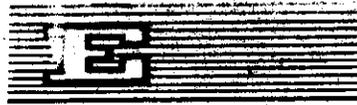


47598



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Distr.: GENERAL
E/CN.14/780
9 April 1980
Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Fifteenth session/sixth meeting of
the Conference of Minister
Addis Ababa, 9-12 April 1980

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Report of the First Session

(Addis Ababa, 9-12 April 1980)

A. Organization of the Meeting

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 8 April 1980.
2. The meeting was opened by H.E. Comrade Hailu Yimenu, Senior Minister and Secretary-General of the Central Planning Supreme Council.

Opening addresses

3. In his opening statement, Comrade Hailu Yimenu welcomed the participants to Ethiopia and wished them a pleasant and rewarding stay.
4. He referred to the enormous challenges facing Africa in its efforts aimed at improving the living standard of its peoples.
5. In that respect, he referred to the discouraging results of the North-South Dialogue, the fifth session of UNCTAD and the third General Conference of UNIDO.
6. He drew attention to unemployment in the region, the inability of Africa to feed its people, the extremely narrow industrial base, the inadequate infrastructure and bottlenecks in the fields of transport and communication, the low level of intra-African trade, the shortage of skilled manpower, rising energy costs which had become the greatest handicap to economic development and the lack of technological capabilities required by African countries to be able to exercise full control over their natural resources.
7. He said that, in view of all those problems, the task ahead called for new and more effective approaches to development which would bring about, inter alia, self-reliance in food, the strengthening of the industrial base and the promotion of co-operation, which were the key objectives for the Third Development Decade.
8. In the Third Development Decade Africa should strive for internally self-sustaining industrialization and collective self-reliance in an effort to satisfy the basic needs of its peoples.
9. In conclusion he stated that Africa should take the opportunity to pool its resources and skills with a view to laying an effective social and economic infrastructure and to establishing a division of labour, which would also contribute to rapid economic development. However, he said there was no point in exerting an effort to realize co-operation in

agriculture and industry without a corresponding effort to accelerate the physical integration of the continent. In that connexion, he mentioned the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa and urged each country to implement the domestic portions of the African Highways Network by developing local capacity for the construction and maintenance of roads. Finally, he referred to the need to strengthen regional and subregional institutions dealing with problems of development.

10. Mr. M. Manirakiza, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, then read out a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary, in which he explained why the First Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole had been called. After highlighting the guiding principles underlying the Development Strategy for Africa for the third United Nations Development Decade, he enjoined the Committee to study the principles carefully so as to ensure that their recommendations to the Conference of Ministers conformed to the objectives of the Strategy.

11. Some of the economic and social problems of the region to which he referred were transport and communications bottlenecks, the lack of economic co-operation, the dependence of Africa on the export of a few primary products, its dependence on the import of food, the lack of skilled manpower, the dependence of the region on external aid and its disadvantaged position with respect to the acquisition of know-how.

12. He explained that the programme proposals put before the Committee focussed on the major operating areas of agriculture, industry, natural resources, manpower, science and technology and transport and communications and on inputs from other sectors, such as population and social development. He said the greater part of Africa's problems were due to misconceptions and erroneous strategies and that a different strategy, whose watch words were self-reliance and self-sustaining development, was called for. The strategy before the Committee had been accepted by the African Heads of State and Government, and it was the task of the Committee to define and agree on practical measures for its implementation.

13. The role of the Committee in tackling that task was to make a thorough review of the sectoral programmes presented, to consider the linkages between and among them and the mechanisms needed for their implementation and to come up with recommendations on ways to mobilize financial and real resources for submission to the Conference of Ministers and to the forthcoming OAU Economic Summit Meeting.

Attendance

14. Representatives of the following member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda,

Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire.

15. States Members of the United Nations not members of ECA represented at the meeting by observers were Finland, France, Jamaica, Japan, Romania, Spain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic and the United States of America.

16. The Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania was also represented by an observer.

17. The meeting was attended by observers from the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies: the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI) were also represented by observers.

18. Observers were present from the African Association of Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and the Mano River Union and from the International Union for Railways (UIC), the Population Council, the World Peace Council (WPC) and the Economic Commission of the Great Lakes (CEPGL).

19. The Committee elected Mr. Mersie Ejigu (Ethiopia) as Chairman, Mr. Nzeza Kiliangu (Zaire) as first Vice-Chairman, Mr. Amani Ahmed (Morocco) as second Vice-Chairman and Mr. Justin Gnidehou (Benin) as Rapporteur.

B. Agenda

20. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work

4. Review and appraisal of socio-economic situation in Africa in 1978/1979 and the 1970s and the prospects for the 1980s (E/CN.14/759)
5. Appraisal of international economic relations as factors in African development (E/CN.14/760)
6. African Development Strategy in the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade:
 - (a) Follow-up action on the decisions of the Conference of Ministers at its fifth meeting on African Development Strategy in the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; (E/CN.14/753);
 - (b) Translation of the Strategy into operational terms at national, subregional and regional levels:
 - (i) Food and agriculture; (E/CN.14/770)
 - (ii) Industry (E/CN.14/772, E/CN.14/773)
 - (iii) Natural resources; (E/CN.14/762)
 - (iv) Human resources development, including development of indigenous entrepreneurship (E/CN.14/763)
 - (v) Science and technology for development (E/CN.14/774)
 - (vi) Transport and communications (E/CN.14/764)
 - (vii) Intra-African trade and finance (E/CN.14/776)
 - (viii) Sociocultural matters
 - (ix) Institutions building for economic and technical co-operation including measures for strengthening existing ones (E/CN.14/752)
 - (x) Environment and development (E/CN.14/755)
 - (xi) Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the African Least Developed Countries (E/CN.14/766)
 - (xii) Measures for the establishment of an African economic community
 - (xiii) Energy (E/CN.14/778).
7. Report of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly as it affects African socio-economic development (E/CN.14/767).
8. Global preparation for the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade:

- (a) Progress report on the work of the United Nations Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the preparations for the Third United Nations Development Decade;
- (b) Preparations for the United Nations General Assembly 1980 Special Session on Progress in Implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.
9. The economic and social implications of rising refugees population in Africa: Note by the Secretariat on the role of ECA (E/CN.14/779).
10. Regional Programme to be financed by UNDP during 1982-86: Programming modalities (E/CN.14/768).
11. Reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of Ministers:
- (i) Report of the first session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (E/CN.14/749).
- (ii) Report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.14/774).
- (iii) Report of the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Industry (E/CN.14/731).
- (iv) Report of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade (E/CN.14/776).
- (v) Report of the second meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on the Integration of Women in Development (E/CN.14/741).
- (vi) Report of the second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development (E/CN.14/744).
12. Other matters
13. Date and place of the next meeting
14. Consideration of resolutions and adoption of the report:
- (a) Report of the first meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;
- (b) Consideration of resolutions by the Conference of Ministers;
- (c) Report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers/Fifteenth session of the Commission;
- (d) Decisions and recommendations for consideration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its extraordinary session on economic problems of Africa.

C. Summary of Proceedings

Review and appraisal of socio-economic situation in Africa in 1978/1979 and the 1970s and the prospects for the 1980s (E/CN.14/759) (agenda item 4)

21. Introducing the item no. 4 of the agenda, the representative of the secretariat presented the following papers: "Review and appraisal of the socio-economic situation in Africa in 1978/79 and in the 1970s and the prospects for the 1980s" (E/CN.14/759) "Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1978/79, Part I" (E/CN.14/743 Part I) including a regional picture of the situation sector by sector and Part II (E/CN.14/743 Part II) which covers current economic developments and policies in the individual countries of the ECA region, "Perspectives of the African Region in the 1980s and policy implications" (E/CN.14/737), "Projections results for some individual African countries" (E/CN.14/737 Add.1), "Quantitative analysis of the problems and perspectives of the African least developed countries in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade" (E/CN.14/748), "Comparative analysis of the Projections made for developing African countries by various United Nations bodies" (E/CN.14/738). Highlighting the main findings of the Survey, the representative of the secretariat indicated that there had been an improvement in the economic situation of the region since 1975 despite the unfavourable international economic trends. This outcome was due to several factors which include increased government investment in agriculture, better policies, to improve producers prices, the subsequent improved capital efficiency, increased fixed capital formation, increased domestic savings rates and the policies adopted by a large number of countries to control inflation utilize existing capacities in the manufacturing sector and reduce their balance of payments deficits. Least Developed Countries, however, did not share in this general improvement and their position worsened seriously.

22. He added that Part I of the Survey includes a special study entitled "Economic growth, employment, income distribution and mass poverty in the developing African countries". This study showed, among other things, that there were large inequalities in the distribution of income, most notably between rural and urban areas. The poorest 40 per cent of the population commanded only 14-15 per cent of total income while the richest 5 per cent had a share of more than 24 per cent. Furthermore around 70 per cent of the population can be classified as destitute and seriously poor. Further, the estimates of unemployed, underemployed and those working on low productivity jobs is about 70 per cent of the total labour force. He thus observed that mass poverty, underemployment and employment in low productivity and income jobs seem to be closely associated with bad utilisations of human resources. In addition there was a disturbing trend in the composition of the unemployed population with regard to the proportion of the educated youth which was increasing. On the prospects for the African region in the 1980s, the member of the secretariat pointed out that projections had been undertaken for 35 individual African countries including all the 20 least developed countries, for sub-groups of the African region and finally for the African region as a whole. He also pointed out that in the projections there were two scenarios namely the historical trends scenario and the planned scenario.

23. The representative of the secretariat emphasized the fact that if past policies and trends were to prevail in the 1980s, the forecasts of the historical trends scenario pointed to a bleak future for the African region as a whole. He observed that on basis of a continuation of historical trends economic growth of the African region would be very slow with a disturbing trend of agriculture growing by only about 2.5 per cent - less than the population growth thus implying a decline in per capita agricultural output. He, therefore, stressed the need for changes in structure and policies for the African region in the 1980s.

24. He then briefly outlined the main elements of the planned scenario which had been submitted to the first session of the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. According to the planned scenario, developing Africa is projected to grow in terms of GDP by around 7 per cent per year in the 1980s. He pointed out that this growth though challenging was nevertheless realistic given the fact that the major oil exporting countries which constitute over 40 per cent of the total GDP of Africa were projected to grow by about 8 per cent in the 1980s while the non-oil exporting countries were projected to grow by around 6 per cent yearly in the same period. He also emphasized that the 7 per cent growth of the scenario had other consistent sectoral growth targets which were important. Agriculture would have to grow by 4 per cent yearly while manufacturing would have to attain a growth rate of 9.5 per cent in the period 1980-1990. Exports would also have to expand by about 7 per cent yearly in real terms while imports would have to be maintained at growth rates of less than 8.2 per cent yearly implying a reduction in the import elasticity to less than 1.2. He stressed that many policies including regional co-operation were vitally important for the attainment of the planned scenario targets. He added that most of the policy implications of the planned scenario were in line with the African Development Strategy as adopted in resolution 332 (XIV) by the Fifth meeting of Ministers/Fourteenth Session of the Commission.

25. Finally, the representative of the secretariat made reference to the prospects of the 20 least developed African countries. He noted that these countries had been projected to grow by over 6 per cent yearly during the 1980s, this being the rate of growth which would enable an approximate doubling of these countries' GDP by 1990 and the doubling of the per capita income in these countries by the year 2000.

26. Whilst several delegates congratulated the secretariat on the document E/CN.14/759, some delegates pointed out that it forecast a too optimistic future for the economic and social development of the region. The document should have stressed the negative aspects of the economic development of the region, as indicated by past trends, and the fundamental changes in economic policies that should be adopted to combat these. One delegate stressed the need to develop industries for the domestic markets of Africa rather than those that were geared towards the export of products to developed countries. African countries should seek financial assistance from richer African countries for industrial developments which could best be achieved through effective economic co-operation within Africa. Another delegate wondered

wondered whether the secretariat could justify optimistic forecast of the economic development of Africa. Finally a delegate warned against over-emphasizing the importance of industrialization by imports substitution which had its own problems. On agriculture, there was need to define what was meant by self-sufficiency in food as it was not easy for any country to be self-sufficient in anything. No country could produce all the food it required; what was desirable was that the importation of food should be compensated by the export of national agricultural commodities so as not to burden the balance of payments.

27. In reply, a representative of the secretariat stated that document E/CN.14/759 should be read together with the three volumes of the economic and social survey of Africa which gave a comprehensive picture of all aspects of the economic and social development of Africa including such things as housing and health. The projections of the secretariat as regards particular African countries tallied with the conclusions of the studies carried out by those countries. The Federal Republic of Nigeria was a case in point. The secretariat had noted the comments made on industrialization by imports substitution but it should be pointed out that the secretariat was not advocating policies but simply reporting on what was happening in African countries. When it was considered that the combined share of Nigeria, Libya, Algeria and Gabon amounted to 40 per cent of the GDP of Africa, and 8 per cent growth forecast for these countries was not too ambitious; neither was a 6 per cent growth forecast for the non-oil producing African countries unrealistic. The conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers has thought that an average of 7 per cent growth for Africa was realistic.

International economic relations as factors in African development
(agenda item 5)

28. The representative of the secretariat apologized for typographical and other errors in document E/CN.14/760/Add.1 which was prepared in considerable hurry and promised that a short corrigenda would be issued. He said the paper was deliberately intended to be provocative. Its main propositions were as follows.

29. Since economic growth is the application of human energies and skills, of technology, equipment, financial resources and institutional services to physical natural resources from which raw materials were derived, with the object of converting them from one form into another such as semi-finished and finished products or transporting them from one place to another, it followed reasonably that the pattern of skills and technology acquired, developed and multiplied the kinds of institutions and institutional services provided and the flows of other financial and real resources were principally determined by the raw materials available.

30. Developing economies in Africa continued to be characterized by over-specialization of production for export, which had resulted from colonial economic arrangements.

31. This extremely unbalanced resource development had continued in post-independence Africa because of the preferences of transnational and other foreign enterprises and it is on that base what member States were attempting to erect an accelerated process of economic growth capable of creating employment and improved living standards for populations expected to rise from 406 million in 1975 to 827 million in 2000.

