3.2 per cent.

104. The representative then said the study forwarded two scenarios up to the year 1998, a historical scenario based on more or less the same type of performance as in the previous years and a normative scenario based on taking purposeful steps to reverse the trends of the past.

105. Concerning the historical scenario, he pointed out that if the growth of population continues at its present rate, the population of the CILSS countries would reach nearly 49 million by 1998. By this time around 30 per cent of the population would be in cities. The scenario shows: (i) a fall in the composition of the rural population (few young people, many old people) with serious consequences on agricultural labour force; (ii) a cereal deficit of 4.1 million tons in 1998 as compared to 1.9 tons in 1982. By 1998, the self-sufficiency ratio in cereals would be only 56 per cent. Such a situation would evidently imply an increased dependence on the outside for food; (iii) the energy situation would worsen. Per capita petrol consumption would reach 135 kg. in 1998 as compared to 70 kg. in 1982 and this would entail a big oil import burden; (iv) industry based on the exploitation of agricultural resources would grow only modestly and would be stifled by poor agricultural performance. In addition, the lack of finances would compromise the realisation of important industrial projects; (v) transport and communication would constitute even a greater handicap than in the past.

106. The normative scenario proposed in the study is based on an accelerated exploitation of the potential of "hydro-agriculture" which would allow the parallel development of irrigation and hydro-electric energy. Food self-sufficiency and the reduction in the energy dependence as well as the availability of cheap energy appear, among others, to be the indispensable conditions for the rapid industrialisation of the subregion and the accelerated exploitation of mineral resources. Economic development would above all depend on considerable internal efforts aiming at mobilizing internal savings to generate self-sustained development. However, external assistance would still be indispensable for covering at least 25 per cent of the needed investments. The narrowness of the national markets and the exigencies of increasing the productivity of labour and capital would require greater subregional co-operation and integration based on real solidarity for collective self-reliance. Thus GDP of the subregion could increase at a rate of 6.6 per cent yearly with sustained development of all the sectors and with important structural changes in the key sectors such as agriculture, energy, manufacturing, transport and mining.

107. In concluding his presentation, the representative of the secretariat indicated that the completion of the perspective study on one of the subregions of Africa that is most seriously affected by drought, desertification and an economic crisis has highlighted the importance of resolution 501(XIX) as well as the urgent necessity to apply it to other subregions. However, implementation of the resolution confronts the problems of lack of statistical data, the poor understanding of the factors affecting investments, consumption and income especially in the rural areas, and the gaps in national development plans. Nevertheless, the implementation of the resolution in other subregions is urgently necessary although it requires the strengthening of the resources of the secretariat and of other research institutions such as the Institut du Sahel, IDEP, IFORD, etc., through increased bilateral and multilateral assistance.

108. During the discussions that followed, the meeting thanked the secretariat for the excellent work. Many delegates found the study interesting and positive and its approach good. Important questions were raised on the basic assumptions for the normative scenario and the resources for the implementation of such a scenario when it is clear that it is impossible to tackle at one time all the problems and priorities proposed in the study. Some delegates asked why the assessment of the past had not been made for a longer period and why it was not more detailed. It was also observed that the drought and oil-bill were not the only causes of the deteriorations of the economic situation in the CILSS countries. A more in-depth analysis of all the causes of the situation was necessary in such a study. Other participants expressed some scepticism regarding the realisation of the normative scenario based on external financing. The normative scenario should have been based on the financial capacity of the countries. The realization of rates of growth of the sectors, investment and consumption was also viewed with scepticism taking into account the very modest past performance of the countries of the subregion. Three priority areas for the subregion were suggested, namely the mastering of water resources, the production of industrial inputs and energy. It was stressed that the exploitation of livestock was vital for the CILSS subregion.

109. It was noted that all the questions that had been raised during the discussions had also been raised during the Dakar Colloquium. These had enabled the definition of future research areas as well as a programme of action for the countries of the subregion. It was pointed out that the participants at the Dakar Colloquium had praised the excellent quality of the study. The representative of CILSS pointed out that the ECA was asked to assess the performance of the CILSS countries in 1973-1983 because that period covered the first ten years of the existence of CILSS. He noted that it was in the light of the criticisms at the Dakar Colloquium that the proposals for action and the areas of research had been identified and submitted to the Conference of the Heads of State of CILSS held in Dakar in January 1986. He referred to the resolution of the Council of Ministers of CILSS relating to the implementation of the established programmes of action. The principal elements of the Plan of Action are: the urgency of structural changes in the subregion, the need for the rescheduling of external debt, the effective participation of the population of CILSS in the needed development effort as well as the call to the international community for the mobilisation of the resources needed for the elaboration and realisation of the priority programme for the recovery and reconstruction of the CILSS countries.

110. In reply to the issues raised by the participants, the representative of the secretariat said that the study focussed on three sectors, namely agriculture, energy and transport. He indicated that the realisation of the objective of food self-sufficiency aimed at in the scenario was dependent on mastering the water resources and the construction of different dams envisaged in the subregion in the framework of subregional organisation like the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). The dams would also allow the considerable development of electric production and reduce the dependence of CILSS on the outside. The priority accorded to transport was also justified by the fact that the CILSS subregion had four land-locked countries as well as one island country. He also acknowledged that the realisation of the normative scenario necessitated the mobilisation of a lot of financial resources. It was for this reason that the Dakar Colloquium and the Conference of the Heads of State of CILSS had made a call for increased assistance to the needs of the subregion.

Review of progress in short-term forecasting and multi-sectoral planning models (agenda item 12)

111. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/PSD.4/11 entitled "Review of progress in short-term forecasting and multi-sectoral models". He highlighted the most important issues relating to the implementation of the social accounting matrix based short-term forecasting models. He reviewed the progress made in some African countries and the lessons drawn for future work on this project which would also benefit the countries that might, in future, wish to establish the system.

112. He elaborated on the requirements for installing such a system which include availability of basic data as regards an input-output data, and appropriate disaggregations of other variables such as value-added by factor input, exports by sector and markets of destination, etc. Also of crucial importance is the adequate provision of computer facilities including appropriate software and core of staff trained in computer programming and econometric analysis.

113. The representative also alluded to the high cost involved in undertaking such systems at the national level and the associated difficulties in obtaining extra-budgetary resources for financing the project which is mostly required for the recruitment of consultants to help in the preparatory work of the basic prerequisites of the model. Meanwhile and until a funding source is identified, countries are required to contribute to the financing of part of the cost of the mission namely, accommodation and lodging. Under the circumstances, countries who wish to establish the system were requested to indicate the interest to the secretariat so that the ECA secretariat could work out a co-ordinated work plan and a time-table to meet the countries requests.

114. The representative of the ECA secretariat further indicated that, subsequent to the recommendations of the second and third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, a workshop on multi-sectoral planning models for African planning experts is now scheduled to take place this year in the USSR. The seminar will focus on the following topics: (a) the integration of the informal sector in multi-sectoral development planning; (b) the dynamization of input-output technical coefficients over-time; (c) the inclusion of financial variables relating to prices, balance of payments, money and finance in SAM-based forecasting models, and (d) the modelling of the energy sector in Africa. He stated that the workshop would be convened at the end of 1986 and interested participants were requested to indicate their interest.

115. In the discussions that followed, a number of delegates reflected on the experience of their respective countries in economic modelling and their usefulness in the preparation of development plans. Several participants expressed their concern about the operationality of ECA modelling exercises and their impact on African economies and proposed that occasional revision of parameters should be undertaken to suit changing economic conditions.

116. The validity of the use of input-output tables with fixed technical coefficients and constant return to scale as the basis of such models at a time when the economies of African countries are going through acute crises and rapid sectoral changes, was also questioned.

117. Several participants also stressed the need for ECA to establish links with international specialized agencies and African countries who have been engaged in planning models. To that extent, ECA was requested to foster exchange of experience by the dissemination of the existing information available at ECA and convening of joint seminars. Some participants emphasized that ECA should strengthen contacts with African planning offices and institutions to assist them in the development of economic models and strengthen model building capabilities with the objective of helping the African countries in the formulation of economic strategies and policies within coherent and consistent national development plans.

118. It was stressed that there was the need for conducting training programmes in view of the lack of an adequate number of specialists in this area.

119. The meeting congratulated the ECA secretariat for the efforts it had made to organize the forthcoming workshop on multi-sectoral development planning models which offers the unique opportunity to exchange views and experiences on the applicability of the models in the African region. They recommended that such efforts in promoting exchanges of experiences through the workshops should continue in the future and efforts should be made to secure sufficient funds for organizing them. It was also proposed that IDEP be involved in the preparation of the workshop to be held in the USSR.

120. The representative of the secretariat thanked the delegates for their interest and support for strengthening ECA activities in the field of economic modelling. He underscored the importance of such models for planning purposes, especially the insight they give to planners as useful tools to generate policy options when experimenting with various resource allocation programmes. He referred to the need of updating input-output tables to reflect technical changes and changes in price relatives and thus making them effective tools for the establishment of short-term forecasting models.

121. He emphasized the importance of seminars in the dissemination of information on modelling and also in ensuring that the results of the model are used as inputs in the decision-making process. On the question of training, he pointed out that the main purpose is to develop planning modelling capabilities at the national level, in particular, within the context of the follow-up and updating of forecasting and multi-sectoral planning models. Finally, he thanked the delegates who indicated their interest to attend the workshop on multi-sectoral planning models.

#### Institute of Economic Development and Planning (agenda item 13)

122. The Director of IDEP presented this item, using as background document, "African Institute of Economic Development and Planning, Annual Report 1984-1985" (E/ECA/PSD.4/12). He highlighted recent developments relating to both activities and resources. In the last year, the number of trainees attending IDEP's programmes exceeded 120. This is more than double the earlier levels which averaged 50-60 per annum.

123. The number of programmes offered by IDEP also doubled. Two new programmes were offered for the first time, one on Human Resources Development and Manpower Planning in Africa and another on Energy Development and Ecology in Africa. IDEP's overall training programme and other supportive activities are geared to African priorities and demands as specified by OAU, ECA, and IDEP's Governing Council.

124. The expansion in activities, particularly training, greatly stretched IDEP's resources (teaching - there are only four teaching staff, interpretation, translation and administration) a great deal.

125. The main obstacle confronted by the Institute is the inadequacy of financial resources. This shrouded the Institute's prospects with uncertainty. It constrained the expansion of activities and services in response to needs and demands expressed by African countries, institutions as well as other users.

126. Contributions by African countries have been declining over time, due mainly to the bad economic situation facing them. Furthermore, the UNDP has given notice - that it will not extend its contributions to IDEP's regular budget after 1986. It indicated that its contributions starting from 1987 will be in the form of projects to be allotted to IDEP for implementation. For that to materialize it demanded that IDEP would have to change its operational framework to respond effectively and promptly to consultancy services and other similar demands by African countries, the UN, the UNDP and other regional and international users.

Its activities should also be oriented in this direction. Discussions are going on with UNDP to allow for a transition period of three years during which it will provide budgetary finance in order to allow IDEP to build up capacity for fulfilling the orientation requested.

127. In the course of discussions participants expressed their support for the Institute. They stressed the need for studies on planning capacity in Africa, institutions, methodologies, experts, etc. They also asked IDEP to serve as a clearing house for planning institutions in Africa. They said IDEP not only could contribute to co-ordinating their activities but could also provide advice, exchange documents, etc. They also advised that the Institute's research and training activities should not emphasize technical issues but should rather be geared to operationality and application. All in all, the importance of development planning in Africa was underlined. IDEP, as the only continental planning institute, has a pivotal role to balance this. Participants also hinted that consultancy should feature more in IDEP's activities. Some delegates indicated the need for a qualitative study on the evaluation of the effectiveness of IDEP's training to see if it is in line with governments' requirements.

128. Other comments related to financial issues. The Institute's precarious financial situation was underlined. It was pointed out that inadequate government contributions and the uncertainty of UNDP support puts the Institute in difficulty. Information regarding IDEP's budget, cost, governments' contributions and arrears was requested by a number of participants.

129. In response to the issues and suggestions raised by participants the Director said the importance of planning in Africa and the increasing demand for it could not be more emphasized. However, past experience needs to be assessed and rationalized in line with the present African situation and needs. The Institute is in the course of undertaking research in this regard, which will be discussed in a seminar being organized for this purpose. He also added that all points made regarding IDEP operations would be taken into consideration as it is through intensified dialogue and interaction between IDEP and its members that IDEP can be guided towards the best course of action.

130. As for financial matters it was pointed out that annual average contributions by African countries in the early 1980s averaged US\$0.5 - US\$0.6 million. Recently they had declined to only US\$0.3 million, which is inadequate. The Director said that if every African country pays only \$10,000 per annum, the Institute's basic needs would be sustained. Regarding the future, he said core expenditure could be reduced to even less than \$1 million if necessary. Cost savings could be achieved through reduction of interpretation and translation work which amounts to one third of total cost at present. Very few training institutions in the world have permanent interpretation and translation facilities. The savings made could be allocated to programmes as a variable cost. The cost of general service staff could also be reduced to minimum essential levels. If the saving measures are implemented, the financial cost to be covered by the governments would be reduced to a level of 0.7 million or less.

131. .... The above-mentioned cost reductions would not affect the Institute's international character. The UN dimension of the Institute serves in mobilizing resources from many sources, UN and others, which amounts to several folds actual contributions by African Governments. However, under more stringent conditions further cost reductions could be made through changes in the salary scales of professional staff. This should be a solution of last resort since it would alter the nature of the Institute with a great deal of uncertainties regarding the outcome.

132. .... The Director then added that the UNDP had decided to mount an evaluation mission to look into means of expanding the activities of IDEP. The terms of reference suggested for the mission are forward looking and aim at finding means of strengthening IDEP and bringing it close to its users and their needs. It is recommended that IDEP would in particular expand its consultancy services to African countries and institutions, the UNDP, and the UN in general. However, the UNDP insists that if it is to continue its support to IDEP in the forthcoming cycle, IDEP must undertake the necessary changes towards greater operationality and prompt and efficient implementation of projects assigned to it. From the above, there are reasons to feel that if IDEP is willing to undertake the requisite changes, UNDP financing would continue.

133. .... Another source of finance is through allotting posts to IDEP in the regular budget of the UN. The Economic and Social Council of the UN recommended several posts for IDEP in its 1985 meeting. However, the recommendation did not pass through the fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, with rising demand for IDEP's services as an African resource institution for the UN, the role recommended for IDEP in Africa's medium-term recovery plan, etc., there is a good chance that the Institute's demands for posts would be fulfilled. This would be particularly facilitated if the changes and orientations requested by the UNDP are complied with.

134. .... The elections for the vacant positions in IDEP's Council were duly announced as follows:

North Africa

1. Mr. M. Labidi (replaced Egypt)

Inspector General

Ministry of Planning

Algeria

Eastern and Southern Africa

1. Mr. Dender W. Mariam (re-elected)

Head, Macro Planning Department

Office of National Committee for Central Planning

Ethiopia

2. Mr. J.H. Madubansi (replaced Zimbabwe)

Director of Sectoral Planning

National Commission for Development Planning

Zambia

Central Africa

1. Mr. Henri Biengolo (replaced Zaire)  
 Ministry of Planning  
 Congo

135. At the end of the discussion it was recommended that a resolution in support of IDEP should be prepared.

African Planners Association (agenda item 14)

136. The item on "African Planners Association" (E/ECA/PSD.4/13) was introduced by the Director of IDEP. He said the objective of the suggested association is to serve as a platform for African planners to exchange ideas. Their ideas and research findings would be published in a journal. Members would join in their individual capacities not as government nominees or representatives.

