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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AT ITS FIRST SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 5 February 1962 there opened at Addis Ababa the first session of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development, of the Economic Commission for Africa, set up under Resolution 36, adopted by ECA at its Third Session on 18 February 1961 .
2. After the inaugural meeting, which was presided over by the Executive Secretary of ECA, the following delegates were unanimously elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively: Mr. Yehia Darwish of the United Arab Republic and Mrs. Pumla Kisosenkole of Uganda. A drafting committee was also appointed comprising, apart from the Chairman and the Secretariat, the following 6 members: Mrs. Kisosenkole, Mr. Cisse Ben Mady, Mr. Acquah, Mr. Songuemas, Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Doucoure.
3. This first session of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development was attended by the experts whose names and titles are shown in the annex to this report.
4. After approving the provisional agenda and programme of meetings, the Committee took up discussion of the documents referred to in the agenda.

II. SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(E/CN.14/L.14/2)

5. The Chief of the ECA Community Development Branch introduced this first item of the agenda, stressing the following main features of the reference document: dislocation of the family unit, and its social and economic consequences; the growing role of women in economic development; the discrepancy between technical and material progress, on the one hand, and changing attitudes, on the other; the importance of basic communities as a backing for economic expansion; health and nutrition problems; the close relationship between agrarian structures and farmers' individual efforts, the integration of the people's contribution into general development programmes; the search for a balance between urban and rural development; social aspects of industrialization; social and vocational adaptation; harmonization of economic and social policies, and planning.

6. Protracted discussions took place on these various aspects. Through all the many examples mentioned by the participants, the emphasis was always on the close interdependence between social and economic phenomena.
7. With that point in mind, experts stressed the need for harmonized planning of economic and social development. Some advocated research and an inventory of resources in preparation for the integration of social development into planning, to enable the latter to be based on objective foundations and arguments calculated to convince the statesmen and the economists. The aim of planning should be not only to ascertain the resources needed to carry out social programmes but also so to frame economic development as to take account of social needs and their priority. This orientation should be facilitated by having representatives of the social services participate in the preparation of plans. It was also considered desirable that the people themselves should be brought into such preparation by a sort of "ascending" system of planning comprising two-way information: investigation of the people's needs and resources, and apprising the people of the State's objectives and resources. This "ascending" system is the more necessary in that the community's help is needed in carrying out the plans.
8. The participants emphasized the need for co-ordination at both planning and execution levels. This is particularly necessary in the preparation and carrying out of community development and social welfare programmes, which require the co-operation of a variety of disciplines.
9. One opinion shared by the experts was that economic targets and resources used should be adapted to the human element, particularly in rural development; otherwise the process of gradual adaptation to new forms of economic activity would be endangered.
10. It was also considered essential, if a balance is to be maintained between urban growth and rural development, to create better living conditions in the countryside as a means of stabilizing and collecting the population and even to encourage the return of the country people of ill-adjusted or mal-adjusted people. Research should be undertaken into the factors behind migrations.

11. The participants went on to discuss the topics set out in document E/CN.14/SWCD/2. They recommended that the subjects be grouped under four headings, as also the addition of certain new subjects. The groups would be as follows:

(i) Studies on social investment favourable to economic development

- Study on the economic objectives of education;
- Study on the contribution of health measures to economic development.

(ii) Changes in structures related to economic development

- Study of the effects of transport development on social, cultural and economic transformations;
- Study of rural and urban migrations;
- Study of money as a factor in social and economic change;
- Study of modifications in social, economic and traditional structures arising out of economic development;
- Study of the relationships between agrarian structures and the personal strivings of the country-dwellers;
- Study of basic structures in economic development.

(iii) Specific problems raised by social welfare and community development in relation to economic development

- Study of the contribution of community development and social welfare services to urban and industrial developments;
- Study of the contribution of community development to economic development;
- Mobility of children and young people in relation to urban development.

(iv) Incentive problems

- Study of the development of production through vocational adaptation;
- Study of the motives behind economic expansion.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(E/CN.14/SWCD/13)

12. The Chief of the Community Development Branch next introduced agenda item 2. He explained the special attention devoted to the contribution of community development to economic development by the Economic Commission for Africa, which was emphasized in its Resolution 37 of 18 February 1961.

13. The Commission's interest is further shown by its requesting a consultant, Mr. Pierson, to prepare a provisional report (E/CN.14/SWCD/3), on which objective research will be based in 1962 and 1963. This document emphasizes two series of questions connected with economic development;

(i) structural problems in community development; and

(ii) the content of programmes.

On these two headings the participants centred their discussion.

14. Regarding the structures to be provided for community development, two opposing arguments were presented. Some participants advocated a specialized independent ministry for community development on the grounds that with such a system (a) the difficulties entailed in attachment to another ministry with less understanding of social welfare requirements would be obviated, (b) the importance of community development would be clearly brought to the notice of governments, and (c) it would be easier to obtain funds.

15. Other participants supported the integration of community development into a planning ministry or a planning department directly attached to the Prime Minister's office, and stressed the following three advantages: (a) that it would ensure co-ordination with other development sectors at the planning level, correct assessment of priorities and allocation of investment funds, and therefore result in better direct correlation with economic development; (b) that it would avoid conflicts with functional ministries and give community development the benefit of decisions arbitrary taken at the highest level; (c) that it would provide the necessary basic encouragement and stimulus for general development.

16. Regarding the actual purposes of community development, there were also two points expressed:

Some participants held that community development should preserve its own character and that, while there must be co-operation with the services responsible for promoting economic development, specifically human objectives should be maintained and not confused with planning requirements. The primary aims should be local development of communities and improvement of their living conditions.

Other participants thought that the traditional aims of community development should be broadened, so that the initial stimulus should go beyond the narrow bounds of basic community development and take in general development activities under a harmonious plan.

17. Alongside of these differences of view on structural and general objectives in community development, agreement was to be reached on some of the points raised by the experts. It would also appear that in community development an effort must be made to get the people to drop their former passivity, to induce changes in attitudes and behaviour, and to foster general initiative and attitudes favourable to progress - all activities that will substantially contribute to economic development.

18. It was agreed that the effectiveness of community development in assisting rural development is still dependent on technical aid from the State and the adoption of certain measures, like land reform, designed to ensure security and durability for the efforts and investments made.

19. The importance of the role of women in community development in relation to economic development was also stressed.

20. It was also pointed out that the people's help in the health sector (bush clearing, sweetening and drainage of unhealthy areas, building of medical centres, etc.) could make a substantial contribution to economic development by making possible the betterment of areas hitherto undevelopable because of their unhealthiness.

21. Some participants underlined the importance of community development as regards capital formation, whether the capital is public capital devoted to the improvement or the creation of an economic social infrastructure (construction of roads, schools, dispensaries or irrigation networks, village betterment, etc.) or private capital in the form of savings or other investments.

22. Regarding any development, it was pointed out that the backing and support of the masses are indispensable, and if this is to be achieved programmes must be directed towards producing immediate practical results as an incentive to the people.

