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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF DONOR AGENCIES
INTERESTED IN THE AFRICAN REGIONAL PLAN

Addis Ababa, 10-11 July 1974

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ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The meeting of Donor Agencies interested in the African Regional Plan was held at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, on 10 and 11 July 1974.

2. The meeting was opened at 11.20 a.m. by Mr. J.G. Rwambuya, Acting Chief of the Division of Administration who addressed the meeting on behalf of Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, the Executive Secretary of ECA. After welcoming the participants, he informed them that the meeting had been convened in pursuance of the recommendation adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development in Africa, which had held its first meeting in November 1973. He then outlined the objectives of the donors meeting, and informed the participants of the various activities that the secretariat had undertaken to promote the African Regional Plan in accordance with requirements laid down in resolution 248(XI) of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa. He pointed out that the major task for the present was one to be carried out at the level of individual countries and involved the creation of the necessary national machinery for the selection of projects and for overseeing their implementation within the framework of individual national development plans. He expressed the hope that the deliberations which took place at the meeting would further facilitate the flow of technical assistance to the African region and thereby provide additional impetus to the development of scientific and technological co-operation between Africa and the developed regions.

Election of Officers

3. The meeting elected Mr. W. Carrington, Executive Vice President of the African-American Institute, as its Chairman, and Mr. S. Sorensen of the Norwegian Agency for International Development, as its Vice-Chairman. It was decided that the ECA secretariat should act as rapporteur for the meeting.

Attendance

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following agencies: the World Bank (IBRD), the African-American Institute (AAI); the Federal Institute for International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technical Co-operation (Yugoslavia); the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD); the Department of International Development Corporation (Finland); the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the Administration générale de la coopération au développement (Belgium). The representatives of the following countries were also present: Cameroon, the Federal Republic of Germany, Morocco, Zaire, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

5. Representatives of the following United Nations organizations and agencies were present: UNIDO, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and ECA. OAU was also represented.

Agenda and organization of work

6. The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

- (1) Opening of the meeting
- (2) Election of Officers
- (3) Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work
- (4) African Regional Plan for the application of science and technology to development
 - (a) Objectives and general concept of the African Regional Plan
 - (b) Organization for implementation of the African Regional Plan at the national and regional levels
- (5) Mobilization of resources for the African Regional Plan
- (6) Activities of aid-giving agencies in Africa and possible ways and means for extension of technical assistance for implementation of the African Regional Plan
- (7) Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

7. The meeting then proceeded to adopt its programme of work as presented by the secretariat.

DISCUSSION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

African Regional Plan for the application of science and technology to development

(a) Objectives and general concept of the African Regional Plan

8. The idea of the World Plan of Action of which the African Regional Plan is a component arose as a consequence of the General Assembly resolution 1944(XVIII) in which the General Assembly requested the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (UNACAST) to examine the possibility of establishing a programme on international co-operation in science and technology for economic and social development. In response to that request UNACAST proposed that such a programme of international co-operation in science and technology would be more suitably undertaken within the framework of a World Plan of Action which would provide a framework for international co-operation among organizations in the United Nations system, the developed countries and the developing countries.

9. In its resolution 1155(XLI) the Economic and Social Council approved the UNACAST proposals that a World Plan of Action should be prepared. In its resolution 2318(XXII) the General Assembly adopted the Council resolution and the objectives of the World Plan of Action, as follows:

- (a) To assist the developing countries to build the necessary basic structure of institutions (national and, when appropriate, regional) and to train the necessary skilled personnel on which their capacity to apply science and technology to their development will depend. Full advantage must be taken of existing institutions;

(b) To promote the more effective application of existing scientific knowledge and technology in the development of the less developed countries and, with that in view, to improve the arrangements for the transfer and adaptation of knowledge and technology already available in developed and developing countries, and at the same time, to develop a more favourable climate in developing countries for the adoption of innovations in the techniques of production;

(c) To focus increasingly the attention and mobilize the efforts of scientists and research organizations in highly developed countries as well as in the developing countries on problems whose solution will be of special benefit to the developing countries, and to this end to encourage co-operation between developing countries as well as between developed and developing countries;

(d) To promote a greater knowledge among Governments, the scientific community, the general public and especially young people, in developed as well as developing countries, of the needs of the developing countries for science and technology.

