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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-second session of the Commission/
Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

REPORT OF EIGHTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

87-1040

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 20 April 1987. The meeting was formally opened by Comrade Mersie Ijigu, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Minister, in charge of General Planning in the Office of the National Committee for Central Planning. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, and Mr. Guy Lucien Sao, the representative of the Republic of Cameroon, on behalf of the outgoing Chairman of the Committee.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations, not members of the Commission, were present: Australia, Cuba, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Finland, France, India, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

4. An observer for Switzerland, not a Member of the United Nations, also attended the meeting.

5. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) was represented.

6. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Regional Commissions Liaison Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Council (WFC), International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO).

7. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Development Bank (ADB), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC), African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA), League of Arab States (LAS), Ministerial Conference of West African and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS), Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Union of African Railways (UAR) and Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC).

8. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: International Association for Water Law (LAWL), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

9. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	the Niger
First Vice-Chairman:	Egypt
Second Vice-Chairman:	Lesotho
Rapporteur:	Zaire

10. The Committee decided to establish an open-ended resolutions committee composed of the following core member States representing the different subregions:

Eastern and Southern Africa:	Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania
West Africa:	Mali, Nigeria, Togo
North Africa:	Algeria, Morocco, the Sudan
Central Africa:	Cameroon, Chad, Rwanda

B. AGENDA

11. On 13 April 1987, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Review and appraisal of the economic situation in Africa in 1985-1986 and perspectives for 1987:
   (a) Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1985-1986;
   (b) ECA/ADB economic report on Africa, 1987.
5. Progress in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990.

6. The situation of food and agriculture in Africa:

   (a) Report on the implementation of the food and agricultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action;

   (b) Report on policy measures and institutions for improved forest conservation, management and development in Africa;

   (c) Report on a survey of agricultural research and programmes for livestock development in the African region;

   (d) Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Lusaka-based MULPOC subregion;

   (e) International Year for the Mobilization of Financial and Technological Resources to Increase Food and Agriculture Production in Africa;

   (f) Report on measures taken by African countries to reduce food losses over the period 1975-1985;

   (g) Report on a comparative study and analysis of ongoing food security programmes;

   (h) Land-use policies and farming systems: The case of Somalia and the Sudan.

7. Natural resources and energy:

   (a) River basin development in Africa;

   (b) Review of the situation with regard to the development of water resources in the drought-stricken countries of the African region;

   (c) Report of the intergovernmental meeting on the socio-economic and policy aspects of water resources management in Africa;

   (d) Report of the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa;

(e) Report on the impact of the commemoration of 1986 as the Year of Cartography and Remote Sensing in Africa;

(f) Report of the Regional Consultative Meeting on the Mobilization of Financial Resources for the Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Africa.

8. Industrial development in Africa:

(a) Report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry;

(b) Joint ECA/OAU/IBRD report on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade programme in Africa;

(c) Problems and constraints for the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa;

(d) Report on preparations for UNIDO II.

9. Transport and communications in Africa:

(a) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: Progress report on the second phase programme;

(b) ECA/UNDP/IBRD transport study for Africa, south of the Sahara;

(c) Priority transport and communications programme for land-locked African countries.

10. Promotion of economic co-operation and integration:

(a) Reports from the MULPOCs' Councils of Ministers;

(b) Progress report on preparations for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle for Africa (1987-1991);

(c) Request for assistance for the organization of a Symposium on Grassroot Development (an agenda item proposed by the Republic of the Niger).

11. Issues in social development in Africa:

    (a) Implementation in Africa of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;

    (b) Establishment of an African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders;

    (c) Culture and development in Africa (an agenda item proposed by the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity).

12. Development of environmental capabilities in Africa:

    (a) Progress report on the establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD);

    (b) Drought and desertification in Africa [an agenda item proposed by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)];

    (c) Report on the International Scientific Conference on the Lake Nyos Disaster (in the Republic of Cameroon).

13. Trade and development: Addis Ababa Declaration of African Ministers Responsible for Trade and Development Preparatory to UNCTAD VII.

14. Reports from the subsidiary organs of the Commission:

    (a) Report on the second meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks on the African Monetary Fund;

    (b) Report of the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the African Least Developed Countries;

    (c) Report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Chief Executives of the ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions;

    (d) Report of the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

    (e) Report of the third meeting of the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa and the Harare Statement on the Role of Africa's Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa's Economic Recovery and Development;

    (f) Report of the ninth meeting of the Joint ECA/OAU Conference of

(g) Report of the eighth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development;

(h) Report of the third meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS.

15. Follow-up resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly that are of interest to Africa:

(a) Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-first session of the Commission and the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

(b) Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its second session of 1986 and by the General Assembly at its forty-first session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa;

(c) In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields: Decision 1987/112 adopted by ECOSOC at its fourth meeting on 6 February 1987: A note by the secretariat.

16. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission:

(a) Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987;

(b) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989;

(c) Proposed Medium-term Plan for the period 1990-1995.

17. Technical co-operation between UNDP and the regional economic commissions: ECA (report prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit).

18. Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development:

(a) Progress report on the utilization of pledges for 1985 and 1986;

(b) Projects and activities for the 1987 Pledging Conference.

19. Staff and administrative questions.

20. Preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of ECA: Theme and programme of observance.

21. Any other business.

22. Date and venue of the ninth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

23. Adoption of the report.

24. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

12. In his opening address Comrade Mersie Ijigu, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Minister in charge of General Planning in the Office of the National Committee for Central Planning, welcomed delegates and observers to Addis Ababa and to the eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on behalf of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, the Government and people of Ethiopia, and on his own behalf. He wished the delegates success in their deliberations and assured them that everything would be done to make their stay a pleasant and rewarding one.

13. The meeting was taking place in the aftermath of a widespread and devastating drought in Africa's history, and at a time of unrealized growth expectations. While agriculture had benefited from the generally good weather, GDP, in real terms, had declined from 3.0 per cent in 1985 to only 1.2 per cent in 1986. Further, commodity prices were falling, the terms of trade declining and the deficit on current account rose from $US 7.1 billion in 1985 to $US 21.5 billion in 1986. Such trends underlined the structural nature of Africa's economic problems, which had given ground to the reaffirmation by Africa's Heads of State and Government of their commitment to the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Development of Africa through the adoption of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER), in 1985. No one African country could solve those problems alone; hence the need for concerted action towards individual and collective self-reliance.

14. Reviewing the achievements since the adoption of APPER and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990

(UN-PAAERD) within the context of the Conference theme "towards recovery and development", he noted that Africa had been self-critical of its domestic policies and that privatization appeared to be gaining importance as a panacea for Africa's economic ills. Caution needed to be exercised because while a private sector investment policy might be necessary, it was not a condition for effective private sector participation. Secondly, inefficiency was not inherent in the public ownership of capital or state enterprises but in the economic management instruments used. Thirdly, it would be erroneous to associate planned management of the economy with inefficiency and free markets with high levels of efficiency. For example, planned management of the economy permitted co-ordinated investment decisions in advance of commitment of resources.

15. Comrade Mersie reported on efforts being made in the implementation of the second phase 1986-1989 of his country's Ten-Year Perspective Development Plan which was putting Ethiopia on a course of recovery and growth. That plan conformed to the objectives of APPER, and recorded priority to the alleviation of the shortage of food, the promotion of food self-sufficiency and the development of supporting sectors such as transport and communications, industry and water resources development. Other objectives of that plan included diversification of the narrow export base and combating drought through short-, medium- and long-term measures.

16. The Executive Secretary welcomed all participants to ECA headquarters and to the meeting. He thanked the representative of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia for his willingness to officiate at the opening ceremony. He seized the opportunity to pay once more his homage to His Excellency, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia. Socialist Ethiopia's longstanding, sustained and unflinching dedication and support to the idea and ideals for which the Commission stood had stood the Commission in good stead.

17. The meeting, he said, was taking place almost two years after the adoption of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER). It was also TEPCOW's first ordinary session since the adoption, by the General Assembly at its Special Session held in May/June 1986, of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990

(UN-PAAERD). He noted with satisfaction that since both APPER and UN-PAAERD were adopted, there had been, in a growing number of African countries, concrete steps towards the redefinition of problems and priorities and the introduction of measures aimed less at short-term stabilization and more at medium-term development. Domestic policy reforms designed to rehabilitate and revitalize the agricultural sector had been particularly significant.

18. Those had been encouraging developments, but as he had said on 2 January 1987 in his end-of-year preliminary assessment of the performance of the African economy in 1986 and the prospects for 1987, there was a minimum policy package which every African country must continue to pursue to sustain the momentum for recovery and development that had already been initiated. That package included intensification of efforts at domestic resource mobilization; rationalization of public investment policies and improvement in the management of the economy; better management of the foreign debt and external assistance in general and the strengthening of measures aimed at restraining debt accumulation; consolidation of African co-operation; and, initiation of earnest discussions and negotiations with development partners at the highest level with a view to giving concreteness and precision to the various commitments entered into in the UN-PAAERD.

19. The African region was, in economic terms, distinctly marginally better than it had been a few years before. That was largely due to the general improvement in weather conditions. However, domestic efforts, especially the structural reform process, had also been particularly crucial. The external environment had however continued to exert a dampening effect on African economic performance. It was to be noted with concern that there was very little evidence of concrete international measures that had been taken in direct response to the commitments made by the international community in UN-PAAERD.

20. In reviewing Africa's economic performance in 1986, the Executive Secretary noted that total regional output grew by only 1.2 per cent, which contrasted unfavourably with the relatively strong recovery of 3 per cent realized in 1985. External factors such as the collapse of oil prices and weakness in the metal market which had a devastating effect on performance in the developing African oil and mineral exporting countries, were mainly responsible for the lower rate of growth registered in 1986. The favourable impact of developments in agriculture

was felt across the continent particularly in the group of non-oil exporting African countries and that of the African least developed countries which achieved their best overall results since the beginning of the current decade. That was an indication that measures taken to strengthen the agricultural sector were starting to pay off. The food crisis was however not yet over. Some countries especially in Southern Africa still depended on food imports to augment domestic supplies.

21. In 1986, overall performance of the manufacturing sector remained unimpressive. Total export earnings fell by an estimated 29 per cent from $US 64.0 billion to $US 46.0 billion. The trade deficit was about $US 7.1 billion against the surplus of $US 5.9 billion recorded in 1985 and the payments position was severely aggravated by growing debt repayment obligations.

22. For 1987, the forecast was for the gross domestic product (GDP) to grow by 2.5 per cent in a base scenario. A more optimistic scenario had yielded an overall rate of growth of GDP in 1987 of between 3 and 4 per cent. The road to recovery and development was therefore still paved with formidable challenges that called for sustained and assiduous efforts on the part of African countries, and the translation, by the international community, of the compact it had entered into with member States of the region, within the framework of UN-PAAERD, into concrete deeds.

23. That was the setting in which the eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) was taking place and the Executive Secretary had no doubt that it was the primary concern of members of the Committee that the little gains realized in the previous several months would be consolidated and built upon.

24. The provisional agenda before the meeting was necessarily crowded since it was the task of TEPCOW to consider the whole spectrum of development questions that were the concern of the Commission. The Committee would be reviewing the current economic trends and perspectives for the region. It was also its task to review and appraise progress in the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD with a view to coming up with practical, well-though-out recommendations for maintaining, indeed intensifying the momentum for the accelerated implementation of those programmes. To assist the committee in those tasks the secretariat had inter alia prepared document E/ECA/CM.13/5 which was based on a questionnaire sent out to member States.

25. The Committee was also to consider, in turn, the major sectors beginning with the all-important food and agriculture sector on which the Committee was provided with eight policy documents covering diverse aspects of agricultural production, policy and management issues; implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the World Conference on Agrarian reform and Rural Development; promotion of food security and reduction of food losses; and mobilization of technological and financial resources.

26. In the area of natural resources development, the Executive Secretary said that the secretariat was working, within the framework of the Fourth UNDP Regional Programming Cycle for Africa, towards a major breakthrough in the area of river basin development in terms of assisting member States and their intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of comprehensive projects and programmes to harness the enormous resource potentials that were known to exist in Africa's many lakes and rivers and a study on the subject was before the Committee for its considered review.

27. The building of a strong industrial base was a necessary prerequisite for the generation of the dynamic forces for structural transformation and for self-reliant and self-sustaining growth and development. It was therefore to be noted with concern that very little progress had been made in the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA). 1980-1990.

28. With regard to the issues before the Committee in the area of transport and communications, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to three important substantive documents which were before it. Those were the progress report on the second phase programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA), the report of the IBRD/ECA/UNDP transport study for Africa, south of the Sahara, and the priority transport and communications programme for land-locked African countries.

29. The Executive Secretary dwelt on the implied needs for regional economic co-operation and integration and made the point that it was high time that, in view of the amply demonstrated non-viability and increasing unsustainability of Africa's current external patterns of economic relations, the need for member States to forego short-term national interests for longer term subregional and regional benefits had become particularly urgent. He appealed for enhanced

and sustained government support for, and effective utilization of, the existing and potential framework for multi-country collaboration. One important component of that framework was the Commission's various Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), the annual reports of whose policy organs the Committee would be examining. He reminded the meeting that the role of the MULPOCs could be particularly significant if their capabilities were substantially strengthened and focused on the identification and the promotion of the implementation of inter-country projects.

30. Other sectoral issues that the Committee had to consider and on which the Executive Secretary expounded, included issues in social development, the development of environmental capabilities, and trade and development.

31. With regard to the task of the Committee in respect of programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989 and the proposals for the Medium-term Plan 1990-1995. He noted that the most important assignment in the terms of reference of the Committee was to prepare the Commission's work programmes on the basis of various legislative mandates. Moreover, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), had always stressed the importance of the participation of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council - the sectoral organs and the regional commissions- in the formulation of the Medium-term Plan and of the programme aspects of the budget and had gone to the extent of recommending that the functional or regional intergovernmental bodies concerned, should consider work programmes and Medium-term Plans prior to their review by CPC. In their consideration of the proposed Programme of Work and Priorities for 1988-1989 and the draft Medium-term Plan for 1990-1995 therefore, members of TEPCOW had the responsibility to make clear recommendations on the determination of priorities; the initiatives proposed by the secretariat; and the identification of activities which were proposed for termination or curtailment.

32. The question of review of intergovernmental machineries had been one of the fundamental issues addressed by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts appointed by the General Assembly of the United Nations to review the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization. It was the task of the Commission at its present session to review its own intergovernmental structure and functioning with a view to making concrete proposals on measures for rationalizing and simplifying them.

33. The Executive Secretary finally referred to the singular importance of the sixth Pledging Conference of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) which was scheduled to take place during the current session of the Commission. The Pledging Conference was particularly important in view of the diminishing regular budget resources. He also drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the need to commemorate ECA's thirtieth anniversary in 1988.

34. On behalf of the outgoing Chairman, the representative of Cameroon, Mr. G. Sao, welcomed participants to the meeting. He requested Comrade Mersie Ijigu, Member of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Minister, in charge of General Planning in the Office of the National Committee for Central Planning, to convey to His Excellency, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia, the appreciation of the Committee for the hospitality extended to participants. On behalf of the Committee, he expressed his thanks to Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for his untiring efforts, his commitment to African development and the devotion with which he was carrying out his duties.

35. He noted that the seventh meeting of TEPCOW which was held in Yaounde, Cameroon, had taken place in a climate of apprehension. That climate had, however, also held some promise in that it came just before the finalization of the African document submitted to the United Nations General Assembly during its Special Session on the critical economic situation in Africa in May/June 1986. At the Special Session, African countries had solemnly pledged, before the international community, to deal resolutely with the problems of economic rehabilitation, recovery and development facing them. On its part, the international community had committed itself to providing concrete support for the efforts and sacrifices that the African countries had themselves declared they would undertake.

36. Despite these commitments, the international environment had not improved in any substantial way. If anything, every indication was that it had worsened. The prices of Africa's raw materials had continued to decline. The debt servicing burden had continued to increase. What was more, the hopes of holding

an international conference on African external indebtedness were fast receding. However, African countries were not to resign themselves to the situation or to shy away from the objectives set in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 because Africa had no other choice but to count, first and foremost, on its own strength and resources.

37. In conclusion, the representative of Cameroon thanked members of the Bureau for the assistance they had given to the Chairman, the ECA secretariat for its co-operation and support which had enabled the Bureau to carry out its responsibilities, and the members of the Committee for having elected Cameroon as Chairman. He wished the meeting every success.

Vote of thanks

38. The representative of the Republic of Djibouti moved a vote of thanks to the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia for the warm welcome accorded to participants and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal.

Review and appraisal of the economic situation in Africa, 1985-1986 and perspectives for 1987 (agenda item 4)

Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1985-1986 [agenda item 4 (a)]
ECA/ADB Economic Report on Africa, 1987 [agenda item 4 (b)]

39. A representative of the ECA secretariat introduced the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1985-1986. In doing so, he outlined the main findings of the survey. The overall regional rate of growth of 3.0 per cent in GDP recorded in 1985 fell to 1.2 per cent in 1986. The decline was attributed to external factors, mainly the fall in commodity prices, in particular for petroleum, agricultural commodities except coffee, and mineral products. Consequently, consumption and savings had stagnated while capital formation decreased. There were substantial deficits in the current account. The mounting debt burden would continue to be a major problem in the immediate future. On the basis of different assumptions regarding the external economic environment and changes in domestic policy parameters, overall rate of growth of GDP was estimated to range between 2.5 per cent in a low growth scenario and 4.0 per cent in a high growth scenario in 1987. The Survey included a chapter on social issues and the coverage of the statistical appendix had been extended.

40. The representative of the African Development Bank presented the ECA/ADB Economic Report on Africa, 1987. He stated that the aim of the joint efforts of ECA and ADB to produce annual economic reports, was to provide on an annual basis, descriptive and analytical accounts of recent economic developments in Africa, make preliminary forecasts, analyse general development problem and focus on one topical development issue in each report.

41. The first part of the report dealt with Africa's current economic development trends while the second part considered the constraints and problems related to domestic resource mobilization in Africa. It is argued in the report that although the saving potential in Africa had recently deteriorated, there were untapped resources which needed to be explored. The magnitude and rate of savings depended crucially on policy and institutional reforms designed to increase resource mobilization in spite of the numerous constraints and depressed per capita incomes. Both the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa had long stressed the importance of enhancing the saving-investment process for growth in Africa. The study had identified four key areas in which policy concentration was called for in an effort to improve domestic resource mobilization in Africa. The four areas were the promotion of the growth of aggregate incomes, the stimulation and diversification of exports, the pursuit of prudent fiscal policies and the co-ordination of activities with central and commercial banks.

42. In the ensuing discussion, various participants commended the secretariats of ECA and ADB for the comprehensiveness, relevance and the high analytical quality of the documents. On the basis of the analysis contained in the documents a number of issues were taken up by the participants, notably Africa's external debt and the gathering momentum of structural adjustment and economic reform measures.

43. Participants acknowledged the gravity of the problems posed by Africa's external debt which precluded the attainment of reasonable growth in the absence of an adequate inflow of financial resources to Africa from outside. The debt problems of African countries were so difficult that major efforts with regard to the improvement of productivity would be required by African countries in

order to surmount those problems. Participants referred to the structural adjustment and stabilization programmes so far adopted by some African countries. Some participants felt that there was a need for African countries to share their experiences with regard to successes and failures of those reform programmes.

44. Amendments were sought by a number of participants with a view to enhancing the technical quality of the Survey. It was noted that in paragraph 1, the opening clause gave the impression that the drought had ended in 1985. Participants felt that the return of normal rainfall did not necessarily imply the end of the current drought cycle in Africa. Pockets of drought still existed in certain parts of the continent. One participant suggested that reference made in paragraph 1 of the document to a particular member of OPEC was uncalled for. The participants maintained that the effects of a decline in export revenues caused by falling oil prices were not unique to African countries; the statement in paragraph 8 of the document was therefore an exaggeration. Other participants provided information to reflect the actual realities in their countries as against what was stated in paragraphs 40, 44, 48, 164, 178, 227, 229 and 231 of the Survey. One participant objected to an error resulting from confusion with respect to the geography of the area through which one of the road projects mentioned in paragraph 354 of the Survey passed. He insisted that the error should be corrected. The substance of paragraph 372 was also questioned with regard to UNTACDA projects and in that connection, the meeting felt that it should concentrate on the technical rather than the political aspects of the projects mentioned in paragraph 372.

45. The observer of ICAO commented on the statistical tables of the Survey. He spoke on the potential role of air transport in promoting African agricultural exports and the need for a better management of Africa's airlines and civil aviation infrastructure. He also stressed the need for member States to pay attention to the enormous losses being incurred by individual African airlines since such losses could not be sustained for a long time.

46. In reacting to the various remarks made by the participants, the representative of the ECA secretariat assured them that the amendments they had suggested would be taken into account. The secretariat had great difficulty in getting the required data from member States. He appealed to countries to increase their support to the secretariat in that regard. The Executive Secretary assured the meeting that the geographical error contained in paragraph 354 would be corrected.

Progress in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) (agenda item 5)

47. Under this item, the secretariat introduced two documents E/ECA/CM.13/5 and E/ECA/CM.13/57 entitled respectively "Progress in the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER" and "An information note on the international conference on UN-PAAERD and its implementation". The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that subsequent to the issuance of a questionnaire on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER, the Second Extraordinary Session of the ECA Conference of Ministers had requested ECA to make an in-depth analysis of the results of the questionnaire. The completed study was based on thirty responses that had been received by the beginning of April 1987.

48. The representative of the secretariat outlined the highlights of the results of the analysis of the questionnaires which were in five parts namely: general issues; immediate measures, short- and medium-term measures; financial resource mobilization and modalities; and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring of APPER and the UN-PAAERD. Under general issues, the most striking finding was that the private sector had generally not yet been brought into the process of implementing the two programmes. However, the basic elements of APPER had been adequately incorporated in the national development plans, and existing national programmes had been realigned with the strategies and policies of APPER and UN-PAAERD. He indicated that many African countries had adopted programmes of stabilization (43 per cent), structural adjustment (70 per cent) and overall economic rehabilitation (17 per cent).

49. As for immediate measures, the analysis showed that 50 per cent of the countries had created and/or maintained national emergency preparedness mechanisms while 27 per cent planned to do so by 1990 and 23 per cent had no plan to deal with the issue. 47 per cent of the countries had instituted effective early-warning systems while another 27 per cent planned setting up one by 1990. The most disappointing element related to measures to reverse the brain-drain which had been undertaken by only 23 per cent of the responding countries while 47 per cent had no plans to undertake such measures. That was worrisome as the brain-drain had a major impact on development. However, it was encouraging that all

countries indicated that they had undertaken (90 per cent) or planned to undertake (10 per cent) reafforestation programmes. Similarly, many countries had made efforts to control deforestation (77 per cent) and soil erosion and/or salination (63 per cent). Another highlight was that of exchange rate adjustments which had been undertaken by 53 per cent of countries and were planned by another 7 per cent.

50. With respect to short- and medium-term measures, the analysis showed that there were wide disparities in the measures adopted. On the lower end of the range were measures like production of spare parts adopted by only 27 per cent of countries; land reclamation (37 per cent); provision of incentives to encourage rural savings (47 per cent); and land reform (50 per cent). At the upper end of the range were policies like encouraging the private sector (80 per cent); intensification of efforts to promote mass literacy (83 per cent); and improving the management of the economy (87 per cent).

51. In the area of financial resource mobilization, the most important elements that had been adopted by countries included efficient utilization of resources (93 per cent), measures to increase foreign aid (80 per cent); measures to improve the investment climate (80 per cent); and export promotion (70 per cent). Regarding the modalities and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the programmes, the analysis showed that most countries that responded had adopted mechanisms for project planning, overall plan monitoring, and for monitoring the flow, utilization and repayment of foreign assistance and for popular participation. However, very few countries reported any existence of or plan to have an ad hoc consultation mechanism for APPER.

52. Another representative of the secretariat outlined the activities undertaken by the United Nations system and briefed the meeting on the planned international Conference on UN-PAAERD and its implementation. In highlighting the main initiatives, he first outlined the efforts that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had continued to make in conformity with the mandate given to him in the UN-PAAERD. These included (a) further sensitization of the international community to the needs and priorities of Africa; (b) mobilization of support to attain the objectives of the programme; (c) establishment of a

steering committee responsible for organizing and stimulating action by the United Nations, promoting consultations with the international community, reviewing and reporting developments at national, regional and international levels and proposing other appropriate initiatives; (d) appointment of Ambassador Stephen Lewis of Canada to advise and assist particularly in the mobilization of support of the international community; and (e) formation of a special group of ten "Eminent Persons" to advise the Secretary-General on the financial situation of hard-pressed African countries facing a new crisis due to a steep decline in commodity prices.

53. He informed the committee that the Steering Committee had set up as its operational arm, a United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Follow-up on the Implementation of UN-PAAERD chaired by the Executive Secretary of ECA. The core membership of that Task Force was composed of ECA, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNCTAD, WFP, the World Bank and ADB. The different agencies of the United Nations had also initiated a number of activities in support of the UN Programme of Action. Examples included UNESCO which was reviewing its programme to stress the components such as education, science and technology, culture and human sciences that were directly relevant to UN-PAAERD; UNDP which was reorienting its operations so as to contribute more effectively; FAO whose current activities were directly derived from the priority areas of the programme; IFAD which had set up a $US 300 million Special Fund for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification; ILO which had conducted a review of food programmes in relation to UN-PAAERD; and UNCTAD which had established a Task Force on UN-PAAERD. As for ECA, efforts continued to be made to assist member States with the implementation and monitoring of UN-PAAERD. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had instructed all the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to use UN-PAAERD as the basis of formulating their work programmes for the biennium 1988-1989 and ECA had given special attention to the priorities of the UN Programme of Action in the formulation of its proposed programme of work for the 1988-1989 biennium. The representative of the secretariat further informed the meeting that to meet the needs for information related to UN-PAAERD, the United Nations had started publishing a newsletter entitled "Africa Recovery". It was also envisaged to publish a more substantive quarterly journal on recovery and development in Africa.

54. With regard to the conference on UN-PAAERD, the representative of the secretariat indicated that there were two conferences scheduled to be held in 1987 on the themes of (a) Africa: The Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development; and (b) The Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. The first conference would be held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 15 to 19 June 1987 with confirmed funding from the Nigerian Government, UNDP, Ford Foundation, the Commonwealth Secretariat, SIDA and CIDA. The second meeting which would be held in Libreville, Gabon, from 12 to 15 October 1987 was a UN system activity under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Task Force and UN Steering Committee on the Follow-up on the UN-PAAERD.

55. The Executive Secretary of ECA pointed out that the questionnaire which had been sent to all ECA member States had been answered so far by 31 countries one having been received since the analysis contained in the report presented was completed. He appealed to the remaining 19 countries to send their replies so that the secretariat could draw up a full picture of the progress in the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD for submission to the OAU meeting of Heads of State and Government and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as input for the preparation of his report to the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations. He noted that there were some encouraging signs regarding external resources. It was, indeed, in that context that the UN Secretary-General had decided to appoint the "Eminent Persons" group. He further noted that while the drought crisis had improved, there were still some countries that remained affected by drought situation. In general, there was need for vigilance to focus attention within and outside Africa on Africa's recovery. To that effect, every effort should be made to put Africa's recovery to the international community as a number one agenda item. Regarding debt, he noted that the debt issues were now before the Development Committee of the IMF and the World Bank. It was encouraging that such issues which were raised in Africa's submission to the Special Session of the United Nations on Africa had already been taken up by the international community.

56. Many representatives congratulated the secretariat for the quality and clarity of the documents. They further appealed to the countries that had not answered the questionnaire to do so urgently. A representative explained that his country had answered the questionnaire, submitted a copy to the MULPOC in his own subregion and had sent another copy directly to the ECA secretariat. Another representative requested to know the 19 countries that still had to answer the questionnaire. Overall, many representatives pointed out that the response of 31 countries was a clear manifestation of Africa's seriousness in implementing APPER and UN-PAAERD especially in view of the fact that it was hardly a year since the programme was adopted.

57. Regarding the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire, many representatives pointed to the need to also assess the response of the international community including multilateral agencies as the UN Programme of Action had placed specific demands on both the African Governments and the international community. It was also important to give due attention to the work of subregional groupings in Africa. From the analysis, it seemed clear that the African countries were taking the right steps in the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD. In that context, some representatives informed the Committee about the priorities and stabilization policies adopted by their countries which were in line with the programmes especially as regards agriculture and rural development. In agriculture, it was also advisable to focus on women and evaluate the contribution of that group of the population which played a basic role especially in food production. However, some delegates felt that there was need to be cautious since some of the actions and mechanisms referred to in the analysis could have been taken prior to the adoption of APPER and UN-PAAERD. Also, the answers might just reflect the subjective judgement of the respondents or might be representing wishes rather than actual actions. It was therefore important for ECA to make a review of whether such actions were really reflected in the development plans, budget speeches or sessional papers of the countries. A representative referred to the importance of the private sector but noted that it might require time to find out the information on the sector in relation to APPER and UN-PAAERD.

58. Many representatives raised questions and made observations on the issue of resource mobilization. Indeed, the section on resource mobilization needed to be given particular attention in the analysis, given the proportion of the cost of implementing APPER that had to be financed from domestic resources and the fact that there was as yet no significant increase in the net inflow of external resources. Thus, efforts by African countries to mobilize savings should be paramount and external assistance should only be seen as complementary.

59. In that context, a representative wondered as to what the chances were for Africa to mobilize domestically the $US 80 billion as envisaged particularly in view of the debt problems. Another representative raised a number of issues regarding domestic resource mobilization and wondered whether ECA should not undertake work in that area. Firstly, the role of the banking system in mobilizing savings needed to be examined. It would, for example, be useful to study the portfolio mixes of private banks as they tended to have a conservative bias against agricultural programmes which they considered as risky ventures. Secondly, the role of the non-banking system should be strengthened. African countries should develop capital markets and stock exchange institutions although it was recognized that that was constrained by the fact that the governments tended to be the major investors. Possibilities nevertheless existed especially through governments divesting themselves of non-profitable parastatals. Thirdly, ECA should analyse the practices of deficit financing to determine how such resources were utilized and examine if deficit financing could be positively exploited. He observed that to consider exports as a source of saving was only tenable if the level of imports was fully taken into account. Also the incidence of tax should not be against and injurious to the poor and the rural population. Another representative wondered whether it was not incongruous to talk of the poverty-stricken rural areas and at the same time talk of rural savings. He also observed that in spite of rumours of promising prospects regarding the debt issues, it had to be stressed that no foreign government however generous, or a multilateral agency however well equipped, could guarantee Africa's development.

60. A representative raised the question of drought and warned that it would be a mistake to consider that the drought was over. There were countries that were still affected by drought. In addition, the drought phenomenon was cyclic and could recur. That was why there were intergovernmental organizations like CILSS and IGADD. In fact, there was need to think of effective measures to get a lasting solution to the drought problem.

61. With regard to the activities of the UN system, many representatives commended the actions taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The efforts of ECA such as the questionnaire were very encouraging. Some representatives also expressed their appreciation regarding the planned Conference on the Human Resources Dimension pointing out that, after all, development was about people. A representative, however, noted that the expected participation was not very original. Given the need to deal with the cultural aspects in economics, there was a need to seek inspiration and new ideas from the rural people who had not been heard. Indeed there was a general need to change strategies in that direction.

62. A representative sought clarification on whether the joint meeting of the African subregional groupings in the framework of the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle was going to be convened. Another representative asked why the documents referred to APPER since the programme to be discussed in an ECA meeting was the UN-PAAERD. He proposed that APPER should be deleted from the documents. Since his country had not participated in the adoption of APPER, he would have to make reservations on that programme.

63. The observer from UNIDO gave an account of what his organization was doing towards the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD. UNIDO had, in 1986, carried out a major review of its operations in Africa to orient them towards the objectives of APPER and UN-PAAERD. That exercise resulted in a special paper which was submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held in Bujumbura, Burundi, in September 1986. The Ministers had welcomed the initiative taken by UNIDO and called on that organization to continue its efforts in that direction. He added that UNIDO was currently finalizing an internal action plan aimed at refining its operations in Africa within the framework of IDDA in such a way as to reflect to the maximum their close correlation with APPER and UN-PAAERD. Among the major activities of UNIDO which were also

priority areas under APPER and UN-PAAERD were: human resources development; mobilization of financial resources; industrial rehabilitation; utilization of domestic raw materials; intermediate inputs and spare parts; and industrial policy review and orientation. The observer referred to UNIDO's past and present co-operation with ECA and other UN organizations and reaffirmed the readiness of his organization to extend that co-operation to the Steering Committee and the Inter-agency Task Force.

64. The observer from UNESCO emphasized his organization's efforts in education in rural areas in which it had carried out a number of studies, seminars and workshops on measures to facilitate access to all types and levels of education for children, young people and adults in rural areas. UNESCO gave technical support to educational content and strategies as means of improving education quality and relevance to rural population. Experimental projects on village schools and rural development had been launched. Also, subregional and national seminars on training of teachers for secondary level agricultural education were organized in 1986 along with support to national institutions to improve the quality of higher agricultural education. The observer pointed to the close collaboration between UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF and ILO. In co-operation with UNICEF, operational seminars for national primary education decision-makers in the framework of the Regional Programme for the Eradication of Illiteracy in Africa had been held.

65. The observer from UNDP, in answer to a question regarding the activities for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle, informed the Committee that UNDP had approved an amount of $US 300,000 for the undertaking of joint ECA/UNDP missions to UDEAC, ECCAS, CEAO, ECOWAS, PTA, SADCC, CEPGL, Indian Ocean Commission, Mano River Union, OMVG, OMVS, Niger Basin Authority, Lake Chad Organization and the Kagera Basin Organization with a view to discussing with them possible integration projects. The draft projects prepared as a result of the discussions had been discussed with UN agencies in Rome, Geneva and Vienna. A joint invitation had been sent by UNDP and ECA to the subregional organizations concerned, the OAU and certain specialized UN agencies for their participation in a meeting that would examine the reports of the missions and the proposed projects. That meeting was due to take place in Addis Ababa, from 27 to 29 April 1987.

66. The observer from the World Food Council (WFC) referred to General Assembly resolution 41/191 in which WFC was specifically called upon to stimulate progress and contribute actively to the implementation of the food policy and programme components of the UN-PAAERD. He pointed to the Berlin Ministerial Round Table held in 1987 which focused on food security in Africa and which a number of African Ministers of Agriculture attended. It had become clear that the strong efforts of the African countries had been hampered by the slow response of the international community. The WFC, like ECA, believed in effective South-South co-operation both among African countries and between them and other developing regions. The WFC also worked closely with UNDP which had organized three subregional meetings on food and agriculture within the framework of TCAC and TCDC. Finally, he informed the Committee of the forthcoming thirteenth ministerial session of WFC to be held in Beijing, China, from 8 to 11 June 1987 and appealed to the African countries particularly those that were currently members of the Council to turn up in force in Beijing.