23. Again, certain experts held that not only was it necessary to establish a balance between rural and urban development but even desirable, whenever possible, to encourage the return of immigrants to the land; but such an undertaking is not without its difficulties, owing to the complexities of psychological re-adaptation and living conditions in the countryside, which are often inferior to those in town.

24. The aims in community development should be to obtain technical services and not to be satisfied with pursuing exclusively productive objectives, but to develop a human approach to technical problems so as to ensure the backing of the people. This implies (1) co-ordination of community development with technical activities and (2) some form of decentralization to adapt solutions to basic human realities. The co-ordination should, however, not confuse community development with general development.

25. In fundamental community development activities, where the targets may be either social or economic, emphasis should be on the local authorities and traditional or representative local institutions that are in a position to back the activities.

IV. LOW-COST HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES WITHIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

(Report of the Tunis Workshop - document E/CN.14/SWCD/6)

26. The Chief of the Community Development Branch gave a digest of this document, which covers the economic, social, technical and financial aspects of the low-cost housing programmes discussed at the Workshop held at Tunis. He laid particular stress on (i) social aspects of housing (adaptation to

social structures, self-help by the tenants, collective and community facilities, sanitary arrangements etc.), (ii) the importance of auto-construction because of the shortage of funds in under-developed countries for a sector that is regarded as unremunerative, (iii) the importance of surveys and of training for supervisory staff and personnel to popularize low-cost building, and (iv) the importance of planning all the components of a low-cost housing policy.

A discussion took place on questions arising out of the Tunis report.

27. It was acknowledged at the outset that, while the State has an essential role to play in low-cost housing programmes, through direct or indirect financing, especially in the form of long-term low-interest loans, and in planning and co-ordinating the programmes, backing should wherever possible be sought in other quarters. Public or private concerns, (State controls) co-operatives, mutual aid societies of the "castor" type, and even social institutions like the family allowance funds should be encouraged to undertake low-cost housing programmes.

28. One of the knottiest problems lies in financing. Given the scant financial resources of governments that are taken up with directly productive and remunerative activities, it is desirable to seek financial assistance elsewhere. Some participants advocated the setting up in the various countries of "housing funds", which could be kept going out of compulsory contributions or equalization taxes. Others spoke of external financial aid, stressing the importance of the recommendation tabled at the Tunis Workshop concerning an inter-African financing fund for housing.

29. In view of the difficulties entailed in financing low-cost housing programmes, an at least partial solution to the problem should be sought in auto-construction. Self-help by the people in the building or improvement of their own dwellings in rural areas should raise no serious difficulties where the movement is encouraged and assisted by the government. On the other hand, some experts expressed doubts as to the feasibility of developing self-help in construction of housing although there is some positive experience to show that such projects are not impossible in cities.

30. The need was also stressed to adapt types of dwelling to family structures, self-help qualities in the people and ways of living, hence to undertake social or socio-economic studies, perhaps in the context of the changes of family structures. Conversely, it was suggested that families should be adapted to living in new and improved types of dwelling through social education.

31. On the same lines, it was agreed that women, including social workers, should be approached for their views on housing programmes and types of dwelling when these are being planned, in order to ensure dwellings well adapted to family needs.

32. The WHO representative stressed the importance of health aspects in housing and suggested that doctors and sanitary engineers should be called in when low-cost housing health standards are being prepared, and also where drainage of the area appears necessary.

33. There was also support for the planning of low-cost housing programmes, with primary due regard to the human and social aspects of the problem. Another purpose of planning should be to reduce costs by curtailing costs of materials and facilitating building by exemptions and bonuses. The use of labour, too, should be planned and the help of the beneficiaries should be sought to run the housing programmes, not to mention that of the social welfare workers in charge of housing. Lastly, it was recommended that the social services should not only be brought into the planning of housing programmes but asked to help the people living in large housing estates, for example through urban community or social centres.

34. No low-cost housing programmes should be undertaken without the prior provision of the basic infrastructure, especially communal roads, drains and water mains, together with public transport facilities in the suburban areas.

35. The ECA representative pointed out that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Tunis Workshop, it was proposed to set up sub-regional "training centres" for persons to instruct those popularizing self-help housing schemes. The first centre may be opened in 1962, in co-operation with the Ethio-Swedish Institute at Addis Ababa, for the countries of East Africa. The ILO representative suggested that this scheme should be launched in collaboration with his Organization. The proposal was supported by the experts, who suggested the establishment of similar centres in other regions.

36. Apart from this instructor training, some of the experts expressed their hope that ECA would extend its help to countries for in-service training on the spot.

V. TRAINING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(E/CN.14/SWCD/5)

37. The Chief of the ECA Community Development Branch explained that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Tunis Workshop and with ECA Resolution 37 adopted at the Third Session, training in community development had been included among the Commission's continuing priority projects. Under these recommendations, it was proposed in an initial phase to arrange a high-level training course for specialists in community development. That course was held at Dakar in November 1961 for specialists from countries of West and Central Africa. Document E/CN.14/SWCD/5 describes arrangements for the course, the curriculum, how it proceeded, and the positive lessons to be drawn from it regarding the possibilities of bilingual training, both theoretical and practical, and the duration of such a course. Similar courses will be held in 1962 for North-African countries, and in 1963 for East-African countries.

38. Certain comments were made on the system adopted at the Dakar course. To begin with, many of the experts thought that such sub-regional courses should be accompanied by a survey of the community development situation

and projects in the countries concerned, that hoping those attending a course are afterwards employed in their country in jobs appropriate to the training they have received, and that the Commission should also follow-up ex-trainees engaged and assist them in organizing their activities.

39. Other experts considered that it would be worth while if countries launching community development programmes could send more than one trainee on such courses and that the courses should be supplemented with visits to countries where community development organizations exist. It was also suggested that certain densely populated or federated countries should have the right to send several representatives.

40. There was an exchange of views on the content of the programme. Some of the participants thought the section devoted to social welfare services should be expanded. Others took the view that the programme defined at Dakar represented an acceptable balance between the economic, social and technical aspects of community development. At the same time, it was proposed that more thorough study be devoted to leisure.

41. There was also some discussion on the choice of trainees. The first proposal made was that the courses should be open to women and that, where the choice lay with a government, ECA should draw the latter's attention to the importance of including women among the candidates. The next point made was that, where university qualifications were expected of candidates, that rule should not be so strictly applied as to exclude non-university people who may be sound and holders of responsible posts.

42. Guidance courses were also suggested for administrators and technicians, possibly covering such themes as:

Practical approach to problems.

Encouragement of efforts to overcome difficulties.

Conversion of the uninitiated, implying study of:

modifications in social structures;

co-ordination of effort and order of priorities;

definition of community development and the services it can render the technicians;

technical aspects peculiar to community development (method, staff, etc.);

the role of the auxiliary organs (voluntary, women, youth).

43. Divergencies of views arose over the duration of the sub-regional high-level courses, though the actual principle was unanimously accepted. It was finally agreed that the duration of a course must depend on a curriculum designed to suit the qualifications of the candidates.