10. UNACAST had then begun to prepare the World Plan of Action with assistance from various United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and a number of individual consultants. It had completed its work early in 1971, and the Plan had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council later the same year.

11. The main functions of the World Plan of Action were to provide a framework for international co-operation in planning and action in respect of the application of science and technology to development and to provide guidelines for the formulation of regional plans, which would focus more closely on the regional needs and priorities of each of the developing regions. The World Plan of Action could be considered as an offer from the United Nations system to assist in the development of the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries in selected areas of high priority.

12. The need for regional plans had been recognized by UNACAST at an early stage in its preparation of the World Plan of Action. It had decided that regional plans should be selective rather than comprehensive but should be formulated to meet the priority needs of each respective developing region. The regional groups of UNACAST were empowered to function as sub-committees responsible for the preparation of the regional plans. The regional economic commissions served as the secretariats to the regional groups of UNACAST for the purpose of preparing the draft proposals for the regional plans.

13. In preparing the African Regional Plan, ECA had carried out surveys of needs and priorities in science and technology in most African countries in 1969 and 1970. In that connexion it had received contributions from United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system. The draft proposals prepared by it had been considered by the African Regional Group at its meetings during the period 1970-1972 and the final draft of the Plan had been approved in July 1972. The African Regional Plan had been submitted to and approved by UNACAST at its seventeenth session held in Geneva from 23 October through 1 November 1972. In February 1973 it had been submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers which had adopted it, commending it to the member States of the Commission.

14. The principal purpose of the African Regional Plan was to serve as a guideline and a source of inspiration to national committees in the choice and design of projects most relevant to their countries. It was not a comprehensive Plan for science and technology development for every African country to carry out.

15. The representative ended his statement by explaining the structure of the Plan document.

(b) Arrangements for the implementation of the African Regional Plan at the national and regional levels

16. A representative of the ECA secretariat introduced document S&T/DA.ARP/2 relating to this item. He explained that the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (UNACAST) had examined and adopted the African Regional Plan in 1972 and that the ECA Conference of Ministers had adopted it in 1973. He drew the attention of the participants to the arrangements for adapting the Plan to national conditions.

17. It was stressed that member States should establish committees or agencies for science and technology policies and planning, which would have the task of selecting, examining and formulating specific programmes and projects appropriate to each country's needs and priorities, taking into account the African Regional Plan and national plans for socio-economic development. It was noted that all scientific and technological agencies existing in African countries had been used for that purpose.

18. The participants were informed that the ECA secretariat had suggested that, in order to ensure greater efficiency, such national agencies and committees should operate under their country's Ministry of Planning and Development, and should include political, scientific and financial representatives of both the public sector and the private sector.

19. The organizations within the United Nations system were requested to co-operate with member States, at their request, and assist them in identifying, studying and formulating projects and in finding additional sources of financing for the execution of the projects.

20. The participants were also informed of the machinery for the identification, study and formulation of regional projects which would require regional co-operation for their implementation.

21. Lastly, mention was made of the establishment under ECA resolution 248(XI), of an intergovernmental committee of experts, for the co-ordination and evaluation of all activities relating to the implementation of the Regional Plan at the national and regional levels.

22. During the discussion which followed, a representative of UNESCO asked whether the existing national scientific committees had the competence to carry out the type of activities envisaged by the ECA secretariat. He pointed out that it might be difficult to secure a sufficient number of suitable men who could devote the time to serve on the national committees for the African Regional Plan.

