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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH MEETING
held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa
on Monday, 10 February 1969, at 10.20 a.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Lissouba (Congo (Brazzaville))
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr. H.L. Senghor

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Participants wishing to have corrections made to this provisional summary record are requested to write them on two copies of the record and to send the corrected copies to the office of the Secretary of the Commission as soon as possible. If necessary, the corrected copies may be sent by post to the office of the Secretary of the Commission, Economic Commission for Africa (P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) after the session.

CONSIDERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT "A VENTURE IN
SELF-RELIANCE - TEN YEARS OF ECA" (E/CN.14/424) (continued)

Mr. SINU (Observer for Romania) associated himself with previous speakers in welcoming the three States which were new members of the Commission. He expressed his delegation's unity of purpose with the peoples still labouring under the yoke of colonialism, and its conviction that the day would come when all the African countries were represented on the Commission.

The Executive Secretary's report showed that member States and the secretariat had made remarkable efforts to solve the problem of the economic and social development of Africa. His delegation had been glad to hear the optimism and determination expressed by previous speakers. It agreed that development was the primary responsibility of the countries concerned, and that the necessary measures could not be imposed from outside, or be a matter for international negotiation. His country had always applied that principle both in domestic affairs and international co-operation.

Romania was well aware of the concerns of the developing countries for it, too, had embarked upon a large-scale attempt to build up its economy. The results of that effort were worthy of note: Romanian industrial output had increased by 12.3 per cent a year during the last three years of the present five-year plan.

While continuing to develop its own resources, his country was extending its bilateral relations in trade, economic, technical and scientific co-operation with other countries. In Africa alone, Romania had concluded useful arrangements with more than thirty countries, by means of short and long-term trade agreements and contracts for co-operation on matters such as oil, phosphate and mineral prospecting. Such co-operation was based on mutual benefit and helped to stimulate trade.

Romania had made a concrete contribution to those activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies that were aimed at extending the forms and methods of international co-operation. It had been

responsible for many new economic and social ventures, including the delivery of complete plant for building factories in the developing countries against payment in manufactured products and the training of trade specialists and executives.

His country had every intention of extending its relations with the African countries, both bilaterally and through the international organizations.

Mr. PAVLICEK (Observer for Czechoslovakia) welcomed the fact that the Commission had extended the number of its members to forty-one, which guaranteed an absolute majority of African States striving for the continent's development and ready to fight against the remnants of colonialism.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa had thus become a really representative organization of the whole continent. His delegation was glad that in spite of the difficulties of the first Decade the Commission had developed its organizational activity and issued a considerable quantity of important and useful documents.

Czechoslovakia followed with deep interest the activity of the Commission and recognized its contribution to the economic development of African countries. It was convinced that the current session would represent a significant milestone in the co-ordination of development efforts.

With regard to the preparation of the second Development Decade, he noted with satisfaction that those ten years would be devoted to applying a development strategy based on a system of clearly defined economic measures oriented towards the attainment of formulated objectives on the national as well as on the international scale. It was natural that principal importance should be attached to measures taken by the developing countries themselves, and the success of the second Decade would no doubt depend on the degree to which the governments of those countries succeeded in mobilizing internal resources and utilizing them rationally for the purpose of economic development, and also in freeing and utilizing

the activity of the masses of population, as well as in co-operating among themselves.

Stressing the fundamental importance of the steps taken by those countries, his delegation by no means under-estimated the influence on their development of international economic conditions and of the economic policies adopted by the developed countries. Only an international economic policy respecting the interests of all countries or groups of countries, based on the principle of inter-dependence, would enjoy a chance of success.

Czechoslovakia had already expressed its interest in contributing to the preparation of the second Decade. Its current situation conditioned that interest, even if the country was passing through a complex development phase and had to remove the causes of certain negative tendencies by means of economic reform and a more intensive participation of the Czechoslovak economy in the international division of labour.

