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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Ninth session of the Conference  
of African Statisticians  
Lomé, 6-15 October 1975

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWELFTH SESSION  
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
(THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS)

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, which was also the third meeting of the Conference of Ministers, was held in Nairobi from 24 to 28 February 1975.
2. A full account of the meeting, together with resolutions, work programme, etc is given in the 1974/75 ECA Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council, E/CN.14/642. Preliminary consideration was given to the activities of the Commission and its work programme by the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts which was held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 21 February 1975; its report is contained in document E/CN.14/641.
3. In the present note attention is drawn to matters of direct statistical concern and a number of other topics of related or general interest.

## DELIBERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

4. Questions examined by the Conference of Ministers included the representation of liberation movements and the admission of Guinea-Bissau as a full member of ECA, reports of the Executive and Technical Committees, the mid-term review and appraisal with respect to the Second United Nations Development Decade, the establishment of a New International Economic Order proposed by the sixth special session of the UN General Assembly, the ECA programme of work, staff and administrative questions, and relations of the Commission with other international organisations. The Conference adopted 36 resolutions which are listed in Annex I.

Statistical activities

5. The secretariats' report on statistics is not reproduced here because a more complete and up-to-date account of activities is presented in a separate paper. However it is useful to note the comments of the Technical Committee of Experts and the relevant section of its report is given below:

Statistics

6. In addition to the report on statistical activities and the medium-term plan for 1976 to 1979, the Committee considered the report of the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians (E/CN.14/511) and a draft resolution on statistics.
7. It was noted that the general structure of the ECA statistical programme continued unchanged, its basic components being assistance in developing national statistical services and provision of a regional statistical service. Within that context, the programme had to respond in a flexible manner to changes in data requirements and to opportunities for the development of new projects. It was therefore in a continuous process of development.
8. Most projects were being implemented on schedule. However, a recent paper shortage had delayed publications and limitations on travel funds had affected direct data collection activities. Reduced funds for technical meetings had not resulted in programme delays because most of the projects affected had been

implemented in the form of secretariat studies and reports. The principal exception to that rule was a 1974 working group on economic information services, on which no action had been possible.

9. For practical reasons, the Statistics Division had assumed administrative and technical responsibility for the regional component of the African Census Programme in 1974. As a follow-up to that activity, efforts were being made to develop a new and more comprehensive programme which would assist countries of the region to obtain continuing supplies of demographic, social and related economic data through household surveys. That was necessary in the light of the unified approach to economic and social development and of the need to provide better household sector data which were a major gap in African statistics.

10. In reply to a question as to why ECA could not give more help in an essential field such as the development of agricultural statistics, it was noted that FAO was the responsible agency where such statistics were concerned. The position was different when it came to industrial statistics and other subjects which the United Nations Statistical Office and the regional economic commissions dealt with directly.

11. Nevertheless the new household surveys programme was already helping to generate an inter-agency approach to statistical development. Detailed discussions were in progress on the incorporation of agricultural, educational, employment, health and economic data into continuing programmes of household surveys.

12. The Committee inquired about follow-up action in respect of requests made at its third meeting, and it was reported that action had been taken on all items. However, the secretariat had not been able to issue revised versions of regional trade publications because further research was necessary and the upgrading of ECA's computer equipment had been long delayed.

13. In trade statistics, ECA was working in close co-operation with the International Trade Centre of the United Nations Statistical Office. It was pointed out that the time of reporting, the two agencies together had received 1973 annual trade figures for only 14 African countries. The secretariat suggested that that performance could be considerably improved and that countries of the region should be able to provide final annual data within 6 months of the completion of each year.

14. The representative of Algeria made a special request for trade data in connection with a forthcoming international conference, and it was agreed that details would be examined in co-operation with the Statistics Division.

15. Other questions related to the discontinuous programming of work on topics such as input-output tables and price statistics. Such arrangements were necessary in making the best use of limited staff resources, but it was agreed that price data needed urgent attention in the current world inflationary situation. In that connection it was noted that two rounds of consumer price collection had already been implemented in the regional study on purchasing power parities and that new work was required in respect of raw material prices, etc. For effective studies in this field, countries of the region would need to supply up-to-date material, and the secretariat should be prepared to undertake rather speedy processing.

