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PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED
AT THE SEVENTH MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (c) The provision of advisory services as necessary; and
- (d) The acquisition of further assistance from various sources for the implementation of projects.

African regional meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives in Africa

6. In its letter ORG 120/3 of 18 April 1972, a copy of which was sent to all members of the Committee, the Executive Secretary brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Committee that the UNDP Administrator had been unable to accept the participation of the Committee in the African regional meeting of Resident Representatives, since attendance at the meeting was restricted to UNDP staff.

7. At the UNDP meeting held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 27 May 1972 the Executive Secretary brought up the subject of co-operation between ECA and UNDP and submitted a document entitled "The Regional Approach within the UN System" concerning discussions on country programming and the programming of regional projects.

Co-ordination of efforts in the field of industry carried out by the United Nations system in Africa

8. Further consultations were held between the secretariats of UNIDO and ECA concerning the strengthening of the co-ordination of their activities in the region. At a meeting which took place in Geneva in July 1972, the Executive Director of UNIDO and the Executive Secretary came to a stand-by agreement concerning the establishment within the ECA secretariat of a joint ECA/UNIDO Division to undertake a common ECA/UNIDO programme in the field of industrial development in Africa.

9. The two secretariats will continue their consultations in respect of the field of competence and composition of this joint Division, taking into consideration the division of labour between the two organizations. Necessary measures will also be taken to obtain the approval of their respective legislative bodies in respect of the re-organization of the administrative machinery of both secretariats which the preparation of the common programmes for industrial development in Africa and the establishment of a joint Division at Addis Ababa would entail.

Co-ordination of efforts in the field of trade carried out by the United Nations system in Africa

10. Consultations between the secretariats of UNCTAD and ECA to co-ordinate their activities in the region were directed recently to measures which should be taken to implement the decisions adopted at UNCTAD III. In this connexion,

the Executive Secretary participated in a meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Commissions and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD which was held in Geneva in July 1972. In September 1972, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD held complementary discussions in Addis Ababa with the ECA secretariat.

11. These consultations which aimed at the strengthening of the co-ordination of the activities of both organizations in Africa in the field of trade did not deal with the question of the establishment of a joint ECA/UNCTAD Division within the ECA secretariat. As an outcome of the regional meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives in Africa held in Addis Ababa in May 1972, the secretariat of ECA, UNCTAD and IMCO studied the possibility of establishing within the ECA secretariat a joint ECA/UNCTAD/IMCO bureau which would deal with the problems of maritime transport in the region.

Science and technology

12. The draft African Regional Proposals of the World Plan of Action submitted to the Executive Committee in April 1972 was subsequently submitted to the African Regional Group of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations on the application of Science and Technology to Development at its seventh meeting held in Addis Ababa in July 1972 and to the Advisory Committee itself at its seventeenth meeting held in Geneva in October 1972.

13. The draft Regional Proposals as amended by these two bodies will be examined by the Conference of Ministers at their second meeting in February 1973. It will subsequently be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at one of its sessions in 1973.

14. In view of the amendments made in the draft Regional Proposals by the African Regional Group and the Advisory Committee, the secretariat prepared a revised version of the "African Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology" (E/CN.14/ECO/42) in keeping with the observations made by the member States and by the Executive Committee.

15. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Executive Committee, provision has been made for having the draft Regional Proposals studied by the Meeting of Experts on Scientific and Technological Research in Africa and Utilization of its Results, previously to be held in November 1972 but postponed, at present, to 1973. In addition, the draft Regional Proposals will be included in the agenda of CASTAFRICA. But in view of the terms of reference of this body, the discussions cannot go beyond the sections of the document which fall within the competence of UNESCO.

Study of Economic Conditions in Africa

16. In accordance with the recommendations of the Executive Committee, the summary of the Study of Economic Conditions in Africa 1971 (E/CN.14/ECO/41) was revised before it was submitted to the fifth-third session of the Economic and Social Council which was held in Geneva in July 1972. The text itself which was also revised is in the press and will be published by the end of the year.

Relations with other international organizations

17. At the request of the Executive Committee, the secretariat prepared two documents on the relations of the Commission with other organizations. One of them is "Resources allocated to ECA in 1971 and 1972 under technical assistance programmes" (E/CN.14/577). The other is "Report on ECA's relations with other United Nations agencies and international or intergovernmental organizations (1971-1972)" (E/CN.14/ECO/50).

Composition of the ECA secretariat

18. At the request of the Executive Committee, the secretariat further prepared a report on the employment of citizens of member States of the Commission by the United Nations Secretariat as a whole and by the ECA secretariat in particular (E/CN.14/ECO/49).