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ECA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH  
AND PLANNING, JULY 1974 TO OCTOBER 1976

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this paper is to give a brief account of ECA's activities in the field of socio-economic research and planning since the fifth session of the Conference of African Planners (i.e. during the period July 1974 - October 1976). However, in view of their relevance, the new structure of the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division, is first examined in section II below and the medium-term programme of work for 1976 to 1981 is reproduced in the annex to this paper.

## II. THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

2. As a result of the recent reorganization of the secretariat of the Commission, the Centre for Economic Co-operation (which was a section of the former Division of Economic Research and Planning) is now located in the Cabinet Office of the Executive Secretary under the new name of the Economic Co-operation Office. The remaining part of the former Division of Economic Research and Planning has been renamed Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division.

3. The work of the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division is closely associated with the programme activities of the other substantive divisions of ECA and involves overall and sectoral policy and planning activities; socio-economic research; the preparation and publication of the annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa; review and appraisal of progress in implementing the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy and Africa's Strategy for Development and of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order. The Division is responsible for the preparation of relevant socio-economic projections, in consultation with the divisions dealing with different sectoral programmes. It organizes and services the meetings of the Conference of African Planners and publishes the Economic Bulletin for Africa. According to the new organizational structure, the Division is also expected to deal with matters relating to fiscal, monetary and financial policy and institutions at the country level.

4. The functions of the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division are distributed among three sections as follows:

- (a) Socio-economic policy, planning and projections;
- (b) Socio-economic survey and analysis; and
- (c) Fiscal, monetary and financial policies and institutions.

(a) The Socio-Economic Policy, Planning and Projections Section is responsible for the following tasks:

- (i) Overall planning concepts and methodologies with special reference to integrated planning;
- (ii) Sectoral planning (in co-operation with other programmes);
- (iii) Short and medium-term projections;

- (iv) Socio-economic research e.g., rural and urban unemployment; income distribution; changes in consumption patterns in response to demographic, income and other changes; socio-economic factors affecting the process of social and technological invention and innovation; the socio-economic context and factors affecting African business entrepreneurship (including government and parastatal enterprises); and socio-economic indicators;
- (v) Regional (subnational) planning: the spatial structure of development; growth poles; urbanization strategies; planning rural infrastructure;
- (vi) Corporate planning and the national plan, including linkages between the public and the private sector; and
- (vii) Marketing and distribution.

(h) The functions of the Socio-Economic Survey and Analysis Section are as follows:

- (i) The preparation of annual surveys of economic and social conditions in respect of individual African countries and the overall regional situation;
- (ii) The biennial review and appraisal of progress in implementing the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy, Africa's Strategy for Development, the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and other relevant issues;
- (iii) Assistance to African countries in the proper preparation of economic surveys and their utilization as effective instruments for appraisal of economic and social development objectives; and
- (iv) The collection, evaluation and dissemination of statistical and economic information, including the publication of the Economic Bulletin for Africa and the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa.

(c) The Fiscal, Monetary and Financial Policy and Institutions Section undertakes studies and advisory services at national level and organizes seminars, workshops, negotiations and training programmes relating to:

- (i) The use of fiscal and monetary policy in attacking mass poverty, in redistributing effective demand and in influencing intersector flows of resources; investment incentives and disincentives; inflationary processes;
- (ii) Banking, insurance and other financial policies and institutions; the role of development banks, unit trusts, social and other funds; mobilizing and deploying financial resources to areas of high priority in development plans; money supply and regulation; the structure of banking institutions, policies and legislation; new forms of banking and new types of banking services;

(iii) The internal public debt;

(iv) Domestic capital markets, their development and control; and

(v) The transfer of net real resources and their uses.

### III. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING 1974-1976

5. The ECA work programme is still classified into the following four categories: broad issues and techniques relating to development; development and utilization of human resources; development and conservation of physical resources; and development of essential services. Socio-economic research and planning belong to the first category. The secretariat's activities in each category are conducted under the following four headings: advisory services to Governments and Territories; studies; collection and dissemination of information (publications); and conferences, seminars, training courses and expert working groups.

#### (a) Assistance to Governments and Territories

6. In 1975, the Regional Adviser in Economic Surveys assisted the Government of Kenya in the preparation of the annual economic survey of the country and in the revision of various important publications. He visited Madagascar, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zaire, Burundi, Uganda, the Libyan Arab Republic, Tunisia and Algeria. A staff member of the Division also visited Senegal, Mauritania, the Gambia and Guinea. The purpose of these visits was to prepare country surveys for the 1975 Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa. In 1976 the Regional Adviser assisted Kenya in revising the format and in the preparation of its 1976 economic survey. He also visited Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zaire to prepare country surveys for the 1976 Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa. Another staff member visited Burundi, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Benin, Niger and Ghana for the same purpose.

