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RURAL PROGRESS

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"RURAL PROGRESS is a quarterly bulletin intended for all those who are concerned with rural development and transformation in Africa. It has replaced "Rural Development Newsletter" and "African Women".

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IMPORTANCE OF RADIO AS A DEVELOPMENT
TOOL EXPLAINED AT WORKSHOP

In this issue of "Rural Progress", there is a report on the Workshop held in Addis Ababa in December 1977 on the problems of the effective use of radio forums and radio clubs in rural Africa.

In his opening address to the Workshop, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. David Ganao, reminded the participants about the role of the radio being wrongly thought of as that of animation and mobilization of people only, and that in strictly educational and training terms, its role was regarded as being marginal.

How true Mr. Ganao was. Just listen to as many African radio broadcasting stations as you can and you will be surprised to find out that the misuse of the radio is sometimes even worse than you originally thought. The Workshop participants were surprised to find out from their own discussions that interferences of a political nature in radio programmes were not an isolated incident but were encountered in many radio services, thus making the work of programme organizers an unnecessarily difficult one.

People, particularly those in authority, tend to forget that the main use of the radio is that of informing, educating and training the masses (especially in the rural areas where most of the people live) so that they may improve their quality of life. They forget that all the other uses of the radio, including entertainment and mobilization uses, are meant to be really the marginal ones.

We agree with the feelings expressed by the Workshop that because of this unfortunate and wrong attitude to the use of the radio, radio broadcasting stations often find it very difficult to get from their countries' treasuries enough funds for meaningful development purposes, and even for ordinary annual expenditures. This inevitably results in poor staff salaries, demoralized staff, poor performance and dullness of the material broadcast by radio broadcasting stations - whether national or rural radio.

Because of this, we would like to strongly support the Workshop recommendations. Authorities should remember that all research carried out so far throughout the world, has shown that radio is the only technique of advanced communications that has been able to adapt to the social, economic and cultural conditions of the Third World, and that because the miniature transistor radio sets are fairly cheap and are common even in rural areas, the radio is a particularly suitable medium for educational purposes.

Radio services should, therefore, be allocated sufficient resources (both financial and material) so that they may play their role of helping the masses to solve their daily problems effectively. Furthermore, air time allocated to educational programmes should not only be adequate but it should also be regular and uninterrupted except where the decision to do so is a technical one and which comes from the staff of the radio broadcasting stations themselves who have been entrusted with those vital institutions by the people to man them on their behalf.

WORKSHOP PROVIDES PAN-AFRICAN DIALOGUE
ON USE OF RADIO FORUMS/CLUBS

Mass media men and women know very well the role mass media, and the radio in particular, can play in the struggle our countries are waging against poverty, disease and ignorance or against economic, social and cultural development but, unfortunately, these communications media have not yet been made to contribute adequately in our countries.

That was said by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. David C. Ganao, when he was opening a nine-day ECA/Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) Joint Workshop on the problems of the effective use of radio forums and radio clubs in rural Africa at the ECA secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 1977. 1/

It was because of that inadequacy in mass media's contribution to development, Mr. Ganao said, that the Workshop had been organized with the aim of (a) providing for an opportunity for a pan-African dialogue on the problems of the effective use of radio forums/clubs in rural areas of Africa; (b) providing practical advice to member States on this question, and (c) enabling ECA to collect recent data for the studies it is carrying out on the role of the information media, primarily the radio, in the struggle Africa is waging for its development.

The Deputy Executive Secretary pointed out that the problems of the effective use of radio forums/clubs affected particularly those countries which already had them (radio forums/clubs), but because they could also arise in countries which wanted to have them, the participants of the Workshop would be complementing one another and together try to find realistic solutions to the many problems they would be discussing.

As to the role of radio forums/clubs in development, he said that they were training-oriented and because of that, there were conditions which had to be fulfilled or the programmes would not be grasped by the receiver. The following are some of the conditions :

- (1) The presentation of the content of the message to the members of radio forums/clubs should conform to the norms relating to the preparation of teaching material. In other words, simplicity and clarity of the message are among the basic characteristics of this kind of presentation.
- (2) The need for progression should be respected, both as concerns the order of broadcasts and the programming of the cycle of those broadcasts for each topic chosen.

1/ See document N° E/CN.14/SWCD/60.

The above two conditions mean that :

- (a) If radio forums/clubs are supposed to have as their vocation the role of training, educating or even teaching their members, then programmes should be prepared according to the rules of teaching, i.e. the officials of radio forums/clubs must have received adequate pedagogical training.
- (b) The second point relates to the method how the message is transmitted. Radio forums/clubs belong to a special kind of teaching, i.e. tele-teaching or teaching by remote control. The teacher, or as in this instance, the team which prepares the programmes, does not come face to face with the students, i.e. the members of radio forums/clubs.

Mr. Ganao observed that given this situation, two problems arise : (i) there is an ineffective communication between the "teacher" and the "student" because there are no inter-personal relations between them; (ii) there is no immediate possibility for the student to seek clarification or ask questions, nor can the teacher explain, clarify or rephrase his message when he desires.

The Deputy Executive Secretary went on : "To remedy this state of affaires, recourse should be had to the services of an animator who is supposed to provide the link between the teacher and the taught. Turning to the role of the radio as a tool, he said that it was often thought that it could be used only for animation and mobilization purposes and that in strictly educational and training terms, its role was marginal. "Yet radio appears to be the only technique of advanced communications that has been able to adapt to the social, economic and cultural conditions of the Third World. The very low cost and adequate reliability in all climates of miniature transistor radios mean that radio broadcasting should more and more be recognized as a particularly suitable medium for educational purposes", he added.