137. The Director said that, in view of the massive work at IDEP's hands, it would not be possible to pursue the idea of forming the association this year (1986). He said that the idea should be taken note of but that its actualization should await a more opportune moment.

138. In the discussions that followed, some participants said that it is not necessary to have another association or body dealing with planning questions. They argued that a new association will bring new demands. Other than create a new organization, it would be better to strengthen those which already exist such as IDEP. Several participants, however, said that such an association was desirable. They nonetheless raised questions as to the definition of a planner. Many were of the view that in order to do away with the ambiguity of who is/is not a planner, the association should only accept economists with experience in planning. A few also felt that an Association of African Economists would be more appropriate. A number of participants hinted that national level associations of planners should be enhanced.

139. The Director concluded by reiterating what he had said in the presentation. He thanked the participants for their suggestions which he said would be taken into consideration in future if and when steps are taken to form the association. In view of the divergent views expressed the idea of formation of an African Planners Association was left in abeyance to be pursued later at an appropriate time in the future.

Report on ECA planning activities (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995 (agenda item 15)

140. A representative of the secretariat introduced the document E/ECA/PSD.4/14 and outlined the work that had been carried out in the field of development issues and policies during 1984-1985 and the proposed work programme for 1986-1987 with the projections for the period 1988-1989 and 1990-1995. He indicated that, for the period 1984-1985, the ECA work programme focussed on the systematic implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the International Development Strategy.

141. In this respect, work had been carried out on: (a) Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa for the periods 1982-1983 and 1983-1984; (b) the study on the review and appraisal of economic performance in Africa 1980-1985 in the light of the implementation of the International Development Strategy and its integral component, the Lagos Plan of Action; (c) the ADB/ECA annual economic reports for 1984 and 1985; (d) a study entitled "Africa's Crisis and Structural Change"; and (e) research studies covering the review of the progress achieved in subregional co-ordination of sectoral plans, the perspective of economic development in CILSS countries, and in-depth study on the balance of payment and foreign exchange leakage and a study on agricultural credit and the mobilization of resources in the rural sector.

142. The main feature of the core programme for the LDCs include: (a) technical assistance and advisory services in planning, programming and project design and preparation; (b) annual review of the economic and social conditions in Africa's LDCs; (c) monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the SNPA; (d) indepth studies on the importance of pricing policies in increasing productivity and output in the agricultural sector and on "The extent of industrial capacity under-utilization and its impact on industrial development in African LDCs".

143. For the period 1986-1987, the representative of the ECA secretariat pointed out that the programme that had been approved by the Conference of Ministers at its tenth meeting included three sub-programmes and sixteen programme elements. The first sub-programme regarding socio-economic analysis, planning and projections would cover a total of nine elements. The second sub-programme would cover three elements in the monetary and fiscal fields while the third sub-programme dealing with African LDCs will, in addition to the normal work elements, carry out two indepth studies on drought and food strategies and on quantitative analysis of the implications of structural adjustment and stabilization programme on long-term growth and development in African LDCs. The representative also reviewed the projected ECA work programme for the period 1988-1989 which is based on the medium-term plan (1984-1989) as contained in document A/37/6 - General Assembly Official Records: Thirty-seventh Session Supplement 4-6. He indicated that during 1990-1995 the secretariat will continue to strengthen the capacity of the African economies for sustained development within the framework of individual and collective self-reliance as stipulated in the LPA and asked the participants to give specific suggestions on this work programme.

144. Several participants congratulated the secretariat on the work it had accomplished during the 1984-1985 period. It was pointed out that the ECA secretariat, in view of the importance of its work programme, should send regularly to the member States publications and documents on planning methodologies. It was also suggested that indepth sectoral studies should be intensified as well as studies on external debt. Another suggestion made was that, since by the year 1990 Africa will have overcome its present economic crisis (judging by the recovery now taking place), the work programme after this period should focus on long-term master plans for sectoral inter-linkages and the introduction of new outlook in overall planning. Questions were raised as to the selection criteria of countries for the case studies undertaken by the secretariat.

145. The representative of the ECA secretariat thanked the participants for their suggestions and comments. He indicated that technical assistance is provided at the request of the African countries themselves according to their needs. This occurs mostly in the LDCs which, in the course of the preparation of their round table conference of external aid, need assistance in the preparation of document or advisory services during the meetings. As to indepth sectoral studies, the representative of the ECA secretariat said that such studies had already been undertaken in the ECA secretariat, sometimes in collaboration with the specialized agencies like FAO, UNIDO. He also indicated that there are three criteria for selecting a country for technical assistance: the geographical and linguistic balance as well as the economic systems. He informed the meeting that despite the adoption of the 1986-1987 work programme by the ECA Conference of Ministers, the various suggestions and recommendations to the broad elements of the 1986-1989 and 1990-1995 work programme will be taken into account in the preparation of the future work programme of the secretariat.

## STATISTICS COMMITTEE

### Election of officers (agenda item 17)

146. The Committee elected Mr. G.A.O. Amodu (Nigeria) as Chairman, Mrs. Awa Thiongane (Senegal) as 1st Vice-chairman, Mr. Godfrey Sicilima (Zambia) as 2nd Vice-chairman and Mr. Sidna Ould N'Dah (Mauritania) as Rapporteur.

### The role of African statistical services in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action (agenda item 18)

147. Four documents were submitted for consideration under the agenda item, namely:

- "The role of statistical information in national information systems" (E/ECA/PSD.4/16).
- "A review of statistical organization and staffing problems in Africa, including an assessment of the effectiveness of national statistical services" (E/ECA/PSD.4/17).
- "The establishment of an African list of statistical priorities" (E/ECA/PSD.4/18).
- "The role of African statistical services in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action" (E/ECA/PSD.4/15).

The last document was prepared as an introduction to the three documents mentioned earlier.

148. Very fruitful discussions were held focusing primarily on the new African list of statistical priorities proposed by ECA secretariat and on the organizational problems of African statistical services.

149. Participants acknowledged the pertinence of the ideas contained in the documents on the basis of which the list of statistical priorities had been drawn up, and considered that those ideas should have served as a prerequisite for the implementation of the LPA, which assumed that sufficient basic data would be available.

150. However, certain participants observed that the ECA secretariat should have concentrated much more explicitly on the types of information needed for each area of LPA, grouping the data in order of priority in the light of the specific features of the African countries. Similarly, priority should be given to the strengthening of basic statistics in both the informal and the formal sectors. Particular stress should be laid on data developed for rational management of the crisis, namely, food statistics and financial statistics. However, national accounts should continue to play a catalytic role for statistical development and to serve as a fundamental instrument for the macro economic analysis at the national level and for certain specific needs at the international level.

151. It was also observed that since labour was an important factor in economic development, it should be given greater priority and considered on an equal footing with population. The same applied also to human resources.

152. It was also stated that it would be a mistake to limit the exercise to planning needs alone when establishing statistical priorities; instead, efforts should be made to broaden the scope of activities covered by statistics. Mention was also made of the need to consider the possibilities of inter-State co-operation in the matters under discussion.

153. With regard to organizational problems, participants noted that the documents submitted highlighted the problems encountered by national statistical services.

154. It was pointed out that in organizational matters it was better to develop the statistical apparatus and make it flexible, so that it would be capable of evaluating the situation of economies in the region properly. In that regard, it was remarked that structures inherited from the colonial era still existed in certain countries, and there had been no evaluation of their relevance to the current economic conditions.

155. The situation of national statistical services within the government structure was considered exhaustively. In that regard, it was emphasized that statistical services which are characterized by a large measure of administrative autonomy might yield the best results. In any event, it was pointed out that statistical activities needed a strong legal basis in order to be carried out. This legal base might contribute to the reduction of non-response rate.

156. The problems of co-ordinating decentralized statistical activities were discussed by participants, who felt that a permanent dialogue must be instituted between the producers and users of statistics. Not least among the problems discussed during the debate was the question of financial resources. They still constituted, in the view of participants, a fundamental problem that deserved greater attention from the public authorities. According to some participants, the ECA secretariat should have conducted a study to identify what trends were apparent in the operational budgets of African statistical services.

Towards self-reliance in the development of statistical manpower  
(agenda item 19)

157. The secretariat introduced the agenda item on the basis of the following documents: Towards self-reliance in the development of statistical manpower (E/ECA/PSD.4/19); Report of fourth meeting of directors of centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) (E/ECA/PSD.4/20; Guide syllabus for professional level statistical training, English-speaking countries (E/ECA/PSD.4/60); Programme type pour la formation statistique de niveau supérieur, pays francophones (E/ECA/PSD.4/61).

153. The representative of the secretariat outlined the historical background to the training of statistical personnel in the African region from the beginning of the 1960s, when most African countries became independent, up to the present time. He stated that reasonable progress had been made in that respect, especially since the establishment in 1978 of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA). However, much still remained to be done, because the objectives had not yet been fully accomplished, especially with respect to professional statisticians for English-speaking countries and middle-level staff for the French-speaking countries. Actions in favour of Portuguese-speaking African countries had begun, but needed to be strengthened. Finally, post-graduate training and specialization had not yet received the attention they deserved. The secretariat described the remedial measures and complementary actions proposed by the fourth meeting of Directors of the centres participating in STPA to enable the programme to achieve the objective of making Africa self-sufficient in qualified statistical personnel.

159. During the ensuing discussion, some participants raised questions regarding the implementation of the "Assistance of EEC to STPA" project, notably about the arrangements concluded with the Institute of Statisticians (IOS) and the continuation of EEC assistance. In his reply, the representative of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) emphasized that the provision of support to STPA was based on the conclusions of the joint EEC/ACP/ECA study of Africa's statistical training requirements. He indicated that some actions had already been taken such as the organization of common examinations, the preparation of manuals and the organization of seminars to promote awareness among producers and users of statistics. There had been some delay in other areas, such as twinning and the supply of teaching materials, but steps had been taken to speed up implementation. Regarding the continuation of EEC assistance to STPA, he recalled that assistance by the European Community took various forms: financial support drawn from the regional component of the European Development Fund (EDF), fellowships from multi-annual EDF training programmes for each country, and construction of premises. He pointed out that 6 per cent of the fellowships granted by EDF were for statistical training.

160. The question of statistical training for Portuguese-speaking African countries received the attention of the meeting. The representative of Mozambique underlined the fact that the countries of the group, which attained independence only in 1975, lacked qualified statistical personnel. Projects were under way to remedy the situation, but no centre to train statisticians for those countries yet existed. He proposed that the draft resolution on STPA, in Annex II of the report of the meeting of the Directors, be amended to include a special provision pertaining to the Portuguese-speaking countries. The representative of Guinea-Bissau considered that it was now time to move to the stage of concrete implementation of the project for special assistance to Portuguese-speaking countries in the field of statistical training. In that connection, the secretariat suggested that Guinea-Bissau should prepare a project document to be submitted to donor agencies, as had been done in Mozambique. ECA could assist if necessary.

161. The representative of the Institut sous-régional de statistique et d'économie appliquée de Yaoundé (ISSEA), after recalling the change in the status of his centre, which had become a subregional institute of the Central African Economic and Customs Union (UDEAC), stated that ways and means of training statisticians

from Equatorial Guinea, which was a member State of UDEAC, were being studied, and that the results of the study might facilitate the admission of nationals of Portuguese-speaking countries. The Director of the Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA), Kigali, said that there was no objection in principle to the admission of Portuguese-speaking nationals to his Institute. However, the main problem had to do with the competitive entrance examination. Nationals of that group of countries might be assisted to prepare for such an examination. The Director of Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes de pays en développement (CESD), Paris, felt that the competitive examination approach was unsuitable because of the language barrier and differences in educational systems; a centre should be established where courses would be taught in Portuguese. The representative of SOEC informed the Conference that the Commission of the European Communities was considering the organization of a joint meeting between Portugal and the five Portuguese-speaking African countries in order to consider the question of training statisticians for those countries.

162. Referring to the future work programme of STPA adopted by the meeting of Directors, the representative of Uganda informed the Conference that the post-graduate training programme at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) in Kampala had begun its operations, with three areas of specialization: agricultural statistics, national accounts and demography.

163. The representative of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) stated that the Fund attached particular importance to technical co-operation among developing countries and was prepared to co-operate in that area. CFTC was also prepared to co-operate in seeking financial support for the organization of training seminars and workshops similar to the workshop on household surveys organized jointly by ECA and CFTC at Lusaka in 1984. His view was that the STPA training centres should start taking initiatives in that area.

164. The representative of the University of Ibadan pointed out that the account of historical developments of training centres should be amended to reflect the starting of middle level training in the University of Ibadan in 1965.

165. Reacting to comments on middle-level training, the secretariat explained that the idea of promoting the establishment of national units for the training of middle-level statistical personnel arose from the fact that African countries had a tremendous need for that category of staff and such a need could not be satisfied by STPA participating centres alone. The STPA centres would gradually be freed from performing training tasks at this level on a regional basis in order to devote themselves to training at the higher level. However, it was acknowledged that certain middle-level training centres such as EASTC in Dar-es-Salaam should be maintained, if not actually strengthened to meet the needs of user countries.

166. Concluding the debate on this agenda item, the Conference adopted with amendments the two guide syllabuses for professional-level statistical training recently prepared under STPA and invited statistical training centres in Africa to use them as a frame of reference for developing their curricula. The Conference also approved the report of the 4th meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in the STPA including the future STPA work programme shown in Annex 1 of that report.

The Conference finally adopted with amendments, the draft resolution on STPA. The revised text of the draft resolution is annexed to the present report.

Report on statistical activities (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995 (Agenda Item 20)

167. The following documents were considered under this agenda item:

- Report on Statistical Activities (1984-1985) and examination of work programme (1986-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995, E/ECA/PSD.4/21.
- Report of the Workshop on Household Surveys, Lusaka, 1-6 October 1984, E/ECA/PSD.4/22.
- Raport sur l'atelier de formation en comptabilite nationale, Addis Abeba, 30 septembre - 11 octobre 1985, E/ECA/PSD.4/23.
- Report of the Working Group on the Development of Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa, Addis Ababa, 21-26 October 1985, E/ECA/PSD.4/24.
- Statistical Information Bulletin, No. 17, E/ECA/SIB/17.
- Statistical Information Bulletin No. 18, E/ECA/SIB/18.
- Directory of African Statisticians, E/ECA/PSD.4/25.
- Production, domestic use and trade in industrial raw materials, E/ECA/PSD.4/26.
- Report of the regional survey of external trade statistics, E/ECA/PSD.4/49.
- Transport prices in African consumer price indices: Some guidelines, E/ECA/PSD.4/50.
- Bibliography of African Statistical Publications, 1982-1985, E/ECA/PSD.4/51.
- Progress in the implementation of the national accounts capability programme, E/ECA/PSD.4/52.
- Local processing of raw materials for export, E/ECA/PSD.4/53.
- Analysis of food production and imports, E/ECA/PSD.4/54.
- Developing and improving distribution statistics, E/ECA/PSD.4/55.
- Report of the Training Workshop on National Accounts for English-speaking African countries, Addis Ababa, 30 September - 11 October 1985, E/ECA/PSD.4/56.
- Progress on the implementation of the United Nations system of national accounts and uses of data in Africa, E/ECA/PSD.4/58.
- Progress of the international comparison project in the African region, E/ECA/PSD.4/59.