23. In reply a representative of the secretariat stated that ECA was aware of the dearth of scientific and technological manpower in several African countries. In fact one of the aims of the African Regional Plan was to boost the supply and competence of such manpower. It was necessary to encourage people from the existing corps of scientists to participate in the work of the national committees for the African Regional Plan since the time had come for Governments to include technology in their national plans and national cadres which had an important role in that regard. He concluded by emphasizing that ECA was working very closely with UNESCO to attain some sort of breakthrough even under the present circumstances.

24. One participant wanted to know whether UNESCO's publication on national science policies in Africa had been taken into account during the preparation of the African Regional Plan. In reply a representative of the secretariat assured the meeting that particular attention had been paid to contributions by UNESCO in preparing chapters I (General development of scientific and technological capacity) and VIII (Science and technology education) of the Plan. Furthermore, UNESCO had taken part in all the meetings of the African Regional Group of UNACAST when the draft proposals for the African Regional Plan had been under consideration. The particular publication referred to by the participant had not been published until after the African Regional Plan had been issued.

Mobilization of resources for the African Regional Plan

25. A representative of the secretariat introduced document S&T/DA.ARP/3, which contained recommendations on the form in which assistance might be rendered and on ways and means of facilitating the flow of such assistance to African countries. Assistance to country projects could be provided directly to Governments or to individual institutions in African countries or indirectly through African inter-governmental organizations, such as ECA and OAU. Assistance to regional and/or sub-regional projects within the ARP could be made available through ECA or other inter-governmental African organizations.

26. The major portion of the resources required for the implementation of country plans was expected to be provided by the countries themselves; nevertheless, many projects would require external assistance from bilateral sources. In many cases technical and financial assistance could be rendered only after some degree of project definition had been achieved to enable aid giving agencies to know in advance what kind of projects were to be supported by their contributions and the kind of contributions required. However, in the case of the least developed countries, it would be necessary to provide assistance even at the early stage, when priority areas were being identified and national plans prepared.

27. As far as bilateral assistance to regional or subregional projects was concerned, the secretariat had gained some experience in the management of such projects in co-operation with various agencies. Some regional projects under ARP might be negotiated at a later stage, once they had been formulated in a form suitable for consideration by potential donor agencies.

28. To mobilize bilateral technical assistance, Governments of African countries should adopt some measures to promote knowledge about their plans. Such measures might include the introduction of special clauses concerning technical assistance for the Plan in agreements on trade, economic and technical co-operation. Finally, the meeting was informed of the promotional measures undertaken by the secretariat for mobilizing bilateral assistance.

29. Under the same item the secretariat had submitted another document S&T/DA.ARP/3 Add.1 summarizing some national plans in projects received from a number of African countries.
30. In introducing the document, the representative of the secretariat explained that although the African Regional Plan had been distributed to the participants, it would be advisable for them to study some concrete projects which had been formulated by various countries. Such projects had the advantage of providing details as to objectives aimed at, resources available at the national level, sectors for which aid was sought and similar matters.
31. It was pointed out that all the countries had not yet formulated projects. The few concrete projects which the secretariat was presenting to the representatives of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies present at the meeting were samples of what was expected from most countries. By studying them, international bilateral and multilateral financing agencies could form an idea of the sectors where their intervention was required.
32. Descriptions of projects formulated by the Government of Cameroon concerning the establishment of a national scientific and technical survey, documentation and information centre (Centre national d'enquête, de documentation et d'information scientifique et technique) (CEDIST) and the strengthening of the Plant Protection Department of the National Agronomic Research Centre were submitted to the participants with summary tables giving all the details needed in taking decisions.
33. Reference was also made to two projects currently in formulation, one of which concerned an industrial and technological research centre and the other, a pilot centre for the pre-industrialization of medicinal herbs.
34. The participants were given additional information on the Cameroonian projects and the ECA representative indicated that further details on some of them could be obtained either from the ECA secretariat or from the Department of Scientific Research in the Ministry of Planning in Cameroon.
35. The participants were also informed of projects under preparation in the Ivory Coast concerning the establishment of a regional scientific and technical information and documentation centre and methods for raising the quality and promoting the cultivation of plantains and yams, which constituted the basic diet in the Ivory Coast.
36. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the participants to a project for the establishment of a rural communications centre in Gabon. Since the Gabonese Government was making every effort to promote rural development, it attached great importance to projects of that kind.
37. Finally, the participants were informed of four projects formulated by the National Council for Research of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan. Those projects concerned medicinal and aromatic herbs, the establishment of an institute of oceanography, the study of the formation of mud structures made by termites for application in the field of human housing and the establishment of infrastructural facilities for research and development.