The fact that Czechoslovakia belonged to the community of socialist countries did not mean that she was not interested in expanding economic relations with other countries, especially developing countries. She maintained commercial and economic relations with the majority of African countries, and had started a number of industrial projects in those countries - sugar mills, tanneries, shoe factories, cement and ceramic works, textile mills, mining equipment, metal-working plants, and many others, which offered fruitful prospects for the future. Her economy was that of a small country, and a specific developed sector of machinery constituted half her exports. Nevertheless she hoped that by combining her efforts in the industrial field with interesting resources of highly trained experts she would be able to continue mutual active co-operation with African countries.

Mr. BOMANI (United Republic of Tanzania) offered his delegation's thanks for the wise and stimulating address of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia, and for the support of the anti-colonialist struggle in Africa expressed by the Secretary-General in his opening speech. He

was happy to welcome the three new members of the Commission, and assured the Chairman of his delegation's full support.

The murder of Eduardo Mondlane, President of FRELIMO, would not deter his country, which would continue to fight side by side with its brothers still under the yoke of colonialism.

The first Development Decade had in fact been a political decade for the African continent, in that the African countries had been primarily concerned with consolidating their newly-won nationhood and meeting the aspirations of the élites. The second Decade should be devoted to the masses and the peasants who in Tanzania's case formed 90 per cent of the population; they should be regarded both as producers and as beneficiaries of the fruits of economic development. The second Decade must in fact be essentially a rural development decade.

The African countries must now establish their priorities and set up the institutional machinery for their implementation. The anniversary session would, it was hoped, provide guidelines for the Commission's work. If the first Decade were to be regarded as a political one, its powerlessness to attain the reasonable goals fixed would be seen not as a cause for disappointment but rather as a sign that the international economic climate was not favourable to accelerated growth of the poor through co-operation of the rich.

The lack of realistic proposals for solving the problems of the developing countries explained the failure of the first Decade. The development efforts of the developing countries were seriously handicapped by their inadequate export earnings and low capacity to import capital goods, and to remedy that situation the second session of UNCTAD had requested that export prices should be stabilized at remunerative levels. To eliminate the tariff and non-tariff barriers erected by the developed countries against the exports of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods from the African countries, UNCTAD had proposed a generalized system of non-discriminatory, non-reciprocal tariff preferences.

The volume and terms of international development financing had been deteriorating during the last ten years, and because of that some countries were seriously in debt. The developing countries would have liked to see that trend reversed, and international transfers of capital made upon more favourable terms. Moreover, the adjustment problem in shipping and other invisibles, although clearly spelled out, had received an equally discouraging response from the rich nations.

In all those matters, the outcome of the second session of UNCTAD had been disappointing, particularly to the African countries. The failure of UNCTAD and that of other international arrangements intended to help the Third World, led him to the following conclusions: the inherent contradictions between rich and poor could not be resolved until the bargaining power of the poor countries was strengthened; the rich countries not only had the means of exploiting their resources better than the poor ones, but also the ability and wish to exploit the rest of the world; unless Africa and the other countries of the Third World resisted that attitude, their development would meet with increasing obstacles.

Tanzania had had bitter experience of the instability of aid provided by the developed countries. Such aid had been withdrawn at the very moment when it was most needed, because of Tanzania's refusal to comply with the demands of a certain government. That experience had proved to his Government the need for self-reliance on the part of African States.

Self-reliance had become popular because it sounded dynamic; but it imposed personal sacrifices and discipline upon those who advocated it. In his own country's case, the theory and practice of self-reliance had been clearly laid down in the Arusha Declaration, which stated that money did not constitute the major instrument of development and that even if the developed countries were prepared to give financial assistance to the developing ones - and that was not always the case - such aid could never suffice, because of the extent of the needs.

In other words, self-reliance was the developing countries' will to mobilize and develop their resources and in the last analysis to control national

means of production and use them exclusively for the benefit of the people. That was what the Tanzanian Government had done after adopting the Arusha Declaration, and the policy had borne fruit despite the predictions of the prophets of doom. Banks, insurance corporations, export-import houses and mills in Tanzania were working as efficiently, if not better, than before, and for the first time they were serving the country. The Government had overhauled the educational system inherited from the colonial regime, so as to train Africans as builders of their country.

His delegation noted with pleasure that the theme of the anniversary session was self-reliance. It hoped that that theme, successfully adopted by his own country, would be applied at the continental level and that suitable policies and institutions would be adopted to implement it.