67. The observer from the IMF noted that African countries deserved to be congratulated for the success achieved during the past year in coping with their economic and financial problems. The role played by the IMF was well known. In this context, he made reference to the Structural Adjustment Facility which was established in 1986, providing for close to $US 3 billion of financial assistance to low-income countries facing serious balance-of-payments problems and adopting adjustment programmes. A number of African countries had benefited from that Facility, and about one-third of African countries had concluded borrowing arrangements with the IMF. In addition, even in countries that were not borrowing from the IMF, the Fund had contributed to the improvement of their economies through its impact on the quality of economic management.

68. External debt was a major problem, with implications for economic possibilities in the near term. The situation for several African countries was further complicated by the fact that they were in arrears to the IMF in respect of previous borrowings, thereby making it difficult for them to benefit from further financial assistance from the IMF. A number of proposals had been made towards alleviation of the external debt burden. Those proposals needed careful study, and those that had been referred for study by the staff of the Fund and the World Bank would be carefully examined.

69. As regards exchange rate management, a subject actively discussed on previous occasions under the auspices of ECA, the IMF welcomed the convergence of views on the point that changes of prices in Africa (whether of coffee or of a currency) did produce the appropriate responses on the side of supply and demand.

70. In reply to some of the questions and observations, the Executive Secretary thanked the delegates for their useful comments. The ECA secretariat would bear the comments in mind in its future work. He informed the Committee that ECA would be submitting an annual assessment of the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD as there was a need to show Africa's determination and credibility that the region was implementing its programme. Thus, the future Surveys of Social and Economic Conditions in Africa would focus on certain specific issues of relevance to APPER and UN-PAAERD. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had also to submit a progress report on the UN-PAAERD to the 42nd and 43rd sessions of the General Assembly. Work on the report was in progress. The Executive Secretary also read out the list of countries that had not answered the questionnaire. Those could be deduced from paragraph 10 of document E/ECA/CM.13/5 which listed the 30 countries that had responded although another country had replied since the document was prepared. He also confirmed that the joint meeting of African subregional organizations would be convened in Addis Ababa, from 27 to 29 April 1987.

71. In summing up the debate, the Chairman noted that the Committee had taken note of the reports. He emphasized that, as the Executive Secretary had pointed out, there was an urgent need to get the ongoing intensive activities and spirit of African recovery to the notice of the international community. The African countries themselves should continue to deploy further efforts to ensure the solution of Africa's problems. The report on the progress in the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD should be seen as interim and needed to be supplemented. It was therefore essential that all countries that had not responded to the questionnaire did so urgently. It was also essential to find out what the international community was doing in respect of the UN-PAAERD. Indeed, it was apparent from the debate that there were lingering doubts as to external assistance. Three basic points had to be underscored. Firstly, efforts were needed to make the international community aware of the demands that UN-PAAERD placed on them so that they could start to effectively implement assistance. Secondly, African countries needed to apply themselves using their own resources so as to move in the desired direction. Thirdly, the question of domestic resource mobilization had to be stressed and acceptable solutions had to be found to the problems that the Committee and the ADB/ECA report had raised.

72. The Committee adopted draft resolutions, 15 (VIII), 17 (VIII), 25 (VIII) and

The situation of food and agriculture in Africa (agenda item 6)

(a) Report on the implementation of the food and agricultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action

(b) Report on policy measures and institutions for improved forest conservation, management and development in Africa

(c) Report on a survey of agricultural research and programmes for livestock development in the African region

(d) Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Lusaka-based MULPOC subregion

(e) International Year for the Mobilization of Financial and Technological Resources to Iecrease Food and Agricultural Production in Africa

(f) Report on measures taken by the African countries to reduce food losses over the period 1975-1985

(g) Report on a comparative study and analysis of ongoing food security programmes

(h) Land-use policies and farming systems: The case of Somalia and the Sudan

73. By way of a general introduction of the issues before the meeting in the food and agriculture sector, a representative of the secretariat said that in spite of the praise-worthy steps taken by African countries within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER), United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) and the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) and the encouraging results attained so far in rehabilitating and revitalizing the food and agriculture sector, there was absolutely no reason for complacency. The enormous potential was there and the momentum generated had to be maintained. He explained that the representation and discussion of the eight documents submitted to the meeting would be organized around four main themes: Implementation of the LPA and promotion of food security and réduction of food losses; agricultural production policy and management issues; and mobilization of technological and financial resources.

Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the recommendations of WCARRD

74. Under this theme, a representative of the secretariat presented the following reports:

(a) Report on the implementation of the food and agricultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action (E/ECA/CM.13/6); and

(b) Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in the Lusaka-based MULPOC subregion (E/ECA/CM.13/9).

75. He recalled the aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action and the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development related to food and agriculture. He analysed the major factors which facilitated or obstructed the efforts of member States with regard to the implementation of the Plan. He observed that in spite of the efforts made to implement the provisions of the Plan and of the recommendations of WCARRD in that there was still a lot to be done in order to meet the challenge posed by food and agriculture and by rural development in Africa. In that regard, he stressed the fact that efforts in those areas should be continued with a special emphasis on the importance of support services to agriculture such as research, and agricultural extension, and on the paramount role that women should play in those areas. He stressed the need to draw lessons from the past and especially to co-ordinate all activities in those areas at the national level in order to derive maximum benefit from external assistance.

76. Following the presentation, the secretariat was congratulated for the excellent quality of the two documents presented. The representative referred to document E/ECA/CM.13/6 and particularly to paragraphs 29 to 31 and observed that there was need to adopt appropriate and practical technologies for farming in order to ease the burden of rural men and women. The same representative further requested the Committee to refer to paragraph 8 of document E/ECA/CM.13/9 and to reflect on a practical solution to the problem of wanton deforestation by taking account of the development of wood-replacing fuels.

77. The Committee took note of the two reports presented.

Promotion of food security and reduction of food losses

78. Under this theme another representative of the secretariat introduced the following reports:

(a) Report on measures taken by the African countries to reduce food losses over the period 1975-1985 (E/ECA/CM.13/11); and

(b) Report on a comparative study and analysis of ongoing food security programmes (E/ECA/CM.13/12).

79. He explained that the two reports had been produced in response to ECA's Work Programme as requested by member States and provided a brief background of the issues covered in the reports.

80. The promotion of food security and the reduction of food losses had been discussed at international fora since the Sahelian drought of the early 1970s, and the concept of food security had since been broadened. In the period before 1983, food security programmes concentrated mainly on adequate stocks of grain for famines and emergencies. But since 1983, food security had been redefined to mean that all people at all times had physical and economic access to the food they needed which entailed addressing the issues of production, stability of supplies and distribution. He pointed out that food security prospects were favourable in the short term, doubtful in the medium term and very gloomy in the long term. Revewing past and present efforts for food security, he noted that while a lot had been done, that had not been enough and drew the attention of the Committee to the recommendations contained in the documents pertaining to measures at the national, subregional and international levels.

81. The Committee took note of the documents, endorsed the recommendations contained therein and decided to include them in a draft resolution under food and agriculture for the consideration of the Ministers.

Agricultural production policy and management issues

82. Under this heading, another representative of the secretariat presented the following reports to the Committee :

(a) Report on policy measures and institutions for improved forest conservation, management and development (E/ECA/CM.13/7);

(b) Report on a survey of agricultural research and programmes for livestock development in the African region (E/ECA/CM.13/8); and

(c) Land-use policies and farming systems: The case of Somalia and the Sudan (E/ECA/CM.13/13).

83. The three reports had highlighted some of the most urgent agricultural development problems, especially those related to environmental degradation and destruction of the eco-system. Therefore, they had emphasized the need for integrating and harmonizing developments in crop farming, livestock and forest protection for better conservation and management of renewable resources. Focusing on the Miombo forests of East Africa, the largest forest eco-system in Africa, south of the equator, covering seven countries, document E/ECA/CM.13/7 had shown the alarming rate of disappearance of 200,000 ha per year in the Miombo forest cover. The forests had been over-exploited and misused over many years. The report had identified two particularly destructive farming systems in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia: the Chitemene shifting cultivation farming system which required 40 ha of natural forests to support one person, and the tobacco farming system in which it took 100 kg of wood to cure 1 kg of tobacco.

84. The report on livestock (E/ECA/CM.13/8) had provided an overview of developments in that sector in Africa. It had demonstrated that growth in the production of meat and other livestock products had failed to meet the increase in demand for livestock products. In fact, Africa had since 1975 turned from a net meat exporter to a net importer. Policy inconsistencies and inadequacies largely explained such disappointing performance. For instance, government interventions had tended to hamper the self-reliant and independent capability of traditional producers and merchants. As a result, the livestock sector could not develop from its inner strength. Furthermore, where governments had assumed full responsibility for basic investments and "free" supply of inputs and support services, especially in pastoral areas, lack of financial resources had made it difficult to maintain and operate infrastructures and fully utilize available trained manpower. Therefore, the report had urged a rethinking of livestock development strategies and policies to place particular emphasis on self-reliance at the individual, community, national and regional levels.

85. Concerning land use, the report in document E/ECA/CM.13/13 had analysed the major land-use systems in Somalia and the Sudan. These were rainfed and irrigated agriculture, pastoralism, forestry, and national park and game reserve systems. The report had revealed that there were as yet no comprehensive natural resource use policies and plans in those two countries.

86. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the wide range of recommendations contained in the three reports, which were aimed at promoting optimal utilization of natural resources. Finally, he requested the participants to utilize the reports in national consultations with a view to advising the ECA secretariat on possible follow-up actions.

87. In the brief discussion that followed the Committee agreed that the recommendations contained in the various reports should not become separate draft resolutions. Rather, there should be a comprehensive draft resolution on the food and agriculture sector reflecting the various important issues raised.

88. The Committee took note of the reports.

Mobilization of technological and financial resources

89. Under this heading, a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.10/10: International Year for the Mobilization of Financial and Technological Resources to Increase Food and Agricultural Production in Africa.

90. The representative said that the document had been prepared as a contribution to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on proposals for the International Year in 1991 and devoted to the mobilization of financial and technological resources to increase food and agricultural production in Africa.

91. Two issues were examined in the report. The first related to the technology gap as a critical cause of the agrarian crisis in Africa and the importance of agricultural research and training in the development of appropriate technology for food and agriculture. The second issue concerned the crisis of financial resources for food and agriculture in Africa which had exacerbated the agrarian crisis. It was found that the level of commitment of official development assistance (ODA) to

agriculture in Africa had not only been low but had also been declining since 1983. To reverse the trends and help generate the technology needed to get African food and agriculture sector out of the ongoing crisis, there was a need to increase substantially and on a sustained basis, investments in agricultural research and training. To that end, within the context of APPER and UN-PAAERD, about $US 1.2 billion to $US 2.3 billion would be required annually for agricultural research over the period 1986-1990.

92. The representative of the secretariat finally drew the attention of the Committee to chapter 5 of the document which contained proposals on the organization of the International Year in respect of the strategy, principles and programmes of action.

93. The Committee took note of the document and adopted draft resolution 10 (VIII)

Natural resources and energy (agenda item 7)

River basin development in Africa /agenda item 7(a)/

94. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.13/14: River basin development in Africa, a representative of the secretariat stated that the concept of using lake and river basins as a basis for economic development had been demonstrated successfully in other regions. He cited the Tennesse Valley Authority (TVA) of USA and the lower Mekong Basin Committee in South-East Asia as two examples. He gave an account of the progress made by the existing river basin organizations in Africa, including the new initiatives taken in the Nile, the Congo/Zaire and Zambezi river basins. He drew the attention of the Committee to suggestions contained in the conclusions and recommendations of the report which were intended to improve the performance of existing river basin organizations in Africa.

95. In the ensuing discussion, participants expressed satisfaction with the substance of the report and commended the initiative ECA was taking in collaboration with UNDP in the field of river basin development and urged them to continue the efforts. Participants were also very supportive of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report. One representative said that his country was concentrating on small-scale river basin development. Large-scale river basin development had not been cost-effective. He referred to the information contained

in the document on the Niger and Lake Chad basins and wished that the douument had expanded on the management and other problems that were being faced in those basins so that a concrete resolution could be formulated on them. Another representative also wished that the information provided on the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS) were more complete. In particular, reference should have been made to the sectoral intergovernmental committees that had been set up to monitor the different aspects of the planning and implementation process in the basin. One representative maintained that the use of the word «endorsement» in recommendation 10 of the document was not appropriate.

96. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.13/14 and adopted draft resolution 18 (VIII).

Review of the situation with regard to the development of water resources in the drought-stricken countries of the African region /agenda item 7 (c)/

Report of the intergovernmental meeting on socio-economic and policy aspects of water resources management in Africa /agenda item 7(c)/

97. A representative of the secretariat introduced documents E/ECA/CM.13/15 and E/ECA/CM.13/16.

98. With regard to document E/ECA/CM.13/15: Review of the situation with regard to the development of water resources in the drought-stricken countries of the African region, he emphasized that the document analysed the aggravating causes of drought, its geographical distribution and the current knowledge concerning drought cycles, and examined the situation in function of a threshold governed by climatic, socio-economic and ecological factors and in function of the geographical limits of drought in the African region. The report suggested some measures in the short, medium and long term. In the short term, the measures aimed at ways of responding to emergency situations, the co-ordination of relief activities, and the preparation of a plan to combat drought in support of activities undertaken at the national and international levels. In the medium term, the report recommended the strengthening of institutional structures available in the countries for water resources development; formulation of soil conservation programmes or the strengthening of

existing ones; the speeding up of water distribution and sanitation programmes and the strengthening of the co-ordination of external support activities. For the long term, the report highlighted the need to implement existing action programmes, in particular, the Mar del Plata Action Plan, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (LPA) and the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation in Environment and Eco-development.

99. The representative of the secretariat then noted that the conclusions of the report enumerated the lessons drawn from the recent emergency situation and the improved preparedness of governments and the international community. He reiterated the call for strengthening planning mechanisms in drought-stricken countries so as to facilitate the linkage between medium-term and long-term planning.

100. With regard to document E/ECA/CM.13/16: Report of the Regional Meeting on Socio-economic and Policy Aspects of Water Resources Management in Africa, the representative of the secretariat noted that the report had been submitted to the Committee mainly for information. The report contained many recommendations that had been made by the African countries that had attended the meeting on the socio-economic aspects of water resources management in Africa. The representative drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 97 of the report dealing with strengthening regional co-operation. In that regard, he pointed out that although the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) had recommended the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on water resources, the secretariat had not set up one, given the proliferation of intergovernmental institutions in Africa and the financial burden on member States that would be involved. Instead, the secretariat had opted for a regional technical meeting of water experts that would take place every two years. The first meeting would take place in 1988 and its report and the reports of subsequent meetings would be submitted to the future meetings of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning through TEPCOW.

101. The Committee took note of the two reports.

Report of the United Nations Sixth Regional Cartography Conference for Africa /agenda item 7(d)/

Report on the impact of the commemoration of 1986 as the Year of Cartography and Remote Sensing in Africa /agenda item 7(e)/

102. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/17: Report of the United Nations Sixth Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa. He informed the Committee that the sixth meeting of the Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 1986, had adopted 13 resolutions on cartography and remote sensing in development. He pointed out that one of those resolutions requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to convene, as soon as possible, a conference of all African Ministers responsible for surveying, mapping and remote sensing in order to examine the steps to be taken in those fields to ensure the effective implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) and the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (LPA). He informed the Committee that the sixth Conference had adopted a standardization of specifications related to topographic mapping in Africa.

103. The representative of the secretariat also presented document E/ECA/CM.13/18: Report of the impact of the commemoration of 1986 as the Year of Cartography and Remote Sensing in Africa. In doing so, he recalled the various policy decisions which had culminated in the 1984 United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring the commemoration of 1986 as the "Year of Cartography in Africa". In spite of financial problems and a late start, the ECA Executive Secretary and OAU Secretary-General had established a Regional Organizing Committee which was to sensitize member States to develop and strengthen national cartographic institutions for surveying, mapping and remote sensing. He informed the Committee about the various activities and ways by which African countries and intergovernmental organizations had commemorated the occasion and concluded that that was only a preliminary assessment of the impact, and that since many countries and organizations had not reported, the reporting period had been extended to April 1987.

104. In the discussion that followed, one representative suggested that the proposed Conference of African Ministers responsible for surveying, mapping and remote sensing should be merged with that of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries for the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing. Since both Conferences were covered by the same Ministries and performed similar functions, such a merger would save on resources. It was however explained by the secretariat that the convening of the Conference of Ministers was recommended because of the felt need for a forum at which strategies for the implementation of the surveying, mapping and remote sensing aspects of the regional priority programmes could be discussed. The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing on the other hand, was to convene for the specific purpose of launching a new organization with the same name which would result from the merger of two existing ECA-sponsored institutions, namely, the African Remote Sensing Council and the African Association of Cartography.

105. The representative of ICAO commended the outcome of the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and briefed the Committee on his organization's existing recommendations on standard practices on maps and charts.

106. The Committee took note of the two documents presented, and adopted draft resolution 14 (VIII).

Report of the Regional Consultative Meeting on the Mobilization of Financial Resources for the Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Africa /agenda item 7(f)/

107. Under this sub-item, a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/19 containing an account of the proceedings and the recommendations of the Regional Consultative Meeting which had been convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 to 27 November 1986. The meeting had been a follow-up to the 1981 Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Learning from the experiences of similar meetings held in the Asian and Latin American regions, which had not resulted in the mobilization of significant financial resources, ECA had adopted a new formula based on the concept of

"consultative process" which allowed consultations between donors and recipient countries to continue after the meeting.

108. The meeting had resulted in a useful exchange of information among African countries, international institutions and donors. Some 80 projects had been presented by African Governments, regional and international organizations, and some donors had already indicated their willingness to finance some of those projects. One difficulty encountered at the meeting had been the unsatisfactory presentation of some projects. ECA had therefore been requested to assist in improving their presentation to make them bankable.

109. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the secretariat in response to a question explained that all member States of ECA had been invited to the meeting although only 12 had attended.

110. The Committee took note of the report.

Industrial Development in Africa (agenda item 8)

111. The Committee decided that the following four documents for agenda item 8 be presented together, one after the other.

Report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry /agenda item 8 (a)/

Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO report on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade Programme for Africa /agenda item 8(b)/

Problems and constraints for the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa /agenda item 8 (c)/

Report on preparations for UNIDO II /agenda item 8 (d)/

112. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/CM.13/20: Report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry. He indicated that the objective of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry was to review progress made towards the industrialization of African countries, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, and the role of industry in the economic recovery and development of Africa. He singled out issues that were dealt with during the meeting and highlighted the rationality of those related to: (i) the Industrial Development Decade for Africa; (ii) UNIDO's contribution to the restructuring and rehabilitation of African industry, as well as the negotiation of new industrial projects; (iii) development of human resources and technological capabilities for industrial development; (iv) industrial financing; (v) system of consultations; and (vi) institutional arrangements.

113. The representative of the secretariat emphasized that the recommendations of the Conference had emerged from lengthy discussions of country reports on progress made and constraints encountered, as well as the consideration of several recommendations and proposals put forward by member States, intergovernmental organizations and the international community. He presented to the Committee two resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry: Resolution 1 (VIII) contained general recommendations on (a) the implementation of the programme for IDDA; (b) the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD; (c) activities for the implementation phase (1985-1990) of the programme for the Decade: (d) UNIDO as a specialized agency; (e) publicity and promotion of the IDDA: and (f) the launching of a second IDDA; and resolution 2 (VIII) dealt with funding the African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF). He pointed out that the implementation of the Decade had suffered because most projects had not reached the prefeasibility stage and so could not attract donor interest. In that connection, he underscored the need to use the relevant regional institutions such as ARSO, APCEDEM, ARCT and local expertise for the implementation of the Decade programme. In conclusion, he made the following recommendations:

(a) The three secretariats of ECA, UNIDO and OAU (which were jointly responsible for servicing the meetings of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry should prepare cost estimates on the implementation of the Decade;

(b) Adequate resource mobilization and allocation be made particularly to ECA secretariat to enable it play a more effective role;

(c) The establishment of an independent organ to evaluate the execution of the Decade programme; and

(d) The undertaking of a study on a possible new structure on the implementation of the Decade.

114. Document E/ECA/CM.13/55: Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO report on the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was introduced by a representative of the secretariat. The report, which was jointly prepared by the secretariats of ECA, OAU and UNIDO, covered two main issues. The first concerned the inter-secretariat co-operation and policy development in the implementation of the programme for the Decade. During the period under review, efforts were directed mainly towards the preparations for the United Nations Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, held in New York, USA in May 1986; the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the preceding meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole, at Bujumbura, Burundi, in September 1986.

115. The second issue was related to the activities carried out in support of the programme for the Decade. The representative indicated that the three secretariats placed emphasis on meeting the priorities established for the Decade, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), in particular, on the need to attain self-sufficiency in food production and to contribute to the strengthening or establishment of core industries. He drew the attention of the Committee to paras. 12 to 45 of the secretariats' document concerning direct support which was extended to industrial subsectors in member countries, and the assistance which member States received on the development of natural resources and energy. Assistance was extended to member States in the development and transfer of

industrial technology, dissemination of industrial technological information, development of manpower capabilities and managerial skills, and the mobilization of financial resources. Support was also given to member States to enhance their capabilities in policy formulation and planning, research as well as promotion of industrial co-operation within Africa and between Africa and other regions.

116. In introducing document E/ECA/CM.13/21: Problems and constraints on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa; a representative of the secretariat stated that an assessment of the IDDA revealed that the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa had not made much progress. Continuing, he explained that factors for the low performance included the unfavourable climatic conditions which affected most of Africa during the preparatory phase of the Decade, lack of support in the identification of projects, lack of commitment on the part of member States to subregional projects, and declining resources on the part of the international agencies. In consideration of those issues, a mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Decade had been recommended for presentation to the 1988 meeting of the Ministers of Industry. He then called upon the Committee to deliberate on the objectives and problems of IDDA and outlined measures for the accelerated implementation of IDDA which included the preparation of a development plan on the use of raw materials; reorientation of training to meet the Decade needs; and follow-up action on donors' commitments.

117. In introducing document E/ECA/CM.13/22: Report on preparation of UNIDO II, a representative of the secretariat explained that the purpose of the document was to report on the decisions of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its eighth meeting concerning the preparation for UNIDO II. He drew the attention of the Committee to the importance the Conference attached to UNIDO II, and said that the Conference had recommended the following six items to be included on the agenda for UNIDO II: (i) the Industrial Development Decade for Africa; (ii) the contribution of UNIDO to the restructuring and rehabilitation of African Industry, as well as the negotiation of new industrial projects; (iii) development of human resources and technological capabilities for industrial

development; (iv) industrial financing; (v) the system of consultations; and (vi) institutional arrangement. He pointed out that item (ii) was particularly important because of the need to ensure that the UNIDO programme included specific aspects of UN-PAAERD.

118. To ensure adequate preparations for UNIDO II, the Ministers of Industry had also decided to hold a special session from 14 to 16 September 1987 to be preceded by a preparatory meeting of Intergovernmental Experts from 7 to 11 September 1987. In addition, the Ministers requested the ECA, OAU and UNIDO secretariats to prepare and present to the Intergovernmental Experts Meeting proposals on the basis of the agenda for the Second General Conference of UNIDO as approved by UNIDO Industrial Development Board.

119. In considering the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, members of the Committee made a few observations and suggestions. In particular, it was observed that the launching of a second IDDA could stimulate Africa's desire and efforts for industrialization particularly given the fact that many countries were then undergoing critical structural adjustments to sustain their development efforts. However, the Committee cautioned that while launching the second IDDA, measures should be taken to fully understand and address the nature of those factors which had constrained various development decade programmes in Africa. Additionally, measures should be taken to encourage greater co-operation in industrial development for productivity and employment generation in the interest of the population. On the first issue, the Committee noted that the implementation of the ongoing Industrial Development Decade had been seriously affected by the general economic and financial crises which had hit Africa and the world during the early 1980s; but given appropriate resource mobilization and utilization measures, declaration of a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa could be more eventful. Also noted was the functional role which national structures for ensuring effective follow-up actions could play in the success of the Decade programme. Accordingly, the Committee called upon member States to intensify efforts to establish such structures if they were not in place, and to strengthen them where they existed. The Committee further

observed that given plans for the possible merging of PAPU and PATU, PAPU should also be associated with the Joint UNIDO/ITU/PATU programme for the manufacture of telecommunications equipment in Africa.

120. In its intervention, the delegation of Morocco made a reservation on the report. The reservation is attached as annex I to this report. In reaction to that reservation, the delegation of Burundi and Algeria submitted statements which are also attached as annexes II and III respectively.

121. In connection with the Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO report on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade Programme in Africa, the Committee emphasized the need to popularize the Decade using the mass media especially the African Union of National Radio and Television (URTNA).

122. Concerning the problems of and constraints on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the Committee welcomed the document that was prepared on the subject and observed that it had been prepared at a global level and consequently overlooked basic and fundamental issues of Africa. First, the implementation environment had changed especially with the adoption of APPER and UN-PAAERD. Since agriculture had been designated as a priority sector, the flow of resources had to reflect that priority. Secondly, up to that time, industrial policies had been very capital intensive, and that had to be changed in favour of labour absorption policies. Further, small-scale industries had a larger role to play in terms of their contribution to total production and employment generation especially in the transformation of African raw materials and in the manufacture of goods which were essential for Africa. Consequently, small-scale industries should constitute the basis for large-scale industrialization. Thirdly, enabling environments needed to be established with caution as African countries were weak vis-à-vis industrialized countries and therefore could not bargain with them effectively. Finally, a call was made for the development of indigenous technologies as the sine qua non for orderly industrial development.

123. The Committee commended the efforts of the secretariat in the preparations for UNIDO II and recommended that the agenda for the Second General Conference of UNIDO should also include Africa's indebtedness since industrial indebtedness

constituted an issue of major importance. Further, special attention should be given to the needs of the least developed countries and the use of African expertise.

124. The observer for UNIDO acknowledged that there had been constraints on the implementation of the Decade programme. However, considerable progress had been made at both national and international levels towards the implementation of the programme. In particular, he indicated that the African Development Bank had adopted a policy paper for its lending programme in the industrial sector and that the World Bank was also in the process of doing likewise.

125. Highlighting the financial crisis of his institution, the observer for UNIDO informed the Committee that a sum of $US 8.6 million, initially allocated for IDDA in the 1986-1987 regular budget had to be reduced to only $US 2.7 million to cover UNIDO's legal commitments incurred on a limited number of technical co-operation projects. However, efforts were being made to mobilize additional resources in order to maintain the integrity and momentum of the IDDA programme. He then appealed to African Governments for support in his organization's Action Plan for Africa when submitted to the Industrial Development Board and reiterated the importance of African participation at UNIDO II. Finally, he expressed his organization's appreciation for the co-operation between the ECA and OAU secretariats and the secretariat of his organization.

126. The observer for ARSO drew the attention of the Committee to the importance of standardization, metrology and quality control and indicated that ECA/ARSO/UNIDO had several projects in the pipeline for assisting member States in addressing the issues mentioned above. In order to benefit from those activities, a country needed not only to be a member of ARSO, but also to set up institutional and legal machineries for the operation of a viable national standards body.

127. In responding to the comments made by members of the Committee, the representative of the secretariat acknowledged the importance of the main issues raised by the Committee. With respect to the need to focus on small-scale industries, he informed the Committee that the secretariat was already doing a lot in that area. In conclusion, he suggested that more efforts should be made by member States to reflect their commitments in policies aimed at establishing intra- and inter-sectoral linkages and in the strengthening of subregional industrial co-operation.

128. The Committee took note of documents E/ECA/CM.13/20, E/ECA/CM.13/21, E/ECA/CM.13/22 and E/ECA/CM.13/55 as well as the reservation of the delegation of Morocco on E/ECA/CM.13/20 and endorsed draft resolutions 1 (VIII) and 2 (VIII).

Transport and Communications in Africa (agenda item 9)

United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: Progress report on the second phase programme /agenda item 9 (a)/

ECA/UNDP/IBRD transport study for Africa, South of the Sahara /agenda item 9 (b)/

Priority transport and communications programme for African land-locked countries /agenda item 9 (c)/

129. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat presented documents E/ECA/CM.13/23 and E/ECA/CM.13/23/Add.1: United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa - Progress report on the programme for the second phase; E/ECA/CM.13/24 - ECA/UNDP/IBRD transport study for Africa south of the Sahara; and E/ECA/CM.13/49 - Priority transport and communications programme for African land-locked countries.

130. In presenting document E/ECA/CM.13/23, the representative of the secretariat stated that the transport sector had 558 projects estimated to cost $US 12,791 million. The implementation rate per transport mode had varied from 14 to 56 per cent as indicated in paragraphs 18 to 25 of the document. During the period under review, there had been a significant improvement in the implementation rate of regional, subregional as well as inter-State projects as compared to previous years. That was evident in paragraphs 33 to 64 of the document. The terms of reference for the preparation and execution of the African Highway Master Plan had been finalized for submission to potential funding agencies. Two countries, Italy and Brazil, had indicated their willingness to support part of the Plan and ECA was in the process of finalizing the necessary formal agreement with those two countries. A joint meeting of the Trans-African Highway Authorities had been held at ECA headquarters in October 1986 at which it was decided inter alia, to reactivate the Bureau of all Trans-African Highway Authorities within the ECA secretariat. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 89 and 90 of the document which summarized the outcome of the three meetings of the Technical Committee on Air Transport which had taken

place. With regard to the communications sector, he said that the implementation rate of the 459 projects estimated at $US 3,815 million had ranged from 22 per cent to 34 per cent. On the whole, while some progress had been made over the last two years, much remained to be done given the fact that only 9 per cent of the programme had been fully implemented and only 26 per cent was in progress. With less than two years of the Decade remaining, it needed an intensive burst of energy to carry through at least 50 per cent of the programme.

131. With regard to document E/ECA/CM.13/24: ECA/UNDP/IBRD transport study for Africa, south of the Sahara, the representative of the secretariat explained that the study was a project which the World Bank was undertaking in close collaboration with ECA and UNDP and whose implementation was being carried out with the participation of relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system through an inter-agency committee supported by a management committee chaired by the Executive Secretary of ECA. The project was complementary to activities under the Transport and Communications Decade Programme. The study consisted of four parts: the first part involved a survey of transport; the second was a series of six workshops intended to encourage discussions among policy-makers; the third involved research studies into aspects such as transport and agricultural development; and the fourth concerned the development of human resources.

132. In introducing document E/ECA/CM.13/49: Priority Transport and Communications Programme for African Land-locked Countries, the representative of the secretariat described the background to the preparation of the priority programme and its various components. He informed the Committee that the report which was prepared jointly by ECA and UNCTAD was divided into three parts. Part I reviewed the particular problems and needs of African land-locked countries and in particular dealt with (i) integrated approach to transit transport development; (ii) road transport; (iii) rail transport; (iv) ports and storage facilities; (v) air transport; (vi) communications; (vii) documentation and procedures; (viii) management and training; and (ix) legal arrangements. Part II of the programme was an analysis of the various transit transport corridor systems and identification of country-specific priority programmes and projects, which covered Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Each of the country-specific priority programme included a critical analysis of all the primary and alternative transit transport corridors serving the country, a description of the existing infrastructure

and facilities with the condition and capacities, a review of current and/or projected traffic flows, and finally an identification of specific short- and medium-term programmes/projects with estimated costs, designed to improve transit transport services in the country. Part III of the priority programme dealt with sub-regional technical assistance projects for the Southern African, East and Central African and West African subregions. Those were projects whose scope covered an entire subregion and were of benefit to all member countries in the subregion.

133. The programme pointed out that although transit transport problems had been issues of serious concern for a long time with respect to international legal implications of land-lockedness, it was within the last 20 years that greater awareness of the particular needs of the affected African countries was gained through effort by UNCTAD and ECA in drawing the attention of the international community to the unique difficulties faced by African land-locked nations. The programme also clearly recognized that the 14 land-locked African countries belonged to the category of poorest countries not only in Africa but also in the world and that 11 of them were categorized as least developed countries by the United Nations.

134. In conclusion, the representative of the secretariat said that the programme was based on an integrated approach to transit transport development/planning involving both transit and land-locked countries and a corridor-by-corridor approach, involving all modes, projects and related activities in the entire corridors. The programme also urged maximum co-operation by the transit States and international assistance in its implementation.

135. In the course of the ensuing discussion, participants congratulated the secretariat for the quality of the documents. However, the representative of Morocco regretted that document E/ECA/CM.13/23 did not describe activities undertaken by his country in the implementation of the Decade programme. While his country had at one time suspended its participation in the Decade programme, it had, in April 1986, requested that its projects be resubmitted as part of the programme. His delegation therefore found it hard to understand why two stretches of the Tangiers-Nouakchott and Rabat-Cairo highways of interest to his country had been left out of the programme. He accordingly registered serious reservations on document E/ECA/CM.13/23 which he said should be revised in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1986/62 of 22 July 1986.

136. The representative of Morocco reiterated the official request of his Government for the reinstatement of all of Morocco's projects which were part of the first and second phases of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa. A written statement to that effect was delivered to the Chairman by the delegation. That statement is attached to the present report as annex I.

137. The poor rate of implementation in the maritime transport sector was deplored given the importance of maritime transport to African countries. Urgent measures were called for to set up a maritime transport conference. The need was also felt for an inventory of air freedoms. Some representatives observed that the documents needed to be revised in the light of new data to be provided by them to the secretariat.

138. The observer for ITU briefly recalled the background to the African conference for the development of telecommunications held at Tunis in January 1987. The conference had acknowledged the vital role of telecommunications in the development process. He regretted that telecommunications did not feature among the top priorities for national or regional planning and investment. He explained that the under-utilization of inter-connected networks in PANAFTEL was mainly due to lack of funds to maintain equipment, lack of working agreements on tariffs and transit arrangements, and the fact that even in those countries where the interconnections did function extensively, the African countries continued to route their communications traffic through transit centres outside Africa. Those were areas in which concerted action among member States was called for. With regard to the feasibility study on the RASCOM system, success would depend on the active participation of member States. They were therefore to set up national co-ordinating committees. The Secretary-General of ITU had, in that connection, sent to member States the profiles and composition of national co-ordinating committees for the RASCOM system study in order to help those countries in that task. The observer finally requested the meeting to take appropriate action in respect of the PANAFTEL and RASCOM projects. One delegate described to the Committee, the efforts that his country had made in implementation of the PANAFTEL and RASCOM projects, stating specifically what had been done in respect of its stretches of the trans-African highways.

139. The observer for ICAO spoke on his organization's activities in relation to planning, development, operation and maintenance of civil aviation infrastructure. Those facilities and services were described in ICAO's world-wide air

140. The current plan had been drawn up at Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania in December 1979. However, implementation of the plan had lagged behind although some States had made concerted efforts. The major difficulties were in the area of communications, meteorology, rules of the air, air traffic services and search and rescue. Another regional air navigation meeting was planned to take place in April 1988 to review those difficulties. It was important for all member States to be represented at that meeting by appropriate delegations which should include specialists in communications, air traffic services and meteorology. Service charges levied by postal authorities in Africa were beyond the means of many civil aviation administrations and were forcing them to resort to low-grade high-frequency modes of operation. Member States should examine the long-term effects of the problem with a view to establishing reasonable rates for safety services. With regard to airport operations, ICAO was encouraging the establishment by Governments of autonomous and semi-autonomous authorities to ensure better management. Within the framework of the air navigation plan, ICAO was helping Governments to develop individual State civil aviation master plans. ICAO was also assisting in project design and formulation for the next UNDP regional programming cycle.