44. As the sub-regional courses must be adapted to the needs of the sub-region concerned, the countries involved must necessarily be consulted when a course is planned.

45. In addition to these high-level sub-regional courses, the experts recommended that the Economic Commission for Africa should help with national training programmes prepared by the countries themselves. Such assistance might take the form of sending experts, teachers and teaching material, providing travelling and maintenance scholarships, etc..

VI. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

E/CN.14/SWCD/6)

46. The definition of Social Welfare proposed in the document was accepted as basis of the discussions which is as follows:

"An organized activity that aims at helping towards a mutual adjustment of individuals and their social environment. This objective is achieved through the use of techniques and methods which are designed to enable individuals, groups, and communities to meet their needs and solve their problems of adjustment to a changing pattern of society and through co-operative action to improve economic and social conditions."^{1/}

Some experts pointed out the fact that Social Welfare Services in some African countries have been recognized as basic services which deal not only with remedial services but with preventive services. Welfare services have been concerned with the needs and problems of larger numbers of the community and not only with individuals with special needs, such as the delinquents. Some experts expressed that the basic and major objective of social welfare services is that it is concerned with the mutual adjustment of "human beings" and therefore that social welfare services being concerned with individual families and communities, are related to other fields, such as medical-social work, industrial-social work, school-social work and social work in housing projects, and social welfare in community development programmes.

47. The development of social welfare programmes in African countries has been influenced by many factors. Although many African countries have given priority to economic development, it was noted that social welfare services have occupied a major role in national policy in developing countries. A major number expressed the problems of shortage of funds and personnel to meet the demands of social welfare programmes.

^{1/} The Development of National Social Welfare Service Programmes (UN Publication Sales No. 60 IV, I) Report by the Group of Experts on Social Services which met in New York in 1959.

48. In discussing the structure of social welfare programmes, the participants agreed that such programmes must be developed on a national level. A well balanced and integrated programme should be initiated on a central level and within a central government authority. Participants emphasized that such a central authority, whatever ministry or department, should be responsible for central policy planning, co-ordination, organization and administration of social welfare services.

49. Some participants have called the attention of the experts at the meeting that while social welfare services in their countries are dispersed among a number of government departments, such as Health, Education, Labour, Sports and Youth departments, an effort has been made to co-ordinate these services and to establish close working relations with the departments of related services, not only at a central level but also at regional and local levels.

50. Decentralization of social welfare services depends largely on the local administrative structure and the availability of qualified social welfare staff. The participants stressed the need for decentralization of services and emphasized the necessity for central governments to delegate responsibilities to local authorities to extend and implement social welfare services. Certain participants noted that where social welfare services have been extended to primarily urban areas and not to rural areas, a closer working relation should be exercised between the community development workers and the social welfare workers in the field. Some participants stressed the function of supervision that the central authority should exercise in a programme of decentralization and its responsibility to supplement the local authorities with technical knowledge and trained personnel and financial grants.

51. Voluntary organizations have played a significant role in initiating social welfare programmes in a number of African countries. They have often been developed on an experimental basis and through their methods in planning and programming have extended to a number of communities. Participants, however, have been concerned with the increasing number of voluntary organizations among which some do not fulfill their stated objectives and

have stressed the need to establish a closer working relationship with governments. A number of participants stressed the need for legislation which should have provisions for registration and licensing of private voluntary associations, regulations for subsidies, minimum standards and criteria for organization and administration of private organizations. Other participants suggested that government relationship with voluntary organizations could be conducted on an informal basis without any binding legislation, particularly where voluntary organizations have not expanded in large numbers. When legislation is introduced, it should be made with the greatest caution, in order not to curtail initiative.

52. Note was made that emphasis should be laid on the partnership which should exist between governments and voluntary organizations. Certain participants have cited examples where within the central government authority a division has been established to co-ordinate voluntary and government services and where qualified social workers are attached to this department, as advisers and supervisors to voluntary organizations.

53. Co-ordination among voluntary organizations through councils of social agencies or federations has been established on an experimental basis in some African countries. Some participants have questioned the efficacy of such co-ordinating machinery which has, to a large extent, been transplanted from abroad, without adaptation to country's needs. Some emphasized the fact, that in some countries councils and federations of social welfare services have proved successful where qualified and professional staff serve on the boards of those co-ordinating agencies and where there is technical leadership from government authorities.

54. The participants agreed that while the role of the volunteer is important, a professional should train the volunteers. An example was cited, where UNICEF aid to social welfare services has helped not only to train the auxiliary and professional workers, but also training seminars have been established for volunteers, which have proved successful as general orientation courses on principles and concepts of social welfare. Others have expressed the need to provide fellowships and scholarships for volunteers.

55. Personnel for social welfare programmes is an area which is of primary concern to the administration. Shortage of staff, unqualified staff, and insufficient budget are real problems confronting government officials administering the welfare programme. Emphasis was placed on the urgent need for pre-service and in-service training programmes, technical supervision of staff, professional training programmes. (Please, refer to section on training.)

56. Financing of social welfare services was discussed generally by the participants. Some participants indicated, that in certain countries there is an encouraging trend noted, that central governments have increased budgets for social welfare programmes. However, there is a strong need for social welfare workers to constantly interpret their welfare programmes to central authorities and to work closely with citizens' groups and politicians, to acquaint them with the supply and the demand of social welfare programmes.

57. In connexion with ECA assistance in the field of organization and administration of social welfare programmes, certain participants recommended strongly the need for country assessments of their social welfare programmes. Emphasis was placed to study the structure and patterns of organization, the contents of the welfare programmes and the administrative resources.

58. It was stressed that ECA should promote working group meetings bringing together not only administrators and specialists from the field of social welfare, but also to combine them with top administrators, e.g. ministers, politicians and legislators and departmental heads. Furthermore, that meetings should also be held with representatives from allied fields, such as health, labour and education.

59. The experts drew the attention to the need for closer exchanges amongst African countries, whereby ECA could provide technical staff and advise on the planning of the inter-African exchange programmes. It is suggested, that such programmes should be conducted along the lines of group visits and meetings rather than on individual inter-African fellowship or scholarship programmes.

60. The participants emphasized the importance of UNICEF's aid to national social welfare service programmes. UNICEF aid has proved a boosting and stimulating programme which helped to strengthen national social welfare programmes, in terms of expanding training programmes for auxiliary workers and volunteers, and it has provided supplies for expanding family and child welfare programmes.

VII. TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORK IN AFRICA

(E/CN.14/SWCD/7)

61. There was general agreement, that training of national social welfare service may take one or more of the following forms:

1. Introductory courses for non-professional social workers;

2. Professional training in schools of social work;

3. Post-graduates training for instructors in social work;

4. In-service periodic training programmes;

5. Regular supervision;

6. Specialized training of administrators, and professional and technical staff in other branches of welfare;

7. Training of volunteers and dissemination of information to the community at large.

8. Meetings and conferences.

62. The participants agreed on the fact that some kind of training is necessary at all levels for those called to give social welfare services. It was also recognized, that in-service training and systematized preparatory training of the auxiliary or lower-level personnel must take place within the individual countries. Several delegates stressed the need for assessment of local needs before the establishment of a training programme in the field of social work and the desirability of UN technical assistance being available for such assessment. Along this line it was suggested that training advisers should be allowed to spend a preparatory period - up to one year - in the country to which they are sent before initiating their counselling in the draft training programmes.