- Possible approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning in Africa, E/ECA/PSD.4/63.

- Recent experiences in census cartography in the countries of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC), E/ECA/PSD.4/64.

168. In presenting the item, a representative of the secretariat indicated that the work programme of the Statistics Division is divided into three sub-programmes: Subprogramme 1 - Statistical development, Subprogramme 2 - Economic statistics and Subprogramme 3 - Censuses and Surveys. During the biennium 1984-1985 approximately 78 per cent of all outputs were delivered. The remaining outputs could not be delivered due to staff vacancies and insufficient financial resources. The Committee was invited to review the publications of the Statistics Division and to comment on their usefulness. It was also invited to comment on the performance indicators by which the work programme of the Statistics Division could be judged. Two alternative indicators were suggested by the secretariat: the number of outputs delivered as a percentage of the total expected to be delivered, and the outputs delivered weighted by the number of work-months required for their delivery expressed as percentage of total work-months available.

169. The secretariat proposed for consideration that an NACP News-letter which will disseminate information on general economic statistics including national accounts should be issued by the secretariat. The work programme for 1986-1987 was also presented. Delegates were also invited to comment on the Draft Work Programme for 1988-1989 and the objectives, problems to be addressed and the strategy to be followed for the Medium Term Plan 1990-1995.

170. The discussion which followed was structured on the following main lines:

(a) The Work Performance of the ECA Statistics Division during 1984/85.

(b) The Work Programme for the biennium 1986-1987.

(c) The Draft Work Programme for 1988-1989.

(d) The Medium Term Plan for the period 1990-1995.

171. The Committee commended the ECA Statistics Division for its work but indicated that where resource limitations exist, emphasis should put on outputs which are cost effective particularly outputs which would help countries in their statistical development through self reliance and self sustaining growth. The possibility of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) should be explored. In this context, some donors like CFTC expressed their willingness to help in funding assistance within the TCDC context.

172. With respect to performance indicators, it was proposed that in addition to the two indicators already mentioned, another criterion would be the evaluation of the output by the recipient country or countries. In this connection several delegates indicated that some of the papers presented to the Conference were not of the quality that one would expect at a meeting of this nature. The quality of the papers could also have been affected by the quality of the translation.

All delegates agreed that there were too many papers. In future a judicious selection should be made of papers submitted for discussion and those submitted for information only. It was suggested that papers should be sent to delegates earlier so that they could have the opportunity to study them before the session starts. The secretariat should also forward to delegates and observers a timetable showing the dates on which items would be discussed.

173. Reference was made to the 1990 censuses and delegates wanted to know what assistance would be forthcoming. The representative of the United Nations Statistical Office stated that the Economic and Social Council had in May 1985 adopted a resolution on the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme recommending that State members of the United Nations should undertake to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 1985-1994, giving inter alia, particular attention to the timely publication of census results so that the censuses meet national data requirements. As part of its preparation for the 1990 World Population Census Programme, the UN Statistical Office held in November 1985 an Expert Group meeting to consider needed supplementary recommendations for the 1990 population censuses in the areas particularly of measurement of economically active population, migration and special population groups. In addition, the meeting's advice on the relevant technical manual, census training and other aspects of technical co-operation with the census programme was sought.

174. In the light of the Expert Group's advice, the Statistical Office is now engaged in the preparation of a report containing draft supplementary recommendations for the 1990 population censuses for possible adoption by the Statistical Commission and later distribution to member countries. For financial assistance to the 1990 population censuses of the developing countries, there is currently under preparation a plan for a donor's meeting under the auspices of UNFPA.

175. With respect to the 1986-1987 work programme no changes were proposed. However, it was stressed that the concept of statistical publications should be made clearer so that the Bibliography of African Statistical publications could be made more comprehensive. It was also indicated that under 1.3: Statistical Training Programme, output (iii) c was misleading.

176. In response to the comments on the 1986-1987 work programme, the representative of the secretariat indicated that the term "African statistical publications" covered all publications on African statistics whether official or non-official. It was also indicated that the statement under the subprogramme element 1.3 (iv) should have read Research at statistical training centres.

177. With respect to the special problems of least developed countries, the representative of UN Statistical Office remarked that the Statistical Commission at its last session began consideration of the special problems impeding statistical development in the least developed countries, and decided to further consider this important question as a special topic in the twenty-fourth session to be held in February 1987.

178. As part of preparing a special report for the Commission, DTCD, in co-operation with Statistical Office and the ECA Statistics Division is preparing an Inter-regional Workshop on Statistical Development in the Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing countries which will be held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 May 1986. The Workshop will discuss, among other aspects, statistical priorities and requirements of least developed countries, problems and obstacles to statistical development in these countries and ways and means of alleviating these problems through both national and international efforts with a view to achieving over a period the objective of creating and maintaining a viable national organization and statistical capability. The representative of UN Statistical Office added that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation had offered funding of additional participants from the Commonwealth member countries.

179. Next the Committee tackled the problem of the work programme for 1988-1989. The secretariat explained that the content of the work programme was not fixed. It was subject to changes by the Joint Conference. Mention was made of the need to undertake special studies and to provide relevant statistical data for the management of the African economy in the light of the current economic crisis. It was also stated that there was need for African inputs into the efforts being made to revise the System of National Accounts. In this particular context, the concept of gross national product and the treatment of non-residents were some of the issues which the African countries should bring up.

180. It was also mentioned that the problems of management of statistical offices was also important and that a special working group should be convened on that subject. This working group should also cover statistical organization. There was also a broad area of economic statistics and basic statistics for national accounts which were not receiving adequate attention. Particular reference was made to economic censuses, trade statistics, distribution statistics and attention was drawn to the ECOWAS system of trade statistics which could serve as a model for other subregions.

181. In the ensuing discussion discussion on the 1988-1989 draft work programme, delegates identified major gaps such as agricultural statistics and social statistics. The representative of the secretariat indicated that agricultural statistics falls within the mandate of FAO and the ECA Statistics work programme merely shows the compilation of the data as part of its data base. The observer from FAO gave further details on agriculture in the region and explained that the FAO regional office in Accra and the Joint ECA/FAO Division in Addis Ababa have work programmes in agricultural statistics. In addition there is an African Commission on Agricultural Statistics which meets once every two years to review work in agricultural statistics.

182. In reviewing the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy to be followed in the 1990-1995 work programme attention was drawn to paragraph 89 of the Document E/ECA/PSD.4/21. It was indicated that the problems to be addressed in section (i) of that paragraph should make reference to indepth analysis of problems at the local level. There was also need to underline issues such as location and leadership of statistical offices and software packages for main frame computers.

183. In concluding the debate, the representative of the secretariat indicated that data processing had been adequately addressed in that section. In his view there were adequate software packages for main frame computers for editing, tabulation, and statistical analysis. What was lacking were adequate software packages for micro computers. He also indicated that the various comments which had been made for improving the performance of the Statistics Division and the work programme for 1988-1989 would be taken into account by the secretariat.

African Statistical Association (Agenda Item 21)

184. Introducing the document E/ECA/PSD.4/27, under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat reported first on how the ad hoc committee set up by the second session of the Joint Conference had carried out its mandate. The initial task of the Committee, composed of Mr. Mitik Beyene, Manager of the Ethiopian Central Statistical Office, the Chief of the ECA Statistics Division and the Chief of the ECA Censuses and Surveys Advisory Service, had been to consider the issue of reviving the Association of African Statisticians. The consideration of its work by the third session of the Joint Conference had led to the establishment, in 1984, of the African Statistical Association (AFSA). In conformity with Article 23 of the Constitution of the Association, the Committee was subsequently to carry out the functions entrusted to the Nominations Committee as far as the first elections were concerned and to announce the results of the ballot on 21 January 1985.

185. The representative of the secretariat went on to state that the ECA Statistics Division continued to host, on an interim basis, the headquarters of the administrative secretariat of the Association, whose day-to-day activities were conducted by the Adviser on Statistical Training within the Division. Also the Chief of the Division and the Chief of the Censuses and Surveys Advisory Service had been invited to participate in the first two meetings of the Executive Committee as well as in a briefing session convened at Amsterdam in August 1985 by the President and President-elect of the Association at the time of the forty-fifth meeting of the International Statistical Institute.

186. In view of the risks of inadequate funding that were inherent in Africa's current economic situation and national foreign exchange regulations, the Committee had made an urgent appeal to countries of the region to facilitate, to the fullest extent possible, the participation of African statisticians in the activities of the Association.

187. The Committee took due note of the expiry of the mandate of the ad hoc Committee set up to revitalize the Association. The Committee did not deem it advisable for the time being, to exchange views in greater depth about how AFSA activities would be promoted since that matter would be debated at the meeting of the Association's General Assembly immediately after the work of the Committee had been completed.

DEMOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Demography Committee Election of Officers (agenda item 23)

188. Ms. Rebecca Appiah (Ghana) was elected Chairperson with Mr. A. Mokaddem (Algeria) as 1st Vice-chairman, Mr. André Ngassam (Cameroon) as second Vice-chairman and Mr. S.A. M. Ngallaba (United Republic of Tanzania) as Rapporteur.

ECA Regional Population Training Institutes (agenda item 24)

189. The background document for this agenda item was "Future of the African Demographic Training and Research Institutes - RIPS (Accra) and IFORD (Yaounde)", E/ECA/PSD.4/28. In presenting the RIPS progress report, the Officer-in-charge of RIPS gave some background information about the institute and the nature of the programmes it runs. He said that the teaching and research programmes at RIPS had the objective of giving students sound theoretical training in principles and methods of demography, exposing them to the understanding of the interrelationships between demographic variables and socio-economic development and offering them some practical experience in demographic data collection, evaluation and analysis. The Officer-in-charge went on to explain the nature and duration of courses currently running at RIPS, namely, the 12 months M.A., (formerly the diploma course) the M.Phil (formerly the M.A. course) and the Ph.D. programme.

190. With regard to training, it was reported that since the inception of the Institute, about 237 students had left RIPS after having obtained the Graduate Diploma in Population Studies from the University of Ghana. Another 33 had successfully completed their M.A. in Population Studies by dissertation. In the last academic session under review, 50 students had been admitted to RIPS and 43 had successfully completed their courses. For the current academic session 44 students have been admitted for the 12 months M.A. and five for the M.Phil. programme respectively.

191. In the area of research, RIPS organized three international seminars in 1985, the proceedings of which are now being edited for publication.

192. The major problem encountered at RIPS since its regionalization in 1984 concerns the non-payment of contributions by member States. It was reported that the Government of Ghana had continued to meet all its financial obligations to the institute. Out of the English-speaking African countries only Nigeria had so far contributed to the RIPS budget. The amount due from Nigeria for 1984 had been received and the 1985 contribution had been approved for payment by the Government. It was pointed out that, with the reduction in the UNFPA financial assistance, RIPS will be facing a financial crisis if member countries do not pay their outstanding contributions.

193. The Officer-in-charge of IFORD introduced the progress report of IFORD by giving some background information on the establishment of the Institute and the objectives of its programme. IFORD conducts a two-year programme leading to the Diplome d'Etudes Demographiques as well as a one-year course on introduction to research methods for graduates from the diploma course. Short-term intensive middle-level courses in demography are also occasionally organized. Short

courses were organized in Comoros in 1984 and in Djibouti in 1985 within the training programme for people who are involved in the collection and analysis of demographic data. So far IFORD has admitted 187 students out of whom 172 successfully completed the two-year course. Research activities at IFORD over the past two years have been concentrating on the analysis of data collected from surveys carried out in five African cities (Yaoundé, Ougadougou, Lomé, Cotonou and Brazaville) on infant and child mortality. Publications of IFORD include "Le Bulletin de Liaison de Demographie Africaine" and "Les Annale de l'IFORD". The Institute has also published the proceedings of the national seminar on population policies held in Mali in 1983.

194. The evaluation mission carried out by four independent experts in February 1984 recommended that IFORD should explore ways of establishing a relationship with the University of Yaoundé. It further recommended a shift in the curriculum giving more emphasis on the interpretation of demographic data and also in interrelationships between population and socio-economic development. The Advisory Board which met on 12-13 April 1984 recommended changes in the entrance examinations and the introduction of optional courses gradually. The need for more co-operation between IFORD and RIPS was also emphasized by the Governing Council which met in July 1985.

195. The major problem faced by IFORD was similar to that of RIPS. Only a few member countries have been paying their contributions. A majority of the member countries have been benefiting from the programme at IFORD but had never contributed towards IFORD's budget. In the face of reduced contribution from UNFPA, this situation was going to pose a serious problem to the continuation of IFORD's programme in the future.

196. The reduction of the strength of the teaching staff over the last two years due to UNFPA reduced financial support had led IFORD to depend more heavily on the use of local part-time lecturers, a situation which may in the long-run adversely affect the training and research programme of the Institute.

197. The Director of the Socio-Economic and Demographic Unit (USED) of the Sahel Institute briefly summarized the programme of the Unit. The work programme of the Unit included:

- (a) Collection and analysis of demographic data in the Sahel countries;
- (b) Studies on Infant mortality in the Sahel;
- (c) Studies on the Interrelationships between Population, Health and Development;
- (d) Collection of health statistics;
- (e) Training fellowships at both diploma and Ph.D. levels.

198. The USED Director of the Sahel Institute has also drawn the attention of the delegates to the role played by his organization as a funding agency or as a body to implement projects. The Institute has also carried out consultancy services and organized training and practical courses in demography and in socio-economic planning. In the next two years the Sahel Institute may be able to pull through financially without any difficulty. The Institute co-operates very closely with IFORD and avenues of co-operation with RIPS are also being sought.

199. The questions raised during the discussions which followed the three presentations centered around the following issues:

- (i) The academic standards in IFORD, the reduction in staff and the increased hiring of part-time lecturers;
- (ii) The need for co-operation between RIPS, IFORD and Sahel Institute;
- (iii) The need to provide information on students trained so far by the respective institutes by country of origin;
- (iv) Collection of contributions from member countries;
- (v) The evaluation by the institutes of the needs of high-level manpower in demography for the next five years.

200. The officer-in-charge of IFORD pointed out that he did not imply that standards have already fallen as a result of the reduction in the number of the permanent teaching staff, but that he wanted to warn the delegates about the effects that this would have on the institute in the long run if the situation continues.

201. The officers in charge of the Institutes agreed that there was the need for more co-operation among the institutes especially in the area of research. The officers-in-charge of RIPS and IFORD were of the opinion that an estimation of the needs of the individual member countries for trained demographers can only be carried out with the co-operation of the member States.

202. The need for more effective arrangements for collection of member States contribution was considered a serious issue. It was suggested that this must be pursued at a high governmental level, possibly at a ministerial level. The secretariat may need to arrange for some form of pledging conference.

203. The officers-in-charge, of RIPS and IFORD and the director of USED took note of the request from the floor for information on nationalities of the number of students trained so far by the respective institutes.