141. Following these discussions, the secretariat thanked participants for their comments. It appreciated the contribution of ITU and promised to take note of the information provided by participants in order to enrich the document. Those countries which had assisted ECA with the organization of Donor Round Tables were to be commended. Although the document had been prepared in aid of all the parties the projects were country-specific and it was up to each of the member States to implement them. With regard to the question of the Rabat-Cairo Highway, the secretariat informed the Committee that that project had not been deleted from the programme.

142. The Committee took note of the reports presented to it and adopted draft resolutions 11 (VIII), 16 (VIII) and 22 (VIII).

Promotion of economic co-operation and integration (agenda item 10)

Reports from MULPOCs Councils of Ministers /agenda item 10 (a)/

Niamey MULPOC

143. The representative of Guinea, whose country had been elected Vice-President of the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the MULPOC for West Africa, informed the meeting that the mandate to introduce the report of the meeting had been given to the Director of the MULPOC. He drew the attention of the Committee to the

144. The Director of the MULPOC for West Africa informed the meeting that the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the MULPOC had taken place in Burkina Faso, on 16 and 17 February 1987 with representatives from ten countries and a number of intergovernmental organizations of the subregion. The Council had dealt with (a) the implementation of the MULPOC's mandate; (b) proposals for a new approach and a new role for the MULPOC as recommended by the Ad hoc Committee set up to review the mandate and redefine the scope of activity of the MULPOC; and (c) the 1988-1989 work programme.

145. The tenth meeting had exhaustively and critically examined the activities and functioning of the MULPOC over the past ten years and adopted the recommendations of the Ad hoc Committee. The Council had also decided that henceforth the statutory meetings of the MULPOC would take place every other year. That decision had been taken to:

(a) Ensure a better synchronization of the programming cycle with that of ECA;

(b) Permit the MULPOC to have enough time to implement its programme and to mobilize the necessary resources;

(c) Ensure higher and more effective participation of the member States;

(d) Enable ECA and member States to deal more effectively with the constraints related to the preparation of meetings; and

(e) Reduce to a minimum the costs to member States and ECA of their participation in organization of meetings.

146. The Council of Ministers had also adopted four resolutions on:

(a) Integration of women in development;
(b) Review of the mandate and role of the MULPOC;
(c) Meeting of veterinary and animal health experts; and
(d) Programme of work and priorities 1988-1989.

Yaounde MULPOC

147. As Chairman of the tenth meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MULPOC for Central Africa, the representative of Equatorial Guinea presented the report held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 14 April 1987. The meeting had examined the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Central Africa, the report on the activities of

finance, transport and communications, industry, human resources, integration of women in development, natural resources and PADIS. The meeting had also examined the subregional implications of implementing Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) and United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) as well as the MULPOC's work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium.

148. The meeting had adopted its report and submitted five resolutions to the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers. The resolutions related to:

(a) The implementation of the elements of the Lagos Plan of Action in the field of domestic and intra-African trade;

(b) Preparation of the next meeting on the code of conduct of maritime conferences;

(c) Co-operation among subregional organizations in Central Africa;

(d) Transfer of technology for the processing of cassava and the extraction of palm oil; and

(e) The integration of women in development.

149. The meeting had decided that MULPOC meetings would take place every other year. In between the meetings, a follow-up committee would deal with the subject of evaluating the progress of programme implementation. Also, the meeting had taken note of the preparations for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the MULPOCs and had expressed the wish that the celebrations would take place on the same day in all of the countries of the subregion.

Tangiers MULPOC

150. The representative of Morocco as Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Council of the Tangiers-based MULPOC started his review by delivering a verbal message from its North African MULPOC member States to the ECA secretariat on the non-availability of interpretation and translation services which had affected the work of the meeting. He requested the secretariat to exert all efforts to improve that situation.

151. In the area of agriculture and food security, he informed the Committee about the discussions concerning the basis and policies for the implementation of the regional food plan for Africa in the North African subregion as well as the efforts to support agricultural development. At the same time, UNDP and FAO had been requested to support these efforts and the efforts of the member States in that connection. An appeal had also been made to the Regional Bureau of UNDP for Arab States to contribute towards accelerating the development and strengthening of subregional co-operation in the agricultural field. The projects that concerned the MULPOC were submitted by ECA to UNDP under its Fourth Programming Cycle, 1987-1991. The plenipotentiaries requested the convening of technical agricultural symposia during October 1987 on the strengthening of and developing co-operation in the agricultural and food security field in North Africa.

152. Concerning the promotion of trade in North Africa, the meeting had achieved concrete progress particularly with regard to the commitment of the North African governments to establish a preferential trade area for North Africa. They had confirmed that their member States were ready to establish the preferential trade area (PTA) and had recommended a preparation of a progress report on the implementation of the project. In that connection, a group of government experts was invited to convene and identify the necessary actions to establish the preferential trade area. The plenipotentiaries requested the Executive Secretary to make all the necessary arrangements for the meeting including its servicing.

153. In the industrial field, the plenipotentiaries appealed to UNIDO to support and strengthen the technical assistance programme in North African countries under the industrial development decade in Africa. They requested UNIDO to organize as soon as possible a subregional meeting on industrial co-operation in the implementation of the resolution adopted by the sixth meeting of the plenipotentiary Council for the North African MULPOC. UNIDO should also give priority to financing and implementing the industrial development decade programme in North Africa from its regular budget.

154. In the transport and communications field, the plenipotentiaries had decided to set up a technical sub-committee to study the maritime transport problem in that subregion and had requested ECA to prepare a draft programme for the sub-committee and submit it to the eighth meeting of the North Africa MULPOC. They also requested the MULPOC secretariat to convene the first meeting of that sub-committee before the eighth meeting of the MULPOC.

155. The Plenipotentiary Council of North Africa MULPOC did not adopt any specific resolution concerning the proposal for holding the MULPOCs' meetings every other year due to the fact that the MULPOCs were closely connected with ECA whose meetings were conducted in the context of the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations system. As such, any recommendation in that regard necessitated time for consultation to enable a unified decision to emerge during the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Lusaka MULPOC

156. The representative of Zambia presented the report of the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka-based MULPOC held from 12 to 13 March 1987 at Lusaka, Zambia. He informed the Committee that the meeting had, among other things, considered and adopted the report of the tenth meeting of its Committee of Officials. The report of the Committee of Officials included recommendations on the economic and social conditions in the subregion, agriculture, industry, natural resources, trade and financial co-operation, human resources, integration of women in development, Eastern and Southern Africa Documentation and Information System (ESADIS), the Southern Africa Labour Commission (SALC), liberation movements, and the work programmes of the MULPOC for 1987 and for the 1988-1989 biennium.

157. In addition, the Council of Ministers had considered the question of the rationalization of activities of the MULPOC, PTA and SADCC. In that regard, the Council had noted that its request to the MULPOC secretariat to undertake the study on rationalization had yet to be complied with. It therefore urged the secretariat to pursue the matter further. The Council had also decided to set up a Ministerial Committee that would review the activities of the MULPOC over the past ten years and propose new activities for the future in the light of current developments and challenges.

158. Other decisions of the Council included the following: (a) the policy organs of the MULPOC would henceforth meet every other year; (b) in the inter-sessional year, a supervisory committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners of member States would meet annually to monitor the progress of the MULPOC. Finally, the Council had requested that the report on the monitoring of the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) be provided on subregional rather than regional basis.

Gisenyi MULPOC

159. The representative of Zaire presented the report of the tenth meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi MULPOC held in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 2 to 5 March 1987. He informed the Committee that the meeting had examined the reports on the execution of the MULPOC's programme of work for the 1986-1987 period, and studies in the areas of food and agriculture, industry, energy, transport and PADIS. The meeting had noted with satisfaction that the MULPOC had implemented the programme entrusted to it and that it had involved the experts from the member States and collaborated with the specialized organs of CEPGL. With that collaboration, the programme for the integration of women in development had organized three seminars and completed three studies. He added that a bulletin entitled "Femme et Développement" had been published and would be distributed to the TEPCOW participants.

160. The Committee of Experts for the Gisenyi MULPOC had also submitted to its Council of Ministers a draft programme of work and priorities for the 1988-1989 biennium as well as recommendations relating to food and agriculture, energy and natural resources, transport and women, and on the evaluation of the MULPOC local and international staff. The representative expressed the Committee's wish for the substantive Divisions of ECA to assist more actively the MULPOC in its implementation of the programme. He also thanked the ECA and UNDP for the financial and material assistance that had enabled the MULPOC to carry out its activities.

161. A representative of the secretariat then gave an overview of the role that the MULPOCs could play in the future in the process of economic integration. He emphasized that the process of economic integration depended crucially on the existence of subregional integration programmes for each MULPOC. That would

been identified in all the subregions with the kind support of UNDP financial assistance. He then outlined the broad content of the programme which covered three aspects namely building-up of subregional infrastructures, building-up of subregional production capacities and establishment of appropriate market framework for promoting intra-community trade.

162. With regard to infrastructure, the envisaged programme put emphasis on transport networks including road inter-connections, maritime transport, river navigation and multi-modal transport. Telecommunications among countries in the various subregions were also of great importance in economic integration. Given the importance of energy especially in industrialization, particular stress had been put on hydro-power especially in the framework of integrated development of river basins. In the area of production capacities, the focus was on food and agriculture. In that respect, projects on fertilizers, pesticides, vaccines, improvement of seeds, disease control, and on subregional food self-sufficiency were given prominence. In addition, the programme stressed the importance of projects in iron and steel, aluminium, etc. Since appropriate monetary policies were necessary for subregional integration, the programme also covered elements like clearance houses and the convertibility of currencies so as to facilitate exchange of goods and services. The representative of the secretariat emphasized that the initial activities would be directed at pre-feasibility and feasibility studies such that after three or four years, donor or investment meetings could be organized.

163. Within that framework, the role of the MULPOCs could be seen as the following: to monitor the activities of the subregional integration organizations; to assist along with specialized agencies whether African or other, in the implementation of the projects; and to assist the intergovernmental organizations in a subregion to mobilize resources through, inter alia, the organization of subregional consultative mechanisms. In that way, the MULPOCs could become a strong vehicle for the integration of the subregion through the execution of multisectoral integration projects.

164. The representative of the secretariat then stressed the importance of the decision by the MULPOC for North Africa to establish a Preferential Trade Area for the subregion. Such important steps constituted a basic element in the integration process that would lead to an African Economic Community.

165. In the general discussion that followed, a representative pointed out that some of the decisions of the different MULPOCs had far-reaching implications. The decision to hold meetings every other year meant that the programming cycle of the MULPOCs would be synchronized with that of ECA. Also, the change would result in a reduction of costs for both the United Nations and the member States. On that question, a representative sought some clarification as to whether the holding of meetings every other year was due to absences in MULPOC meetings or because studies took a long time to be completed due to shortage of resources.

166. A representative also pointed out that it would be desirable to redeploy staff under a decentralization exercise. That could enhance the effectiveness of the MULPOCs in the field. However, there was need to keep a good balance between the MULPOCs and the headquarters of ECA. One representative pointed out that the question of staff redeployment to MULPOCs had not been raised in his MULPOC's meeting. His country could not, therefore, take a position on the issue without consultations.

167. A representative expressed concern regarding the poor participation of member States in the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research based in Nairobi, Kenya. He pointed out that only fifteen members had joined and only three had contributed to the financing of the Institute. He therefore appealed to the member States to accede to the constitution of the institute and participate actively in its work. He also expressed concern with the programme for women, the support for which was going to be curtailed by UNDP. He enquired if activities under that programme were to be continued beyond May 1987.

168. Another representative sought information regarding the important subregional integration programme under the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle and the expected relationship between UNDP and ECA. He also asked about the role of the MULPOCs first as regards the relationship of the MULPOCs with the intergovernmental organizations such as CILSS and IGADD and secondly as regards the mobilization of resources. With respect to the latter, the representative wished to know what the role of the MULPOCs would be in the preparation and organization of Round Tables.

169. Regarding MULPOC meetings, a representative pointed out that translation facilities were essential since international agencies which provided assistance to the MULPOCs participated in such meetings and needed to follow the discussions. Another representative pointed out that the report of the meeting of experts of the Yaounde-based MULPOC had not yet been approved by the Council of Ministers. He also expressed concern about the conditions under which the MULPOC meeting of

170. The Executive Secretary thanked the different Chairmen of the MULPOCs for the presentation of the reports. He recalled that when the MULPOCs were established in 1977, the major objective was to strengthen economic co-operation. On the question of translation and interpretation facilities, he explained that given the resource situation, these facilities were extended to only two MULPOCs which were not linguistically homogeneous. The other MULPOCs - the Gisenyi-based, the Yaounde-based and the Tangiers-based - served respectively countries using French and Arabic as official languages or mother tongues.

171. On redeployment, the Executive Secretary reminded the meeting that in many past resolutions, MULPOCs had requested for more resources from ECA. Indeed, it was as a result of such requests that the MULPOCs had got some regular posts from the UN General Assembly. He pointed out that redeployment of staff had been made within the limits of the resources available from that source and bearing in mind the need to avoid jeopardization of the programme of work at the ECA headquarters. Redeployment would continue as and when resources permitted. However, he noted that it had been the understanding that member States would second staff to the MULPOCs from time to time to deal with specific projects which required special expertise.

172. In answer to the question of the role of MULPOCs, the Executive Secretary first noted that as regards the role of MULPOCs in Round Tables, it should be understood that the Round Tables were the responsibility of member States and UNDP. In some cases, ECA provided support during the preparatory stages for the meetings. However, the MULPOCs could play a role in organizing subregional Round Tables as these did not yet exist. He emphasized that it was time to look ahead, and the MULPOC for West Africa which had set up an intergovernmental committee to examine future approaches should be commended. He informed the meeting that after the joint meeting of the subregional intergovernmental organizations scheduled for the period 27-29 April 1987, the secretariat would be able to provide a policy paper on the role of the MULPOCs in the next decade.

173. The Executive Secretary also informed the meeting that discussions were still going on with UNDP regarding the programme of women. It would be only after the finalization of those discussions that the future of the programme would be known. Finally, the Executive Secretary expressed his great satisfaction concerning the decision of North Africa MULPOC to establish a Preferential Trade Area. The ECA was ready to give that decision the necessary priority as it

174. The Committee took notes of the reports from the various MULPOCs Councils of Ministers and adopted draft resolutions 6 (VIII) and 23 (VIII).

Progress report on preparations for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle for Africa (1987-1991) [agenda item 10(b)]

175. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/26: Progress report on preparations for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle for Africa. He recalled that by Commission resolution 586 (XXI), the Executive Secretary had been requested to convene an extraordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers to consider and approve the draft regional programme prepared for the Fourth Programming Cycle before it was submitted to the Governing Council of UNDP in June 1987. That extraordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers had accordingly taken place from 13 to 16 October 1986 in Addis Ababa, and had endorsed the general outline of the Regional Programme. ECA had presented to UNDP 28 subregional and regional projects, 12 of which were new while 16 had been carried over from the third cycle. Confirmation for funding had been received for 17 projects while the others were under consideration. The representative also recalled that the Conference of Ministers at its second extraordinary session requested ECA and UNDP to assist African subregional economic and other integration organizations. In that connection ECA and UNDP had fielded a joint mission to assist subregional economic groupings and river and lake basin organizations to identify and formulate integration projects for funding under the Programme. The findings of the joint mission would be considered at a joint ECA/UNDP/OAU meeting which would be held from 27 to 29 April 1987 in Addis Ababa to which all relevant United Nations institutions and agencies had been invited to participate. The representative of the secretariat concluded his introduction by commending the spirit of co-operation that existed between UNDP and ECA and hoped that that spirit would continue to prevail.

176. In the discussion that followed, several representatives expressed their opinions on the projects of the regional programme for Africa which had been considered under UNDP's Fourth Programming Cycle.

177. Participants deplored the fact that programmes for the integration of women in development had not been maintained by UNDP in its Fourth Programming Cycle. They therefore requested clarification as to why no funds had been allocated to those programmes and asked UNDP to review and reconsider its position in order to take into account a number of ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions and recommendations which specifically asked for everything to be done to mobilize and to release funds for maintaining structure for the integration of women both within ECA and within the MULPOCs.

178. Some delegations proposed that, if necessary, they would intercede with UNDP in order to make it reconsider the decision concerning the granting of funds to the fourth cycle programmes for the integration of women in development.

179. Other delegations sought explanation on the criteria used for determining the subregional projects which had been identified for funding under the regional indicative planning figure (IPF) for the Fourth Programming Cycle. Yet, other delegations felt that the selection of projects for funding under the Fourth Programming Cycle should have taken into account not only the natural disasters of drought and desertification but also those of cyclones which regularly swept over almost every island in the Indian Ocean every year.

180. In his intervention, the observer for UNDP first gave information additional to the presentation made by the representative of ECA secretariat. ECA secretariat had indeed played an important role, without which the efforts of UNDP would have been fruitless, by collaborating with UNDP in the preparation of the orientation paper which formed the basis for the Fourth Programming Cycle. For the first time too, the UNDP Regional Bureau for the Arab States (representing eight ECA member countries) was attending the Meeting of the Committee. He commended the good working relationship existing between ECA and UNDP, in particular with Liaison Office in Addis Ababa. He had been invited to participate personally in the meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development which had met on 10 and 11 April 1987 and had requested UNDP to reconsider its position on the financing

of women's programmes under the Fourth Programming Cycle. He had already transmitted that request to New York. However, it was his opinion that the general debate had given the impression that UNDP had rejected all proposals on women projects. That was not the case. In fact, out of the three projects submitted, two had been retained. He hoped that UNDP would consider sympathetically the representation that had been made to New York.

181. The representative of the UNDP Regional Bureau for the Arab States expressed his gratification at attending the Meeting of the Committee. He underscored the close and harmonious working relationship between his Bureau and that for Africa. On the whole, the same concerns and sectoral projects were on the minds of the members of the Bureau for the Arab States. An intergovernmental meeting of experts was being organized to identify and formulate projects for the Fourth Programming Cycle for the Arab States the recommendations of which would be submitted to the UNDP Governing Council in 1988. His office also had good working relationships with ECA.

182. To conclude, the Chairman of the meeting summed up the positions and the recommendaitons unanimously adopted by participants: the Committee woudl inform the UNDP authorities in New York that during the ECA Conference of Ministers, UNDP should propose workable solutions in terms of their reconsidered opinion on the financing of women's programmes under the Fourth Programming Cycle; the Committee had been deeply disappointed at the state of affairs with respect to the women's programmes and had requested that those programmes should be maintained under the Fourth Programming Cycle; the Committee had noted with satisfaction the hope of the representative of UNDP that his organization would consider sympathetically ARCC's representation to New York.

183. Thereupon, the Committee took note of the Progress report on preparations for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle for Africa (1987-1991).

Request for assistance for the organization of a Symposium on Grass-root Development [agenda item 10 (c)]

184. The representative of the Niger introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/52: Request for assistance for the organization of a symposium on grassroot development. He stated that no effective development could take place without the involvement of the beneficiaries - particularly the villagers in the African context. He pointed out that Africa was faced with several economic and social problems, including the need for policy reforms. Efforts at devising solutions to these problems invariably ignored the input and participation of the average villager whom they were intended to benefit.

185. He informed the Committee that the main purpose of the symposium on grassroot development which his Government was to hold in Niamey from 8 to 14 June 1987 was to arrive at ways and means of involving the people at the grassroot level in formulating measures for short- and long-term economic recovery and development. The general framework of the symposium was to: evaluate the basic development experiences of each participating State; assess the basic development prospects envisaged; develop a framework for designing and implementing established priority programmes; and identify relevant national development policy parameters which focused on grassroot communities as producers and beneficiaries. The specific framework of the symposium was oriented towards new types of development and ways of co-ordination at the local, national, regional and subregional levels. It was open to all African national participants, leading scientists in relevant disciplines, and relevant research institutions. The representative read out a draft resolution for adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

186. Following this presentation, one representative commended the Government of the Niger for the initiative it had taken to organize a symposium of that nature. To the extent that the [illegible] was to examine and advance clear development policies, it was to be seen in the same light as the other

Conferences that were planned for the specific purpose of furthering the goals and objectives of Africa's Priority Programme of Economic Recovery, and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, namely, the Conference on Africa: the challenge of economic recovery and accelerated development, scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 15 to 19 June 1987, and the Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's economic recovery and development, which would be held in Libreville, Gabon, from 12 to 15 October 1987. The representative suggested that there was no need to hold a lengthy debate on the item and accordingly proposed that the Committee should show by acclamation its support for the appeal made by the Government of the Nigei for support in the organization of the symposium and its approval of the proposed resolution (draft resolution 19(VIII).

187. The Committee accepted the proposal.

Issues on social development in Africa (agenda item 11)

Implementation in Africa of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [agenda item 11 (a)]

188. Document E/ECA/CM.13/27 on this sub-item was introduced by the President of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC). She informed the meeting that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had been adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 18 December 1979 and had come into force on 3 September 1981. To date 28 African countries had ratified it. However, as the ECA study had shown, the Convention, in most respects, was not being implemented by member States. Several factors accounted for that situation, including the region's economic crisis and diminished resources, lack of knowledge of the Convention even in national development agencies and institutions, illiteracy among women, the language of the Convention which inhibited wide dissemination, misunderstanding about the Convention and women's rights, and shortage of trained personnel to promote its implementation.

189. The ARCC President noted that despite the tremendous improvements in the situation of African women during the United Nations Decade for Women, the position of women in most societies was still characterized by inequalities and discrimination. Often, even rights guaranteed by constitution or other legislation were abrogated by religious, traditional and customary laws and practices. The greatest problems were encountered in the context of marriage and family life. Thus, throughout Africa there was a divergence between the official profession of equality between the sexes and the social reality of women. The ARCC President further observed that even ECA had failed to achieve the expectations of women since only 6 per cent of its professional staff females as opposed to the 25 per cent recommended by the General Assembly for the entire United Nations Secretariat. She then drew the attention of the Committee to the numerous recommendations contained in the report and urged the members to respond to the call of African women and ensure the widest dissemination and implementation of the Convention.

190. In the ensuing discussion, participants confirmed their earlier position expressing deep concern over the condition of women in Africa and their commitment to take necessary steps to improve that condition. Several participants related the experiences of their countries in implementing the Convention. In that regard, two delegations amended parts of the report dealing with case studies of their countries. The representative of Egypt referred to paragraph 15 and indicated that women had access to all pariamentary seats and were currently occupying more seats than reported. The representative of Rwanda amended paragraphs 49 to 54, indicating that a process was underway to revise the family code whose new draft had eliminated all forms of discrimination against women in marriage and inheritance. In general, the participants made concrete proposals to enhance the implementation of the Convention. Thus, it was proposed that the Convention be recorded for the benefit of illiterate men and women many of whom had access to radio-cassette players. Courts should be set up in the countries to decide on violations of the provisions of the Convention. Participants endorsed the proposal contained in paragraph 59 that the ECA and OAU secretariats should organize seminars on the Convention and the rights of women for judiciary and other official personnel responsible for implementing national instruments of that kind.

191. In response to certain questions raised by participants, a representative of the secretariat explained the basis for the selection of countries for the case studies and urged member States to conduct similar studies. The Executive Secretary underscored the fundamental issue about women and development. He stated that since more than 50 per cent of the African population were females, efforts made to increase women's capacity in political, economic, social and cultural endeavours would significantly enhance overall development in the continent. Change in the status of women had been difficult because of persistent negative traditional practices and customs as well as the inadequacy and inequality in educational opportunities for women. He stressed that the responsibility lay at the national level. Therefore, it was up to the countries to accelerate the process of women's integration and up to the women themselves to step up their efforts. He recalled that when ARCC was established in Rabat in 1979 at the fourteenth session of the Commission, it had been hoped that every national delegation to TEPCOW would have women members and that women would lead some of the delegations. That hope had not materialized even though there were many senior women in most of the relevant ministries.

192. Turning to the situation of women in the United Nations Secretariat, the Executive Secretary admitted that ECA had a low level of representation. However, the situation had been caused by unavailability of qualified women and not by discrimination. Most qualified African women were reluctant to apply for or accept appointment at ECA due to their family obligations. Thus, a lot depended on the women themselves. He hoped that once the current freeze on recruitment had been removed, more women would apply for the available posts. He pointed out, however, that the regular budget posts were subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution which disqualified women from over-represented countries. That situation was unfortunate since it was from the over-represented African countries that qualified women could be found.

193. The Committee took note of the report and made the following recommendations:

(a) Those countries that had not yet signed and/or ratified the Convention should do so;

(b) Countries which had signed and ratified the Convention should disseminate it widely using all suitable means to reach all the people; and

(c) Participants should make a commitment to advise their governments to implement the Convention.

Establishment of a United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders /agenda item 11 (b)/

194. In presenting document E/ECA/CM.13/28: Establishment of a United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, a representative of the secretariat traced the historical background and legislative authorities which had led to the establishment of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Addis Ababa, in August 1978, had adopted a resolution urging «the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take all necessary steps for the creation of the African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders». In July 1979, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Monrovia, had also adopted resolution CM/RES/755(XXXIII) on the establishment of African anti-crime organizations. That resolution was subsequently endorsed by the sixteenth Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government. The ECA Conference of Ministers had itself adopted resolution 392(XV), in April 1980, requesting the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the relevant international and regional organizations, to take all appropriate steps to establish the Institute.

195. The representative of the secretariat highlighted progress made so far in the establishment of the Institute whose operational phase had been launched in January 1987 with ECA secretariat servicing as temporary headquarters. He drew the attention of the Committee to the objectives and functions of the

Institute, and the constitution and functions of the Governing Board as contained in the document. He then called on the Committee to consider the issues of selecting the host-country and the appointment of the Governing Board members. With regard to the first issue, only four countries had responded to ECA's note verbale to member States with two of those expressing regrets and the other two seeking further clarification. With regard to the second, he urged members of the Committee to initiate consultations among themselves with a view to advising the Conference of Ministers on the constitution of the Board.

196. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the Institute and commended ECA for its role particularly in providing temporary secretariat services pending the selection of the host-country. However, two possible problem areas, which could constrain the effectiveness of the Institute, were noted. These were funding of the Institute and the danger of interference in the internal affairs of member States.

197. The Committee noted that the slow response of member States could have resulted from the lack of detailed information on tha nature, scope and impact of the institute. It was further observed that crime and other social evils went hand in hand with the trend of economic conditions and the level of moral and social decadence. Specific suggestions were made with respect to the mobilization of resources; the structure, composition and functions of the Governing Board; and the institutional arrangements and procedures. Efforts should be made to explore various sources of funding in support of the Institute. With regard to the Governing Board, it was suggested that the host-country should be made a member of the Board, the proposed length of service of two years be reviewed, membership be based on a rotational system, and observers, including traditional experts, be allowed to sit in the Board's deliberations from time to time. Regarding institutional arrangements and procedures, it was suggested that national mechanisms should be strengthened, greater collaboration and co-ordination sought between relevant existing national, bilateral and multilateral institutions and measures taken to ensure proper administration and accountability of the Institute's funds.

198. In view of the issues raised and potential problems identified, the Committee agreed that consultations be initiated and appropriate recommendations be made to the Conference of Ministers towards the constitution of the Governing Board, and that the Board, when constituted, should address those

issues and problems raised during the discussion. To this end, the Committee appointed an ad hoc Committee composed of Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, the Niger and Zaire to hold the necessary consultations. It was further agreed that greater publicity on the Institute be made to better assist member States with their decision on hosting the Institute, and that all efforts be made, with the co-operation of the ECA and the international community, to mobilize financial resources.

199. The Committee took note of the report presented to it and adopted draft resolutions 13(VIII) and 21(VIII).

Culture and development in Africa [agenda item 11 (c)]

200. In introducing document E/ECA/CM.13/50: Culture and development in Africa, a representative of the secretariat of OAU thanked, on behalf of the Secretary-General of his organization, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Committee for including the item on the agenda. He underscored the importance of cultural life in the development process and the need to integrate African culture into planning and programming. In that connection, and for the first time, a conference of African Ministers of Culture had been held at Port Louis, Mauritius, in April 1986. That conference had attempted to use cultural approach to understand the African development problems, identify its causes and those aspects of African development policy centred on man. In particular, the Conference had endeavoured to give substance to the Declaration on the Cultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU held in Addis Ababa, in November 1984.

201. He went on to spell out a series of proposals made by the Conference of Ministers of Culture that would help policy analysts and decision-makers to take into account the cultural parameters in development plans, programmes and strategies at both national and subregional levels. In particular, ECA had been requested in close collaboration with UNESCO and OAU to provide assistance to member States in the form of advisory services, organization of seminars and workshops at a rate of two per each geographical subregion of OAU over a period of two years, to establish a monitoring mechanism on the subject, and to contact ADB, EEC, UNDP, UNICEF and WB for the purpose of mobilizing the required financial resources.

202. During the discussion that followed, the view was expressed that many seminars and workshops similar to those proposed by the OAU secretariat had been organized in the past. However, their outcomes were below expectations specially in terms of evolving the developmental approaches which took into account the objectives and needs of beneficiaries and ensuring their effective participation at all stages of development. It was felt, that ways and means should be found to ensure the effective participation of beneficiaries of development in the planned seminars and workshops along with all interested national, regional and international institutions.

203. Caution was, however expressed against optimism in getting substantial results using the approach laid down in the OAU paper, since those who would be in charge of integrating cultural values into the planning process were likely to reject the values.

204. In response to questions, the representative of the OAU secretariat acknowledged that numerous seminars and workshops had been held on the subject but in the past had mainly been restricted to specialists of culture. In order to increase the chance of taking into account cultural parameters in the development process, he agreed that it was imperative to include development specialists, beneficiaries as well as cultural experts as participants in future seminars and workshops.

205. After expressing his gratitude to the Secretary-General of OAU for taking the initiative to include the item in the agenda of the Committee, the Executive Secretary underscored the importance of culture in the development process. He acknowledged that economists tended to focus on quantitative parameters and thereby ignored the social and cultural aspects of development. He added that it was gratifying to note that the secretariat of OAU was actively engaged in assisting member States to integrate cultural dimensions into the development process and assured the representative of OAU of the support and collaboration of ECA in that undertaking.

206. The observer for UNESCO expressed the satisfaction of his organization at the inclusion of the subject in the agenda of the Committee. He recalled the main features of the Proclamation of the World Decade for Cultural Development and indicated that during the biennium 1988-1989, his organization would concentrate its efforts on inter-sectoral pilot projects within the context of the 14 major programmes of the Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989).

207. He pointed out that co-operation between OAU and UNESCO in the field of culture and started in a more systematic manner in 1980. Assistance was provided by his organization to strengthen the capability of OAU in the area of culture. He reiterated the commitment of UNESCO to fully co-operate with the secretariats of OAU and ECA in the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD in general and, in particular, the need to integrate the socio-cultural parameters in the planning and development of the rural sectors.

208. The Chairman stressed the importance of culture in development and urged the secretariats of OAU, UNESCO and ECA to intensify their efforts in helping member States to integrate cultural values in the development process through the organization of seminars and the provision of assistance towards the implementation of the recommendations.

209. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.13/50 and adopted draft resolution 20(VIII).

Progress report on the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) [agenda item 12 (a)]

210. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/29, Add.1 and Add.2: Progress report on the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). He reported on the activities of the secretariat in response to ECA resolution 585(XXI) operative paragraphs 2 and 3 which called upon the Executive Secretary of ECA in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to prepare a draft constitution for ACMAD and to seek financial support from the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and bilateral and multilateral donors. He then reported on inter-agency expert consultations, at which the draft constitution, draft host agreement, criteria for hosting the Centre, technical details of the full-scale project documents to establish the centre, and the financing of the centre by member States and donors were considered. The details were subsequently examined by the WMO Regional Association I (Africa) and the ECA Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment at its fourth meeting, from 9 to 13 February 1987, whose recommendations were before the Committee.

211. He pointed out that the tasks before the Committee were fourfold: first, to examine the draft constitution and make recommendations; second, to decide on the location of the centre on the basis of the technical criteria presented in document E/ECA/CM.13/29 Add.1; third, to examine and decide on the proposed organizational structure of the Centre; and fourth to review the financing requirements of the Centre and take the necessary decisions. He drew the attention of the Committee to Add.2 of the document which focused on the financial implications of the Centre. In conclusion, he outlined the benefits to be derived from the Centre.

212. The observer from WMO complemented the details provided by the ECA secretariat. Noting that the decision to establish the Centre had its origin in the drought experienced by the African countries in the early 1980s, he appealed to member States to give the establishment of the Centre the urgency it deserved. In particular, he appealed for consensus concerning the location and constitution of the centre, as well as on the need to avoid duplication of efforts, and underscored the financial obligations of member States. Finally, he expressed his organization's appreciation for the excellent and rewarding collaboration between ECA and WMO.

213. In the ensuing discussion, one representative proposed that on account of the inadequacy of information and of the complexity of the subject, the Committee should examine the issues under six headings namely, (a) financing of the Centre; (b) technical equipment; (c) composition of the Governing Council; (d) contribution scales; (e) the draft constitution and (f) the choice of the host country. The Committee accepted that proposal as well as a proposal to establish a working group to look into the issues. The Committee decided however that it would review all the issues in plenary first, before they were considered by the working group.

(a) Financing of the Centre

214. A desire was expressed for the establishment of an effective and lasting Centre and representatives agreed that the financing of the Centre should be taken up by all member States of the Commission, especially as meteorology knew no borders.

215. One representative expressed caution over the establishment of the Centre in the light of the financial difficulties facing other subregional institutions and also because only 18 member States had so far agreed to provide financial support to the Centre. Another representative also expressed concern over UNDP's failure to assure support for the Centre, and requested ECA to examine the financial aspects of the Centre fully.

(b) Technical equipment

216. Representatives felt that the information provided in the documents on available technical equipment was not sufficient for informed decision-making.

217. The observer of ICAO expressed his organization's interest in the Centre and its activities particularly in the area of forecasting systems in which his organization had complementary activities.

(c) Composition of the Governing Council

218. Representatives stated that the guiding principle for the composition of the Governing Council should be representation of each subregion. Some delegates stressed the regional peculiarities of the continent, and drew attention to the special problems of island countries and proposed that seven subregional groups should be used, as was done in document E/ECA/CM.1/1 (March 1986) which was prepared for the first extraordinary meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers on the African economic crisis.

219. Representatives also proposed that the Economic Commission for Africa should be a full member of the Governing Council.

(d) Contribution scales

220. Representatives did not specifically address this item.

(e) The draft constitution

221. One representative wondered whether the secretariat had submitted the draft constitution to member States in advance, and if not, he wondered how representatives could usefully discuss articles 5, 8, 9, and 12 of the draft. Other representatives proposed the following revisions to the draft constitution

- Article 2, para. 2a: to be revised to read «Strengthen the capabilities of national meteorological services in the application and use of

- Article 2 para. 2 should further be revised to include the concerns of island countries, in particular early warning systems for cyclones;
- Article 5, para. 2a: should be revised to provide for the representation of the Economic Commission for Africa by the Executive Secretary after the initial phase when the Chairman should have been elected;
- Article 9: should be revised to state the obligations of the Centre to member States so as to safeguard the interests of member States, and an additional clause should be added to read «The centre should make its services freely accessible to all member States»;
- The title of the Centre's Chief Executive Office should be made uniform instead of the different titles of Director General, Executive Director and Director.