16. The "data bank" operations referred to in the work programme were described as being the continuing procedure by which the secretariat assimilated information from national and international sources and special inquiries in the form of accessible records which would be computerized to the extent possible. Reasonably systematic, comprehensive and integrated arrangements would be a continuing development operation at the regional level.

17. The Committee noted that the draft resolution on statistics incorporated proposals made by the Conferences of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Planners. It expressed concern that readily available assistance for demographic work had tended to lead to a concentration of national staff in demography at the expense of economic statistics. While appreciating world problems arising from population pressures, the Committee felt that Africa needed the opportunity to establish better balanced statistical programmes. It therefore welcomed the proposal relating to the creation of an integrated fund for the support of statistical development and recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

18. Availability of ECA statistical publications was a matter of special concern to the Committee, and members reported difficulty in obtaining copies of those documents. The problem was examined in the light of ECA mailing arrangements, distribution at country level and the number of copies printed. The meeting concluded that the number of copies printed was the principal consideration. In reply to a suggestion that the production of additional copies might be financed on a sales basis, it was pointed out that African countries supplied their publications to ECA and to other countries of the region free of charge and that the exchange arrangements already established must continue. The Committee therefore strongly recommended that ECA should seek additional United Nations funds for its documentation service in order to make the supply of material more consistent with the demand.

19. In conclusion, the Committee urged African countries to give high priority to statistical development. It emphasized that the evaluation of national progress and the success of projects of all kinds is depended on the availability of data collected in a systematic and standardized manner.

#### African Census Programme

20. The Committee's examination of this project was confined to a short secretariat report because of the limited time available for discussion. It was noted that 17 of the 41 ECA member States had participated in the 1970 World population and Housing Census Programme before special assistance measures had been established in that field.

21. Census field operations had already been completed with assistance from the programme in eight of the other twenty; four member States. Two countries were unlikely to participate, leaving fourteen with active field work. Of those, three had national enumerations already in progress or shortly to be started. Among the remaining 11 countries, a possible 6 still had to overcome significant organisational problems.

22. Those problems had been considered in detail at the fourth meeting of the Consultative Group on the African Census Programme in September 1974, and appropriate follow-up action had been taken, mainly in terms of establishing

effective national commitments to the census operations. In case of need, short-fall measures had been considered, but their application had not been necessary so far. The aim was to complete all field work by the end of 1976, with demographic analysis continuing over a longer period.

23. A further consideration noted by the Committee was assistance to countries participating in the 1980 round population censuses. They were all countries with good previous census experience, so their needs would be different from those countries currently receiving assistance.

24. The draft resolution on statistics proposed by the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians was supported by a somewhat similar recommendation of the fifth session of the Conference of African Planners. These two versions were therefore merged for presentation to the Technical Committee and Conference of Ministers. The resolution was adopted after deletion of the items dealing with conditions of service of statisticians; it is reproduced in Annex II.

#### Second United Nations Development Decade, mid-term review and appraisal

25. The Survey of Economic and Social Conditions of Africa 1974, Parts I and II contains a review of the progress since 1970 of Africa as a region and of each of the member States of the ECA; it was presented to the Conference of Ministers. The review shows that the average GDP growth rate of the ECA region was 4.6 per cent a year from 1970 to 1973 or less than the target growth rate of 6 per cent a year laid down in the International Development Strategy. The result for 1974 should be better with a possible overall growth rate in the region of 6 per cent.

26. There was criticism from some delegates to the Conference of the detail given in the country papers prepared at ECA. The major criticism was that the GDP estimates were unrealistic and either overstated or understated the growth rate for the particular country concerned.

#### New International Economic Order

27. In the economic field the adoption of the resolution on the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order at the sixth special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1974 was probably one of the most significant developments of a year in which the world family was seeking to come to grips with its basic economic problems. Other important subjects raised in 1974 were the World Food Problem discussed at the Conference at FAO in November 1974 and the World Population Plan of Action discussed at Bucharest in August 1974.

28. The resolution on the new international economic order proclaimed the determination of the members of the United Nations to work urgently for the establishment of a new economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between developed and developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations.

29. The programme of action lists ten headings including assistance in the exercise of permanent sovereignty of States over natural resources, fundamental problems of raw materials and primary commodities as related to trade and development, the international monetary system and financing of the development of developing countries and a special programme to initiate the difficulties of developing countries most seriously affected by economic crises.

30. Annex III contains the resolution adopted on this subject by the Conference of Ministers. It will be seen that it has fairly broad implications for statistics and that, in particular, special attention will need to be given to production, trade, etc in respect of selected commodities and to the measurement of terms of trade.

### MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, 1976 to 1979

#### Statistical Programme

31. The Statistical programme approved by the Conference of Ministers is set out below.

9.540 STATISTICS

A. BROAD ISSUES AND TECHNIQUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT

9.541 Development of national and multinational statistical and economic information services.

#### Origin:

Commission terms of reference, commission resolutions 18(II), 146(VIII) and 231(X) and reports of the Conference of African Statisticians.

#### Project aim:

Development and co-ordination of statistical services in the African region, including the development of national field survey organisations and the undertaking of censuses and multi-purpose sample surveys, to meet the growing needs of administration, industry, policy formulation and planning for economic and social development.

#### Priority A

#### Work contents:

9.541.01 (a) Assistance to countries and territories (1976-1979):

Advisory services in demographic, social and economic statistics, national accounts, sample surveys (including the household surveys programme for Africa), statistical organisation, data processing, national economic surveys and the development of economic information services; support to existing national and regional training centres at middle and professional levels through participation in their training programmes and provision of advisory services in curriculum development; promotion and co-ordination of mutual assistance among African countries in the development of national statistical and economic information services.

(b) Studies:

Methodological studies and manuals;

National Accounts;

- 9.541.03 Preparation of a National Accounts Manual for use in the African region (1976).

General Economic Statistics:

- 9.541.04 Methods and practices of record keeping (1977);
- 9.541.05 Methods and practices of compiling statistics on tourism in Africa (1977);
- 9.541.06 Methods and practices of compiling external trade statistics in Africa (1978).

Demographic and social statistics:

- 9.541.07 Study on migration statistics (1976);
- 9.541.08 Study on the enumeration of nomadic populations (1976);
- 9.541.09 Study on the methods and problems of African population censuses and surveys, 1964-1974 (1976);
- 9.541.10 Study on civil registration (1977).

(d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976-1979):

- 9.541.26 The tenth (1977) and eleventh (1979) sessions of the Conference of African Statisticians;

National Accounts:

- 9.541.29 Workshop on the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (1976);
- 9.541.30 Training course in national accounts for English-speaking African professional national accounting personnel (1976);
- 9.541.31 Training course in national accounts for French-speaking African professional national accounting personnel (1977);
- 9.541.32 Workshop on fixed capital formation and construction statistics (1977);
- 9.541.33 Workshop on national accounting at constant prices (1978);
- 9.541.34 Workshop on the treatment of the services sector in national accounts (1979);

General economic statistics:

- 9.541.35 Working group on transport statistics (1976);  
9.541.36 Seminar on distribution statistics (1977);  
9.541.37 Seminar on industrial statistics (1978);

Demographic and social statistics:

- 9.541.38 Working group on evaluation of the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programme in African countries (1976);  
9.541.39 Working group on recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (1977);  
9.541.40 Training Workshop on Household Surveys (1977);  
9.541.41 Working group on civil registration (1978);  
9.541.42 Working group on migration statistics (1979);  
9.541.43 Working group on Household Surveys (1979).

## Related programmes:

All components of this project will be implemented in co-operation with ECA member States. The work will be carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office, OTC, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, UNICLF and other specialized agencies. Activities will be co-ordinated with those of other ECA secretariat units where appropriate, and non-African Governments with relevant experience will be invited to participate. For the African Household Surveys Programme close collaboration with such additional United Nations agencies as the UNDP, UNFPA and the IBRD and other related bodies will be needed, in addition to bilateral agencies and Governments which contribute to the establishment and/or implementation of the Programme, and appropriate government officials in the various African countries responsible for the planning and conduct of their national household surveys programmes.

- 9.542 Development of a regional statistical and economic information service

## Origin:

Commission terms of reference, reports of the Conference of African Statisticians and the increasing demand for comprehensive and standardized information on the African region.

## Project aim:

To develop a regional framework of statistical information, supported by detailed studies, to provide a reasonably comprehensive account of the African economic and social situation.