32. The obstacles involved clearly included the very narrow range of skills and the inadequate technologies, capital formation, institutional services, financial and other resource flows inherited. The picture presented by the region is one of constantly rising population on the one hand and vast and varied natural resources on the other with know-how as the main missing link. It was inconceivable, for example, that people living in heavily forested areas should develop skill technology etc. patterns which were appropriate for those living in islands surrounded by fish and other marine biological resources or those living in savannah regions and vice vers. Until this picture was corrected and until Africans ceased depending on initiatives from outsiders to determine the natural resource base the problem of growth and development would remain unsolved.

33. In the discussion of the document under review, a delegate pointed out that the Technical Preparatory Committee had been concerned to propose a strategy of development for Africa and that the participants must specify the elements for a new strategy in the light of the economic importance of Africa thus far. The document, he pointed out, did not go far enough in defining these elements. While it recommended a coherent and unified approach to development planning, it made no specific mention of global and integrated development planning at the national, subregional and regional levels although such planning would help Africa in arriving at a coherent and shared position.

34. Another delegate praised the secretariat for the high quality of the paper presented and said that the document touched very closely on the problems of his country. He however expressed regret at the fact that the paper came toward the end of the deliberations of the Committee; he felt that if the paper had been presented earlier it would have helped delegates in focusing more clearly on matters listed for discussion. Africa's development would have to be based on African regional and subregional institutions, and the massive transfer of technology would not solve Africa's problem. He stated that only economic co-operation among African countries could provide the required solutions, and that whatever negotiations African countries entered into, primary consideration should always be for subregional and regional co-operation.

35. The representative of the Pan-African Congress expressed the view that the paper affected the whole of Africa including those areas that were still not independent. He stressed the economic potential of South Africa which was being arrested by the racist minority in the interest of the Western countries. He emphasized the fact that this part of Africa had to

be liberated from this economic arrest so that it could make its contribution, through its vast resources, to the overall economic development of Africa. That particular point called for a resolution in which deep concern should be expressed at the activities of those Western countries in league with the racist minority of South Africa, and in which they should be called upon to put a stop to those activities.

36. A delegate congratulated OPEC on having become a force to be reckoned with in international economic matters. He stated that Africa should also become a force in negotiations so as to ensure better prices for its products since the current prices were imposed by consumers. He pointed out that the paper highlighted the little achievements as well as the failures of Africa in international negotiations but was silent on the lessons to be learnt from these sad experiences. He then asked if Africa had properly prepared for these negotiations; he also asked if Africa had not gone to these negotiations without presenting a united front, and wanted to know if Africa had shown any appreciable political will. The delegate then pointed out that these were the questions to be answered since, according to him, these were the factors responsible for Africa's backwardness.

37. Another delegate highlighted Africa's negative achievements at international negotiations. He said it was an illusion to want to depend on the advanced countries, and said that Africa should have a coherent development plan at all levels so as to avoid unnecessary duplication. He felt that the paper should have emphasized the need to develop intra-African trade.

38. A delegate speaking on the plight of the least developed countries said that several resolutions had been adopted but had yielded nothing from the advanced countries. He spoke of the aid provided by the UN Fund which he described as ridiculous and only scratching the surface of the most urgent problems confronting the least developed countries. He therefore called for a recommendation that would contain concrete proposals for assistance to these countries. He noted that while many of the developed countries talked about the least developed countries, very little had been done to assist the LDCs by way of financial aid or concrete action.

39. Responding to the issues raised, the representative of the secretariat noted that they were mostly comments rather than questions. He picked up the point made by a delegate on the lack of mention of elements for a new development strategy and said the document prepared by the Conference of African Planners dealt with the point. He agreed with the observations of a number of delegates on the unbalanced development that characterised Africa.

40. He pointed out that the African population would double to over 800 million by the year 2000 and that Africa possessed vast resources that were both known and unknown but that what Africa lacked was the technical know-how to develop them. He made it clear that the concern at the ECA was how soon this technical know-how could be acquired by the African countries since the ECA believed in African competence and ability. He emphasized ECA's unshakeable commitment to the development of Africa by Africans themselves, stating that not every African problem had to be taken to outsiders for solution.

41. In his own contribution, the Executive Secretary of ECA pointed out that there was no disagreement in the perception of the problem confronting the region from both ECA and member States. He indicated that there was the need to intensify co-operation at subregional and regional levels to complement national efforts. He stressed the fact that unless Africa was careful the co-operation sought might be teleguided from abroad since African regional co-operation had become of interest to outsiders for what they could gain from this. He pointed out that although the ACP-EEC Lomé II Convention called for co-operation, this had to be promoted by Africans themselves. He advised that the fact of the EEC using the ACP to convene a conference on African regional co-operation was something that Africa should be very careful about since this could be designed to serve the interests of others and not those of Africans.

African Development Strategy in the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade:

Follow-up action on the decisions of the Conference of Ministers at its fifth meeting on African Development Strategy in the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade: (agenda item 6 (a))

42. The Committee decided to postpone discussion on agenda item 5: - Appraisal of international economic relations as factors in African development.

43. A representative of the secretariat introduced briefly document E/CN.14/753 which set out the introduction and background to the Strategy and action so far taken towards the implementation of the decisions of the fourteenth session fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

44. A delegate wanted to know whether the documents for the Lagos OAU Economic Summit which OAU had distributed were the products of joint consultations between ECA and OAU.

45. In reply, it was pointed out that so far, ECA and OAU had collaborated in the preparation of the agenda for that Summit and that the work of the fifteenth session/sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers could be regarded as preparation of the ground for the Summit as required by Resolution AHG/Res.96 (XVI)/Rev.I of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity.

46. The Committee noted the contents of the document E/CN.14/753.

Translation of the strategy into operational terms at national subregional and regional levels (agenda item 6 (b))

Food and Agriculture (agenda item 6 (b) (i))

47. In introducing document E/CN.14/770, a member of the secretariat explained that the document had been prepared by an inter-agency working group convened jointly by OAU and ECA and comprising representatives of OAU, ECA, ADB, EAO, WFC and IFAD, which were all concerned about the state of agriculture in Africa, and especially about the production of food. It was essential for Governments to review their policies on the production of food. The paper did not cover all aspects of the problem but confined itself to making suggestions on priority areas.

48. Africa an agricultural continent, was steadily importing food. The main imports were cereals, especially wheat. The aim should be to reduce those imports by 50 per cent by 1985. Much food was lost through mismanagement, lack of initiative and inadequate government policies. The production of rice, maize, millet and sorghum should be increased. Since 80 per cent of Africa's food output was produced by small farmers, it should be the aim of policy-makers to help them to produce more of those cereals. It was vital for Africa to achieve food security since the continent was vulnerable to inclement weather and to the encroachment of the deserts. Livestock development was handicapped by a shortage of manpower in animal health, control and management and of feedstocks. As regarded fisheries, only 10 per cent of the fish caught went to African countries, the rest being exported since the African Governments were concerned only with revenue and not with the development of the fishing industry for local consumption. Document E/CN.14/770 made proposals to reverse that trend. He pointed out that reserves of wood were dwindling to such an extent that by the year 2000 Africa would be importing not only technology, manufactured goods and the like, but also wood. That process must be halted and reversed. As regarded agricultural services, it was essential for Africa to create institutions to deal with farm credit and the storage and industrialized processing of agricultural products. Without such institutions, the development of the agricultural sector would be slow.

49. With regard to training and research, he noted that the development of agricultural skills in Africa had been stagnant over the last century. The importation of agricultural technology was, for various reasons, particularly difficult. Training and research should, therefore, be undertaken locally if they were to make an impact on African agriculture.

50. On the subject of the costing he said it was estimated that about \$US 21 billion would be required by 1985 for Africa to make a break-through in agriculture. Fifty per cent of that sum must be produced by African countries themselves before aid was sought from the international community.

51. On implementation and monitoring, he pointed out that agriculture was first and foremost a national responsibility. The Inter-Agency Review Mission had, however, suggested terms of reference which would lead to the formulation of a document of action and not just another plan. If that document was to be effective, Governments must set up their own units on agriculture.

52. Several delegations congratulated the secretariat on its excellent presentation of the paper.

53. One delegation asked for clarification on various questions arising out of the whole paper - questions on hunger, food imports, government policies, the effect of raising prices of agricultural products on other sectors of the economy, how the figures contained in the document had been arrived at; mechanization and modernization of small farms; food security; how to increase food production; the time needed to complete studies; physical infrastructure, agricultural data for the continent, non-structured traditional farming and the effects of mechanization on it; the practicability of introducing modern means of communication on farms; the links between education, extension services and research; the paucity of resources; the need for farmers to produce without help from outside; counterpart contributions to match foreign aid and the connexion between the document under discussion and those submitted to the OAU Council of Ministers at its Special Session on Zimbabwe in connexion with the forthcoming Meeting of Heads of State and Government at Lagos.

54. It was stated in reply that all those questions would be dealt with later in the discussions when the document was discussed chapter by chapter.

55. Some delegations pointed out that the document ignored the problems created by the exodus of rural people to the towns and cities, the problem of aging rural workers, the organization of agricultural production, the relationship between crop choice and nutrition and the problem of making resources available to all farmers. The document was also criticized for failing to mention the special problems relating to root crops.

56. One representative felt that annexes to the document should be produced showing how the figures used in it had been reached.

57. One delegation suggested that an African organization, linked with other world organizations concerned with problems of food security, should be established to help African countries with their food problems. He also suggested that a way should be sought to preserve the fish resources in Africa's rivers and lakes.

58. A representative suggested that each country should concentrate on producing only those agricultural products that it was best suited to produce rather than trying to produce products to which its climatic or other conditions were not geared. She felt that would help Africa enormously in its search for self-reliance in food.

59. One representative pointed out that the production of cereals alone would not guarantee self-reliance in food. He felt some thought should also be given to the production of vegetable oils and oil-seeds. He also mentioned the bottleneck represented by the lack of regional co-operation in the production of agricultural and other implements needed to revolutionize agriculture in the region.

60. The importance of the participation of the farmer in agricultural development, was stressed and it was felt that emphasis should be placed on agrarian reform and rural development which constituted a vital factor in the accelerated development of agriculture.

61. It was widely held that mechanization of agriculture should be discussed fully as it had its own problems, some of which related to the drain on foreign exchange and dependence on developed countries for the importation of agricultural machinery. It was felt that efforts should be made to adapt implements to meet the requirements of local conditions and thus reduce reliance on the developed countries of Europe and North America.

62. It was pointed out that Document E/CN.14/770 did not cover all the suggestions for agricultural development contained in the Strategy for the Development of Africa. Other problems which had been omitted or insufficiently emphasized, included those relating to cash export crops and the production of high-protein foods, pulses and legumes; the feeding of children from local foods and the supply and delivery of agricultural goods. Attention was also drawn to the problems of deforestation, drought, soil erosion caused by rain, blights affecting cassava, the need for a strategy for agricultural development in the various ecological zones of Africa, the production of better fishing implements, and the need for improved livestock breeding.

63. It was felt that attempts should be made to improve the living conditions of farmers and enhance their capabilities with a view to enabling them to expand their production beyond the subsistence level and to play a useful role in the transformation of agricultural development in Africa.

64. Finally, attention was drawn to the importance of transport to agricultural development, the work done by the Club du Sahel in agricultural development in the Sahel, the need to develop agricultural manpower by concentrating on a whole groups of the farm population rather than on individual farmers and the connexion between agricultural development and population growth.

65. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA said he thought there was some confusion as to the nature of the document before the Committee. The document was not intended to be a study of all the food problems besetting Africa. It was basically a plan of emergency action for the next five years. The background to its preparation was that at the Freetown meeting of African Ministers of Agriculture held in 1976, FAO, ECA and OAU had been asked to undertake a global study of African food needs. That request had led to a

number of studies and other documents, which had been analysed at the FAO Regional Conference on Agriculture held in Arusha in 1978. That conference had, in turn, produced the African Regional Food Plan, which had served as the basic document used in the preparation of document E/CN.14/770 by the Inter-Agency Working Group.

66. The representative of the secretariat thanked the representatives for the excellent suggestions they had made in their interventions and said he hoped they would be able to put some of them into practice when they returned to their countries.

67. It would, of course, not be possible to reply to all the observations that had been made and he would attempt to give general answers only.

68. He explained that Document E/CN.14/770 did not represent a development strategy for Africa as such a strategy had been prepared as far back as 1978. It was important to understand that the time span selected (1980-85) was just a part of the time span chosen for the implementation of the African Food Plan which had been distributed and discussed the preceding year in Rabat.

69. As for the observations made by some representatives in respect of figures, he pointed out that each individual government was responsible for its own statistics and that it was legitimate not to agree with those contained in the document submitted by the Secretariat.

70. As far as mechanization was concerned, he said he felt there had been some misunderstanding in that certain delegations seemed to feel that the secretariat was promoting the mechanization of peasant farms. In fact, what the secretariat was trying to say was that there were certain African countries which had made considerable progress in mechanization and were certainly not going to abandon a mechanical approach to farming. The secretariat had merely wished to make it clear that those countries would be involved in a certain amount of expenditure. On the other hand, there were countries which still had to rely on small farms to increase their agricultural production, and those countries should strive to provide more inputs to such farms and to improve on traditional technologies.

71. While it was true that Document E/CN.14/770 contained no discussion of export commodities, the Ministers of Agriculture had in fact called on United Nations bodies and agencies and OAU to give top priority to the problem of food supply up to the year 2000. In the light of that directive, he felt it was appropriate to concentrate on the production of food for Africa.

72. The Committee expressed great concern at the omission of nutrition in the document. In that connexion, he pointed out that one of the few tables contained in the document under consideration was a table illustrating the decline in the level of nutrition in Africa and implying that something should be done about it. He reminded the participants that the greatest

food need was for cereals. They were essential not only for human but also for livestock. Indeed with no cereal crops, there could be no large-scale stock-breeding. It was the feeling of the secretariat that Africans should concern themselves first with providing the continent with enough food and then worry about the dietary refinements.

73. Where the relationship between research and extension was concerned, he assured the Committee that the secretariat recognized the need to bring research institutions and extension services together and to link them with national Governments. It also recognized the acute need for research and extension manpower, a question which would be dealt with under human resources development. Here again, he pointed out that in such a paper as the one under review, it was impossible to deal with the specific problems of individual countries.

74. In reply to the observation concerning the inadequacy of farm manpower in Africa, he agreed that the situation was depressing but said that in his view that was because government incentive and investment policies had had the harmful effect of enticing young rural workers to the cities. In view of the high quality of the social infrastructure in urban areas, it was understandable that people did not wish to return to the countryside. He suggested that governments might like to review their policies and see what action might be taken to stop the rural-urban drift.