63. All experts expressed urgent need in certain countries for training at middle-grade level. ECA will be invited to help with these programmes. A number of participants expressed their conviction that such training must also be done locally. Others, considering the financial and technical problems of local training at this level and at the small number of candidates available at present for such studies in some countries, stated their opinion that sub-regional training centres grouping students of neighbouring countries, presenting the same type of problems, would be of great service. Such centres could be organized taking advantage of international assistance to strengthen training programmes already established or to be established in certain countries. The establishment of training centres or sub-regional schools presupposes a previous evaluation of the needs and possibilities of the interested countries.

64. For the training of high level personnel - professors, supervisors, administrators, directors, and for specialists - the opinion that a system of fellowships for study abroad may fulfill the needs, was expressed and found some support. Divergent viewpoints were expressed for and against the organization of regional training programmes, although some participants stressed the need for each country to develop this type of programmes in its own University, it was evident that this solution cannot be applied in the near future, in certain countries. However, it was agreed, that the discussion of regional training should be based on a knowledge of the contents of training for social work in Africa. The ECA is endeavoring to gather information on the content of training in the schools established in the various African countries. It is hoped with this information to discuss the content of training in the group meeting on training, which will be convened later this year and to establish standards for social work training in Africa. Upon this basis a full discussion of regional training could take place next year during the meeting of the Standing Committee.

65. The limitations of short training courses which may raise undue expectations in the trainees and produce a resistance to further study were indicated. However, the importance of inter-African group meetings and conferences was recognized by all participants.

66. The need for obtaining basic teaching materials developed from African experience was stressed. Collection of this material could be stimulated and its exchange facilitated by expanding ECA Clearing House.

VIII. SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND URBANIZATION IN AFRICA
(E/CN.14/SWCD/8)

67. The Committee agreed that there exist human problems related to urbanization which should retain the attention of social welfare workers in Africa. Certain traits which seem to have accompanied the growth of cities were recalled: weakening of traditional family ties and customary institutions, transformation of the woman's role and status, growing in the towns of a reserve of unskilled labour, insufficient salaries and poverty, birth of a growing proletariat of unemployed young people, lack and mediocrity of popular housing. The problems of transportation within the city and to the surrounding villages, of languages, communication with the newcomers in the absence of a common media, of malnutrition and undernourishment leaving the door open to infectious diseases, of illiteracy, which face the migrants in the city, were stressed.

68. After some discussion, it was agreed that while special attention should be given to social needs in the urban centres, it is not considered necessary to establish separate departments to tackle urban and rural social welfare. It was stated that in the present African situation, use should be made of multi-purpose workers with general social welfare training which should enable them to provide the services aiming at answering the needs arising from the difficulties of adaptation to urban life, for these services should be part of the overall national welfare programme.

69. In the towns careful attention should be given to :

The organization of leisure time activities;

Medico-social work in clinics, health centres and hospitals;

Family case work, child welfare, home visiting and day care

centres and nurseries. Civic and community education, including

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Establishment of citizens' community councils and community centres. Social services in housing projects.

70. It was stressed that priority should be given to preventive social welfare measures and that specialized treatment should be established in answer to special problems, not springing from theoretical thinking, that counselling of an educational character is needed to help adjustment of people to a changing environment, and that planning for the social development of towns should be made with the collaboration of representatives of the social welfare services. The participations also agreed that the provision of services in rural areas may help to reduce the flow of migration to the cities.

71. The importance of housing was again stressed and it was suggested that because of its close connexion with all social work services, consideration should be given to the association of social services to housing.

72. The following areas of research were suggested:

- (a) Study of role of industrial social welfare services in national social welfare programmes.
- (b) Studies on the occupational lag between the end of primary schools and regular employment of the youth.
- (c) Studies on cultural change and social tensions resulting not only from urban but also from rural development.
- (d) Study of the problem of sheltered hostels for young people in towns, more particularly young unmarried women arriving into towns.

IX. URBANIZATION IN TROPICAL AFRICA

73. The Acting Head of the ECA Social Research introduced this item of the agenda, stressing the following main features of the reference document (E/CN.14/SWCD/2): urbanization must be distinguished from town planning, as it is a social process open to sociological analysis, rather than a technique for use in operational activities - urbanization in Tropical Africa has become an important social phenomenon on account of its fast rate, which is a source of problems - such problems, however, are comparatively less serious than those which have arisen in other countries, due to the peaceful character of tropical African communities - thus, they may be faced with optimism, though it would be unwise to neglect them, in view of the possibility of deteriorating conditions - the main obstacle in formulating a work programme in this field is the insufficiency of documentation at the local level, available statistical data tell more about countries in general than about conditions in individual towns.

There is considerable international interest in urbanization and there is to be a workshop on problems consequent upon the rapid growth of towns in Africa, which will be held in Addis Ababa, 25 April - 7 May 1962. This workshop is organized by ECA in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, UNESCO, ILO and WHO, and representatives of governments and other interested organizations will participate.

The Commission's interest in urbanization is further shown by its support to the Addis Ababa social surveys.

74. Discussions took place on various aspects of the subject, but there was no doubt expressed on the importance of the problems raised by the growth of towns in Tropical Africa.

75. Several experts discussed this matter of documentation. One suggestion was that each country should set up a central statistical department and provide it with adequate means, so that data at the local level be published as well as at the national level.

76. It was stressed repeatedly that urbanization was part of the national problem of African countries. Fears were expressed about the danger of granting undue privileges to the urban population, or even of putting them in too dominant a position over the country people, and it was stressed that national development plans must provide for balanced development and that it might be wise to study the question of an optimum size for cities, whilst other participants expressed the view that it was undesirable on economic grounds to introduce legislation controlling the size of towns and in any case it was impracticable.

Some delegates were of the opinion that peri-urban development does assist with solving some of the problems of urbanization but it was stressed that such development must be carefully planned so as to avoid ribbon development and urban sprawl.

It was noted that in addition to growing too fast, tropical African cities suffer from a legacy of antiquated design, as they had developed according to out-moded patterns and as part of what was a former segregation policy. The integration of urban communities found unanimous support but it was also stressed that new quarters should never be built on the basis of technical considerations only.

77. The experts were unanimous in recognizing that the African in town does not cease to be attached to his family, though considerable differences appeared to exist among them regarding the future of the extended family.

The experts all agreed that the family was the basic unit of any stable community and discussed at length ways and means of collating a community and the necessity of direct participation by the people in urban social development. The participants recognized that there would be widely differing urban development and that there would emerge new economic and class groupings.