#### (b) Studies

7. Studies completed since the last session of the Conference of African Planners included the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1974 and 1975, parts I and II. Part I of the 1974 Survey was devoted to the mid-term review and appraisal of social and economic performance in ECA member countries during the Second United Nations Development Decade and part II to the analysis of current economic developments and policies in the countries members of the Commission. These documents were submitted to the Conference of Ministers at its third meeting held at Nairobi in February 1975.

8. The 1975 Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa was submitted to the fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee in June 1976. Part I of this Survey reviewed the international economic situation, the search for a new international economic order, current economic developments and policies in the ECA region in 1974 and 1975, and the origins and consequences of inflation in African countries. Part II was devoted to an analysis of current economic developments and policies in the individual countries of the ECA region.

9. Work on the 1976 Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa was started in April 1976. Part I of the 1976 Survey will be devoted to the third biennial review and appraisal of social and economic performance in member countries during the Second United Nations Development Decade. Guidelines, including

standard formats for reporting progress, were prepared to assist individual African consultants and planning officers in the preparation of socio-economic country reviews including data needed for the biennial review and appraisal of progress during the Second Development Decade.

10. During the period under review, a number of development plans were analysed. The analyses are being studied further and refined. Some work was also done on raw materials and development. These were in addition to all the documents prepared for the present session of the Conference of African Planners. The documents for the Conference are: Public works programme and integrated rural development as measures for alleviating mass poverty, unemployment and underemployment (E/CN.14/CAP.6/2); Social development planning in Africa within the framework of the unified approach (E/CN.14/CAP.6/3); Applications of a unified approach to development analysis and planning under African conditions (E/CN.14/CAP.6/4); and A Critique of conventional planning in Africa in relation to the unified approach. (E/CN.14/CAP.6/5).

(c) Collection and dissemination of information (publications)

11. Publications during the period under review included A Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1974, parts I and II; A Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1975, parts I and II; Economic Bulletin for Africa, Volume XI, No. 2 and Volume XII, No. 1 (which is submitted to the present session of the Conference as a background document).

(d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups

12. During the period under review the Division participated in the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Committee for Development Planning, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 May to 6 June 1975 and from 29 March to 7 April 1976 respectively.

13. The main theme of the eleventh session of the Committee for Development Planning was the assessment of the current development situation in the light of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The twelfth session discussed new approaches to the transfer of resources to developing countries, debt problems and the problems of hard-core least developed countries.

14. The thirteenth session of the Committee, which will be held in 1977, will be devoted to the examination of long-term development trends at the regional and global levels. In this connexion, the Division has started work on a paper examining the long-term trends in the economic development at the ECA region. This paper will form part of the documentation to be submitted to the working group of the Committee to be held at ECA headquarters in December 1976.

15. The Division also participated in the third session of the Committee on Review and Appraisal held in New York from 12 June to 6 July 1975. This Committee was called upon to present to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session a comprehensive draft review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy and of the Declaration and Programme of Action. The main

item discussed was the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

16. In connexion with the preparations for the sixth session of the Conference of African Planners, three staff members of the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division took part in a workshop held between 8 and 11 April 1976 at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) at Geneva. The workshop was followed by visits to eight African countries by joint UNRISD/ECA teams to obtain specific ideas about the extent to which the major issues raised by the unified approach to development analysis and planning were being dealt with in Africa.

17. Finally, the Division participated in the ECA mission which visited Uganda from 6 to 17 May 1976 to advise on monetary, fiscal and budgetary matters.

#### IV. WORK PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING, 1976 TO 1981

18. The work programme in the field of economic research and planning for the five-year period 1976 - 1981 is shown in the annex.

ANNEX

~~MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1976-1981~~ - ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING

9.240 DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES<sup>\*</sup>

A. BROAD ISSUES AND TECHNIQUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT

9.241 Development trends, requirements and possibilities

Origin: Commission terms of reference (ECOSOC resolution 671 A(XXV)) of 29 April 1958, section 1(b) second session report paragraph 85; General Assembly resolution 2626(XXV) on the International Development Strategy; Commission resolutions 218(X) and 238(XI) on Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s; Commission resolution 187(IX).

Project aim: To undertake an annual survey of economic and social conditions in individual African countries as well as produce a regional picture of such economic and social conditions with a view to taking stock of socio-economic progress and to identifying how effective internal and external policy measures have been in producing the conditions described.

To undertake a biennial review and appraisal of progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy and Africa's Strategy for Development. In this connexion, the new goals and objectives of development which have been stressed since the launching of the Development Decade, particularly in the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and other relevant documents, will constitute further objects of review and appraisal.