204. The Demographic Committee later considered the report of the Extraordinary session of the Joint Governing Councils meeting of RIPS and IFORD. The committee was informed that the Joint Governing Councils which met on 12 March 1986 adopted their report with some amendments. These amendments would be incorporated into the text of their report. The report had already been given to the demographic committee. The main points of the Governing Council report were listed as follows:

(a) a transition period of five years be adopted starting 1 January 1988, during which time the UNFPA contribution could gradually decrease while that of the member States would gradually increase so that by the end of the transition period, a major part of the funding would be borne by the member countries;

(b) in the case of RIPS that uniform salary scales on similar lines to those of the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS) be used as a basis for reformulation of salaries;

(c) in the case of IFORD salary scales along similar lines to those of the University of Yaoundé plus RECTAS allowances be used as a basis for reformulation of salaries;

(d) in determining staff remuneration due consideration should be given to attracting and retaining high calibre staff for both institutes taking account of local conditions;

(e) the ECA should undertake a review of the statutes of the institutes in line with the changes proposed;

(f) the criteria for the contributions from member States should be re-examined; and

(g) member countries should endeavour to pay their contributions to enable the institutes to function effectively.

205. With regard to students and fellowships, while the RIPS Committee recommended that the UNFPA should continue to fund all fellowships, the IFORD committee on the other hand recommended reduction to UNFPA contribution to fellowship costs with a concomitant increase in member States' contribution to this component.

206. The Committee was invited to take note of the recommendations of the Joint-Extraordinary Session of the RIPS and IFORD Governing Councils and to transmit its recommendations to the Conference of Ministers.

207. The Demographic Committee was informed that the Joint Governing Councils also examined the draft resolution on the "African Demographic Training Institutes" which had previously been presented to the demographic committee. As a result of the deliberations and recommendations of the Governing Councils, the draft resolution had been amended and resubmitted to the demographic committee for its consideration, amendment, adoption and transmission to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

208. The demographic committee considered the draft resolution and after making two minor amendments, adopted it.

209. The committee was informed that according to the statutes of RIPS, six of the thirteen countries on the Governing Council were due for replacement. Gambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Lesotho, Malawi and Libya were to be replaced by Liberia, Mauritius, Somalia, Botswana, Swaziland and Sudan respectively. The Governing Council thus now comprises, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mauritius, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Sudan.

#### Population dynamics in Africa (agenda item 25)

210. In presenting "Population dynamics in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/29), the secretariat referred to the many demographic problems facing African continent. At the moment the most important is the rapid growth in its population and the impact that this growth has on its social and economic development. The document submitted comprises two sections: the first deals with current estimates of fertility in the 13 African countries for which data from the World Fertility Programme are available, and the second with the estimates of current levels of mortality.

211. Regarding fertility, it was noted that to date its levels are still high. It appears that the rise in age at first marriage has led, in the countries surveyed, to a rise in the "fertility in early marriage" of the younger generations, a rise

which is attributed particularly to the social procreative norms that exist in most African societies and to some changes in procreative behaviour.

212. This rise in "early marriage" fertility is likely, unless care is taken, to result in a rise in overall fertility, in view of the breakdown of the traditional mechanisms for controlling fertility in Africa, which means that women run a greater risk of conceiving.

213. The problem of sterility and subfertility was also discussed. These phenomena, which are rife in certain areas of Africa, are still an obsession for African women. If the problems of sterility and subfertility are not resolved, the lowering of fertility is likely to be delayed in Africa, because the uncertainty of procreating will render ineffective the internal and external pressures tending to reduce the number of children the couple will like to have in countries which would like to set up such a programme.

214. The estimates given in the document show that levels of mortality remain high. Infant and early childhood deaths alone appear to account for over half of the total number of deaths in almost all the countries surveyed. The available data also show variations of mortality between countries and fairly significant differences in levels between the regions of a single country and between the urban and rural areas.

215. The debate focussed on the following points:

- The quality of the data used;
- Birth spacing as one of the means of reducing infant mortality;
- The effects of the breakdown of the traditional fertility control mechanisms;
- Steps to be taken to reduce fertility.

216. In answer to questions regarding the reliability of the data utilized, it was stated that the World Fertility Survey had given a clearer picture of the state of fertility in Africa, in that more precise measurements of the phenomenon had been obtained. Estimates relating to mortality probably showed the exact levels less accurately due to the absence of adequate data and appropriate analytical techniques capable of producing reliable estimates.

217. With regard to birth spacing, participants were of the opinion that the practice should be recommended as one of the means aimed at curbing infant mortality. The secretariat shared that view and informed the participants that it constituted one of the main recommendations reached at the ECA Training Workshop on the techniques for the analysis of data collected from fertility surveys in Africa organized for member States at Addis Ababa in 1984.

218. While the effect of the breakdown of traditional fertility control mechanism on the frequency of births was stressed in the document, a number of participants nevertheless insisted on the rise in infant mortality occasioned by that breakdown.

219. With regard to the steps to be taken to reduce fertility, it was suggested that it was essential to institute replacement mechanisms, particularly by informing women of childbearing age of the existence of modern fertility regulation methods and by facilitating the use of such methods by couples and individuals wishing to practise them. However, that should be done in tandem with the education of women, urbanization and economic and social development in general.

220. The second document introduced by the representative of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) under the agenda item dealt with the "Contribution of the world fertility survey programme to knowledge on population dynamics in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/30). The introductory statement dealt first with the characteristics of WFS, namely its international nature, the human, material and financial resources employed, the translation of the questionnaires into national languages and the desired data quality. Where the contribution of the WFS programme to demographic knowledge was concerned, emphasis was placed on the fact that WFS type of data had rarely been collected before at the national level in Africa. Thus, detailed data on fertility, breast-feeding, postpartum abstinence and amenorrhoea, knowledge and practice of contraception, dissolution of marriage, remarriages and infant mortality had been collected. In comparison with other sources, those data were relatively reliable. Finally, reference was made in introducing the document to the implications of WFS for future surveys in Africa from the standpoint of financial cost, complexity of the operation and the level of detail of the questionnaire used.

221. During the discussions, the question was first asked as to how WFS data could be obtained for in depth analysis at the national level. In his reply, the representative of ISI drew attention to the existence of the ISI International Centre which currently held all WFS documentation. Utilization of the data was subject to the prior consent of the country concerned. The Centre's policy at the present time was to encourage researchers in developing countries to make greater use of the data.

222. The representative of ISI was also asked to say more about the failures of WFS and to answer the question whether the programme had been more concerned with international comparisons than with other things. In his reply, the representative of ISI recognized that the programme was probably expensive for developing countries to organize and that a certain pursuit of carrying matters out to perfection was involved. Nevertheless, there had certainly been more positive than negative aspects, and assessment of the various national surveys had shown that the data collected were generally of good quality. Moreover, although international comparability had to be ensured, the WFS questionnaires were nevertheless suited to the particular conditions in the countries that had participated in the programme.

223. Some delegates stressed that the problem of sterility has not been specifically studied by the programme, more particularly in Central Africa where the country surveyed is not in itself representative of the subregion facing the problem of sterility. The answer was that the study of sterility requires more specific surveys. Nevertheless, the WFS data gave an idea of the extent of the phenomenon in the countries studied (percentage of childless women, parity progression ratio etc.).

224. Some delegates asked the reasons why the fertility rates observed in large towns in Nigeria were higher than those observed in both small towns and rural areas. The explanations given related, on one hand, to data quality and understaffing in large towns, and on the other hand, to the particular procreative behaviour patterns of urban women.

Report on population activities in the 1984-1985 and examination of work programme 1986-1989 with consideration of the objectives on problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995 (agenda item 26)

225. In introducing document E/ECA/PSD.4/31 "Report on population activities in the 1984-1985 and examination of programme of work for 1986-1987 with projections up to 1995", the secretariat reported that the principles, objectives and recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA) adopted by member States in January 1984 as part of the African input to the International Conference on Population (ICP) guided the implementation of its 1984-1985 work programme and underlined the programmes of work both for the 1986-1987 biennium and the four succeeding bienniums (1988-1995).

226. The secretariat informed the meeting that three subprogrammes form its population programme. In 1984-1985, the five programme elements that constituted the first subprogramme comprised technical assistance to countries, assessment of population policies, evaluation of the demographic impact of population programmes, evaluation of population redistribution policies/programmes and integration of population variables in development planning.

227. Under the second subprogramme, seven programme elements were implemented including advisory services to countries, fertility levels, patterns, differentials, trends, mortality levels, patterns, differentials, trends interrelationships among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility, population projections and population information. Under the third subprogramme, the back-stopping of the Demographic Training and Research Institutes was continued. The specific studies undertaken in respect of each of these programme elements were then detailed by the secretariat.

228. Among these, the secretariat informed the meeting about the Regional training workshop on demographic estimates and projections which was held at RIPS, Accra (Ghana) in July 1985. The secretariat then stressed one of the recommendations made during the workshop; the recommendation was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Niamey MULPOC that met in Lome (Togo) in February 1986. The MULPOC meeting had directed that the current session of the Joint Conference (PSD.4) should further deliberate on this particular recommendation and report back to the 1987 meeting of the MULPOC.

229. Like 1984-1985, the secretariat informed the meeting that the approved work programme for 1986-1987 also had three subprogrammes. The programme elements that constitute each of these subprogrammes were listed by the secretariat together with the specific studies that would be undertaken under each programme element.

230. The secretariat then informed the meeting that the work programme for the 1983-1995 bienniums would be based on whatever progress that might then have been made towards implementing the recommendations of the KPA. Specific studies will still focus on the levels, patterns, differentials, trends of the population growth components as part of the continuing monitoring activity of the secretariat as recommended by the World Population Plan of Action. In addition, studies on the correlates of declines in fertility and mortality will be emphasized and the findings integrated into the development plans of the member States through the advisory services. There will also be the need to organize study tours for African planners, demographers and policy-makers in either Latin America or Asia to enable them observe the implementation of relatively successful population policies and programmes.

231. In the discussions that followed, delegates stressed (i) the need for the secretariat to take into consideration the complex nature of the population-development relationship while designing its future work programmes; (ii) the need to assist member States with the collection of basic demographic data, analysis of such data, and integration of the findings from such analysis into the development planning process; and, (iii) the need to ensure consistency between population projections produced by the United Nations Population Division (New York) and that by the ECA Population Division.

232. In addition, delegates questioned (i) the main objectives of the several studies which the secretariat had undertaken thus far; (ii) the self-evaluation by the secretariat of both the studies that it undertakes and the national seminars on population and development which it assists member States to organize; and, (iii) the ability of the secretariat to meet all the demands of the member States for advisory services in the area of population together with any observed problems in this regard.

233. Concerning the envisaged work programme for the four bienniums (1988-1995), delegates urged the secretariat to exercise extreme caution in the activities to be undertaken in the face of limited resources and to enter into some dialogue with the member States with a view to ensuring that such activities reflect the priority areas that will yield optimal benefit to the member States in terms of enabling them integrate population variables into their overall development plans.

234. The meeting further requested the secretariat to ensure that the study on the growth of cities within the region was given the priority it deserves within the envisaged work programme for the ensuing four bienniums (1988-1995). Finally the representative from UNDEAC urged more co-operation with the secretariat and the need for the latter to inform it in time about planned activities in the field of population so as to enable UNDEAC to make necessary budget allocations for participating in the implementation of such activities.

235. The secretariat noted most of these observations and stressed that they would be used to guide the design of its future work programmes. Regarding the problem of basic demographic data which member States require for planning, the secretariat explained that it was up to the member States to make formal requests to the secretariat for any needed assistance; the secretariat would endeavour to meet such demands within the limits of available resources. On the matter of the apparent differences between the projections produced by the Population Division (New York) and the ECA Population Division, the secretariat explained in detail the existing co-operation between the various members of the UN family in the preparation of national, subnational, and sectoral projections.

236. In the case of the objectives of the studies undertaken by the secretariat, it was explained that these studies were aimed at formulating specific recommendations meant for implementation by the member States consistent with the overall goal of increasing awareness among the latter for the integration of population variables in their development plans. The secretariat further explained that it was up to the member States to evaluate these recommendations in terms of their suitability to the unique demographic situations in their countries vis-à-vis their planning targets and to give appropriate feedback to the secretariat and thus guide the orientation of future studies by the secretariat. Regarding the ability of the secretariat to meet all the demands of the member States for advisory services, it was explained that the limiting factor was the availability of needed regular budget and extrabudgetary resources. In some instances, the secretariat ensured that the needed resources were built into the project documents submitted by the member States to the potential funding bodies.

237. In supplementing the explanations by the secretariat to the foregoing observations, the Director of the UN Population Division (New York) acknowledged the existing co-operation between the two Population Divisions and stressed, as well, the coherence between the projections prepared by the two divisions with emphasis on the approach adopted in resolving any disagreements. In particular, the Director reiterated the role played, on the one hand, by the ECA Population Division in assisting the UN Population Division (New York) in the performance of its activities related to the UN 5th Inquiry on the monitoring of global population trends, global POPIN Network and Training; and on the other hand, the role played by the UN Population Division in such other ad hoc co-operation as the analysis of the WFS data and the Regional training workshop on demographic estimates and projections that was held in Accra (Ghana) in July 1985.

238. Finally, the meeting was unanimous in approving the recommendation made at the training workshop at Accra and adopted as resolution by the Council of Ministers of the Niamey MULPOC that member States should institutionalize the preparation and use of population projections in the planning process. This consensus was predicated on the view by the meeting that projections prepared by national and international bodies were bound to be different given differences in (i) the quality of the basic data used; (ii) the error smoothing procedures adopted; (iii) the methodology, and, (iv) the underlying assumptions. The responsibility of the selected institution for co-ordinating the projection activities would involve an objective assessment of the underlying assumptions of the various projections before selecting one set for use by all government functionaries during a given plan period.

### THE INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

#### Election of Officers (Agenda item 28)

239. Mr. Assigbley Yawo (Togo) was elected Chairman, with Mr. N'Guesa Mathieu (Côte d'Ivoire) and Rapporteur.

#### Training of Documentation and Information Scientists in Africa (Agenda item 29)

240. A representative of the secretariat introduced the background document "Training of Documentation and Information Scientists in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/32) which dealt mainly with the current status in Africa, in regard to the training of documentation and information scientists.

241. He briefly outlined the problems facing the existing documentation and information centres in Africa, and cited the lack of trained manpower to man the existing centres as a stumbling block in the development of information and documentation services in Africa.

242. It was further stated that this situation is greatly affected by the general absence of systematic plans for organised training of information personnel and the rather low status given by governments in Africa to information science.

243. After briefly discussing the problems related to training of information scientists in Africa, he mentioned some institutions in African countries which offer courses in Librarianship.

244. The representative of the secretariat brought to the attention of participants, the latest developments in the field of training of information scientists in Africa, namely the establishment of a Regional Information Sciences School, in Ibadan, Nigeria, to cater for the English-speaking West African Countries, and a second planned school, at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia to cater for Eastern and Southern African countries. The first centre is being established with assistance from UNESCO, IDRC, and the University of Ibadan (Nigeria).

245. It was stated that the Economic Commission for Africa, through the Pan African Documentation and Information System, is also playing an important role in training of information scientists in Africa.

246. The work of other organizations such as UNESCO, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) in training of Information Scientists was also outlined.

247. In conclusion, the representative of the secretariat stated that, considering Africa's meagre resources, regional schools like the one being established at the University of Ibadan were probably the best solution, and that with the rapid changes in technology in the field of information science, Africa needed highly skilled people.

248. In the discussion that followed, representatives thanked the secretariat for the quality of the report. Some participants felt that, in discussing the question of training of information scientists in Africa, specific needs of the countries concerned must be taken into account.