78. As the matter of traditional institutions had been raised, several participants expressed their concern about the confusion existing with regard to polygamy; it was agreed that, like other customs, polygamy takes a new meaning once people move from the countryside into the town.

79. Whatever differences there existed among participants regarding the nature or seriousness of urban problems in Tropical Africa, everybody agreed that the orderly growth of towns was a major prerequisite for a happy future of the continent, and that failure in the towns might mean a revolution in Africa. They all agreed that ECA should carry on and even expand its studies in this field of town growth and urbanization.

80. The experts agreed that:

- (i) More documentation and information on towns in Africa is needed than is today available and that Government statistical services, as well as ECA, should collect and publish more data on local conditions.
- (ii) The most obvious way of fostering balanced development was to decentralize industry, creating as many nuclei of development as can be effectively spread all over the country.
- (iii) ECA should go ahead with its work in the field of urbanization, as defined in its work programme, which provides for workshops, seminars, meetings, advisory services and other forms of work, besides collecting and publishing documentation, and other relevant information.

81. It was further suggested that studies should be made of the following:

- (i) Africa trade (retail and wholesale) in relation to economic development,
- (ii) possible rating system in urban areas in Africa,
- (iii) delinquency.

ECA should provide fellowships so that the advice and help of experienced officers already working in this field of urbanization could be made available where requested and further that such fellowships should make possible an exchange of personnel administering the larger towns in Africa.

X. APPLICABILITY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES TO ADDIS ABABA

(Document E/CN.14/SWCD/10)

82. The Chief of the ECA Community Development Branch introduced this paper and described it as an experiment in co-operation between the ECA and local organizations. The purpose of the study had been to gather data on social conditions in Addis Ababa and to investigate the possibility of overcoming some problems of urbanization through community development and social welfare programmes.

83. The authors drew the attention of the Committee to the role of the ECA in giving the project impetus to the necessity or desirability of such a study. It was also indicated that the lack of experienced persons with sufficient time available made the organization of the survey very complex and difficult.

84. It was emphasized that Addis Ababa is a city in which there is a complete mixture of socio-economic groups and therefore the sample of the study reflected this diversity.

85. 85 per cent of the household heads in the sample were born outside Addis Ababa and probably in rural areas with the result that the greater part of the city's population had to learn to adjust to urban life. This adjustment might be considered in two parts. One part concerned with habits without great social implications which mainly affect social conditions. The other part included the adjustment of social customs and practices. In both parts the problem is of making the best use of available resources, both human and material.

86. Several participants commented on the similarity of conditions described in this study to conditions elsewhere and were particularly interested in the preparation and testing of the questionnaire.

87. Emphasis was given to the difficulty in obtaining detailed information on income, particularly in respect of income in addition to the wages earned by the head of the household.

88. It was also suggested that a study of the day-to-day habits of the poorer households would give useful data on subsistence.

89. The absence of data on health was much regretted and the authors explained that questions in this field had been asked, but there had been difficulties in finding people able to carry out the analysis to meet the deadline. Further work in this field was urged by several members.

90. Interest was also expressed in the high incidence of divorce and it was suggested that a study might be made of the causes of divorce and the incidence in relation to various types of marriages.

91. It was also emphasized that in the improvement of housing standards the maximum use should be made of traditional materials and skills.

92. Several participants agreed that the report provided reliable conclusions in framing an urban policy with particular reference to social welfare services and housing in urban community development projects. They commended the report particularly in its emphasis on the role of citizens and their participation in community programmes. Several experts cited samples concerning the contribution of neighbourhood councils and citizens' committees. Special emphasis was placed on the participation of women in such committees.

93. Certain experts commented on the comprehensiveness of the projected demonstration programme for Addis Ababa, which includes health, social welfare, adult education, nutrition and housing programmes. They noted with interest, that the proposed programme emphasized flexibility and - re-study. It was emphasized that the authorities of the Municipality should work closely with the national functional ministries of the government, which should be able to assist in the finances and offer technical advice.

94. A number of experts expressed the significance of the role of social welfare services as a primary aspect for an urban community development programme. Two reasons were mentioned first the availability of social welfare services on a systematic basis in urban communities and second the resourcesfulness of social workers in meeting the needs of migrants to adjust to the urban setting.

95. The experts felt, that the social welfare services would need to be supplemented by a more dramatic approach that would show tangible results. Examples of community campaigns and exhibition on trade fair scale have been used as means for public interpretation to the citizens. These could be conducted by neighbourhood councils and citizens' committees together with the government. In connexion with housing emphasis was placed on self-help and participation of people and need of further study on the use of local building materials, so that houses would fit in the pattern of the community. This was especially commented upon, since it was evident in the study, that people traditionally exercise the self-help principle in housing.

96. Several experts noted with interest that the study brought on the role of indigenous mutual aid societies in promoting welfare of the community. A number of participants stressed the economic and social characteristics of these associations; however, it was felt, that further study should be made in order to assess more technically the contributions of these associations.

97. Experts agreed, that the evaluation of the projected programme would prove valuable; however, certain participants emphasized the needs of having an independent body of the sponsoring research group to undertake the evaluation, the objectivity of such a body was stressed. There was also the opinion, that such an evaluation could very well be taken by the sponsoring body, thus providing continuity and an opportunity for self-evaluation.

98. It was agreed that this Study has proved an excellent example of the contribution that can be made by ECA. It was suggested that similar studies should be undertaken in other African towns.

99. Furthermore, ECA officials and other UN representatives, where available, should serve in an advisory capacity on co-ordinating bodies as proposed in the Addis Ababa Study.

XI WORK PROGRAMMES

100. The Chief of the ECA Community Development Branch thereafter outlined the Commission's work programme in community development for 1962-63, as given in document E/CN.14/162, explaining the layout of the document and how projects are financed and carried out. He reviewed the continuing projects: aid to governments in framing or carrying out their community development programmes (31-01), general study on community development in Africa (31-02), setting-up of a documentation centre (31-03) - and, next, the high-priority special projects: study on the applicability of community development techniques to urban areas (31-10), study tour (31-11), community development and economic development (31-12).

101. Participants stressed the importance of the documentation centre and the contribution of community development to economic development. Regarding the former, which should disseminate not only information but also audio-visual material and serve as a framework for the exchange of experts, the Chief of the ECA Community Development Branch requested countries to send documentation systematically to the centre. A request was also made that the centre should publish a liaison bulletin.

102. In the field of social welfare, the participants commented on ECA programme of activities proposed for 1962-63. They commended the stronger role the Commission has given to social welfare. The experts agreed, that national organization and administration of social welfare services should be given high priority and continuing status in the work programme of ECA. Certain experts recommended that training for social work should also be given equal priority and should be a continuing project. They

noted, however, with satisfaction the proposed meeting which will take place in Abidjan in 1962 and the training meeting on social work also proposed for this year.

103. The participants supported strongly a programme of social welfare amongst African countries, giving priority to inter-regional African exchange programme with ECA co-operation.