To provide advisory services to member countries of ECA, on request, in the field of the annual survey of socio-economic conditions and the biennial review and appraisal of progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the strategies, including national ones, for the Second Development Decade. Such services will include the actual preparation of surveys and review and appraisal where necessary and the evaluation of existing machinery and suggestions for their improvements including the type of organization needed, the type of professional training and the required statistical and economic information.

Priority A

Work content:

9.241.01 (a) Assistance to countries and Territories (1976-1981):

(i) Visits on request to countries in the region to assist in the preparation of annual surveys and/or review and appraisal reports;

(ii) On-the-job training at the national level;

(iii) Advice on the requirements for surveys and reviews and appraisals including the setting up of relevant machinery.

(b) Studies:

- 9.241.02      Annual survey of current economic and social development and policies in the member countries of the Commission and in the region (published as part II of the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa) (1976 to 1981);
- 9.241.03      Biennial review and appraisal of progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the United Nations Second Development Decade (published as part I of the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa in the year of review and appraisal) (1976, 1978 and 1980);
- 9.241.04      General review of the world economic and social situation and of the African regional situation within this context (published as part I of the Survey in alternate years) (1977, 1979 and 1981);
- 9.241.05      Education and employment in the ECA region, part of part I of the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa (1977);
- 9.241.06      Self-sufficiency in food in the ECA region, part of part I of the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa (1979);
- 9.241.07      Economic growth, employment and income distribution and measures for the eradication of mass poverty in the ECA region, part of part I of the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa (1981).

(c) Collection and dissemination of information:

- 9.241.20      Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa;
- 9.241.21      Economic Bulletin for Africa (Biannual).

Related programmes: This programme component is to be executed in collaboration with the other divisions of ECA.

9.242      Socio-economic research, planning and projections

Origin: Commission terms of reference; first session report paragraph 61; Commission resolution 105(VI) creating the Conference of African Planners; ECOSOC resolutions 979(XXVI) and 777(XXX); Commission resolutions 187(IX), 257(XII) and 260(XII); General Assembly resolution 3508(XXX).

Project aim: To undertake socio-economic research on specific development problems of Africa on a comparative basis with a view to making the experience of some countries in tackling their socio-economic problems available to others.

To undertake projections work on the economies of Africa with a view to providing guidance on the long-term development possibilities of these countries.

To develop appropriate planning techniques particularly in the context of the unified approach to development analysis and planning for use of African countries.

To provide advisory services, on request, to member countries of the Commission in the fields of planning, projections and research into socio-economic problems. Such services will include (i) the evaluation of development plans for consistency with respect to the requirements of the unified approach including the evaluation of the data base and the realism of the assumptions underlying such plans; (ii) the drawing up of national development plans; and (iii) the setting up of planning machinery including plan implementation machinery.

#### Priority A

#### Work content:

9.242.01 (a) Assistance to countries and Territories (1976 to 1981):

(i) Providing advisory services to member countries on request in the field of development planning, programming and projections;

(ii) Assisting Governments in organizing at the national, subregional and regional levels, courses on planning, programming and projections.

(b) Studies:

Some aspects of a unified approach to development analysis and planning

9.242.02 Examination of the extent and possibilities of the practical application of a unified approach to development analysis and planning under African conditions (1976);

9.242.03 Review and evaluation of extensive labour-intensive public works programmes as a means of generating employment and income (1976);

9.242.04 Review and evaluation of the role of integrated rural development programmes in promoting development and change (1976); (see 9.291.28);

9.242.05 Preliminary qualitative examination of long-term trends in the economic development of ECA region (1976);

- 9.242.06 Study and evaluation of African national experiences in the application of the unified approach to development analysis and planning (1981 to 1982);

Evaluation and development of African entrepreneurial resources

- 9.242.07 Study and evaluation of the experiences of selected African countries in the implementation of indigenization policies (1977 to 1978);

- 9.242.08 Case studies of the role of public enterprises and companies in the transformation of African economies (1977 to 1978);

- 9.242.09 Studies on the role of small- and medium-scale indigenous businesses in the process of socio-economic transformations and development in Africa (1977 to 1978);

Co-ordination of public and private sector development activities

- 9.242.10 Study on the problems of joint ventures (i.e., ventures between national Government and foreign Government, national Government and foreign private investor, or national private and foreign private investor) in a number of African countries (1979 to 1980);

- 9.242.11 Study of measures for effective co-ordination of development activities between the public and private sectors in a number of African countries (1979 to 1980);

Regional planning

- 9.242.12 Review of the experience of the development of one river basin, one lake basin, and one mining centre as instruments of development and change (1980 to 1981);

- 9.242.13 Techniques of regional planning including integrated rural development planning and urban planning (1980 to 1981);

Sectoral planning

- 9.242.14 Sectoral planning in the context of the unified approach to development analysis and planning. Emphasis will be placed on cross-sectoral planning as means for achieving development goals (1980 to 1981). This project will be undertaken in strict co-operation with the sectoral and other divisions of the secretariat.