75. With regard to the apprehension expressed as to counterpart contributions, he pointed out that both the Monrovia Declaration and the programme for the establishment of a New International Economic Order laid great stress on the wish of African countries to be self-reliant. In view of that goal, he felt it was not too much to ask for counterpart funds. The secretariat felt that even the poorest of countries could afford to devote more of its resources to the priority sector of agriculture since with no sound agricultural base, there could be no real development.

76. With regard to the principle of comparative advantages of trade, he pointed out that reference was made to that principle in the African Food Plan. In that connexion, the establishment of an African commodity intelligence service was now under consideration and would be discussed when the Ministers of Agriculture met at Lomé. It was hoped that the Ministers would also give some thought to ways of improving intra-regional trade.

77. It was pointed out that the secretariat had neglected agrarian reform, problems of drought and related issues in its paper. In that connexion, he pointed out that as many as five other intergovernmental organizations in Africa were already dealing with those problems. It had therefore been felt that it was enough merely to take note of them in the paper.

78. Finally, with regard to the question raised on the subject of stock-breeding, he pointed out that the duration of a breeding programme was about 40 years and that it was therefore probably impractical to tackle the problem in a five-year programme of action.

79. One representative said she was not satisfied with the replies made by the representative of the secretariat to some of the points which had been raised. In her view, the Strategy for the African Region for the Third United Nations Development Decade was the supreme document on which to base a programme of action for the development of food and agriculture in Africa whereas the Strategy identified 17 areas for inclusion in a programme of action, only 6 areas were covered in Document E/CN.14/770. Many of the 11 areas which had been omitted were of strategic importance, and if they were left out there it might prove difficult to obtain the funds needed for the implementation of the strategy. She sought assurance that those 11 areas would be incorporated either in the present programme of action or in the next one.

80. Another representative, referring to the strategy review missions discussed in paragraphs 144 through 146 of Document E/CN.14/770, noted that the intention of the secretariat seemed to be to spread such missions out over the five years covered by the programme of action. He felt that that approach was impractical and that it would be better to have recourse to the research services established in many African countries and to ask them to carry out the necessary studies within the next two years.

81. With respect to the comment made by the representative of the secretariat concerning stock-breeding, one representative pointed out that the 40 years required for a breeding programme could be divided up into five-year intervals. He said he still thought it was essential to start improving breeds immediately.

82. One of the representatives said that he was primarily concerned with whether the programme of action would yield practical results once it was applied. He asked the secretariat whether self-reliance in food could be achieved within the first five years and whether the related problems could be solved at the same time. Self-reliance in food depended on the overall programme for collective self-reliance, and he wanted to be sure that the Committee came up with an integrated document.

83. Another representative said there was some question in his mind with regard to the accuracy of the data on food losses contained in the document and asked that that data be refined. He also pointed out that mould and bacteria had repercussions on human health as well as causing food losses and said he felt that that side issue should also be dealt with.

84. One representative suggested that in paragraph 14 of the summary and recommendations, the recommendation for the "construction of appropriate storage and other facilities" should be changed to read "construction of appropriate storage, processing and other facilities."

85. One representative said, with reference to paragraph 29 of the main body of the text, that he was sceptical about the idea of establishing two sub-regional higher-level training institutions because of resource constraints. On the question of food reserves, he said he wondered how African countries, which were unable to feed themselves, could set aside 10 per cent of their total production as a reserve.

86. One representative told the Committee that studies carried out in his country had revealed that traditional systems of harvesting, drying, handling, storage and processing resulted in smaller losses than mechanized systems. He therefore suggested that an effort should be made to strengthen existing traditional systems.

87. In reply to these observations, the representative of the secretariat said that the degree to which self-reliance could be obtained over the next five years was not the same for all countries owing to different levels of manpower and resource availability. He said that if most countries undertook only half of the measures recommended, by 1985 Africa would be well on the way to self-reliance in food. As for the need for integration, the main point was not how much integration was implied by the document but how much integrating was done by the countries. The main concern of the governments should be to find solutions.

88. The figures contained in the document were aggregates for the continent as a whole. Whatever the loss, an effort should be made to reduce it.

89. He agreed that it was important to strengthen traditional operations but felt there was still a need to examine modern methods.

90. On the question of food production and the use of draught animals, a delegate pointed out that emphasis should have been put on better distribution of draught power among the farmers. A delegate speaking on food security expressed the view that the recommendation that each country should contribute 10 per cent of its production to a regional solidarity fund was unrealistic considering that many countries could not even ensure adequate food supply for their population. Emphasis should have been put on the intensification of food production first and foremost. It was pointed out that vegetables should have been given greater prominence in the document in the light of the fact that grains which constituted the focus of attention could not be consumed without being supplemented with vegetables. With regard to targets set for the continent in terms of self-sufficiency in food, it was felt that it would be more realistic if these targets were set in terms of crop production per country. The point was also made that even though mechanization could appear expensive it could be said to be indispensable especially with respect to land clearing for large-scale farming. It was however pointed out that mechanization should not be thought of in terms of massive importation of tractors and spare parts since this would only lead to further dependence on the outside world. Efforts should rather be made to develop local capabilities.

91. A delegate expressed the view that Document E/CN.14/770 should have given specific projections as to the amount of food that would be required in the years to come considering the fact that demographers have been able to give population projections for Africa right up to the year 2000. He also stated that specific research problems had to be identified and that in view of the high cost of research, African countries should co-operate in the use of existing research facilities. He emphasized the importance of physical infrastructure on agriculture and industry and also the importance of social infrastructure and pointed out that self-help programmes

could not succeed unless the people concerned were enlisted in them from the time they were formulated. As for the resources that would be required to achieve the targets set, he felt that a global cost should be given, and an appeal made to external sources of aid for financial assistance. He further spoke of the question of counterpart contribution which he considered to be a very crucial matter since inflation usually made a recipient country pay more than the share initially envisaged. Finally, he stressed the need for a study on production methods and links, land holdings and land reform to reduce reliance on small farms, which in fact were ill-suited to mechanization.

92. Another representative said the view that had been expressed that small-scale farmers are not receptive to improve technology was incorrect because the technology offered them were not adapted to their needs and were secondly were expensive. On the question of livestock breeding, the delegate stated that there was no reason for importing exotic breeds into the continent; local breeds could be improved upon to ensure better yields. Research should be oriented towards assisting small farmers by putting the latest breedings of biological research at their disposal. Pesticides should be used in such a way as not to endanger the environment. The delegate also pointed out that mechanization should not be aimed at replacing labour but at increasing production.

93. A delegate pointed out that the erroneous impression has been given in Document E/CN.14/770 that forest products were the only sources of energy in Africa. He also stated that resources were interpreted in the document only in terms of funds. Labour was a vital resource, and instead of engaging in heavy financial investments in the establishment of forest plantations, governments should be encouraged to mobilize their farmers in afforestation. While a lot of emphasis had been put on quantitative food production, nothing had been said about the qualitative improvement of food, and that certain vital food crops such as oil seeds have been neglected.

94. Responding to the various points raised by the delegates, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that the points raised were valid. On physical infrastructure, he stated that no global costing could be done in the document since each country had its own priority in this respect. He further stated that the institutions mentioned in the document referred to existing ones and the point being made was how to better utilise them in the interest of a larger number of countries. With regard to mechanization, he felt that each country should use what was available to her locally, without necessarily having recourse to importing heavy machinery and spare parts. The representative of the secretariat went on to suggest that to ensure mass involvement and participation in agriculture, the Governments of the countries in the region could set a special day aside as a "plant-a-tree-day". On composite flour, he said it should be encouraged, and that since related technical problems had been solved, it was upto Governments to take action. He mentioned Ethiopia as a country where this has been successfully done. In conclusion, he pointed out that though the document was not exhaustive, it had not in any way underrated items such as oil seeds, tubers and vegetables.

Industry (agenda item 6 (b) (ii))

95. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/CN.14/773 and referred to the following other documents: (E/CN.14/731, E/CN.14/745, E/CN.14/746, E/CN.14/769 and E/CN.14/772. He sketched briefly the history of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and their Follow-up Committee and the work which they have done in the field of industrial development and strategy for the African region. Document E/CN.14/773 which contained a strategy and programme of action for the industrial development of the region was prepared by the Follow-up Committee for submission to the Lagos OAU Economic Summit. This document reflected the perception of African Ministers of Industry on industrial development, their reappraisal of industrial policies of African governments, their thinking on the implications of the New International Economic Order and collective self-reliance, their reaction to the failure of UNCTAD III and the fear that the year 2000 would still find Africa the poorest region in the world. The document was deliberately brief and straight forward so as to make it easily comprehensible. The document took into account amongst other things, the Monrovia Declaration on the Establishment of a Sound Industrial Base, and the need for self-sufficiency in food. It identified various priority areas such as the engineering industry for the manufacture of simple tools, and the construction of the roads and railways; the chemical industry for the production of fertilizers and pesticides, pharmaceuticals and vaccines. The idea was to create an industrial capability which would be able to meet the changing basic needs of Africans such as the provision of shelter, clothing, food, etc., and the development of trade. The document had also proposed long-, medium- and short-term industrial development objectives with various targets of industrial growth to be achieved. The document contained recommendations for the achievement of the development objectives at the national, subregional and regional and at the international levels. At the subregion and regional levels existing institutions for the development of industry such as the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing and the African Industrial Development Fund, were to be strengthened; new institutions were proposed and the establishment of industrial zones suggested.

96. In selecting areas for industrial development, attention would be paid to those which would involve the use of local natural resources and the training of local manpower, and which would generate the establishment of other related economic activities. Industrialization should be based on a rational programme to avoid spreading efforts and resources too thinly on the ground. At the international level co-operation with developed countries in various aspects of industrial development, was stressed.

97. In the general debate that followed, a delegate pointed out that the document reflected the perception of African Ministers of Industries

on the industrial development of the region, but since it had been based on various working documents submitted by ECA, OAU and UNIDO, these organizations could not be dissociated from it. Though the document was brief because the Ministers of Industry wanted it so, the annex to it contained clarifications of some of the points made in the document. Several delegates, noting that the document could not be amended by the Committee, however, made various comments about it. These comments included the desirability of developing raw materials to feed industries; the Africanization of expatriate employees, who were strain on foreign exchange, and the involvement of Africans in the industrial process; reservations about industrial zones; and whether the long, medium- and short-term objectives proposed in the document would really improve the lot of Africans. It was emphasized that it was strange that since the developed countries had made it clear that they were not responsible for the industrial backwardness of the region, the document stressed the need for massive transfer of resources from them. Industrial development should be linked to agricultural development and should take into account the financial and other circumstances of individual African countries. Small and medium-scale industries in food and agriculture and chemicals should be encouraged. It was pointed out that the brevity of the document did not do justice to the important problems that it attempted to tackle. There were parts of the document that needed clarification. A reservation was expressed about intergovernmental multinational enterprises. It was suggested that the creation of the right atmosphere and more conducive conditions for intra-African investment and particularly the establishment of an effective regional capital market would be an alternative way of establishing such multinational enterprises. Steps should be taken to encourage Africans to buy locally manufactured products and that adequate steps operate standardization and quality control activities to ensure that industries produce goods that would be acceptable to consumers. Further attention was drawn to the need to review and revise existing industrial property laws through concerted activities at international forums. Most of the representatives took the view that industrial development objectives must take account of the export-oriented structure of industry in African countries which was the result of colonization. They also pointed out that the short-term component of the plan was already compromised by the past and the present because the effects of industrial conventions that had already been negotiated by most countries might well be to perpetuate economic dependence for quite some years to come. At the national level industries could be distributed and tax systems improved. At the subregional level, tax systems could be harmonized and industrial zones established. A delegate stated that the document should have been presented 10 years ago and not 20 years after Africa had achieved independence; he was doubtful whether the target set for industrial development by the year 2000 could be achieved. Harmonization of industries was desirable but this could only be achieved by political will.

98. Some delegates felt that the document should be amended, in order to make it comprehensible. A delegate proposed that paragraph 20 (b) of the document be amended to show how multinational, regional or subregional institutions were to be created, paragraph 21 (b) amended to reflect the taking into account of existing infrastructure and paragraph 22 (b) be amended to reflect the social course of the transfer of technology and paragraph 24 be amended so that subregional and regional consultations should precede consultations with international organizations. Another delegate felt that the harmonization of tax systems should have been referred to in paragraph 20 (a) of the document. A delegate wondered why the document was being discussed since the Strategy adopted by the Heads of State and Government contained a section on industrial development.

99. After the general debate, a representative of the secretariat gave the following explanations. He said that the document reflected not only what African countries wanted to do but also what they wanted to continue doing. In other words, they believed that the development of the African region depended on Africans themselves but felt that they should continue to negotiate at the international level. The need for external resources should not be ignored. As for the references to trade and payments, he preferred not to go into details as they had been fully dealt with in the paper on Trade. The secretariat continued to work in specific sectors, such as the engineering, building materials, chemical and food industries, etc. Already a lot of work had been done by the secretariat and thirteen countries had already been covered in respect of these industries. Referring to the Nairobi Symposium on industrialization, the representative of the secretariat stated that it reviewed past industrial strategies and their shortcomings. In answer to a question put by one delegate regarding the duplication of work involved in the preparation of the document when the industrial development of the region had already been dealt with in the Strategy, it was stated that the document was not intended to replace what had been agreed upon in the Strategy; on the contrary it tried to elaborate on it.

Programme of action for the development of natural resources in Africa: 1980-1985 (agenda item 6 (b) (iii))

100. Presenting the document, the representative of the secretariat described it as a composite paper covering mineral, energy and water resources with a fourth section on cartography and remote sensing. He spoke of natural and human resources as constituting the major asset of any country and said these had to be properly organized in order to ensure a better life for the population. He pointed out that the three resources specified in the document did not exhaust natural resources, and that the paper had said nothing about other resources such as forest and fishery because these were dealt with elsewhere. He stated that in the area of natural resources Africa gave the impression of "apparent scarcity" not because these resources were lacking but because they had not been tapped. And where the resources have been developed, they were under the

control of the transnational corporations. He further stated that the renewable sources of energy which Africa had in abundances at its disposal, such as biogas, solar energy and wind power have not been sufficiently developed. He said the situation in Africa called for co-operation among the countries of the region especially as these resources did not respect national boundaries. He therefore advocated an integrated approach to development.

