

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



610696465

PROVISIONAL
Distr.
LIMITED*

E/CN.14/CART/SR.14
13 September 1966

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Second United Nations Regional
Cartographic Conference for Africa
Tunis (Tunisia), 12-24 September 1966

DOCUMENTS OFFICE
FILE COPY
PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

held in the Bourse du Travail, Tunis,
on Tuesday 13, September 1966, at 3.20 p.m.

President:

Mr. BENGHACHAME

Rapporteur

Mr. MARTY

Executive Secretary

Mr. TCHANG

CONTENTS:

Progress reports by countries on their cartographic activities in Africa since the First Conference [Item 7 of the agenda] (continued).

Reports of the organizations concerned on progress made in the fields covered by the resolutions or recommendation of the First Conference [Item 8 of the agenda] (continued).

Corrections to this Provisional Summary Record should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Conference, room 3, Secretariat annex, Bourse du Travail, so as to reach him within three days after circulation; they should preferably be made on a copy of the Provisional Summary Record in which they are to appear.

* For participants only.

scale photogrammetric cartography in the latter area.

Mr. BONNET-DUPEYRON (France) referred delegates to document E/CN.14/CART/186 for details of the work done by OUSTOM between 1963 and 1966 for African countries in which the organization was engaged in thematic cartography.

Mr. RAULT (Mauritius) pointed out that he was attending the Conference as an observer. The Government of his island was proposing to carry out its cadastral registration by 1967.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the country reports should be continued later as not all the delegates had arrived.

It was so agreed

REPORTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED ON PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIELDS COVERED BY THE RESOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE

[Item 8 of the agenda] (continued)

The PRESIDENT read the text of resolution 10, on regional training centres, adopted at the First Conference, and called on the Executive Secretary to speak.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY referred to the progress report of the secretariat (E/CN.14/CART/174) and said that a first draft of a charter for the regional training centres and of an operational plan had been prepared and would be brought up to date, taking into account the reports of the second mission of the team of experts to survey the sites offered for such centres. The mission was scheduled to visit the countries concerned in the last part of 1966. A full report on this question would be prepared for submission to the eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Mr. TRAORE (Mali) said that he had asked the Executive Secretary of the Conference, on the latter's visit to his country in September 1965, to supply information on the size of the centres in order to be able to make a firm offer, particularly as to the area of land needed.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that a questionnaire had been sent to all Governments for the purpose of obtaining information on the actual need for the training of technical staff in the field during the coming five years and on the extent to which Governments would use such centres, according to their location. As indicated in the progress report, only a limited number of replies had been received and it was therefore premature to attempt to define the size.

He added that ECA had no intention of imposing exaggerated budgetary burdens on host countries to set up such centres. All that was wanted was that they should supply information on their desire and capability to contribute.

The PRESIDENT hoped that the distinguished delegate of Mali was satisfied.

Mr. TRACRE (Mali) thought that training centres should be located in countries which had no cartographic departments.

Mr. COKER (Nigeria) suggested that the question should be shelved till the experts' reports were ready.

Mr. KENGEBELE (Congo, Kinshasa) said his country was quite ready to have a regional training centre at Kinshasa, and asked that the team of experts which was to go to the United Arab Republic and Cameroon should study on the spot the possibility of establishing such a centre in his country.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that the Government of the Congo (Kinshasa) should confirm its offer through normal channels.

Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) spoke of the difficulties Member States had met with in answering the ECA questionnaire, which requested information on the number of students Governments intended to send. He said the reply to that question depended on where the centres were located, how they worked and the costs of training.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that the purpose of the questionnaire was to ask for information to serve as a basis for study by the secretariat, no final commitment was involved.

The PRESIDENT expressed agreement and said that it seemed to emerge that countries were unanimous in favouring the establishment of such centres and in wanting to know their size.

Mr. POMMERAUD (Chad) asked whether it was possible to know which would be the countries chosen as hosts for the centres.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that only fifteen replies to the questionnaire had been received and said that a decision on the location of the centres should be taken as soon as possible.

Mr. SAWYERR (Liberia) thought that the Conference should await the report of the team of experts.

The PRESIDENT raised the point that these centres would have an important task and their establishment was a long-term affair, which would demand two or three years of preparatory work.

Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) remarked that such delay went against the tone of the ECA questionnaire, and wanted to know how many centres there would be.

The PRESIDENT recalled that resolution 10 had called for more than one centre.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY referred delegates to paragraph 18 of the secretariat's progress report.

The PRESIDENT closed the discussion on resolution 10 and invited the Conference to examine resolution 11, survey of training facilities.

Mr. COKER (Nigeria) asked whether ECA set about collating information from member countries on existing training facilities as soon as it was received.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that ECA had made two additional inquiries on training facilities in Africa covering various fields of science and technology: only few replies were related to surveying and mapping. Publication of such information would therefore be premature.

Mr. POMMERAUD (Chad) asked whether States had been told the object of the inquiries on training facilities and whether it was

a question of indicating what establishments were ready to receive students from member countries.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY pointed out that this question had been included in the questionnaire prepared with regard to the implementation of resolution 11.

Mr. JANICOT (France) did not think that the questionnaire would make it possible to collect the information necessary to establish these centres. He added that, since certain Member States had in the interval set up schools of their own with the same aims as those sought by ECA, the ECA resolution might become outdated.

The PRESIDENT welcomed such countries' achievements, and pointed to the role of ECA in originating them. He then invited discussion of resolution 12 on joint centres for specialized services and called for the Executive Secretary's comments.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained the progress report on this point and said that for reasons of uniformity, the same team of experts would carry out inquiries on regional training centres and joint centres for specialized services.

Mr. CISSE (Ivory Coast) asked whether the establishment of these joint centres would not run counter to the establishment or development of national cartographic departments. He therefore suggested joint action to curtail the foundation of such departments.

The PRESIDENT said the two processes were not contradictory but complementary. While the establishment or development of a national cartographic department was a sovereign act, the setting up of joint centres for specialized services corresponded to the aspirations of the African countries towards rapid progress in the economic and social fields.

Mr. CISSE (Ivory Coast) suggested the establishment of a cartographic service for the countries of West Africa.

The PRESIDENT considered that it was not for ECA but for the countries concerned to take action.

Mr. POMMERAUD (Chad) supported the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of the Ivory Coast; he added that the four countries of Equatorial Africa had centralized their cartographic activities in a common centre, Brazzaville.

Mr. MARTY (Comeroon) asked whether African needs had been evaluated with view to the establishment of such joint centres for specialized services.

The PRESIDENT stressed that ECA must be given the necessary time to prepare a complete report.

Mr. COKER (Nigeria) proposed that the Conference should accept the progress report of the secretariat on this point.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Conference should note the progress report.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.