



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.18/17
25 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Thirteenth meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10-16 April 1992

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-seventh session of the Commission/
eighteenth meeting of the Conference of
Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20-24 April 1992

**RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1991 AND BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH
SESSION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS
THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO AFRICA**

1. The objective of this document is to report to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) and, through it, to the Conference of Ministers on: (a) the actions taken by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its second regular session held at Geneva in July 1991 on the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its seventeenth meeting which called for action by the Council; (b) the decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the recommendations of ECOSOC concerning these resolutions; and (c) other resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly adopted during their 1991 sessions in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa.

2. The twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers adopted 21 resolutions. Three of these called for action by ECOSOC. These were resolutions 708 (XXVI) on Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs); 709 (XXVI) on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000); and 710 (XXVI) on the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

Resolution 708 (XXVI): Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

3. The Council amended and adopted the resolution as presented in the annex.

Resolution 709 (XXVI): Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000)

4. The Council adopted this resolution without amendment.

Resolution 710 (XXVI): Second United Nations Transport and Communication Decade in Africa

5. The Council amended and adopted the resolution as presented in the annex.

6. Other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by ECOSOC at its regular session of 1991 are: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1991/58); Critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa (1991/60); Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (1991/66); Cooperation in fisheries in Africa (1991/73); Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (1991/74); Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation (1991/76); Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (1991/85); International Conference on Population and Development (1991/93); and Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa (1991/96).

7. As is the practice, all resolutions adopted by ECOSOC should also go to the General Assembly for final adoption. Consequently, the aforementioned ECA resolutions, together with the other resolutions of interest to Africa which were adopted by ECOSOC, were transmitted to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

8. Among the resolutions adopted by the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly were the ECA resolutions referred to above together with those of interest to Africa also referred to above.

9. As for ECOSOC resolution 1991/81 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), the General Assembly endorsed it and agreed to provide resources within the context of the biennium 1992-1993 for the full implementation of the resolution. In his statement submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General

estimated the requirements at full cost for additional activities at a total of \$US 180,400, stating also the modifications required in the proposed budget for 1992-1993.

10. As for ECOSOC resolution 1991/82 on Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), it would be recalled that in a report concerning the functioning of the MULPOCs presented at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had indicated that the staff resources of the MULPOCs would need to be increased by eight additional Professional posts and by ten General Service posts and that, this would be dealt with in the context of the 1992-1993 proposed programme budget. At the forty-sixth session, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of five new Professional posts (two P-5, two P-4 and one P-3) in order to strengthen the capacity of the MULPOCs in the promotion of subregional economic cooperation and integration in Africa. The posts would be distributed as follows:

(a) Two P-5 posts to accommodate an agronomist in the Niamey MULPOC and a transport economist in the Yaounde MULPOC respectively;

(b) Two P-4 posts to accommodate a mining engineer in the Lusaka MULPOC and an agronomist in the Tangier MULPOC respectively;

(c) One P-3 post to accommodate an agronomist in the Gisenyi MULPOC.

11. The Secretary-General stated that the three P-2 and ten GS posts would have to be redeployed from within the resources of ECA.

12. In adopting ECOSOC resolution 1991/83 on the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the General Assembly had agreed to provide ECA with adequate resources within the context of the biennium 1992-1993 for the full implementation of the resolution. The Secretary-General submitted a statement which described the activities and their estimated requirements at full cost which amounted to a total sum of \$US 89,500. This includes the establishment of a P-3 and GS posts for strengthening the capacity of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division in the preparation and implementation of the Decade and related activities.

13. While the above falls short of the programme budget implication originally presented by ECA, a mechanism of modifications in the programme budget for 1992-1993 has been devised in order to fully implement the activities of the Decade.

14. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa are: International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (46/141); International debt crisis and development: Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries (46/148); Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (46/156); Combating desertification and drought (46/161); Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (46/163); United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (46/164); Special assistance to Namibia (46/204); and Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (46/215).

15. Finally, the General Assembly adopted resolutions on special programmes of economic assistance to certain African countries such as Chad, the Front-Line States, Djibouti, Somalia and the Sudan.