Priority A

Work content:

(b) Studies:

Statistical studies:

National Accounts:

- 9.542.02           Compilation and analysis of economic aggregates for all countries of the region, using secretariat estimates where necessary (annually);
- 9.542.03           Purchasing power parities of African currencies (1969-76);
- 9.542.04           Balance of payments of African countries (1976-1979);
- 9.542.05           Patterns of private consumption expenditure (1976);
- 9.542.07           Price movements during the period 1960 to 1970 in relation to similar movements in other regions (1976);
- 9.542.10           Financing of public sector investments (1976-1977);
- 9.542.11           Analysis of public sector accounts (1976-1978);
- 9.542.12           Statistical relationship between economic aggregates for use in improving national accounts estimates (1977-1979);
- 9.542.13           Analysis of trends in private and public consumption expenditure, 1960-1975 (1978-1979);
- 9.542.14           Compilation and analysis of data on distribution of private consumption and income for selected African countries (1977-1979);
- 9.542.15           Regional study on international comparison of prices of producers' goods (1977-1979);
- 9.542.16           Study on producers' prices of principal primary commodities for African countries (1978-1979);
- 9.542.17           Study and analysis of input-output tables compiled for selected African countries (1978-1979);
- 9.542.18           African data bank on national accounts, balance of payments, finance, prices (annual);
- 9.542.19           Compilation and analysis of data collected from multi-purpose household surveys in Africa: Production, consumption, saving, prices (1977-1979);

General economic statistics:

- 9.542.20 Processing and analysis, mainly for other ECA divisions (annually);
- 9.542.21 African data bank on primary economic statistics (e.g. agriculture, trade, industry, transport, etc.) (annual);
- 9.542.22 Compilation and analysis of data collected from multi-purpose household surveys in Africa; small-scale industries, transport, etc. (1977-1979);
- 9.542.23 African industrial censuses undertaken in connection with the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics (1976);
- 9.542.24 Construction statistics (1976);
- 9.542.25 Production and trade in agricultural commodities in Africa (1977);
- 9.542.26 Production, imports and exports of manufactures in Africa (1977);
- 9.542.27 Structure and evolution of manufacturing in Africa (1978-1979);
- 9.542.28 Import and export trade indices and terms of trade (1977-1979);

Demographic and social statistics:

- 9.542.29 Evaluation of selected social indicators (1977-1978);
- 9.542.30 Development of an African data bank of demographic and social statistics (annual);
- 9.542.31 Compilation and analysis of data collected from multi-purpose household surveys in Africa: Demographic and social statistics (1977-1979);
- 9.542.32 Study of methodology used in the conduct of household surveys in African countries (1976-1979).

(c) Collection and dissemination of information:

- 9.542.40 Statistical Newsletter (periodical);
- 9.542.41 Statistical and Economic Information Bulletin<sup>1/</sup> (periodical);

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<sup>1/</sup> Shall include abstracts of important national studies.

- 9.542.42 Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A, Direction of Trade (periodical);
- 9.542.43 Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series B, Trade by Commodity and by Country (half-yearly);
- 9.542.44 African Economic Indicators (annual);
- 9.542.45 African Statistical Yearbook (annual);
- 9.542.46 Economic Data Summaries for individual African countries (annual);
- 9.542.47 Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (biennial);
- 9.542.48 African Directory of Statisticians (biennial);
- 9.542.49 Statistics on children and youth in collaboration with and through assistance from UNICEF.

Related programmes:

The preparation of statistical studies and compilation of regular regional statistical publications require close contact between the ECA secretariat, member States and the agencies with official data-collection responsibilities. Contact between the ECA secretariat and African countries has recently been considerably improved through visits and mail inquiries, but needs further development.

- 9.543 AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAMME<sup>1/</sup>
- A. BROAD ISSUES AND TECHNIQUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT
- 9.544 Demographic aspects of economic and social development

Origin:

Tenth and eleventh sessions of the Commission (Reports, E/4997 and 5253); ECA Technical Committee of Experts (Reports, E/CN.14/474, 512, 571 and 602); Conference of African Demographers (Report, E/CN.14/553); Conference of African Statisticians (Reports, E/CN.14/113, 255, 405, 464, 547 and 611); Consultative Group on the African Census Programme (Reports, E/CN.14/POP/59, E/CN.14/596 and E/CN.14/CPH/43).

Project aim:

To assist Governments of the region in improving their information services with regard to population size, growth rates, employment, education and other characteristics, and to direct attention to the interrelationship between population dynamics and economic and social development.

<sup>1/</sup> The present level of regional advisory services of the African Census Programme will need to be continued at least through 1979, subject to later developments.

