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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.: LIMITED

E/ECA/CM.8/L.15

21 avril 1982

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eighth Meeting of the Conference  
of ministers

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,  
27 - 30 April 1982

CM.8/L.15. Regional programming, operation, restructuring and decentralization issues  
(Draft resolution sponsored by: Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guinea, Zimbabwe)

The Conference of Ministers recommends the following resolution, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly :

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which, inter alia, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations system was established for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 33/202 and 34/206 on the restructuring of the social and economic sectors of the United Nations system which process was affirmed as an integral part of the efforts required to ensure the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and which assigned specific, additional tasks to regional economic commissions including the tasks of being the main general economic and social development centres for their respective regions, providing team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level and acting as executing agencies,

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Mindful of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa which state inter alia that the Commission shall participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa and shall assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region,

Mindful in particular of the importance attached by the Commission to economic co-operation among member States, particularly at the subregional level, and the various resolutions adopted by the Commission, in this regard, culminating in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

X Having considered the Joint Inspection Unit Report on the Economic Commission for Africa, Regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues<sup>1/</sup>,

1. Welcomes the report, expresses satisfaction with its findings and conclusions and fully endorses its recommendations;

2. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider devoting a regular agenda item to United Nations system co-ordination problems and needs at the regional level;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General to institute arrangements to simplify and expedite technical assistance recruitment procedures with a view to decentralizing fully recruitment functions to ECA;

4. Urges the Secretary-General to strengthen the status and functions of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office at United Nations Headquarters to better carry out its representation responsibilities;

5. Appeals to the Secretary-General to provide the necessary regular budget resources to ensure that the ROLPOCs are suitably staffed and otherwise equipped to carry out the basic functions of those offices, inter alia, the overall direction and management of its programme; the organization of annual meetings at both official and ministerial levels; the preparation of studies; the collection, synthesis and dissemination of information, and general research into development questions;

6. Invites the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to investigate new approaches to regional and subregional programming and management of United Nations system inter-country projects, working closely with the organizations of the system;

7. Invites further the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in consultation with all concerned United Nations organizations, to examine the progress made in decentralization of United Nations activities and report thereon to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council with a view to determining what specific authorities, responsibilities and resources will be decentralized and the timing of such decentralization;

8. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to institute, under the aegis of ECA, regional, subject-oriented, high-level interagency meetings to discuss common issues aimed at the development of firm guidelines for co-ordinated action towards the attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action;

9. Urges the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements as recommended by the Inspectors in their recommendation 6, 7 and 8 in order to ensure that the Commission functions at optimum efficiency and effectiveness;

10. Urges the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions to increase their exchanges of staff in order to foster the broader scheme of interregional co-operation;

11. Requests organizations within the United Nations system to assist African governments within the framework of their country programming process in incorporating the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action into their sectoral country programmes and projects, and adapting them to subregional and regional priorities;

12. Invites the Executive Secretary to report progress on the implementation of this resolution through the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers and the eighteenth session of the Commission, to the 1983 summer session of the Economic and Social Council and to the 38th Session of the General Assembly.