(f) Choice of the host country

222. Representatives of some of the prospective host countries pointed out the special facilities and advantages their countries had to offer.

223. Several representatives reiterated that the technical criteria presented in the main document and the operational availability of the technical facilities should guide the location of the Centre. It was also argued that the objectives should be linked with the location of the Centre, but representatives had differing opinions on this. Other factors suggested for serious consideration in the location of the Centre were, the availability of a critical mass of scientific community and the degree of commitment of the prospective host country. It was also suggested that the various criteria should be weighted and a dispassionate analysis made to determine the host country. Since the issues were complex, some representatives pointed to the need to postpone the discussions to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

224. In his intervention, the Executive Secretary emphasized the need to reach a decision, and informed the Committee of a telex from the Secretary-General of WMO who urged the Committee to reach a decision on the issues before it, particularly the issues of location and of the the constitution of the Centre. The Executive Secretary stressed that the Committee should adopt the constitution and decide on the location of the Centre.

225. The Committee then decided to establish a Working Group to look into the issues before it. The Working Group was constituted as follows:

Region	Country representing region
1. Southern Africa	Lesotho (Chairman)
2. West Africa	Senegal
3. Central Africa	Zaire (Rapporteur)
4. North Africa	Libya
5. East Africa	Ethiopia

226. The Committee decided that ECA and WMO would be members of the Working Group and would provide additional information as required. Potential host countries were also called upon to provide all the information which the group would require in its work.

227. The Working Group was called upon to look into the special concerns of the island countries, in addition to all the other issues raised by participants in plenary.

228. The Chairman of the Working Group subsequently submitted the report of the Group together with the revised draft constitution of the Centre which are attached to the present report as annex V and Addendum respectively.

229. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.13/29, Add.1 and Add.2, and adopted the report of the Working Group as well as the revised constitution for the consideration of the Conference of Ministers.

Drought and desertification in Africa [agenda item 12 (b)]

230. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that this sub-item had been proposed for inclusion in the agenda by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). Since UNSO was not represented at the meeting he suggested that the agenda item be deleted. The item was accordingly deleted from the agenda.

Report on the International Scientific Conference on the Lake Nyos Disaster /agenda item 12 (c)/

231. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/CM.13/34: Report on the International Scientific Conference on the Lake Nyos Disaster. He explained the objective of the Conference and drew the attention of the meeting to its conclusions and recommendations which were directed at the Government of Cameroon and to all other countries which were prone to such disasters. He said that the Conference had based its assessment on geological observations, detailed analysis of water samples, and on medical examination of victims and survivors. He pointed out that the Conference had ample information on the cause of deaths, but could not agree on the causes and mechanism of the gas eruption. The first theory attributed the immediate cause of the disaster to rapid degassing of carbon dioxide from the lake water. The second hypothesis postulated the injection of gases from levels beneath the lake floor due to volcanic activity. He concluded by stressing the need for disaster preparedness and planning as outlined in the report.

232. The Chairman highly commended all the parties who were involved in organizing the Conference and urged them to continue their support to the efforts of the Government of Cameroon in establishing monitoring, prediction and public warning systems and emergency preparedness.

233. The representative of Cameroon reiterated the Chairman's observations and expressed the gratitude of the Government of Cameroon for the assistance ECA, UNDP and UNESCO as well as other organizations had provided in the organization of the Conference and to all members of the international community who came to Cameroon's aid during the disaster.

Trade and Development: Addis Ababa Declaration of African Ministers Responsible for Trade and Development Preparatory to UNCTAD VII (agenda item 13)

234. Document E/ECA/CM.13/47: Trade and Development: Addis Ababa Declaration of African Ministers Responsible for Trade and Development Preparatory to UNCTAD VII was presented by the representative of Senegal in that country's capacity as Chairman of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 16 to 18 March 1987. He said that the objectives of the

Declaration adopted by that Conference were to introduce into the negotiating platform of the Group of 77 those measures adopted by the international community in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development which had to be implemented by UNCTAD and to pursue that objective by considering, to the extent feasible, the common interests of the African countries and the Group of 77. The programme had before it two basic documents namely the Report of the Preparatory Committee of the Group of 77, and Economic Recovery, Growth and Development in Africa: Proposals for UNCTAD VII which had been prepared by ECA.

235. With regard to the Declaration, the representative of Senegal said that it was an analysis of, and proposals concerning, the various items on the agenda for UNCTAD VII against the background of Africa's critical economic situation, the collapse of commodity prices, the decline in aid flows to Africa, the growing debt burden, international trade barriers, and the untenable situation of African least developed countries. Specifically, the Declaration appealed for an increase in development resources by raising the quantum of such resources flowing to African countries in line with the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. It also called for the formulation of a growth strategy to meet the debt and development crisis and implemented on the basis of shared responsibility, political dialogue and co-ordination of the activities of all the parties involved. Commodity prices needed to be stabilized and marketing arrangements strengthened. Those countries which had not yet done so should ratify the agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities. Technical and financial support to developing countries needed to be strengthened in the areas of industrial processing, marketing, distribution and transport. Compensatory financing should be made available to offset revenue deficits while access to developed country markets should be substantially facilitated and exports diversified. A coherent global and universal framework needed to be developed for analysing the world trade situation and trends and for taking practical action to do away with protectionism and trade barriers. African countries should be given increased technical and financial assistance in order to boost their trade promotion activities. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development needed to be effectively implemented with particular regard to African LDCs. UNCTAD resolution 165(S-IX) should be implemented, provision made for balance-of-payments support, and a mechanism set up to compensate in full the export revenue deficits of

236. The Committee took note of the document.

Reports from the subsidiary organs of the Commission (agenda item 14)

Reports on the second meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks on the African Monetary Fund /agenda item 14 (a)/

237. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/30 - report on the second meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks on the African Monetary Fund. He recalled that at the seventh meeting of the Committee, the secretariat had reported that the Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks were scheduled to meet to consider some issues which were still outstanding with regard to the establishment of an African Monetary Fund. Those issues included: (a) membership in the Fund; (b) whether or not to open the capital of the Fund to external participation and if so in what proportion; (c) whether or not payments of subscriptions by regional member States should be made in both convertible and national currencies and if so in what proportion; and (d) the size of the board of executive directors of the Fund and whether or not they should be resident at the principal offices of the Fund from the date of commencement of its operations.

238. He informed the Committee that the said meeting of Ministers of Finance took place in Libreville, Gabon, from 18 to 21 June 1986. However, the meeting had been unable to resolve the outstanding issues and had as a consequence, decided to set up an ad hoc committee now known as the "Committee of Libreville" to examine those issues. The members of the Committee were Gabon, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. There was however, no quorum at the last meeting of the Committee. It had therefore been decided to adopt an interim report of the Committee and to meet again in Cairo in June 1987, during the ADB annual meetings. As such, the outstanding issues on the African Monetory Fund still remained unresolved.

239. The representative referred to paragraph 6 of the document and proposed that the secretariat should include the new approach which Africa had adopted to deal with the debt problem. The chairman suggested that since the report was on a ministerial meeting, the Committee should take note of it and transmit it to the Conference of Ministers. It was so decided.

Report of the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries /agenda item 14 (b)/

240. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania in his capacity as Chairman of the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/31, the report of the meeting, which was held from 9 to 11 April 1987.

241. He said that the meeting had reviewed the economic and social situation in the African Least developed countries during the 1985-1986 period, and the progress made in implementing the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least developed countries in the 1980s in the light of the constant decrease in bilateral and multilateral aid flows and other international support measures in favour of the least developed countries. It had also assessed the impact of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes on the long-term growth and development of African least developed countries; and examined ECA activities in 1985-1986 and those programmed for the 1986-1987 biennium.

242. The review of macro-economic trends in African least developed countries during the 1985-1986 biennium had showed that there had been a rise in GDP in real terms of 0.7 per cent in 1985 and 4.2 per cent in 1986 which implied a decline in per capita GDP of 1.9 per cent in 1985 and a recovery of 1.6 per cent in 1986. The rural sector's growth rate had increased from 2.2 per cent in 1985 to 3,4 in 1986 mainly as a result of abundant rainfall which had improved overall agricultural performance. The overall budget deficit had widened by 55.9 per cent in 1986 as against 2.3 per cent in 1985 while the external public debt had risen from $US 28 billion in 1985 to $US 30 billion in 1986. African least developed countries had made considerable efforts to redress their economies within or without adjustment and stabilization programmes supported by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

243. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania underscored the crucial role that ECA had played in assisting the African least developed countries during 1985-1986 and in particular commended the study undertaken by the secretariat on the impact of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes on the long-term growth and development of African least developed countries. He finally called upon the Committee to support the recommendations

and resolutions adopted by the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African least developed countries and stressed the need for the establishment of an inter-agency committee at the regional level for co-ordinating the mobilization and more efficient use of the human and financial resources of African least developed countries.

244. The Committee took note of the report endorsed the recommendations contained therein and adopted draft resolution 7 (VIII).

Report and decisions of the seventh Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions and Report of the meeting of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Institutions and ECA Chiefs of Divisions and project officers /agenda item 14 (c)/

245. A represnetative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/32: Report and decisions of the seventh Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional Institutions. He informed the Committee that the Conference was held from 24 to 27 January 1987 at Tripoli, the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The objective of the Conference was to consider the role of the ECA-sponsored institutions in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. The Conference also considered the UNDP Fourth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa and how the institutions could benefit from it.

246. He informed the Committee that the Conference also considered and made recommendations on the following important issues: relations between ECA secretariat and the ECA-sponsored institutions; host governments and ECA-sponsored institutions; member States and ECA-sponsored institutions; relations between ECA-sponsored and other institutions; donor and ECA-sponsored institutions; institutional development; and harmonization and standardization of documentation.

247.. With regard to document E/ECA/CM.13/32 Add.1: Report of the meeting of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored institutions and ECA Chiefs of Divisions and project officers, the representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that a successful meeting of the ECA-sponsored institutions with ECA Chief of Divisions and project officers was held from 28 February to 1 March 1987 at Nazareth, Ethiopia. He pointed out that frank discussion at the meeting had enabled consensus on activities of commun interest for Africa's economic development

248. The Committee observed that these were internal ECA meetings aimed at strengthening the working relations between ECA and her sponsored institutions, as well as harmonizing and standardizing their documentation, and took note of the reports.

Report of the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment /agenda item 14 (d)/

249. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/CM.13/33: Report of the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlments and Environment. He indicated that the Joint Intergovernmental Committee which met in Addis Ababa in February 1987, had conducted its meeting in plenary and through two working groups; one on human settlements and the other on environmental issues. The working group on human settlemts had focused its discussions on human settlements planning, development of building materials industries, popular participation in housing schemes and co-operation between ECA and other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system. The working group on environment had concentrated on the progress and constraints in the implementation of ECA resolutions 446(XVII) on combating desertification in Africa, 474(XVIII) on the strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters, and 585(XXI) on the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD); prevention of encroachment on arable land in Africa; and developing national environmental standards and environmental training capabilities in Africa.

250. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the resolution adopted by the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on human settlements which dealt specifically with land development policies in Africa, policies and programmes on human settlements, the development of the building sector, and training in the field of human settlements in Africa. The Committee's attention was drawn to the recommendations made by the meeting on environmental matters.

251. The Committee took note of the report, adopted draft resolution 8(VIII) on human settlements and endorsed the recommendations on environment contained in the report.

Report of the third meeting of the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa, and the Harare Statement on the Role of Africa's Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa's Economic Recovery and Development /agenda item 14 (e)/

252. In introducing this item, a representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the third meeting of the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa the report of which was contained in document E/ECA/CM.13/48 had taken place against the backdrop of significant developments in the formulation of development policies and strategies in Africa and had had as its theme, "The Future of Higher Education in Africa and Africa's Long-term Development Problems - 1988-2008". The meeting had accordingly deliberated on Africa's short-, medium- and long-term development problems and the role institutions of higher learning could and should play in facilitating the implementation of measures to deal with the problems within the framework of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD).

253. He said that the Conference gave specific consideration to issues related to science and technology; economic and financial management, including debt management; agricultural rehabilitation and development, including soil and water conservation, drought and desertification control, the production of agriculture inputs, tools and equipment; etc.; and how these could influence the orientation of the research, teaching and consultancy programmes of those institutions. Due consideration was also given to the need for the building of bridges between institutions of higher learning and their governments and commities as well as the need for creating mechanisms to ensure a continuous dialogue in meeting Africa's medium- and long-term development needs.

254. The representative of the secretariat also drew the attention of the Committee of the Harare statement on the role of Africa's institutions of higher learning in Africa's economic recovery and development together with the associated resolution which had been adopted by the said meeting. He underscored the important role to be played by African Heads of State and Government at

national, subregional, regional and continental levels so as to make the contribution of higher institutions of learning to Africa's development more effective and requested the Committee to endorse and submit those documents to the Conference of Ministers.

255. During the discussion that followed, one representative commended the secretariat and urged that effective ways and means should be found to strike the necessary balance between research findings and the development and testing of prototypes and marketable products on the basis of those findings. He observed that by striking such a balance, the recommendation on the intensification of research activities would better attract the support of industrialists and thereby make the recommendations more practical and meaningful.

256. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the report particularly since it was a clear indication that Heads of African institutions of higher learning were following the wave of events in Africa. The importance of the mobilization and development of high level human resources for development was also noted, and the need for the collection, centralization and wider dissemination of information and research findings emphasized.

257. The Committee took note of the report and requested ECA to intensify efforts in consolidating and operationalizing the role of African institutions of higher learning in Africa's development process. It also adopted draft resolution 26(VIII).

Report of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade /agenda item 14 (f)/

258. The representative of Sierra Leone whose country was the Chairman of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade which had taken place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 1987, introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/35 which contained the report of that meeting. He drew the attention of the Committee to two errors in the report which should be corrected by (a) deleting the words "joint ECA/OAU" from the title on the cover page; and (b) inserting the word "trade" in the first sentence of paragraph 23 after the words "Ministers of" and replacing the word "took" by "take" in the same paragraph.

259. The ninth had reviewed recent trends in Africa's trade relations and Africa's submission to UNCTAD VII, made appropriate recommendations and adopted three resolutions. With regard to the contribution of domestic and intra-African trade to Africa's economic growth and development, the Conference had reiterated the fundamental importance of domestic trade, identified a series of constraints hindering the development of intra-African trade and made proposals to alleviate them. As for the proclamation of 1988-1998 as the United Nations Decade for Domestic and Intra-African Trade, the Conference had felt that it would be more appropriate to work towards the implementation of the various decisions that had been taken by African Heads of State and Government with respect to the development of domestic and intra-African trade than to observe a Decade.

260. With regard to the problems of African land-locked and island countries, the ninth meeting had noted with appreciation the initiative taken by the OAU Secretariat to present a document on such an important subject and acknowledged that the paper was essentially a preliminary one with a lot of gaps to be filled. In that connection, the ninth meeting had adopted a series of decisions which are contained in paragraph 41 of document E(ECA/CM.13/35.

261. In its consideration of some of the recent developments in the area of market research and trade promotion and the efforts made by some African countries as well as those by ECA to implement the decisions of the eighth meeting of the Conference, the ninth meeting adopted a series of decisions which are also contained in paragraph 46 of the document.

262. Concerning the All-Africa Trade Fair, the ninth meeting had adopted a resolution which was in two parts - Part I was devoted to the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair in which the Secretary-General of OAU was requested to transmit a special message of congratulation and thanks to the President of the Republic of Togo and the Government and people of Togo for the exceptional efforts deployed to make the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair a success. Part II, on the Fifth All-Trade Fair, dealt with the composition of the organizing committee and its terms of reference. The meeting had also adopted a resolution on the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) to assist it in its efforts to mobilize the financial resources required for its proper functioning.

263. The meeting specifically stressed the generally disappointing performance in Africa's external trade relations and had made proposals to reverse those trends. It had in particular, urged African countries that had not yet done so, to sign and/or ratify the agreement on the Common Fund for commodities under UNCTAD in order to make it operational without any further delay and adopted a resolution on Africa's trade with socialist countries of Eastern Europe. With regard to Transnational Corporations, the meeting had adopted a series of actions intended to enhance their contribution towards domestic and intra-African trade.

264. Lastly, the Conference decided that its next meeting would take place in March 1989.

265. The Committee took note of the document E/ECA/CM.13/35 with reservations made by the representative of Morocco and endorsed draft resolutions 3(VIII), 4(VIII) and 5(VIII).

Report of the eighth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for tye Integration of Women in Development /agenda item 14 (g)/

266. The Chairperson of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) for the integration of women in development presented document E/ECA/CM.13/36 - Report of the eighth meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development. She stated that 13 of the 15 ARCC member States had attended the meeting and that Ethiopia, the Congo, the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania had attended the meeting as observers.

267. The ARCC meeting had before it four agenda items, two of which, namely: the report on the status of women's projects under the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle, and the report on the implementation of the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the present meeting of TEPCOW had considered at great length under agenda items 10 (b) and 11 (a) respectively. The chairperson drew the attention of TEPCOW to (i) the memorandum from the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) for the integration of women in development to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA and to UNDP; and to

(ii) the resolution of the eighth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development. The other two agenda items included the reports on the ECA work programme for women and on planning for women in the United Nations.

268. She reported that two main problems had been experienced. The first was the financial constraints as already discussed by TEPCOW and the second was lack of communication between the Africa Training and Research Centre for Women and the MULPOCs. ATRCW had been requested to look into the second problem and have it resolved.

269. In the ensuing discussion the representative of Gabon apologized for arriving late for the meeting of TEPCOW, otherwise he could have made the observation he wanted to make at the time the subject was discussed by TEPCOW. He then informed the Committee that the part of the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women related to his country, was 80 per cent wrong and requested the secretariat to correct it.

270. The Committee observed that such reports were often prepared with information from member States, and requested the secretariat to ensure that corrections suggested were made to the report.

271. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.13/36 and adopted draft resolution 9(VIII).

Report of the third meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) /agenda item 14 (h)/

272. The Chairman of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/37 which contained the report of the third meeting of that Committee held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 April 1987. That meeting had considered progress made in implementing the PADIS programme; a report on the financing of PADIS; reports from Subregional Committees and United Nations bodies and agencies concerned with information systems; the PADIS strategies for the period 1987-1991 and work plan for 1987-1988; and the PADIS Medium-term Plan for the period 1990-1995.

273. The Committee was informed about the point to point data transmission link established between PADIS and the OAU secretariat, allowing direct access to data bases. The Committee was informed that a project for $US 3,675,000 had been submitted to UNDP for the 1987-1991 period. Pending final approval, an advance authorization for $US 363,000 for six months had been authorized. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States had also approved a project on PADIS activities in North Africa under a UNESCO project. The Committee was also informed about the decision taken by the meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the Gisenyi and Yaounde MULPOC member States on the establishment of a Central African Documentation and Information System (CADIS), and the acceptance of the Government of Zaire to host the centre and bear its investment and start-up costs. The headquarter's agreement of the Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System (ESADIS) had also been signed between ECA and the Government of Zambia.

274. The Regional Technical Committee had decided to undertake a study on the future of PADIS particularly, in the context of assured source of funding. At the end of its third meeting, the Committee had adopted two recommendations on (i) the study on the future of PADIS; and (ii) the establishment of subregional centres for Central and West Africa.

275. The Committee took note of the report and adopted draft resolution 12(VIII).

Report of the second extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) /agenda item 14 (i)/

276. This item which was not on the agenda adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meeting was brought to the Committee as a result of the extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council of the Institute.

277. The Chairman of the extraordinary meeting of IDEP introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/56 containing the report of the second extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council of the Institute which was held at Addis Ababa on 14 April 1987. The extraordinary meeting had been convened to consider the report of the evaluation mission which had been mounted by the Governing Council at its previous ordinary meeting. The Chairman recalled the tasks of the mission

which had been to assess the extent to which IDEP had met the objectives assigned to it, to evaluate the impact of UNDP assistance so as to provide guidelines for IDEP in the future with regard to its objectives and means of implementing them and to examine IDEP's relations with member States, UNDP and ECA. The major conclusions of the mission had been that the raison d'être of IDEP was then as valid as it had been at the time of its establishment. The training programme had been very significant and unique being focused on African co-operation and economic integration. With regard to the future orientation of IDEP, the mission had recommended that it should not only continue its training programme but it should also improve its research, advisory and consultancy activities so as to be in the forefront of socio-economic research in Africa. On management, the mission had recommended that IDEP should take necessary measures to reduce some of its current expenditures especially on items such as support personnel and interpretation services. It had also been recommended that ECA staff working at IDEP on secondment should be transfered to the institutes with their posts. In view of the dwindling contributions of member States, a campaign should be mounted to sensitize member States on the role and importance of IDEP and to urge them to pay their contributions. Some IDEP posts should also be funded from the United Nations regular budget and the United Nations specialized agencies should second staff to IDEP.

278. The Committee took note of the report.

Follow-up on resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly that are of interest to Africa (agenda item 15)

Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-first session of the Commission and the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers /agenda item 15 (a)/

Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its second session of 1986 and by the General Assembly at its forty-first session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa /agenda item 15 (b)/

279. In presenting documents E/ECA/CM.13/46 and E/ECA/CM,13/38 which were reports on follow-up action on relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the twenty-first session of the Commission, and by ECOSOC at its second regular session of

1986 and by the General Assembly at its forty-first session respectively, a representative of the secretariat said that the twenty-first session of the Commission had adopted 26 resolutions embracing most of the socio-economic development sector of the African region. Three of those resolutions namely: 563 (XXI) on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, 564 (XXI) on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and 582 (XXI) on the review of the Proposed Programme Budget for the 1986-1987 biennium.

280. The representative of the secretariat went on to state that following the statement made at the 1986 second regular session of ECOSOC by the Executive Secretary of ECA, and the ensuing debate, resolutions 563 (XXI) and 582 (XXI) had been unanimously adopted. The delegation of the United States of America, supported by some industrialized countries, had strongly opposed paragraph 10 of resolution 564 (XXI) which had financial implications. The resolution had therefore been adopted in an amended form. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors of interest to Africa related to the assistance to be provided to some African countries with special problems. Note had been taken of the decisions relating to countries affected by drought and desertification in Africa, the report of the Secretary-General on the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Report on the special problems of Zaire with regard to transport. Note had also been taken of the resolution on special assistance to the Front-line States.

281. In conclusion, the representative of the secretariat recalled that in view of budgetary constraints and the fact that the major donor countries were becoming increasingly reluctant to adopt resolutions with financial implications, it would be advisable to exercise maximum restraint in forwarding such resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly.

282. The Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) took note of both reports.

In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields: Decision 1987/112 adopted by ECOSOC at its fourth meeting on 6 February 1987 /agendat item 15 (c)/

283. The Executive Secretary introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/54: In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structures and functions in the economic and social fields: Decision 1987/112 adopted by the Economic and Social Council

at its fourth meeting on 6 February 1987. He first pointed out that the document was very important because it dealt with the future of the Commission in the framework of the ongoing exercise within the United Nation system to streamline the system's activities.

284. He informed the Committee that the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts which had been set up in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly to review the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations had submitted its report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session in 1986. The General Assembly had subsequently requested ECOSOC to carry out the in-depth study on the structure and functions of the organization that had been recommended by the Group. ECOSOC had, in its resolution 1987/112, decided to establish a special commission of the Council to carry out the study and had requested all its subsidiary bodies and those of the General Assembly in the economic and social fields to submit within 30 days of the conclusion of their sessions their proposals regarding their functioning, including duration of meetings, documentation, etc.

285. The Executive Secretary recalled that ECA had always reviewed its own structure on its own initiative. For example, in 1979 the Commission had established the present structure including TEPCOW which along with the Conference of Ministers itself were to meet every year instead of every other year on an experimental basis. The decision on annual meeting was dictated by the force of circumstances since upto that year the Conference of Ministers had been meeting every other year.

286. Against that background, the Executive Secretary outlined the proposals he was bringing before the Committee for consideration. Those proposals were contained in detail in paragraphs 44 to 53 of the document. Firstly, in view of the role of the Conference of Ministers of economic development and planning the Commission vis-à-vis the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, the General Assembly and ECOSOC which met annually and whose work and decisions were of direct concern to the Commission and the fact that the implementation of UN-PAAERD required very close review and monitoring, he was proposing that it and TEPCOW should continue to meet annually. However, the proposal should be subject to review in 1992. Secondly, following the initiative taken by the West African MULPOC, he was proposing that the meetings of all the MULPOCs should henceforth take place every other year. In the inter-sessional year a small

287. Thirdly, the Executive Secretary recalled the circumstances that had led to the institution of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Develped Countries (LDCs). These included, inter alia, the need, in 1980, to bring all African LDCs together for the preparation of the 1981 Paris Conference. He, however, noted that over the years, the number and level of participation had tended to deteriorate. He also pointed to the financial burden annual meetings had imposed on the least developed countries to attend the meetings. He was therefore, proposing that the Conference of Ministers of African least developed countries and its technical committee be abolished. However, an item on the special problems of the African least developed countries would be put on the agenda of annual sessions of the Commission. A sub-committee on the African LDCs could always be established during the meetings of TEPCOW or the Conference of Ministers to look into the special problems of the LDCs and report back to TEPCOW or the Conference of Ministers.

288. Fourthly, the sectoral Conferences of Ministers which were in three principal groups: those established by the Commission and serviced wholly by its secretariat; those created by other organs and serviced jointly by the secretariat with the secretariats of those organs; and those created by the Commission and serviced in collaboration with the secretariat of other organs, could in general be maintained as they have been. The sectoral meetings wholly serviced by the ECA secretariat would maintain their respective frequency of meetings in view of the General Assembly request for reporting and mandates. However, such meetings should not take longer than six days. The last category of subsidiary bodies of the Commission - the technical subsidiary bodies should be allowed to remain as they were. Moreover, since the majority of them already met every other year, they should all henceforth meet every other year. However, in view of the Committee's own expressions, perhaps, the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the integration of women in development should continue to meet annually.

289. Finally, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the proposals he had submitted were generally similar to those that the other regional commissions had submitted or would submit to their respective legislative organs. In that connection, he informed the Committee that the subject was one of the issues discussed at the meeting of the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions which took place in February 1987 in Bangkok, Thailand.

290. During the discussion that followed, many representatives expressed their general and in some cases unconditional support of the proposals made. The representatives considered the various recommendations as having a basic rationale. However, some representatives expressed the wish to see the duration and the number of documents for the Conference of Ministers of planning reduced. A representative proposed that the duration of ECA Conference of Ministers could be reduced to a maximum of two days. In support of that proposal, another representative pointed out that some ministerial meetings in other regions of the world took one day and, yet, very important decisions were usually reached. The need to reduce the agenda of the ECA meetings was also stressed. The agenda could focus on the most pressing issues and thereby enable reduction in time and costs. There was perhaps a need to do away with the general debate. It was argued that austerity measures which were also being implemented at the national level had to be supported by the United Nations system. Constructive proposals to reduce costs as those made by the Executive Secretary had to be supported. As a result, some representatives urged the Committee to adopt the proposals in their totality as they were quite pertinent.

291. With respect to the frequency of the MULPOC's meetings, a representative noted that the MULPOCs worked a lot with subregional economic groupings which often had to convene even two meetings annually. Thus, given the need for close co-operation between those organizations and the MULPOCs, it was perhaps, necessary to continue with the annual meetings for the MULPOCs. In that connection, another representative pointed out that some of the different MULPOCs had already reached a decision to hold biennial meetings. A representative requested the ECA secretariat to ensure that the MULPOCs had close contact with members so that they could help in policy analysis and implementation at the national level.

292. Some representatives discussed the question of the meetings of African least developed countries. A representative noted that since these meetings were held two days before the meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers, they could still be continued as the question of two days per diem was not

particularly significant as compared to the travel costs which they would have to pay any way so as to participate in the meetings of the Conference of Ministers. Another representative emphasized the fact that the meetings of the LDCs should be continued for some time. If the experiment did not prove to be particularly useful it could be done away with. Other representatives, however, felt that the meetings of the LDCs could be abolished.

293. Other representatives pointed to the fact that the various organs could still organize urgent and extraordinary meetings on specific pressing issues such as the debt if the need became necessary. The proposals made did not preclude such possibility.

294. The Executive Secretary responded by expressing appreciation for the understanding of the Committee regarding the proposals made. He stressed that in the prevailing circumstances, there was need for being innovative. He noted that TEPCOW and the ECA Conference of Ministers had always examined and streamlined the activities of the Commission.

295. On the proposals for reducing the duration of the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, he pointed out that the secretariat was not really free to determine the agenda of those meetings. Often, the Conference of Ministers itself, the Heads of State and Government of OAU, ECOSOC and the General Assembly requested for reporting of activities. As such, the agenda was almost predetermined. Also, in accordance with the rules and procedures of ECA, member States could request for items to be put on the agenda. Regarding the proposal to do away with the general debate of the ECA Conference of Ministers, he noted that often country delegations asked for it. He indeed thought that it was important and useful as a dialogue was part and parcel of the countries' participation in international fora. Regarding the duration of the meetings of the Conference of Ministers, the Executive Secretary recalled that the second extraordinary session which was scheduled for three days in 1986 actually took four days. Even then, there were some complaints that the meeting had been too compressed.

296. On the MULPOCs meetings the Executive Secretary noted that mechanisms for dealing with the affairs of the MULPOCs in inter-sessional years had been established. In addition, there were no provisions which prevented extraordinary meetings to be convened.

297. Finally, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that ECA was different from the various specialized agencies of the United Nations. Unlike those agencies, ECA was multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary. As such it could not just focus on one sector. Indeed, planning had to do with linking sectors and had as a consequence, to ensure inter-sectoral coherence.

298. The Committee endorsed the proposals as presented for submission to the Conference of Ministers for approval and adopted draft resolution 15 (VIII).

Programme of work and priorities of the Commission (agenda item 16)

Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987 /agenda item 16 (a)/

Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989 /agenda item 16 (b)/

299. These two sub-items were presented together because of the intimate linkage between them; the former providing background for the discussion of the latter.

300. Introducing documents E/ECA/CM.13/39: Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987 and E/ECA/CM.13/40: Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989, a representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the first document (E/ECA/CM.13/39) was an assessment of how the 1986-1987 biennium work programme and priorities were being implemented against the background of the changes which had occured since its adoption in 1985, especially the financial crisis affecting the Organization. The report contained 15 programmes and showed the number of outputs implemented as formulated, reformulated but implemented, terminated, postponed or deferred for one reason or the other. In that connection, apart from the information on performance which should help the Committee to take decision on the possibilities for the implementation of the proposals for the biennium 1988-1989, the secretariat was requesting the approval of the Committee for outputs being proposed for termination or postponement.

301. He informed the Committee that cost saving measures adopted by the Secretary-General with the approval of the General Assembly and the supplementary instructions issued by him, had affected the rate of programme implementation of all programmes with the impact depending on the situation of each programme when the measures were applied.

302. With regard to the proposed 1988-1989 biennium work programme and priorities E/ECA/CM.13/40, he stressed that the programme must be carefully examined by the Committee to ensure that it was consistent with the economic development priorities of the region prior to its submission to the Secretary-General who would incorporate them into his proposals to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme Co-ordination (CPC) and ECOSOC.

303. He pointed out that the proposals before the Committee related only to substantive programmes of which there were 15 and that administrative and other support services were not included. He briefly indicated the types of goods and services which were delivered directly to member States and their intergovernmental organizations under substantive activities, namely, substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings including support to negociations; reports; technical publications; and technical co-operation activities including advisory services. The proposals were in respect of activities to be financed by resources to be approved by the General Assembly under the regular budget and as such, excluded operational projects which were financed from extrabudgetary resources.

304. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the proposals did not contain information on financial and other resources since the examination of, and decision on, such matters were the prerogative of the General Assembly on advice from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly on Administrative and Budgetary Matters. He concluded his introduction by emphasizing the need for the Committee to make its views known on the soundness and relevance of the outputs which the secretariat was proposing to deliver to member States and their intergovernmental organizations in the biennium 1988-1989.

305. In the discussion that followed, members of the Committee expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for the comprehensiveness of the documents and for the general relevance and concreteness of the suggestions in respect of the

goods and services that the secretariat was proposing to deliver during the biennium 1988-1989. The Committee however deplored the lateness with which the documents had been made available to member States which had precluded their detailed and careful examination at the national level. Such documents should normally be subjected to critical inter-ministerial and inter-departmental reviews in each and every member State before they were collectively discussed by TEPCOW and the Conference of Ministers. It was therefore stressed that in future efforts should be made to allow enough time for such national reviews to take place.

[illegible]. In spite of the situation described above, members of the Committee made several pertinent comments and observations both of a general and specific nature with regard to the substance of the documents. The rate of implementation of the 1986 component of the 1986-1987 programme of work and priorities was in particular viewed with extreme concern. Since the poor rate of programme implementation had largely been due to the curtailment of resources resulting from the financial crisis facing the United Nations, the Committee was unanimous in its view that, in the light of the need for the ECA secretariat to play a lead role in the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAER), it was inconceivable and contradictory that resources would be decreased at that critical moment. The Committee therefore unanimously decided that a special appeal should be made, through a resolution of the Conference of Ministers, to ECOSOC, CPC and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to ensure that the necessary resources were provided for the full implementation of the proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1988-1989 biennium. The African representatives in all those bodies and in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly were in particular urged to rally actively behind the presentation and defence of the programme and priorities which the Committee noted, were already very modest and minimal in the light of Africa's enormous needs. In the same context, the Committee also appealed to UNDP to provide additional resources to facilitate the implementation of the proposals.

307. The Committee was generally satisfied with the structure of the programme. Some representatives did however, feel that an arrangement of the programme by ECA subregion could have been more appropriate in the sense that, in that way, outputs destined for the different MULPOC subregions would have stood out more clearly. In that way also, the crucial role of the MULPOCs' and the views of their various Council of Ministers, would be taken into account more effectively. As it was, the present arrangement by sectors had inadvertently introduced some element of duplication in the programme. That was especially evident in the areas of development issues and policies, trade and finance and public finance.

308. The Chairman of the tenth meeting of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC informed the Committee that the work programme and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989 were examined at that meeting and certain outputs were proposed for inclusion in the programme. Unfortunately, document E/ECA/CM.13/40 had not reflected those proposals.

309. The orientation of the programme was also generally acceptable to members of the Committee. It however, stressed that in all programme areas, more emphasis should be placed on micro research as opposed to general macro studies; training and human resource development in general; and on advisory services. The apparent less emphasis on direct technical advisory services and assistance at a time when such activities were needed more than ever before by member States was in particular seriously questioned.

310. In its general comments and observations, the Committee also regretted the fact that information was normally not available on the level of expected resources and it was thus not in a position to say whether or not the programme could be implemented with the existing level of resources. The Committee sought information on the level of resources for the biennium 1986-1987 and on the criteria for establishing priority among programme elements.

