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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Fifth session
Leopoldville, February-March 1963

COMMITTEE I

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING

held at the Palais de la Nation, Leopoldville,
on Friday, 1 March 1963, at 12:40 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Doukkali (Morocco)
Later: Mr. Bounsana (Congo, Brazzaville)
Secretary: Mr. Nypan

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Adoption of the Report of Committee I. (Economic).

Representatives wishing to have corrections made to this provisional summary record are requested to indicate them on a copy of the record and send them, by 1 May 1963 at the latest, to the Translation Section, ECA, Africa Hall, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE I (ECONOMIC)

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the draft Report of the Committee (dated 28 February 1963, without symbol or number), which had been prepared by the drafting committee in collaboration with the secretariat, only aimed at outlining the main trend of the discussions, not at giving a detailed account of the comments which had been made in the course of them. The secretariat could be relied upon to make any necessary minor drafting improvements and corrections when editing the text after the Report's adoption by the Committee.

Mr. MANIRAKIZA (Burundi) observed that representatives had not yet had time to read the draft Report.

Mr. GANA (Nigeria) suggested that the meeting be suspended in order to allow representatives time to do so.

The meeting was suspended at 12.50 p.m. and was resumed at 1.15 p.m.

Mr. SOW BAILA (Senegal) asked for clarification regarding the meaning of the words "senior economic advisers" in the third and the last sentences of paragraph 1.

Mr. GANA (Nigeria) explained that the drafting committee had had in mind senior planning officials of participant governments, not necessarily "economists" in the strict sense of the term.

After some discussion, the CHAIRMAN suggested that it should be left to the secretariat to find a suitable expression.

It was so decided.

Mr. SOW BAILA (Senegal) felt that it would be preferable, in the second sentence of sub-paragraph 2(a), to say that the outlook for exports of major products appeared "doubtful", instead of "poor".

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) said that the FAO projection for 1970 had referred to the outlook as poor, not merely doubtful. However, he saw no objection to the amendment.

Mr. PAULOS (Ethiopia) suggested that the penultimate sentence of paragraph 2(a) begin with the words: "Some delegations furthermore recommended that".

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) proposed the addition of the following words at the end of the sub-paragraph: "and with a view to the financing of certain types of projects on a sub-regional rather than a country basis, in order to avoid duplication and dissipation of efforts and scarce resources".

Mr. SOW BAILA (Senegal) proposed that the pre-penultimate sentence of the sub-paragraph, "All these problems required solutions as a preliminary to the drawing up of national development plans", be deleted, in view of the fact that many national development programmes were being carried out already.

The four amendments to sub-paragraph 2(a) were adopted.

Mr. REES (Kenya and Zanzibar) proposed that sub-paragraph 2(d) be redrafted so as to make it clear that the co-ordination referred to was between planning agencies within individual territories.

It was so decided.

Mr. GILLE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) proposed the addition, at the end of sub-paragraph 4(b), of the following text: "It would be desirable, in particular, that this question be reviewed during the conference on research and training of personnel in the field of natural resources which UNESCO proposes to organize in 1964. It was therefore recommended that the ECA secretariat according to resolution 34(III), should participate fully in the organization of this conference."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic) said that the views of some delegations were not adequately reflected in sub-paragraph 6(a). He

suggested that the following words be added: "In view of the prime importance of transport matters, some countries advocated the establishment of a Standing Committee on Transport".

Mr. LUKACS (Secretariat) read out an alternative amendment, submitted by the representative of Sierra Leone, for the addition of the following words at the end of the sub-paragraph: "Some delegations, however, pointed out that transport is a separate and extensive field in itself and that in view of its vital importance to developing countries it merited a separate Standing Committee. They recommended therefore that a separate Standing Committee on Transport be created and that effective liaison be maintained between it and the Standing Committee on Industry and Natural Resources".

After some discussion, in which Mr. MASIRE (Bechuanaland), Mr. MENSAH (Ghana), and Mr. SOW BAILA (Senegal) took part, Mr. REES (Kenya and Zanzibar) observed that there had clearly been considerable discussion on the point in the drafting committee and the minority view ought, accordingly, to be recorded in the Report.

The Sierra Leonean amendment to sub-paragraph 6(a) was adopted.

Mr. SHERLALA (Libya) proposed the addition, at the end of sub-paragraph 6(d) of the words: "so as to present their report to the sixth session".

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. M'KHAITIRAT (Mauritania) proposed that the concluding words of paragraph 11, "closer co-ordination between existing and proposed bodies", be replaced by the words: "a more harmonious co-ordination, taking into account already existing bodies".

Mr. BEN YOUSSEF (Tunisia) supported by Mr. SOW BAILA (Senegal), proposed that the words "north-west Africa", in the last sentence of the paragraph, be replaced by the words "north Africa".

The two amendments to paragraph 11 were adopted.

In the course of the discussion on paragraph 11, several representatives drew attention to the unfortunate fact that certain draft resolutions on matters referred to the Committees had been submitted directly to the Commission without their having been discussed in Committee first; they recommended that the secretariat endeavour to prevent any repetition of that procedure in future.

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) explained that the secretariat had urged all representatives to submit their draft resolutions to the relevant Committee first. In the case of two draft resolutions, however, the sponsors had submitted their texts directly to the Commission. One of the resolutions had subsequently been withdrawn. The discussion which had taken place in the Commission on the other had been distressingly confused. Submission direct to the Commission was, he agreed, an undesirable procedure.

Mr. MENSAH (Ghana) said that the end of paragraph 12 did not accurately reflect the course of the discussion: it had been decided that the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning should itself provide the training courses referred to. He accordingly proposed the addition of the words "which should establish and operate courses for the training of personnel to operate these systems" at the end of the penultimate sentence of the paragraph, and the deletion of the last sentence.

The amendments to paragraph 12 were adopted.

Mr. Bourassa (Senegal) took the Chair.

Mr. MENSAH (Ghana) said that in the discussions on the draft resolution on the relations between African countries and the European Economic Community (E/CN.14/L.163), referred to in paragraph 19, Africans had revealed their true stature and magnanimity. The present wording of the paragraph failed to reflect the spirit of the debate. He proposed, therefore, that the paragraph be redrafted to read as follows: "A draft resolution calling upon the associated countries not

to support any trade policies which would have a detrimental effect on African unity was tabled for discussion by a number of non-associated countries. As there was a misunderstanding about this the resolution was withdrawn in the interest of African unity".

Mr. GANA (Nigeria) pointed out that the resolution which had been withdrawn had, in point of fact, been addressed to the countries of the European Economic Community, and that an appeal addressed to the associated countries was already referred to in the pre-penultimate sentence of sub-paragraph 17 (c) of the draft Report.

Mr. SOW BAILA (Senegal), supported by the representative of Mauritania, opposed the Ghanaian amendment on the grounds that it gave a false impression by referring to a misunderstanding. It would be better to leave the text produced by the drafting Committee as it stood.

Mr. MENSAH (Ghana) withdrew his amendment to paragraph 19.

Mr. GANA (Nigeria) proposed that, in paragraph 20, reference be made to the point raised during the discussions by the representative of Libya regarding a study of the various monetary systems used in Africa in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the Commission's third session (resolution 30(III)).

The proposal was adopted.

The draft report of Committee I (Economic), as amended in the course of the meeting, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.