249. It was also emphasized that there is lack of awareness of the importance of information and documentation services in development, and that a lot of sensitization is needed.

250. The representative of the secretariat indicated that PADIS had always taken every opportunity to sensitize member States, such as during advisory missions in the field and at meetings of the ECA-MULPOC legislative organs. Furthermore, PADIS plans to carry out training of users during phase III and to intensify advisory services subject to availability of funds.

251. Some participants stated that the terms "information sciences" and "informatics" were not clearly defined. A consensus was reached to change the French terminology in the agenda item to reflect the correct meaning. It was then decided that the concept "information sciences" should include informatics, documentation and library sciences.

252. The problem of underemployment of trained information scientists was also raised. It was stated that in some countries personnel was trained in these fields but was not given appropriate jobs and was not integrated fully in the economy. Most participants therefore felt that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the need to improve the status of information scientists.

253. On the point of development of infrastructure of information and documentation services, it was felt that a comparative study of African countries and developed countries should be carried out to assess the gap between them.

254. A representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that, before PADIS was created, a feasibility study was undertaken by an interagency team which visited several African countries to ascertain the status of information and documentation services. The study entitled DEVSIS-AFRICA revealed among other things the underdeveloped information and documentation infrastructure.

255. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee considered that the disciplines of information science, i.e. documentation and computer science, are all geared to the provision of processed information to users, and that all these disciplines have to be developed in Africa. It also viewed with concern the training facilities available in Africa, the deployment of the already trained documentation and information personnel, and the status given by African Governments to the training of scientists in Africa. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by PADIS and other organizations to assist member States to organize their information and documentation services. Finally it stressed the importance of information science in socio-economic development,

256. The Committee then recommended that training of information scientists, especially at the graduate and post-graduate levels should be stepped up, and those trained should be fully and properly deployed in their field of specialization. The Economic Commission for Africa, through the Pan African Documentation and

Information System (PADIS), should intensify its efforts of sensitizing the African political leadership of the role well organized information and documentation services can plan in Economic Development Planning, and hence more resources to be allocated to this sector. The training of users of information should also be carried out. Informatics should be taught at all levels of training in educational institutions. Regional schools or centres like the one being set up in Ibadan, Nigeria for information sciences should be given priority in view of the meagre resources at the disposal of African Governments.

Association of Documentation, Information and Library Scientists in Africa  
(Agenda item 30(a))

257. The representative of the secretariat, in presenting document E/ECA/PSD.4/33 entitled "Association of Documentation, Information and Library Scientists in Africa", emphasized the need for such an association in Africa, to look after the interests of its members, and promote documentation and information as development vectors.

258. He outlined the functions of such an association, and made a suggestion that its headquarters be provisionally located at the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), within the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa.

259. During the discussion that followed, many participants felt that such an association was quite useful. However, they raised some fears in regard to its effectiveness.

260. Some participants felt that in order for such an association to be effective, clear objectives and outputs should be defined at the outset. It was also felt that experience of other such associations should be studied more carefully before the new association is set up.

261. Other participants felt that the two associations whose establishment had been suggested, namely Association of Documentation and Library Scientists on the one hand and the African association of computer scientists on the other hand, should be merged. However, in the event that two associations would be established the participants felt that they should have clearly defined objectives to avoid conflict of interests.

262. It was felt by most participants that Africa cannot afford to create an association with very limited objectives, and no clear expected outputs. It was then suggested that an association encompassing computer scientists, should be created to be called an association of informaticians.

Association of computer scientists in Africa (Agenda item 30(b))

263. The secretariat in presenting document E/ECA/PSD.4/34, entitled "Association of computer scientists in Africa", outlined the objectives of such an association, and stated that the formation of such an association will enhance the utilization of computer technology. In addition, the Secretary-General of the Union Africaine des Professionnels de l'Informatique, whose headquarters are at Abidjan, made a statement about that regional organization. He was asked to transmit a copy of the association's statute to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa.

264. In the discussions that followed, many participants felt that the work being carried out by computer scientists and documentalists, etc., is similar, because all these disciplines are geared to providing processed information to users and therefore one association was sufficient.

265. After lengthy discussions on the two documents, namely E/ECA/PSD.4/33 and E/ECA/PSD.4/34, the participants underscored the importance of such associations, and recommended that the secretariat should draw up statutes for two associations, namely: an Association of African documentalists and librarians and an Association of computer scientists in Africa. The secretariat should send the draft statutes to national associations, PADIS focal points in member States and regional and sub-regional associations and organizations for their comments. The comments gathered from member States would determine whether the two associations or a single association comprising the two would be formed. After that, the secretariat should draw up a fresh document taking into account the comments received from member States, for the consideration of the Informatics and Documentation Committee, during the fifth meeting of the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Informaticians.

Report on activities of PADIS (1984-1985) and examination of work programmes (1986-1989) with consideration of the objective, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995 (Agenda item 31)

266. The secretariat presented three documents namely: "PADIS status report" (E/ECA/PSD.4/36), "Report on activities of PADIS (1984-1985) and examination of work programmes (1986-1990) with consideration of the objectives, problems for the period 1990-1995" (E/ECA/PSD.4/35) and "report of the first meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS", (E/ECA/PSD.4/37). In introducing the first document a representative of the secretariat gave a brief history of the PADIS project together with a brief account of work which had been accomplished during the last 5 years. He gave a general outline of the organizational structure, staffing situation, facilities of the centre, the status of the subregional centres and the various activities undertaken by PADIS.

267. The secretariat also elaborated on the activities of PADIS for the period 1984-1985. In particular mention was made regarding the progress of the PADIS-DEV data base on development, the acquisition of new data bases to extend the coverage on development issues, the launching of a Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service, the quarterly publication of the PADIS Newsletter, the provision of data processing services to the ECA secretariat, the status of the PADIS-STAT numerical data base and the training courses conducted at national, subregional and regional level. The representative of the secretariat also drew the attention of the meeting to the projection of work up to 1990 and beyond and asked for specific suggestions to incorporate for the elaboration of the 1988-1989 work programme. Reference was also made to the various recommendations formulated by the Regional Technical Committee.

268. Several participants congratulated the secretariat on the clarity of the papers that were presented. Most delegates expressed their satisfaction with the progress which had been made since the last session. Nevertheless, a number of

important issues were raised. Some members felt that more attention should be given to the development of national centres as opposed to subregional centres. Others wanted to know more about the PADIS-STAT data base and the type of assistance that can be provided by PADIS concerning the establishment of national information systems.

269. The observer from France informed the Committee that her government would assist PADIS in the establishment and strengthening of national information and documentation centres. She indicated that the proposal for the financing of a joint PADIS/IBISCUS mission to evaluate and assess the need of national information and documentation centres in selected member States will be presented to the "Fonds d'Action de Coopération" in May 1986 and advised PADIS to initiate preliminary contact with the French authorities responsible for the implementation of the project.

270. One representative described the information activities in his country and spoke of the difficulties encountered in the use of Arabic for information transfer. He indicated that his country has adopted the ISO X25, a standard telecommunication protocol and requested that the proposed PADIS feasibility study on data transmission network take into consideration existing national infrastructures.

271. A number of queries were also raised about the way exchanges would take place between national centres and PADIS as well as subregional institutions such as RESADOC and PADIS. Clarification was also sought as regard the status of the proposed PADIS subregional centre for Central Africa.

272. Pertaining to statistical softwares, the representative of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) described the experience of the Commission in the development and use of large scale data bases. He indicated that software developed in house could be made available free of charge, but cautioned that the maintenance of the software would not be guaranteed.

273. In response to the questions raised, a representative of the secretariat explained that there are three stages of the PADIS network development, namely: the information system network involving co-operation and co-ordination among participating centres adopting similar standards, the computer based network which would be the next step, and finally the telecommunication system network which is the ultimate level of integration. He indicated that information is currently exchanged with participating centres through worksheets. The computer based network which would allow access and exchange possibilities of computerized data banks on magnetic media would be progressively installed as the exchange of data banks with other UN agencies took place on magnetic tape. As regard the PADIS relationship with institutions such as the RESADOC the representative of the secretariat added that there was indeed close co-operation with such institutions and mentioned the forthcoming PADIS sponsored meeting of regional organizations which will study and determine the best way of integrating and harmonizing their information systems in the region.

274. Concerning the establishment of subregional centres the representative of the secretariat assured the meeting that priority was still given to national centres and that subregional centres will mostly be used to strengthen and contribute to the development of national and sectoral infrastructures. He informed the meeting of the request made to the EEC concerning the financing of four subregional centres. Furthermore he indicated that for the Central African subregion the problem of citing of the cartre's headquarters was still unresolved due to the existence of two MULPOCs based respectively in Yaoundé, Cameroon and Gisenyi, Rwanda, with two different legislative organs and pointed out that the issue will be brought up at the next PADIS Regional Technical Committee meeting which would study how to resolve the problem.

275. The representative of SOEC gave details on the modalities of accessing EEC funds and described the Community action defined for the Lomé III Convention. He pointed out that regional programmes will also be subject to indicative programming and stressed that to be eligible for accessing regional funds, concerned member States should indicate the priority character of the programme. He further stressed that countries should choose their priorities themselves through the appropriate government agencies.

276. In reply to other queries a representative of the secretariat gave details on the development, requirement and status of the PADIS-STAT data base. As regard the use of Arabic in information technology, the secretariat informed the Committee of the close co-operation which was recently established between PADIS and the Documentation Centre of the League of Arab States (ALDOC) which is already using the arabic language. ALDOC, in co-operation with IDRC has been able to adapt the MINISIS software in arabic and has also translated in arabic the Macro Thesaurus. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that an agreement between PADIS and ALDOC had been signed and he expressed his hope that this close co-operation will contribute to the promotion and usage of arabic in the field of information sciences.

277. In response to the question raised on the upgrading of the computer equipment installed at the Central Co-ordinating Office (PADIS CCO), a representative of the secretariat informed the meeting of the installation of a new HP model 44 computer in PADIS which he said would shortly be upgraded to model 58. He also informed the meeting that PADIS has requested the ECA administration to commission a study to determine the magnitude and diversity of current EDP resource needs, both unmet and potential, with projections for two, three and five years from today and to determine the gap between available and required EDP resources and provide cost estimates for additional inputs.

278. Finally the meeting recommended that the PADIS/CCO further increases its assistance to enable member States participate in the PADIS network.

PLANNING AND STATISTICS  
(Joint Committee meeting)

An assessment of Industrial Capacity Utilization in African Countries:

A Methodological Framework for the Measurement of Excess Capacity

(agenda item 33 (a))

279. In presenting document E/ECA/PSD.4/38 on the above agenda item, a representative of the secretariat stated that paradoxically, while investment capital was scarce in the African manufacturing sector, there was a growing tide of wastage of capital through under-utilization of capacities, which on average, is estimated to be about 50 per cent of the feasible production levels of installed plants. He said that it was in recognition of this problem that the third session of the Joint Conference had recommended that the ECA secretariat should undertake a preliminary study into the factors responsible for the substantial under utilization of manufacturing capacities with a view to proposing a methodological framework for their measurement. Such industry indicators, he went on, could show the magnitude of the problem which will enable industrial planners to treat them as a component of industrial investment planning and thereby introduce measures to substantially reduce or eliminate wastage of factor inputs, especially capital, in the manufacturing sector.

280. On the basis of empirical investigations carried out in African countries, the representative of the secretariat stated that the main factors that had led to capacity under-utilization are (i) difficulties in importing essential inputs and spare parts due to the shortage of foreign exchange; (ii) demand and other market limitations; (iii) inadequate infrastructural facilities; (iv) lack of skilled production workers and limited managerial capabilities; and (v) importation of plants and equipment which tend to have built-in access capacity since they are designed for the scales of production and factor proportions of advanced economies. While citing evidence of low manufacturing capacity utilization in Ghana and Malawi in 1981 and 1983 respectively, he further stated that, a combination of these factors have also been identified by many African countries as obstacles to the realization of targeted output of their manufacturing establishments.

281. On the question of the methodological framework for measuring excess capacity, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the need for a clear understanding of the conceptual issues and definitional problems associated with capital and capacity utilization. He explained that while the former refers to the extent of utilization of capital alone and therefore should be treated in a partial analytical framework, the latter dealt with the utilization of all available resources including capital and hence the approach would be that of general equilibrium analysis of productive efficiency. He then outlined the merits and demerits of a selected number of techniques which have been developed and used in measuring excess capacity: (i) the capital-/output ratio method; (ii) the Wharton School method; (iii) the Engineering approach; (iv) the McGraw-Hill approach; (v) the shift-measure; (vi) electricity measure; and (vii) the survey-based or enumeration approach.

282. On the basis of the above, the representative of the secretariat stated that according to experiences of the African industrial environment, particularly with respect to the paucity of industrial statistics, the most appealing method for initiating research on excess capacity in Africa is the survey-based or enumeration approach. He pointed out the overall data requirements for the approach and drew the attention of the meeting to an annexed draft questionnaire for an industrial capacity utilization survey which will assist individual countries in undertaking empirical investigations on the under-utilization of manufacturing capacities. Finally, the representative of the secretariat referred to the recommendations of the study which is aimed at addressing the problem at the national and sub-regional levels and also urged the planners and statisticians to work closely together in the application of the proposed methodology or a modified version depending on the circumstances of individual countries.

283. Following the introduction by the representative of the secretariat, most participants thanked the secretariat for the quality of the document and the relevance of its analysis, which covered all problems relating to the under-utilization of industrial capacity in Africa. Some participants felt that the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers should devote particular attention to those problems.

284. Among the most important explanations of the under-utilization of industrial capacity, participants cited: (i) the keen competition of manufactures imported from other regions of the world; (ii) the high cost of energy and labour in certain countries; (iii) the cost of infrastructures and the low capacity for the design and management of industrial projects; (iv) the fact that industrial policy was not integrated into the overall economic policies of countries; and (v) the fact that immediately after independence, African countries had been at various stages in industrial development and had been encouraged to set up the same parallel industries. In view of the importance of those factors, some participants felt that African industrial products could become competitive only in the long term.

285. Delegates also stressed the impact of the world recession on African economies. Political factors were at the root of the current poor distribution of industrial capacity. In many cases the lack of outlets, for example, could be explained by the absence of information available to countries about industrial products existing in the same subregion and often within the same country. As to industrial development strategies, it was observed that the document should have counted Algeria and Togo among the African countries who had began their industrialization by setting up heavy industries. Such strategies had not however, always been founded on the local availability of raw materials. What was more, the failure of such strategies was not always, as the document indicated, linked to the lack of raw materials. In some cases, under-utilization of industrial capacity was mostly a question of dependence on imported technologies.

286. Some participants pointed out that the study should have stressed the need to create stable markets at the national and subregional levels and should have paid greater attention to the informal sector and to problems of regional integration.

287. Since the under-utilization of industrial capacity arose from structural factors as the document indicated, it would be advisable to recommend that account should be taken of this aspect in project design and analysis. Certain participants observed that the proposed questionnaire was difficult to fill out and wondered whether it had already been tested.

288. Participants pointed out that the problems of industrial standardization and maintenance should have been taken into account in the study, as should the impact of exchange rate fluctuations.

