

# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/CN.14/519 (Summary)  
8 April 1971  
ENGLISH  
Original : FRENCH



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Fifth meeting of the Executive Committee  
Addis Ababa, 24-28 May 1971

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## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (15 February 1970 - 13 February 1971)

### Summary

1. In accordance with resolution 188(IX) of 10 February 1969 of the Economic Commission for Africa recommending that the regular biennial sessions of the Commission be known as the "Conference of Ministers", the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held at Tunis, Tunisia, from 8 to 13 February 1971. At that meeting, the Conference adopted the annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa to the Economic and Social Council, covering the period from 15 February to 13 February 1971 (E.CN.14/519).
2. The report comprises:
  - (a) An account of the Commission's work during the period 15 February 1970 to 6 February 1971 (Part I),
  - (b) An account of proceedings of the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers (Part II),
  - (c) The resolutions and other decisions adopted by the Conference of Ministers (Part III),
  - (d) A draft resolution for action by the Economic and Social Council (Part IV),
  - (e) The programme of work and priorities 1971-1973 with projections to 1976 (Part V).

3. In Part I, the report deals with the activities of subsidiary bodies and of the secretariat, the Commission's relations with United Nations organs and specialized agencies and with other bodies (E/CN.14/519, paras. 2 to 220).

4. During the period under review, the Executive Committee held its third and fourth meetings in May and November 1970 respectively at Addis Ababa, and drafted recommendations which were submitted to the Conference of Ministers. At the third session of the Conference of African Planners, held in May 1970, work centered on preparations for the Second United Nations Development Decade as well as on problems and methods of planning in Africa. The Technical Committee of Experts, at its second meeting, held in Tunis (Tunisia) from 1 to 6 February 1971, studied the report of the secretariat on the work of the Commission from 15 February 1970 to 31 January 1971, as well as the draft programme of work and priorities 1971-1973 with projections to 1976.

5. In addition, the report contains information on the secretariat's activities in the following fields: economic research and planning, economic co-operation, trade, industry, natural resources, transport, communications and tourism, fiscal and monetary questions, agriculture, human resources, population programmes, housing, statistics, science and technology, and information (E/CN.14/519, paras. 5 to 205). It also gives particulars concerning the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) (E/CN.14/519, paras. 206 to 210) and the Commission's relations with United Nations organs and specialized agencies and other bodies (E/CN.14/519, paras. 211 to 220).

6. Conference of Ministers: In Part II (E/CN.14/519, paras. 221 to 495), the report gives an account of the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers. Information is given regarding the participants, the agenda, the discussions and the decisions taken.

7. In the course of its meeting, the Conference discussed the representation on the Commission of some associate members. It studied the reports and recommendations of the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee of Experts. It also reviewed economic conditions in Africa in 1969, Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s, the Commission's relations with international and bilateral aid organizations, and resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly, concerning the work of the Commission.

8. Associate members: In accordance with paragraph 6 of the Commission's terms of reference and resolution 194(IX), adopted by the Commission at its ninth session, the Conference is to submit for approval by the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the names of representatives of the peoples of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Mozambique on the Commission (E.CN.14/519, paras. 261 and 262, and Annex II).

9. In its resolution 233(X) on the participation of Angola, Guinea (Bissau), Mozambique and Namibia in the work of the Commission, the Conference requested the Executive Secretary to do everything in his power to assist the liberation movements of African countries under colonial domination in their preparation for accession to national sovereignty in the best possible conditions, by providing them with the means for training competent senior officials. The Conference further requested the Executive Secretary to associate the representatives of these territories with all the Commission's multinational economic projects.

10. Executive Committee: After studying the reports of the Executive Committee, the Conference decided to abolish the seven working groups established under resolution 128(VII) of 22 February 1965, as recently established bodies would take over the duties assigned to the working groups.

11. The Conference also decided to increase from 12 to 16 the membership of the Executive Committee, established by the Commission in conformity with resolution 188(IX) of 10 February 1969 (E/CN.14/519, para. 295). It decided that, for the two-year period 1971-1973, the sub-regional members of the Executive Committee should be the following:

- (a) Central African sub-region: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and Congo (Democratic Republic of),
- (b) East African sub-region: Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia and Uganda,
- (c) North African sub-region: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and United Arab Republic,
- (d) West African sub-region: Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

12. Resolutions and other decisions: On the recommendation of the Technical Committee of Experts, the Conference adopted the programme of work and priorities 1971-1973 with projections to 1976 (Part V), together with the following resolutions:

- 218 (X). Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s
- 220 (X). Economic research and planning
- 221 (X). Economic co-operation
- 222 (X). International and intra-African trade
- 223 (X). Natural resources
- 226 (X). Trans-African highway
- 227 (X). African development fund
- 228 (X). Monetary and financial co-operation
- 229 (X). ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division
- 231 (X). Statistics

13. In addition to those recommended by the Technical Committee of Experts, the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

- 217 (X). Regional structures within the United Nations system
- 219 (X). The role of the Economic Commission for Africa in United Nations programmes of technical co-operation in Africa

- 224 (X). Human environment
- 225 (X). Energy
- 230 (X). Population
- 232 (X). The least developed among developing countries.

14. Regional structures: In resolution 217 (X), the Conference urged the Executive Secretary to prepare, with the help of the Executive Committee, a report on regional structures within the United Nations system in the light of the views and recommendations submitted by individual member States, and to transmit the report together with the replies of Governments to the Secretary-General.

15. Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s: In resolution 218(X), the representatives of African countries attending the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers elaborated Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s as an integral part of the global International Development Strategy for the second United Nations Development Decade (E/CN.14/519, paras. 342 to 357).

16. The role of ECA: The Conference, conscious of the need to entrust the Commission with a greater role in determining the policies of the United Nations in its assistance to Africa, reaffirmed in its resolution 219(X) the role of the Economic Commission for Africa in the United Nations programme of technical co-operation in Africa, in conformity with the Commission's resolution 211(IX) of 14 February 1969.

17. Proposed renaming of the Commission: In conformity with General Assembly Resolution 2686(XXV) of 11 December 1970, the proposal to rename the Commission was submitted to the Conference. On the whole, the representatives of member States showed little enthusiasm for this proposal. They hoped that, if it were decided to change the name of the Commission, it would be possible to retain the present initials, which were now familiar in the region.

18. Rules of Procedure: The Conference decided (E/CN.14/519, paras. 481 to 483) to amend the Commission's Rules of Procedure in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296(XLIV) of 23 May 1968 on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, and bearing in mind the Council's recommendation at its 1596th meeting on the preparation of summary records (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-sixth Session, Resolutions, document E/4715, p. 27).

19. ECA and CIPEC: The Conference recommended that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1267(XLIII), the Council should authorize the Inter-Governmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) to attend meetings of the Conference of Ministers and of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission dealing with questions concerning CIPEC, in an observer capacity (E/CN.14/519, para. 485).

20. Venue for the second meeting of the Conference of Ministers: At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Ghana, the Conference decided to hold its next meeting at Accra (Ghana) in 1973 [resolution 234(X)].