104. The participants noted the close co-operation between United Nations Technical Assistance programme with ECA and recommended stronger co-ordination in connexion with the recruitment of TA experts for African countries and follow-up of the advisory programmes in the field.

105. The participants noted the close co-operation between ECA and the specialized agencies in the field of social welfare. Special emphasis was on the co-operation of ECA social welfare affairs with UNICEF representatives where co-ordination of services has helped to support a useful and significant UNICEF aided programmes for social services for children, and for mothercraft and homecraft programmes.

106. In the absence of the representative of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, the Chief of the ECA Community Development Branch introduced document E/CN.14/SWCD/13, which was prepared by the Bureau on the subject of international assistance in the field of social welfare, community development and urbanization. He referred to the social sectors in which the United Nations has assisted the African countries: report on the world social situation, study missions on urbanization in the Mediterranean region and Tropical Africa, planning missions, demographic studies, seminars on populations, experts and fellowships in the field of community development, collaboration in the Tunis workshop and the Dakar course, supply of experts on housing, social service and social defence. He went on to indicate the lines on which technical assistance in the social field is being intensified: priority help to newly independent countries, assistance in long-term planning, priority for staff training, expansion of assistance by using middle-level experts and teams of volunteers, development of intra-regional co-operation, and concerted activities.

107. In answer to questions by certain participants, a description was given of the relations between ECA and Technical Assistance regards the appointment of experts and their collaboration with ECA. The participants recommended that ECA should play a fuller part, on principle of decentralization in the appointment of experts and supervision of their work.

108. The ILO representative pointed out that the social results of community development will not be lasting unless all the necessary attention is simultaneously paid to the realization of its economic objectives. While urging the need to intensify existing activities in the towns, he particularly emphasized the urgency of development in country districts to ensure economic and social balance in the African countries. In that context, he said that ILO is carrying out research and providing technical assistance in such matters as the promotion of an employment policy, vocational training, co-operative organization and education, handicrafts and small industry, and the transition from traditional to modern forms of social and economic organization.

Moreover, he said, there are many international labour conventions and recommendations covering questions closely related to community development. He added that ILO is ready to co-operate with ECA in launching a joint technical assistance project for the establishment of a pilot centre on self-help housing co-operatives.

109. The Representative of WHO introduced the paper by remarking that the very fact that ECA has invited the representatives of the Specialized Agencies to the Standing Committee Meeting is an acknowledgement of the fact that the technical services play a very important part in community development.

110. WHO aims at the attainment by the individual of physical, mental and social health. The WHO document viz. E/CN.14/SWCD/14 deals with the orientation of WHO programmes toward Community Development. It opens by stating "Health workers are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that, although their work is most often of a highly specialized nature, to obtain lasting results and progress in any aspect of individual, family and community improvement, there is need for conceiving their action within a much longer programme of social and economic development". This shows the readiness of WHO to co-operate with ECA.

111. In the field of health, be it curative or preventive medicine, the co-operation and the active participation by the people are an absolute necessity and this has been emphasized repeatedly in a number of WHO technical expert committees and conferences and is an accepted fact in the Organization's policy.

112. WHO is giving all health personnel an orientation in their training to enable them to practise Community Development concepts, and to sustain this within the international concerted action programme undertaken jointly by the UN and the specialized agencies, and in its assistance to National Governments. (An example of this is Project Nigeria 10: Rural Health Service, Eastern Region, which is elaborated in WHO documents E/CN.14/SWCD/14 referred to above.)

113. WHO feels that at all cost activities must be avoided which will overlap with the work of the existing technical departments and agencies and which will therefore create a competition for already inadequate funds and personnel. Therefore the WHO representative emphasized strongly the need for closer co-ordination for the technical services.

114. Following the reading and the discussion of the WHO paper on Community Development (E/CN.14/SWCD/14) the experts very much regretted the difference in concept as shown by WHO on Community Development, which plays such an important part in a rapidly developing society. The group stressed co-ordinated planning at all levels and which incorporates the technical and advisory services at all agencies including those of WHO.

XII. RECOMMENDATIONS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The group of experts wish to thank the Executive Secretary for the invitation to participate as members of this Standing Committee of UNECA.

The experts wish to place on record the value of such meetings, both to the participants, who work in the field and to the Secretariat. They request that this Standing Committee should continue to meet annually prior to the plenary session of the Commission.

CONSIDERING that the implementation of Community Development-Social Welfare programmes is a highly complex task that requires co-ordinated planning based on objective research into the needs of the populations,

CONSIDERING that the self help low-cost housing programmes play an essential role in national social and economic development,

CONSIDERING the necessity for the priority that must be given particularly in community development programmes,

CONSIDERING the social problems arising out of the growth of towns in Africa, particularly as regards the dislocation of family life and traditional institutions,

RECOGNIZING the need for national social policy planning and implementation of social welfare and community development programmes and services meeting the needs of rapid urbanization and noting the role played by voluntary organizations in their respective fields in African countries.

The Committee recommends the following:

I. Social aspects of economic development

1. that the planning of a social policy should be related to all the factors which constitute a country's development programme and should be formulated in co-operation with all relevant specialists,

2. that a balance between urban and rural development be maintained by providing services and adopting policies, which help to raise the standard of living in rural areas and produce immediate practical results as an incentive to the people;
3. that because of the paramount importance of precise data acquired through the methodical organization of research in the planning and operation of economic development and social development programmes, the following studies should be undertaken with a view to specifying the interdependence of economic and social factors:
 - a) studies on social investment favourable to economic development;
 - b) changes in structure related to economic development;
 - c) specific problems raised by social welfare and community development in relation to economic development;
 - d) the development of production through vocational adaptation;
 - e) the motives behind economic expansion.

II. Low-cost housing and community facilities within community development programmes

4. that it is desirable to introduce plans for low cost housing based on the principle of self-help by the people in the construction and/or maintenance of their own dwellings particularly in rural areas,
5. that low-cost housing programmes should be implemented with complete consideration of all the services needed by the beneficiaries and the training of workers who are to assist them to adjust to the new pattern of life and thereby make the fullest use of the existing services.
6. The group having discussed the proceedings of the low cost housing conference held in Tunis in October 1961, fully support the recommendations and resolution adopted with regard to social, cultural and financial aspects,

III. Training in community development

7. that because the availability of trained workers is an essential requirement for the effective performance of community development programmes, national as well as sub-regional centres are of vital importance. The level of training, the contents of programme, the recruitment of trainees should be determined by the realistic needs of the various countries,
8. that the Economic Commission for Africa should assist and advise the member countries on the development of their national planning and training programmes by sending experts, teaching materials and the provision of scholarships,

IV. Community Development and Technical Services

9. that as Community Development has emerged as an important identifiable functional field of service, it is essential that its administration should be centered in a separate ministry or department of government,
10. that there should be a close relationship between community development and all relevant technical and specialized services, such as agriculture and veterinary, home economics, cottage industries, education, social welfare services, nutrition and health,
11. that in planning, organizing and implementing community development programmes, due emphasis be given to health services and that such health services be carried out in close co-operation with the various technical departments and UN specialized agencies at all levels, namely at the field regional and central levels.