311. With respect to observations and proposals on specific programmes, the following were the views of the Committee:

Food and agriculture in Africa

312. The Committee agreed that in general, the programme proposals on food and agriculture were on the lines proposed in APPER and UN-PAAERD and indeed in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa 1980-2000. Unfortunately, the rate of implementation of programmes activities for 1986 was low. That performance needed to be

improved rural infrastructure based on integrated network of rural roads, water supply and rural electrification, improved intra-African trade in agricultural commodities, land use particularly with respect to environmental and human settlements management, and the dissemination of research results.

Marine affairs

313. The Committee emphasized the need for expanded and intensive training activities in the marine affairs programme.

Development issues and policies

314. With respect to socio-economic analysis, planning and projections subprogrammes, it was observed that more micro-economic research needed to be undertaken particularly in the important area of assessment of policies and their impact. Similarly, substantial and improved work needed to be undertaken on fiscal policies and financial management, balance-of-payments problems, indebtedness, and structural and stabilization policies and programmes. In connection with the structural and stabilization policies and programmes, it was suggested that the ECA secretariat should carry out studies on experiences of member States and organize seminars at the subregional level to discuss the results of such studies so as to enable member States to exchange experiences. Studies should also be carried out on measures and mechanisms for the mobilization of resources at the national level.

315. The Committee observed that outputs 1.3(i) and 1.3(ii) on page 10 of document E/ECA/CM.13/40 were not "Perspective studies" as the title of the Programme Element 1.3 would like one to believe.

316. In view of the special problems of the least developed African countries, more attention should be paid to them. Similarly, attention should be paid to the problems of the African island and landlocked countries which had similar problems to those of the least developed countries. While it was recognized that not all landlocked and island countries were least developed, they had their own peculiar development problems.

317. Since investments were costly, the ECA secretariat was requested to carry studies on the investment policies of the least developed African countries.

318. With respect to economic co-operation and integration, the Committee welcomed the proposed activities of the MULPOCs and emphasized the need for the ECA secretariat and the MULPOCs to work more closely with member States. More and frequent consultations were important in that context.

319. On subprogrammes 5 and 6 on education and training for development and manpower and employment planning and policies respectively, the Committee stressed the importance of human resources development. In that context, assistance should be given in the development and maintenance of data on manpower resources. There should be studies on the informal sector and more emphasis given to non-formal education and to training in management generally.

320. One representative was of the opinion that programme element 5.1 - reorientation of educational policies, programmes and practices, and programme element 5.6 - grants and fellowships administration could be merged.

Environment

321. The Committee emphasized the need to pay attention to land use and population distribution.

Human settlements

322. The opinion expressed under environment above was equally applicable under this programme

Industrial development

323. It was observed that in spite of the importance given to industrialization in Africa as evidenced by the United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), the implementation rate in 1986 was low. Therefore, maximum efforts should be made to mobilize human and financial resources for the programme.

324. While the proposals for the programme were sound, the Committee nevertheless suggested that stronger emphasis should be put on small-scale industries which lent themselves to the development of entrepreneurial skills and appropriate technologies. Moreover, since production was the basis of trade, the ECA secretariat should promote the formulation and implementation of joint projects among member States so as to boost intra-African trade.

International trade and development finance

325. As far as international trade and development finance programme was concerned, the Committee reaffirmed the importance of intra-African trade. In that connection, the secretariat was requested to assist member States in improving their marketing and storage capacities. In view of the importance of border trade in the region, the secretariat was requested to undertake more studies in that area.

326. The Committee noted with interest that one of the activities of the secretariat, was to give support to negotiations. In that connection, it emphasized the importance and crucial role of information and urged the secretariat to provide member States with information that could strengthen their position when negotiating with such international institutions as the IMF, the World Bank and the Transnational Corporations. The secretariat should also assist member States by participating in such negotiations. With respect to the proposed African Monetary Fund, the Committee urged the secretariat to redouble its efforts so that the Fund could be established very soon.

Population

327. With respect to the population programme, several representatives expressed satisfaction at the fact that work in that area had moved into population dynamics, and encouraged the secretariat to continue in that direction. Accordingly, the Committee urged the secretariat to assist member States in the formulation and implementation of population policies. In review of the continuous need for understanding the impact of development and economic growth on population growth and characteristics and vice versa, the secretariat should conduct research continuously on the relationship between development and economic growth and population variables such as fertility levels. Studies should also be conducted on

population movement and drought and rural-urban migration. The secretariat should intensify its assistance to member States in the analysis of population census data. Commending the valuable work undertaken in the area of demographic training and research, member States were called upon to provide adequate and continuous support to the regional training institutes in Accra (RIPS) and Yaounde (IFORD). The secretariat was also requested to continue backstopping the activities of the institutes for greater and more effective services.

328. The Committee noted with dissatisfaction the complete absence of health activities in the programme eventhough the ultimate objective of development was the well-being of human beings and there were direct linkages between population, health and diseases. Accordingly, it suggested that the secretariat should develop a project on "disease map" of Africa, which would show the magnitude and distribution of such debilitating disease as aids, malaria, etc.

Public administration and finance

329. The Committee emphasized the need for assistance in tax administration measures including training in tax collection and management, and for studies on the formulation and implementation of policy incentives particularly in favour of indigenous entrepreneurs and the results of such policies.

Science and technology

330. The Committee reaffirmed the crucial role of science and technology in the transformation of African economies and accordingly requested that the unit responsible for the programme should be strengthened. It requested the secretariat to undertake studies on 'patents'.

Social development

331. It was observed that while all the current development strategies for Africa stressed the need to focus on the development of rural areas, the subprogramme on integrated approach continued to focus on national and regional planners instead of on the rural population itself. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the subprogramme should be reoriented towards projects directed primarily at the rural areas. Similarly, the programme should focus on in-depth research on women, youth, etc.

Statistics

332. In general, the Committee was satisfied with the statistics programme. However, some representatives observed that the resources allocated to economic statistics in general and national accounts in particular were inadequate and so should be augmented. Member States wanted more technical assistance in the collection and analysis of statistical data.

Transport and communications

333. The Committee reaffirmed the continued importance of the programme on transport and communications particularly in the context of physical integration of the continent, promoting intra-African and extra-African trade, and helping farmers to evacuate their products. In that context, the Committee stressed the necessity to give attention to the special needs of the least developed African countries particularly the land-locked among them and the island countries of the region. Similarly, attention should be given to the special needs of the front-line States whose economies were continuously adversely effected by the destabilizing policies of the Government of South Africa. Attention should also be given to the management of ports so as to enable member States evacuate efficiently their export commodities. The secretariat should also assist in the development of rural to urban roads.

334. The Observer for ICAO recalled the close co-operation between his organization and ECA and stressed the importance of communications in the ongoing efforts to implement APPER and UN-PAAERD both of which his organization was assisting in implementing. He singled out higher tariffs levied by PTTs as a hindrance to the use of PANAFTEL circuits and communication efficiency in the region.

335. In her intervention the chairperson of ARCC expressed satisfaction at the strong emphasis given to women concerns in all the programmes although she would have liked to see more under the subprogramme: integration of women in development.

336. The Observer for UDEAC emphasized the importance of small-scale industries and the associated need for intensified training particularly in the crucial area of management. In that connection, he also stressed the importance of training of trainers.

337. The observer for the IMF welcomed the recommendation of the Committee that the secretariat should undertake studies on the experiences of member States with the stabilization and structural adjustment programmes mounted jointly with member States by the IMF and the World Bank and expressed the wish of his organization to be associated with the studies and the seminars which might be organized on them. He also expressed his organization's willingness to assist in the establishment of the African Monetary Fund since his organization had a lot of experience in that area.

338. Finally, he regretted that paragraph 31 of the report of the meeting of the technical Committee of experts of the least developed African countries gave the wrong impression that African countries who were implementing stabilization programmes with the IMF were implementing policies contrary to the objectives of APPER and UN-PAAERD since stabilization programmes were programmes established by the countries themselves. He appealed that in the future, there should be consultations between the secretariat and the representatives of concerned organizations so that such misunderstandings could be averted.

339. The observer for WHO endorsed the call for greater attention to population, health and development and promised the co-operation of his organization in the formulation and implementation of the proposed project on "disease map" of Africa.

340. The Executive Secretary expressed his sincere appreciation to members of the Committee for the impressive and substantive contribution that they had been able to bring to bear on the documents that were presented to them. He sought the understanding of the Committee for the lateness with which the documents were made available to them. Programme formulation was a long process and the secretariat had been severely constrained by the fact that it had had to wait for inputs from various sources including the MULPOCs before finalizing the programme documents. In some cases, the required inputs came late to be included in the programme. Gisenyi-based MULPOC was a case in point. However, such additional information or proposals would be included in the revised version of the document.

341. The Executive Secretary assured the meeting that all the comments and observations that had been made during the course of the discussion on the 1988-1989 Programme of Work and Priorities would be taken into account when the document was finally submitted to CPC. He underscored the importance of the need to secure the required resources for the implementation of programme proposals which the

Committee had effectively addressed. He informed the Committee that the proposals had been made on the basis of the assumption that because of the prevailing financial crisis in the United Nations, the expected level of resources would not vary significantly from what it was for the previous biennium. In that connection, he recalled that while for the biennium 1986-1987, the General Assembly had initially appropriated $US 46,166,000 to ECA, the allotments for the biennium were not likely to exceed $US 38, 086,300, a situation that had led to the curtailment of programmed activities as reported in document E/ECA/CM.13/39.

342. With respect to the question of setting priority among programme elements, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that according to a decision of the General Assembly, programme managers were to designate among the programme elements in their programme a set of programme elements whose allocation of resources amounted to 10 per cent as highest priority and lowest priority respectively, the understanding being that the Programme Manager must implement those with highest priority by all means and those with lowest priority if resources were available. As far as the remaining 80 per cent of the resources was concerned, there was no designation.

343. In summing up the debate, the Chairman of the Committee assured members that all their concerns would be taken into account when the programme was updated for submission to CPC. He said that most of the issues raised during the discussion were in line with the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. It was the duty of all concerned that the resources required for the implementation of the programme were secured in their totality so that the programme was implemented to the full. He therefore appealed to all African representatives at CPC, ECOSOC and the General Assembly as well as the various permanent missions of African countries abroad to strive to ensure that resources available to ECA were significantly increased since it was only under those conditions that the secretariat would be able to assist African member States efficiently to tackle their socio-economic development problems. To that end, he proposed, and the Committee agreed, that the Bureau of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers should hold a meeting at which he, as Chairman of TEPCOW, would participate with Mr. J. Ripert, Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation when the latter arrived in Addis Ababa to represent the Secretary-General at the twenty-second session of the Commission with a view to raising with him the various concerns of the Ministers and of the Committee on the subject

344. The Committee took note of the proposed programme of work and priorities 1988-1989 and adopted draft resolution 28 (VIII).

Proposed Medium-term Plan for the period 1990-1995 /agenda item 16(c)/

345. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/41: Draft Medium-term Plan for the period 1990-1995, which would provide the framework for the activities of the Commission during the six-year period 1990-1995. The Medium-term Plan when approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations would be the basis for the preparation of the programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991, 1992-1993 and 1994-1995.

346. He stated that the document was being presented for review and comments by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning - the Commission, upon the instructions of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, monitoring, and the methods of evaluation (ST/SGB/20). In particular, the review by the Commission was expected to focus on:

(a) The determination of relative priorities among activities subsumed under a given programmes;

(b) Initiatives proposed by the secretariat; and

(c) The identification of activities which were proposed for termination or curtailment.

347. After such review, recommendations for changes made by the Commission would be taken into account in revising the draft to produce the plan that would be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), ECOSOC and the General Assembly. However, as was the case with the programme budget, the approval of the Medium-term Plan was the prerogative of the General Assembly.

348. The representative of the secretariat then explained the legislative basis of the Draft Medium-term Plan and its structure. He stated that the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and the Final Act of Lagos remained the major document upon which most of the proposals in the draft Plan had been based. With regard to the

structure, the standard United Nations format had been used. Thus, the proposals on substantive activities had been organized by programmes each of which had its own general orientation based on the understanding of the programme manager of the problems in the particular field and the strategy he/she would like to adopt in assisting member States and their intergovernmental organizations. The programmes had been subdivided into subprogrammes whose narratives attempted to translate into programme activities decisions and mandates of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the ECA Conference of Ministers as well as the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU. Those sections of the Plan, therefore, showed the specific legislative authority, objectives of member States and of the secretariat, analysis of the problems addressed as well as the strategies proposed to deal with them.

349. In order to propose the strategies for 1990-1995, the secretariat had to speculate and make assumptions on what the situation with regard to the particular programme area was likely to be by the end of 1989. And because the proposals were being made several years before the Plan was actually implemented and in a dynamic environment, the Medium-term Plan like the previous one, would be revised twice, in 1990 and 1992 respectively, to incorporated the implications of any major changes in the situation and of new legislative decisions made in the interim. The planned revisions would be submitted to TEPCOW and the Conference of Ministers for their review and comments. Finally, the representatives of the secretariat informed the Committee that the Plan would be the basis for preparing activities to be financed both under the regular budget of the General Assembly and extrabudgetary resources.

350. Contributing to the discussion, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the document before the Committee was a zero draft which needed very close examination because of the many assumptions made about the status of the African economy by 1989. Therefore, he proposed that the Committee might consider setting up an open-ended ad hoc Committee, based on its present Bureau, to look into the Plan and assemble the views of member States. Member States could be requested to send in their views so that the ad hoc Committee could meet later in the year to prepare the recommendations to be sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on behalf of the Conference of Ministers before the end of 1987. The ad hoc Committee would report on its work to the TEPCOW and the Conference of Ministers in 1988.

351. The Committee considered the Executive Secretary's proposal to be sound as it would allow time for in-depth study of the proposals and expression of appropriate comments. It therefore accepted the proposal, took note of the draft Medium-term Plan, 1990-1995 and adopted draft resolution 29 (VIII).

Technical co-operation between UNDP and the regional economic commissions: ECA /report prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)/ (agenda item 17)

352. A representative of the secretariat introduced this agenda item and informed the Committee that the report before it was the final of the draft which was presented in October 1986 to the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of Ministers, and that the report was in fact for the consideration of the General Assembly. He further informed the Committee that operational activities undertaken within the framework of the technical co-operation between ECA and UNDP were focused on the identification, formulation and implementation of development projects at national, subregional and regional levels. He then underlined a number of obstacles which continued to constrain ECA's ability to execute these projects, including resource limitation, and expressed the need for fostering greater co-operation between ECA and UNDP as well as the need to use existing structures and institutions during policy conceptualization, formulation and implementation.

353. The Committee took note of the report and urged greater co-operation between the UNDP and ECA for the benefit of the region.

Sixth Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) (agenda item 18)

Progress report on the utilization of pledges for 1985 and 1986 /agenda item 18 (a)/

Projects and activities for the 1987 pledging conference /agenda item 18 (b)/

354. A representative of the secretariat introduced documents E/ECA/CM.13/42 - Progress report on the utilization of Pledges for 1985 and 1986, and E/ECA/CM.13/43 - Projects and activities for the 1987 Pledging Conference. He recalled the legislative authority for UNTFAD resolutions 288 (XII) and 331 (XIV) of the ECA Conference of Ministers and General Assembly resolution 37/139. He reported that,

since the establishment of the UNTFAD in 1977 as a channel for member States of the Commission to make voluntary contributions to the formulation and implementation of activities geared to the promotion of collective self-reliance in the region, about $US 11 million had been pledged by 37 member States, seven non African countries and one intergovernmental organization. About 78 per cent of the total pledges had been paid and used on 58 development projects.

355. As for the period under review (1985-1986), the Commission received $US 1,962,272 with 94 per cent for the specific account and the remaining for the general account of the fund. The allocation of the sum of $US 854,358 spent in 1985 and 1986 among the various programmes was as follows: economic co-operation (48 per cent); development information system (PADIS) (17 per cent); industry (8 per cent); international trade (7 per cent); conference services (6 per cent); manpower development (5 per cent); natural resources (4.5 per cent); agriculture (2.7 per cent) and publication (1.4 per cent).

356. Over the next two years the secretariat would increase its involvement in the implementation of the UN-PAAERD and APPER. Consequently, additional resources would be required and since those from the regular budget were on the decline, there was a need for member States to effectively and adequately contribute to UNTFAD. To that end, the representative of the secretariat appealed to member States to pledge additional sums during the forthcoming pledging conference on 27 April 1987.

357. The Chairman underscored the importance of UNTFAD and urged member States to live up to the expectations of the Commission by making substantial contribution.

358. The Committee took note of documents E/ECA/CM.13/42 and E/ECA/CM.13/43 and adopted draft resolution 27 (VIII).

Staff and administrative questions (agenda item 19)

359. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.13/44 on staff and administrative questions in response to resolution 242 (XI) of the Conference of Ministers and a number of subsequent decisions relating to personnel

and administrative questions which had requested the Executive Secretary to provide biennial reports on issues of general administration and personnel management of interest to member States. With respect to staff, it was to be deplored that the freeze on recruitments introduced in March 1986 and continued in 1987 because of the financial crisis of the United Nations had made the situation difficult for the 11 countries that currently did not have nationals working in the secretariat. Moreover, apart from the problems caused by the recruitment freeze, the secretariat would have to implement a staff reduction programme which would reduce by 15 per cent the total number of posts financed from the the regular budget over the next three years in line with the recommendation of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts which reviewed the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly.

360. With respect to conference facilities and services, negotiations with the United Nations Headquarters regarding the building of new conference facilities in Addis Ababa had been concluded. International bids for tender had been prepared and steps taken for selecting the consultants who would be responsible for the management of the project, drawing the plans and carrying out technical studies thereon. However, as a result of the financial difficulties of the organization, the General Assembly had approved the postponement of the project through 1987.

361. The secretariat was facing such a difficult financial crisis that it could translate only a few documents into Arabic; the grant of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was virtually exhausted. He hoped that during the forthcoming Pledging Conference member States would contribute funds to help the secretariat overcome the problem of translation into Arabic.

362. A representative expressed regret that despite the efforts his country had made so far to be represented in the secretariat, it had failed.

363. In reply, the Executive Secretary said that he had also made attempts to have a national of that country represented within the secretariat but that his attempts had been fruitless even though that country did not have a single national in the entire United Nations system.

364. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to continue to carry out investigations to set up new conference facilities. It also requested the secretariat to respect the principle of equitable geographical representation in its restructuring exercise. It also requested member States that countries should bear with the secretariat and try to understand the difficulties it was facing as a result of the United Nations financial crisis which also reflected a crisis in member States.

365. The Committee took note of the report.

Preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of ECA: Theme and programme of observance (agenda item 20)

366. Presenting document E/ECA/CM.13/45: on preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of ECA: Theme and programme of observance, a representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that in April 1988, the ECA would have been in existence for 30 years. He pointed out that inspite of celebrations held at previous anniversaries of the ECA, the forthcoming one was of particular importance in view of the growing role of ECA in the economic development affairs of Africa. He invited the delegations to make suggestions in the form of written proposals at a later date bearing in mind the fact that the MULPOs would also have been in existence for 10 years. He concluded that a joint observance of the 10th anniversary was being aimed at.

367. The Chairman suggested to the meeting that since the document was for information, the debate should be left to the ministers who would deliberate over the proposals and consider the issue as appropriate.

368. The report was then noted without debate.

Any other business (agenda item 21)

369. The observer of the ILO briefed the Committee on the related activities between the ECA and his Organization and the co-operation which existed and could be established in that regard in such areas as integrated rural development, development of manpower capabilities technology, energy, basic

needs fulfilment, statistical and demographic and integration and promotion of women's role in development. He said that joint activities were being carried out in several of those programme areas and that mechanisms for the regular exchange of experience including information and documentation already existed. That of course did not mean that there was no room for improvement particularly with a view to economizing on badly needed resources and to maintaining the impetus for resource mobilization in the context of the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD. ILO was at the disposal of the ECA organs, both at Headquarters and in the field offices to fully collaborate in areas of mutual interest.

370. No other point was raised under this item.

Date and place of the ninth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 22)

371. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that since the thirtieth anniversary of the Commission would be celebrated in 1988, it had been proposed that the ninth meeting of the Committee and the fourteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers/twenty third session of the Commission should take place from 18 to 25 April 1988 and from 26 to 29 April 1988 respectively so that they would coincide with the celebrations of the Commission's anniversary on 29 April 1988.

372. The Committee took note of the proposal and decided to submit it to the Conference of Ministers who would decide on both the dates and place of the next meeting.

Adoption of the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 23)

373. On 20 April 1987, the Committee adopted its report and draft resolutions as here presented.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 24)

374. In his closing statement, the Chairman said that the eighth meeting of the Committee had been remarkable by virtue of the number and quality of participants as well as the atmosphere which had reigned and the density, wealth, depth and clarity of the discussions. The theme of the meeting "Towards recovery and development" was not only fascinating, but had compelled more realism and concrete action than rhetoric or idle discussion. The discussions had been in conformity with the wager taken. Participants had examined the performance and weaknesses of African economies, compared respective experiences with regard to the resolution of economic problems, exchanged ideas and sought the means by which African countries could achieve the objectives defined in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD).

375. It was within the context of the orientation of those plans and programmes that the Committee had considered among other things, actions to be undertaken in order to achieve the rational utilization and exploitation of resources; the rational development and utilization of human resources; the enhanced development of the least developed, most affected and most vulnerable countries; and the proud and dignified participation of African peoples in world civilization.

376. The Chairman stressed two major decisions made by the Committee. The first concerned the appeal made to African Governments to concretize the commitments they made before the international community within the framework of APPER and UN-PAAERD. The second was the request for a substantial increase in resources and means of action at ECA's disposal especially for the implementation of the proposed programme of work and priorities for the period 1988-1989.

377. He recalled the appeal launched at the Monrovia Symposium on "Africa's Development Prospects by the Year 2000" for "a revolution of hope", and said that the eighth meeting of the Committee was a part of that "revolution of hope".

378. In conclusion, he thanked the people and Government of Ethiopia for the generous hospitality given to the delegations, the Executive Secretary and his immediate collaborators and the entire staff of ECA as well as the interpreters who had provided commendable assistance in the work of the Committee. He also thanked the observers who had given proof of their solidarity with Africa, members of the Bureau and the Committee for their co-operation. The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX I

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF MOROCCO IN ADDIS ABABA ON 18 APRIL 1987

Mr. Chairman,

The Moroccan delegation solemnly declares before this august assembly of the eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) being held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 20 April 1987 that the Kingdom of Morocco is formally renewing its request for ECA to reinstate all the Moroccan projects included in the first and second phase programmes of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and which can be found in documents:

1. DEC/TRANSCOM/TCM/85/RAIL/2 (volume B)
2. E/CN.14/726/Add.1 } (volume II)
   E/CN.14/TRANS/147/Add.1 }
3. E/ECA/TCD/16 (volumes III and IV).

Furthermore, Morocco stands ready to provide every information that ECA would need in order to undertake an evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of Moroccan projects when the time comes to prepare evaluation reports on projects of the Decade.

Mr. Chairman,

Please be assured of the support of our delegation for the success of this eighth meeting of TEPCOW and of the preparedness of our country to ensure that all African transport programmes are implemented in the shortest possible time because of the impact they will have on development within the continent.

In awareness of the very important role that ECA plays in the economic development of African countries. Morocco has always lent its support to this organ of the United Nations and will continue to support ECA and its secretariat.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Signature)

Jamal Eddine Ghazi,
Ambassador
and
Head of the Moroccan delegation

ANNEX II

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF MOROCCO

The delegation of Morocco deplores the manoeuvring which took place during the eighth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Industry which was held in Bujumbura in 1986 in which an entity not recognized by the United Nations or its subsidiary organs was able to participate.

Accordingly, in order to avoid any ambiguity, the Moroccan delegation reiterates its most profound reservations concerning document E/ECA/CM.13/20 and reserves the right to denounce this regrettable act within other United Nations fora.

(Signature)

Jamal Eddine Ghazi,
Ambassador
and
Head of the Moroccan delegation

ANNEX III

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BURUNDI

The delegation of Burundi would like to state that contrary to the declarations made by the Moroccan delegation, no deals were made in Bujumbura to allow the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to participate in the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry. The delegation of Burundi wishes to add that the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic participated in the meeting simply as a full member of the Organization of African Unity.

ANNEX IV

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALGERIA

The delegation of Algeria indicated that the entity that was not a member of the United Nations to which a delegation which was not a member of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) referred was the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). The SADR was a full member of OAU and as such was entitled to participate in all conferences and meetings sponsored by OAU.

ANNEX V

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE EIGHTH TEPCOW ON ACMAD

1. Introduction

After the presentation of documents E/ECA/CM.13/29, and its Add. 1 and Add. 2 on Progress report on the establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and the discussion that followed, the TEPCOW Plenary Session decided to form a small committee on ACMAD. The Ad Hoc Committee consisted of five member States selected on a subregional basis, namely:

(i) Ethiopia for Eastern Africa;

(ii) Lesotho for Southern Africa (Chairman);

(iii) The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for North Africa;

(iv) Senegal for Western Africa;

(v) Zaire for Central Africa.

2. Terms of reference

The Committee was supported by the ECA and the WMO secretariats. The terms of reference of the Committee were: to assist in resolving two issues and come up with recommendations on them, namely: (i) the adoption of the draft constitution of ACMAD, and (ii) the location of ACMAD in one of the four potential host countries. The delegates of those four countries (Algeria, Egypt, Kenya and the Niger) were to make their services available to the Ad Hoc Committee on ACMAD, which was to report to the Plenary Session of the same eighth TEPCOW meeting.

The Ad Hoc Committee met in full attendance in three sessions, namely: (i) 1500-2200 hrs. on Friday, 17 April 1987, (ii) 0900-1330 hrs. and (iii) 1500-1930 hrs. on Saturday, 18 April 1987. It considered its report on Monday, 20 April 1987 at 1030 hrs. before submitting it to Plenary.

3. Draft constitution of ACMAD

During the first session, the Committee discussed the constitution of ACMAD and suggested amendments on the preamble and on Articles 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 12

and 16.* The Committee decided to issue a new draft constitution incorporating the suggested amendments for the consideration of the Plenary meeting, as the document to be attached to the resolution on ACMAD for the Conference of Ministers meeting.

4. Evaluation of technical criteria in the ECA documents and mission reports

After the Ad Hoc Committee had agreed on the procedure to select the host country for ACMAD as stated in the previous paragraphs, the Committee examined the summarized account in document E/ECA/CM.13/29/Add.1 for each of the four potential host countries as well as the original mission reports which were also made available to TEPCOW. Based on the discussion at Plenary, four criteria (see annex) were considered, scores were allocated to each of the four potential host countries on a four-point scale for the following:

A. Objectives and field of operations (weighted x 4)

(i) On the objectives of ACMAD per se;

(ii) On the geographical environment of the host country in relation to the main objectives - drought and tropical cyclones monitoring.

B. Available resources and equipment (weighted x 3)

(i) Staff quality and number available at the host country's national meteorological service;

(ii) Maintenance facilities (mechanical and electronic);

(iii) Facilities offered to host the ACMAD Centre;

(iv) Functions as a regional telecommunications hub (RTH);

(v) Telecommunications equipment available, including AMSS (automatic message switching system);

(vi) Numerical data processing capacity;

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* NB: These articles were commented on during the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment held at ECA, Addis Ababa, from 9 to 13 February 1987.

(vii) Available peripherals to the main computers;

(viii) Evaluation of RMC/RSMC, regional meteorological centre functions;

(ix) Radio-broadcasting equipment and power to disseminate products;

(x) Availability of facsimile broadcast to transmit graphics information;

(xi) Satellite equipment in use.

C. Intellectual environment to support ACMAD (weighted x 2)

(i) Available national scientific institutions;

(ii) Available subregional centres;

(iii) Training facilities for classes I, II, III met. personnel

(iv) Research facilities and outputs in tropical meteorology.

D. Degree of commitment of potential host country (weighted x 1)

(i) Up-to-date financial contributions to WMO and OAU

(ii) Adherence to host country agreements for ECA-sponsored institutions in the country;

(iii) Any other considerations.

The following table indicates the RANKING of each of the four potential host countries for only the first three criteria (A, B and C); criteria D was not evaluated as the Committee felt that the ECA Conference of Ministers should make its final decision on ACMAD using these and other criteria as appropriate whilst taking into account the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee as indicated:

Potential host countries	Weightings x4 A. Objectives and field of operations	x3 B. Available resources & equipment	x2 C. Intellectual environment	x1 D. Degree of commitment	Total	Ranking
Algeria	2 (2x4)+	3 (3x3)+	3 (3x2)+	-	= 23	3rd
Egypt	2 (2x4)+	2 (2x3)+	3 (3x2)+	-	= 20	4th
Kenya	3 (3x4)+	4 (4x3)+	4 (4x2)+	-	= 32	1st
Niger	4 (4x4)+	2 (2x3)+	2 (2x2)+	-	= 26	2nd

It is noted that the TOTAL in the last column is the sum of each of the ranking x weighting for each potential host country.

5. Interview of the representatives of the four potential host countries

Before the representatives of the four potential host countries were invited one by one to appear before the Ad Hoc Committee on ACMAD, the following questionnaire had been prepared by the Committee after exhaustive discussions:

1. Can you confirm the conclusions about your country's available facilities in the ECA/WMO documents produced on ACMAD? Yes or No.

2. What is your assessment of your country's available infrastructure for hosting ACMAD? State Minimum/average/maximum.

3. Can you confirm that your country will be able to fulfil all the objectives and functions for the ACMAD Centre? Yes or No.

4. If your country is not chosen to host the Centre which of the remaining three potential host countries would you support?

5. Give reasons for your selection on question 4 above.

6. Is your country in a position to accept the conclusions of the Committee? Yes or No.

7. Does your country host any ECA-sponsored institutions? If so, state which.

8. Are you aware of any problems of your country in implementing host country agreement?

9. Do you have any further information you would like to give to this Committee?

Each of the representatives of the four potential host countries responded verbally to the above questionnaire as follows on questions 1 to 8:

Questions / Potential host country	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Algeria	Yes (correction on Dakar)	Max.	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	One (ACA)	None
Egypt	Yes	Max.	Yes	Will accept any of the remaining 3		Yes	Don't know	None
Kenya	Yes	Min.	Yes	Abstain	Each nation is offering its best	Yes	Three RCSSMRS AIHTTR ARSO	Don't know
Niger	Yes	Average	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Difficult because of Niger's commitment	One Niamey MULPOC	None

1. In addition to the above responses on the first eight questions, each potential host country stressed the following under question 9:

(a) Algeria: ACMAD would benefit from:

(i) Extensive field studies on transfer of technology and manpower training facilities;

(ii) The rapid telecommunications facilities available for the collection of data and the dissemination of outputs, including ARAB SAT;

(iii) Good data processing facilities;

(iv) TEPCOW should take note of the functional difficulties faced by many ECA-sponsored institutions.

(b) Egypt: The delegate affirmed that the information given in the document was correct. He said that he was not a technical expert but a diplomat and that he would contact his country on those questions which he could not answer. He also indicated that his country was prepared to accept any of the three remaining host countries for the sake of African unity.

(c) Kenya: The delegate said that RMC/RTH Nairobi:

(i) (i) gives advisory services on tropical cyclones to the Indian Ocean Islands;

(ii) in league with the University, it produces 15-20 research papers on tropical meteorology every year;

(iii) has the necessary critical mass for ACMAD to start in terms of staff and equipment.

(d) Niger: The delegate pointed out that the Niger:

(i) as one of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, is generally worst hit by drought;

(ii) has very few international organizations, but existing ones are directed towards the applications of meteorology to development;

(iii) has already embarked on improving AGRHYMET telecommunications system with a two million dollar project with WMO/Italian Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1

After considering the draft constitution related to the creation of ACMAD, the Committee recommends that the Conference of Ministers adopt the Constitution and undertake all necessary measures to ensure its entry into force at an early

date. This is essential in view of the urgent need to get ACMAD operational, since it is the instrument 'par excellence' in the preparedness of Africa against calamities such as drought, cyclones and other climate-related disasters which have violently affected the continent.

Recommendation No. 2

After careful consideration of the technical criteria contained in document E/ECA/CM.13/29 for the site location of ACMAD, the Committee recommends that the Conference of Ministers consider the ranking indicated on page 2 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on ACMAD, as well as other criteria mentioned in the report, and finally decide on a host country for ACMAD.

Recommendation No. 3

- As regards matters related to financial resources and equipment for ACMAD, the Committee recommends that the secretariats of ECA and WMO pursue their actions with financing institutions like UNDP and other donors in order to obtain the necessary financial resources and equipment that will enable the Centre to become operational at an early date.

- As regards the implementation and operation of ACMAD, the Committee recommends that the secretariats of ECA and WMO undertake all necessary actions in order to ensure that ACMAD becomes operational as soon as possible.

OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR THE PRE-SELECTION OF A SITE FOR ACMAD

I. The group considered a number of technical and objective criteria that would enable it to reach a decision and make appropriate proposals. On the basis of ECA document E/ECA/CM.13/29, the group agreed that the following four criteria are fundamental to the existence and operation of the Centre:

(a) Objectives and field of operation

This criteria is considered very important since it determines the probability of concentration of factors which would ensure a greater chance for the Centre to achieve its objectives. As such, the objectives could thus be used to decide on the most appropriate zone for the siting of the Centre. This criteria would facilitate the identification of an area most concerned with aridity, drought, desertification, tropical cyclones and other climate/weather disasters, and the applications of meteorology to self-sufficiency in food, water resource management, etc.

(b) Available resources and equipment

The criteria which is no less important could also be considered as a determinant one. It assesses the capacity of the country to start off with the project immediately and to respond to the objectives of the Centre. It also takes into consideration the capital and other costs offered by the countries.

(c) Intellectual environment

This criteria would determine the extent to which intellectual and technical conditions are available in support of the facilities installed for the operation of the Centre. This is the criteria of "back-stopping" which is determined by a set of conditions such as the "know-how", universities, complementary and related equipment, supporting institutions, research, availability of adequate technology, etc.

(d) Degree of commitment

This complementary criteria is considered necessary for the satisfactory operation of the Centre and provides a basis for determining the degree to which the country abides by its commitments: respect of host country agreement and subscription to international organizations (OAU, WMO). This criteria is considered important in order to ensure the continued operation of the Centre.

II. Priority among the criteria

The need for a priority among the criteria results from the choice made above. It is logical that the restructuring of an organizational system or the creation of a structure starts from the definition of its objectives, and thereafter follows the search for the means and the available supporting structures that would enable the achievement of the objectives. These supports could be manpower or financial resources, legal or technological in nature.

In order to ensure continued operation of the system, it is also necessary to consider the capacity of the host country to respond to the objectives (legal context that could surround the system, in particular the respect of the country for international commitments including financial and host country agreement).

On this basis, the following priority or "ranking" of criteria ensues:

1. Objectives and field of operation;
2. Available resources and equipment;
3. Intellectual environment;
4. Degree of commitment.