## Priority A

## Work content:

- 9.544.01 (a) Assistance to countries and territories (1976-1979):  
 (i) Advisory service in the planning and conduct of national censuses of population;  
 (ii) Co-ordination of regional activities of the African Census Programme with headquarters objectives and with individual country programmes.
- (b) Studies:
- 9.544.02 Study of methodology used for data collection and tabulation (1976);
- 9.544.03 Study and evaluation of special techniques used for the enumeration of nomadic populations (1976).
- 9.544.04 Evaluation and analysis of collected data (1976, 1977).
- (c) Collection and dissemination of information:
- 9.544.20 Collection of information on the planning and conduct of population censuses in the various countries participating in the African Census Programme; and dissemination of this information among technicians through personal contact and by distribution of the African Census Programme Newsletter.
- (d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976, 1977):
- 9.544.26 Consultative Group Meeting on the African Census Programme (1976, 1977);
- 9.544.27 African Census Programme Experts Meeting (1976, 1977);
- 9.544.28 Study tours (1976, 1977);
- 9.544.29 Representation at regional, subregional and country level meetings on census activities (1976, 1977).

## Related programmes:

Close collaboration will be maintained with the United Nations Headquarters - Population Division, Statistical Office, and Office of Technical Co-operation; with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and other relevant organs of the United Nations; with the ECA Statistics Division, Population Programme Centre and Technical Assistance and Programme Co-ordination Office; and with appropriate government officials in the various African countries responsible for the planning and conduct of their national census programmes.

9.545 Regional training and research

Origin:

General Assembly resolution 2211(XXI); Commission terms of reference; ninth session of the Commission (Report, E/4651, para. 522); Sixth Conference of African Statisticians (Report, E/CN.14/464); Conference of African Demographers (Report, E/CN.14/553); Consultative Group on the African Census Programme (Reports, E/CN.14/POP/59, E/CN.14/596 and E/CN.14/CPH/43); Meeting of African Census Programme Country Experts (Report, E/CN.14/CPH/42).

Project aim:

To assist African Governments in meeting the need for trained personnel for the planning and conduct of demographic censuses and sample surveys.

Priority A

Work content:

- 9.545.01 (a) Assistance to countries and territories (1976, 1977);
- (i) Training course on the Utilization of Census Data for Development Planning (1976);
  - (ii) On-site training of local technicians by regional advisers (1976, 1977).
- (d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976, 1977):
- 9.545.26 Meeting of African Census Programme Experts (1976, 1977);
- 9.545.27 Sub-regional and country level meetings to stimulate the application and utilization of census data for economic and social development programmes (1976, 1977).

Related programmes:

Close collaboration will be maintained with the United Nations Headquarters and relevant United Nations organs; with co-operating Governments and with the Statistics Division, Population Programme Centre and Human Resources Development Division of ECA.

Man-months requirements: 1976 and 1977

Code	Project title	1976					1977				
		P	C	RA	XB	GS	P	C	RA	XB	GS
9.541	Development of national and multinational statistical and economic information services	36	-	12	36	24	30	-	12	78	23
9.542	Development of a regional statistical and economic information service	132	-	-	4	346	138	-	-	-	327
9.543	African Census Programme	12	-	96	-	60	12	-	72	-	48
Total:		180	-	108	40	420	180	-	84	78	408

32. This programme differs in a number of respects from that recommended by the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians. It has been modified as requested by the Conference to incorporate the African Household Surveys Programme. Additional projects have been included in the later years of the programme period to supplement the previous tentative suggestions. Some other projects have been modified or added to meet the requirements of the New International Economic Order. In addition, more specific provision has been made for the systematic compilation of African data at ECA Headquarters in the form of continuing "data bank" operations.

33. To facilitate detailed examination of the programme, the changes are listed below with explanatory notes.

Programme modifications made since the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians

Project No.

- 9.541.01 Advisory services. The subject coverage has been extended to take into account household survey requirements.
- 9.541.03 Preparation of a National Accounts Manual for use in the African Region (1975). Postponed to 1976.
- 9.541.04 Methods and practices of record keeping (1977). Transferred from the statistical studies section of the programme.