V. Organization and Administration of Social Welfare Services

12. that a central authority, either a Ministry of Social Welfare or a department, be set up in each country responsible for the national policy, planning and organization of Social Welfare and that efforts should be directed towards decentralization of social welfare services,

13. that in order to strengthen the relationship between Governments and voluntary associations, Governments should have a national policy to provide the registration, licensing, and supervision of voluntary associations; such policy should include regulations for financial assistance and subventions,

14. that UNICEF aid to social welfare services should be encouraged in terms of expanding training programmes for auxiliary workers and volunteers and also in the provision of supplies for family and child welfare programmes,

15. that in the interests of national assessment and evaluation, and at the request of Governments, ECA should study the structure patterns of organization, the contents of the social welfare programmes and operations in the various countries,

16. that, in the interest of strengthening close co-operation and of achieving maximum efficiency and economies with the limited administrative resources available, ECA should organize working group meetings for administrators and specialists from the field of social welfare together with administrators of community development, health, labour, education and economic planning,

17. that ECA should provide social welfare staff to advise on the planning of the inter-African Social Welfare exchange programmes for group visits and meetings,

VI. Training for Social Work

18. that periodic in-service training for social welfare must take place in individual countries to maintain satisfactory standards,

19. that in order to strengthen social welfare programmes, sub-regional training centres grouping countries with the same type of problems should be established with assistance from ECA and United Nations Technical Assistance Organization,
20. that intermediate level training should be undertaken at sub-regional centres, at National Universities and at educational establishments,
21. that basic teaching material should be developed from African experiences and that its exchange be facilitated by expanding the ECA Clearing House,
22. that post graduate training for instructors in Social Work and specialized training of administrative, professional and technical staff responsible for organization of social welfare programmes be implemented at regular intervals,

VII. Social Welfare Services and Urbanization

23. that priority be given to the establishment of community welfare services designed to prevent social disintegration, and to group work activities including the organization of leisure time activities,
24. that services for groups with special needs be established to meet the needs resulting from urbanization,
25. that co-operation from the community should be stimulated, by appealing to voluntary agencies to assist with the improvement of communal living conditions,

VIII. Urbanization in Tropical Africa and the Study on the Applicability of Community Development to Addis Ababa

26. that with the object of fostering a balanced development wherever possible, it is essential to promote decentralization of industries, thereby creating a series of poles of growth throughout the country, and assistance should be given to the introduction of small industries,
27. that in planning a national programme for urbanization, the social welfare and housing services should be given priority in every urban community development project,

28. that the participation of the population and local societies in any such project is an essential condition for promoting mutual aid, particularly in house-building and the development of the community infrastructure,
29. that in studying problems on urbanization, information should be collected, centralized and published at regular intervals,
30. that the Addis Ababa study conducted on the applicability of community development techniques to the city is an excellent example of the co-operation of the Imperial Ethiopian Government, the Municipality, the University College of Addis Ababa and ECA, and that ECA should continue its studies on urbanization, taking the initiative at the request of Governments in launching similar studies in other African towns and cities,

IX. The Work Programme of ECA in the Fields of Community Development, Social Welfare and Urbanization

31. that this Committee having reviewed the work programme of ECA commends the excellent programme proposed by the Executive Secretary, particularly in giving priority to assistance to Governments on national planning, organization and administration in the respective fields,
32. that ECA should give high priority and a continuing status to training for social welfare work,
33. that ECA should play an increasing role on decentralized lines in the appointment of technical assistance experts and the supervision of their work in African countries,
34. that ECA should strengthen the project on the clearing house in the field of social welfare and community development and that ECA should request countries to send systematically documentation and information in order that the clearing house can assist with dissemination of all the relevant material,

35. that ECA should issue a bulletin to keep Governments and experts in the field fully informed of the various activities and programmes in the African countries,

36. that in addition to the proposed ECA programme of work, note should be taken of the various recommendations of the Standing Committee which are included in the report of their deliberations.

ANNEX - I

List of Participants

Chairman: Mr. Yehia Darwish

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Pumla Kisosonkole

Monsieur N. Songuemas
Président du Conseil Economique et Social
Directeur de la Caisse de Compensation
des Prestations Familiales et des
Accidents du Travail
Brazzaville
Congo

Monsieur G. Diomi
Vice-Président du Conseil d'Etat
Léopoldville
République du Congo

Ato Eshete Makonnen
Assistant Minister for Community Development
and Social Welfare in the Ministry
of Community Development
Addis Ababa

Mr. David A. Acquah
Deputy-Director
Department of Social Welfare and
Community Development
Accra
Ghana

Monsieur Pierre Galeazzi
Directeur des Affaires Sociales
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Sociales
Abidjan
Côte-d'Ivoire

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Deputy Director
Department of Social Services and Housing
Nairobi Council
Kenya

Monsieur P. Rajaobelina
Directeur de l'Ecole Nationale de
l'Administration Malgache
Tananarive
Madagascar

Monsieur Doucouret Boubou
Directeur de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat
Ministère des Travaux Publics
Bamako
Mali

Mrs. Winifred Ayodele McEwen
Chief Social Welfare Officer in the
Ministry of Labour
Ikoyi, Lagos
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Monsieur Cisse Ben Mady
Directeur de l'Animation
Commisariat Général au Plan
Dakar
Senegal

Mrs. Victoria Olive Betts
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Social Development Department
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Sierra Leone

Mrs. Pumla Kisosonkole
Senior Women's Community Development Officer
Ministry of Social Development
Kampala
Uganda

Mr. Yehia Darwish
Director General
Ministry of Social Affairs
Cairo UAR

Specialized Agencies

International Labour Organization:

M. Grégoire Koulisher
Directeur du Centre d'Action pour l'Afrique
Lagos

World Health Organization:

Dr. Ahmed Zaki
Public Health Administrator
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office
Alexandria
UAR

Dr. P. Descoeudres
WHO Area Representative
Addis Ababa

Dr. C.M. Norman-Williams
WHO Regional Office
Brazzaville

Observers^{1/}

Mrs. Hélène Castel
Assistant Professor of Sociology
and Director of the School of Social
Work, University College of Addis Ababa

Ato Johannes Wolde Gerima
Director General. Census, Health
and Welfare Department
Municipality of Addis Ababa

Mr. F. Amos
Technical Adviser
to the Municipality of Addis Ababa

Members of the Secretariat

Mr. Mekki Abbas	-	Executive Secretary - ECA
Mr. Gérard Dulphy	-	Chief, Community Development Branch
Mr. Prosper Ratafika	-	Community Development Branch
Miss Aida Gindy	-	Social Welfare Services Officer, Community Development Branch
Miss Jeanne Sylvain	-	Regional Consultant, Social Welfare
Mr. Jean Comhaire	-	Acting Chief, Social Research Section
Mrs. N. Baster	-	Consultant to ECA, Bureau of Social Affairs

^{1/} The above three experts were invited to participate at the meeting when the study on "The applicability of Community Development Techniques to Urban Areas" (E/CN.14/SWCD/10) was discussed.