101. In the discussion that followed, a delegate spoke of mineral resources as being of strategic importance and said their development required urgent action since the independence of the African countries depended on these resources. He then pointed out that he did not see how the preliminary studies mentioned in paragraph 16 (a) of document E/CN.14/762 could be completed by mid-1981. On the development and utilization of energy resources, he was of the opinion that until the energy potentials of the continent were identified it would be difficult to know what would be the requirements by way of trained personnel for their development.

102. Another delegate stated that not much was known about Africa's mineral resources and that the exploitation of the ones known was in the hands of the transnational corporations and that the policy of the natural resources was therefore that of the transnational corporations. He then pointed out that if Africa wanted to achieve self-reliance, this would have to be based on the development of its natural resource. He then went on to ask how Africa was going to achieve its objectives in agriculture and industry since the technical know-how was lacking. He recommended that African consultants should be allowed to undertake exploratory surveys to determine African natural resources and that African transnational corporations should be responsible for the development of these resources.

103. It was recommended by a delegate that the transnational corporations currently operating in Africa should always be made to turn over to the country concerned the basic data, maps and such other useful information in their possession at the end of their exploration.

104. Responding to the points above, the representative of the secretariat expressed gratitude to delegates for the relevant issues raised. On the time-limit for the completion of preliminary studies on mineral resources, he said it was by typographical error that it read mid-1981 and gave the correct time-limit as mid-1981. He stated that this date could be said to be realistic since work had already started on these studies.

105. As to the point made about acquiring fuller knowledge of our natural resources before embarking on training personnel, the representative of the secretariat said the two processes were so closely linked that it would not be advisable to suspend one while the other was being carried out, and that trained personnel would even be in a position to give a clearer knowledge of the nature of the resources. He then recalled a recent meeting of 20 experts on energy, where it was agreed upon that personnel training should be given priority.

106. On the question of what steps to be taken to ensure self-reliance in the development of the resources by 1985 in the light of their strategic importance, the representatives of the secretariat pointed out that when the document on science and technology was taken up, this matter would be clarified.

Human resources development, including development of indigenous entrepreneurship (agenda item 6 (b) (iv))

107. In introducing the paper the representative of the secretariat said that the paper recognized the weaknesses of the education provided in African States. He said that the system of education should therefore be revised to take development programmes into account. Consequently, the paper emphasized advanced training and the use of manpower through co-operation. Thus, the central message of the document was that Africa should seek its own salvation by investing in the intellectual and technical know-how of manpower.

108. Section I of the paper deals with the characteristics of Africa's human resources in outline. The rise in the rate of population growth from 2.7 per cent in the 1970s to 2.9 per cent in the 1980s, and the resulting pressures that the rise in population places on employment opportunities; housing, educational, health and social services; food and other consumer goods. So far national policies have not yet succeeded in dealing with these problems or in supplying the managerial, technical and supervisory manpower needed to deal adequately with all these problems.

109. Section II of the paper sees some of the constraints to development, innovation and change as being influenced largely by the quality of available manpower and the willingness of people to engage in the development process. The paper then examines the manpower and training requirements of all sectors of the economy - the basic industries, the food programme, the programme of the transport and communications decade, the science and technology action programme.

110. In Section III the paper calls for action based on the principle that the salvation of Africa lies in the hands of Africans working in Africa. The need for such action was considered by the Regional Conference of Training and Development held in Addis Ababa in December 1979. The Conference made several specific recommendations which are summarized in the annex to the paper.

111. The concluding section of the paper outlines policy decisions that African Governments must take and commitments they must make both at the national level and at the regional level.

(a) At the national level action aimed at achieving self-reliance in manpower development and full mobilization of human resources should establish high-powered national machinery for human resource planning that will formulate and co-ordinate training policies and programmes; establish a National Training Fund by Act of Parliament in order to deal with training needs in all sectors in a meaningful way; establish an African Training Development Fund to receive financial contributions from governments and the private sector which will enable governments to meet their financial obligations to various subregional and regional training institutions and the ECA Fellowship Programmes; review national policies, strategies and programmes in manpower development with special attention to:

- (i) Curricula;
- (ii) Eradication of mass illiteracy;
- (iii) Training of science and technology teachers;
- (iv) Use of indigenous consultants and expertise;
- (v) Promoting the growth of indigenous entrepreneurship;
- (vi) Labour-intensive technologies and income generating employment creation.

(b) At the regional level four activities are proposed to promote co-operation and collective self-reliance in manpower training and utilization. These activities are, first, the establishment of a Pan-African Training Development Trust Fund out of which training programmes may be financed; secondly, financial, political and moral support to be given to ECA-Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa. This programme aims to train 8,000 personnel by 1985 to staff basic industries, agriculture and food production, science and technology, etc. The programme is designed to assist in developing the teaching and research staff of Africa's regional and subregional training institutions. The programme calls for a contribution of at least \$US1.5 million annually for effective operation. Thirdly, support in financing and using the facilities of regional and subregional training and research institutions. Fourthly, according priority to the employment of African experts and consultancy organizations in addition to nationals.

112. The paper recognizes that in executing the programme it advocates, it will be necessary for African countries to get outside assistance. Such outside assistance should, however, be seen as being only supplementary to collective self-reliance of African countries themselves.

113. Finally, manpower training and mobilization of all available human resources constitute the critical effort by Africa to achieve accelerated development, change and progress. As such it must not be viewed in isolation but as part of the total effort to put the human factor, brains, skills, behind the production and service lines in all the critical sectors of industry, agriculture, transport and communications, natural resources, science and technology, and education.

114. Document E/CN.14/763 was in general well received. There were, however, a number of observations on it.

115. Quite a few delegations felt that not enough emphasis had been placed on training for rural workers. One representative referred to the need to establish a link between training in agriculture and training in nutrition, and also to recognize the barrier which custom placed on the initiative of manpower. It was also felt that more emphasis should be placed on the transformation of the technical conditions of production. In that respect, one representative said he felt that contracts should include clauses providing for the training of skilled manpower in their field of competence.

116. Another representative said she felt some emphasis should be placed on the need to train skilled manpower in the day-to-day operation of imported machinery, perhaps through TCDS arrangements. Training was also needed in the maintenance of such machinery.

117. A representative said that although he recognized the need for the development of womenpower, he thought a closer look should be taken at the school drop-out rate as between boys and girls. He also drew attention to paragraph 6 of the document under consideration, in which it was stated that "only 40 per cent" of the pupils in primary schools consisted of girls. He felt that the word "only" was inappropriate in that context in that 40 per cent was not too bad a showing.

118. The same representative said, with reference to the suggested establishment of a Pan-African Training Development Trust Fund, that, in his view, emphasis should rather be on bilateral co-operation among African States. Governments should earmark funds in support of exchange students. The need for a trust fund did not arise.

119. With reference to Annex II to the document, he said that the words "Lack of commitment" in sub-paragraph (d) under section B should be replaced by the words "lack of facilities", and that sub-paragraph (e) should begin "A marked bias on the part of some African Governments..." since he did not feel that the bias was a general phenomenon. Concerning sub-paragraph (h), he said he was not sure that non-nationals were in fact discriminated against through fees charged in educational and training institutions. His own Government, for example, charged lower fees for external students.

120. One representative pointed out that donors sending technicians to African countries seldom provided training for African counterparts of those technicians. He therefore felt that more emphasis should be placed on the need for on-the-job training. With regard to the training of middle-level personnel, he said that countries where such training was provided in training centres should be supported.

121. Another representative said she felt that not enough attention had been given in the document to the training of personnel for the various sectors of the economy and especially for the training of natural resources personnel. She also felt that too much emphasis had been placed on salaried employment. The capacity of absorption of the salaried sectors was rather limited. Forty per cent of the population of Africa consisted of young people, and they could not all be employed in modern sectors. She therefore thought it would be a good idea to recommend training for producers and others engaged in the informal sectors, which had a high absorption capacity. It might also be advisable to recommend the mobilization of the masses for work on community projects.

122. One representative suggested that more attention should be paid to the ratio of scientists, technicians and artisans. For every scientist trained, training should also be provided for five technicians and thirty artisans.

123. The representative of ICAO said that, at the recent meeting of his organization in Arusha, it had been observed that one of the major manpower requirements of civil aviation was in the field of managerial and supervisory training. He therefore felt that the proposed action decision contained in paragraph 4 (f) of the document under consideration might be presented in a way which put more emphasis on the importance of management in the determination of personnel requirements in each State. He agreed with the representative who had commented on the need to train technicians not only to run but to maintain equipment purchased abroad. He also pointed out that standardization of training was essential if there were to be exchanges of personnel in Africa. Finally, he said that ICAO had found that many persons who had received training were no longer working in the discipline in which they had been trained. He therefore felt there was a need for Governments to look into the problems of retaining personnel in the fields in which they had been trained.

124. The representative of IMCO drew attention to the importance of training maritime personnel in Africa since maritime transport was essential to development. He reminded the participants that his organization was contributing to the creation of regional maritime training institutes in Africa and mentioned, in particular, the projects for the establishment of maritime academies at Abidjan and Accra. He hoped that more emphasis could be placed on the need to strengthen those projects and on the importance of maritime training in general.

125. The representative of the secretariat thanked the participants for their comments and assured them that they had been noted by the secretariat.

126. In reply to questions raised by some of the participants, he explained that three training funds were mentioned in the paper. The first was a fund to develop national training in all sectors. The second was really a budgetary provision for fellowships and scholarships for the training of students from other African countries, and the third was a regional training fund whose establishment had been recommended at the manpower and training meeting held in Addis Ababa in December 1979, in an attempt to provide support for regional and subregional institutions in Africa, including the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa. He further explained that the Expanded Programme had been approved in Khartoum by the Executive Committee in 1978. Pursuant to that decision, the secretariat had written to member States requesting their support. So far most of the support was being provided by the Netherlands although some African countries had contributed funds. Member States were also being asked to make contributions in kind, but he stressed that contributions were not obligatory.

127. Since the agenda did not include an item on social and cultural matters, the representative of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute was given permission to address the Committee. He explained that the institute was engaged in research on crime and the treatment of offenders. Regional centres had been established in Latin America, Asia and Egypt. As yet there was no centre in Africa South of the Sahara, but the Institute was ready to help African countries to deal with any problems which lay within its competence. He pointed out that there were negative aspects of development, one of which was the proliferation of crime. If crime was not taken into consideration, many development objectives could not be achieved. One of the conclusions of the fourth United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders had been that social defence planning shall be an integral part of national planning. The Conference had also found that no country could afford to exclude social defence elements in its overall social and economic planning and that all countries should allocate adequate resources to that end.

Institution building for economic and technical co-operation
including measures for strengthening (agenda item 6 (b) (ix))

128. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/752. In his introduction, he drew participants' attention to the fact that several African multinational institutions had been established under the aegis of ECA in conformity with resolutions adopted by African governments.

Unfortunately, however, a great majority of these institutions, particularly those concerned with the development of natural resources such as the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys at Ile-Ife and the Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping in Nairobi, had been supported by only a few African countries although other African countries had taken advantage of the facilities they provide. Apart from the paucity of membership, there was a disturbing tendency for member States not to pay their contributions. To overcome these problems which affected the development of African multinational institutions, it was suggested that African countries which were active parties to decisions calling for the establishment of multinational institutions, should join the institutions when they were established. With respect to the financing of the operation of multinational institutions, it was suggested that a common formula for the assessment of contributions by member States should be formulated by the Conference of Ministers so as to enable African countries to know fairly and precisely their total outlay in respect of multinational institutions. On the other hand, the Conference of Ministers could alternatively decide what annual lump sum should be paid by each African country in respect of such institutions as may be determined by the Conference of Ministers. Biennial meetings of African countries to determine their contribution to multinational institutions was also suggested, so also the levying of a modest tax by African countries for such purpose. It was proposed that in addition, one of the conditions laid down for the honour of hosting a multinational institution should be that the host country should guarantee to keep an institution alive by meeting a stated percentage of the operational costs of the institution concerned. In this regard, the encouraging support given by Nigeria, Kenya and Libya to the following multinational institutions hosted by them, was mentioned: the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys, the Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping and the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development.

129. In the general discussion that followed several delegates pointed out that there seemed to be too many multinational institutions and since many African countries were poor, no new ones should be established until the question had been thoroughly studied. Existing national institutions should also be considered where appropriate, for conversion into multinational institutions before new ones were established. It was also pointed out that since Metropolitan governments continue to give scholarships to nationals from their ex-colonies to study abroad and since national training institutions also rivaled African multinational institutions, some African countries did not participate in the activities of the multinational institutions or paid their contributions towards such institutions. Some delegates stated that political will should be differentiated from the ability to pay, however, since the ability to pay was the most important factor, ways should be found to enable the least developed African countries to benefit from the facilities offered by multinational institutions without having to pay too much or not at all. It was suggested that the number of the signatory states required to establish a multinational institution should be increased so as to ensure a reasonable number of member States for such an institution.

130. With respect to the non payment of contributions by member States of multinational institutions, it was proposed that institutions should be more determined in the collection of the contributions and should give sufficient notices to member States of the payment of contribution due. A delegate suggested that the financial difficulties of multinational institutions were not always due to the financial constraints of the member States but were caused simply by their unwillingness to pay. It was felt that the proposals made in document E/CN.14/752 to ensure the availability of adequate financial support for multinational institutions would only work if member States were willing to pay. A delegate wondered whether the poor record of multinational institutions was what dissuaded African countries from becoming members of multinational institutions.

131. The representative of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organization informed the Committee that for the budget years 1975/1977 only 13 out of 25 States members of the Association had paid their contributions and for the budget years 1978/1979 only 9 out of 29 potential States members paid their contribution. For the two financial years only 5 States members paid their contributions in full. He also informed the Committee that the Government of Morocco was constructing a building which would be used to house his Association as well as other multinational institutions.

132. It was suggested that ECA should appraise the usefulness of the existing multinational institutions with a view to the co-ordination and rationalization of their activities.

133. In reply to the comments made in the general debate, a representative of the secretariat explained that the appraisal of existing multinational institutions with a view to the co-ordination and rationalization of their activities was an on-going activity being undertaken by the secretariat and that the secretariat was also constantly seeking ways in which existing national institutions could be converted into multinational ones. Recently, the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers had been engaged in the exercise of converting the national institutes for demographic studies in Ghana and Cameroon into multinational institutes to serve respectively, English-speaking and French-speaking countries. He also drew attention to the training that had been given to many nationals of many ECA member States at IDEP and the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys at Ile-Ife. The reason for the poor support shown by African countries to these institutions were not because of their poor training record. In answer to a question asked during the general debate, it was explained that Refugees could study at IDEP. It was agreed that document E/CN.14/752 could be sent to the Lagos OAU Economic Summit by the ECA Conference of Ministers together with their comments thereon.