- 9.541.05 Methods and practices of compiling statistics on tourism in Africa (1977). New project to assist countries with Development of their tourist statistics.
- 9.541.06 Methods and practices of compiling external trade statistics in Africa (1978). New project added because of the growing importance of accurate and timely data in this field.
- 9.541.10 Study on civil registration (1977). New project in support of the 1978 working group on this subject (9.541.41).
- 9.541.36 Seminar on distribution statistics (1977). New project to reestablish 1974 project not realised owing to lack of funds.
- 9.541.40 Training workshop on household surveys (1977). New project to replace the working group on demographic and social statistics (1978).
- 9.541.41 Working group on civil registration (1978). New project to assist countries in developing effective methodology.
- 9.541.43. Working group on household surveys (1979). New project intended as a follow-up to 9.541.40 and mainly concerned with reviewing the progress of the African Household Surveys Programme.
- Working group on the provision of information for the appraisal of economic and social progress in the region (1976). Deleted because of new organisational arrangements in the secretariat and topic covered by other projects.
- 9.542.12 Statistical relationship between economic aggregates for use in improving national accounts estimates (1977-79). Project title revised to indicate purpose more clearly.
- 9.542.14 Compilation and analysis of data on distribution of private consumption and income for selected African countries (1977-79). New project to analyse data obtained from household surveys.
- 9.542.15 Regional study on international comparison of prices of producers' goods (1977-79). New project to extend the coverage of 9.542.03 to capital goods.
- 9.542.16 Study on producers' prices of principal primary commodities for African countries (1978-79). New project in support of growing statistical needs in this field, but the data will also be compiled on a continuing basis.
- 9.542.17 Study and analysis of input-output tables compiled for selected African countries (1978-79). New project to assist the development of these tables in the region.
- 9.542.18 African data bank on national accounts, balance of payments, finance, prices (annual). Project added to cover regular compilation and processing activities.

- 9.542.19 Compilation and analysis of data collected from multi-purpose household surveys in Africa: production, consumption, savings prices (1977-79). New project to enable regional utilisation of data available from the Household Surveys Programme.
- 9.542.21 African data bank on primary economic statistics (e.g. agriculture, trade industry, transport, etc) (annual). Project added to cover regular compilation and processing activities.
- 9.542.22 Compilation and analysis of data collected from multi-purpose household surveys in Africa; small-scale industries, transport, etc (1977-79). New project to enable regional utilisation of data available from the Household Surveys Programme.
- 9.542.25 Production and trade in agricultural commodities in Africa (1977). New analytical study to supplement FAO trade and production publications.
- 9.542.26 Production, imports and exports of manufactures in Africa (1977). New project to support the development of comprehensive data on manufacture and trade in African products, but statistical compilation will be continuous.
- 9.542.27 Structure and evolution of manufacturing in Africa (1978-79). New project related to 9.542.26 and intended to study trends in the development of the manufacturing industry in Africa.
- 9.542.28 Import and export trade indices and terms of trade (1977-79). Project title revised to improve clarity.
- Analysis of household budget surveys completed during the last fifteen years (1978). Project replaced by 9.542.19, 22 and 31.
- 9.542.30 Development of an African data bank in demographic and social statistics (annual). Project added to cover regular compilation and processing activities.
- 9.542.31 Compilation and analysis of data collected from multi-purpose household surveys in Africa; demographic and social statistics (1977-79). New project to enable regional utilisation of data available from the Household Surveys Programme.
- 9.542.32 Study of methodology used in the conduct of household surveys in African countries (1976-79). New project to support development of the Household Surveys Programme.
- 9.542.49 Statistics on children and youth in collaboration with and through assistance from UNICEF. New ad hoc project anticipated for 1976.

34. The ninth session of the Conference of African Statisticians will make recommendations on the ECA statistical programme under item 9(b) of its agenda. In doing this, the foregoing modifications should be taken into account as well as new requirements.



LIST OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
AT ITS THIRD MEETING

<u>Resolution</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
253(XII).	Inclusion of Arabic in the Working languages of the Commission
254(XII).	Amendments to the rules of procedure of the Commission
255(XII).	Date and place of the thirteenth session of the Commission (fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers)
256(XII).	Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order
257(XII).	Capacity of the regional economic commissions for a unified approach to development
258(XII).	Co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme
259(XII).	Staff and administrative questions
260(XII).	Measures for contributing to the application of the Declaration, the Programme of Action and the resolutions of the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials
261(XII).	Mineral Development Centres
262(XII).	Arrangements to promote the development of African countries' trade, and particularly of direct intra-African trade
263(XII).	Land-locked African countries
264(XII).	Desertification
265(XII).	Use of solar energy in African countries
266(XII).	Food situation and programme of action
267(XII).	Investment promotion and industrialization
268(XII).	African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology to Development
269(XII).	Integration of African women in national development
270(XII).	Unified approach to development analysis and planning
271(XII).	Review and appraisal of progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade
272(XII).	Statistics
273(XII).	Integrated Programmes on Population
274(XII).	Public administration
275(XII)	African Highway network plan
276(XII).	Regulations relating to road freight transport
277(XII).	Air transport
278(XII).	Pan-African telecommunications network