289. In his reply, the representative of the secretariat thanked participants for the pertinent questions they had raised. He recognized the cogency of some of those questions, and welcomed the fact that the under-utilization of industrial capacity in Africa had been widely recognized at the national level during the debate. What was essential was to arrive at a proper approach to the measurement of industrial capacity by developing methodology which could be applied in the countries. If a methodology for measuring industrial capacity was adopted, the problem could be taken into account in the planning process. The questionnaire should be adapted to the situation of each country.

Relationship between production and trade in African manufactured goods  
(agenda item 33 (b))

290. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/PSD.4/39 on "Relationship between production and trade in African manufactured goods", which had been prepared, on the one hand, to provide a statistical balance sheet of relationships between production and trade in African manufactured goods and, on the other hand, to seek technical ways of filling information gaps.

291. Out of the statistical balance sheet had emerged three main conclusions. First, countries of the region taken as a group, bought far more manufactured products than they sold abroad during the period 1970-1981. Nearly three-quarters of the purchases had consisted of capital and intermediate consumption goods on account of the traditional structure of national production. Secondly, in order gradually to reduce the region's heavy dependence on imports for its supply of capital and intermediate consumption goods in particular, the African countries should not only place more emphasis on primary processing of metals, production of capital goods and the chemical industry, but also improve the degree to which they processed their raw materials and semi-finished products. Finally, the share of intra-African trade in the region's total trade in manufactured goods had fallen from 5.97 per cent in 1970 to 2.59 per cent in 1981. The situation seemed to result from the implementation of industrialization policies oriented towards creating industries for replacing imported consumer goods as well as from the shift in imports towards the capital goods required for development and the establishment of import substitution industries, the sources of supply for which were outside the continent.

292. Regarding the problems of statistical methodology, the representative of the secretariat first of all identified the major gaps in the data available. Among the gaps were the incomplete coverage and poor quality of the information, the ambiguous delimitation of the scope of investigations, the vagueness of the concepts used, the lack of rigour in the selection of statistical units, the lack of knowledge about activities not covered by industrial surveys and the absence of indications regarding clandestine movements across frontiers, the difficulty of establishing a close link between national nomenclatures for foreign trade and those for production activities, and the non-availability of detailed information on prices at all stages and corresponding index numbers.

293. The best ways of filling in such gaps included the preparation of comprehensive industrial directories, the selection of the factory as the statistical unit for industrial surveys, the adoption of international nomenclatures as a frame of reference for building national classification systems, a more detailed presentation of foreign trade statistics that would allow their re-classification by broad economic category or industrial origin, the evaluation of clandestine movements across frontiers, and the implementation by the countries of the Revised African Programme of Price Statistics adopted by the Joint Conference at its second session.

294. During the debates which followed, a number of participants thanked the secretariat for the quality of the document and the clarity with which it had been introduced. They pointed out that some of the problems mentioned had already been the subject of an in-depth exchange of views at previous sessions of the Joint Conference, but that the attention of higher authorities should continue to be drawn to those problems and to the depressing situation with regard to industrial statistics in general.

295. Some participants pointed out that the subject under discussion was of particular importance in the context of regional industrialization strategies, and of the need to promote international comparability of data. In that respect, emphasis was placed on the relevance of information concerning trade conducted across land frontiers, the volume and origin of products and the need to compile data by factory. In this context it was also indicated that it would have been interesting to review the experience of ECOWAS in promoting and establishing harmonized Trade Data Information Systems among its member States.

296. It was further emphasized that African countries should pay greater attention to problems relating to classification systems, taking into account work already done or ongoing at the international level and bearing in mind the fact that there was no need to resort to very detailed classifications given the nature of the industrial structure in those countries. Attention was drawn to the conventional nature of the method the secretariat had used to reclassify foreign trade data by broad economic category and by industrial origin, and proposed that specific surveys should be conducted at the country level to ascertain the detailed content of African foreign trade.

297. It was also pointed out that the monopoly of national accounts in data collection presented problems, since it meant that a number of specific requirements in terms of information on the industrial sector could not be met. Moreover, it was urgent to institute a system whereby data could be obtained rapidly through the rational delimitation of the scope of investigations and the use of micro-computers.

298. Clarifications were requested regarding the coverage and interpretation of the data on total volume of production and trade in manufactured goods, the breakdown according to end-use and the index numbers. While total apparent consumption concept provided relatively reliable information on finished products, it entailed risks of double counting where imported raw materials were concerned.

299. Responding to the comments and requests for clarification made by members of the Committee, the representative of the secretariat acknowledged the relevance of specific surveys designed to provide a detailed description of the content of African foreign trade, as well as the inapplicability of the total apparent consumption concept to, in particular, imported raw materials. He further explained that the approach taken had often been dictated by the non-availability of reliable data, and that care should continue to be exercised in interpreting statistical series in the absence of appropriate documentation on national classification systems and the scope of surveys. Finally, the representative of the secretariat recalled that the study submitted to the Committee was not an economic analysis, but a statistical balance sheet supplemented by a critical review of the data and by ideas on ways of filling gaps in methodology.

STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHY  
(Joint Committee meeting)

Demographic data collection and analysis - evaluation of the 1980 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (agenda item 34)

300. The background paper for the discussion of the agenda item was the document "Evaluation of the 1980 round of population and housing censuses in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/40). In introducing the document for discussion, a representative of the secretariat indicated that the 1980 round of censuses covered the period 1975 to 1984. He pointed out that 47 African countries conducted censuses during the period under consideration and it was a significant improvement over the situation at the end of the 1970 round when 30 countries had then completed their census enumeration.

301. The representative however noted that despite the general improvement in the planning and execution of censuses during the 1980 round, some of the activities were not implemented timely. In particular, project requests for external assistance were in many instances prepared and submitted rather late; and since some countries initiated census activities only when the level of external assistance was known, census preparatory activities were unduly delayed. It was also indicated that though initial

census time-tables were generally prepared as part of census preparatory activities, some countries failed to update the time-table and to make it more detailed so that it could be used as a guide for measuring progress and controlling the various census operations.

302. The representative of the secretariat also reviewed some of the issues and problems encountered in the planning and implementation of census programmes. The areas covered included cartographic preparations, quality control of enumeration, coverage evaluation surveys and data processing.

303. It was noted that though much effort and expense were put into cartographic preparations the results were in some instances not satisfactory. It was also pointed out that some of the reasons for the unsatisfactory situation were beyond the control of some census/statistical offices but the problems were made worse by the failure of some census/statistical offices to maintain a satisfactory level of intercensal cartographic capability.

304. In the area of quality control of enumeration the representative of the secretariat indicated that the use of one supervisor for the supervision of work of 5 enumerators was a marked improvement over the general practice of a ratio of about 1:10 during the 1970 round. He, however, pointed out that it would have been better still if appropriate reporting forms or workbooks for completion by supervisors had been widely introduced and definite standards for acceptance or rejection of enumerator's work by field supervisory staff established by census organizers.

305. It was also observed that there seemed to be a general acceptance of the need for the evaluation of completeness and accuracy of census results; yet there was a general lack of enthusiasm to use post enumeration surveys to evaluate censuses conducted during the period under review.

306. It was reported that of the 47 countries which conducted censuses during the 1980 round only 11 were known to have carried out coverage evaluation surveys as part of their census programmes. An appeal was therefore made for those countries to prepare detailed account of their surveys for the benefit not only of organizers of future coverage surveys in the countries concerned but also other countries which were yet to undertake such surveys.

307. In the area of data processing it was noted that there was improvement in the collaboration between subject matter specialists and data processing; however, that phase of census programmes continued to be one of the major bottlenecks.

308. It was also noted that inadequate access of census/statistical offices to computer facilities was one of the reasons for delays in processing census data but it was suggested that timely planning, testing of data processing plans and the use of efficient statistical software packages might have resulted in significant improvement in the situation.

309. Since censuses are the only source of data for many analytical purposes including estimation of vital rates, studying inter-relationships between population and socio-economic variables and population projections, the importance of an evaluation and analysis of the census results was stressed. The importance and need for timely dissemination of census results so that countries would derive maximum benefits from censuses was also mentioned.

310. Even though many countries have not yet reached the analysis phase of the censuses conducted during the 1980 round, it was possible to make some observations based on the experience of the few countries which had completed the analysis of their census data and others who had organized seminars and workshops to disseminate census results.

311. It was noted that the involvement of the demographer analyst, the users and data processing experts from the early preparatory stages of a census would be beneficial and would also result in timely availability of data. Great stress was put on the need for adequate preparations and precautions in the data collection and subsequent stages of a census in order to ensure data quality and quantity.

312. The involvement of long term resident international experts may not be very fruitful unless local personnel are associated with them. The experience of several countries which utilised local manpower including middle level personnel in data evaluation and analysis was found successful and was recommended for emulation by others so as to achieve self sufficiency and self reliance in their future efforts.

313. Preparation of administrative reports, technical and user oriented analysis reports and other channels of data diffusion was found to have been adopted by several countries and was laudable. In some cases the long time-lag between data collection and data diffusion however marred some of the value of the important findings.

314. In order to assist planners and policy makers, the preparation of population projections at national, sub-national and sectoral levels was pointed out as necessary, including the need for speculative projections with alternative scenarios of vital parameters to demonstrate the implications of various policy options. Information was given about a training workshop on population projections in Africa carried out by ECA in collaboration with RIPS. The two volumes of the report of this workshop detailing the experiences of member States and methodologies recommended for preparation of various types of projections would soon be published and made available to member States.

315. In the discussion that followed, participants mainly recounted country experiences in the planning and execution of population censuses during the period.

316. It was pointed out that census publicity should not only inform the public about the census but it should also educate various sectors of the population about the need for accurate information. The use of village leaders and other indigenous means of communicating with the rural population in a census publicity programme was also stressed.

317. In the area of census cartography, an account of the cartographic preparations for the 1984 population census of Ethiopia was given. It was noted that the exercise was well planned and executed and it was suggested that a detailed account of the cartographic work should be prepared so that other countries could benefit from the Ethiopian experience.

318. There was also a brief discussion of the use of sampling in data collection and data processing. It was suggested that recourse to that procedure would make it possible to provide some census data timely.

319. In the contribution by the representative of France, he informed participants about the intention of the French Government to set up an agency to undertake population studies. He indicated that the agency would be closely associated with INED, ORSTOM and INSEE. He also pointed out that the agency would collaborate with African countries in its work which would include research in population data collection methods and analysis as well as training.

320. He stressed that the detailed work programme of the agency would be based on requests received. The agency was expected to start work about the middle of 1986.

321. Finally, the representative of United Kingdom called the attention of participants to the past assistance given by the United Kingdom Government in the area of African population censuses and intimated that future assistance might be on a diminishing scale.

322. He referred to comments made by some participants regarding the delay in receiving inputs from external sources for census activities and stressed that some of the problems could be alleviated by timely planning of census programmes. He pointed out that though some delays might have been caused by administrative bottlenecks other delays were caused by the late receipt of requests for assistance.

323. The Committee approved with slight modifications the fourteen recommendations included in the summary of the paper. However, it was suggested that a place should have been given to post-censal activities in the discussion in order to present a complete treatment of the entire subject matter.

PLANNING AND DEMOGRAPHY  
(Joint Committee meeting)

Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population:  
Follow-up on its implementation (agenda item 35)

324. A representative of the secretariat introduced the background document entitled "Kilimanjaro Programme of Action - Follow-up" (E/ECA/PSD.4/41). He reminded the meeting of the events that led to the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA) by African countries in Tanzania in January 1984. The KPA formed the African region input to the International Conference on Population (ICP) which was held in Mexico City in August 1984. He pointed out that the KPA contained a comprehensive set of recommendations which should be integrated into socio-economic development planning as part of efforts in improving socio-economic development and the well-being of the people. The recommendations relate to the following: population and development strategies and policies; fertility and family planning; mortality and morbidity; urbanization and migration; the changing role of women in the development process; children and youth; population data collection; analysis, training and research; population information; community involvement and the role of private and non-governmental organizations; information and implementation of population programmes and policies. The representative of the secretariat noted that the adoption of the KPA was a reflection of the realization by African Governments of the implications of population trends on socio-economic development. Since its adoption the KPA had been endorsed by the ECA Conference of Ministers and the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which had called for its implementation.

325. Regarding the implementation of the KPA by the secretariat, it was reported that the secretariat had already included some of the recommendations in its 1986-1987 work programme. However, at national level there had not been enough time since the KPA was adopted to allow a follow-up on its implementation. The secretariat then called on representatives to brief the meeting on action taken so far by their governments on the implementation of the KPA. To assist future monitoring of KPA the secretariat made the following suggestions:  
(a) member States should adopt mortality targets recommended at the ICP in Mexico in 1984; (b) governments which have policies to reduce fertility should adopt their own targets on this; (c) governments which have policies to curtail rural to urban migration need to review their policies with a view to redesigning more effective policies; (d) governments should set up the necessary machinery to follow-up on the implementation of the KPA--they should establish or strengthen population commissions as well as population units in planning offices; (e) future meetings of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers should always review the implementation of the KPA; (f) both the ECA secretariat and member States should carry out detailed studies on implementation of population policies and programmes in the light of the KPA.

326. Since population and development was one of the priority sectors in which practical measures were called for in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery during 1986-1990, the representative of the secretariat appealed to the meeting to reflect that in the discussions.

327. In the discussions which followed attention focussed on varied issues. It was felt that UNFPA should continue supporting some of the African countries in improving data collection to enhance the implementation of the KPA. To this effect the meeting reiterated recommendation 86 of the KPA regarding UNFPA role. However, to enable that organization provide more support to African countries programmes, the member States and donor governments and agencies needed to support the fund by making more contributions.

328. Regarding the issue of continued rural to urban migration, the main problem raised was how to reduce this exodus in the light of drought, unemployment and other problems in rural areas. While it was not easy to give any precise solution to this issue, it was pointed out that any policy on this should aim at looking at the overall development aspects of revitalizing the economy in the rural areas - provision of higher income generating employment opportunities in the rural areas, improving education in rural areas especially for women, providing better water supply, improving agricultural production and nutrition, etc. The KPA has a specific recommendation on this issue of reducing rural to urban migration. The meeting was informed of programmes being implemented in Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon in reducing rural to urban migration. It was underscored that African countries needed to be more serious and committed in dealing with this problem. A related issue which member States should pay attention to was population redistribution.

329. It was observed that the KPA dealt with a wide range of recommendations which presented problems of evaluation in their implementation in a meeting like this. The need to focus on one or a few aspects for follow-up was deemed necessary for the next meeting. It was suggested that focus on agriculture and food production and self-sufficiency in relation to population warranted to be given special attention in the light of Africa's Priority Economic Recovery Programme for the period 1986-1990. This did not mean that other recommendations in the KPA should not be implemented. Depending on each country's circumstances, efforts should be made to implement whatever they can in the KPA.

330. In dealing with population and family planning programmes in the development context, a question was raised as to whether in the short-run, provision of free social services like education to the population would not lead to the population not to take family planning programmes seriously. One aspect suggested for inclusion in population programmes to encourage women to work was to create day-care centres for children. Liberalization of customs to enable women participate in decision making was another important factor to be considered.

331. Activities on awareness and interrelation between population and development were deemed necessary to enhance the integration of population variables in socio-economic development. The creation of necessary infrastructures for this integration has to be established or strengthened. Some countries were already doing this. It was suggested that ECA carry out a study on the impact of integrating demographic variables in socio-economic development planning.