Tanzania was confident that ECA would continue to play the pioneering role that it had already successfully begun in setting up IDEP, the African Development Bank with its all-African capital and the sub-regional economic groupings designed to promote self-reliance in trade and industrialization. It looked forward to the day when ECA would transform itself into an Economic Community of Africa.

ECA could play no less effective a role in removing obstacles from without and in creating conditions conducive to African development based on self-reliance. It could, for example, initiate a series of negotiations similar to the Kennedy Round, to untie the aid granted to the African countries. Loans granted on more flexible terms would enable the African countries to trade with each other and buy cheaper and more suitable goods.

ECA could also make studies on stabilizing the prices of primary products, such as those being conducted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and would be better placed than any single African State to make recommendations and influence the shape of whatever institutional and financial arrangements were agreed upon to stabilize prices.

He would not touch upon other important matters such as the need to Africanize the secretariat, which was essential if the Commission were to enjoy the confidence and support of its members; or the crucial question of

the institutional links between ECA and the United Nations bodies, especially UNDP, and the specialized agencies; or the relations between ECA and OAU.

Those issues would be dealt with separately in a resolution, and his delegation would make its position known at the proper time. Nevertheless he wished to assure the Commission that his Government was committed to winning for ECA an effective co-ordinative role in the economic and social development of Africa, and to greater decentralization of United Nations activities so as to bring them closer to reality.

His delegation deeply appreciated the constructive criticism of ECA by the secretariat and member States. However, at the moment, the best way of serving the cause of development would be for each country to adopt the cause of self-reliance tuned to the development of the whole continent.

Mr. HOO (Commissioner for Technical Co-operation) was pleased to join in celebrating the tenth anniversary of ECA, more particularly since, as Commissioner for Technical Co-operation, he had watched for seven years the important role the Commission was playing in Africa.

When ECA was established in 1959, the total of United Nations Technical Assistance for Africa was less than \$1 million, and there were no Special Fund projects in Africa. The current figure for such assistance was \$17 million, and there were forty-one Special Fund projects. From the beginning, ECA had helped the developing countries in Africa to identify their priority needs, to plan their technical assistance programmes, and to apply technical expertise to the solution of their economic and social development problems. The Commission had addressed its particular attention to helping the young African States to solve their most urgent problems, especially that of strengthening their government machinery and improving their economic and social infrastructure. Such assistance had come largely under the heading of regional programmes, which had risen from 70,000 dollars ten years earlier to 1.4 million dollars in 1968.

In addition to such programmes, ECA had established a number of middle-level centres for the training of statisticians which had been completed by the subsequent establishment of higher-level training centres with assistance

from the Special Fund. It had also provided advisory services through its corps of regional statistical advisers.

The Commission had given a great deal of attention to the training of government officials in all branches of administration by means of short courses, seminars, study tours, etc., and had thus contributed towards strengthening government machinery at all levels. The Commission's secretariat and regional technical advisers had maintained close contact with individual experts serving in countries throughout Africa.

Nor had the Commission neglected the importance of basic research, or the compilation of data about both human and natural resources. It had taken the lead in carrying out studies throughout Africa in co-operation with the specialized agencies and bilateral aid sources, and had become a repository of a considerable volume of valuable information about the potential and the needs of the African continent.

The outstanding accomplishment of the Commission was the concept of unity which it had fostered from the very beginning, starting with economic integration at the sub-regional level. That concept was the key to economic and social progress for most parts of Africa, and had been advanced immeasurably by the establishment of the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the African Institute for Economic Development Planning and the Special Fund multinational projects.

If the first Decade could be looked back upon as that of foundation-building for African development, the second should be looked forward to as the period when a solid superstructure based upon well-drawn plans could be built. Economic growth in Africa fell far short of the target set for the first Development Decade, especially in the field of agriculture. There was a need to co-ordinate efforts within the United Nations family, and to face the fact that as the needs of Africa increased the resources available to her declined. As a result, the countries would have to use their resources more wisely and co-operatively. At the same time, they must attempt to expand the flow of resources to the developing countries, and to end at last the division of the world between an affluent North and a poverty-stricken South.