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- 279(XII). Telecommunications training
- 280(XII). Remote Sensing centre for Africa
- 281(XII). Sattelite broadcasting
- 282(XII). Meetings of the Technical Committee of Experts
- 283(XII). Participation by member States in meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission
- 284(XII). Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
- 285(XII). Co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organisation of African Unity
- 286(XII). Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
- 287(XII). African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
- 288(XII). Vote of Thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

272(XII). Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the importance of statistical information in the planning of development efforts and in reviewing and appraising the progress of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Noting that, although some progress has been made in implementing its resolution 231(X) of 13 February 1971, important deficiencies in African statistics still exist and there is a continuing need for training statisticians; conducting technical meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. and obtaining technical assistance for most other statistical activities,

Concerned by the inadequacy of technical assistance in all fields except demography,

Welcoming the emphasis which both the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians 1/ and the fifth session of the Conference of African Planners 2/ placed on making Governments of the region fully aware of the need for basic statistical data and of the resources and organizational arrangements required in producing them,

1. Urges African Governments, because of the inadequacy of their statistics:

(a) To ensure that provision for overcoming the major difficulties is made in their country's UNDP technical assistance programmes;

(b) To expedite the implementation of the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) by directing statistical offices to present national accounts data according to the revised SNA;

(c) To mount multipurpose household surveys for the collection of integrated demographic, social and economic data through the establishment of a field surveys mechanism;

(d) To effect closer co-operation between their planning and statistical offices;

2. Recommends

(a) That Governments should endeavour to develop and incorporate in their development plans balanced and well co-ordinated statistical programmes suitable for meeting the requirements of economic and social development in their countries and providing for the collection of current and basic data, the training of statistical personnel, operational costs for field work;

(b) That the United Nations should create for a period of 10 years a single integrated fund for statistical development for use by those countries which have the greatest problems in securing resources to develop their statistical services.

1/ E/CN.14/611.

2/ E/CN.14/626.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

256(XII). Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1896(LVII) and 1911(LVII) concerning the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

Recalling the declarations and programmes of action adopted by the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries held at Algiers in September 1973 and by the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials held at Dakar in February 1975.

Convinced of the structural and functional inadequacies which hinder the formulation, promotion and implementation of agricultural and industrial projects in Africa.

Convinced further that a consistent and integrated development effort should be made, including concrete projects to develop agriculture to its greatest potential and to promote industrialization based on local processing of mineral and agricultural resources.

Noting that efforts are being made for the organization and financing of similar projects by United Nations agencies in other regions of the world.

Aware of the fact that it is basically the responsibility of the African countries themselves to overcome their economic and social under-development by mobilizing all their resources and potential and exploiting them for the benefit of their own peoples.

Recognizing that foreign aid and technical assistance do not in themselves constitute a basis for promoting autonomous growth or diversification.

Reaffirming the full and permanent sovereignty of all States over their natural resources and all economic activities and recalling that, in order to safeguard such resources, States have the right to exercise effective control over them and over their exploitation by means appropriate to their economic situation, including the right to nationalize or transfer ownership to their nationals, this right being an expression of the full and permanent sovereignty of States, and that no State may be subjected to economic, political or any other coercion aimed at preventing the free and full exercise of this inalienable right.

Recognizing that sovereignty and control over natural resources require the existence of the skills required for prospecting, evaluating and exploiting those resources and that industrialization implies the processing of natural resources into semi-finished and finished products.

Bearing in mind the functions entrusted to the Economic Commission for Africa in its terms of reference and convinced of the need to increase the Commission's capacity to take action so as to enable it to make an effective

contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order.

Convinced of the need to take urgent and particularly effective measures to implement the Programme of Action as soon as possible.