332. While some participants expressed that their countries were under populated and wanted bigger population in order to develop, it was noted that it was not the size of the population alone that was required to make a country develop. What was seen to be more crucial was the quality of the population in terms of being able to develop and acquire relevant technology for exploiting and utilizing available natural resources to satisfy various population needs. To this effect the population issue had to be addressed within Africa's development stage and not just make comparisons with developed countries whose circumstances were not the same as those prevailing in Africa.

333. Some delegates questioned the need of adopting targets on mortality and fertility and felt that the secretariat was telling member States to reduce fertility. The secretariat informed the meeting that all countries desire or have objectives to reduce mortality rates. For good planning and monitoring, there is no way such goals or objectives can be evaluated without targets which would be the basis for evaluation in monitoring the implementation of the KPA. Regarding fertility, the secretariat only appealed to those countries which had policies and programmes to reduce their fertility to adopt their own targets on this. The decision to reduce or increase fertility was that of member States themselves. However, the secretariat had a duty to bring to the attention of member States implications of population trends on socio-economic development and advise member States on some of the actions which they may want to take. It was concerned with the implementation of the KPA which was adopted by African Governments themselves. The recommendations took into account different conditions in different African countries.

#### Evaluation of Family Planning Programmes in ECA Member States (agenda item 36)

334. The document "Evaluation of Family Planning Programmes in ECA member States" (E/ECA/PSD.4/42) submitted under this agenda item evaluates the demographic impact of family planning programmes in five countries (Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco and Tunisia). In introducing it, the secretariat first stressed the problems posed by the selection of evaluation criteria and methods and then described the evaluation structure used, which was based on the availability and comparability of data from the World Fertility Survey. Using those data, it had been possible to evaluate some family planning objectives as well as some population objectives. It could be concluded from the results of the evaluation that the impact of family planning programmes was relatively low in Ghana, Kenya and Morocco and to a lesser extent in Egypt. The successes achieved in Tunisia could be attributed to the fact that the country's population policy was not only clear and well planned, but it was also backed by relevant legislation and political will at the highest level. Thus the document concluded by formulating some recommendations to improve the efficiency of family planning programmes in Africa.

335. Discussion focussed first on the relevance of the evaluation criteria used in the light of the fact that the programmes had been developed in different socio-economic contexts. Allowances therefore had to be made in drawing conclusions as to the success or failure of one programme in comparison with another. The secretariat acknowledged that the social and economic conditions in which population dynamics occurred differed from country to country. That explained, incidentally, why economic and social criteria had not been used in the evaluation, because had they been the problem of determining thresholds would have had to be solved before hand. The non-uniformity of the objectives had also made the evaluation difficult. However, because the basic concepts of the World Fertility Survey were identical in the countries studied, it had been possible to undertake a comparison of the trends observed and to draw certain conclusions.

336. Some participants, citing the drop in fertility in most African countries, considered that it was inappropriate to continue insisting on the establishment of national family planning programmes in Africa. The secretariat indicated that according to available data it was, rather, apparent that fertility had been relatively constant in most African countries. Moreover, a falling birth rate did not necessarily lead to a decline in the rate of population growth, especially if, as was the case in Africa, the drop in mortality was more rapid than that in births and fertility.

337. Finally, there was discussion about public authorities' lack of determination to support family planning programmes and the fact that such programmes were often instituted as a result of outside pressure. The participants therefore recommended that political leaders should be made more aware of population problems so that they would become more convinced of the need to draw up a coherent population policy administered by nationals. The secretariat indicated in that connection that programmatic criteria had not been used in the evaluation because they were much more subjective than the others. These, precisely, were the criteria which made it possible to determine to what extent family planning programmes were supported by the public authorities. It was then assumed that such support could make them successful while the lack of that determination would explain, to a large extent, the poor achievements.

PLANNING AND INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION  
(Joint Committee meeting)

Issues in the dissemination of information for Economic Development Planning  
(agenda item 37)

338. A representative of the secretariat introduced the document "Issues in the dissemination of information for economic development planning" (E/ECA/PSD.4/43). He briefly outlined the problems facing the African countries in regard to the development of information services. The secretariat further brought to the attention of the participants the problems that have to be overcome, in order for information to be better used in economic development planning by the African countries. The representative of the secretariat cited as an example, the Pan African Documentation and Information System, which he suggested should be given adequate resources to enable it assist African countries in their endeavour to organise their information services.

339. Following the presentation by the secretariat, a paper prepared by the Inter-Governmental Bureau for Informatics (IBI), entitled "Planning and informatics" was presented. In his statement, the observer from IBI stressed the various roles that reliable information can play in the development process. He then defined the role of computer science as a tool for the rational processing of information and concluded by stating that planners should make it a point to master the use of computer science at national and regional levels, particularly for human resources development, and to integrate computer science as a sector of activity in national development plans.

340. A second paper entitled "Use of computerized mathematical models for economic planning" was distributed for information.

341. In the discussions that followed, most participants emphasized the role that information can play in economic development planning, and stated that the problem that Africa is facing is a systematic approach to the organization and use of information in economic development planning.

342. Most participants felt that in order for Africa to put priority on the organization and use of information in economic development planning, policy and decision makers must be sensitized about the importance of information. It was therefore the duty of technicians like planners, statisticians, demographers and information scientists to convince the African leadership of the importance of information science.

343. Questions were raised regarding the functions of the Pan African Documentation and Information System, in relation to the assistance it gives to member States, and whether it was necessary to strengthen it. In answer to this question, the representative of the secretariat stated that PADIS was created in 1980, at the expressed wishes of African member States, to deal with development requirements. However, as a result of other requirements such as the recommendations, within the Lagos Plan of Action, it has been expanded to include other sectors, e.g., energy, science and technology, etc.

344. In relation to the assistance being given to member States, it was stated by the secretariat that, PADIS, presently assists member States to develop their information management capabilities, by carrying out training of staff from member States, at regional, subregional and national levels. This training includes bibliographic information organization, and statistical data base development.

345. PADIS also carries out advisory services in member States. Such advisory services include assistance in drawing up national information policies, in preparing project documents for submission to donors for funding, and in setting up national information systems. With the availability of funds, PADIS plans to intensify advisory and training services in member States.

346. Some participants raised the problem of compatibility with PADIS computer configuration. Others requested to know what ECA/PADIS was doing to assist the African countries in the selection of suitable computer configurations.

347. In answer to this question, a member of the secretariat indicated that the criteria used in PADIS for the choice of hardware/software was based on the local conditions prevailing at that time, i.e., quality of the hardware, conditions of maintenance, training facilities, delivery time, availability of specialized software, costs and back up services. He indicated that member States should take into consideration the prevailing conditions in their respective countries, which may lead to different choices, when planning to acquire computer equipment, and noted that PADIS should not be viewed as a promoter of a particular brand. As regard assistance to African countries in the selection of suitable configuration, the secretariat indicated the availability of Data Processing Regional Adviser posted at the ECA Statistics Division in its Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics to undertake missions and advise member States on this issue. He further indicated that a second regional adviser on data processing, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, would soon join the secretariat to undertake similar assistance under the African Household Survey Capability Programme also executed by the ECA Statistics Division.

348. The secretariat also drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the use of different hardware/software should not impede the mutual exchange of information as long as the component for bibliographic description would use the same format and provided special efforts or conversion machinery would not be needed. He went on to explain that PADIS was currently implementing at its center data bases developed on different configurations for which compatibility was ensured by the adoption of the ISO standards for exchanging computer readable bibliographic description.

349. The IBI representative outlined the importance of informatics in economic development planning, and recommended that this is a tool which should be made use of by all African member States.

350. In the discussion that followed, some participants felt that it was not necessary at this point to put so much emphasis on computer technology, when the state of information and documentation services in Africa was still undeveloped. Many participants felt that it was useful to first of all organize data and once this has been done to start with computerization, and that acquisition of computers based on results of feasibility studies could follow.

351. Participants wondered what type of computer science Africa should adopt, what role computer science played in Africa and what steps should be taken to ensure the harmonious development of computer science in the region.

352. It was stated that planners should start planning the information sector using informatics as a working tool, e.g., for simulation, and mathematical models. However, informatics can be applied in any country depending on the level of development.

353. It was also stressed that computer science could not create order out of disorder and that the information system would first of all have to be re-organized. Planners must advocate information and computerization policies that would avoid the irrational use of computerization. It was further stressed that computer science constituted a technological shortcut for developing countries because it used automated systems.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION  
(Joint Committee meeting)

Selected issues in the development of statistical data bases (agenda item 38)

354. The Joint Committee had before it the following documents:

- "Selected issues in the development of statistical data bases" (E/ECA/PSD.4/44);
- "Review of National Data Processing Capabilities in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/46);
- "Directory of African Data Processing Centres" (E/ECA/PSD.4/47);
- "Directory of Electronic Data Processing Experts in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/48);
- "Report of the Seminar on Statistical Data Base Development (for English-speaking African countries, 30 September - 4 October 1985)" (E/ECA/PSD.4/62).

Introducing the agenda item, a representative of the secretariat gave a brief historical review of the implementation of level III of the ECA Statistical Data Base (also called PADIS-STAT). He recalled its main objectives and informed the Committee of the results obtained. He stated that further actions were still required for the satisfactory implementation of the data base, such as improvement of access procedures, development of calculation facilities, development of documentation on information contained in the data base (metabase) etc.

355. The representative emphasized the problem of delays in the transmission of data from member States to the ECA secretariat due to use of paper devices (publications), and suggested that member States endeavour to make use of magnetic media in order to speed up dissemination of data. He also discussed a number of conceptual elements which were required for the establishment of national statistical data bases, such as the structure of statistical data to be stored in the data base, and the computerization of the relevant record files.

356. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that the statistical data base management system developed at ECA could be installed with minor changes in member countries which used the HEWLETT PACKARD 3000 computer, but major changes might be required for other types of equipment. Data transmission on magnetic devices, especially on magnetic tapes, did not pose serious problems of compatibility when they were well documented. It was also recalled that one of the main objectives of the development of the ECA statistical data base was to provide technical assistance to member countries in developing their own data bases. Participants were invited to address their requests for such technical assistance to the secretariat.

357. Difficulties member countries encountered in furnishing data on a regular basis for updating data bases were mentioned. It was therefore suggested that the wording data base be replaced by archives. The representative of the secretariat disagreed with that proposal, recalling that a data base was an integrated structured information system which could be accessed by various users. That was the case with the ECA statistical data base.

358. It was also suggested that the secretariat should pursue its search for an adequate statistical data base management system which could be used effectively in member States.

359. It was mentioned that due attention should be paid to the development of a statistical data base to avoid serious future problems. He indicated that in-house development of a statistical data base management system could generate high costs and other potentially serious impediments to smooth development due to staff turnover. The proper development of interfaces between the statistical data base management system developed at ECA and micro-computers in member States could constitute a low-cost approach which should be explored. A national statistical data base which ought to contain all types of statistical data was not a good solution, unless high costs could be accepted. He emphasized the relationships which should exist between statisticians, electronic data processing (EDP) specialists and statistical data users in the development of a statistical data base. In particular such statisticians and EDP specialists should be able to adapt themselves easily to the other field of interest.

360. Concern was expressed by some participants at the fact that the development of statistical data bases had been given priority over basic statistical work on the concepts, definitions, nomenclatures to be used, definition of requirements for a statistical data base, etc.

361. The representative of the African Development Bank (ADB) recalled that his organization had participated in financing the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) project. The Bank's expectations of obtaining updated data from the ECA Statistical Data Base had not yet been fulfilled. He wondered therefore whether it was appropriate to discuss the development of national statistical data bases when most member States did not have basic data. He suggested that a study be undertaken by PADIS in member States with computerized statistical systems to ascertain whether they could develop statistical data bases before extending that to all member States.

362. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that studies of the kind requested by the representative of ADB were undertaken every two years. The most recent, entitled "Review of national data processing capabilities in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.4/46), was before participants. He emphasized that a statistical data base should not be viewed only as a user-oriented data processing system, but also as a working tool for statisticians. As such it could also serve as a catalyst for the development of statistics. The secretariat thanked ADB for its participation in financing the first phase of PADIS and expressed the hope that it would participate again in financing the third phase.

363. Finally, the Committee recommended that the ECA secretariat should (a) undertake preliminary studies to ascertain which member countries intend to develop a statistical data base; (b) assist such countries in defining their requirements properly before undertaking the development of the statistical data base; and (c) provide these countries with the necessary technical assistance.

DEMOGRAPHY AND INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION  
(Joint Committee meeting)

Progress report on the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)  
(agenda item 39)

364. A representative of the ECA secretariat introduced the documents entitled "Progress report on the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)" (E/ECA/PSD.4/45); and "Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa) Advisory Committee meeting, first session, Addis Ababa, 17-19 December 1985" (E/ECA/PSD.4/45/Add.1), noting that POPIN-Africa collaborates in an international effort to fulfil what the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) recommended regarding "furthering the exchange among countries of information and policy experiences in the field of population and consumption". The attention of the Committee was drawn to the specific functions of the component parts of POPIN-Africa, namely, the Co-ordinating Unit, the subregional participating centres, and the national participating centres in order to attain the overall goals of the network.

365. An outline of the activities undertaken by the Co-ordinating Unit during 1984-1985 was given emphasizing that many of these activities had been concentrated at building up the necessary infrastructure at the Co-ordinating Unit. The attention of the Committee was further drawn to the two meetings which had been held namely, the POPIN-Africa Review Meeting in December 1984 and the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee held in December 1985 and delegates were asked to note the various recommendations of these two meetings. The meeting was also informed that the first issues of POPINDEX-Africa and POPIN-Africa Briefs had been published and distributed. The status of the funding of POPIN-Africa related activities, both at the Co-ordinating Unit and at the subregional levels was also reported on.

366. Regarding planned activities for 1986-87, the Joint Committee was informed that the major thrust of these activities would be to consolidate the participation of both the subregional and national participating centres during this biennium. Training and advisory services were to be offered to national centres and institutions and one such training seminar was programmed for October 1986. A series of specialized country bibliographies commencing with one on Kenya were to be started in 1986. The Co-ordinating Unit would also be engaged in an exercise to identify national centres and institutions to serve as participating centres.

367. In the discussion which followed, much concern was expressed over possible duplication of activities between POPIN-Africa and PADIS and it was questioned whether the existence of POPIN-Africa was justified. It was suggested that the two might be merged since it appeared that POPIN-Africa was developing a parallel system or network alongside PADIS. It was suggested that in view of the amount of duplication in data and information collection efforts, all activities should be centralized to PADIS. A question was raised as to whether or not POPIN-Africa could exist without PADIS and whether there were no overlaps in coverage and operations.

368. In order to set the discussions into their proper perspectives, the secretariat again briefed the meeting on the history and background of POPIN-Africa noting that it was part of a global effort in which both the ECLAC and ESCAP as other UN regional commissions were also participating in response to definite needs expressed by the international community of population experts and demographers. POPIN-Africa does not duplicate the activities of PADIS - it rather complements and strengthens those bibliographic and related activities pertaining to population studies and demography which the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA) had both emphasized. It was explained that POPIN-Africa has received technical backstopping from PADIS in the creation of its data base and that PADIS had been closely involved in the early preparations, etc., for the establishment of POPIN-Africa. Close consultations and co-operation exist between the two and that far from usurping the duties and functions of PADIS, POPIN-Africa helps to strengthen the population sector of PADIS. A representative of PADIS further explained and elaborated on these points indicating that there was no conflict of interest and that POPIN-Africa is a complementary file on population supplementing information and data within the development files of PADIS. POPIN-Africa is an additional file for PADIS like other files on trade, technology, etc. Regarding a merger, the PADIS representative explained that such a merger already existed regarding the processing of information. In view of the specialization of the Population Division in the area of population studies and demography, it was best placed to cater for the population file.