38. The participants were informed that in cases where member Governments had formulated and quantified projects, a clear indication had been given as to the resources which the country concerned intended to invest in a project and the supplementary assistance which it would seek from foreign sources.

39. In conclusion, it was stated that additional information could be made available to interested agencies.

40. In the discussion which followed the presentation of the two papers, some delegates expressed doubts about the possibilities for the least developed among the developing African countries to allocate 50 per cent of the resources needed to implement their national projects. They would even find it difficult to identify their priorities and prepare their national plans for scientific and technological development without external assistance. However, one participant felt that countries should contribute at least 50 per cent of every kind of resource needed to implement a project so as to show their interest in that particular project and their awareness of the importance of the application of science and technology to their national development and to encourage prospective aid giving agencies to render assistance.

41. The representative of the secretariat stressed that the contribution of 50 per cent had been suggested by both the Economic and Social Council and UNACAST.

42. On the question of assistance from the ECA secretariat in the preparation of national plans for some of the least developed African countries, it was explained that although the secretariat could not act as a substitute for national governments, it would endeavor to offer advisory assistance to member States on their request. It would also continue to facilitate contacts between African Governments and prospective bilateral and/or multilateral donor agencies, including the United Nations specialized agencies.

43. The UNDP representative explained to the meeting that the policy of the Programme was to render technical assistance to countries on their request. He stressed that UNDP assistance was always technically granted preinvestment assistance, which was granted after a counterpart contribution had been allocated.

44. The representative of Cameroon commented on the concept of preinvestment which should be applied to scientific research projects. He also informed the meeting of his Government's activities in the preparation of national projects under ARP. He explained the objectives of several projects submitted to the ECA secretariat for consideration at the meeting and appealed to the agencies represented to express their opinion on the possibilities of rendering assistance for their implementation.

Activities of aid giving agencies in Africa and possibilities for increased technical assistance for the implementation of the African Regional Plan

45. The Chairman invited representatives of the organizations represented at the meeting to express their views and comments and to make statements on the activities of their agencies in the African countries.

Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD)

46. The representative of the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) informed the meeting that in addition to multilateral support, Norway was rendering bilateral development assistance to nine countries in Africa. Its main development assistance partners were Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana.

47. A great deal of Norwegian assistance to African countries related to the application of science and technology to development (support for research and teaching in agriculture, veterinary medicine, fishing, health and housing). The degree to which that was the case depended on the receiving countries themselves since Norway's bilateral assistance was offered in accordance with the priority requests of the countries in question.

48. He felt that the African Regional Plan could serve as a guide to African Governments in applying science and technology to their development problems and in working out concrete projects which they considered worthwhile.

49. He mentioned some current Norwegian aid-giving programmes which fit in with the type of action called for in the Plan. Norway was assisting the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in the establishment of a building research institute aimed especially at bettering the standards of rural housing construction but based on traditional construction methods. Norway was considering undertaking research into the possibilities of increasing the nutritional value of animal fodder in co-operation with the Government of Kenya. Norway was also co-operating with the ECA countries in a research programme aimed at reforestation. Since 1967 Norway had been engaged in a research programme in Kenya on the use of fertilizers in cotton growing. It was considering support for public health institutes and/or programmes in both the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya. Finally, it was financing a FAO research project in Kenya, aimed at selecting optimal types of grass for the area.