Mr. Ganao concluded his address by underlining ECA's intention to draw the attention of member States, through its work programme and medium-term plan, to the importance of mass media in effecting change in rural areas, a decisive factor in accelerating development in Africa.

Speaking at the same ceremony on behalf of KAF and his own Government, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Hans Christian Lanke, said that ECA and KAF had established a close co-operation primarily in joint activities and projects in mass media in general and in radio and publications in particular.

He added that although their co-operation began only recently, it had promising prospects related to a wide variety of projects derived from ECA's work programme. He also recalled his Government's sustained assistance to ECA's programme, citing among other examples, the agreement concluded on the promotion of the activities of ECA's Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW).



Picture No. 1: The ECA Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. D.C. Ganao (second from left, centre table in background), opening the Workshop at Africa Hall. With him are, left to right, Mr. J. Riby-Williams, Chief, Social Development Division, and Mr. W. Von Bonin, representative of K.A.F.

After it had finished its deliberations, the Workshop adopted the following recommendations :

1. That African countries members of ECA, OAU and URTNA which do not already have rural radio services should establish such services so as to improve the social well-being of the rural population;
2. That all African States members of ECA, OAU and URTNA should intensify their efforts to provide their national radio services with effective transmitters, receivers and other technical facilities for the purpose of conveying general information and educational programmes to their rural population;

3. That ECA make every effort to see that, at the next session of the Conference of Ministers, consideration is given to ways and means of ensuring that the majority of the time available for broadcasting is devoted to educational programmes in general and to rural radio in particular and that rural radio is allocated sufficient resources for it to play its role of helping rural people to solve their daily problems effectively;
4. That all African Governments should take the action needed to establish rural radio listening groups free from all political interference, whose members, regardless of their sex, age or religions or cultural affiliation, are guaranteed total freedom of self-expression;
5. That African Governments should set up inter-State training centres in rural broadcasting and that in the meantime they should make full use of the institutions which already exist in Africa for that purpose;
6. That all rural broadcasting services should make adequate provision for programmes of special interest to women, young people and children;
7. That ECA, in close co-operation with OAU, URTNA and other concerned bodies, should take proper steps to ensure that international agencies and regional organizations co-ordinate their programmes for the development of communications so that the optimum results can be achieved;
8. That similar workshops be organized regularly in order to permit those responsible for rural educational radio, including radio forums and clubs, to exchange experiences and to supplement their practical training;
9. That a permanent office be set up within the ECA secretariat for the purpose of co-ordinating the implementation of and follow-up action on these recommendations and of comparing the progress made by each country.

The Workshop was organized under the joint sponsorship of the ECA and KAF of the Federal Republic of Germany, with the collaboration of URTNA (Union of Radio and Television Networks in Africa).



Picture No. 2: A group photograph of some of the Workshop participants and observers on the steps of the ECA secretariat in Addis Ababa.

It was attended by 39 delegates representing the following 23 countries : Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Upper Volta and Zambia.

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WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WANTS THEIR INTEGRATION

IN DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATED

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been asked to take the necessary action for the establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the integration of women in development, and also for the establishment of sub-regional committees on the implementation of plans of action for the integration of women in development within the framework of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of ECA based in Zambia, Cameroon, Rwanda, Niger and Morocco.

This was one of nine resolutions adopted by the Regional Conference on the implementation of national, regional and world plans of action for the integration of women in development held at Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 27 September to 2 October, 1977. 1/

The conference which was presided by ECA's Executive Secretary Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, was organized jointly by ECA, the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation in collaboration with the Government of Mauritania.

In his inaugural statement to the conference, the Executive Secretary said that the conference had been convened to afford the participants the opportunity to review the progress which had been made by member States of the Africa Region, as well as by inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations operating in Africa, in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action which was officially adopted as part of the World Plan of Action, at the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico in 1975.

The Executive Secretary told the participants that accordingly, they were required to review critically any progress made in the implementation of Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, both at the national and at the regional levels. Under that task, he said, they would consider the effectiveness of various forms of national machineries established already in member States for the purpose of integration of women in the development process, and they would propose further activities or actions for strengthening existing national machineries or for developing new ones.

Prof. Adedeji added that they would also be called upon to examine and endorse the linkages between the Africa Regional Plan of Action and the Role of Women in the ECA's Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa in the period 1976-1981-1986.

1/ See the report of the Regional Conference (Document N° E/CN.14/ECO/128).

He then told the participants that after that, they should examine various alternatives and recommend from them the appropriate machinery, at the regional level, to promote and guide ECA's activities and programmes related to women's integration in development.

Reviewing progress made by African countries in the implementation process, he said that no less than 25 national Commissions, Bureaux, Committees or Councils on Women and Development had been established since 1975 was declared by the UN General Assembly as the International Women's Year. In some countries, policies and projects for the promotion of women in the private and traditional sectors and in the civil service had been established and were vigorously being encouraged.

After mentioning that in some other countries, efforts were being made to encourage women to enter into political and top government positions, the Executive Secretary said he was gratified to note that research and action programmes were progressively being directed by African Governments to women in rural areas, towards the up-grading of their economic and social tasks through various aided self-help schemes e.g. improved water supplies, appropriate village technology and functional education and training.

The Executive Secretary then traced the history of ECA's African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) which was established in 1971 as a modest Women's Programme, becoming a full-fledged ATRCW in 1975 (the International Women's Year) as a long range effort to assist member States of the Commission in meeting the crucial needs of women. He said that the establishment of the Centre brought to reality a need long expressed by African women themselves, for a Regional Centre to cater for their needs in the Region.