Africa needed more technical assistance for its development than any other continent. The programming mission recently sent to Kenya to assist the government in determining its needs and available resources had revealed that the countries of East Africa had a higher technical assistance component in their external aid mix than did countries in other parts of the world - 40 to 50 per cent as compared with 15 - 20 per cent globally.

While the United Nations programmes of technical assistance had not been large as compared with the programmes financed from bilateral sources, they had been important in terms of their content and the impact they had on development. Moreover, they had grown considerably during the decade.

The total of all United Nations sponsored programmes in Africa had risen from \$892,000 in 1959 to about \$17 million in 1968. Africa now received 35 per cent of all resources for assistance available through the United Nations. The most rapid increase had come through the Special Fund projects, which had increased from zero in 1959 to an estimated \$10 million in 1968. With respect to ECA's regional programme of technical assistance, 38.4 per cent of the funds available to the United Nations for all regions in 1967 had been allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa.

He mentioned the key role of the United Nations regular programme of technical assistance, particularly where Africa was concerned. While small in terms of money (\$2.5 million for Africa), that programme had supported ECA's corps of thirty-seven regional advisers. At short notice, those advisers had been providing short-term assistance to African governments, and had assisted them in the solution of urgent problems, in the assessment of requests for assistance, in the formulation of technical assistance projects and so on. In addition, the regular programme had financed inter-regional advisers, who also rendered advisory services to African governments.

In that connexion, decisions had been taken at the seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme regarding the future role of the United Nations regular programme. That was the programme financed from the regular budget of the United Nations. The Secretary-General who had been requested by the Governing Council to study the purposes and objectives of the regular programme and its relationship to the UNDP programmes and to make appropriate recommendations, had indicated that the regular programme was a major source of funds for financing technical assistance projects in the fields of social development and public administration, and also in financing projects carried out at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels, thus playing a major role in connexion with United Nations efforts to promote regional co-operation.

In view of the limited resources of the regular programme and because of its unique feature of flexibility to meet emergency situations and to initiate projects which eventually would be financed by UNDP, the Secretary-General had proposed that in the future the programme be directed towards assisting governments in economic and social development planning, enhancing the range of assistance in high-priority fields of activity, rendering short-term assistance enabling governments to deal with unforeseen emergencies, strengthening training activities and providing the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut with the means of carrying out their operational responsibilities in certain areas.

The Governing Council had endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations regarding the future character and role of the regular programme, and had stressed the importance of ensuring that its resources would fulfil requests for assistance from governments for which the programme was particularly suited.

The Secretary-General had likewise suggested programming and budgetary procedures which the Governing Council had recommended that the Economic and Social Council propose to the General Assembly. If those recommendations as a whole were accepted, the new approach to the regular programme of technical co-operation would mean that the Secretary-General would be better able to serve the needs of the developing countries.

There were many interesting examples of projects in operation in Africa in 1968: the East African Railways and Harbours Training Development Project, provided with advisers by ECA and assigned an expert under the UNDP(TA) programme; the two Special Fund projects for the training of statisticians in Cameroon and Uganda; the 1968 assignment of an expert to assist the Government of Senegal in the formulation of a Special Fund project in connexion with public administration; and the Special Fund mineral exploration projects, many of which were certain to lead to investment and exploitation.

Considerable satisfaction could be derived from the 1968 technical assistance programme and particularly from the success achieved in combining the regular programme, UNDP(TA), and the Special Fund programmes to effect the maximum impact on the solution of economic and social development problems in Africa.

The ECA would be a major contributor to the promotion of economic and social development in Africa in the next decade. The United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation had been examining means by which co-operation between Headquarters and the Commission could be made more effective.

It was particularly anxious to see that ECA became actively involved in the

programming of assistance throughout Africa, and would like to entrust it with more operational responsibilities, particularly for carrying out economic integration projects.

It was certain that ECA would take the lead in the co-ordination of technical assistance. Co-ordination of limited assistance funds would provide the key to the success of future development efforts.