50. All the projects he had mentioned involved practical, ad hoc research arrangements. The Norwegian development authorities considered it important that each project should aim directly at practical results, especially in terms of production.

51. Norway was giving high priority to assistance relating to population policies, but had so far not found any projects in which its assistance possibilities could be fully utilized. It would therefore be interested in exploring further the possibilities of assisting projects within the African Regional Plan.

52. NORAD had recently decided to increase its support to Norwegian research organizations to encourage them to undertake research projects with particular relevance to problems facing the developing countries. Priority would be put on problems of food production and population control. Such assistance would apply mostly to projects within the economic sectors and geographical areas where NORAD was engaged in bilateral development assistance. He expressed the hope that the African Regional Plan would provide impetus for suitable research projects which could be implemented by Norwegian research institutions, in co-operation, if desirable, with those countries where the results would be applied.

Administration générale de la coopération au développement (Belgium)

53. The representative of the Administration générale de coopération au développement informed the meeting that Belgium technical assistance was directed mainly to the tropical African Countries, such as Burundi, Gabon, Ethiopia, the Ivory-Coast, Senegal, Zaire and Rwanda. Bilateral agreements also existed with the Maghreb countries. It consisted in the provision of experts and in project implementation. Belgium was also rendering assistance through multinational channels. For example, it had provided an expert to the African Trade Centre at the Economic Commission for Africa, and had assisted in the creation of a documentation unit for the Centre. The Belgian Government was very much interested in the African Regional Plan, which would provide very valuable guidance in planning further co-operative activities in Africa. More detailed information on Belgian activities in Africa would be submitted to the ECA secretariat in the near future.

54. The representative of SIDA reported that the major portion of Swedish bilateral aid to Africa was directed to Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The Swedish Government had adopted a financial frame for its total assistance to each of those countries. Within those frames primary responsibility for the allocation of the resources to different programmes and projects was in the hands of recipient Governments. It was therefore possible for the Ministry of Planning in each country to include projects relating to the application of science and technology in the country requests submitted to the Swedish Government for consideration. Many projects of that type were already supported by the Swedish Government. The assistance provided by Sweden was rather flexible. It could include both technical and financial assistance and was in principle unlimited. Sweden was particularly interested in supporting projects directed towards the lower income groups in the different countries, and as rural development projects.

55. In answer to some questions put to him regarding the choice of African countries which received Swedish assistance, he said that for financial reasons Swedish development co-operation had to be concentrated in a few countries. Sweden was also rendering assistance to other countries, including the French-speaking countries in Africa, through the United Nations System.

56. Where regional or sub-regional projects were concerned, Sweden was already supporting some activities of that nature. In that connexion he cited the International Livestock Centre for Africa and said that Swedish support for other regional projects in the future was not excluded.

Federal Institute for International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technical Co-operation (Yugoslavia)

57. The representative of the Yugoslav Federal Institute for International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technical Co-operation referred to a document on the transfer of science and technology among non-aligned countries, which had been prepared by the Governments of Algeria and Yugoslavia in accordance with a mandate given them by the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries. That paper dealt with co-operation among the developing countries in the field of science and technology. Although Yugoslavia was itself a developing country its Government was ready to co-operate with the Governments of African countries in their efforts to develop their scientific and technological capacity. Several studies on problems of

developing countries were being undertaken by his institute and an effort was being made to improve relations with African countries and to develop co-operation with the ECA secretariat. He stressed the need to strengthen further the co-operation between Yugoslavia and the African countries on one hand and those United Nations agencies which could provide financial support for the projects envisaged in the African Regional Plan on the other.