Outlining the activities of the Centre, which had greatly expanded over the past 2 1/2 years, Prof. Adedeji said they included such activities as in-service training and apprenticeship facilities, organization of the African Women's Development Task Force, applied research, production and dissemination of information and resource materials for promoting the advancement of women in all sectors of the society.

He pointed out that among the subject areas included in the training activities of the Centre were : food and nutrition, nutritional policy and programmes, family size in relation to the quality of life; small-scale businesses and industries; management of family resources; village technology and application of labour-saving and improved devices for the farm, market and home; up-grading of wage-employed women, and promotion of communication and organizational skills.

On training Prof. Adedeji said that in response to the recommendations of the ECA/FAO/SIDA Regional Seminar on Home Economics Development Planning held in Addis Ababa in March 1969, the Centre had been sponsoring national training workshops for trainers in programmes to improve the quality of rural life.

These workshops, he said, were intended to assist member States and voluntary agencies in the development of qualified teaching staff in the fields of home economics and other family and rural-oriented programmes including national planning, nutrition, co-operatives, agriculture, handicrafts, small-scale industries, village technology, child spacing, home management, family life education and in communications.



Picture No. 3: During the Conference, ECA's Executive Secretary, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji (fourth from left, sitting) consults with Mrs. Mary Tadesse (second from left), Chief, ATRCW. Others in the picture are (left to right) Miss J. Ritchie of ATRCW; Mrs. Lusibu N'Kanza, Acting Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, New York; Mme. Aissata Kane (standing), President, National Women's Commission of Mauritania; Mme. Caroline Diop, Vice-President of the National Assembly and President of the Women's Movement of Senegal; and former President Moktar Ould Daddah of Mauritania.

Turning to national machineries to promote the integration of women in development, the Executive Secretary said that in response to recommendations of various regional and international meetings on the role of women and Africa's Plan of Action on the need to establish government machinery to ensure the full participation of women in national development and international co-operation, the Regional Centre had conducted three-day seminars in several individual member States.

These seminars were intended to bring together representatives of Governments, national women's organizations, as well as voluntary and private agencies, to consider the significance and role of national commissions and women's bureaux, and the possibility of establishing them in individual countries.

A very significant feature of the Centre's programme, he said, was the establishment of the African Women's Development Volunteer Task Force - a volunteer corps of African women who had the relevant skills and experiences, and who were willing to offer their service to their needy sisters in other African countries. The role of the Centre in this respect was to stimulate interest in the project, identifying needs and potential volunteers to meet these needs, and for over-all co-ordination of the project, he added.

Resolutions of the conference on African women and the New International Economic Order urged that :

(1) Governments should give recognition to women's roles in the planning and implementation of the three areas identified by the Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New Economic Order in Africa for national action, namely : the deliberate promotion of an increasing measure of self-reliance; the acceleration of internally located and relatively autonomous process of growth and diversification, and the progressive eradication of unemployment and mass poverty;

(2) Strategies for national development should include specific measures to ensure that the full potentials of women are utilized and rewarded in all sectors including agricultural and rural transformation activities, and recognition should be given to their actual contributions to national development;

(3) The Executive Secretary should present to the next session of the Conference of Ministers for their consideration and adoption of the appropriate measures and guidelines to ensure the inclusion of African women in the planning and implementation of the Principles of the New International Economic Order.

Also adopted were the following resolutions :

Creation or strengthening of national machineries

(1) The conference urged governments in the Africa Region to continue and intensify their efforts to assure the promotion of women in all social, economic and cultural plans and programmes;

(2) The conference invited the ECA Conference of Ministers to encourage member States to establish or strengthen their national commissions, bureaux or similar governmental machinery for women's integration;

(3) The conference requested the ECA Training and Research Centre for Women to augment its assistance to governments in the establishment of such machinery and in increasing its competence for planning and action.

Priority needs of rural women

The conference urged the ECA Conference of Ministers :

- (i) To pay special attention to the plight of rural women through integrated rural development programmes based on identification of each country's actual situation and needs;
- (ii) To recommend to governments the planning and implementing of programmes and projects in the fields of functional literacy and vocational training in mechanized farming techniques and animal husbandry; facilities in income-generating activities; appropriate technologies for the improvement of the quality of life, loans and credits; promotion of indigenous small-scale industries, budgeting and home management, and access to health services and adequate nutrition.

Strengthening the resources of ATRCW

The conference urged the United Nations, the UNDP and the specialized agencies, especially the ECA, to ensure that the ATRCW possesses enough personnel and budgetary resources within the United Nations' regular budgetary provisions so as to accelerate its activities in the field with particular attention to the rural women.

Resolution on the International Year of the Child

The conference noted with satisfaction the designation of 1979 as the International Year of the Child and the initiative taken by UNICEF in mobilizing world opinion to the necessity of taking special measures to improve the condition of children. The conference then urged governments in the African region to participate actively in the International Year of the Child by :

- (a) Formulating programmes for adequate health services, nutrition and basic educational facilities for children as an integral part of economic and social development plans;
- (b) Providing adequate facilities for the most vulnerable children, poor children in rural zones and urban slums, physically and mentally handicapped orphans, abandoned children, and those suffering from malnutrition;
- (c) Making a study of traditional and cultural practices that are detrimental to the physical and mental growth of children with a view to taking the necessary measures for eradicating such practices;
- (d) Providing day-care facilities, priority being given to the underprivileged section of society;
- (e) Setting up national commissions or other appropriate bodies to plan and implement activities for the well-being of children.

The conference was attended by 71 official participants representing 35 African countries. There were also 41 observers from Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America as well as 23 international organizations and UN agencies.