Transport and Communications (agenda item 6 (b) (vi)):

134. In introducing this subitem, the Chairman pointed out that the programme of action in transport and communications had already been approved by the competent Ministers. Document E/CN.14/764 referred to the implementation of that programme.

135. The representative of the ECA secretariat in presenting document E/CN.14/764 on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa underscored:

- (a) the work done by ECA since the proclamation of the Decade;
- (b) the organization and results of the pledging conference held in New York on 20 November 1979;
- (c) action undertaken by ECA since the pledging conference;
- (d) finally, the responsibility of African countries to ensure the Decade's success and to prepare its second phase.

136. Actually, since the adoption of resolution 291 (XIII) by the ECA Conference of Ministers in March 1977 which made the idea of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa a reality, 1980 could be considered as the true starting point of the implementation of the programme for the first phase of that Transport and Communications Decade.

137. During the past two years, in collaboration with the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the African intergovernmental organizations, a great deal of work was done under the supervision and co-ordination of ECA, which was named "directing body" by the United Nations General Assembly. In that respect, tribute should first of all be paid to UNDP which provided ECA with the financial means (\$US1,500,000) to carry out its task.

138. ECA undertook the following activities in succession:

- preparation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade by sending missions of consultants to countries;
- formulation of a global strategy for the Decade;
- convocation of several working groups;
- convocation of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning which approved the global strategy for the Decade and the \$US8.9 million programme to carry out the first phase (1980-1983);
- preparation of Volumes I and II of the Decade.

139. Volume I contained the comprehensive strategy, objectives of the Decade as well as structures and mechanisms to implement the Decade.

140. Volume II which was subdivided into 12 parts contained index cards for the 771 projects approved by the Ministers. There were 550 projects for transport totalling \$US 8 billion 342 million and 221 projects for communications totalling \$US 514 million.

141. In preparation for the pledging conference which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had convened in New York on 20 November 1979, ECA undertook a series of sensitization missions to donor countries and financing institutions.

142. ECA then held in New York a meeting of the Co-ordination Committee for the Decade on 12 November 1979 and the preparatory conference for the pledging conference on 13 November 1979.

143. At the pledging conference in New York, African countries pledged a total of \$US155,558. Other countries and financial institutions pledged \$US6.3 billion to finance the programme of the Decade.

144. The aim of document E/CN.14/764 was first to describe activities carried out by ECA since the pledging conference in New York. It also gave some indication of what ECA expected from African countries and donors in the implementation of current and future phases of the programme, including the execution of 221 specific research projects.

145. The results of the sensitization missions and the pledging conference made it clear that the success of the implementation of the \$US8.9 billion programme depended primarily on the African States themselves.

146. African States must first of all respect the programme which they themselves had approved and give it the priority which is deserved in their national development plans. They should then submit the projects to the various sources of financing and provide ECA with the necessary means to enable it to act efficiently as the directing body and to prepare phase II of the Decade.

147. The activities undertaken by ECA after the pledging conference resulted in an effective beginning to the implementation of the first phase of the programme. Projects having found sources of financing totalled more than \$US 2 billion at that time. Details were given in the annexes of document E/CN.14/764.

148. Finally it should be emphasized that Africa could not effectively ensure its economic development, increase trade, reduce waste in the agricultural and food sectors, and develop its industrial complexes unless it first developed and integrated its transport and communications network.

149. In the general debate that followed, one delegate said that he did not share the view that most African markets were too small and restricted to encourage the development of national industry. As for the special fund, his country wished to see it financed by external sources so that African countries could concentrate their efforts on national projects.

150. The representative of UPU informed the Technical Preparatory Committee of the activities carried out by his organization to finance postal projects of the Decade. He considered that annexes I to IV were incomplete and ECA should finalize them with a view to presenting them at the OAU Economic Summit at Lagos. He then suggested that document E/CN.14/764 should contain a paragraph on the promotional activities of other organizations. He expressed the desire that the meeting of the Co-ordination Committee for the Decade should be held as soon as possible and asked for information on the date of that meeting. He also said that he wished that in the future reports concerning the Transport and Communications Decade should first be considered in the interorganization co-ordination committee set up in the framework of the Decade.

151. The representative of ICAO first spoke of the meeting on African and Indian Ocean air navigation held at Arusha from 20 November to 12 December 1979 to discuss the facilities and services which a country should have in the area of air navigation. He announced that during that meeting the representative from France had made a proposal, which was unanimously adopted by the participants, to the effect that the results of that meeting should be submitted to ECA. The results of that meeting, convened as part of the programme of the Decade, were voluminous and had already been distributed to States and ECA for the purposes of the Decade. He presented the document prepared by his organization on the "African development strategy during the third development decade" and asked the Committee to approve it in order to incorporate it in the comprehensive strategy for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

152. The representative of ITU deplored the fact that national transport and telecommunications programmes had not been reflected in the document. He regretted the fact that activities of the specialized agencies, including ITU, had not been mentioned either. With respect to the amount of pledges made in New York, he stated that the sum of \$US 6.3 billion pledged might not reflect the situation accurately as it might contain amounts related to national projects not included in the programme of the Decade. He went on to say that the Panafstel co-ordination committee had convened an African conference on telecommunications at Monrovia in December 1980. That conference would consider the strategy and programme for the rest of the Decade. He recommended such an approach by subsectors for the Decade.

153. Another delegate emphasized the importance of the link between Europe and Africa by way of Gibraltar, Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal and connecting with Lagos-Dakar-Ndjamena trans-west African routes at Dakar, Bamako and Abidjan. He referred to ECA resolution 342 recommending the establishment of that link and proposed the establishment of a committee consisting of all the above-mentioned countries plus ECA and the European Economic Community to consider ways and means of carrying out that project.

154. The representatives of IMCO and UNDP pointed out some errors in the document concerning contributions of donors and suggested that the secretariat should make the necessary corrections. In this connexion the UNDP representative provided some clarification on the role of UNDP and the specialized agencies of the United Nations responsible for implementing the projects financed by UNDP as part of the programme of the Decade.

155. The representative of UNDP further stated that another approach was needed to mobilize funds for the Decade. He suggested that instead of convening other large pledging conferences to finance the entire programme, it might be more effective to have ECA organize conferences of donors to deal with certain types of programmes.

156. In response to questions raised by delegates, the representative of the secretariat stated that he had taken note of all proposals made, that they would be included in the final report and that all omissions in annexes I to IV were due to the fact that the report referred to the situation which existed as of 15 March 1980 and that information received after that date had not been considered.

157. With respect to the date of the meeting of the Co-ordination Committee, ECA agreed with the representative of UPU that it should be held as soon as possible. It would even be desirable to hold it before next July's ECOSOC session, but at that time no date had been set.

158. As to the proposal made by the representative of ITU, ECA felt that a sectoral conference was not qualified to review the global strategy and the first phase of the programme. That question was within the competence of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

159. In response to the problem raised by a delegate concerning the Africa-Europe road link, the representative of ECA recognized its importance but unfortunately that project was not part of the programme of the Decade. However it was a timely question and had been discussed at the Nairobi conference organized by FIR.

160. Finally, the representative of the secretariat welcomed the statement made by the representative of UNDP on UNDP's continuing commitment to the Decade and on the best way to approach the pledging conference.

161. The Committee then discussed the proposal made by ICAO to include implementation of a regional African and Indian Ocean air navigation plan in the agenda. After listening to the explanations given by the representative of the ECA secretariat on the right of a specialized agency of the United Nations to introduce a proposal at ECA meetings, the Committee decided nevertheless not to discuss ICAO's proposal.

International and intra-African trade and finance:
(agenda item 6 (b) (vii))

162. In introducing this subitem of the agenda, the representative of the secretariat explained that the two documents before the Committee (E/CN.14/776 and 777), consisted in the report adopted by the African Ministers of Trade at their sixth session held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 20 March 1980 and an African strategy in the field of international trade and finance, which the Ministers had adopted at the same session. He said that the following sentence shall be incorporated in paragraph 16(a) of document E/CN.14/777. By the year 2000 the share of Africa in world industrial production should read 2 per cent, and efforts should be made to increase its share in world trade in manufactures within the framework of the 30 per cent target set for the developing countries as a whole" After drawing attention to two errors of a formal nature in the French version of document explained that the two documents were closely related in that the strategy was based on the considerations reflected in the report.

163. At their sixth session the Ministers had concluded that African countries had derived very little benefit from the international economic negotiations in which they had participated over the past 2 years. In drawing up the African Strategy, the Ministers had taken as one of their primary considerations the fact that, as things now stood, African trade was geared first and foremost to the market economy countries. The ministers had decided that it was imperative to propose a new strategy for submission to the Economic Summit in Lagos. It was decided that in that strategy, international trade relations must be construed differently than they were at present, and that the establishment of permanent negotiating machinery at the national and regional levels was one of the necessary steps in that direction. They also agreed that the restructuring of commercial and financial relations, did not mean ceasing to have trade and financial relations with the rest of the world but rather that those relations should be rethought. In that connexion, the ministers thought it was important first to change the composition of exports to developed countries; second, to reorientate trade towards the developing countries and third, to strive towards great diversification of trade so that more benefit could be derived from trade with the centrally planned economies.

Finally, the key to the whole strategy was the emphasis it placed on the expansion of intra-African trade, which now mounted to only 5 per cent of Africa's total trade. The focus on intra-African trade had been conceived not only as a means of unity and of diversification of trade but, more importantly, as an instrument for the promotion of the mutual development of trade by African countries.

164. The proposals for realizing the Strategy were based on the Monrovia Declaration, in which the emphasis was on trade in commodities, primarily food. Among other provisions contained in the Strategy were those for the reduction of trade barriers and for the dissemination of information. Countries were also encouraged to participate in the operation of a number of Pan-African trade organizations, such as AATPO and ARSO. They were also encouraged to strengthen the movement to establish clearing house as a major step towards the establishment of a monetary union. Other proposals included the creation of an African Monetary Fund and of African multinational production corporations and joint ventures.

165. In the discussion which followed one delegation pointed out that the first of the recommendations made by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in respect of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development referred to the pursual of "satisfactory solutions to the major unresolved issues" whereas no mention of those issues was mentioned in the main body of the report. Moreover, the recommendations contained no reference to the preferences offered African countries under the Global System of Preferences and other preferential systems, nor was mention made of the MTN tariff reductions. He pointed out that so far no provision had been made for the loss of those benefits. He noted that all the recommendations on the reform of the international monetary system related to African monetary systems. He thought some mention should be made of the desirability of strengthening the voting power of African countries in IMF. Finally, he noted with regard to the recommendation on strengthening the negotiating capability of African countries, that the assistance of ECA and bilateral aid would be required, especially where training and the dissemination of information were concerned.

166. Another representative observed that the participation of African countries in the international trade negotiations and related forums left much to be desired. It stood to reason that African interests could not be taken into account in the negotiations if there was no participation. With regard to the documents before the Committee, he noted that recommendation 3(a) in document E/CN.14/776 advised member States which had not yet signed the MTN documents to consider not doing so. However, the Tokyo Round negotiations were limited to two or three questions which were in obedience and some of them were of critical importance to Africa. With regard to the extension of the GST system referred to in recommendation 16 (a), he pointed out that its extension had been accepted at the fourth session of UNCTAD. The question was for how long it would be extended.

167. Turning to document E/CN.14/777 and its reference to the need to restructure the rules and principles of international trade, he said he thought it was desirable for African countries to support the organization of an international conference to redefine those principles and rules. As for the amendment introduced by the representative of the secretariat to paragraph 16 (a) of the Strategy, he pointed out that the objective of 30 per cent had not been set and was only a proposal by the developing countries. Account should be taken of the global system of trade preferences currently under discussion among the developing countries and of the possibilities of co-operation among the State trading organizations of developing countries. It had been agreed only by the developed countries. With regard to the paragraphs on intra-African trade, he said he thought reference should be made to the effectiveness of the Global System of Preferences in eliminating trade barriers among African countries and to the incentive provided by co-operation among state trading organizations.

168. One representative expressed concern that the issues addressed in the documents under consideration concerned international trade only although domestic trade was also of great importance to African countries. In some countries the level of domestic trade and its organization was so inadequate that unless something was done within the next five years, the situation would become critical. He also thought some mention should have been made of the damage done by trade to some countries where trade was emphasized to the neglect of production because trade was more lucrative than production. With regard to the strategy for negotiations, he said he was not happy with the interaction between UNCTAD and GATT. He felt that African Governments were ill-prepared for GATT negotiations. The African position should be clearly stated before African Governments attempted negotiations. If that was done, they would not be reduced to waiting to see what emerged from the negotiations and then rejecting it.

169. The representative of UNCTAD pointed out that the aims of UNCTAD and GATT were different. Where the GATT multinational negotiations were concerned, UNCTAD, with UNDP assistance, had mounted a technical assistance project aimed at helping the developing countries to participate in the negotiations. He said he felt that many of the omissions from which Africa suffered resulted from the fact that African countries were not well enough equipped. With regard to the recommended machinery for co-operation, he drew the attention of the secretariat to the machinery recommended by the Conference of Co-operation among ACP countries at Nairobi some time ago. That machinery was now being established with the help of UNCTAD.

170. A representative said, with regard to paragraph 35, that he thought it was too much to propose that African States eliminate trade regulatory measures. It would be more realistic to suggest that they be gradually reduced. With regard to paragraph 20 on the establishment of African multinational production co-operations and joint venture, he said that that had been one of the most hotly debated issues at the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, at which it had been unanimously agreed to eliminate all reference to specific countries and pilot projects. He noted that those countries and projects were all mentioned in the final document.