Besides co-ordination, the chief task before the Commission was that of promoting the establishment of viable economic groupings throughout the continent. Although, in the final analysis, individual governments would have to decide the form and structure of such "communities", it would be for the Commission, through technical advisory services, to encourage them along the road to co-operation.

In conclusion, he wished to assure the Executive Secretary that the Office of Technical Co-operation would continue to give him its fullest support.

Mr. GORSE (France) said that from the very outset of the session speakers had stressed the hard realities of the continent and had mentioned development problems in terms of challenge. His own hope lay in the economic and human resources of Africa. The short history of ECA was epitomized by its manifold efforts to bring about better understanding between widely differing peoples, and to unite the continent in brotherhood by co-operation, a significant and humane idea to which his own country was deeply attached. African problems were often, however, not very different from problems in other parts of the world, for example, the flight from rural areas was a subject of universal concern.

The question of aid was at the very heart of the relations between developing and industrialized countries. In spite of the criticism that had been voiced, it should not be forgotten that, especially to the younger generation, co-operation meant community of human interests. France was fully aware of the paramount importance of cultural and technical co-operation; during the last six years it had doubled the funds allotted to that form of

aid, and there were now nearly 20,000 French teachers in Africa. Two-thirds of French aid was financed by government funds; 85 per cent of it was granted in the form of donations and half went to Africa. Such aid was complementary to multilateral assistance; for instance, French contributions had already been used together with those of international financing institutions, to carry out large-scale agricultural projects in Cameroon and Dahomey and to set up a fertilizer industry in Senegal. In spite of France's economic and financial difficulties in 1968, Government aid had not diminished. It was true that development in highly industrialized countries brought about its own problems, and everything must be done to avoid the combination of a natural African tendency to want to "go it alone" and a temptation on the part of the industrialized countries to withdraw into their shell; that would only increase the gap between them.

The total volume of French trade with Africa was increasing steadily, but was characterized by an increasing large French deficit. The opening up of French markets for African products had been matched by an increase in French exports to Africa. His country had also helped to bring about organization of international trade that was favourable to the African countries, particularly as regards markets for their commodities. Results included the 1968 coffee agreement which would enable African producers to keep their outlets for Robusta grades, and the November 1967 resolution of Rio de Janeiro under which the international financing institutions had agreed to help commodity markets.

The essential point was, of course, that the African peoples should make their own efforts at development. France was ready to fulfil its obligations and to help ECA in a friendly spirit in its work of co-operation.

Mr. BOTAN (Somalia) recalled that ECA had sometimes encountered problems that seemed insoluble, but had succeeded in making a practical start in co-operation.

Somalia was one of the least developed of the East African countries. Exports to the sub-region were lower than imports; tax yields were marginal;

and agriculture could be expanded only at great cost in investment. Somalia had a great deal of arable land but little water, in spite of its two rivers. Proper utilization of water resources would, however, improve living standards. As far as industrialization was concerned, the harmonization of industries in the sub-region was absolutely essential. Somalia had sodium chloride resources and a very high grade gypsum deposit which could be used to produce sulphuric acid.

His country fully approved of reorganizing the structure of ECA, which would improve its efficacy. It believed that self-reliance would come from co-operation and co-ordination at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. The ECA should adopt priority measures designed to benefit the least developed of the African countries.

Mr. EL NABI (Sudan) said that ten years' work had widened as well as deepened the experience of ECA and made it much more efficient in carrying out its functions. Nevertheless, Africa was still far short of the 5 per cent target set by the first Development Decade for the GDP increase. The figures for Africa in document E/CN.14/UNCTAD/II/3 showed that only 7 countries out of 40 had exceeded that target, and that the highest rate did not exceed 7 per cent. A few countries had negative rates, the average being 3.37 per cent. Apart from Libya, the per capita growth rate was just over 1 per cent.

That could be attributed to multiple factors, mainly the imperfections and rigidity of the flow of international trade and the problems of foreign capital and aid. The downward trend in bilateral aid showed that multi-lateral aid was preferable. He stressed the importance of arrangements by which soft loans would be substituted for tied loans, which should be tolerated only for high priority projects yielding high returns.