ADOPTED AGENDA

1. General discussion (x)

Working paper : Social aspects of economic development
(E/CN.14/SWCD/2)

2. Community Development

(a) Working paper : Relationship of community development to
economic development.

(E/CN.14/144 - E/CN.14/SWCD/3)

(b) Final report : Workshop on Low-Cost Housing and community
facilities within Community Development
programmes. (E/CN.14/SWCD/4)

(c) Final report : Training course in Community Development.

(E/CN.14/SWCD/5)

3. Social Welfare

(a) Working paper : Organization and Administration of Social
Welfare Services. (E/CN.14/SWCD/6)

(b) Working paper : Training for social work (E/CN.14/SWCD/7)

(c) Working paper : Social Welfare and Urbanization (E/CN.14/SWCD/8)

(x) Information document : Study on the Co-operative Movement in Africa
(E/CN.14/133)

" " : Rural development in Mali (E/CN.14/SWCD/12)

4. Urbanization

(a) Working paper : Urbanization in tropical Africa (E/CN.14/SWCD/9)

Working paper : Applicability of community development techniques
to Addis Ababa (E/CN.14/SWCD/10)

5. Progress Report 1961-1962 and Work Programme of ECA 1962-1963

Report on ECA work programme in community development, social
welfare and allied activities (E/CN.14/SWCD/11)

6. Working papers by :

Bureau au Social Affairs, New York) (E/CN.14/SWCD/13)
UNICEF	{ on International assistance
ILO	{ in the field of social welfare,
FAO	{ community development and
UNESCO	{ urbanization.
WHO	((E/CN.14/SWCD/14)

7. Final report of the Standing Committee

to be submitted to the fourth session of the Economic Commission for
Africa, to be held in Addis Ababa, 19 February to 3 March, 1962.
(E/CN.14/142).

Annex III

Address delivered by Mr. Mekki Abbas, Executive Secretary
of the Economic Commission for Africa, at the opening
meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and
Community Development

(5 February 1962)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy this morning, in opening the first session of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development of the Economic Commission for Africa, to extend a cordial welcome to you on the Commission's and my own behalf.

I think it may be worth while at the beginning of your proceedings to recall, briefly, not only the origins and assigned functions of your Committee, but what the Commission has already achieved in your particular field.

Your Committee owes its inception to resolution 36, which was adopted by the Commission on 17 February 1961 at its third session. Under that resolution, the Executive Secretary was requested to set up a standing committee of experts in the fields of social welfare, community development and urbanization, to convene annually prior to the session of the Commission, to study these various problems and to present recommendations to the Commission.

You therefore sit on this Committee as experts and on account of your personal qualifications, not as representatives of your countries. I wish to emphasize this important point, as it makes your Committee an advisory body and should enable you to express yourselves quite freely without committing your Governments. Your task, then, will be to give your views on the Commission's activities and work programme in the fields I have mentioned, and to submit your suggestions or recommendations.

Your agenda covers the Commission's activities in the social field in 1961. The social aspects of economic development, which were discussed at the recent session of the Working Party on Economic and Social Development, raise serious problems concerning the interdependence of the economic and social sectors.

Community development, the growing importance of which in Africa was stressed in resolution 37 of 18 February 1961, with special reference to its contribution to economic development, widened the scope of its activities in 1961. Four projects were launched.

First, a preliminary study - like that prepared by ECAFE - was undertaken on the relationship between community development and economic development in Africa. That study should provide a starting point for research in 1962 and 1963.

Secondly, in August 1961 a very short study was made in Mali on general aspects of community development and rural development, following on a study made in Uganda in 1960.

Thirdly, in October 1961 a Workshop on Low-Cost Housing in connexion with community development was held in Tunis, attended by 26 experts from 16 African countries, to study the economic, social, financial and technical aspects of these problems.

Fourthly, in November 1961 there was held at the University of Dakar a high level training course for specialists in community development, which was attended by 19 participants from 13 West-African countries.

ECA concurrently co-operated in Senegal on the preparation of a Special Fund project on training.

The Commission has given emphasis to the Field of Social Welfare to three primary areas:

1. As a programme of services which have been organized on a national level.
2. A programme which has developed as an integral part in Community Development programmes.
3. Training of personnel, at all levels, in the field of Social Welfare has been given high priority.

Social Welfare services have been developed in African countries along a variety of patterns, ranging from those being organized on a national ministerial level, where one government authority has centralized responsibility to those being dispersed among a number of different authorities. In the interest of studying this problem of patterns of organizations, the Commission is convening a committee of experts in Abidjan in April 1962 to consider the organization and administration of Social Welfare services in African countries. The Secretariat of the Commission has also been endeavouring to collect information in this field by visiting a number of African countries and sending questionnaires to member States to be better informed on the national programmes available. The data collected will provide a realistic foundation for the co-operation of the Secretariat with the member States.

I wish to inform you that the Commission has also given importance in its work programme to the role of Social Welfare services in Community Development programmes. In this connexion a conference was held in 1961 in Accra to consider the contribution of Social Welfare services, particularly Family and Child Welfare, in Community Development programmes. It also gave primary emphasis to the role of women in Community Development programmes. You will note in document ECN.4/SWCD/5 that at the Dakar training course in Community Development, a whole period was devoted to the role of Social Welfare services within Community Development programmes.

Training of personnel in Social Welfare has been an area of obvious priority in the work programme of the Commission. It has been evident that at various meetings held so far by the Commission, the member States and experts of African countries have drawn the attention of the Secretariat to the need of international assistance to help establish training programmes for Social Welfare workers at auxiliary and professional levels. It is, therefore, noted that in the work programme and priorities of the Commission (document ECN.14/162) it is proposed (Project No. 32-01), that a meeting will be held in late 1962, to bring together administrations of the schools of Social Work as well as senior welfare officials in African countries to discuss means of strengthening training programmes in the field of Social Welfare in African countries.

The Secretariat of the Commission has also been active in visiting countries and working closely with the UN Technical Assistance advisers in the field of Social Welfare, assigned to member States. Furthermore they have co-operated with a number of UNICEF aided countries in the field of Social services for children, e.g. Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, UAR and Uganda.

In urbanization, ECA activities have been centred on two projects. The first of these concerns studies by the Social Research Section in preparation for the workshop on problems arising out of the rapid growth of African towns. Abundant documentation, partly gathered on the spot, has been analyzed and utilized in various reports.

The second project is represented by a study carried out at Addis Ababa, under the auspices of University College and the Municipality, on the city's social structures and the applicability of community development techniques and methods to the solution of urban problems, with particular reference to social service and housing.

Regarding the Commission's work programme in the social sector, you will be able to examine it at your leisure and to submit your views and suggestions to us.

I am sure that your informed advice will make a fruitful and most profitable contribution to the Commission's activities. May your proceedings be crowned with the greatest success. On that wish I declare open the first session of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development.