171. In his reply the representative of the secretariat reminded the Committee that both the report and the Strategy before them had been produced by the African Ministers of Trade. Although they had been finalized by the secretariat in the light of the discussions at the final meeting, the final texts had been seen by the Chairman of the Conference. With regard to the observation that no mention had been made to the international monetary system outside of Africa, he said it was his feeling that the Ministers had felt that before African countries could participate in monetary and financial arrangements, they must put their own house in order by making arrangements at their own level. As for the comment on the 30 per cent target, he said that while it was true that the target had been proposed by the developing countries and it had not been accepted by the developed countries, he thought the Ministers had wished to point out that efforts should still be made to attain the 30 per cent. As for the criticism that the Ministers had failed to give sufficient attention to domestic trade in their strategy, he pointed out that in paragraph 44 reference was made to the urgent need for African countries to restructure their domestic trade, but he believed that in so far as the strategy was a strategy in the field of international trade and finance, Ministers had referred to domestic trade only to the extent that it had an impact on international trade.

Environmental considerations for self-reliant economic development in Africa E/CN.14/755 (agenda item 6 (b) (x))

172. Presenting the document, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that it surveyed the environmental dimensions of activities in the area of development planning within the framework of problems relating to environmental protection, conservation and rehabilitation. He referred to environmental considerations as ecologically sound principles that had to be applied to development and described these as new concepts geared to an improvement of living in the biosphere. Among the questions the document attempted to answer, were the relevance of environmental dimensions in the constant conflict between development and environment, the extent to which environmental considerations were compatible with development and the eradication of poverty. He said the document was in 3 parts, the first part dealing with the environmental dimensions of development activities in Africa, the second part with the incorporation of environmental issues in development analysis and planning and the third part being the conclusions and proposed action plan for Africa. The various subsections in the first related to environmental protection, environmental conservation and environmental rehabilitation. The second part dealt with efforts by international agencies at environmental conservation and the situation in each member States; in this regard, the most important aspect was the assessment of the impact of development on the environment using the cost-benefit analysis techniques. The third part which dealt with the conclusion and action plan, indicated the major areas of environmental concern in the region where action was called for including the setting up of institutions for the co-ordination of environmental activities.

173. One participant sought clarifications concerning the aims of the future African Monetary Fund and its being open to countries from outside the region. He was skeptical about the viability of such a body which would require African countries to make appreciable financial efforts which would be difficult in that they had sizable chronic balance-of-payments problems and some could hardly cope with the increases in the quotas or capital of international financing agencies.

174. On the subject of intra-African trade he observed that too much stress was being placed on financing problems whereas he believed that the lack of complementarity was the basic problem.

175. In the general debate that followed a delegate expressed concern over paragraph 49 (b) of document E/CN.14/755 concerning the creation of central institutions for environmental activities and stated that the institutional apparatus recommended was not feasible in the light of the fact that the environmental problem was too broad and that there were already in existence, in various countries, environmental units such as refuse disposal boards or sanitation units which would not be able to function properly if a central organization were superimposed on them.

He called for mass education and legislation on environmental issues and identified those areas as those for which a central organization could be useful. Another delegate expressed delight at the fact that poverty was now recognized as an environmental problem. He pointed out, however, that though the document was emphatic on prevention and rehabilitation, it was silent on rational utilization of resources. He felt that the introduction to the document should have given guidelines as to what was the environmental development concept and made proposals for the methodology of incorporating this concept in national development plans. The point was made that the document should have proposed realistic arrangements necessary for environmentally sound development. It was also felt that there was a great need to improve and increase knowledge on development and environment.

176. The representative of UNSO observed that drought had been ignored as an environmental problem and that no mention had been made of UNSO efforts to assist the Sahelian Countries, Member States of CILSS, in redressing the effects of this phenomenon. He also pointed out that paragraph 47(b) and (c) could have been combined since their relationship was that of cause and effect. He rejected the expression "native trees" in paragraph 47(c) and suggested "suitable species with commercial value" e.g., Gum Arabic and Jajoba. Referring to the sea, a delegate felt that paragraph 47(d) was not adequate. He pointed out that pollution drifted toward the coast with damaging effects on fauna and flora. He stated that regional measures empowering coastal countries to combat sea pollution were needed since no country could single-handed deal with sea pollution. He said he hoped those measures would result in the establishment of a regional structure to combat pollution in the Gulf of Guinea, similar to the one in Malta which avoid the Mediterranean. Another project of the same kind to the Red Sea was currently under study. On air pollution the meeting was informed of ICAO environmental programme as aircraft operations could adversely affect the air environment. The possible effects of supersonic aircraft operations on the ozone layer was given as an example. It was pointed out that paragraph 47(g) related to air pollution and it was therefore suggested that the sub-item should be entitled: air pollution control since no mention of air pollution had been made in the document.

177. Responding to issues raised, the representative of the secretariat admitted that it was virtually impossible to have a central body for the control of environmental pollutions but that there could be one oriented towards creating mass awareness of environmental problems, legislating and monitoring activities in the area of pollution control. He said the attention given to this problem varied from country to country and that it was up to national Governments to take measures considered appropriate. He admitted the shortcomings of the document in that it had left out any mention of realistic arrangements necessary for environmentally sound development, among other things. He pointed out, however, that environmental development planning was new and a lot of new ground was being

explored through UNEP. He clarified the issue of "native trees" and said what was meant was indigenous trees that were able to resist drought. He further stated that if efforts were being made to combat drought effects, the indigenous trees should be preferred to exotic ones; he, however, admitted that the term "suitable species" could also be used. On the lack of regional plans against sea pollution, he mentioned UNESCO as one of the agencies working in this area. The modification introduced to the subheading at paragraph 47(g) was accepted since the paragraph itself had to do specifically with air pollution. In conclusion, it was pointed out that the recommendations of the document would be taken along with the relevant section on environment and development in the Strategy for the African Region.

Comprehensive New Programmes of Action for the African Least Developed Countries (agenda item 6 (b) (xi))

178. Under this agenda item, the representative of the secretariat presented the following three documents: E/CN.14/766, "Report of the Conference on the Problems and Prospects of the African Least Developed Countries (Addis Ababa 17-22 March 1980)"; E/CN.14/775, "Strategies, Priorities and Policies for the African Least Developed Countries: Proposals and recommendations submitted by the Conference on the Problems and Prospects of the African Least Developed Countries convened in accordance with Conference of Ministers resolution 353 (XIV) Addis Ababa, 17-22 March 1980" and ECA/CONF/LDC's, "Quantitative Analysis of the Problems and perspectives of the African least developed countries in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade."

179. The representative of the secretariat in introducing these documents first of all traced the evolution of activities related to the least developed countries. He dwelt in particular on the special measures that had so far been taken in favour of the least developed countries but which had not yielded any satisfactory result. He referred to ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 353 (XIV) in which the Executive Secretary was called upon inter alia to draw up a special programmes of aid and assistance for the least developed countries. He also referred to the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-reliance and framework for negotiation as well as UNCTAD resolution 122 (V), by which the International Community decided to launch a comprehensive and substantially expanded programme for the least developed countries with both immediate and longer-term phases. He said that programme was to be undertaken within the framework of the New International Economic Order and steps for its implementation were well laid out in the resolution. He referred to General Assembly resolutions 34/203 and 34/210, by which it was decided to convene a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1981 to finalize, adopt and support the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least developed countries and UNCTAD's

Intergovernmental Group on the least developed countries was designated as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. At its first session held at Geneva from 4 to 6 February 1980, the Preparatory Committee had taken a number of decisions relating, among other things, to the review of the progress made under the Immediate Action Programme, 1979-1981; recommendations on the least developed countries for inclusion in the International Development Strategy and preparations for the United Nations Conference on the least developed countries.

180. The Conference on the Problems and Prospects of the African Least Developed Countries held from 17 to 22 March 1980 at Addis Ababa had been convened against the background he had described and in accordance with provisions made in ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 353 (XIV). The Conference had considered the implications of the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for external resources mobilization and the machinery for its implementation in Africa. It had also reviewed the critical circumstances of the African least developed countries, identified areas requiring urgent action and adopted a set of proposals and courses of action for the African least developed countries.

181. With regard to the priority areas for action, both the report and the set of proposals adopted by the Conference emphasized self-reliance in food, the establishment of a sound industrial base, transport links, manpower training, the production and conservation of energy and efforts to redress drought and combat desertification. Appropriate recommendations were also made in respect of improving transit-transport facilities for land-locked countries, the special problems of the least developed countries in the context of economic co-operation arrangements among developing countries and the volume and ways and means of external assistance. With regard to the rôle of ECA on the least developed countries during the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Conference had noted that ECA had a special role to play in the monitoring, review and evaluation of the implementation of the Comprehensive New Programme of Action. Furthermore since ECA covered two thirds of the World's least developed countries UNCTAD should work closely with ECA in the preparations of the 1981 Conference. The Conference also believed that ECA should be involved in the proposed donor-recipient consultations to review the country programmes envisaged in the Comprehensive New Programme of Action. It was strongly recommended that a Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries be instituted as a subsidiary organ of the Commission and that a Unit should be established within the secretariat to be responsible for the special problems of the African least developed countries. Finally the representative of the secretariat said that the Conference recommended that ECA should expand its work on projections for the least developed countries and include a special section on the least developed countries in the annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa.

182. In the brief general debate that followed, the observer from France expressed the view that care should be taken so as not to over-enlarge the category of LDCs by providing for vague and imprecise conditions for countries which might qualify as LDCs. He was of a view that national versions of plans of action of the global strategy of assistance to LDCs should be the responsibility of each country concerned assisted by partners. He felt that there should be closer collaboration between the various United Nations bodies in the provision of assistance to LDCs and that LDCs whether within Africa or outside, should all form a common front. A delegate proposed that paragraph 73 of document E/CN.14/766 which proposed that LDCs should be encouraged to formulate five-year period programmes, should be amended to reflect a longer term of programming broken up into periods of five years. One participant pointed out that despite many declarations and recommendations in favour of the least developed and land-locked countries not enough concrete measures had been taken for those countries. He therefore called for increased assistance to those countries in order to solve their problems, which were often of a structural nature particularly by increasing the resources allocated to the United Nations Special Fund for land-locked countries. One participant pointed out that the list of least developed countries had been drawn up when a good number of countries which were independent today had still been colonies. That meant that the statistics on those countries could only be those provided by the colonialists to give a false picture of the economic conditions in those countries. As the economic situation of the countries mentioned in resolution 8 (III) of the Intergovernmental Group on least developed countries namely Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Principe and Seychelles was well known, those countries should be recommended for inclusion in the category of least developed countries within the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade. He also expressed the view that the case of Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé and Principe and Seychelles to be considered as LDCs, should be taken as a whole.

183. In reply, the representative of the secretariat stated that the criteria for qualification as an LDC adopted in 1971 had been found to be defective and the issue would be re-examined by the United Nations Committee on Development Planning. The Conference of the Problems and Prospects of the African Least-Developed Countries had naturally given an African orientation to the problems of African LDCs. African LDCs could not at such a Conference, speak for other LDCs. It was further explained that programmes of assistance for LDCs covered the entire decade but that project components for the United Nations Conference on LDCs only were to be formulated to cover a time span of five years. He pointed out that paragraph 81 of E/CN.14/766 envisaged the consideration of Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé and Principe and Seychelles as a whole, as LDCs. Finally, the representative of the secretariat apologized for a mistranslation in the French text which had misled a delegate.

Science and Technology for Development (agenda item 6 (b)(v))

184. In introducing this sub-item of the agenda, the representative of the secretariat referred in particular to documents E/CN.14/742, 757, 771 and 774.
185. He said the developing countries, spurred on by the example of the industrialized countries, had come to recognize that science and technology offered an effective means of transforming agriculture and industry. They had also understood that technological change was a consequence of deliberate social, economic and political choices. Their Governments therefore needed to devise strategies for the technological transformation of their societies. The developing countries accounted for almost 75 per cent of the world's population but only 20 per cent of its income; they contributed 17 per cent to world industrial output while the developed market economy countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe accounted for 53 and 30 per cent, respectively; derived 22.1 per cent of their income from agriculture compared with 4.5 per cent for developed market economy countries; generally had an industrial structure in which consumer goods accounted for nearly half of output; had an overall literacy rate of approximately 40 per cent, in contrast to about 95 per cent in the developed countries and spent only about 0.3 per cent of their GNP on research and development, compared with about 4 per cent in socialist countries and 2 per cent in developed market economy countries. African countries had fewer scientific and technological capabilities than any other region and the largest number of least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected countries. The vast majority of its people lived in rural areas, and large expanses of the continent had been stricken by or were susceptible to natural disasters.
186. The all-pervasive nature of science and technology had been recognized in the discussions already held at the current session. Not only in Africa but also at the global level there was an increasing awareness of the importance of science and technology to development. At the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development held at Vienna from 20 to 31 August 1979, the African Group seeing that its main aims were not likely to be achieved, decided that African experts should convene and formulate a programme of action in science and technology. Accordingly, an African intergovernmental committee of experts had met in Addis Ababa from 10 to 16 March 1980 and had formulated the programme of action for science and technology development in Africa, 1980-1985, which was before the Committee in document E/CN.14/771. The programme of action included programmes for implementation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. At the national level, programmes 2-5 dealt with the strengthening of national technological capacities while programmes 6 and 7 concerned the scientific and technological inputs needed for activating development sectors. The programmes outlined at the subregional and regional levels referred to the issue of the establishment

of institutions and to activities to be taken collectively by African countries to obtain financing. The programme at the international level dealt with ways of obtaining financial and technical assistance and referred to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development being set up by the United Nations as a result of the Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

187. In the discussion which followed, one representative said that one of the principle objectives of restructuring the international economy during the 1980s should be the technological transformation of the developing countries, especially those in Africa which were lagging so far behind in that respect. To bring about that transformation a number of measures were necessary, including measures to ensure the access of developing countries to technology under fair and reasonable terms. Developed countries should make available to the developing countries the technologies they need which are in the public domain free or at a nominal cost. Developed countries gradually decommercialize those technologies which enable the developing countries to meet their basic needs. Measures were also needed to restructure the legal framework surrounding technology. In that connexion, he mentioned the need for the African countries to participate actively in the preparation of an International Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology, a revision of the Paris Convention and a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations. Africa also suffered from the problem of brain-drain, and the developed countries should take steps to ensure the return of qualified personnel to their countries of origin. The technological transformation of the developing countries also required that national plans for the development of technology should form an integral part of national development plans. It was also essential to create national services for the implementation of national plans for technological development and to promote co-operation among the developing countries in technology and to strengthen research and development to the point where the share of the developing countries in world development research reached 20 per cent by the year 2000. In that connexion, he pointed out that their present share was only 4 per cent. Another requirement was the establishment of a network for the distribution of scientific and technological information.