Annex

1991/81. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 2 (IX) of 31 May 1989 of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, concerning the proclamation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the preparation of a programme for the Decade,

Recalling also resolution AHG/Res.180 (XXV) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa in July 1989, on the proclamation of a second industrial development decade for Africa and on an Africa industrialization day,

Recalling further resolution GC.3/10 of 23 November 1989 of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the second industrial development decade for Africa,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 1991-2000 the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and 20 November Africa Industrial Day,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), which contained a description of the progress made in national, subregional and regional preparations as well as in meeting the schedule adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its ninth meeting and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

1. Requests the Conference of African Ministers of Industry to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, which is currently being finalized, together with the recommendations concerning the practical modalities of its implementation and monitoring and including modalities for the mobilization of funds needed to finance the programme at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;
2. Appeals to African countries and to African intergovernmental organizations, particularly financial institutions, to take the necessary measures to ensure the successful implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to give priority to the mobilization of their own financial resources for the implementation and monitoring of the programme;
3. Appeals to the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral funding institutions, to significantly increase their contributions to the industrial sector in African countries so as to ensure optimum implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;
4. Recommends that the General Assembly provide the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate resources to enable it to assist African countries and organizations effectively in the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;
5. Also recommends that the policy organs of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization significantly increase their regular budget resources allocated for the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

6. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to allocate adequate resources in the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996), under its Africa regional programme, to support activities of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to take follow-up action to promote national, subregional and regional activities in support of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its eighteenth meeting.

1991/82. Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned about the slow process of subregional economic integration in Africa as evidenced, inter alia, by the low level of intra-subregional trade, the persistence of customs barriers between States members of the Economic Commission for Africa, the non-existence of a common external tariff and the absence of harmonized sectoral policies in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport, energy, trade and monetary affairs,

Recalling resolution 611 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the acceleration of subregional economic integration in Africa and the new role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Recalling also Council resolution 1990/76 of 27 July 1990 on transforming and strengthening the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to enable them to play an effective role in providing technical assistance in the economic integration process in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the endorsement by the General Assembly of the report of the Review Team on the Structures, Organization and Operations of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, in which the Review Team concluded that the structures, organization and operations of the Centres should be transformed and strengthened,

Aware that the financial assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme to the Centres during the period 1977-1982 has made a significant impact on the economic integration process in Africa, which has been further accelerated by the funding of multisectoral projects by the United Nations Development Programme during its fourth programming cycle,

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the preparation of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community, whose imminent signature will mark a historic milestone in the integration of Africa,

1. Appeals to States that are members of subregional economic communities to take appropriate measures to accelerate the subregional integration process, notably by endowing the subregional economic communities with self-financing mechanisms for the funding of their operational activities and by ensuring the participation of all socio-economic groups in the economic integration activities;

2. Further appeals to States that are members of subregional economic communities to adopt effective measures towards the setting up of mechanisms for economic integration in each subregion that would harmonize the activities of all economic groupings;

3. Invites those States to apply the decisions of the African Economic Community on joint policies in priority sectors, in particular those regarding the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, on the adoption of a common external tariff and on monetary integration;

4. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to provide, during its fifth programming cycle, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, sufficient resources to support the economic integration process in Africa, in particular to fund activities in priority areas that were not properly covered during the fourth programming cycle and to sustain the promotion of those activities that were launched during the fifth programming cycle;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank, to redouble his efforts to explore ways and means of providing all the necessary technical assistance to the future African Economic Community, in particular, in the drafting of its protocols and the implementation of its first work programme;

6. Invites African non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete proposals aimed at accelerating the process of economic integration and developing awareness of the African economic and political integration process at all levels of African society;

7. Renews its appeal to the General Assembly for the funding of additional posts in the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, in both the Professional and the General Service categories, and the provision of additional financial resources;

8. Renews its appeal to member States to continue their support of the Centres through specific contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and by facilitating the secondment of their civil servants to the Centres on short-term assignments;

9. Endorses the new orientation of the work programme and priorities of the Centres as proposed by their respective Committees of Intergovernmental Experts;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with member States, to take appropriate measures to make the subregional development information systems operational, priority to be accorded to a reliable information system on the market for agricultural products, especially foodstuffs;