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SIDA GIVES US\$ 1,167,895 IN SUPPORT
OF ATRCW'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A new agreement between the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in support of the development programme of ECA's African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) was signed recently at the Commission's Secretariat.

The signatories to the agreement, involving SIDA's contribution of SKr. 5,600,000 grant (approximately US\$ 1,167,895) were Mr. D.C. Ganao, Deputy Executive Secretary, on behalf of ECA, and Mr. Bengt Friedman, the Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia, on behalf of SIDA.

The agreement will bring into effect a major effort launched by ECA to promote two important new projects : (a) the establishment of the ECA/ILO Handicrafts and Small-Scale Industries Unit under ATRCW and, (b) the ECA African Women's Development Task Force; which includes training programmes for women of member States and also of newly liberated areas of the Africa Region.

The over-all aim of these two projects is to strengthen the integration of women in national development efforts in line with the prime objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade which calls for the sustained well-being of all sections of the population and which specifically relates to women's roles. It is well known that no society can keep the cycle of development in motion without the full understanding and effective participation of its womenfolk.

In Africa, women have throughout the centuries made vital contributions to the social, economic and cultural life of their societies. However, available data shows that adequate opportunities have not been provided for them to better their lives and those of their families, particularly in the case of rural women and the poor in urban sectors. One area in which women and girls in the Region have always been engaged is handicraft production and small-scale industrial enterprises. In many countries, they are entirely responsible for all processes involved in food processing and preservation, and spinning, weaving, basketry, pottery, and making mats and bags as well as other household utensils.

There is a great need to improve women's skills and training in order to increase contribution to the development effort. This calls for a concerted action aimed at preparing them to derive the best benefit from their work and to enable them to participate more fully in the modern monetary sector of the economy.

In implementing these projects, the ATRCW will aim at:

- (a) Increasing the productivity of women's work and their income-generating capacities;

- (b) Developing machinery and action to meet the needs of women in national and regional project plans, and to allow women greater access to the tools and rewards of development;
- (c) Improving family life and raising levels of living;
- (d) Equipping staff in all countries with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve these aims.

The ATRCW assists governments in the Africa Region to promote the integration of women in modern economy, especially through co-operative activities and the development of self-employment, and through technical co-operation between countries of the region itself, thereby increasing the use of all available human resources for development.



Picture No. 4: After signing the agreement between ECA and SIDA are seen (left to right) Mr. J. Riby-Williams, Chief, Social Development Division; Mr. Istvan Vukovich, Swedish Embassy Official; Mr. Bengt Friedman, Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia; Mrs. Mary Tadesse, Chief Co-ordinator of ATRCW; Mr. D.C. Ganao, ECA's Deputy Executive Secretary; Mr. Finn Forsberg, SIDA's Programme Officer; and Mr. H.A. Gudal, Programme Officer in ECA's Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office.

The African Women's Development Task Force was initiated by the Centre in 1975 with the expressed purpose of African women to exchange skills and experience among themselves. Many of them are already giving their time and service as individuals, through national women's organizations, voluntary agencies and other groups concerned with women's welfare. The Centre's objective in undertaking these projects is to bring the education, training skills, leadership qualities, experience and goodwill of women in one country to the service of others within the region.

The SIDA contribution is thus committed to providing specific elements to help fulfil these objectives. SIDA played a leading supportive role in the origin and growth of ATRCW. At that time its critical contribution was in the provision of funds for the creation of two professional posts at ECA to initiate the Women's Programme in 1971.

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REGIONAL CENTRE TO STRENGTHEN AFRICA'S
TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY ESTABLISHED

A very important institution in the strengthening of Africa's technological capability - an African Regional Centre for Technology - was established in November 1977 by a decision of a meeting of African Plenipotentiaries which was held at Kaduna, Nigeria, from 10 to 14 November 1977.

The Governing Council of the Centre held its session at Arusha, Tanzania, from 8 to 11 May 1978 to select a location for the Centre but decided, after extensive discussions and consultations, that it consider the matter again at its second session in Addis Ababa in October this year.

The Kaduna meeting was convened pursuant to Resolution 87(IV) adopted by the Fourth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IV) in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 1976. In that resolution, the conference requested the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with UNCTAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNESCO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to convene a meeting of plenipotentiaries in 1977, preceded by appropriate work, to establish an African centre for the development and transfer of technology.

Following extensive consultations between the ECA secretariat, the OAU and other United Nations agencies, it was decided to carry out three main activities preparatory to the meeting of plenipotentiaries. These were: (a) an OAU/ECA sponsored inter-agency mission to selected African countries the report of which was forwarded to governments in August 1977; (b) an inter-agency meeting to review the mission's report, and (c) an inter-governmental meeting of African experts which met at Arusha, Tanzania, in October 1977 to prepare final recommendations regarding the proposed Centre.

The Kaduna meeting was attended by 12 countries which formally signed the constitution of the Centre. These countries were : Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Zaire. The meeting discussed the Centre's proposed work programme, its staffing and financing and agreed that detailed consideration of these matters should be left to the Governing Council of the Centre to deal with.

In order to understand why UNCTAD requested OAU and ECA to establish the centre, it is important to remember the address of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, to the Kaduna meeting when, inter alia, he told the plenipotentiaries : "Technology is a crucial element in the development process, be it in the field of exploration of natural resources or in the establishment of modern physical infrastructure, or in the improvement of living conditions. The industrialized countries know this only too well, and for them technology has for almost two centuries, now assumed a central role in their development strategies and in their capabilities to compete commercially or militarily - and in their very survival as nations.