188. The representative of Angola said her delegation was strongly of the view that science and technology should be used to promote the welfare of the people and not for purposes of destruction. In that connexion she referred to the danger represented by nuclear experiments conducted in South Africa. A resolution on that subject had been sponsored by Angola, Algeria, the Congo and Ethiopia and submitted to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development, but no reference to it was made in the French text of the Committee's report, and she felt the reference in the English text was inadequate. She wanted to ensure that the matter was brought to the attention of the World Conference of Ministers.

189. Another representative asked for information concerning the outcome of the pledging conference for the Interim Fund and said that some thought should be given to how African countries could best divide the amount they received from the Fund among themselves.

190. The representative of UNDP reminded the Committee that the Vienna Conference had recommended that the Interim Fund for the period 1980-1981 should amount to no less than \$US 250 million and that the Fund should be administered by UNDP. At the Pledging Conference held on 27 March 1978, there had been 35 firm commitments amounting to \$US 35.8 million. A number of other countries had committed themselves to contributions totalling \$US 9.9 million but had not specified when their contributions could be made available. Thus, firm commitments totalling \$US 45.7 million had been made available. Thus, firm commitments totalling \$US 45.7 million had been made at the Conference. Moreover, another 39 countries had promised to pledge funds without indicating in what amount or when their contributions could be released.

191. The representative of UNCTAD said that some ideas as to the planning of science and technology would have been welcomed in the programme of action contained in document E/CN.14/771. He pointed out that as a result of the Fourth Session of UNCTAD a consultancy service on the transfer of technology had been established at UNCTAD. African governments could apply to that service for technical assistance with a view to strengthening their technological capacity.

192. One representative said she favoured the organization of trade fairs as a means of promoting the exchange of technology in the African region.

193. The representative of the secretariat pointed out that some of the observations made in the debate, such as those concerning the brain-drain problem and the need to establish national planning centres, were in fact dealt with in document E/CN.14/757 and 771. The idea that development research in Africa should amount to 20 per cent of world development research by the year 2000 was one on which the Committee might wish to reflect, as it would seem to require a very major operation.

194. On behalf of the secretariat he apologized to the representative of Angola and the other sponsors of the resolution in question for the omission in the French text of document E/CN.14/774. He agreed also that the reference in the English text did not go far enough and said that additional information on the text of the resolution would be incorporated in the report of the Intergovernmental Committee.

195. He said that the Intergovernmental Committee had not addressed itself to the internal distribution among African countries of the 40 per cent global allocation from the Interim Fund.

196. He said the ECA secretariat was already in contact with UNCTAD consultancy service on the transfer of technology and had actively participated in at least one of the training courses provided for under it.

197. He pointed out that one of the resolutions contained in document E/CN.14/774 referred to the need for African countries to participate more fully and actively in the current negotiations for the adoption of an international code of conduct for the transfer of technology.

Energy (agenda item 6 (b) (xii))

198. A representative of the secretariat introduced the report of the Joint OAU/ECA Meeting of African Experts on Energy, document E/CN.14/778. He said that the document was for the information of the Committee but that the Committee was at liberty to make comments on it and to make supplementary proposals. The experts had appraised the present energy situation in Africa highlighting, inter alia, the lack of national energy policies, the non-integration of energy activities in overall national development planning and other problems confronting African Governments in the development and use of energy. The experts felt that the high cost of energy particularly hydro-carbon had a serious adverse effect on the economy of African countries, and that what was required was a global approach to the use of all the energy resources of the world within the context of co-operation. The experts had suggested that appropriate short-, medium-, and long-term solutions should be found for the urgent energy problem that faced the African continent, and recommended the following objectives: the increase of the availability of energy resources in Africa, the diversification of energy sources, security of the supply of hydro-carbons at stable prices and the provision of better living conditions for the rural areas by the better use of energy resources. The short-term policy related, inter alia, to the supply of hydro-carbons by African oil producing countries to other African countries at preferential tariffs and the establishment of a compensation fund. For the long-term, they had suggested that emphasis should be placed on hydro-electric resources, nuclear energy, and within the context of research and development, the promotion of indigenous technology and alternative sources of energy such as, the sun, the wind, biomass and geothermal energy. The Experts had also suggested that an African Energy Commission should be established, inter alia, to co-ordinate all activities, assist African countries in the formulation and co-ordination of energy data and their dissemination, develop hydro-carbon resources, promote the preparation of an inventory energy resources and promote the establishment of an African Nuclear Energy Agency and a Regional Geothermal Energy Centre. An African Energy Development Fund should also be established to finance the implementation of energy projects in Africa.

199. In the general debate that followed, several delegates expressed the view that not much attention had been paid in the document to firewood and charcoal the basic energy sources for the vast majority of the people in Africa and afforestation should have been mentioned. It was suggested that non conventional sources of energy such as geothermal, solar, wind and biomass, had not been sufficiently emphasized in the document.

Increasing the efficiency of the use of renewable sources of energy should have been stressed, so also, the better refining of crude oil, improved transportation systems, the saving of oil, the development of better ways of making charcoal and improved wood or charcoal burning stoves. Africa must develop its own capability in R and D for the development of non conventional sources of energy. Special Energy Banks or Funds could be used to buy new technology in the field of energy. A delegate suggested that the many rivers in the rural areas of Africa could be dammed to establish micro power plants which in turn, would improve the economic and social condition of the rural dweller.

200. Several delegates supported the establishment of the African Energy Commission and the proposal that African oil producing countries should in the spirit of solidarity assist their sister non producing countries in tackling the problems of the increasing high cost and shortages of hydro-carbons. They also felt that the establishment of an African Nuclear Energy Agency was premature.

201. A delegate however expressed the view that the energy issue was very important and needed to be tackled very comprehensively. In this connexion he referred to the African strategy adopted in Rabat and felt that the document presented to the meeting had not fully reflected its content. Instead undue emphasis was placed on hydro-carbons which because of its politically sensitive nature was capable of being exploited by the enemies of Africa to undermine the real issues and the solidarity of African States. He felt that solar energy needed greater emphasis than was given to it in the document. On assistance from oil producing countries he expressed the view that several oil producing countries in the region have demonstrated their willingness and awareness to render mutual assistance to sister African countries and that the issue needed not be flogged. It should be realised that some of the so called oil producing countries are very poor, face serious economic problems at home and should not be looked upon in the same manner as the more advanced countries with highly developed and stable economies. On the proposed African Energy Commission, he felt that it was premature to embark on such a venture now when several countries have not been able to do so even at national levels. Individual countries should be urged to set up such commissions from which an eventual regional commission may emerge. Such a commission can then benefit from the experiences of the micro institutions. At best, an energy commission should be approached at a subregional level. For the time being, it was stressed that emphasis should be on more comprehensive survey of Africa's energy resources and particular attention should be paid to those forms of energy that are within the reach of a majority of African States in terms of cost. He also had difficulties in supporting the idea of establishing the other institutions proposed in the document, because the terms of reference, method of financing, and operation had not been fully spelled out.

202. A delegate wanted to know what had happened to the African Centre for Solar Energy. It was pointed out that the document should have been based on decisions of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The same delegate drew attention to the fact that the prices of other products apart from hydro-carbons, were also going up and it was not therefore useful to single out oil producing African countries as the only ones who should provide assistance in a spirit of solidarity to oil consuming countries. He also felt that African oil producing countries could not assist other African countries in the training of cadres and technical staff and in the prospecting for and exploitation of oil deposits, as the latter did not have enough of their own. Attention was drawn to the fact that there would be a UN Global Conference on Energy in 1981 and that for this purpose, committees on various aspects of energy had been set up. There should be a meeting of African Ministers of Energy preceded by a meeting of African experts on energy to establish a common front, before the United Nations global meeting on energy was held in 1981.

203. The UNSO Delegate shared the concern of the Energy Report about the use of woody plants and charcoal as fuel because the cutting of fuel wood was one of the prime causes of desertification. However, he said that in order to induce people to stop this practice, emphasis should be placed on the provision of technically, economically and socially acceptable alternatives. To this end, in the Sahel countries, UNSO was, as a short-term measure, funding ecologically sound programmes of firewood and charcoal production and use mainly through reforestation projects and the promotion of the utilisation of simple but more efficient cooking stoves. As part of a long-term strategy, UNSO has funded the preparation of ENERGY MASTER PLANS in the individual sahelian countries which identified at the national level the available alternative sources of energy. On the basis of the results of these studies, pilot projects would be initiated in some countries and based on their success, wider scale application would be envisaged. In this respect, UNSO and ECA could co-operate in the mobilisation of funds for the implementation of such projects.

204. The UNIDO representative said that he had not been able to study the report in detail because he had received it only in the course of the discussions. However a cursory review gave the impression that the experts had not paid all the attention they should to the question of improving technologies for domestic use of available energy, strengthening existing institutions, disseminating the results of their research, improving the technology used to exploit conventional sources of energy and promoting activities to make people aware of the need to conserve energy.

205. In reply, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that meeting of African experts on energy had lasted only a few days and the report though brief was intended to highlight the most urgent energy problems facing the continent. During their meeting, the experts had been presented with all the recommendations and resolutions adopted by meetings organized by ECA on various aspects of energy questions. He pointed out that what the document stated about firewood and charcoal was not that they should not be used at all, but as part of the biomass, they should be used efficiently. He adverted to the desertification of the Sahel as an example of what happened if too much firewood was used as a source of fuel without taking proper afforestation steps. Other renewable sources of energy had not been overlooked in the document. As regards the African Centre for Solar Energy, only four African countries out of the 7 required to bring the Centre into being, had so far adhered to the Constitutions of the Centre. He felt that the institutions that had been proposed in the documents to be set up were all needed in Africa. The manner of their funding would be decided by the Lagos OAU Economic Summit. As far as Nuclear energy was concerned, Africa needed now to start preparing itself in this field, which was the energy of the future.

Report on the work of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly on matters affecting the socio-economic development of African countries (agenda item 7)

206. In introducing the report of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly as it affects African socio-economic development, the representative of the secretariat explained that in the execution of its programme of work, the Commission depended on decisions taken by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies. It wished to call the attention of the Committee to some General Assembly decisions, which had been reproduced in document E/CN.14/767. The first part of the document consisted of an introduction and a summary of the relevant debates, and the second listed those resolutions which concerned the development problems of the third world in general and of Africa in particular and outlined the principal provisions of those resolutions. He mentioned in particular the resolution in which the Assembly agreed to a new round of international negotiations to be initiated at the special session of the General Assembly in 1980.

207. The Committee noted the report contained in Document E/CN.14/767.

Global preparation for the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (agenda item 8)

208. In introducing item 8 of the agenda the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the General Assembly Reports A/34/34 (Parts I, II, and III); 32/174, Volumes I and II; and General Assembly resolution 33/193. He also drew attention to agenda item 6 (a) where the subject had also been discussed. He said the United Nations Preparatory Committee of

the Whole had been established to prepare the strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. A special session of the General Assembly would meet in the summer of 1980 to adopt the Strategy. The member States were urged to make every effort to attend the session and to participate fully in its deliberations in order to ensure that their views became part of the Third United Nations Development Strategy for a New International Economic Order.

209. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, added three footnotes to the presentation of the secretariat:-

(a) that he hoped that the Under-Secretary, Economic Development, would attend this conference of Ministers and give them more detailed information on the Third Development Decade and the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980;

(b) that since the First and Second United Nations Development Decades were adopted before most African countries were independent or too soon after they attained independence, the contribution of Africa to the shaping of these development strategies was negligible. The position with the Third Decade was different: Most African countries have been independent for over a decade and were therefore ready to help shape the Third United Nations Development Decade. They should seize the opportunity to do so;

(c) Governments must ensure that their representatives in New York were fully briefed on the positions of their countries in order to avoid their talking at cross-purposes with what the Conference of Ministers had resolved.

210. The delegates noted the points made by the secretariat.

The economic and social implications of rising refugee population in Africa: Note by the secretariat on the role of ECA (agenda item 9)

211. In his introduction to agenda item 9, the representative of the secretariat gave a brief outline of past and current ECA activities in favour of refugees in Africa. From the time of its inception ECA had been concerned with refugee problems in Africa although its activities in that connexion had been limited to its social development programmes. In 1966, ECA had first put forward the idea of installing separate machinery to look into the over-all problem of refugees. At its eighth session in 1967, the Commission had worked out arrangements under which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and ECA would co-operate. In compliance with those arrangements, in 1967 ECA took the initiative of convening a conference on the legal economic and

social aspects of the refugee problem, from which arose the OAU bureau for the Placement of Education of Refugees (BPEAR), which had been established in 1968. The Arusha conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa had been held in 1979 and its recommendations had been distributed to the Committee. From 1977 on, ECA had been involved in preparations for that Conference, in which it had participated actively. It had also participated in a series of missions organized by the Secretary-General in 1977 to Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland to determine the nature and content of assistance required to deal with the refugees situation in those countries. Within the broad framework of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, ECA had organized a one-year placement and housing service for Namibian refugees, the ultimate objective of which had been to enable them to assume their own national responsibilities once independence was achieved. ECA had also been involved in the organization and implementation of supervisory and management training programmes in the field of transport, also intended to benefit Namibian refugees.

212. Still, the role of ECA in refugee activities was rather limited, and there was need to recognize that the situation obtaining in 1967 had drastically changed. The refugee population, which had been about 1 million in 1967 had risen to over 4.5 million in 1979, and was said to stand at about 5 million at present, representing about 50 per cent of the world refugee population. Moreover, it had been estimated that three quarters of the African refugee population emanated from independent African countries. The nature and substance of the problem obtaining were, however, not very different from what they had been in 1960. The crux of the matter was that individual or mass alienation attributable to a number of social factors often led to population movements within and across national boundaries.

213. There were two basic principles for defining the future role of ECA in refugee assistance. The first was that refugees constituted potentially useful manpower which should be integrated into the development process of their countries of asylum (and later of their countries of origin) as soon as possible. Secondly, collective self-reliance should enable Africa to absorb its refugees appropriately by gradually organizing them into self-supporting communities, in which they could be associated with the implementation of ongoing development programmes.

214. The Arusha conference had come up with 15 sets of recommendations regarding all aspects of the refugee situation in Africa. Eight sets of those recommendations referred to legal aspects of the refugee situation, in respect of which ECA had no mandate; however, the remaining seven sets of recommendations were concerned with the situation of rural and urban refugees in Africa and their education, training and employment matters with which ECA was more or less involved. The dilemma in which ECA now found itself was one of the role it should play in coping with the refugee problem and with the rising population of refugees.