On the subject of basic commodity prices, he said that sisal and cotton prices had declined appreciably, cotton prices having fallen by 20 per cent between 1961 and 1967. Of the two International Monetary Fund (IMF) proposals for establishing basic commodity prices, he preferred the Compensatory Financing Method to the Commodity Agreements method.

With regard to tariffs and trade preferences, he was uneasy about the tariff cuts relating mainly to manufactured goods, and favoured concerted action to abolish reciprocity on the part of developing countries. When countries in the region reached the stage of exporting, barriers between African States would have to be removed.

To remedy the shortage of international liquidity, first a link should be established between the IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRS) and development finance, as proposed by OAU. Second, the repayment period should be 6 to 8 years, instead of 3 to 5. Third, the Fund's quotas should be increased to provide additional reserves.

His delegation considered that regional market integration through a system of bilateral trade arrangements among the various countries and also among regional groups might ultimately develop a Pan-African Common Market. Apart from that, the time had come to set up different payments unions to encourage exchange within the respective regions as well as bilateral payments agreements between the various groups. That form of inter-union payments might lead to a Pan-African Payments Union, a strong foundation for a Pan-African Common Market.

Mr. EMMANUEL (Rwanda) agreed with the representative of Kenya that the ECA must be enabled to play its full part in the economic and social advancement of the African countries and to help them to surmount the many obstacles they were facing.

In the light of past experience, ECA must help the African countries during the next Decade to raise their standard of living considerably, improve agriculture and stock-breeding, increase and diversify exports. ECA must also take all necessary measures to protect African commodities, which were threatened by competition from similar products from the more advanced countries or by the fact that African production was not complementary. Other sectors merited special attention during the second Decade, particularly development of communications and transport, training of managerial staff and industrialization.

The African countries appreciated the services of ECA experts but studies and research by such experts should be followed up as far as possible by practical implementation. His delegation was therefore in favour of the idea of decentralizing ECA activities to enable it to give concrete assistance to the African countries.

Mr. MAVOUNGOU /Congo (Brazzaville)/ reaffirmed his country's support for ECA and noted with satisfaction the considerable amount of work done during the first ten years of its existence. His delegation fully endorsed the commemorative resolution celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Commission.

As regards development planning, his Government considered that Africa's best chances lay in intensifying exchanges of all kinds among the African countries, particularly as regards industry. He hoped that during the next decade the Commission would encourage intra-African trade by all possible means, through bold, planned industrialization directed towards development of natural resources - mines, forests, and power.

Turning to aid for the developing countries, he suggested that as regards financing, trade and marketing, the battle should be limited to harmonizing and standardizing trade, and to introducing a kind of ethic

between developed and developing countries. Assistance in that area was slight, the conditions under which it was granted were becoming increasingly difficult and the lack of liquidities entailed by the international monetary crisis was tending to reduce even more the aid given to the developing countries.

To obtain equal bargaining conditions for the Third World countries from the advanced nations, the Commission must insist that African products be bought at remunerative prices and that any foreign firm investing in a developing country must reinvest a large part of its profits in that country.

Mr. NEAL (Liberia) said that ECA had given the African countries a greater sense of awareness and a better appreciation of their economic problems. Nevertheless, in view of present needs the Commission's terms of reference, adopted in 1958, when it had only nine members, had to be revised. To further the progress of Africa, which was economically the least developed region in the Third World, ECA must do more than identify problems and make feasibility studies. It must help to channel towards Africa a larger proportion of United Nations resources and it must have the necessary authority to achieve positive action from which the African States could reap practical benefits.

There was also a need for more direct links between ECA and the African governments so that the decisions taken at the Commission's meetings reflected the full will of its member States and could be taken seriously. Closer relations were also needed between ECA and Heads of State within the framework of OAU. Decisions concerning the Commission were made in the United Nations Economic and Social Council with insufficient consultation with the governments concerned.

For rapid growth based on self-reliance, intra-African trade was absolutely essential. His delegation therefore welcomed ECA's proposed studies on trade expansion in West Africa. It also fully endorsed the work programme regarding economic development and planning. The agricultural development targets laid down in that programme were particularly important since the industrial sector could make no real progress until a large part of African society was removed from its present subsistence level.