58. In answer to a question as to whether his institute could entertain a request for assistance, he said that the Yugoslav Centre for the Transfer of Science and Technology was co-ordinating information from various enterprises and institutions in Yugoslavia on the kinds of projects and information that could help developing countries make progress in scientific and technological development. His Government was very much interested in the African Regional Plan, which would provide very valuable guidance in planning further co-operative activities among the developing countries. In that connexion he said that Yugoslav experts were already engaged in several African enterprises.

African-American Institute (AAI)

59. The representative of AAI stated that the Institute's two main objectives were to promote an understanding of Africa in the United States of America and to assist African countries in the development of education. Since its inception the African-American Institute had helped a large number of African students to obtain fellowships for study both in the United States and in Africa. Its fellowship programme covered both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Where the African Regional Plan was concerned, AAI was ready to assist in any way within the limited resources available to it. More detailed information would be forwarded to the ECA secretariat shortly.

Department of International Development Co-operation (Finland)

60. The representative of the Finnish Department of International Co-operation informed the meeting that current Finnish assistance to the development of science and technology was typified by Finland's bilateral development co-operation programme. All technical assistance transactions were on a grant basis. Technical assistance had consisted mainly of the provision of experts, advisory services, scholarships and training courses. Advisory services had been made available in respect of forestry and the wood-based industries in particular. Finland's current projects in Africa included a pulp and paper production project in Nigeria and the planning of a wood-based industry in Zambia. Finnish assistance in the United Republic of Tanzania had included the recently completed surveying and charting of the Serengeti National Park, the preparation of an inventory of the water resources of the provinces of Mtwara and Lindi and the administration of the joint Nordic project for the construction of an agricultural training and research centre in Mbeya.

61. For the time being there were about 110 Finnish experts in Africa serving in field projects under Finnish bilateral technical assistance programmes, Nordic technical assistance programmes and technical assistance programmes administered by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

62. In connexion with training courses, he mentioned the Fourth Seminar on the Furniture and Joinery Industries to be held in Finland for participants from developing countries. Moreover, Finland was planning to grant 32 post-graduate scholarships to African students in 1974 on a bilateral basis.

63. In conclusion, he stated that in 1973 Finnish bilateral development assistance to Africa had amounted to \$US 5.8 million, or about 0.2 per cent of the country's gross national product.

United Kingdom

64. The representative of the United Kingdom told the meeting she would not present an exhaustive list of every activity undertaken by the United Kingdom in the field of science and technology in Africa as there were a great many of them and they covered the entire continent. However, she had with her a list of the research projects supported by the Ministry of Overseas Development which she would pass on to the ECA secretariat. Her Government's activities ranged from the development of small farming communities to aiding research in planned urban growth; from crop storage problems to the installation of sophisticated equipment in infrastructure projects; from health schemes to assistance with fishing projects, all of which were provided for from the United Kingdom Overseas Aid Programme either in the form of bilateral aid financing or special research grants.

65. In addition, the Government of the United Kingdom maintained a number of scientific research establishments based in London, which existed solely for the benefit of overseas countries. Their staff were available for visits overseas to give on-the-spot assistance where and when it was needed. Details concerning those establishments would also be given to the ECA secretariat.

66. On the question of future financial participation by the United Kingdom, she said that specific requests would be considered in the normal way in the context of the programme agreed between the country concerned and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom Overseas Aid Programme was under heavy pressure and the Government would soon be paying its contribution to the European Development Fund, much of which was expected to flow towards Africa. The amount to be contributed to the fund by the United Kingdom had not yet been determined, but it would undoubtedly be considerable.

United States of America

67. The observer from the United States of America said that his Government was aware of the need to assist African countries in the development of their scientific capacity. Some United States government agencies were already providing assistance in the creation of national scientific bodies in African countries and the other activities outlined in the African Regional Plan. More detailed information about the present and future activities of the United States of America in Africa would be submitted to the ECA secretariat later.