"African countries have yet to awake fully to the one critical factor that has kept them behind in the development race since the industrial revolution took place in Europe. African Governments seem to have failed to realize that industrial and agricultural revolution cannot take place unless preceded by a technological revolution, and that this cannot happen until science and technology have become an organic and root-taking process.

"We should be awakened to the urgency of engineering a technological revolution in Africa. I firmly believe that without such a revolution, all our efforts to achieve internally oriented self-sustaining growth with an increasing measure of national and collective self-reliance will come to naught. And our dependence on the industrialized countries for skills, technology and capital goods will deepen rather than diminish".

Objectives of the Centre

These are:

- (1) To assist in the establishment of national institutions for the development, transfer and adaptation of technology;
- (2) To promote effective links between producers and users of technology at the national level within member States;
- (3) To identify and supply consultants to advise on technology matters;
- (4) To organize training seminars and workshops on various aspects and problems in the field of technology;
- (5) To promote the exchange of technical, managerial and research personnel amongst the member States;
- (6) To promote and encourage as appropriate the orientation of education, training and curricula towards the technological needs of its member States;
- (7) To assist member States in identifying alternate sources of technology in various fields;
- (8) To assist member States in the effective use of the international code of conduct for the transfer of technology and other relevant international agreements;
- (9) To take such other steps as are related or identical to the functions of the Centre or as may promote the attainment of the subject of the Centre;
- (10) To assist in the training of technical and managerial personnel at various levels and in various sectors;
- (11) To provide advisory services on technological choices in relation to national and multinational enterprises;
- (12) To promote the diffusion of technology already assimilated, whether indigenous or foreign;
- (13) To provide a clearing house for national technological centres.

Constitution of the Centre

The constitution of the Centre states that the establishment of the Centre would assist African governments in the formulation and implementation of related policies and in the strengthening of national technological institutions. The member States of the Centre shall consist of such member States of ECA and OAU that adhere to the constitution. Also the constitution of the Centre states that the Head of the Centre shall be an Executive Director. The Centre shall have a Governing Council and an Executive Board.



Picture No. 5: The Ambassador of Morocco to Ethiopia, Mr. Abdelaziz Jamai (second from right), signing the constitution of the African Regional Centre for Technology on behalf of his country watched by (left to right front row) Dr. David Wasawo, Chief, Natural Resources Division; Mr. D.C. Ganao, ECA's Deputy Executive Secretary; and Mr. K.D. Dube, Chief, Information Service. Back row, left to right, are an official of the Moroccan Embassy, and Mr. E. Lartey, Chief, Science and Technology Section of the Natural Resources Division.

The Governing Council of the Centre shall consist of the Ministers or Commissioners responsible for technology in the governments of their countries the Executive Secretary of ECA, or his representative, and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU.

The Executive Board of the Centre shall be composed of one-third of the member States and will be elected by the Council. The Executive Secretary of ECA shall be the Chairman, ex-officio, of the Board. A representative of OAU shall also be a member.

The constitution of the Centre shall enter into force when signed on behalf of at least one quarter (namely 13 countries) of the member States of ECA and OAU. The constitution is open for signature at the office of the Executive Secretary of ECA in Addis Ababa. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary.

By 10 June 1978, the following 25 member States had accepted to the constitution of the Centre : Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Zaire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Guinea and Somalia. Thus the constitution has already entered into force since it has been signed by more than one quarter of the member States of ECA and OAU.



Picture No. 6: What the Technology Centre would be expected to do - encouraging the initiative in designing and making appropriate machines and appliances which would increase the production and quality of African farmers' crops, e.g. the above multi-purpose "golbar" known as the "Makgonasotlhe" made in Botswana. It can do all sorts of jobs like ploughing, harrowing and transportation, depending on the different gadgets fitted on to it.

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSES AGRARIAN
REFORM AND CO-OPERATION

A Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was held at Arusha, Tanzania, from 18 to 28 September 1978, at which Ministers of Agriculture of the Region discussed Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as well as Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (which has an ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division) and FAO decided to strengthen even more their co-operation in organizing this conference in order to make it a success. Among other important matters that were discussed were Regional Co-operation and Regional Food Plan. These four items of the agenda received careful attention from the conference because they were considered to be of the utmost importance for the development of African countries.

ECA prepared three documents for the conference. In connection with the first item of the agenda, i.e. Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, ECA prepared a "Review and Analysis of Past Development and Policies in Rural Development in Africa" which represented its contribution to the background document that will be used by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in 1979. In relation to Regional Co-operation, ECA in collaboration with FAO, prepared a paper entitled "Regional Co-operation and Integration Progress and Projections". With regard to item (iv) - Regional Food Plan - ECA also prepared a document entitled "The Role of Regional and Sub-Regional Inter-Governmental Organizations in Food Development", as a contribution of the secretariat to the "Regional Food Plan".

In February 1978, Mr. Hernan Santa Cruz, Assistant Director-General and Special Representative of the Director-General of FAO, visited ECA's secretariat and discussed the conference with the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. David C. Ganao. Mr. Santa Cruz came to Ethiopia after visiting a number of countries including Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania for the purpose of establishing direct contacts.

The Conference also discussed development in its wider context bringing in the inter-linked matters of environment, habitat, water resources energy and even inflation and recession, and others. Nations and international policies with regard to agriculture and food production and rural development were discussed with the need to create a new international economic order in mind.

The Arusha Regional Conference was one of a number of similar conferences being convened in the major world regions in preparation for the global one to take place in 1979 which might make arrangements for a development decade in agrarian reform and rural development. Country and regional papers would bring to light the different situations in various parts of the world.