11. Further requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To establish the mandate and terms of reference of the Committees of Intergovernmental Experts for the effective implementation of the work charged to them under Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/76 of 27 July 1990;

(b) To draw up, in good time, the programme of work for the Centres for circulation to member States to allow them to prepare, in reasonable time, for the secondment of national civil servants;

I

Gisenyi Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

1. Requests the Gisenyi Multinational Programming and Operational Centre and the Economic Commission for Africa to assist, where appropriate, the Great Lakes countries in implementing the

provisions of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation;

2. Also requests the Gisenyi Centre, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, to explore the possibility of organizing, as soon as possible, through funding from the extrabudgetary resources of the Economic Commission for Africa, an expert group meeting on road transport to consider, inter alia, the following topics: road service taxation and road maintenance within the Community; an integrated road network and road map for the Community; a global approach to the opening up of the Community area; and the formulation of a Community transport master plan;

II

Tangier Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

1. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide assistance to the North African countries within its support for the Arab Maghreb Union in its integration endeavours and to continue to provide assistance in the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area in North Africa;

2. Also requests the Commission to establish, within the Tangier Centre, adequate structures to enable the Centre to provide support to the North African Transport Commission and to ensure the proper follow-up to emigration issues;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to seek appropriate funds to provide the programme on the integration of women in development in North Africa with an established post;

III

Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

1. Invites States members of the Economic Community of West African States to seriously consider the establishment of a subsidy system for agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers, pesticides, equipment and machinery, and to rationalize their distribution so as to accelerate the modernization of the agricultural sector and ensure an increase in its productivity;

2. Requests the Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre to examine the possibility of organizing, as soon as possible, with funding from the extrabudgetary resources of the Economic Commission for Africa, an expert group meeting to consider measures to be applied by the countries of the subregion in view of likely adverse effects on their economies of the European single market;

IV

Yaoundé Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

1. Invites the States of the subregion:

(a) To continue to accord top priority to integrated rural development;

(b) To coordinate their efforts with a view to establishing a subregional food security plan;

- (c) To cooperate in the production of agricultural inputs;
- (d) To promote trade in agricultural products, especially foodstuffs;
- (e) To collaborate towards the gradual adoption and implementation of a common agricultural policy;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide the States of the subregion with the necessary assistance in elaborating a subregional industrial development master plan and a subregional industrialization programme;

3. Invites the States of the subregion and the international organizations and bodies concerned, including the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme, to provide support to the national coordinating committees for the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and to the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Economic and Customs Union to enable them to elaborate and implement a coherent subregional programme;

V

Lusaka Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

1. Calls upon the States of the subregion to designate focal points to facilitate data collection and to prepare country briefs;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa:

(a) To continue to assist, to the extent possible, the Southern Africa Labour Commission by providing secretariat services for the implementation of its expanded programme for 1991-1995, by servicing a study tour to West Africa for women from the Labour Commission countries and by serving as the ad interim secretariat of the Labour Commission;

(b) To bring the problem of unemployment in southern Africa to the attention of the Ad hoc Committee of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which is responsible for monitoring events in the subregion;

(c) To assist the States of the subregion, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund, in the development and strengthening of human resources and social development, including institutional development and human resources policy coordination.

1991/83. Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 88/73 of 24 March 1988 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in which the appropriate United Nations bodies were requested to take the necessary measures to proclaim a second United Nations transport and communications decade in Africa,

Recalling also resolution 639 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/67 of 28 July 1988, and

General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling further resolutions 89/75 and 89/82 of 12 November 1989 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in which the Conference endorsed the goals, global and sectoral objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the establishment of priorities for the programme,

Recalling resolution 91/84 of 8 February 1991 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Recognizing the fundamental role that road transport plays in regional integration within the objectives of the programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the urgent need for harmonized and coordinated development of the subsector through the proposed reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau,

Bearing in mind resolutions 604 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 and 639 (XXIII) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and resolution 89/79 of 12 November 1989 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in all of which the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa was requested to reactivate urgently the Trans-African Highway Bureau and to allocate adequate resources for its efficient functioning,