1. Requests the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to take immediate steps to institute action-orientated programmes for the realization of the following objectives:

Natural resources

(a) The removal of all forms of constraint to the exercise by African countries of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources;

(b) The promotion of collective self-reliance among African countries in respect of the recovery, exploration, development, marketing and distribution of their natural resources;

(c) The provision of the necessary technical assistance to help African countries in nationalizing and taking control of their means of production and exploitation;

(d) The use of the services of African experts to the maximum possible extent;

(e) The re-orientation of the programme of work of the Commission in the field of technical assistance so that it will be focused on training of personnel, especially in the industrial field;

(f) The promotion of the processing of raw materials in African producer countries;

(g) The promotion of direct trade among African countries which are producers or primary products in their raw and processed forms;

(h) The establishment and further development of African raw material producers' marketing, and transport associations, and the strengthening of their action with a view to enabling them to adopt a common front and to improve their bargaining power;

(i) The setting up of a council for consultation and co-operation among the various producers' associations, for the co-ordination of their activities and for mutual support;

(j) The evolution of a just and equitable relationship between the prices of raw materials, primary commodities, manufactured and semi-manufactured goods exported by African countries and the prices of raw materials, primary commodities, food, manufactured and semi-manufactured goods and capital equipment imported by them, and the establishment of a link between the prices of exports of African countries and the prices of their imports from developed countries;

The problem of drought

(k) The formulation and implementation of action programmes to combat the problem of drought in affected countries in Africa, in close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and international and regional bodies;

Industrialization and transfer of technology

(l) The establishment of agencies for the promotion of investment and industrial zones in all African countries, with a view to assisting in, and encouraging, the establishment of small-scale and medium-scale projects for the processing of raw materials and encouraging the creation of greater employment possibilities;

(m) The provision of assistance to African countries, at the earliest possible opportunity, in creating means of communication capable of accelerating regional integration in Africa;

(n) The establishment of institutions on a national, multinational or regional basis, as appropriate, designed to accelerate the economic and social development of the region, and in particular:

(i) centres for the study and promotion of industrial and technological innovation;

(ii) training and consultancy centres for industrial projects, promotion, formulation, evaluation and implementation;

(iii) centres to promote the establishment at regional level of specific industries of economic importance to Africa;

(iv) centres for the promotion and establishment of effective co-operation in the fields of industry, science and technology, transport, shipping, mass communication media, etc.;

(o) The carrying out of studies on certain primary products or groups of primary products of particular interest to Africa, with a view to formulating strategies which take into account policies and measures applied in relation to each of these products at various levels, from raw materials prospecting and production, through processing, to marketing and final distribution;

(p) The presentation to the Governments of member States in advance of the seventh special session of the General Assembly of reports on the three groups of primary products specially selected for the study, namely, palm oil products, phosphates and potash, in the wider framework of fertilizers, and iron ore;

Monetary and financial problems

(q) The channelling of existing available finance in Africa and the third world for the rapid economic and social development of African countries and the countries of the third world;

(r) The full and effective participation of African countries in all phases of decision-taking for the formulation of an equitable and durable

international monetary system in the light of the new international economic order;

(s) Arrangements to facilitate the flow of development financing on concessionary terms to African countries from the international financing agencies, including the allocation of additional special drawing rights;

Economic co-operation

(t) The promotion, establishment or strengthening of economic integration at the subregional level; and

(u) The promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary to consult and co-operate with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Association of African Central Banks, the Association of African Universities, bilateral agencies and other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system as appropriate, and member States of the Commission, with a view not only to securing the necessary expertise and finance but also to minimizing duplication of effort;

3. Requests all the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to provide as a matter of urgency all necessary financial, material and other support to the Economic Commission for Africa in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Urges the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, international financial institutions and specialized bodies responsible for certain primary products, to make an effective contribution as soon as possible to the implementation of the present resolution within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures in order:

(a) To ensure that henceforth the activities of the subregional offices of the Commission are brought into the framework mentioned herein;

(b) To secure for the subregional offices of the Commission extra material and personnel resources to enable them to carry out their mission on the basis of the unified approach to development adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa and the various organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

(c) To organize meetings of Ministers at the subregional level to follow-up the application of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Declaration, the Programme of Action and the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials held at Dakar in February 1975, and the programme of work and the medium-term plan of the Commission;

6. Requests the Governments of member States to co-operate with the Executive Secretary in his efforts to put into effect the provisions of the present resolution;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Technical Committee of Experts at its sixth meeting, to be held in September 1976.

182nd meeting,  
28 February 1975.