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CONFERENCE CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

TRADE UNIONISTS

A Pan-African Conference on the role of African women workers in the development of trade unions organized in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Nairobi-based African-American Labour Centre in co-operation with the Central Organization of Trade Unions of Kenya (COTU) from 17 to 27 July, 1977, called for a review of the pertinent conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to eliminate unnecessary protection of women and to ensure effective implementation of these instruments.

The participants also promised to make every effort to foster greater support among women trade unionists in their countries and to encourage other women workers to become active participants in their trade unions.

The conference participants came from eight African countries (Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sierra Leone) and the Caribbean State of the Bahamas. Also some officials from ECA and ILO attended the conference as resource persons.

The following are the other recommendations of the conference :

1. The Conference of Trade Union Women urges the Central Bodies and national trade union organizations of the various countries represented at the conference to encourage and support women workers to:
 - (a) Participate fully in the economic, social and political aspects of their trade unions and to strengthen the support of the unions and their leaderships;
 - (b) In accordance with the UN Plan of Action for the Decade for Women and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) Charter (adopted by the African Women Workers' Conference in October 1976, and by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in Libreville, Gabon, in July 1977, respectively) to establish women's departments within trade union organization to co-ordinate the affairs of women workers and ensure that proper educational programmes are instituted and work in conjunction with workers of other women organizations;
 - (c) Support and adopt the proposal of the African Women Workers' Conference to create a women's department in OATUU
 - (d) Include women in any delegation attending seminars and conferences organized at home and abroad and to propose trade union women as candidates for positions in the United Nations, ILO and other international organizations.

2. Achieve the following within the Decade for Women (1976-1985):

- (a) The establishment of day-care centres at the cost of the States, employers and trade unions.
- (b) The establishment of credit shops to enable women members to purchase time-saving devices on credit basis.

3. Adopt national plans elaborated at the conference and seek help from various appropriate organizations for their implementation.

4. A similar conference or seminar with the same participants, should be convened within two years by a central body of trade unions with the assistance of the African-American Labour Centre to review progress of implementation of the plans of action elaborated at the conference in order to assess the achievements and problems encountered.

Furthermore the participants decided to undertake individually various activities as part of their plans of action in their countries on their return home. These activities include, among others, organizing one week's educational seminars for women trade unionists to make them more aware of the benefits of participation in trade unions, lobbying for the formation of interim committees for women within central organizations of trade unions proposing to hold national labour conferences to be followed by a week's women's seminar in order to educate workers on the need for women's departments in national trade union organizations and recommending the intensification of women's education by publishing widely distributed information and educational newsletters.

Some participants have already started to implement their commitments which they made at the Conference in Nairobi. They write to the Conference organizers and tell them about the actions they have taken or are taking, and the organizers too keep ATRCW informed about all this.



Picture No. 7: African women trade unionists would like their fellow women workers (like the above teachers) to participate fully in the economic, social and political aspects of their trade unions.

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TRIPOLI TO BE HEADQUARTERS OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

An African Regional Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development which was established in January 1977 at Alexandria, Egypt, by the Second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, is to have its headquarters in Tripoli, Libya, which has also kindly offered to contribute 50 per cent of the operating cost of the Centre.

Tripoli was chosen from four other African cities by the 30th Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) during its meeting in this capital of the Libyan Arab Socialist Jamahiriya in February 1978.

The Second Conference of the African Ministers of Social Affairs at Alexandria decided that the Centre be established as a tool for promoting national aims and aspirations in the field of social development through the mobilization of social and other resources for the economic and social development of African countries.

The Conference requested the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in consultation with the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU to sound out the governments of all member States of ECA and OAU concerning the provision of host facilities for the headquarters of the proposed Regional Centre.

The countries which subsequently informed the Executive Secretary of their willingness to offer host facilities were Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Morocco and Kenya. A joint ECA/OAU mission visited all the five countries to have on-the-spot consultations with the appropriate authorities and to evaluate the facilities which would be made available to the Centre before the Council of Ministers met to choose the country best qualified to host it.

Objectives of the Centre

The main objectives of the Regional Centre are to provide training of high-level personnel required for applied research and training in social development; to undertake applied research and develop indigenous teaching and research material; to undertake or contribute towards research in rural development; to co-operate with and provide assistance to national social development; to initiate and maintain relations with other centres, institutions and organizations with objectives similar to those of the Regional Centre within and outside the African region.

So far, the following 13 ECA/OAU member States have acceded to the agreement for the establishment of the Centre: Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Zaire. For the agreement to come into force, it is required to be ratified, accepted or approved on behalf of at least nine member countries of ECA and OAU, which means the agreement has already come into force.

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ORGANIZATION OF DAY-CARE CENTRE ACTIVITIES
DISCUSSED AT WORKSHOPS

The increasing awareness in Africa of women's involvement in the national development process, has created the need for more and better facilities for day-care centres where children in the age group 0 - 6 can be taken care of while their mothers are away at work. To realize this objective ECA's African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) is now organizing workshops on the development and functions of day-care activities in Africa.

The first in a series of these workshops was held at Iringa Tanzania in November 1975 as a joint undertaking between the Government of Tanzania and UNICEF of the Use of Local Materials in The Development of Teaching Aids Equipment and Toys for Day-Care Centres.

Participants in these workshops came from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Lesotho. The workshop looked into the possibility of providing locally-made teaching aids and equipment and also into methods of co-ordinating programmes by relevant Ministries in each country. The workshop eventually endorsed recommendations on the need for each country to have a policy on the implementation of day-care programmes and on the need for co-ordination and co-operation between different Ministries involved in each country.