68. A representative of the ECA secretariat noted that the American Academy of Sciences had been concerned with institutional development for science and technology in Africa and asked whether the Academy might entertain a request from ECA for financial assistance in carrying out the task of creating the national committees required for the implementation of the African Regional Plan. In reply, the observer from the United States of America said he would be happy to transmit such a request to the American Academy of Sciences.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

69. The representative of UNIDO informed the meeting that his organization was well aware of the importance of the application of science and technology to development because industrial development was the major concern of UNIDO.

70. He pointed out that although industrialization could proceed purely on imported technology, such an approach could not guarantee sustained economic growth. New technologies developed in highly industrialized countries did not necessarily reflect the resource configuration in developing countries. In particular, they did not always meet the need to utilize an abundant supply of unskilled manpower. The process of technological adaptation should therefore play a central role in the process of industrial development in African countries. With that in mind, UNIDO had the utmost interest in the African Regional Plan.

71. UNIDO had been assisting developing countries at various levels, however, owing to its limited financial resources, its assistance had been concentrated on technical co-operation in the preinvestment phase. He then cited major fields of UNIDO's activity and showed where its programmes related to sections of the African Regional Plan.

72. To bring its services nearer to the developing countries, UNIDO maintained about 30 industrial field advisers, who were attached to UNDP offices and whose main task was to assist Governments and UNDP Resident Representatives in matters of technical co-operation and industrial development. There were 13 such advisers in Africa covering all the member States in the region.

73. ECA and UNIDO had set up a Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division within the ECA secretariat to enable ECA member States to obtain upon request assistance on short notice with little administrative procedure or delay involved.

74. The field activities of UNIDO were mostly financed by UNDP. In 1973 UNIDO had delivered technical assistance of a value of about \$US 20 million of which Africa had received 32.5 per cent.

75. Considerable differences existed in the nature of UNIDO's assistance to African countries, mainly because of differences in the levels of industrial development achieved.

76. In conclusion he expressed the hope that an increasing awareness of the importance of technological and scientific development among the member States, a growing sense of the need for co-operation at the subregional level, an effort to mobilize additional funds from bilateral and multilateral sources and increased co-ordination of activities would lead to greater success in the future.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

77. The representative of ILO informed the meeting that the administrative structure of his organisation in the African region consisted of one regional office in Addis Ababa and eight area offices in Cairo, Algeria, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Lagos, Yaoundé, Lusaka and Kinshasa. The officers attached to the area offices administered, supervised and co-ordinated the activities in the region. ILO employed more than 400

experts in Africa and its regional advisors assisted Governments in various activities within ILO's competence. The Organization's concern was to be able to transfer scientific and technological know-how to African workers at all levels and to the rural masses. Its activities were concentrated in the following domains:

- (i) Development of human resources;
- (ii) Vocational training for industrial and agricultural projects;
- (iii) Social security and work management;
- (iv) Management training and improvement of managerial cadres for small and medium-sized industrial enterprises (several institutes of management and productivity had been created in a number of African countries through assistance provided by ILO);
- (v) Organization and management of co-operatives;
- (vi) Handicrafts (utilization of local materials);
- (vii) Rural development (introduction of new and adapted technology to local conditions);
- (viii) Health and safety of workers;
- (ix) Training of marine workers.

78. ILO had established two regional teams to handle employment problems and manpower training under the Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa (JSPA).

79. The transfer of scientific and technological know-how was an important concern of the African technical co-operation programmes of ILO. Financial resources for the implementation of such programmes were mainly derived from the regular UNDP budget from SIDA, NORAD and DANIDA and from countries such as Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada. About 42 per cent of ILO's budget for assistance was allocated to Africa.

World Health Organization (WHO)

80. The representative of WHO informed the meeting that three of the six WHO regions included African countries. Algeria and Morocco were in the European Region; Ethiopia, Somalia, the Sudan, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania were in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the rest of the African countries were in the African Region.