Having considered the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held in Abuja on 7 and 8 February 1991, and recalling the progress report of the secretary-General on preparatory arrangements for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Taking note of the adoption of the programme for the Second Decade and the decision on the reactivation of the Trans-African highway Bureau made by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its special meeting, held at Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 May 1991,

Appreciating the work done by the national coordinating committees, the Resource Mobilization Committee, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee and the subsectoral and subregional working groups in preparing the strategy and programme for the Second Decade,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations specialized agencies to the preparation of the programme for the Second Decade,

Recognizing the important role of the national coordinating committees and the various African subregional and regional organizations in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

1. Adopts the programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000);
2. Recommends that the General Assembly approve the programme for the Second Decade;
3. Requests the General Assembly to formally launch the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

4. Invites the General Assembly to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary regular budgetary resources to enable it to carry out its responsibilities as the lead agency for the Second Decade effectively and efficiently;

5. Appeals to all African Governments, as beneficiaries of the programme, to give support for the achievement of the objectives of the programme for the Second Decade at the national, subregional and regional levels by:

(a) Ensuring the establishment and proper functioning of national coordinating committees;

(b) Participating in financing and implementing the national projects that are included in the programme;

(c) Contributing and cooperating effectively in the financing and implementation of subregional and regional projects for the Second Decade;

6. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, as lead agency, to ensure that adequate manpower and financial resources, both regular and extrabudgetary, are allocated for harmonizing, coordinating and monitoring the organization and implementation of the activities of the Second Decade and other relevant projects that are the responsibility of the Commission as lead agency;

7. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue to support the implementation of the programme at the national, subregional and regional levels and, in particular, the activities of the lead agency in monitoring, evaluating, managing and reporting on the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade;

8. Appeals to United Nations agencies and other international organizations to provide all the necessary technical and other assistance to African Governments and work closely with the Economic Commission for Africa, the inter-Agency Coordinating Committee and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in order to implement effectively the programme and projects for the Second Decade;

9. Appeals to international financial institutions, as well as to African regional and subregional financial institutions, to ensure and facilitate the financing of national, subregional and regional projects for the Second Decade by giving adequate priority and special attention to the programme and projects for the Second Decade in their lending activities in Africa, and to commit themselves actively and collectively to mobilizing adequate resources for the effective implementation of the programme and projects for the Second Decade;

10. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to prepare draft statutes for the single bureau for the Trans-African Highway Authorities for adoption by member States;

11. Appeals to member States, associate members and non-members of the Trans-African Highway Authorities and their coordinating committees to honour their financial obligations to the bureau;

12. Further appeals to member States to review the statutes and regulations governing the Trans-African Highway Authorities in order to adapt them to the new operating structure of the trans-African highways;

13. Appeals to donors and, in particular, to the United Nations Development Programme to assist in the financing of the extended programme of the single bureau designed to assist member States in the implementation of the programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

14. Requests the Resource Mobilization Committee for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa to assist the bureau in its efforts to mobilize resources for its operation;

15. Express its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for its efforts to provide assistance to enable African countries to prepare the programme for the Second Decade properly;

16. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to provide African countries with the technical assistance needed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the programme at the national, subsectoral and subregional levels;

17. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eighteenth meeting on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

1991/301. Venue of the twenty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission

At its thirty-second plenary meeting, on 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided that the twenty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission should be held at Windhoek in 1992, in accordance with section I, paragraph 4 (f) of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, subject to further information to be provided by the Government of Namibia at the organizational session of the Council for 1992.

1991/302. Convening of an ad hoc meeting of high-level experts on the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions

At its thirty-second plenary meeting, on 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council took note of resolution 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and endorsed paragraph 3 thereof.

1991/303. Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

At its thirty-second plenary meeting, on 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided to adopt resolution 1991/82 entitled "Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres" on the understanding that the administrative and financial implications relating to operative paragraph 7 thereof would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, taking fully into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/76 of 27 July 1990, section XI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 of 21 December 1990 and the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.