III. Scoring and weighting coefficient

(a) Marking of the criteria

This runs from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest mark.

(b) Weighting coefficient

In view of the varying importance of the various criteria adopted, a different weight is given to each of them based on the hierarchy proposed under section II above:

- Objectives and field of operation: 4
- Available resources and equipment: 3
- Intellectual environment: 2
- Degree of commitment: 1

ANNEX V (Add.1)

DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE OF METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT (ACMAD)

WHEREAS by its resolution 540 (XX) the Conference of Ministers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on behalf of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, resolved that an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development should be established for the purpose of improving the understanding of atmospheric and climatic processes over Africa, collecting, analyzing and disseminating meteorological and hydrological information, providing a meteorological watch and early warning system over Africa and promoting the training of African scientists and technicians in the application of meteorology for development;

WHEREAS practical and useful actions can presently be taken to alleviate the effects of drought, atmospheric phenomena, tropical cyclones by applying methodologies based on a thorough knowledge of the impact of meteorological factors on food production, on the availability of water resources and on new and renewable sources of energy;

WHEREAS by the said resolution 540 (XX) the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development is to be operated with the support of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and of the World Meteorological Organization;

AND WHEREAS by virtue of the said resolution 540 (XX) the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa have agreed to establish the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development for the purpose and in the manner set out in the preceding paragraphs;

NOW THEREFORE and on behalf of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa the Conference of Ministers HEREBY AGREES AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Establishment of the Centre

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre"), is hereby established.

ARTICLE 2

Membership

All the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the member States") are members of the Centre.

ARTICLE 3

Objectives and functions of the Centre

1. The objectives of the Centre shall be:

(a) To promote and develop the application of meteorological data and information so as to enhance the economic and social development of the member States, assist in the investigation and mitigation of the effects of weather phenomena, improve the knowledge of the anomalies of the weather and climate of the member States and foster the proper conservation of the natural resources of the member States;

(b) To assist the member States to achieve self-sufficiency in food production, water resources management, and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy;

(c) To act as an African Centre of Excellence in meteorology and its application to development, and as a resource centre to stimulate applied scientific research, especially in tropical meteorology and in rain-producing system, and to enrich existing training and development programmes;

(d) To strengthen national weather services to enable them to take full advantage of development opportunities offered by the Centre in support of the respective national economies in order to ensure the total development of the whole meteorological system of the Africa region in a harmonious manner;

(e) To develop those aspects of meteorology which are not catered for by the national and subregional centres, particularly in the areas of acquiring and adapting agro-meteorological techniques successfully applied elsewhere in aid of self-sufficiency in food production and energy; and to address the many pressing issues of drought, tropical cyclones and other climate/weather-related disasters.

2. For the purposes set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Centre shall, in particular, perform the following functions:

(a) Strengthen the capabilities of national meteorological services in the application and use of meteorological/climatological data;

(b) Provide a meteorological/climatological early warning watch system based on the state-of-the-art for analysis and prediction, to combat and mitigate the effects of drought, tropical cyclones and other climate-related natural disasters;

(c) Develop new and practical methodologies for meteorological applications in order to:

(i) Reduce variability and risk of losses in food crop production;

(ii) Reduce costs and energy inputs in food crop production;

(iii) Increase production and strengthen food security;

(iv) Improve water resources management, especially in drought-prone and drought-stricken areas;

(v) Develop alternative renewable sources of energy;

(vi) Provide a better understanding of the atmospheric conditions prevailing in the Africa region which affect critical human activities;

(d) To perform on a continental scale to bridge the gaps between subregional and national units through supporting activities in applications development, meteorological/climatological watch operations, numerical analysis and prediction development, and in informatics and satellite meteorology technology in order to identify and solve urgent regional climatic problems;

(e) The archiving of all historical and current data, provision of uniform data format, ensuring of efficient data/product exchange on existing Global Telecommunications System (CTS) and assist in defining new requirements;

(f) Provide regularly appropriate forecast of crop yields, identify appropriate methodologies for operational proposals, and meteorological conditions for the occurence of migratory pests and diseases, and monitoring of continental drought and climatic anomalies;

(g) Provide training, including the organization of workshops, seminars, training missions, etc. for African scientists and technicians in the applications of meteorological data and information to economic and social development;

(h) Undertake research for the better understanding of the atmospheric and climatic processes which cause rains, drought, tropical cyclones and floods, storms and other significant meteorological phenomena; and

(i) Undertake such other activities as may be designed to further the objectives of the Centre.

ARTICLE 4

Organs of the Centre

The Centre shall have the following organs:

(a) A board of governors;

(b) The general directorate; and

(c) Such other technical, scientific, financial and administrative bodies as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

ARTICLE 5

The Board of Governors: Composition, functions and meetings

1. The Board of Governors shall be the supreme policy-making organ of the Centre.

2. The Board of Governors shall be composed as follows:

(a) A representative each of two member States from each of the five subregions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa selected by the Conference of Ministers, each such representative shall be selected on the basis of his or her expertise and experience in meteorology;

(b) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman who shall be elected from among the members of the board representing the member States;

(c) A representative of the Government of the (host country);

(d) In the initial phase and before the Chairman is elected, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as «the Executive Secretary») shall be Chairman of the Board of Governors;

(e) A representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), without the right to vote;

(f) A representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), without the right to vote;

(g) A representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), without the right to vote;

(h) Representatives of international organizations or institutions interested in the activities of the centre such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by invitation of the board of governors without the right to vote;

(i) Donor agencies and eminent experts may also attend meetings of the Board of Governors by invitation of the board as observers without the right to vote.

3. The Director-General of the Centre shall act as Secretary of the Board of Governors.

4. In selecting the members of the Board of Governors referred to in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article, the Conference of Ministers shall have regard to the necessity of maintaining a fair geographical distribution of selection among the member States.

5. The members of the Board of Governors selected under subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article shall hold office for a period of four years and may be eligible for re-election only once provided, however, that in making selections for the first time, the Conference of Ministers shall direct that one-half of the member States selected by them shall retire two years after they have been selected and shall be replaced by the same number of member States selected by the Conference of Ministers for the purpose.

6. The members of the board of governors referred to in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be persons who are competent and experienced in the activities of the centre.

7. The Board of Governors shall:

(a) Prescribe the general principles and policies governing the operations of the Centre and give directives of a general nature as to the implementation of such principles and policies;

(b) Propose the work programmes of the Centre and their corresponding budgets, subject to the approval of the Conference of Ministers;

(c) Prescribe conditions for the admission of persons to undergo training provided by the Centre;

(d) Review and approve the annual reports of the Director-General of the centre on the activities of the Centre;

(e) Appoint professionally qualified auditors of audit the accounts of the Centre;

(f) Examine and approve the financial report and accounts of the Centre for the preceding year;

(g) Prescribe the financial, staff and other rules and regulations governing the administration of the Centre;

(h) Adopt its own rules of procedure;

(i) Determine, apart from the office of the Director-General of the Centre, the other offices of the Centre;

(j) Submit through its Chairman a report to the Joint Inter-Governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as «the Joint Committee»), for its consideration, approval and presentation to the Conference of Ministers, annual reports on the activities of the centre;

(k) Appoint the Director-General and other senior staff of the Centre;

(l) Establish such technical, scientific, financial and admnistration committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Centre;

(m) Convene periodically meetings of donors to consider the funding of the activities of the centre; and

(n) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Centre.

8. The Board of Governors shall meet in ordinary session once a year and may hold extraordinary sessions at the request of its Chairman of one-third of its members.

ARTICLE 6

The Chairman of the Board of Governors

1. The Chairman of the Board of Governors shall:

(a) Cause to be prepared the draft agenda of the meetings of the Board of Governors;

(b) Convene and preside over the meetings of the Board of Governors;

(c) With the approval of the Board of Governors, solicit financial and other resources from the United Nations and its specialized agencies or other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments and other sources.

2. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the functions set out in paragraph 1 of this article shall be performed by the Vice-Chairman.

ARTICLE 7

The General Directorate

1. The Centre shall be headed by the Director-General who shall be the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the Centre.

2. The Director-General of the centre shall be appointed as provided for in this Constitution for a period of four years subject to renewal for succeeding periods of four years each.

3. The Director-General of the Centre shall act as the legal representative of the Centre.

4. Subject to such directions of a general nature as the board of governors may give, the Director-General of the Centre shall have responsibility for the planning, organization and direction of the technical activities, scientific research, training, advisory and other activities of the Centre. He shall in particular:

(a) Be responsible for the organization and administration of the Centre;

(b) Submit for consideration of the Board of Governors the work programmes and corresponding budgets of the Centre;

(c) Be responsible for the carrying out of the activities of the Centre in accordance with the approved work programmes and corresponding budgets of the Centre;

(d) Submit for the approval of the Board of Governors annual reports on the activities and the accounts of the Centre;

(e) Subject to the staff and administrative rules and regulations of the Centre and to such directions as the Board of Governors may give, select and appoint staff other than those provided for under subparagraph (K) of paragraph 7 of Article 5 of this Constitution;

(f) Establish and maintain such contacts with governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other organizations or institutions as may be necessary or desirable for the achievement of the objectives of the Centre;

(g) Undertake such other assignments or activities as may be determined by the Board of Governors.

5. The Director-General and the other staff of the Centre shall neither seek nor accept any instructions, remunerations or gifts from any government or authority or from any source external to the Centre and shall refrain from any other action which might reflect on their position as international officials.

6. The member States shall undertake to respect the international character of the responsibilities of the Director-General and other staff of the Centre and not to seek to influence any of their nationals in the discharge of such responsibilities; provided that this shall not preclude the secondment to the Centre of staff by governments and organizations.

ARTICLE 8

Headquarters of the Centre

1. The headquarters of the Centre shall be determined by the Conference of Ministers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference of Ministers").

2. The Centre shall enter into an agreement with the host government of the member State where the headquarters of the Centre shall be established concerning the provision and grant, as the case may be, by the former of such adequate premises, facilities and services and privileges and immunities as may be required.

ARTICLE 9

Status, capacity, privileges and immunities

1. To enable it to achieve its objectives and perform the functions with which it is entrusted, the Centre shall possess in the territory of each member State juridical personality in international law. To these ends, the status, capacity, privileges, immunities and exemptions set forth in paragraphs 2 to 12 of this article shall be accorded to the Centre in the territory of each member State.

2. The Centre shall for the purpose of this Constitution have the capacity:

(a) To enter into contracts;

(b) To acquire and dispose of immovable or movable property; and

(c) To institute legal proceedings.

3. The Centre, its property and assets shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process except insofar as in any particular case it has, through the Director-General of the Centre, expressly waived its immunity;

Provided however that no measure of execution shall be taken against the property and assets of the Centre without the consent of the Director-General of the Centre.

4. The headquarters of the Centre shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the Centre shall be immuned from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation, and any other form of interference whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action.

5. The archives of the Centre, and in general all documents belonging to it or held by it, shall be inviolable.

6. The Centre, its property, assets, income and transactions shall be exempted from all taxation and from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports necessary for the exercise of its functions. The Centre however shall not be exempted from the payment of charges for services rendered.

7. The members of the Board of Governors and representatives of the member States who are not otherwise officials of the United Nations of of the specialized agencies of the Untied Nations, shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are provided for mutatis mutandis by Article IV of the convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

8. The staff of the Centre who are not otherwise officials of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies of the United Nations shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are provided for in Article V of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

9. Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, the member States shall undertake to accord to all representatives of the member States, all the staff of the Centre and experts providing advice or assistance to the Centre, such facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the exercise of their functions in connection with the Centre.

10. The Director-General of the Centre shall have the right and duty to waive the immunity of any staff of the Centre who is not an official of the United Nations or of a specialized agency of the United Nations, in cases where in his opinion the immunity would impede the cause of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Centre.

11. All persons undergoing training or taking part in scheme for the exchange of personnel at the Centre in pursuance of the provisions of this Constitution and who are not nationals of the member States concerned, shall have the right of entry into, sojourn in, transit through and exist from the territory of each member State when such entry, sojourn, transit or exist is necessary for their assignment. They shall be granted facilities for speedy travel; visas, where required, shall be granted promptly and free of charge.

12. The Centre shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of the member States to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of national laws and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this article.

ARTICLE 10

Rights and obligations of the member States

All the member States shall enjoy the same rights and obligations with regard to the Centre, in particular the member States shall:

(a) Facilitate the timely collection, exchange and dissemination of climatic and meteorological data and information;

(b) Submit such reports, data and information as may be required by the competent organs of the Centre;

(c) Make available to the Centre training and research facilities on such terms and conditions as may from time to time be agreed with the appropriate organs of the Centre;

(d) Make available to the Centre national personnel on such conditions as may be agreed upon with the appropriate organs of the Centre;

(e) Pay their annual contributions as assessed by the Conference of Ministers;

(f) Accord such facilities, privileges and immunities as may be required under the provisions of Article 8 of this Constitution; and

(g) Have free access to all the services of the Centre.

ARTICLE 11

Assistance by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and of the World Meteorological Organization

1. The secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) shall assist the Centre in every possible way in order to facilitate its work.

2. The secretariat of WMO shall in particular have the responsibility of providing scientific and technical guidance and direction with a view to achieving the objectives of the Centre; it shall also supervise the co-ordination and co-operation of the Centre with other specialized, regional and world centres within the framework of the pertinent WMO programmes, in particular, the world Weather Watch and the World Climate Programme.

ARTICLE 12

Co-operation with other organization

The Centre shall establish such relationships with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and such other organizations and institutions as may be interested in the activities of the Centre.

ARTICLE 13

Resources of the Centre

1. The financial resources of the Centre shall be derived from contributions made by the member States in accordance with a formula recommended by the Board of Governors to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

2. The Centre may, in addition to the resources referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, receive donations from any member State.

3. The Centre may derive further resources in cash or in kind from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, bilateral and unilateral donors, and such other institutions and organizations as may be interested in the activities of the Centre. Acceptance by the Centre of offers of such further assistance shall be consistent with the objectives of the Centre, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Centre.

ARTICLE 14

Amendments

This Constitution may, on the recommendation of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment be amended by the Conference of Ministers

ARTICLE 15

Settlement of disputes

Any question in dispute that may arise concerning the interpretation or application of any provision of this Constitution which cannot be settled by the parties concerned, shall be determined by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE 16

Termination

1. The Constitution shall be of indefinite duration except that it may be terminated by a decision of the Conference of Ministers whereupon the Centre shall be deemed to have been dissolved.

2. In the case of the dissolution of the Centre in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, the Board of Governors shall make provisions for the orderly liquidation of the Centre.

ARTICLE 17

Entry into force

This Constitution shall enter into force upon its adoption by the Conference of Ministers and approved by the member States in accordance with the procedures in force in their respective countries.

D. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT ITS EIGHTH MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS THIRTEENTH MEETING/TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

1 (VIII). INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 1 (VII) of 28 March 1984 of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry on the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling further resolution ID/CONF.5/Res.8 adopted by the first General Conference of UNIDO in Vienna on 19 August 1984 and resolution ID/B/Res.57 (XVIII) adopted by the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO in Vienna on 28 May 1984 both on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Guided by the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000[1/] and the Final Act of Lagos [1/] adopted in 1980 by the OAU Economic Summit as well as ECA resolution 442 (XVII) of April 1982 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/66 (B), both on the formulation and implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Taking note of the decision of the Industrial Development Board to allocate to UNIDO $US 8.6 million instead of the $US 10 million approved by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, as contained in resolution A/Res.29/233 in its 1986-1987 regular budget, and concerned with the financial constraints being experienced by the organizations of the United Nations system, which would make it difficult for the allocation of resources in the respective regular budgets of UNIDO and ECA for the implementation of their decade-related activities,

Guided by resolution CM/Res.1039-1074 (XLIV) adopted by the forty-fourth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers and endorsed by the OAU Summit at Addis Ababa in July 1986 and by resolution 564 (XXI) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its twelfth meeting and twenty-first session of the Commission at Yaounde, Cameroon in April 1986,

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1/ A/S-11/14 annexes I and II.

Considering Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 adopted by the twenty-first Summit of the OAU in resolution AHG/Res.136 and the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 adopted by the thirteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly in resolution S-13/2, both of which critically reviewed the socio-economic problems of Africa, and presented specific measures for restructuring and rehabilitating the economies of African countries,

Recognizing the crucial role that the industrial sector, as a supplier of major factor inputs, has to play within the context of the IDDA programme, in Africa's economic recovery and development as emphasized in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development,

Noting with satisfaction the mechanisms set up by the Heads of State and Government of the OAU for the implementation of and follow-up to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and by the United Nations Secretary-General for the implementation of the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development,

Reiterating the region's commitment to transform, through the process of industrialization, the structure of its economies which are currently externally oriented and heavily dependent on external factor inputs,

Conscious of the need for African countries and organizations, as well as international organizations to intensify efforts to promote, on a priority basis, the local development of industrial and entrepreneurial capabilities, strengthening, establishment and management as appropriate of small- and medium-scale enterprises; and the development of strategic core industries and support projects with adequate intra- and intersectoral linkages providing essential inputs for agriculture and food production,

Concerned with the persistent economic crisis facing the continent and the serious constraints which hamper the industrial development of the region, encompassing the shortage of required skills and technological capabilities, financial resources and a well integrated network of strategic and core industries necessary for the implementation of the Decade programme,

Emphasizing the need for member States and African and international organizations to undertake concerted measures to mobilize local and external financial resources for both technical assistance and investment projects,

Welcoming the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency of the United Nations system and the decision to convene its second General Conference at Bangkok, Thailand, in November 1987,

Stressing the need to provide UNIDO and ECA with adequate resources to support the programme for the Decade,

Hereby recommends as follows:

A. Implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA)

(a) Takes note of the Joint Progress Reports presented by the three secretariats and the information presented by member States as well as by African and international organizations on actions taken to implement the Decade programme;

(b) Notes with appreciation the information provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations, and appeals to their respective governing bodies to make due provision in their programmes and budgets for activities that will further enhance the industrial development of Africa;

(c) Further takes note of the co-operative efforts between the secretariats of ECA, OAU and UNIDO and urges them to intensify such co-operation with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the programme for the industrialization of Africa;

(d) Requests, with regard to the next meetings, that the three secretariats:

(i) Prepare a financial statement on the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

(ii) Describe the progress and impact of projects in that programme, as well as the difficulties encountered during their execution;

(iii) Provide estimates of the magnitude of resources required to implement the programme for the Decade as well as the breakdown per sector; and

(iv) Ensure that the allocation of resources for the biennium (1988/89) correspond to the requirements of the Decade programme.

(e) Urges member States, African and international organizations and the three secretariats to intensify their efforts towards the accelerated implementation fo the programme for the Decade during the remaining four years taking into consideration Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 of the OAU and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the implementation of which will require a substantial contribution from the industrial sector;

(f) Appeals to the United Nations General Assembly to provide the ECA with adequate financial resources that will enable it to carry out its activities related to the programme for the Decade, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution E/1985/61 of 26 July 1985;

(g) Further appeals to the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO to increase the resources made avilable to UNIDO for the implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of the Decade programme;

(h) Invites financial and investment institutions, especially the ADB and the World Bank to increase the flow of technical assistance and investment resources to the industrial sector in Africa;

(i) Further invites the UNDP, bilateral and other multilateral donor agencies to increase the flow of technical assistance resources to facilitate the implementation of the Decade programme;

(j) Proposes that in view of the high priority accorded to the industrialization of Africa in the Lagos Plan of Action and the programme for the Decade, member States, subregional and regional organizations as

well as international organizations should endeavour to ensure that the regional IPF for the fourth cycle contributes substantially to the accelerated implementation of Decade-related activities;

(k) Calls for an independent mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the IDDA programme as decided by the sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry in resolution I (VI) and invites the UNDP to consider financing that evaluation and participate in its implementation in collaboration with the three secretariats of ECA, OAU and UNIDO;

(l) Calls for an examination of the activities of the regional institutions such as ARSO, ARCEDEM and ARCT, involved in industrial development in order to streamline their work programmes, minimize any duplication and maximize the use of scarce resources;

(m) Reiterates the importance of the African Industrial Development Fund and urges all member States to join and contribute to the Fund so as to facilitate its early operation in line with previous resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers, and invites international and bilateral donor agencies to contribute generously so as to enable the Fund to become operational, and in this regard requests the three secretariats to carry out a study on other means of mobilizing resources for the Fund;

(n) Reiterates the need to limit the variety of products and to employ standardization and quality control practices so as to rationalize and improve the quality of production.

B. Implementation of the OAU Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 and the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990

(a) Takes note of the report presented at the twentieth session of the Commission on the African economic crisis and African industry and measures for industrial rehabilitation and revitalization;

(b) Stresses the importance of the survival measures recommended for the economic recovery and development of Africa, especially in relation to the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990; and in this connection urges African countries to adopt appropriate economic development policies and strategies that correspond to their particular situations and take account of the agreed objectives, principles and activities of the IDDA within the overall priorities of the two programmes cited above;

(c) Urges all member States, as a priority, to embark on or step up short-term rehabilitation measures, including restructuring the industrial sector, rationalizing existing industries in various subsectors, recycling industrial wastes, improving subcontracting to small-scale industries, improving the criteria for allocation of resources, especially foreign exchange resources for industrialization, and to include the above measures in global structural adjustment programmes;

(d) Recommends that member States should accord high priority to existing key industries and provide them with additional assistance in order to achieve full capacity utilization, and calls on UNIDO, ECA, the World Bank and ADB to provide whatever necessary assistance is requested by member States to this end;

(e) Recommends that medium- and long-term measures at the national, subregional and regional levels should primarily focus on resource-based industries, especially those directly linked to agriculture such as those producing fertilizers, pesticides, metal products, as well as irrigation equipment, agricultural tools and implements, and the associated spare parts and components;

(f) Welcomes the advance in laboratory research and development activities related to food processing based on local raw materials, and urges member States and institutions to make every effort to ensure that subsequent steps necessary for the diffusion and commercialization of results of such activities are taken;

(g) Appeals to all member States to intensify their support for the relevant regional institutions by providing them with adequate financial resources and ensuring effective utilization of their services;

(h) Requests the secretariat of the OAU, in association with UNIDO and ECA, to undertake actions aimed at making member States aware of the financial and other resources needed to implement the objectives of the IDDA as defined in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

C. Activities for the implementation phase, 1985-1990 of the programme for the Decade

I. Preparation and promotion of investment projects

(a) Takes note with appreciation of the report prepared by UNIDO as well as information presented by other organizations on their activities relating to the preparation and promotion of investment projects, endorses the recommendations contained in the UNIDO document and invites African countries and organizations to take greater advantage of those activities;

(b) Stresses the importance of proper project preparation which is essential to the mobilization of investment resources. To that end, UNIDO, UNDP, AIDO, ADB, the World Bank and other relevant international and African organizations, including NGOs, should intensify and increase their assistance to African countries and organizations. With regard to the process of selection and quality of experts and consultants, UNIDO is urged to give special attention to the particular needs of African countries;

(c) Calls upon UNIDO to revise its manual on the preparation of industrial feasibility studies with a view to simplifying and integrating it with the manual for industrial project evaluation prepared jointly with AIDO and to make the revised version available to relevant institutions in Africa; furthermore, to convene a working group of all international and regional institutions providing assistance to African countries in project identification and preparation, especially the World Bank, ADB and AIDO, in order to harmonize the approaches and techniques adopted by those organizations;

(d) Urges all member States and African organizations to strengthen their capabilities for project preparation, management and monitoring with a view to facilitating the utilization of technical assistance and investment resources for the implementation of industrial projects;

(e) Urges further all member States to strengthen or establish new national mechanisms to ensure a more effective promotion of industrial investment and support projects, and calls upon UNIDO to intensify its investment promotion activities in Africa, including the provision of assistance in the preparation of investment project profiles;

(f) Appeals to the international community, multilateral funding agencies, especially the ADB and the World Bank, as well as other bilateral and multilateral financing institutions and development foundations to increase the flow of investment and technical assistance resources to the industrial sector in Africa on concessional terms;

(g) Welcomes with appreciation the positive contribution of the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade in the development of the metallurgical industry in Africa and urges all African countries to participate in AFROMET 1987. In this regard, calls upon UNIDO and the authorities of the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade to facilitate the participation of experts from African countries and organizations, by providing them with the necessary assistance;

(h) Welcomes the facilities currently available in the ADB and the World Bank with regard to the provision of lines of credit and project preparation assistance to small- and medium-scale indigenous agents of production and distribution, and requests these institutions to provide member States with comprehensive information on the content and use of such facilities.

II. Measures to enhance the role of indigenous agents of production, distribution and support services, as well as NGOs in the implementation of the programme for the Decade

(a) Takes note with appreciation of the reports prepared by ECA as well as of the information presented by member States and some organizations on measures to enhance the role of indigenous agents of production, distribution and support services for the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

(b) Takes note of the report of the first African symposium on small- and medium-scale enterprises organized by AADFI and WASME at Morocco in 1986, endorses the recommendations of the symposium and calls upon African countries and organizations to undertake, with the assistance of UNIDO, ECA, ADB, the World Bank and other relevant donor agencies and international non-governmental organizations, the necessary measures, including fiscal and financial policies and incentives and creation of training facilities, for the development and promotion of small- and medium-scale enterprises and entrepreneurial capabilities;

(c) Takes note also of the report of the forum on the involvement of NGOs in the implementation of the programme for the Decade convened by AADFI and UNIDO at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August 1985, and endorses the recommendations of that forum;

(d) Endorses the recommendations of the regional workshop on the role of indigenous agents of production and distribution and support services in the accelerated implementation of the IDDA and calls upon member States to translate those recommendations into concrete actions;

(e) Stresses the paramount role of the indigenous agents of production and distribution and support services in the implementation phase of the IDDA, as these agents are involved in every aspect of industrial activities, including project preparation, production technology, financing and marketing;

(f) Stresses the importance of standardization and quality control as well as the need to integrate industrial marketing and trade policies in the promotion of industrial co-operation among member States, and invites member States to pay special attention to improving the quality of industrial products, especially those originating from medium- and small-scale industries, by creating adequate machinery for quality control and product certification so as to improve their competitiveness and maximize foreign exchange earnings. In this regard, stresses the need for the adoption of relevant African regional standards and of measures to improve local technologies, especially in intensifying applied research;

(g) Urges African Governments and organizations to increase the involvement of national, subregional and regional NGOs in the preparation and execution of their industrial programmes and projects;

(h) Urges UNIDO and UNDP as well as ADB, the World Bank, and other relevant African and international financial institutions to increase the use of African NGOs and consultancy organizations, as appropriate, in the preparation and execution of the projects they finance in Africa.

III. Strengthening of African industrial co-operation

(a) Endorses the revised integrated industrial promotion programmes for Central and West Africa along with the proposed measures for their implementation, decides to include the project relating to the rehabilitation of the sugar industry in Angola in the revised programme for Central Africa, and urges UNIDO to ensure that the subregional meetings planned for the Eastern/Southern African and Northern African subregions are held so as to permit the review and revision of the initial integrated industrial promotion programme for those subregions and to make resources available for the organization of future subregional meetings;

(b) Takes note of the joint UNIDO, ITU and PATU programme for the manufacture of telecommunications equipment in Africa, encourages African countries to co-operate in the implementation of that programme and appeals to financial institutions, donors and United Nations development agencies

(c) Stresses the need to accord priority to projects involving the rehabilitation and restructuring of key industries and to integrate further the projects within the framework of national policies and programmes, industrial and sectoral surveys, which should be harmonized in order to minimize duplication;

(d) Urges member States to accord particular importance to the creation and/or strengthening of African engineering and technical capacities which constitute one of the fundamental prerequisites for the successful implementation of industrial projects;

(e) Calls on OAU, ECA and UNIDO to provide member States with all the necessary assistance for harmonizing, on subregional and regional bases, industrialization policies so as to avoid unnecessary competition and to benefit from complementarities in the industrial field.

IV. TCDC and the implementation of the programme for the Decade

(a) Takes note of the reports by ECA and UNIDO highlighting the importance of TCDC in the implementation of the Decade programme; welcomes the efforts made by member States and the secretariats to promote TCDC/ECDC in the industrial field among African countries and their regional institutions as well as between them and developing countries and their associated regional institutions, to facilitate the implementation of the programme for the Decade, and endorses the recommendations proposed by the secretariats in the background documents;

(b) Stresses the importance of the TCDC/ECDC approach in developing industrial capacities and capabilities required for self-reliant and self-sustained growth and development, and recommends it to the African Ministers of Industry as an essential strategy for implementing the programme for the Decade;

(c) Stresses further the importance and usefulness of Solidarity and round-table Ministerial meetings, calls upon UNIDO to intensify and expand the programme in favour of more countries in Africa and to carry out an evaluation of the programme, with a view to introducing appropriate

improvements, including the establishment of suitable follow-up mechanisms not only in the donor and recipient countries, but also in UNIDO;

(d) Welcomes the convening of the Afro-Asian co-operation meeting, urges all African countries to participate actively in the meeting and requests UNIDO to provide information to all participating countries on the final arrangements, including the meeting of the African participants in New Delhi a few days before the meeting, as a recommended by the OAU Council of Ministers, that being considered an important aspect of the meeting;

(e) Appeals to donor countries, financial institutions and relevant international organizations, especially UNDP, to provide the necessary resources to African Governments, subregional/regional institutions and economic groupings dealing with industrial matters so as to facilitate TCDC/ECDC arrangements which will assist in the implementation of the IDDA;

(f) Urges African Governments, the relevant subregional/regional institutions and economic groupings to take the necessary initiatives to promote South-South co-operation in the industrial field within the priorities of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, and in line with the provisions of the programme for the IDDA.

D. UNIDO as a specialized agency

(a) Endorses the new orientation being given to UNIDO as a result of its conversion into a specialized agency, thus enhancing its central co-ordinating role within the United Nations system on matters related to industry, in particular, the priority being accorded to technical co-operation activities, development of industrial manpower, the system of consultations, small- and medium-scale industries, industrial rehabilitation, investment promotion, development of technological capabilities, technical co-operation among developing countries and the greater involvement of non-governmental organizations and integration of women in the industrialization process;

(b) Reiterates the priority accorded to the UNIDO system of consultations and urges all African countries and organizations to participate actively

in the meetings organized within the framework of that system. In this connection, UNIDO is urged to organize regional consultation meetings in Africa relating to capital goods, industrial training and industrial financing over the period 1987 to 1989. UNIDO is further requested to facilitate the participation of African participants in the consultation meetings. In this regard, takes note of the ILO programme of industrial and related sectoral activities and encourages the Ministers of Industry to actively participate in that programme;

(c) Welcomes the UNIDO special programme of technical advisory services developed within the framework of the IDDA and calls upon UNIDO to accord priority to that programme in its programme for the Decade. The meeting urges all African countries and organizations to take full advantage of that programme and invites donor countries and organizations to give technical and financial support to UNIDO for the expansion and implementation of that programme;

(d) Takes note of the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Agro-industries held in Vienna in November 1985 as part of UNIDO's programme to promote the integration and participation of women in industrial development, endorses the recommendations of that meeting, and calls on UNIDO, in co-operation with the ECA and other relevant United Nations organizations, to take all necessary steps to implement those recommendations, including the organization of an African regional meeting to define a practical programme specifically aimed at helping African women to overcome the constraints inhibiting their full contribution to industrial development, especially in agro-industries;

(e) Calls on UNIDO to pay particular attention to the needs of the African countries, especially the least developed countries, and to continue to accord priority to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(f) Attaches particular importance to the second General Conference of UNIDO as a specialized agency, the agenda of which should include:

(i) The Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(ii) The contribution of UNIDO to the restructuring and rehabilitation of African industry, as well as the negotiation of new industrial projects;

(iii) Development of human resources and technological capabilities for industrial development;

(iv) Industrial financing;

(v) The system of consultations; and

(vi) Institutional arrangements.

(g) Recommends that the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO establish a working group of member States to prepare, with the assistance of the UNIDO secretariat, each of the agenda items of the Conference;

(h) Recommends that a special session of the Conference of Ministers, preceded by a meeting of intergovernmental experts, be held to prepare the African common position for the second General Conference of UNIDO (November 1987), at a date to be determined following consultations among the three secretariats and the Chairman of the Conference of Ministers;

(i) Requests the secretariats of ECA, OAU and UNIDO to prepare and present to the meeting of intergovernmental experts proposals on the basis of the agenda for the second General Conference to be established by the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO.

E. Publicity and promotion of the IDDA

(a) Notes with appreciation measures taken to publicize the IDDA not only within Africa but also without and calls upon UNIDO as well as ECa and OAU to intensify their Decade-related promotional activities, directing them towards well-defined target groups and basing them on properly prepared programmes, and requests UNIDO to reproduce and distribute widely to African countries, organizations, educational institutions and other target groups the film on the IDDA;

(b) Calls upon African countries and organizations to undertake appropriate measures in order to mobilize radio, television and other mass media for the promotion of the IDDA among decision-makers not only in Governments, industries and the business community, but also in educational institutions and the population at large including the rural areas. In this connection, UNIDO, ECA and OAU should provide the necessary assistance to the African countries and organizations;

(c) Recommends the proclamation of an "African Industrialization Day" which should be commemorated each year by all African countries and requests the secretariats of ECA, UNIDO and OAU to carry out a study on the implementation of this recommendations, taking into consideration the experience of FAO in the commemoration of its "World Food Day", and to present a report to the ninth Conference of African Ministers of Industry on the matter, including the detailed financial implications it bore for member States and the three organizations. The three secretariats should also study the possibility of issuing special postage stamps commemorating the IDDA;

(d) In view of the paramount importance of creating greater awareness both within Africa and without on the contribution of industry to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (1986-1990) and the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development, appeals to UNDP to allocate, within the framework of the proposals submitted by UNIDO for a support programme for the IDDA, funds from the regional IPF for publicizing the IDDA.

F. General recommendations

(a) Recognizes the important role of public enterprises in the implementation of the Decade programme and calls upon member States to undertake appropriate measures for strengthening those enterprises in order to enhance their efficiency, including their capacities for planning, management, production and marketing;

(b) Stresses the need for effective follow-up and monitoring of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and requests the secretariats of UNIDO, OAU and ECA to continue

to prepare annual progress reports which should include an indication of the results achieved and constraints encountered in the implementation of the programme for the Decade, and those reports should be presented to the Conference of African Ministers of Industry for evaluation and further directives;

(c) Reaffirms the need for the Conference of African Ministers of Industry to meet every two years and recommends that the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa be replaced by an Intergovernmental Committee of Experts in view of the financial constraints encountered in organizing meetings of the Follow-up Committee;

(d) Recommends the proclamation of a second IDDA in order to accelerate further the industrialization of Africa launched during the first Decade, and requests the secretariats of UNIDO, ECA and OAU, after appropriate evaluation of the first Decade, to undertake, in consultation with member States, African organizations and relevant United Nations agencies, the preparation of a programme for that Decade which should be submitted to the tenth Conference of African Ministers of Industry and to provide a progress report to the ninth Conference.