81. Each region was to a large extent autonomous and was responsible for the preparation of its own programmes and budgets. The meeting was given the estimated expenditure by WHO in the three regions with African countries for 1975 and also the estimated cost of UNDP consultants.

82. The priorities in the health chapter of the African Regional Plan had been built into all WHO programmes as an on-going feature. The Onchocerciasis Control Programme in the Volta River Basin, for example, had been financed by UNDP and executed by WHO since 1971 with the participation of FAO and the co-operation of IBRD. The report containing the strategy for the control of onchocerciasis had been completed in 1973 and submitted to the Governments of the seven countries concerned i.e., Dahomey, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Togo and Upper Volta.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

83. The representative of UNESCO referred to the continuing co-operation between ECA and UNESCO on questions relating to science and technology in Africa, which had recently been strengthened by consultations among OAU, ECA and UNESCO. He acknowledged with appreciation the leading role played by ECA in preparing the African Regional Plan as a framework within which the United Nations and its agencies could co-operate with and provide assistance to developing countries in science and technology. The Plan provided a base for future co-operation between ECA and UNESCO. ECA, with its close links to planning and finance ministries, could best assume the responsibilities in planning and financing (preparing and modifying such instruments as the African Regional Plan; organizing meetings and workshops to inform potential donors of the needs of member States within these provisions of those instruments; etc. UNESCO, with its competence in science and technology, could best shoulder the technical responsibilities involved in identifying, programming and implementing suitable assistance projects within the framework of the instruments established by ECA. He commended the usefulness of the national committees organized by ECA for the implementation of the African Regional Plan and suggested that ECA might want to encourage prospective donor agencies to contact those committees directly to explore funding possibilities within the framework of the African Regional Plan.

84. He outlined the chief areas in which UNESCO was contributing or hoped to contribute to African member States within the framework of the African Regional Plan. Action in support of chapter I of the African Regional Plan (General development of scientific and technological capacity) included the provision of assistance to member States in the planning of science policy and the organization of research, the development of scientific and technological information systems and the promotion of scientific and technological research and training.

85. UNESCO action in support of chapter II (Natural resources development) was carried out within its programmes in the environmental sciences, the earth sciences and the water (including marine science, hydrology and oceanography) sciences.

86. Where chapter X (Transfer of technology) was concerned, UNESCO had decided to implement CASTAFRICA recommendation No. 20 by convening a joint meeting with OAU and ECA on the role of universities and research institutions in technology transfer in Africa. A meeting to plan the joint meeting was to take place at the UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi between 28 and 30 August 1974.

87. UNESCO maintained two Regional Offices of Science and Technology in Africa. One was in Cairo and served member States in the Northern Area, and the other one in Nairobi and served the 35 sub-Saharan countries of Africa. Those offices were to be continually strengthened in their role of co-operating with African member States in the implementation of programmes of technical assistance to science and technology.

88. In conclusion the UNESCO representative explained the system of close co-operation between UNESCO and the world's leading scientists in an effort to ensure member States of the highest quality of technical assistance. Such co-operation was carried out primarily through the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and its member scientific unions in various scientific specializations. Of particular interest to developing countries was the Committee on Science and Technology for Development (COSTED) that had been set up by ICSU to look after their interests in the work of its member unions.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

89. The representative of UNDP made a brief statement to supplement the statements of the representatives of other bodies in the United Nations system, giving a prospectus of UNDP regional and global activities in the field of science and technology. Specific mention was made of projects in the agricultural sector, particularly those designed to improve agricultural productivity by eradicating crop pests and animal diseases and of research projects aimed at the development of natural resources.

Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

90. The meeting considered the draft report and approved it after making a number of amendments.

91. In his closing remarks, the Chairman expressed the hope that the African Regional Plan would be given full support and consideration by the aid giving agencies.

92. The meeting was declared closed at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 11 July 1974.