369. A question was raised regarding involving national centres in POPIN-Africa activities and whether PADIS national centres could not be used for POPIN-Africa. A query was raised as to whether the demographic training institutes like the CDC were best placed to serve POPIN-Africa interests. The secretariat explained that efforts were currently underway to identify national participating centres and that these centres might coincide with those of PADIS. However, where such PADIS centres do not exist, the Co-ordinating Unit shall, in consultation with its subregional participating centres, identify their own to satisfy their purposes. It was further explained that the four subregional centres of POPIN-Africa were not exhaustive and that as recommended at the POPIN-Africa Review Meeting of December 1984, "other criteria such as economic groupings, ecological factors, etc., may be considered at a future date" to supplement the coverage of literature within the region. The training institutes as centres of excellence were a good starting point in view of their own research outputs.

370. To a question whether in establishing a Pan-Arab Population Information Network (PAPIN) at the Arab League, the continent was not being divided into two, it was explained that POPIN-Africa was requested to undertake a mission to discuss the feasibility of PAPIN but that following that mission it was agreed that further consultations were required among the Arab institutions concerned. The aim however is not to overly create systems or networks. PAPIN-Africa when established will provide a useful input into POPIN-Africa in view of the fact that it caters to all North African Arab-speaking countries.

371. Regarding the actual evaluation of the work done by the Co-ordinating Unit, it was noted that despite the fact that POPIN-Africa was a new project initiated only in January 1984, reasonable progress has been made. However, the Committee indicated that there was the need to be more dynamic at the national level and for more concrete activities such as training and organization of national centres to be undertaken. The secretariat indicated that its work programme for 1986-87 already incorporated increased activities at both the subregional and national levels in the area of training and document identification and collection building. With this in mind, therefore, there would be concrete activities to be reported in this area at the next conference in 1988. An appeal was made to delegates to support POPIN-Africa activities in their respective countries.

#### RESUMED PLENARY MEETING

##### Other business (agenda item 40)

372. A number of issues was raised under this agenda item. The first was on the timing of the Joint Conference. The representative of the secretariat proposed that in view of the clashes with the meetings of the OAU Council of Ministers which occur when the Joint Conference is scheduled beginning the first Monday of March, consideration be given to convening the Joint Conference from the second or third week of March. There was a consensus that as far as possible the third Monday of March should be the preferred starting date but, ECA should maintain a flexible approach to ensure that the dates do not conflict with major meetings in Addis Ababa and thus avoid problems of availability of hotel accommodation and meeting rooms.

373. It was also proposed that the duration of nearly two weeks for the Joint Conference was too long. It was suggested that this should be reduced from 5 to 7 days and that this would imply a reduction in the number of agenda items. The working hours for the meeting could be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. In this connection many participants suggested that there was a need to review the scope of the conference. Some proposed that the first two days of the conference could be spent in committee and the remainder in plenary. There was also need for in-depth analysis of the topics presented to the Joint Conference followed by detailed recommendations which would serve as guidelines to member States. In reply the representative of the secretariat said that the present duration of the Joint Conference is 8 working days. If this is to be reduced, then the agenda items should be limited. The secretariat, however, took due note of the wish expressed by several participants regarding a reduction of the duration of the Joint Conference, taking into account problems relating to flight connections, accommodation of participants, availability of committee rooms, etc.

374. Another issue raised was the delay in receiving documents in countries. Some delegations received the majority of the documents only on arrival in Addis Ababa. It was also pointed out that more than one set of documents should be sent to each country. Delays in the translation of documents were also to be avoided if both English- and French-speaking participants are to have equal opportunities in studying the documents.

Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Joint Conference (agenda item 41)

375. The following agenda was adopted by the meeting subject to certain provisions. First, the secretariat should examine the outlines of papers to be written to make sure that "the role of savings in African economies" is adequately covered. If it is not adequately covered under any of the existing agenda items then a separate document and a separate agenda item should be introduced on the subject in the plenary meeting. Secondly, agenda item 39, which is of interest also to information scientists, should if possible, be a joint committee meeting for statistics, demography and information scientists. The Joint Conference, then adopted the following agenda for its fifth session.

Plenary meeting

1. Opening address
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. The implementation of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery
  - (a) The review of economic and social conditions in Africa and the implementation of African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) at national, subregional and regional levels
  - (b) Adjustment policies in African countries: The lessons of experience
  - (c) Food security information systems
  - (d) Technical assistance of ECA and other agencies in the implementation of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery
5. The critical evaluation of current national development planning practices in the light of the objectives and philosophy of the Lagos Plan of Action
6. Role of foreign aid and other capital flows on investment
7. Technical and financial assistance in planning, statistics, demography and informatics and documentation
8. Regional technical committee for PADIS: Designation of members

Planning committee

9. Election of officers
10. Report of the workshop on multi-sectoral planning models
11. Sectoral planning in subregional co-operation arrangements
12. Development perspective of the African region
13. Links between fiscal and monetary policies and their impact on the balance of payments
14. Institute for Economic Development and Planning
15. The Association of African Planners
16. Report on ECA planning activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
17. Adoption of the report

Statistics committee

18. Election of officers
19. Statistical organization and management: problems and priorities
20. Priorities for improving basic economic statistics
21. African household survey capability programme: selected issues and future developments
22. Evaluation of the statistical training programme for Africa
23. Report on statistical activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
24. Adoption of the report

Demography committee

25. Election of officers
26. Population dynamics
27. Population projections
28. Population distribution and redistribution
29. ECA regional population training institutes
30. Report on population activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
31. Adoption of the report

Information Scientists committee

32. Election of officers
33. Association of documentation and library scientists in Africa
34. African Association of Computer scientists
35. Training facilities available for the training of information and documentation scientists in Africa
36. Use of micro-computers in information and documentation centres in Africa
37. Report on PADIS activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
38. Adoption of the report

Planning and Statistics (Joint Committee meeting)

39. (a) Application of accounting frameworks to national planning
- (b) Short-term economic forecasting and outlook
- (c) Methodologies in long-term forecasting of selected principal sectors and the construction of scenarios

Statistics and Demography (Joint Committee meeting)

40. Review of demographic data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination during the period 1982-1987; issues and problems

Planning and Demography (Joint Committee meeting)

41. (a) Implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population
- (b) Draft manual and guidelines for integrating population variables in development planning for ECA member States

Demography and Information Scientists (Joint Committee meeting)

42. Activities of the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)

Statistics and Information Scientists (Joint Committee meeting)

43. Statistical computing on micro-computers

Planning and Information Scientists (Joint Committee meeting)

44. The supportive role of adequate documentation for plan preparation, implementation and monitoring

Resumed plenary meeting

45. Other business
46. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the Sixth session of the Joint Conference
47. Review of committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions
48. Report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers

Review of committee deliberations (agenda item 42)

376. For the general information of the whole plenary meeting, the four committees briefly reported on the content and outcome of their deliberations. Their remarks are not summarized here because more complete information is contained in the committee sections of the present report.

377. A number of resolutions were also adopted for consideration by the ECA Conference of Ministers. These dealt with perspective studies, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, short-term forecasting in the African region, statistical training, demographic training institutes and PADIS.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 43)

378. The Joint Conference then adopted its report for presentation to the Twelfth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

D. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION BY THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

Sub-regional perspectives

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 501(XIX) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers on perspective studies for African countries;

Noting with interest the joint CILSS/ECA study entitled "Economic Development Achievements of the CILSS Countries and Prospects" which brings out the critical elements of the region requiring efforts for their resolution and which gives to the states of the Sahel an instrument of economic long-term policies;

Taking note of resolution 06/21/CM/86 adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the CILSS relating to the development perspectives of the member countries of this organization;

Conscious of the necessity to implement the conclusions of the colloquium held in Dakar from 21 to 23 November 1985 on the Economic Development of the CILSS countries: Assessment and Perspectives;

1. Recommends that the ECA should continue its collaboration with CILSS in the framework of the decisions of the Dakar colloquium and calls upon the international community to support CILSS and the member countries for the realisation of the Plan of Action and the directives on research adopted by the ministers of CILSS;

2. Invites other African subregional institutions to undertake such prospective studies;

3. Calls upon the bilateral and multilateral donors specially UNDP to support ECA and subregional institutions to undertake subregional prospective studies.

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 285(XII) of February 1975, 350(XIV) of 29 March 1979, 399(XV) of 12 April 1980, 433(XVII) of 30 April 1982 and 537(XX) of 29 April 1985 on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP);

Noting the achievements of the Institute and the interest still shown by member States in its activities as stated in the 1984-85 annual report of the Institute;

Considering the critical nature of the Institute's finance which is the result of the declining level of member States' contributions to the Institute which actually declined from \$600,000 in 1979 to about \$255,000 in 1985 which was even less than 25 per cent of the expected level;

Taking note of the fact that apart from the funds provided by the UNDP which have remained constant over the last few years, the only other resources available to the Institute are contributions from member States and that support staff costs are entirely met from these contributions only;

Recalling further the non-approval by the General Assembly of the provision of 4 core teaching staff posts which ECOSOC recommended in its resolution 1986/62 of 26 July 1985 which was the outcome of resolution 537(XX) of 29 April 1985 referred to above, and exploratory talks taking place between ECA and UNDP on the level of funding to be provided by the UNDP in the Fourth Programming Cycle;

Considering that the Institute is the only Pan-African Institute devoting its attention to the training of African experts in the field of planning;

Convinced that the Institute can and should actually play an important role in the development planning of African countries to help member States reverse the economic crisis now facing the region;

Conscious of the new role the Institute is to play in the coming years during which it is expected to generate income from its own activities to support itself partly;

1. Urges the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue his discussions with the UNDP on the role it has to play in the funding of the activities of the Institute during the forthcoming Programming Cycle and especially in the creation of the capacity which will make the Institute an income generating institution, and to pursue further the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1986/62 of 26 July 1985 on the provision of 4 core posts in the regular budget for the Institute.

2. Requests all African Governments to pay regularly their annual contributions to enable the Institute operate effectively;
3. Urges the African Governments concerned to endeavour to pay as soon as possible at least 10 per cent of their arrears to the Institute in addition to their 1986 contributions;
4. Invites African Governments which are in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the Institute whenever possible;
5. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to continue its funding of the Institute for at least a transitional period which will help the Institute to create the capacity to become ultimately an income generating institution, after which period the African countries will assume full responsibility for the financing of the Institute's basic training programme;
6. Requests the Director of the Institute to take all the necessary steps possible to increase contributions from member States, and to intensify his efforts to raise funds from external sources either in the form of voluntary contributions or technical assistance both in support of the Institute's programme of activities and for fellowships for trainees;
7. Invites African member States to utilize fully the Institute's training capacity by sending in trainees with the appropriate qualifications and making more provisions under their national indicative planning figures (IPF) or other sources for fellowships for training at the Institute.

Short-term Forecasting in the African Region

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 500(XIX) calling upon African countries to undertake and strengthen short-term outlook activities and provide subregional outlook and requesting ECA to assist individual African countries on request, to establish short-term forecasting systems;

Noting the usefulness and the need of establishing such systems in African countries to serve as early warning mechanisms for countries to analyse and undertake short-term adjustment measures in response to external and internal disturbances;

Aware of the shortage of resources as a result of the present economic problems of African countries;

1. Calls upon bilateral and multilateral donors particularly UNDP to provide financial assistance to individual African countries and ECA for the effective and speedy implementation of short-term forecasting systems including assistance for training of the needed specialists;
2. Requests the ECA secretariat to continue and strengthen its work on short-term forecasting in close collaboration with national planning organs, African multilateral institutions and research institutes so as to ensure that African countries have the necessary tools and skills for effective economic management.

## Strengthening of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

### The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was established in 1978 to alleviate the acute shortage of statistical personnel required for the collection, processing and analysis of essential data for national planning and development;

Noting that the programme has so far made good progress but the problem of inadequate training fellowships for study at STPA centres constitutes one of the major obstacles to its development;

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action urges African countries, as a matter of urgency, to strengthen their statistical infrastructures as a basis for effective policy-making and planning;

Considering that the 21st Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity reaffirmed that the attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos depends on the development of the wide range of human resources required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes covering the entire spectrum and sectoral activities in the economic development process;

Recalling further resolution 415(XVI) entitled "Statistical Training Programme for Africa: Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries", adopted at Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1981;

Noting with satisfaction that STPA is a good example of multi-donor assistance, involving particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and various bilateral agencies and institutions;

1. Urges African Governments to accord higher priority to statistical training and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships are earmarked for training at STPA centres, either from national resources or from the funds provided by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies through country programmes;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to ensure co-ordination of assistance to the Portuguese-speaking African countries in statistical training within the framework of STPA;

3. Expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance so far provided to the programme by many bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, and hopes that their support will continue and be further strengthened;

4. Requests these agencies to facilitate and accelerate the procedure for the granting of fellowships as much as possible, and to pay particular attention to financial support for national and regional statistical training programmes of interest to Portuguese-speaking African countries.

African Demographic Training Institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly decision 37/44 of 21 December 1982 which approved the statutes of the two African Demographic Training Institutes;

Recalling ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 477(XVIII) of 2 May 1983, which established an ad hoc Committee to review the activities of the ECA sponsored institutions;

Recalling further the ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 550(XX) which requested the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary General of OAU to enter into consultations and negotiations with the host governments, participating member States and donor agencies as regards new commitments and facilities which would make it possible to cost the options proposed in respect of the co-ordination of the activities of and merger of institutions and select the best course of action to be adopted;

Taking note of UNFPA's commitment to continue financing the institutes at current levels up to the end of 1987 and to progressively reduce such financing thereafter as approved by resolution 84/21 of the UNFPA Governing Council;

Recommends that African Governments should progressively take over the financing of the institutes such that by the end of the five year period they would have assumed the financing of a significant part of the budgets of the institutes;

Appeals to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue its funding of the institutes in order to allow the African Governments time to progressively take over such funding, at a time when they are facing severe economic constraints and also to recognize the importance of the institutes in their socio-economic development planning efforts;

Invites the Executive Secretary to undertake a restructuring of the institutes based on the recommendations of the Joint Session of the RIPS and IFORD Governing Councils, including a revision of the statutes and salary scales, as necessitated by this restructuring.

Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolutions 359(XIV) of 28 March 1979 concerning the project for a Pan-African numerical and non-numerical data bank, and 377(XV) of 12 April 1980 concerning the implementation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) project;

Further recalling resolution 431(XVI) of 10 April 1981 regarding financial support for PADIS;

Recalling resolutions 438(XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the PADIS System, and 469(XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on African Statistical services;

Recalling also the resolution 534(XX) concerning designation of PADIS national participating centres;

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the PADIS System and network and the effort of the secretariat in mobilizing funds to execute the activities of the project;

Invites all member States to give their support to the request submitted by the secretariat to the European Economic Community for the strengthening of the Central Co-ordination Office of PADIS and the establishment of subregional centres.