2 (VIII). FUNDING OF AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (AIDF)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 8 (V) of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry inviting ECA, OAU and the ADB to co-operate in the design and organization of the African Industrial Development Fund,

Noting that member States have already ratified the agreement on establishing the Fund,

Concerned that the Fund has not started operations for want of contributions on the part of member States,

Considering the need for funding the pre-investment studies of subregional core projects identified under the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) necessary to achieve the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Requests the African Development Bank to explore possibilities of mobilizing from multilateral and bilateral sources an initial amount of $US 15 million so as to enable the Fund to become operational.

3 (VIII). FOURTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR 1/

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the previous OAU Council of Ministers' resolutions since 1967 especially its CM/Res.277(XIX) institutionalizing the All-Africa Trade Fairs and the decision of the second extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in April 1980 contained in the Lagos Plan of Action to, inter alia, launch a permanent "Buy African Goods" campaign within the framework of the All-Africa Trade Fairs,

Recalling the decision of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Whole on Trade and Finance held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9 to 14 May 1984 to accept the offer of the Republic of Togo to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair,

Taking note with deep appreciation of part I of the report of the OAU Secretariat on the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair which took place in Lome, Togo from 18 November to 8 December 1985,

Recognizing the special attention demonstrated and contribution made by the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema in enabling a successful outcome of the fourth All-Africa Trade Fair,

Further recognizing the functional role that the All-Africa Trade Fair could play in developing intra-African trade, judging from the results of the Lome Fair in terms of the level of participation, the structure and wide range of goods and the production capacity and potential exhibited,

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1/ Morocco expressed reservation on part I and on paragraph 7 of this resolution.

Further recalling its decision adopted in Brazzaville, the Congo in October 1985 during the eighth session of its meeting to accept the offer of Zaire to host the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair, the Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

PART I: FOURTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to transmit, on behalf of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, a special message of congratulations and thanks to the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the Government and people of Togo for the exceptional efforts deployed to make the fourth All-Africa Trade Fair a success;

2. Directs the Secretary-General of the OAU, in collaboration with the ECA, ITC and all relevant intergovernmental organizations, especially ECOWAS, PTA, SADCC, ECCAS and the Indian Ocean Commission, to conduct a thorough assessment of the impact of all the previous All-Africa Trade Fairs and to report to the next Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

PART II: FIFTH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

1. Takes note of the preparatory activities so far undertaken by all concerned;

2. Notes and approves 16-31 July 1988 as the date of the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair;

3. Urges all member States to refrain from organizing national trade fairs on dates which coincide with the date announced for the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair;

4. Urges donors to provide financial assistance to collaborating agencies, such as ITC, the Regional Fund of the ACP-EEC of the Lome Convention, UNDP, UNCTAD, etc., in order to enable them lend financial assistance and technical support to make the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair a success;

5. Endorses the choice of "Promotion of intra-African trade: A factor for the integration of African economies" as the theme for the fifth Fair;

6. Takes note with deep appreciation of the subvention of $US 500,000 granted to the Fifth All-Africa Trade Fair by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity;

7. Directs the OAU Secretariat, in collaboration with ITC and other relevant agencies, to undertake a market survey prior to the fifth Fair and carry out a technical assessment of the impact of the Fair;

8. Approves the composition of the Organizing Committee of the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair as follows: Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire (Chairman), Cameroon, the Congo, Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe;

9. Further approves the terms of reference of the Organizing Committee of the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair as contained in the report of the ninth Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

4 (VIII). AFRICA'S TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE 1/

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that the necessity of promoting and diversifying Africa's external trade with non-traditional partners, in particular with the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe, requires intensive and continuous efforts through multilateral organizations,

Noting with satisfaction that ECA and UNCTAD had already initiated activities in this field in conformity with the various decisions of the Trade and Development Board as well as of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its session,

Considering the need of African countries in this field,

1. Requests the OAU, ECA and UNCTAD secretariats and the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe to intensify their technical assistance activities in this area and consequently request UNDP and the Socialist Countries of Eastern Europe to allocate necessary resources to OAU, ECA and UNCTAD secretariats in order to fully implement their programme of training, dissemination of information and advisory services on national, regional, and interregional levels;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General of OAU, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report on this subject at the tenth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

1/ Morocco had reservation on this resolution.

5 (VIII). ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS (AATPO)

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the report on the critical financial and administrative situation of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO),

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000[1/] assigns to AATPO an important role in the development of intra-African trade,

Cognizant of AATPO's potential to discharge its responsibilities provided it is furnished with the necessary wherewithal,

Noting however that the Association has not been availed with the necessary resources to the extent required by its responsibilities and commitments, and in particular that many of the Association's members are in arrears with their contributions to the Association's budget, and that this threatens the very existence of the Association,

1. Urges the States members of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations to pay to the Association their current assessed as well as arrears of their assessed contributions to the Association,

2. Appeals to all OAU and ECA member States who are not yet members of AATPO to join the Association at the earliest opportunity,

3. Calls on the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to give all possible financial and technical support to AATPO and to carry out the studies on the harmonization of the activities of AATPO with those of the ECA and the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce requested by the eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade;

1/ A/S-11/14 annex I.

4. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and the European Development Fund to give all possible financial assistance and other support to AAPTO.

6 (VIII). ESTABLISHMENT OF A PREFERENTIAL TRADE AREA IN NORTH AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000 and the Final Act of Lagos 1/ which call for the establishment of a preferential trade area,

Recalling further the resolutions on trade promotion in North Africa adopted by the Council of plenipotentiaries at its meetings held in April 1985 and March 1986,

Reiterating its resolution 568 (XXI) of April 1986 inviting member States to accelerate the process of economic integration within existing subregional groupings,

1. Notes with satisfaction the acceptance by and the commitment of the respective governments to the establishment of a preferential trade area for North African countries;

2. Undertakes to create between member States of the subregion a Preferential trade area and a payments and clearing arrangement;

3. Decides to convene an intergovernmental group of experts to define actions in view of establishing the preferential trade area,

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute measures to convene the first meeting of the inter-governmental negotiating team to discuss the modalities for the establishment of the proposed preferential trade area and to submit a progress report to the next meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the Tangier-based MULPOC and to the next Conference of Ministers;

1/ A/S-11/14 annexes I and II

5. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to support the inter-governmental group for their efforts aiming to establish the preferential trade area.

7 (VIII). MEASURES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN AFRICAN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/205 of 17 December 1985 which reaffirmed the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the least developed countries, "as the basis for continuing co-operation between the least developed countries and their development partners, as well as the commitment to the full and effective implementation of the programme" and which also endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental group on the least developed countries on the Mid-Term Global Review of the SNPA,

Further recalling its resolution 387 (XV) of 12 April 1980 entrusting the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries with the responsibility for ensuring the co-ordination of efforts, establishing priorities, monitoring and evaluating progress under the Comprehensive New Programme of Action and the Substantial New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also the decision of the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity by which the Summit adopted Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) which was subsequently endorsed by the thirteenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in resolution S-31 of 1 June 1986 and elaborated in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD),

Deeply concerned about the continued and persistent downslide in economic growth and development performance of the African least developed countries largely as a result of the deepening internal economic crises compounded by such exogenous factors as drought, collapse in world prices for primary commodities, considerable deterioration in their terms of trade, protectionist measures of industrialized countries, and mounting debt service obligations,

Noting with satisfaction the enormous efforts made by the African least developed countries to improve their economic and social conditions, especially the painful austerity measures taken which were expected to lead to adequate economic recovery as foundation for sustained economic growth and development,

Recognizing that the African least developed countries are faced with structural deficiencies which limit their capacity to respond adequately to internally and externally induced imbalances; and their inability to acquire adequate development financing which has shrunk considerably below the targets of external funding requirements of the African LDCs as envisaged by the SNPA,

Deploring that the adoption of adjustment and stabilization programmes supported by the IMF and/or IBRD had become a sine qua non for mobilizing international assistance in terms of financial flows and debt relief; and noting that the implementation of the policy measures recommended in the programmes had further destabilized the LDCs' economies and led to dire social and political consequences,

Taking note of the initiative of some creditor nations in implementing UNCTAD Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) on debt relief especially those donors who had provided outright cancellation of their debt to some African LDCs and ohters who are making progress in alleviating the debt burden of the LDCs,

Bearing in mind that the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VII) is scheduled to take place in Geneva in July 1987 and will consider the problems of the least developed countries bearing in mind the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the LDCs; and that the Addis ababa Declaration of African Ministers responsible for trade and development preparatory to UNCTAD VII of 18 March 1987, had inter alia, reiterated the recommendations of the Mid-Term Global Review on behalf of the LDCs as part of the proposals for negotiations at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Havana, Cuba, in April 1987 and at UNCTAD VII in Geneva in July 1987,

1. Strongly urges African least developed countries to continue to assume the primary responsibility for their overall development and to intensify their economic recovery efforts through the mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 which would enhance the effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

2. Reaffirms the Substantial New Programme of Action as the basis for continued mutual co-operation between the LDCs and the international community and that the programme should be fully and effectively implemented. Donors should provide substantially enlarged volume of financial assistance in real terms to the LDCs on terms which correspond to their immediate and long-term development needs, and in that respect, donor countries, which have not yet done so, should endeavour to attain 0.15 per cent of their GNP as the official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries before the end of the decade or should attain, on a priority basis, doubling of their ODA by 1990;

3. Urges developed countries to fully implement UNCTAD Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) expeditiously and to convert all outstanding bilateral ODA loans of all African LDCs into grants without discrimination;

4. Requests donors to provide increased and quick-disbursing balance-of-payments support as well as commodity aid, programme aid, including sector assistance and general import financing. Such balance-of-payments support in general must not be used to exercise political pressure on the African LDCs and should not be dependent on acceptance by these countries of IMF and/or IBRD structural adjustment and stabilization programmes which involve social costs that hinder their basic aims, objectives and priorities. The IMF should undertake a fundamental review of the principles on which its conditionality rests in such a way as to reflect the peculiar social, economic and political priorities of the LDCs;

5. Urges the IMF and the World Bank to provide an effective mechanism in support of African LDCs currancies while they implement structural adjustment and stabilization programmes; otherwise these currencies will be subject to rapid exchange rate depreciation which in turn will aggravate the already acute inflationary pressures, reduce growth and development in general;

6. Urges Organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international institutions to intensify their efforts in establishing new mechanisms and arrangements for mobilizing increased technical, financial and material resources for the LDCs;

7. Endorses the proposals contained in the Addis Ababa Declaration of the African Ministers responsible for trade and development preparatory to UNCTAD VII of 16 March 1987 with respect to the problems of the African least developed countries and the corresponding measures recommended to be taken at the national and international levels to ensure the effective implementation of the SNPA;

8. Requests the seventh session of UNCTAD to explore the possibilities for fully compensating the export earning shortfalls of the LDCs. Special measures have to be taken to strengthen the commodity markets and enhance export receipts of the LDCs from such commodities. Special arrangements should also be considered for the LDCs in the IMF Compensatory Financing Facility Scheme by providing for full coverage of their export shortfalls, for the subsidization of their interest payments on outstanding drawings and for a longer repayment and grace periods than hitherto;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary of the ECA, in collaboration with UNDP, to provide resources, on priority basis, for studies to be carried out on the overall impact of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes in a selected number of African least developed countries.

8 (VIII). ROLE OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that rural transformation based on sound regional and physical planning is vital to the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER),[1/]

Conscious of the rich experiences available in Africa and the need to promote exchanges of these experiences among its member States,

Aware of the limited resources available for the development of member States,

Recognizing that the building and construction sector plays a crucial role in other sectors such as agriculture, industry, transport and communications and in the provision of physical infrastructure in human settlements,

Recognizing also that effective human settlements development requires close co-operation between the public and private sectors as well as community participation at the local level,

Recognizing further that the development of the human settlements sector requires the availability of trained human resources at all levels,

Noting the high priority given to training in the field of human settlements by Governments, ECA and UNCHS (HABITAT) in their respective work programmes,

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1/ A/40/666.

Noting also that the 1988-1989 draft programme of work and priorities and the draft 1990-1995 medium-term priorities for member States as presented under the work programmes of ECA have been prepared in collaboration with UNCHS (HABITAT) in order to ensure effective co-ordination and harmonization of activities in the area of human settlements in the region,

1. Appeals to member States to give higher priority to physical planning, development and management of their human settlements;

2. Further appeals to member States to give special focus on creating an appropriate environment for the homeless, the poor and the disadvantaged groups to improve their own shelter and neighbourhoods;

3. Immediately urges member States to take necessary measures to integrate physical planning and rural transformation policies and programmes into national socio-economic development planning;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, in co-operation with the Executive Director of UNCHS (HABITAT) and the Managing Director of Shelter-Afrique, UNDP and the World Bank and other aid agencies to mobilize resources, for the provision of technical assistance, upon request, from member States in the formulation and implementation of shelter and human settlements policies and programmes;

5. Urges member States to promote policies conducive to the development of the construction sector along the following lines:

(a) Strengthening building materials as well as its utilization and to train local technicians and artisans for the construction of infrastructure and implementation of rural transformation;

(b) Revision of the building codes and standards in consonance with the prevailing circumstances in member States;

(c) Promoting the informal sector, i.e., the small-scale contractors, building co-operatives as they are labour-intensive enterprises producing multiplier effects for all sectors of the economy at a low capital intensity;

(d) Developing of low-cost solutions for all building types and needs; this could be done by the design and execution of pilot projects which establish clear precedents for large-scale projects;

(e) Establishing and/or strengthening existing housing finance institutions catering for the poorest section of the society;

6. Commends the Executive Secretary, the Executive Director of UNCHS (HABITAT), and the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique for their efforts to formulate a major regional project designed to assist African Governments in the development and production of indigenous building materials to meet the immediate needs of low-cost shelter and infrastructure construction;

7. Appeals to Shelter Afrique, UNDP and other aid agencies to give favourable consideration to providing the necessary financial resources for the effective implementation of the ECA building and construction projects;

8. Urges member States to remove institutional barriers that may present obstacles in the efforts of the poor and disadvantaged groups to improve their own shelter and neighbourhoods;

9. Recommends that member States explicitly promote community participation in human settlements planning, development and management and adopt policies and programmes that would enable the people to fully participate in meeting their own shelter and related needs;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary in co-operation with UNCHS (HABITAT) to assist member States in promoting human resources development to meet the requirements of urban and rural settlements, inter alia, through: (a) development of training materials, (b) organization of training courses and workshops, (c) establishment of networks of human settlements training institutions, (d) continuous assessment and evaluation of human settlements training in Africa, and (e) mobilization of resources and co-ordination of the programmes of various aid organizations concerned with human settlements training in Africa;

11. Endorses the 1988-1989 work programmes and the draft 1990-1995 medium-term priorities for member States in the human settlements sector, as proposed by the Executive Secretary.

9 (VIII). INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the findings of the ECA/ATRCW study on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Considering also the importance of planning women's activities within the United Nations and through the medium-term plan to relate such planning to women and development system-wide, among other things,

Recalling resolution 579 (XXI) on women and development adopted by the twelfth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers,

Considering the new restrictions regarding the programme for the integration of women in development in the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle,

Stressing the need for UNDP to continue financing programmes for the integration of women in development within the MULPOCs,

Taking note of the recommendations made by the meetings of the subregional Committees for the Integration of Women in Development,

Stressing the need for ECA and the regional and subregional machineries for the integration of women in development to co-ordinate their activities and consult each other,

Bearing in mind the recommendations contained in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 1/ and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 2/ in which women have an important role to play,

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1/ A/40/666

2/ A/S-13/2 annex.

1. Recommends to those States which have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular those parts which have to do with education, employment, political and economic activities; at the same time, women themselves are urged to co-operate with their governments in publicizing the Convention and including it in educational programmes;

2. Recommends also to take note of the study on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and endorse the recommendations of that study;

3. Supports the planning of activities for the integration of women in development taking place within the United Nations system;

4. Notes with regret that the appeal it made to UNDP during the seventh meeting of ARCC held at Yaounde in April 1986 for UNDP to continue its financial support of programmes for the integration of women in development within the MULPOCs has received a negative response;

5. Appeals to the member States of the Governing Council of UNDP to do all in their power to ensure that the UNDP continues its support to the women's programme in the MULPOCs and to the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development through the Fourth Programming Cycle;

6. Appeals also to African States, working in conjunction with the Executive Secretary of ECA, to approach bilateral, African and non-African governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide funds for the implementation and follow up of the priority subregional programmes deriving from the Arusha and Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by contribution in cash or in kind at the Pledging Conference of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

7. Requests African States to support the participation of their delegations to meetings of the Subregional Committees and those of ARCC so as to consolidate the gains of the subregional and regional programmes of

8. Requests also African Governments as well as international institutions to include the issue of the integration of women in development into the national priorities set within the context of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development;

9. Requests further that the Executive Secretary of ECA should transmit to the Administrator of UNDP and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the memorandum stating the case for maintaining the programme and structures for the integration of women in development within the MULPOCs and within the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW);

10. Further requests that the Secretary-General of the United Nations should lift the freeze on the posts of women experts responsible for implementing the work programme of regional and subregional machineries for the integration of women in development and have such experts recruited on ECA regular budget posts;

11. Requests also the Executive Secretary to adopt or modify all projects related to the integration of women in development in consultation and co-ordination with the meeting of the plenipotentiaries as well as the Council of Ministers meetings of the MULPOCs and ARCC.

10 (VIII). THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Deeply concerned with the critical food and agriculture situation in Africa in the past two decades as evidenced by the drastic decline in self-reliance in food,

Aware, however, of the improvement in the food situation in some countries in the last two years which, in any case, has been due to improvement in weather conditions in these countries,

Convinced of the need to rehabilitate African agriculture, especially through strengthening the foundation for a solid development of the food sector,

Noting the success in food production achieved by some countries and wishing this trend to proceed towards the total elimination of hunger from the African continent as soon as possible,

Recalling Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990[1] adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, which accords high priority to the food and agriculture sector,[2]

Recalling also the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development adopted in May 1986 by the United Nations special session on the African economic crisis,

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1/ A/40/666

2/ Morocco had reservation on the fifth paragraph of the preamble of this resolution.

Recognizing further the critical financial gap which seriously hinders the growth of the agricultural sector in Africa,

Recognizing also that the technological gap in Africa has a direct relationship with declining agricultural productivity, which is aggravated by natural factors such as drought, desertification, floods and cyclones,

Recognizing further the role of agricultural research and scientific training in the development of appropriate technology for the food and agricultural sector in Africa,

Aware of the fact that some modest breakthroughs achieved in agricultural research in some parts of Africa have not been widely publicized for the information and necessary action of other African countries,

Having considered the report of the secretariat on the International Mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the General Assembly by its resolution 38/198 of 20 December 1983 to designate the year 1991 as the International Year for the Mobilization of Financial and Technological Resources to Increase Food and Agricultural Production in Africa bearing in mind the relevant criteria set forth in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980,

1. Takes note of the report;

2. Reaffirms the individual and collective commitment of African Governments to the full implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 which focus on food and agriculture;3/

3/ Morocco had reservation on the operative paragraph 2 of this resolution.

3. Reaffirms also the collective commitment to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, which focus on food and agriculture;

4. Urges member States to continue to translate into concrete programmes and projects the recommendations on food and agriculture contained in the Priority Programme and the United Nations Programme of Action and especially to:

(a) Increase the share of public expenditure allocated to agriculture to attain a target of 20-25 per cent of aggregate public investment by the year 1989 where this has not already been done;

(b) Intensify efforts in agricultural research and training with a view to developing appropriate technology for food and agriculture in Africa and in this regard, allocate on a sustained basis between 10-20 per cent of the total public expenditure to agriculture, agricultural development research training and extension;

(c) Publicize in the scientific literature and other relevant media, information regarding research breakthroughs in their countries or other parts of Africa for the interest of member countries and subregional and international research organizations;

5. Urges national, subregional and regional agricultural research institutes to co-ordinate their activities and to co-operate with each other in the exchange of information regarding their research activities;

6. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to take all necessary measures to facilitate and ensure effective co-operation among national, subregional and international research institutions in Africa;

7. Calls on the international community to give high priority in their aid programme to the agriculture sector in Africa and in particular to agricultural research and technology development;

8. Urges the Secretary-General to put forward concrete proposals to the General Assembly which would ensure the success of the International Year for Africa and effectively mobilize the necessary financial and technological resources to increase food and agricultural production in Africa.

11 (VIII). CONVENING OF A MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS PRIOR TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE CODE OF CONDUCT OF MARITIME CONFERENCES

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the important contribution made by foreign trade to the development of African countries,

Desirous of ensuring an increase in this foreign trade,

Conscious of the fact that almost 90 per cent of the value of this trade is effected through maritime transport,

Taking into account the fact that from 1980 till now, African countries control only 1 per cent of the world maritime tonnage, whereas the ideal percentage according to a realistic interpretation of the objectives of the United Nations International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Decade Development 1/ (1981-1990) is 3.92 per cent, 2/

Noting on the one hand that liner shipping absorbs the bulk of maritime traffic of value to African countries, and on the other hand, that the efficiency of maritime services in Africa has been severely affected by the abusive practices of foreign monopolies which still control a good part of this transport subsector,

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1/ General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 24 October 1980 annex.

2/ ECA's estimation.

Noting also with satisfaction that since 1974 the international community has regulated almost all maritime liner services with a view to eliminating its numerous conference practices and has made it possible for developing countries, desirous of establishing a merchant liner fleet, to secure a reasonable proportion of this traffic for their shipping companies,

Aware of Africa's interest in this agreement in which 28 African countries are contracting parties,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Code of Conduct of Maritime Conferences, as an instrument for ending these conference practices, is in fact likely to lose its real significance on account of the radical differences of interpretation observed in its implementation among developed and underdeveloped countries in terms of maritime services,

Aware that the weakening of the Code is detrimental to African interests in this sector,

Desirous on the one hand to safeguard African solidarity during the next Diplomatic Conference to review this international agreement which is scheduled to take place towards the end of 1988; and on the other hand to ensure the revised instrument includes inter alia an African dimension,

Requests the Executive Secretary in collaboration with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Organization of African Unity, Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on Maritime Transport and Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping and other interested organizations to organize, early in 1988, an intergovernmental meeting of African experts, prior to the Diplomatic Conference to review the Code scheduled for 1989 and to present a report on the meeting to the next session of the Conference of Ministers.

12 (VIII). INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 359 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on the establishment of a Data Bank,

Recalling also its resolution 366 (XV) of 12 April 1980 on the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS),

Noting the importance for member States to generate comparative data and information on economic recovery and development for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990,

Recognizing the ever-pressing need for member States to have immediate access to national and comparative data and information on economic and social development for planning and decision-making,

Cognizant of the problems hindering the efficient organization and delivery of information services at national, subregional and regional levels,

Recognizing that incompatible information collection and classification methods and poor communications mechanisms have hampered inter-country exchange of development information and experience,

Noting the recommendation of the PADIS Regional Technical Committee concerning a study on the adaptation of PADIS to changing realities,

Noting with satisfaction the steps taken towards the establishment of subregional documentation and information centres in Central, Eastern and Southern and North Africa,

Noting also with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the PADIS programme,

1. Adopts the report of the third meeting of the PADIS Regional Technical Committee and takes note of its recommendations as well as the PADIS work plan for 1987-1988 and strategies for the period 1987-1991 contained therein;

2. Calls upon the Government of the Niger and the ECA secretariat to intensify their efforts to launch as soon as possible the West African Documentation and Information System;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme and the International Development Research Centre of Canada for their continued support of PADIS as it enters its third phase;

4. Commends the continuously evolving co-operation between ECA/PADIS and UNESCO/PGI in assisting African member States in the areas of documentation and information, particularly the programme being developed in the context of the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle;

5. Commends also Zaire and Zambia for their financial contributions to the development of the PADIS system and network, in particular, to the establishment of CADIS and ESADIS respectively;

6. Calls upon member States and the international community to include PADIS in their pledging to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

7. Calls upon PADIS to continue its ongoing activities in systems and network development and to extend its activities to the development of advisory services in information systems development and policy, innovative user services, training in information systems, promotion of horizontal co-operation in information exchange in the region, provision of access to its data bases for African member States and undertaking research on improved methodologies for statistical and non-numerical data base development;

8. Requests the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their support to PADIS, particularly by making available the data bases and information products they generate to allow for wider dissemination

9. Requests also the Executive Secretary of ECA to assist member States in this vital area by taking the necessary measures to make information systems development and user services a part of regular budget technical co-operation activities of the ECA, beginning with the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1990-1995;

10. Requests further that the Executive Secretary should explore ways and means of including more technical co-operation activities on information systems development in the ECA work programme and budget for 1988-1989;

11. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report on progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the twenty-third session of the Commission.

13 (VIII). THE AFRICAN SOCIAL SITUATION

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 423 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on the social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action and the measures annexed thereto,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 and 26 March 1985,

Noting with concern that the recent economic crisis in the region has had severe social consequences, with millions of the African populations suffering from displacement, famine, starvation and death,

Aware that the majority of the African populations live in rural areas where development efforts have still not succeeded in eliminating poverty and marginalization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/99 of 13 December 1985 on popular participation as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights,

Convinced that economic recovery and growth must be achieved simultaneously with the social objectives of equity, participation and social justice for all population groups, especially youth, women and any disadvantaged groups,

Concerned that many social development and social welfare programmes have been marginal and not received the necessary priority and resources,

1. Calls upon member States to give high priority in their national development plans to social development policies and programmes;

2. Urges all member States to promote popular participation in the development process;

3. Invites member States and relevant development agencies at the regional and international levels to accord higher priority to the formulation, development, implementation and evaluation of integrated rural development projects and activities;

4. Emphasizes the importance of making analyses of, and exchanging information on, the social impact of the recent economic crisis in order to formulate and implement policy measures in the fields of employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aged, refugee and displaced persons, full participation of youth in the development process and the full integration and participation of women in development;

5. Urges all contracting member States to honour their commitments to the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), the only regional centre concerned with social development problems, and appeals to African Governments which are not yet members to accede to the agreement establishing the Centre;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to accord the programme for social development in Africa the highest priority;

7. Requests also the Executive Secretary of ECA to report to the Conference of Ministers every two years on the African social situation and any social trends and problems requiring particular attention.

14 (VIII). DEVELOPMENT OF CARTOGRAPHY AND REMOTE SENSING SERVICES IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 November 1986 and the resolutions contained therein,

Mindful of the close affinity between cartography and remote sensing and the need for their integration and strengthening in order that the composite disciplines may be in the position to provide member States with essential geographic information, scientific data and maps needed for the development of their national economies,

Noting that there is great need to increase awareness of cartography and remote sensing as tools for the development of natural resources, control of desertification and protection of the environment so as to contribute valuable inputs into the measures for the rapid implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as well as Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD),

Bearing in mind that United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Africa provide the unique forum for discussing modern trends in the development of cartography and remote sensing for the rapid production of information and data for economic planning, and offer an invaluable opportunity for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas between African experts on the one hand and between them and their foreign counterparts on the other,

1. Endorses the report of the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and the recommendations contained therein;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to convene the seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in 1989;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to take necessary accelerated measures towards the merger of the African Remote Sensing Council and the African Association of Cartography to submit its report to the fourteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers;

4. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue to sustain his efforts towards:

(a) Better co-ordination of institutional cartographic and remote sensing activities in so far as they concern the attainment of standardized specifications for topographical maps in Africa and the establishment of a common geodetic datum for Africa;

(b) Supporting Africa's regional efforts to establish an African Standardization Gravity Net (ASGN) and a common geodetic datum for Africa;

(c) Taking measures to promote the science and technology of cartography and remote sensing through the organization of seminars and workshops on topics relevant to Africa's economic development for the dissemination of information on the region's activities in these fields to the member States;

5. Urges all member States to apply the Standardized Specifications for Africa (SSA) as endorsed by the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and to ensure that topographical maps series at the scale of 1:50,000 published for their territories after 1988 conform to the SSA specification.

15 (VIII). MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990 1/ AND AFRICA'S PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, 1986-1990 2/ 3/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) in which, inter alia, all Governments are urged to take effective action for the rapid and full implementation of the Programme and the United Nations Secretary-General was requested to monitor the implementation process,

Recalling also its resolution ES-2/4 of 15 October 1986 on the review and assessment of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, operative paragraph 11 of which requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit periodic reports to the Conference of Ministers on the status of and progress in the implementation of UN-PAAERD and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER).

Noting with appreciation that a majority of member States have completed the ECA 1986 questionnaire on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER,

Having considered with satisfaction the results of ECA's preliminary survey on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER,

Noting with satisfaction that appreciable progress has been made by member States in the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER,

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1/ A/S-13/2 annex.

2/ A/40/666.

3/ Morocco had reservation on this resolution.

Convinced of the need to update the information contained in the 1986 Survey on a yearly basis, including additional information on the impact of the various policy measures and reforms that have been adopted, and also of the need for member States to improve the flow of information, quantitatively as well as qualitatively, for monitoring their implementation of the UN-PAAERD and APPER,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of ECA and his staff for the commendable effort in preparing a preliminary survey on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER;

2. Strongly urges member States that have not completed the 1986 questionnaire to do so as soon as possible, in any case not later than 15 May 1987, to enable the revised survey to serve as one of the inputs for the draft 1987 report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the forty-second session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the UN-PAAERD, as called for in resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986;

3. Invites member States to create and/or strengthen the mechanisms for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of all information required for the monitoring of UN-PAAERD and APPER;

4. Urges member States to complete the questionnaire to be sent out by ECA in 1987 and subsequent years on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER by the stated deadlines;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to assist member States to improve the flow of information for monitoring their development plans;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to prepare a more comprehensive report on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER in 1987 and submit it to the twenty-third session of the Commission and fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

7. Requests further the Administrator of UNDP to provide resources to ECA Secretariat to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to monitor the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER at the national, subregional and regional levels.

16 (VIII). UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA[1/]

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 291 (XIII) of 29 February 1977, Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/62 of 22 July 1986 on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa which, inter alia, endorsed the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its fifth meeting held on 11 March 1986 at Harare, Zimbabwe,

Referring to its resolution 563 (XXI) of 19 April 1986 by which the Secretary-General was requested to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with resources to enable it to organize co-financing meetings and carry out an indepth evaluation of the Transport and Communications Decade programme,

Referring also to the report [2/] of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986 and to the General Assembly at its forty-first session,

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1/ Morocco had reservation on this resolution

2/ Symbol of report shall only be available after report is printed at Headquarters.

Taking note of the progress report 3/ on the implementation of the second phase Decade programme, the report 4/ of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning referring to the report 5/ of the first combined meeting of the Trans-African Highway Authorities and especially its resolution requesting the reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary in mobilizing resources and securing international assistance for implementing the second phase Decade programme,

Aware of the financial burden on African countries in maintaining individual Bureaux and particularly for many countries belonging to more than one Bureau and therefore subject to multiple contributions,

Convinced that a single Bureau would adequately serve the needs of African countries in intensifying and consolidating the efforts already made towards the rapid development of the Trans-African Highway network at a very low cost compared with individual Bureau for each Trans-African Highway Authority,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 563 (XXI) of 19 April 1986 on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

2. Notes with satisfaction the actions taken by the Executive Secretary in response to its resolution 563 (XXI) of 19 April 1986 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/62 of 20 July 1986;

3. Welcomes the role played by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, under the Economic Commission for Africa as "lead agency", in co-ordinating the activities towards the attainment of the Decade objectives;

3/ E/ECA/CM.13/23.

4/ E/ECA/CM.12/43.

5/ E/ECA/TRANS/42.

4. Appreciates the continued financial support which the General Assembly has provided for the activities of the Decade;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for his steadfast support of the Decade through the financing of the Decade Co-ordination Unit and other Decade activities and requests him to continue this support through the termination and post-evaluation of the programme;

6. Thanks donor countries and financing institutions for the financial and technical assistance they have provided for the implementation of the Decade programme, and urges them to continue and intensify their support for the Decade programme to its successful termination in 1988;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to urgently reactivate the Trans-African Highway Bureau in ECA and to provide it with the necessary office space, basic equipment and technical support for its smooth and efficient functioning;

8. Requests also UNDP to provide financial assistance during its Fourth Programming Cycle for the establishment and operation of the Bureau;

9. Requests further the Executive Secretary to intensify his efforts in the implementation of the Decade programme as it comes to an end in 1988, to ensure the implementation of the activities referred to above, and to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the second phase Decade programme and the implementation of this resolution to the fourteenth meeting of this Conference.

17 (VIII) DATA NEEDS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting the efforts of a growing number of African countries to bring about structural adjustment of their economies through a variety of policy measures, development programmes, and institutional programmes,

Considering that the above-mentioned activities have significant social implications, both short and long term, particularly in terms of their impact on the income levels and living conditions of different sections of the population, especially the poor,

Convinced that in order to monitor and assess the social impact of structural adjustment and to design and implement complementary programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, it is necessary to generate a continuing flow of integrated demographic and socio-economic data which will enable a comprehensive study of the living conditions of different sections of the population and the changes over time in those conditions,

Recalling that the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) is designed to help member States to obtain, through a systematic programme of household surveys and in conjunction with data from censuses and administrative records, integrated statistical data required for formulating, implementing and monitoring development plans, policies and administration as well as building national household survey capabilities,

Noting that a number of African countries are participating in AHSCP and have already generated a wide range of demographic and socio-economic data and that many more countries intend to participate in AHSCP,

Recalling its resolution 430 (XVII) of April 1982 on the African Household Survey Capability Programme which emphasized the importance of AHSCP and the need to give it high priority by member States as means of improving their statistical data base,

Taking note of the World Bank proposal on the assessment of the social dimensions of structural adjustment, using a detailed household surveys programme entitled "Living Standards Measurement Study" (LSMS),

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring a proper co-ordination in the household surveys programme undertaken in the African region in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote an optimal use of the scarce resources available,

1. Calls upon member States to take maximum advantage of AHSCP as means of meeting their data needs for assessing the social implications of structural adjustment programmes and where necessary strengthen AHSCP activities for this purpose, especially by expediting, processing and analysing the survey results;

2. Urges the international agencies to make use of AHSCP framework as a tool for developing the information systems in African countries for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of their development activities;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the heads of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to convene, as soon as possible, a regional meeting of African experts to discuss an overall plan, including AHSCP, for meeting the emerging data needs of the African countries in the context of the assessment of the social dimensions of structural adjustment.

18 (VIII). SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN REGIONAL RIVER AND LAKE BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution ES-2/1 of 16 October 1986 which requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue their close co-operation in all activities concerning the preparation, formulation and implementation of the Fourth Regional Programming Cycle for Africa,

Recalling further its resolution ES-2/7 of 16 October 1986 which requests the United Nations Development Programme to give technical and financial assistance to African regional and subregional economic integration and to give priority to projects and programmes submitted by the latter insofar as they reflect the priority needs of the member States, in accordance with the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990[1], and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990[2],

Considering the fact that the regional river and lake basin organizations are suitable vehicles for promoting and accelerating economic integration in their various subregions,

1. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the report on river basin development in Africa[3]

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to consider further assistance to the existing river and lake basin organizations during the Fourth Programming Cycle and to consider extending

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1/ A/S-11/2 annex
2/ A/40/666
3/ E/ECA/CM.13/14.

such assistance to the creation of new viable regional river and lake basin organizations to further the process of economic integration in Africa;

3. Further requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide to the Economic Commission for Africa the necessary financial resources to enable it to assist in:

i) the strengthening of existing and creation of new viable river/lake basin organizations;

ii) the development of programmes and in the monitoring of the implementation of the activities of the organizations.