Projections

9.242.15

Studies of the development possibilities of a number of African countries as basis for determining feasible growth rates for the region both for the rest of the 1970s and for the 1980s. The work here will include, among other things, the evaluation of policies, the appraisal of the quality of existing statistics and the identification of statistical and other information gaps (in collaboration with other appropriate divisions) (1976-1979).

Marketing and distribution

9.242.16

Studies on domestic trade policy measures and their implementation with special reference to the distribution of capital and consumer goods to the agricultural and rural sector in selected developing countries:

9.242.17

Studies on the design and efficiency of mechanisms for internal distribution of consumer and capital goods in selected African countries:

(d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976-1981):

9.242.26

Conference of African Planners (1976, 1978 and 1980):

1976 meeting will discuss 9.242.02, 9.242.03 and 9.242.04;  
1978 meeting will discuss 9.242.06, 9.242.07 and 9.242.08;  
1980 meeting will discuss 9.242.09 and 0.242.10.

9.242.27

Seminars on domestic trade policies and institutions - in collaboration with the Divisions of Agriculture, Industry, Transport and Communications;

9.242.28

Workshops on government machinery for the restructuring and promotion of domestic trade - in collaboration with the Division of Public Administration, Management and Manpower.

Related programmes: In strict collaboration with the appropriate divisions of ECA, IDEP, CDPMP and OAU.

9.244

Least developed, land-locked and island African countries

Origin:

General Assembly resolutions 2564(XXIV), 2626(XXV) on the International Development Strategy, 2803(XXVI) and 3202(S-VI) on the Programme of Action for the Establishment of the New International Economic Order; UNCTAD resolutions 24(II), 62(III) and 63(III); Commission report of the tenth session; Commission resolutions 210(IX), 222(X), 232(X) and 218(X) and 238(XI) on Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s.

Project aim:

Study and evaluate possible ways and means of assisting the least developed countries in Africa in overcoming the hindrance to their development and thereby in accelerating their rate of growth.

Priority A

Work content:

9.244.01

(a) Assistance to countries and Territories (1976 to 1981).

(i) Conducting missions on request from the Governments in collaboration with the UNDATs to identify the special problems of the least developed African countries;

(ii) Providing advisory services to the Governments on request in formulating proposals and recommendations on measures for overcoming specific impediments to their socio-economic development.

(b) Studies:

9.244.02

Biennial survey of the development problems of the least developed African countries as part of the Annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa (1976 to 1981);

9.244.03

Continuous indepth study of the economic and social circumstances of the least developed African countries.

(d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976-1981):

9.244.26

Conference on the problems and prospects of the least developed African countries (1979).

9.245 Fiscal, monetary and financial issues at the national level

Origin: Commission resolutions 87(V), 98(VI), 117(VI), 197(IX) and 218(X);  
General Assembly resolution 3202(S-VI).

Project aim: To assist member States in adopting and implementing fiscal and monetary policies aimed at attacking mass poverty and influencing the mobilization and channelling of savings in accordance with development plans and priorities. The aim is also to assist member countries in building appropriate monetary and financial institutions.

Priority A

Work content:

9.245.01 (a) Assistance to countries and Territories (1976 to 1981):

(i) Providing advisory services to member States on request in the field of fiscal and monetary policies;

(ii) Providing advisory services to member States on request in the establishment of or reshaping of domestic financial institutions.

(b) Studies:

9.245.02 Comparative analysis of the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policies in promoting development in a number of African countries with special reference to integrated rural development (1977);

9.245.03 The growth and structure of financial institutions in a number of African countries (1977);

9.245.04 Studies of the role of national development banks as instruments for economic development (1978);

9.245.05 Studies of the role of the non-banking financial institutions in the mobilization of financial resources for development (1978);

9.245.06 A study of the changing role of the commercial banks in fostering development in a number of African countries (1979);

9.245.07 A study of the role of insurance companies as suppliers of capital for the development of African economies (1979);

9.245.08 Comparative studies of measures aimed at promoting and improving the development of African capital markets (1980);

9.245.09 Study and evaluation of interest rates structures and their effectiveness in mobilizing financial resources for development (1980);

9.245.10      A comparative study of the use and effectiveness of government credit directives in a number of African countries (1981);

9.245.11      Studies of the effect of fiscal and non-fiscal measures aimed at protecting infant industries in a number of African countries (1981).

(d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976-1981):

9.245.26      Seminar on the role of national development banks as instruments for promoting economic growth (1979);

9.245.27      Seminar on the role of insurance and reinsurance in the development process of African countries (1981).

Related programmes:      Close collaboration with IBRD, IMF, ADB, OAU and appropriate ECA divisions.