Industrialization, regarded as a major factor in rapid economic growth for the independent African States was restricted by small markets, shortage of qualified labour and lack of capital. ECA should encourage establishment of multi-national institutions to develop international co-operation in the sub-regions. In other words, a strategy for industrialization in all the regions was needed so as to avoid overlapping.

ECA could not progress beyond the fact-finding stage to that of concrete action programmes and helping Africa to solve its problems without the guidance and support of the governments of member States. Moreover, governments must take all the necessary measures under their national programmes to honour their commitments to ECA.

Mr. DIBBA (Gambia) said that his government strongly supported the objectives of the Economic Commission for Africa. The time was ripe to take stock of the Commission's activities and to consider ways and means of improving its effectiveness as a medium for promoting the economic and social progress of Africa. His delegation agreed with others that the Commission required certain structural innovations if it were to be better equipped to face the many problems of the second Development Decade. ECA must now proceed from studies and research to more active involvement in the development of Africa.

His Government supported the activities of the secretariat in encouraging and stimulating sub-regional economic co-operation, which was vital to the economic survival and political independence of the African countries. Having regard to the failure of the second UNCTAD conference, it was essential to develop intra-African trade and to harmonize agricultural and industrial policies.

Existing co-operation, particularly political, between ECA and OAU should be strengthened during the second Development Decade. Since the Commission was the principal United Nations body in Africa, it should decentralize United Nations economic and social work for Africa.

He urged the industrialized countries to intensify their efforts to promote the progress of the developing countries by entering into agreements guaranteeing fairer and more remunerative prices for commodities and

by making it easier for manufactured and semi-manufactured products from developing countries to enter their markets. They should also give loans and other forms of aid to African countries on softer terms. He appealed to the developed countries to educate public opinion on the desirability of giving assistance to the African countries, which was in the interest of both recipient and donor countries.

M. GABALLAH (United Arab Republic), recalling that economic development was the major theme of ECA's ninth session, observed that the growth rates recorded so far were far from satisfactory. It was also very disappointing that the per capita yearly increase in product was only 1 per cent during the first Development Decade.

The problem of **development in** the context of the Development Decades raised the inseparable issues of the self-reliance of the developing countries and their relations with the developed countries. While the African countries themselves had to develop and diversify their economy and speed up their growth, the fact remained that unstable commodity prices and tariff barriers to African exports of semi-manufactures and manufactures limited the opportunities for economic development. To remedy that state of affairs, it was necessary to reform the international price system itself, which operated to the advantage of the developed countries and to the disadvantage of the developing countries, since the developing countries sold their products in a competitive market but bought from a monopolistic market. So long as that problem remained unsolved, unqualified acceptance of the principle of self-reliance would imply a continuing drain on the economies of the African countries.

Economic co-operation was an essential condition for accelerating development, and his Government supported action to promote it, in which the Commission had been playing an important role for some years. However, the approach to economic integration adopted by ECA, namely the division of Africa into four sub-regions which would probably ultimately coalesce into a single region, raised important problems. It would therefore be necessary to re-examine any form of organization with a view to providing the flexibility needed for more efficient economic integration that could cope with future economic changes.

The need for the Commission to widen its activities beyond mere fact-finding during the next Decade was increasingly being recognized. Consequently, structural changes were needed to enable the Commission to expand its functions and to speed up the development of the African countries. However, those changes would only be meaningful in so far as member Governments of the Commission would support them.

M. MALEKOU (Gabon) drew attention to the report of the secretariat entitled "A Venture in Self-Reliance". He felt, like the authors of that document, that the next decade of ECA would lead the African countries to self-reliance, if not to economic independence. However, the achievement of that self-reliance required concerted efforts at the national and continental levels.

The countries should draw on their own resources for the study of national development problems before turning to assistance and co-operation based on bilateral and multilateral agreements. However, the assistance should be adapted to the priorities of the countries and should be integrated so far as possible in the economic development plans. The concerted study of national resources and of assistance provided under bilateral and multilateral agreements should lead to the formulation of a comprehensive programme for the country as a whole. At the continental level, ECA should co-ordinate the various development policies by encouraging the function of sub-regional economic units.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.