4. Urges member States within these river/lake basins to support such organizations both financially and materially in order to ensure their success and effectiveness with regard to their efficient implementation of programmes and their other functions as centres for the planning, development and co-ordination of multi-sectoral activities in the subregions.

19 (VIII). REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SUBMITTED BY THE NIGER ON THE ORGANIZATION OF A SEMINAR ON GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that economic and social progress in African States depends on endogenous and self-sustained development,

Convinced that there can be no endogenous and self-sustained development without the participation of the population,

Convinced also that access to basic grassroots development is becoming increasingly difficult, or compromised due to the current crisis affecting the economy of African countries in general and that of the least developed countries in particular,

Conscious of the role that basic communities play and continue to play in the field of agriculture and food production with a view to reducing the effects of this crisis,

1. Expresses satisfaction at the interest and priority that African countries show and give to the rural community due to its crucial importance regarding the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, and the achievement of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the OAU Secretary-General, to encourage African countries to send competent representatives to the forthcoming seminar on grassroots development scheduled to take place from 8 to 13 June 1987 in Niamey, Republic of the Niger;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to provide financial and technical assistance to the organizing committee in order to make it possible for it to organize this seminar.

20 (VIII). CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Stressing the importance of culture in development,

Recalling the conclusions of various African and international meetings on the cultural aspects of development,

Reaffirming the terms of the declaration on the cultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Convinced that culture should be promoted as one of the key aspects of development,

Confident that it is necessary and urgent to include social and cultural factors in development strategies and plans,

Equally confident that the standard of living and social development of people could be improved among other things by developing their creativity and participation in the various aspects of development,

Having heard the report presented by the OAU General Secretariat on culture and development,

1. Welcomes both the establishment in April 1986 in Port Louis (Mauritius) of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture and the Conference's objectives as well as the offer of the Government of Burkina Faso to host the second meeting of the Conference in 1988;

2. Further welcomes the proclamation by the General Assembly of the United Nations of a World Cultural Development Decade (1988-1997) under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO;

3. Invites member States:

(a) to reflect the needs, potential and social and cultural status of the people concerned when designing and implementing development programmes and projects;

(b) to take appropriate steps to provide information and publicity on the role of culture in development;

(c) to adapt the process of development to positive socio-cultural elements and to safeguard fundamental cultural values that promote equity and social justice;

(d) to encourage cultural exchanges and co-operation among themselves;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Secretary-General of OAU and the Director-General of UNESCO to formulate specific activities focusing on the role of culture in development.

21 (VIII). THE UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS (UNAFRI)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the numerous resolutions since 1975, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, calling upon the United Nations Secretary-General to establish an African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and requesting the United Nations Development Programme to provide the necessary financial resources to assist the Institue in effectively discharing its duties to member States,

Recalling further Resolution 392 (XV) of April 1980, which requested the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the relevant international and regional organizations, to take the appropriate steps to establish a United Nations Regional Institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders in the region;

Also recalling resolution 4 adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders, which urgently requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider the establishment of an African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders as a matter of highest priority;

Concerned about the escalation of crime, violence, and juvenile delinquency in African countries, and particularly the new dimensions of criminality which threaten to nullify developmental efforts and economic and social gains hard-won by African countries;

1. Takes note of the efforts made by the United Nations Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary, which, in December 1986, culminated in the establishment of the United Nations African Institute for the prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Africa, which is temporarily located in the ECA Secretariat, and the launching of its initial phase of operation;

2. Expresses its profound gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme, for financing the preparatory activities and initial phase of the Institute, and appeals to the UNDP and other United Nations financing agencies to continue providing the Institute with the necessary financial support, during its first five years of operation, in line with established practices as regards the other similar institutes in other developing regions of the world;

3. Reaffirms the importance and the role the Institute is called upon to play in assisting member States in assessing criminality trends in the region and their impacts on national development, in the formulation of policies and programmes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in the promotion of criminal justice reforms in the context of development and in encouraging technical co-operation among African countries in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

4. Urgently calls upon governments of member States interested in offering host facilities for the Institute to indicate their interest soonest to enable the Institute to move to its permanent site;

5. Appeals to governmens of member States to contribute financially to the Institute in order to enable it to carry out its programme of activities, and to co-operate fully in promoting its objectives;

6. Requests the ECA secretariat to fully collaborate with the Organization of African Unity and other United Nations agencies in the promotion of the objectives of the Institute and in the mobilization of the necessary resources so that member States could obtain the maximum benefit from the Institute;

7. Appeals to governments, non-governmental and international organizations outside the region, to co-operate fully with the Institute and provide technical and financial support to its activities to enable it to

effectively achieve its objectives, in the spirit of international co-operation, in accordance with the Milan Plan of Action and the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and the New International Economic Order.

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to submit a report to the Conference of Ministers, at its fourteenth meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

22 (VIII). DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Conference of Ministers,

Having noted the UNTACDA progress report[1] on the second phase programme as well as the complementary oral report on the African Telecommunications Development Conference held in Tunis, in January 1987,[2]

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/64 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on telecommunications for socio-economic development which invited the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee to convene the conference of African telecommunications administrations to follow up, inter alia, the work of the World Telecommunications Development Conference and adapt recommendations to meet priority needs of the region,

Recalling also resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/65 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the Regional African Satellite Communications Systems (RASCOM) which, inter alia, called on member States to continue to give high priority to the study project in order to realize the goals and objectives of the African community in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action,

Aware that telecommunications including broadcasting play an essential role in commerce, cultural and the economic activities and in many public and social services and hence telecommunications should be regarded as a complement to other investments and an essential component in the development process,

Noting that in spite of the achievements made in the implementation of PANAFTEL Network, the Network is grossly under-utilized due to, inter alia, lack of operational agreements on tariffs and transit arrangements and poor maintenance on parts of the network,

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1/ E/ECA/CM.13/23.

2/ Morocco had reservation on the first paragraph of the preamble.

1. Urges the African countries to expedite action to:

(a) Set up local manufacture of telecommunication equipment as appropriate on a collective basis at subregional or regional levels;

(b) Formulate common specifications aimed at evolving combined procurement on subregional or regional basis in order to derive economies of scale and logistic support for ease of operations and mainentance,

(c) Formulate agreements on tariffs and transit arrangements and implement them on PANAFTEL Network with a view to promote transit traffic within Africa;

(d) Formulate effective national maintenance plans to obviate the unreliability of the PANAFTEL Network due to poor maintenance;

2. Commends the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee for convening a successful Conference on African Telecommunications Development which made important wide-ranging recommendations for development of telecommunications up to the year 2000;

3. Requests the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee to institute necessary active follow-up mechanism on both the recommendations of the World Telecommunications Development Conference and the African Telecommunications Development Conference, Tunis, from 12 to 16 January 1987;

4. Calls upon Governments of member countries of ECA to urgently set up multidisciplinary sectoral national co-ordination committees for the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM) feasibility study project;

5. Calls upon also the member countries of ECA to formulate national communication policies properly integrated within the national development objectives;

6. Expresses its appreciation to UNDP, ECA, ADB, UN and international agencies, development and donor agencies for the assistance they have provided for development of telecommunications including broadcasting in the region, and urges them to intensify their assistance for accelerated implementation of telecommunications, including broadcasting in Africa;

7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA as the Co-ordinator for UNTACDA to co-ordinate, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, the activities arising from the recommendations of the African Telecommunications Development Conference, Tunis, January 1987, and report to the ECA Conference of Ministers as well as the Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

23.(VIII) ACCELERATION OF SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRTATION IN AFRICA AND THE NEW ROLE OF THE MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTRES (MULPOCs)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 296 (XIII) of March 1977 on economic co-operation, and 311 (XIII) also of March 1977 on the establishment of the MULPOCs,

Recalling also resolution 566 (XXI) of April 1986 on the role of the MULPOCs in promoting subregional economic co-operation,

Noting that ten years after their creation, the MULPOCs have creditably executed their mandate,

Aware that while some progress has been made in the economic integration of the subregions there is a need for the re-evaluation of the subregional integration strategy with a view to correcting inadequacies in the co-ordination of the activities of economic integration groupings,

Desirous of accelerating subregional economic integration which is one of the means whereby the economic development of African countries can be speeded up,

Anxious to establish an economic integration grouping in North Africa so as to complete the coverage of the entire continent,

Noting that the market integration approach adopted with regard to insufficiently developed African subregions cannot generate economic integration and that, at this juncture, the need is to adopt an approach which accords priority to the building of subregional infrastructures and subregional production capacities with a view to effecting the fundamental structural changes of which African economies stand in need,

Considering the fact that market integration should be synchronized with the strengthening of subregional infrastructures and the establishment of subregional production capacities and that for this reason, the removal of customs barriers should take into account the effect which such removal would have on the economies of States members of economic integration groupings since common external tariffs can be established only within an economic space over which production centres are equitably distributed,

Noting that the presence of the MULPOCs in the subregions should continue to help in improving the co-ordination of integration activities conducted within the economic communities as well as the river and lake basin development organizations,

Desirous also of improving the performance of the MULPOCs in the implementation of their work programmes and of harmonizing the periodicity of their meetings with the programming cycle of the ECA secretariat,

Welcoming the fruitful collaboration between ECA and UNDP which resulted in the fielding of a mission to assist African integration groupings in the preparation of their fourth cycle project documents,

1. Supports the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme in their effort to adopt an economic integration approach which gives priority to structural transformation in Africa's subregions;

2. Requests UNDP, within its Fourth Cycle Regional Programme, to approve economic integration projects that further the new integration strategy;

3. Reaffirms the provisions of operative paragraph 2 of resolution 566 (XXI) in which the MULPOCs were called upon to increase their assistance to the intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of economic integration projects and the co-ordination of the activities of various economic integration groupings with a view to avoiding duplication and smoothly instituting the process of subregional economic integration;

4. Requests the MULPOCs to bring all available subregional expertise to bear on the effective implementation of subregional economic integration programmes;

5. Requests also both the ECA secretariat and the UNDP to strengthen the MULPOCs in the respective subregions with a view to making them economic integration project executing agencies that can bring the expertise of ECA's substantive divisions and the United Nations specialized agencies to bear on the implementation of the aforementioned project activities and attract the necessary funds for the effective implementation of the pre-investment studies which the process requires;

6. Decides, in the two-fold concern for economy and efficiency, that the MULPOC policy organs should henceforth hold their meetings every other year beginning from 1989 so as to bring their programming cycle in line with that of the ECA secretariat. In between biennial meetings, a follow-up committee of officials would meet to evaluate interim reports on the implementation of work programmes;1/

7. Expresses its appreciation to those member States that have constantly supported the MULPOCs and invite all member States to increase their financial and technical assistance by placing at the disposal of the MULPOCs consultants to carry out specific tasks and thereby helping the MULPOCs to play fully their role as catalysts for subregional economic integration;

8. Notes with satisfaction the commitment of member States of the North African MULPOC to the establishment of a preferential trade area in their subregion and requests both ECA and UNDP to do their utmost in order to ensure that the studies needed for the establishment of such a preferential trade area are made available to member States of the North African MULPOC within a reasonable period of time.

1/ The North African MULPOC will take the relevant decision in 1988.

24 (VIII). AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (IDEP)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 93 (VI) of February 1964 which established the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa with the paramount goal of promoting and safeguarding the economic independence of the African countries,

Recalling also its resolution 537 (XX) of April 1985 and ECOSOC resolution 1985/62 which among other things requested regular posts for IDEP and resolution 574 (XXI) of April 1986 on the future development and the financing of IDEP,

Appreciative of the joint efforts made by UNDP, ECA and the African Governments to undertake an evaluation of UNDP assistance to the African Institute for Economic Planning and Development,

Noting with satisfaction the conclusions and recommendations of the mission highlighting IDEP's specific role in the development of human resources and capacities required for the socio-economic development of the continent and in particular its potential role in the implementation of UN-PAARED,

1. Endorses the mission's recommendations as approved by the Governing Council of IDEP regarding the restructuring of the Institute with a view to (a) achieving balanced growth and development of its four main activities - training, research, conferences, advisory services; (b) re-orienting its current pattern of resource allocation in such a way as to gradually phasing out UNDP's support for management and training staff to be taken over by contributions of Governments; and (c) simultaneously chanelling of UNDP's anticipated contribution to IDEP towads operational activities and in particular to research and advisory services;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the UNDP for having provided vital assistance to IDEP since its inception and for indicating its positive reaction to the recommendations of the Evaluation Mission;

3. Appeals to all member States to recognize that the continued existence and success to IDEP, endorsed by all parties concerned, implies a new commitment to their responsibility to IDEP which calls first and foremost for the regular and prompt payment of their contribution;

4. Calls upon all member States therefore to make every effort to pay regularly and promptly their annual assessed contributions and requests those countries which are still in arrears to endeavour to pay these by installment until they are cleared completely in line with ECA resolution 574 (XXI) and further appeals to the host Government to continue its efforts to fully implement its obligations in the spirit of its Agreement with the Commission;

5. Requests the Governing Council of IDEP to closely monitor the implementation of the recommendations and in particular those requiring action on the part of IDEP in its annual reviews of the activities of the Institute and to ensure that the new Medium-term Plan of IDEP is approved as soon as possible and is in line with the recommendations of the Evaluation Mission;

6. Requests also the Governing Council of IDEP to ensure that its new Medium-term Plan is in line with the recommendations of the Evaluation Mission subject to any relevant modifications to be made by the Advisory Board of Studies to take appropriate steps to implement cost savings measures recommended by the Evaluation Mission;

7. Further requests the Governing Council to take all measures to ensure that the Advisory Board of Studies is duly constituted and becomes operational without further delay.

8. Requests UNDP to continue to provide the necessary assistance over the next five years in line with the recommendations of the Evaluation Mission with particular focus on the establishment of a viable income-generating consultancy service;

9. Calls upon UNDP, in view of the fact that the funding of fellowships for training from national IPFs has not been working effectively since its introduction, to seriously consider making provision for fellowships under its future assistance to IDEP for selective/incentive training for activities in the field of economic co-operation and integration;

10. Further calls on UNDP to ensure the effective monitoring of its future assistance at the country level through the respective UNDP field offices and in this respect also promote greater co-operation between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the appropriate follow-up of the recommendations with the UNDP and submit an official request embodied in a project document covering the period of UNDP's Fourth Regional Programme for Africa;

12. Further requests the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to implement those recommendations which call for joint implementation by the United Nations and ECA. In this connection, steps should be taken to:

(a) Transfer to IDEP the posts of ECA's staff members currently on assignment to IDEP;

(b) Ensure that appropriate action is taken to present ECOSOC resolution 1985/62 to the United Nations General Assembly for the provision of regular posts to IDEP;

(c) Follow-up on possible arrangements in the spirit of TCDC to second or assign staff from IDEP's sister institutions in Latin America and Asia to IDEP.

25 (VIII). SUSTAINING AFRICA'S INITIATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE DEEPENING OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHALLENGE FOR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution S-13/2 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) adopted at the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling also its resolution ES-2/4 adopted at the second extraordinary session of the Commission on the Review and Assessment of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa,

Aware of the need to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the UN-PAAERD so as to ensure that a truly sound foundation is laid for recovery and development in Africa as well as the need to assess the real prospects for such recovery and development,

Also aware of the need to sustain the momentum generated by the special session for the implementation of the Programme,

Conscious of the important role that grass-root and community development play in the development process in Africa,

Also conscious of the need to deepen the understanding of African Governments and the international community on the continent's long-term development challenge,

Taking note with appreciation of the initiatives of the Executive Secretary of ECA, the United Nations Steering Committee and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Follow-up on the UN-PAAERD at the regional level to organize two international conferences on the UN-PAAERD in 1987, one in

Abuja, Nigeria on "Africa: The Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development" in collaboration with the OAU and ADB and the other in Libreville, Gabon on "The Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development" in co-operation with the agencies of the United Nations system,

Also noting with appreciation the willingness of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Gabon to host the two conferences,

Appreciative of the generous financial assistance given to the Abuja and Libreville conferences by the United Nations Development Programme and by other governments and donors, particularly the Governments of Canada and Sweden and the Ford Foundation,

Further noting that the Government of the Republic of the Niger intends to organize a symposium on grass-root development,

1. Welcomes the effort to maintain the momentum generated by the special session and to promote a deepening of the knowledge and understanding of the challenges of long-term development in Africa;

2. Supports the proposed Abuja and Libreville Conferences;

3. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the Republic of Gabon for having graciously consented to host both conferences;

4. Commends the Government of the Republic of the Niger for its initiative to organize Niamey Symposium on Grassroot Development;

5. Urges member States to support and actively participate in the proposed Abuja and Libreville conferences and the Niamey Symposium;

6. Expresses it gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme and to other governments and donors particularly Canada, Sweden and the Ford Foundation, who provided generous financial support for the Abuja and Libreville conferences;

7. Calls on the international community and the United Nations system to substantially support and participate in the two conferences;

8. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of ECA, the United Nations Steering Committee and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for organizing the two conferences;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to submit the reports of Abuja and Libreville conferences and the Niamey symposium to the fourteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

26 (VIII) STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF AFRICA'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN AFRICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 546 (XX) adopted in support of the Mbabane Programme of Action on the Response of the African Institutions of Higher Learning to Africa's Rapidly Deteriorating Economic and Social Conditions,

Conscious of the fundamental role the institutions of higher learning play in providing support to Africa's development efforts, central role the institutions of higher learning play in providing support to Africa's development efforts,

Appreciating the renewed commitment which the institutions of higher learning made to put at the disposal of African Governments their teaching, research and consultancy capabilities for the speedy implementation of Africa'a Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) as contained in the Harare Statement on the Role of the Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa's Recovery and Development,[1/]

1. Urges the African institutions of higher learning to urgently and effectively implement the decisions and recommendations of the Harare Statement and the report of the Third ECA/AAU Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of the Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa;

2. Calls upon all African Governments to provide greater financial support to the African institutions of higher learning so as to enhance their capacities to provide a higher quality of manpower, research and consultancy services for Africa's recovery and development;

1/ E/ECA/CM.13/48.

3. Calls also upon on member States to provide special incentives to minimize the increase of the brain drain from African institutions of higher learning.

4. Urges African Governments to intensify their efforts to create for their institutions of higher learning an environment that would be more conducive to the pursuit of development-oriented manpower training and research as well as involving their institutions in the solution of national development problems;

5. Requests the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the international community at large to increase their assistance to higher education in Africa so as to enable the institutions of higher learning to become more effective and make more relevant contributions to Africa's development efforts;

6. Requests also the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue to provide support to the institutions of higher learning and to assist in the implementation of the Harare Statement and the decisions of the third ECA/AAU Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa.

27 (VIII). UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (UNTFAD)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 288 (XIII) of 26 February 1977 which, inter alia, endorsed the establishment of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) and urged member States to contribute substantial resources required for the implementation of the Commission's Medium-term Plans and work programmes,

Recalling subsequent resolution 37/139 of the General Assembly of the United Nations dated 17 December 1982 inviting all its member States as well as international organizations to generously contribute to the UNTFAD thereby assisting African countries in their endeavour to face the world economic crisis whose effects on the African vulnerable economies are more severe,

Having examined the report on pledges and payments by member States since 1977 when UNTFAD was established and the progress on project implementation and expenditures for the period 1985-1986,

Noting with satisfaction that 16 African countries have paid fully their contributions pledged to UNTFAD,

Noting also that 23 African countries have paid part of their pledged contributions to UNTFAD,

Noting further that the 11 African countries have never made any contributions to the UNTAD,

Recalling Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) adopted respectively by the African Heads of State and Government and the General Assembly of the United Nations and the lead role that the Commission is expected to play,

Aware that resources from the regular budget of the United Nations available to the Commission have been declining and the situation is not likely to improve in the near future; hence the importance of extrabudgetary resources in the implementation of the two programmes,

Mindful of the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of ECA to increase the resources available to the Fund and the number of countries participating as well as ensure the collection of pledged contributions, particularly as non-payment has been the subject of regular audit queries,

1. Urges African member States and financial institutions that have not yet pledged to UNTFAD to do so and those that have pledged to deposit as soon as possible their unpaid contributions;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to spare no effort in mobilizing the support of non-African Member States of the United Nations as well as international financial institutions to contribute generously to the Fund.

28 (VIII). PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the proposed activities 1/ by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 1988-1989 which the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination will examine at its twenty-seventh session in New York from 27 April to 29 May 1987,

Convinced that the proposals reflect the requirements of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), 2/ Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) 3/ and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 4/

Having examined however the first progress report 5/ on the implementation of the Commission's work programme and priorities for the biennium, 1986-1987,

Alarmed at the number of deferrals, curtailments, terminations and postponements due to the savings measures taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1986 including freeze on recruitment and reduction in travel and consultancy funds and which are continuing in 1987,

Taking note of the recommendation 6/ of the High-level Group of Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations that the overall number of regular budget posts of the

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1/ E/ECA/CM.13/40.
2/ A/S-13/2 Annex.
3/ A/40/666.
4/ UN DPI 86-44190 - April 1986
5/ E/ECA/CM.13/39.
6/ A/41/49 Recommendation 15.

United Nations should be reduced by 15 per cent within a period of three years, the approval of the recommendation by the General Assembly, and the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to implement the recommendation,

Mindful of the need to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the organization with a view to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with political, economic and social issues,

Realizing however that Africa is the least developed of all the regions of the world and that the recent economic and social crisis had further weakened the countries of the region to cope alone with their economic development and growth problems,

Realizing further that ECA as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the African region has a crucial role to play in assisting its member States in dealing with these problems,

1. Endorses the work programme and priorities of the Commission for the biennium, 1988-1989 as contained in document E/ECA/CM.13/40;

2. Calls upon the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination:

(a) To consider these proposals favourably at its twenty-seventh session and recommend, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in July 1987, their adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-second session in September-December 1987;

(b) To take, together with all the other organs of the United Nations (particularly the General Assembly, its Second and Fifth Committees and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), all necessary steps to ensure that adequate resources are made available to ECA for the implementation of this programme;

3. Appeals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give special consideration to the Economic Commission for Africa in implementing his savings measures particularly by allowing more posts to be filled by recruitment, and increasing the allocation for travel and consultancy services;

4. Calls upon African representatives at CPC, ECOSOC and the Special Commission of ECOSOC on the Indepth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields to pay special attention to the needs of the ECA secretariat in the light of Africa's current economic crisis and the secretariat's role in the implementation of both APPER and UN-PAAERD;

5. Further calls upon all States members of the Commission to instruct their permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and their delegations to the forty-second session of the General Assembly to do all that lies in their power to ensure that the case of the Commission, as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations for the Africa region and the associated need for adequate resources for it to play effectively that role, is strongly put forward and the objective of obtaining more resources for the Commission is actually achieved;

6. Requests the Chairman of the twenty-second session of the Commission in collaboration with his Bureau to take this matter up directly with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to take all other necessary measures in pursuance of this resolution at CPC, ECOSOC including its Special Commission and the General Assembly;

7. Requests further the Chairman of the twenty-second session of the Commission to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Conference of Ministers at its next session in 1988.

29 (VIII). DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1995

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that a Medium-term Plan shall be proposed by the Secretary-General,

Aware also that the Medium-term Plan shall be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes and that its objectives and strategies shall be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs and shall reflect member States' priorities as set out in legislation adopted by functional and regional intergovernmental bodies within their spheres of competence, and by the General Assembly on advice from the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,

Aware further that the chapters of the proposed Medium-term Plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings prior to their review by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly,

Noting that the Economic Commission for Africa draft Medium-term Plan for the period, 1990-1995 prepared by the Executive Secretary was a zero draft that required closer examination so that member States could appropriate comments and guidelines,

1. Decides to appoint an open-ended ad hoc Committee based on the present bureau to look into the draft plan and prepare the recommendations to be sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on its behalf before the end of 1987;

2. Calls upon member States to submit their views on the draft plan to the ad hoc Committee through the Secretatriat of the Commission so as to enable the ad hoc Committee perform its task in a timely manner;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to provide the ad hoc Committee all necessary technical support;

4. Appeals to the Secretary-General to endorse the draft Medium-term Plan taking the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee for submission to the Committee for programme and co-ordination;

5. Calls upon the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to recommend, through the Economic and Social Council, the draft Medium-term Plan to the General Assembly for approval;

6. Requests the ad hoc Committee to report on its work to the Conference of Ministers at its fourteenth session in 1988.

30 (VIII). IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 671 A(XXV) of 29 April 1958 which established the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and determined its terms of reference,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, and its annex, section IV on structures for regional and interregional co-operation in which the General Assembly formally designated the regional comissions as the main general economic and social centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions and instructs them to exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level; and resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in which the General Assembly decided that the regional commission shall have the status of executing agencies, in their own right, in respect of the categories of projects described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 32/197,

Recalling further Commission resolutions 1988 (IX) of 10 February 1969 on institutional machinery of the Commission which established the Conference of Ministers; 191 (XI) of 12 February 1969 on transitional provisions which provided for interim arrangements until the Conference started its work and which contains the list of items to be included in the agenda of every session of the Commission; 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the creation of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres; 328 (XIII) of 3 March 1977 on restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and co-operation in Africa; 330 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and co-operation in Africa with which it approved the present structure of the institutional machinery of the Commission according to which there are organs dealing with overall development issues at the ministerial level and their technical committees

of experts, organs dealing with sectoral issues at the ministerial level and their committees of officials, and technical subsidiary bodies; and resolution 521 (XIX) on sessions of the Commission with which it decided to continue to meet on an annual basis subject to the practice being reviewed at the twenty-third session of the Commission and fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in 1988,

Further recalling resolution 40/237 of 18 December 1985 on review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations with which the General Assembly decided to establish a Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations with a term of one year, to carry out, in full accordance with the principles and provisions of the charter, the task of conducting a thorough review of the administrative and financial matters of the United Nations with a view to identifying measures for further improving the efficiency of its administrative and financial functioning, which would contribute to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with Political, Economic and Social Matters; and resolution 41/231 of 19 December 1986 on review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations with which the Assembly, inter alia, decided that the recommendations as agreed upon and as contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations 1/ should be implemented by the Secretary-General and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations in the light of the Findings of the Fifth Committee and subject to other specific conditions,

Taking note of the opinion of the Fifth Committee 2/ that suitability of the activities of the regional commissions is a matter to be determined primarily by the member States concerned and that the regional commissions should be consulted on any action to be taken in that regard,

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1/ A/41/49

2/ A/41795 Par. 43

Welcoming the decision 3/ of the General Assembly that the Economic and Social Council assisted as and when required by relevant organs and bodies, in particular the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, should carry out the careful and in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields proposed by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations in its recommendation 8,

Welcoming also the decision 4/ of the Economic and Social Council to establish a Special Commission on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, which will be open to the full participation of all States members of the United Nations on an equal basis and whose proceedings will be governed in all other respects by the relevant rules of procedure of the Council and to request 5/ all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Special Commission, within thirty days of the conclusion of their next session, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery,

Mindful that the purpose of the study is, inter alia, to (a) identify measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, avoid duplication and consider consolidating and co-ordinating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to improve their work and make the structure more responsive to present needs; (b) develop criteria for the establishment and duration of subsidiary bodies, including periodic reviews of their work and mechanisms for implementating their decisions; (c) define in precise terms areas of responsibilities for the various bodies, with particular attention being given to strengthening coherence and integrity of the structure and facilitating the formulation of a comprehensive approach

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3/ A/RES/41/213 (I)1(e)

4/ Decision 1987/112 (a)

5/ Ibid. (i)

to development issues and to the necessity of putting more emphasis on regional and subregional co-operation; (d) improving the system of reporting from subsidiary to principal organs, thereby reducing the number of reports and avoiding duplication of documentation,

Having examined critically the existing intergovernmental machinery of the Commission including their agendas, calendars and programmes of work,

Conscious of the crucial role of the Commission in the region in general particularly as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Natins system in the region in particular,

Convinced that sufficient attention can be given to the problems of the African Least Developed Countries within the framework of the work of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning,

Convinced further of the continuous relevance of a unified approach to development analysis and planning,

1. Reaffirms the primary role of the Commission as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for Africa, and as executing agency in its own right of operational projects;

2. Confirms that the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa are increasingly reflecting and responding positively to the current and future needs of the Africa region.

3. Decides as follows:

I. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY OF THE COMMISSION

Organizations dealing with overall development issues at ministerial level

(a) Conference of African Ministers responsible for economic development and planning

Given the status of the Conference as the supreme organ of the Commission

(b) Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries and its Technical Committee of Experts

Given the increasing number of African Least Developed Countries and the worsening trend of their situation, the Conference of Ministers and its Technical Committee of Experts should continue to function as they were established to do.

(c) Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and their Committee of officials

In view of the fact that economic co-operation and integration will continue to be the foundation of African common market and African Economic Community, the Councils of Ministers of the MULPOCs and their committees of officials should remain.

B. Organs dealing with sectoral issues at the ministerial level and their technical committees of experts

(a) Sectoral Conferences of Ministers wholly serviced by the secretariat of the Commission

(i) Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning and its technical committee of officials;

(ii) Conference of African Ministers responsible for human resources development, planning and utilization and its technical committee of officials;

(iii) Conference of African Ministers of Finance and its technical committee of experts;

(iv) The African Ministers responsible for mineral development exploration and utilization and their technical committee of experts.

In view of the continuing need for the specialized views and recommendations of the Sectoral Conference of Ministers in whose work the Organization of African Unity is increasingly participating, all the Sectoral Conference of Ministers in this category should continue to function.

(b) Sectoral Conferences of Ministers serviced in co-operation with other organizations

(i) Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs and its technical committee of officials (with organization of African Unity (OAU);

(ii) Conference of African Ministers of Industry and its technical committee of officials (with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO and OAU); and

(iii) Conference of African Ministers of Trade and its technical committee of officials [with OAU and active support of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTADV].

In view of the continuing need for the specialized views and recommendations of this category of Sectoral Conferences of Ministers, they should continue to function. The method of sharing costs should continue.

C. Technical subsidiary bodies

(a) Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

(b) African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the integration of women in development;

(c) Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology Development;

(d) Intergovernmental Regional Committee for Human Settlements and Environment; and

(e) Technical Committee of Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS).

These bodies report directly to the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and their services will continue to be invaluable to its work. Therefore they should continue to function.

II. METHODS OF WORK INCLUDING PERIDICITY OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA OF THE INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY OF THE COMMISSION

(a) The Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning

Given the continuing economic crisis in Africa and the necessity to monitor it continuously, the role which the Conference plays in the activities of the Organization of African Unity's related to economic matters, of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations all of which meet annually, the Commission should continue to meet annually subject to the practice being reviewed in 1992.

(b) The Councils of Ministers of the MULPOCs

To approve the decision of some of the Councils of the MULPOCs to meet henceforth on a biennial basis and recommends that the Councils of the remaining MULPOCs should examined the issue at their next meetings and decide to meet henceforth on a biennial basis. The work of the MULPOCs should be supervised in intersessional years by small committees of their member States. The lengths of the documents to be submitted to them and of those of their own reports should conform to the standards set by the United Nations. Both at official and ministerial levels the meetings of the MULPOCs should not take more than six days.

(c) Sectoral Conferences of Ministers (both those serviced wholly by the secretariat of the Commission and those serviced in co-operation with other organizations)

The meetings of the Sectoral Conferences should continue to be held on a biennial basis. The agenda should be short and well-focused. The lengths of documents to be submitted to them and of those of their own reports, should conform to the standards set by the United Nations. Both at the official and ministerial levels, these sectoral meetings should not take more than six days[6/].

(d) Technical subsidiary bodies

The technical subsidiary bodies should continue to meet on a biennial basis. The duration of their meetings should be short and business-like. The lengths of documents to be submitted to them and of those of their own reports should conform to the standards set by the United Nations.

4. Appeals to the Special Commission to consider these decisions favourably for incorporation into its recommendations;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit this resolutions to the Special Commission not later than 27 May 1987.

6/ The MULPOC for North Africa has yet to take decision on this matter.

31 (VIII). MOBILIZATION OF DOMESTIC FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the commitments made by the African Governments at the United Nations Special Session of the Critical Economic Situation facing Africa demanding that African Governments raise 64.4 per cent of the $128.0 billion or $82.5 billion of the resources required for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD),

Taking note of Part II of the ECA/ADB Economic Report on Africa, 1987,

1. Urges the African Governments to intensify their efforts to increase domestic resource mobilization through both private and public savings and to adopt the necessary fiscal and monetary reforms that creates a healthy environment for achieving this objective;

2. Recommends that these reforms in the fiscal and monetary systems lead to an acceleration of financial intermediation, tapping of rural savings, penetrating the informal financial sectors, modernizing post office savings banks, strengthening the insurance industry, improving the social security systems, and any other measures deemed appropriate by each State in line with its domestic legislation;

3. Requests ECA and ADB to carry out in-depth studies on appropriate instruments and polices for accelerating the mobilization of domestic resources for accelerated development and economic growth and submit the report on such studies to the ninth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, and the twenty-third session of the Commission/fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in 1988.

32 (VIII). SUPPORT TO THE ISLAND COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FORECAST CYCLONES AND TO REDUCE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SUCH DISASTERS

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the disastrous consequences of cyclones, floods and tidal waves on the economies of the island countries of the south-western Indian Ocean,

Recalling resolution 353 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected African countries,

Recalling also resolution 288 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 which endorses the establishment of a United Nations Trust Fund for African Development,

Recalling further the principles and guidelines of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000[1] on the development of African countries particularly the poorest countries,

Deeply concerned by the continuing detireoration over the past few years of the food and agriculture situation in Africa aggravated each year by natural disaster such as drought, tropical cyclones and floods and by the prolonged world economic crisis,

Recalling Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first regular session,

Recalling also the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990[2] adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its special session devoted to Africa's critical economic situation,

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1/ A/S-11/14 annex I

2/ A/S-13/2 annex.

Aware that although the countries of the African continent have some common economic and social characteristics which make Africa an entity, it should be recognized that the continent is also heterogeneous and diversified in some aspects,

Aware also that the island countries particularly those of the Indian Ocean are regularly affected by natural disasters such as cyclones and floods that destroy agricultural production, the houses of the coastal and rural inhabitants and roads, completely wiping out investments already made,

1. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa and all the United Nations specialized agencies especially as the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) carrying out activities with respect to the forecasting and control of natural disasters and the preservation of the environment in Africa to take into account natural disasters and ecological hazards peculiar to the Indian Ocean zone such as cyclones, floods, tidal waves, volcanic eruptions and gas leaks and marine pollution when designing and implementing their programmes;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to include in the priorities selected for its Fourth Regional Programming Cycle in Africa the forecasting and reduction of the harmful effects of cyclones, floods and tidal waves;

3. Appeals to the international community to increase its financial and technical assistance to countries regularly affected by cyclones;

4. Requests ECA and OAU member States to consider earmarking for the island countries of the south western Indian Ocean funds from the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development for African countries most seriously affected by natural disasters such drought, tropical cyclones and floods.