As a follow-up to the Iringa Workshop, a similar one was held in Kenya from 9 to 20 May 1977, for 15 participants from Ethiopia, Egypt, Botswana, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Mauritius, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Sudan, Swaziland, Seychelles and Zambia. The aim of this workshop, which was jointly organized by ECA/ATRCW and UNICEF was to produce a plan of action on how day-care centre programmes can be established, improved and assisted.

The workshop discussed country reports and case studies from selected areas. It also discussed the Kenya Day-Care Centre Programme which looked in depth at the general concept of day-care development, its effectiveness and formulation. This resulted in a number of concrete recommendations based on the identification of priority areas of day-care centre activities and problems, examination of teaching aid materials and health measures related to child development. Introduction of technology in basic education and methodology producing modular units was part of the demonstration exercise conducted by experts.

Other topics also discussed included administration, personnel, budget and curriculum development. The programme also included visits to the Kenya Day-Care Programme Training Centre and to a toy-making workshop.

There are many problems in the provision of adequate child-care in the Africa region which the establishment of day-care is seeking to alleviate. In many areas traditional systems of child-care have become inadequate. For many centuries African societies have used traditional systems in caring for young children while mothers are at work both in or outside the home.

In many areas rural women carry their babies on their backs while performing farm and household chores. In other cases young children are left in the care of older members of the family of either the wife or the husband through the extended family structure. In the absence of the above circumstances small children are often left at home to be looked after by other children aged six or older, or by neighbours.



Picture No. 8: A group photograph of the organizers and the participants of the Day-Care Workshop held in Kenya in May 1977.

These and other methods were and are still used in both rural and urban areas. In big cities, however, the concept of modern day-care centres is being gradually introduced. So far, the centres are few and scattered, mainly catering for the needs of a small number of working parents. These centres are usually run by private individuals women's welfare associations, and/or by voluntary organizations.

In a number of African countries groups of women have also tried to set up day-care centres or nursery schools, women sometimes taking turns to look after the children or contributing to the payment of a "teacher" who may turn out to be untrained. Alternatively, these women employ young girls aged from eight to 13 years to serve as nannies. The employment of young girls who are themselves not of age to look after small children, and who lack basic training in child-care has in many cases led to malnutrition and, sometimes, to accidents of all sorts both in and around the home. In several regional conferences and seminars, women have repeatedly expressed the need for the establishment of day-care centres both in rural and urban areas in order to relieve mothers of their heavy responsibilities and thereby enable them to concentrate on their work.

If African women are to take part in useful activities outside their homes they and their families must be assured that their young children are well taken care of while they are away. Day-care activities are not only a priority for working parents but also of utmost importance for the development of the community as a whole.

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HEAR ABOUT LESOTHO WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

The Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa gets a lot of visitors who come here for conferences, seminars and workshops, or just to see and know this extremely busy place which is playing a vital role in the economic and social development of Africa. One such visitor was Mrs. Doreen E. Tlale, Women's Programme Officer of Radio Lesotho who came to represent her country last December at the Joint ECA/Konrad Adenauer Foundation Workshop on Radio Forums and Clubs in Rural Africa. While here, she visited the African Training and Research Centre for Women where the following question and answer conversation with an official of the Centre took place :

- Q. Will you please tell me something about yourself ?
- A. I am a trained Nutritionist and Community Development Worker. I joined the Lesotho Civil Service as a Nutritionist in 1962 in the wake of a nation-wide campaign aimed at improving nutrition among the people launched by the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1963, I went to Israel for a six-month further training course in my work at the International Training Centre for Community Services. On my return home, I was employed as a Nutrition Supervisor in the same Ministry of Agriculture. In this work, I had the opportunity to broadcast regularly nutrition educational programmes over Radio Lesotho.
- Q. Are you still working for the Ministry of Agriculture ?
- A. No. In 1966, I was offered a scholarship to study radio journalism in the Federal Republic of Germany for a year. When I came back, I was employed as a Radio Journalist responsible for women's activities in Radio Lesotho. My work included preparing programmes of general interest to women and the community at large, e.g. interviews, correspondence with listeners, recording programmes and preparing features on various topics.
- Q. How did you find the Joint ECA/KAF Workshop which you attended here ?
- A. It was very useful and rewarding. Also I found that the workshop was in direct relation to my work with rural people at the grass-roots level. I hope to be able to apply all that I have been able to grasp and share it with my fellow radio workers when I go back home.

- Q. Can you please tell me something about the position of Lesotho women ?
- A. More than ever before, women in my country are engaged in activities which are of benefit to themselves and their families. For example, in urban centres women and girls are mainly engaged in income-generating activities such as basketry, pottery, tie-dyeing, jewellery embroidery making bead necklaces, shopping bags and table mats.
- Q. How do rural women in your country usually spend their time ?
- A. As a result of the exodus of many men from rural areas to urban and mining centres in search of jobs, rural women in my country are left with no option but to do all the subsistence farming themselves. In this way they shoulder all the family responsibilities. They are also engaged in various self-help projects such as communal farming, fisheries and building dams. In addition, women in Lesotho have traditional self-help associations which assist families of the deceased, the aged and the destitute.
- Q. Is there any other serious problem facing Lesotho women ?
- A. One other serious problem facing Lesotho women is the lack of transport to take them and their produce to towns and market places. In a country where illiteracy counts for 80 % of the population and where women constitute the majority, there is a pressing need to intensify all the assistance needed to improve the situation.
- Q. If that is the situation, why don't the people include road building in their self-help projects ?
- A. They do. Road building is one of the major self-help projects which contributes greatly to my country's development. For example, Lesotho's Independence Day in October 1977, was celebrated by all adult nationals participating in a mammoth road building project which was a great success, and the women's contribution to this success was very great.
- Q. What are the other self-help programmes in which women participate ?
- A. There are several voluntary organizations which organize self help schemes such as setting up vocational training centres for school drop-outs where the latter are taught handicrafts, cookery, sewing, knitting and so on. Also some villages build their own primary schools and clinics. Then at Christmas time, all women's voluntary organizations join hands in organizing fund-raising activities whose proceeds go to aid the needy.



Picture No. 9: Mrs. Doreen E. Tlale (holding a microphone) tape-recording an old woman's conversation for a women's programme to be broadcast on Radio Lesotho, while another old woman listens attentively.

- Q. As a Women's Programme Officer of Radio Lesotho, are you still concerned with nutrition educational programmes only ?
- A. Oh, no. My radio programme now includes a thrice-weekly broadcast known as "Bo-Me Malapeng" (Women's Corner) which is about such subjects as the Red Cross, nutrition, mother and child care, agriculture, health and education.
- Q. How do you manage to look after your children when you are at work ?
- A. In Lesotho, modern working mothers still manage to get assistance in the home by the extended family system. Elder members of the family are always available to give a helping hand when the need arises.

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EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS IN
SIERRA LEONE AND TANZANIA

The Bunumbu Teachers' College in Sierra Leone was established to meet the needs of an alternative solution to the formal education system, with an emphasis on practical cultural subjects so that children who would not enter the secondary cycle would have received an education which could make them useful to themselves and their community. 1/

One of the long-term objectives of the project is the development of a country-wide network of community education centres providing education and training of both formal and non-formal nature to young people and adults in the rural areas. The relevant immediate objective is "to utilize the 20 pilot schools within a 20-mile radius of Bunumbu Teachers' College as community education centres in addition to their normal role of providing education to children".

These 20 pilot schools which are being developed as multi-purpose education centres are being manned by teachers trained at Bunumbu and since the schools will be growth centres for rural development which, by definition is a multi-disciplinary activity, they will be the meeting point of the various agents of change, and the teacher trained at Bunumbu will be a front-line member of a team of technicians engaged in introducing new knowledge and skills to the rural people. The Bunumbu project is thus a significant component of the rural development process transforming existing primary schools into community education centres and producing community animateurs.

The community education centres, within the Bunumbu context, are the hubs from which radiate rural development activities. The multi-disciplinary team at each community education centre consists of primary school teachers, agricultural extension workers, community development workers co-operative inspectors, local experts (craftsmen and women), civic leaders chiefs heads of traditional societies and voluntary agencies personnel.

During their training at Bunumbu, teacher trainees are brought into contact with all other extension workers. Skilled persons in the community (weavers, carpenters, carvers, etc.) are given pedagogical training at the College to give them the necessary skill for teaching at the community education centres.

1/ From September 1978 issue of "Neida Information", B.P. 3311, Dakar Senegal.

Tanzania also provides some lessons in integrating work and education. In his budget speech for 1978/79, Tanzania's Minister for National Education, Mr. N.A. Kuhanga, gave an account of some of their experiences. He said : "Diversification in our secondary schools and teachers' colleges, is one way in which our students learn and become productive at the same time. Schools and several colleges have started to use their educational tools for production, in order to implement the policy of education for self-reliance. In this connection, primary schools in 17 regions earned a total of Shs(T) 19,301,724 in 1977. Forty secondary schools earned Shs(T) 1,608,284, and 22 colleges of National Education earned a total of Shs(T) 1,572,090.

"At the University of Dar-es-Salaam, the question of work as part of the study programme was discussed by the Committee of Faculty Deans in 1975, and it was agreed that each faculty should take concrete action to implement the directive. The Faculties of Science, Engineering, Medicine and Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine have already added a fourth term to their academic year which gives the students an opportunity to work in factories, hospitals and other places depending on the course each student follows. The Faculties of Law, Arts, and Social Science also have similar programmes. The work of the student in the villages, factories and hospitals counts towards his/her degree award.

"The University also fully co-operates in advising the Government and parastatal organizations. For instance, the study of soil samples of the land at Kibiti where an agricultural secondary school is to be built, has been carried out by the University. Similarly consultancy with regard to the construction of the Lyamungu Dam was given to the University. Furthermore, the University has constructed four staff housing units for nearly one third of the normal cost, and its Library has made a profit of Shs(T) 2,000,000 from printing services. Consultancy services have also brought some income to the Faculty of Engineering and the Bureau of Resources and Land Utilization Planning". However, Mr. Kuhanga said, the Faculty of Agriculture had suffered a loss because of drought and poor administration.

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ACOSCA CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Africa Cooperative Savings and Credit Association (ACOSCA) celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 1978, by holding an Anniversary Education Conference. The Conference laid emphasis on education, training and information within the Credit Union Movement in Africa.

Before the Anniversary Conference was held, the Board of Directors of ACOSCA gathered in Nairobi and participated in the Anniversary celebrations together with the many ACOSCA affiliates, government representatives from within and outside Africa, international donors and co-operatives to whom invitations had been extended. ECA as well as a wide circle of personalities interested in credit union work, also attended.

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Dear Reader,

I take this opportunity to thank all those readers who took the trouble to fill in the Questionnaire which we published in the first issue of this newsletter and to return it to me as requested.

On the whole, their comments were in agreement with our own ideas on how "Rural Progress" should be. We would now like to invite Government Ministries, Voluntary Agencies and even individuals with suitable material for publication in this newsletter to send it (together with illustrations whenever possible) to the Editor.

Articles contributed are required to be in line with rural development objectives such as articles of the "Ideas Into Actions" type; successful ideas for village technology development education including education for mass media and non-formal education: women's development activities; youth and development, and others.

E D I T O R