215. One representative said that in his view the refugee problem was mainly a political one. It would therefore be difficult for the Committee to take a decision on the question, which should be left to the Heads of State to resolve.

216. The Executive Secretary of ECA said he agreed that the political aspects of the refugee question would have to be dealt with at the political forum. However, ECA had recently been accused of not rising to the refugee challenge because, in addition to its political aspects, the refugee problem also had economic and social aspects, which needed to be dealt with.

217. The representative who had first raised the question of the appropriateness of the Committee's taking a decision with regard to the refugee problem said he was still convinced that the economic and social aspects of the problem called for a political solution.

218. The representative of Angola said that the refugee problem was serious in her country and that the situation was deteriorating. Assistance was being provided by a number of organizations but only on a temporary basis. What was needed were budgets, programmes and studies designed to help refugees to help themselves.

219. Another representative pointed out that there were four categories of refugees. The first comprised political refugees who had left their countries for reasons related to politics. ECA was not being asked to deal with refugees in that category. Other refugees had left their countries because of national disasters or other contingencies. The third category included refugees who had left their country in search of employment, and the fourth was composed of young people seeking an opportunity to continue their studies beyond primary level. While it was true that some of those in the last two categories benefited from posing as refugees, others were forced to leave. In particular, he mentioned the problem of the over 100,000 Chadian refugees now in the United Republic of Cameroon and their need for immediate assistance. Immediate assistance was also required in the case of those who had fled the racist regime in Southern Rhodesia and now wished to return to their country of origin. In connexion with a similar situation in South East Asia, the United Nations had recently rised to the challenge by mobilizing hundreds of millions of dollars. He therefore wondered what ECA and the United Nations system as a whole could do to mitigate such problems as those he had just mentioned. He felt that ECA should step up its efforts to promote employment for refugees and also suggested that institutes providing technical training for refugee children with no opportunity for secondary education might be established.

220. Another representative said that, where refugee problems were concerned, ECA activities should remain within the framework for which it had been established and that it should work in co-operation with the principal United Nations body concerned with refugees, i.e. UNHCR. He also asked for more information concerning the type of work the secretariat intended to do and the constraints referred to in paragraph 4 of document E/CN.14/779 submitted under this item.

221. The representative of UNHCR pointed out that his organization had been established by the States members of the United Nations specifically to deal with the refugee problem. OAU had also been given a mandate in connexion with refugees. ECA and a number of non-governmental organizations co-operated with UNHCR and OAU in their work. The recommendations adopted at the Arusha Conference had been submitted to the OAU Conference of Ministers and subsequently to the Assembly of Heads of State of Governments. It might therefore be said that the problem of defining principles had already been tackled and that technicians had already considered the question of ECA's role. He pointed out that in resolutions adopted by the Heads of State of Governments, it had been specified that it was for OAU and UNHCR to play the major role, in co-operation with other inter-governmental organizations. With regard to those resolutions and recommendations adopted at the Arusha Conference which related to urban and rural refugees and their education and employment, he said he thought ECA and UNHCR could work together very constructively if an effort were made to look at the problem in depth.

222. As for the problems besetting individual African governments, he said his organization's main partners were Governments and that UNHCR was not able to intervene except by request. In that connexion, ECA could help States formulate their requests more effectively.

223. In his reply to the observations made, the representative of the secretariat said that while he agreed that the economic and social problems of refugees had political origins, the ECA secretariat felt an obligation to concern itself with those problems in co-operation with UNHCR and OAU. He also agreed that the initiation of development projects would be more useful than assistance to countries with refugee problems. However, he pointed out that assistance was needed in the emergency phase of asylum-seeking. The problem was how to relate emergency assistance to development programmes designed to extricate refugees from charity situations and integrate them into the development process.

224. In reply to the question concerning the role of ECA and the entire United Nations system, he said that in the light of the Arusha Conference it should consist in the identification of a strategy to help solve refugee problems as rapidly as possible. Such matters as appeals for funds and technical training institutions were details for inclusion in that strategy.

225. As to the question regarding the constraints faced by ECA, he said they were of two kinds; financial constraints which prevented the secretariat from participating in missions relating to the refugee problem and a human resources constraints in that the secretariat had no officers responsible for matters dealing with refugees. These matters were now being dealt with an ad hoc basis, but that arrangement could not continue. The strategy would require that human resources be made available.

226. As for the framework of ECA programmes dealing with refugees, he explained that ECA had a dual role. In the first place it attempted to remedy problems relating to refugees, and in the second place, it studied ways of halting the increase in the refugee population and revising that trend.

227. Finally, he said that the secretariat was most concerned to develop its co-operation with UNHCR since UNHCR was the United Nations body mandated to deal with refugees. Whatever action ECA took would be taken in co-operation with UNHCR and OAU.

Regional programme to be financed by UNDP during 1982-86:
Programming modalities (agenda item 10)

228. The agenda item was introduced by the representative of the secretariat and subsequently presented by the representative of UNDP. The representative of UNDP first explained why the note was being submitted to the Conference. The answer to that question had been given in paragraph 2 of the introduction, namely that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/206 the collective views of African Governments should be sought in preparing the 1982-1986 Regional Programme. The note stated UNDP's preliminary views on the Strategy and priority actions that needed to be included in the 1982-1986 Regional Programme. These views had been submitted in January 1980 at the Regional Meeting of Resident Representatives in Africa attended by United Nations agencies, the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA. A consensus had emerged on the views submitted by UNDP and on the plan of work in respect of the preparations for the programme outlined on page 2 of the note, and it had been agreed to submit the note to the ECA Conference of Ministers for the purpose of obtaining the collective views of the Ministers. In the preliminary views of UNDP, a strategy was mentioned, which had been put together on the basis of the wishes expressed by the African countries themselves. The proposed priority action which UNDP thought should be taken into consideration had been taken from the strategy and was referred to on page 10 of the note. He drew attention to the fact that the priority activities indicated were presented in a certain order and said that UNDP would like to have the suggestions of the Ministers in that regard. In other words, UNDP was ready to consider any order of priority put forward by the Ministers. It was not yet known what resources would be allocated to the Regional Programme for the years 1982-1986; however, if UNDP obtained the views of the Ministers on the order of priority of the activities involved, that would be of the greatest value in formulating the project.

229. The Executive Secretary of ECA congratulated UNDP on the note it had presented to the meeting. First he welcomed the excellent relations which had been established over the past four years between ECA and UNDP and hoped that they would be further strengthened in the future. He then pointed out that it was the first time that regional commissions had been asked to express their points of view on the programming and order of priorities in

UNDP's Regional Programme. He went on at once to ask the member States to ensure that the programmes and priorities reflected their own opinions and interests. Representatives should therefore examine most carefully paragraph 10 in which there was no reference to industrial development. Moreover, he indicated that UNDP and ECA considered an evaluation mission necessary, to examine and evaluate the UNDP/ECA co-operation programme as a whole financed by UNDP for the present cycle 1977-1981. The Executive Secretary then urged member States to give every assistance to the mission while it was taking place in their respective countries. A general consensus emerged at that meeting on UNDP's preliminary views and on the plan of work for preparing the programme described on page 2 of the note, which also provided for the note to be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers with a view to obtaining the latter's views as a group. UNDP's preliminary views described a strategy which was none other than that based on the wishes of the African countries themselves, and from which the priority activities followed that UNDP therefore proposed to consider. Those priority activities were indicated in paragraph 10 of the note. The UNDP representative drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that the priority activities indicated were arranged in a certain order, and that UNDP would therefore welcome Ministers' suggestions in that connexion. In other words, UNDP was ready to consider any order of priority that the Conference of Ministers might wish to suggest. The resources that might be allocated were not yet known. If, however, UNDP could obtain Ministers' opinions on the order of priority for its activities, those opinions would be of the greatest importance in preparing the draft.

230. Finally, the Executive Secretary said that planners had agreed at a recent meeting to recommend to the Conference of Ministers the financing by UNDP of a "Manual for African Planners" be produced. If approved the "Manual" would ensure continuity in planning irrespective of changes of individual incumbents of posts who come and go whilst the planning function remains to be performed efficiently and uniformly.

231. In the discussions that followed the following points were made: Existing projects must be evaluated before new ones are undertaken. This task must be carried out by an evaluation mission which should pin-point problems that experience had thrown up over the years. The mission must also quantify the amount of money that UNDP proposed to contribute during 1982-1986. The UNDP should be requested to increase assistance it gives to development planning and management. Current projects that are unfinished at the end of 1981 must be given high priority in the 1982-1986 programme. That would ensure that they were completed. Transport and Communications must be given high priority in the 1982-1986 programme. Natural Resources, Energy, and export promotion, all vital to development, should be added to paragraph 10 of the report and be given priority in the 1982-1986 programme. Care must be taken to ensure that the 1977-1981 programme has been fulfilled before the new programme is implemented.

232. The UNDP representative and the Executive Secretary replied to the above points as follows: The UNDP representative stressed that the introduction of the new programme would be preceded by a careful evaluation of existing programmes; that the balance sheet of the period 1977-1981 would be produced in due course and he hoped it would answer the questions raised by the member States when published; that what UNDP wished to be assured of at this stage was that it was proceeding along the right lines in preparing the

programme and priorities; that since resources were limited it was essential for agreement to be reached on vital projects to be included in the 1982-1986 programme that subparagraphs (a), (e) and (h) of paragraph 10 of the report contemplated the inclusion of Natural Resources and Energy in the Programme; and that the final decision as to what would be included in the programme would depend on the availability of resources.

233. The Executive Secretary stressed, first, that the UNDP would provide only part of the resources required; the rest would have to come from Governments, the Trust Fund, and Bilateral Donor Governments and Institutions. Secondly, paragraph 10 of the report must be amended specifically to include Industry and Energy because of their great importance. Thirdly, he urged the member States to give the evaluation mission every assistance because their report would provide the region with a realistic basis on which to prepare the next programming cycle.

The report of the first session of the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians and Demographers E/CN.14/740 (agenda item 11 (f))

234. Presenting the document, the Chairman of the Plenary Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers said the body was created by merging the three previous conferences in these fields. Its first session was held from 24 March to 2 April and 34 African countries participated. The attendance of other UN member States, UN Headquarters and specialized agencies, African intergovernmental bodies, training institutions, etc. was particularly good.

235. One objective in establishing the new Joint Conference was to reduce and rationalize the programme of ECA meetings, but a more important consideration was the promotion of better working links between officials concerned with development planning, statistics and population activities. This second consideration was the background thought throughout the discussions and it is notable that all three sectors of the Conference were in agreement on one basic conclusion: African countries are not yet making the fullest use of available quantitative information.

236. The particular shortfall is in data analysis. More attention to analysis would enable a much wider application of factual information in short- and long-term planning, administration and the private sector and would require much closer collaboration of the three groups of people involved in the Conference.

237. The planners devoted considerable attention to an examination of African economic prospects on the basis of econometric models developed at ECA. Some observations were made on the models, and considerable discussions took place on the policies derived from the planned scenario analysed by the secretariat which was considered by the Conference to be sound and challenging.

238. National statistical activities were a matter of great concern because they are still too limited to provide adequate basic data in support of policy formulation in the rapidly changing economic and social situation of the region. It was emphasized that statisticians should not consider their work completed at the point of providing basic data but should also participate actively in data analysis.

239. The demographers discussed at length training, advisory services and technical assistance. It was recognized that the collection of African demographic data had been considerably improved during the 1970s with support from UNFPA but, again, there was a shortfall in analytical work which prevented fully effective use of the new information.

240. The first session of the new Joint Conference was experimental in the sense that it aimed to cover the full work programmes of the three previous conferences in a period of eight working days. Much of the detailed work had to be undertaken in committee meetings but all discussions were completed successfully during the time available. It should also be noted that the good attendance of donor countries and other agencies enabled a great deal of useful work to be undertaken outside the formal meetings; this was probably at least equal in value to the deliberations of the Conference itself.

241. In accordance with arrangements for the current round of ECA meetings the Conference attempted to compile a set of proposals within its field of competence for consideration by the forthcoming African Economic Summit. These are included in the report and are also provided separately in document E/CN.14/L.691.

242. In the planning, statistics and demographic sectors the proposals identify a number of economic and practical requirements for the 1980s. They deal with the need for collective actions in crucial areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, transport and energy and also rapid improvement of national statistical services, particularly through a number of concerted programmes in specified areas. They also take into account the very important population factor in African development. Mortality has declined significantly without a corresponding decrease in fertility, giving rise to a short-term problem where productive capacity may fall short of basic needs.

243. After adopting its formal report, the Conference briefly considered the performance of its first joint session. It concluded that the meeting had been successful and rewarding. However, the deliberations did bring to light very clearly the need to improve national technical infrastructures which support the development process.

244. These supporting services have not yet been specifically incorporated into the African development strategy for the 1980s and it is important that they should be recognized as an essential aspect of the overall development effort. African policy-makers have been working too long on a pragmatic basis and their efforts must be supported by properly analysed factual information. Efforts are being made to ensure that the global development strategy incorporates this essential requirement and it would be useful for Africa to adopt the same approach.

245. A delegate recommended the deletion of paragraphs 281, 282 and 283 to avoid any conflict with the previous decision taken by the meeting. He described the document as inaccurate and said that it did not reflect the amendments made in the Plenary. He pointed out that the Committee of demographers had rejected the word "affiliation" and wanted "convention" instead but that this had not been reflected in the document. He also pointed out many other errors in the document.

246. A delegate frowned at the low priority given to science and technology by the African Planners and she demanded an explanation for this from the secretariat. It was also pointed out that points raised in the document being presented were not discussed at the plenary session of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and that these were discussed only at the Committee of Demographers. A delegate wondered why his country should be classified under one of the institutions rather than the other.

247. Speaking in general, a delegate referred to the Lagos Summit as providing a good opportunity for formulating a new strategy for development but expressed disappointment at the fact that the problem of how to reconcile planning and implementation was neglected. He felt that this was sufficiently serious to require attention. He proposed that the document should include a statement relating to the fact that all African governments should take appropriate steps to strengthen their machinery for planning and utilize this for the purpose of planning. He called for greater integration in the subregion in tackling national planning.

248. The outcome of two meetings held between representatives of Portuguese-speaking countries and ECA was a decision to convene a meeting of the directors of statistics of the countries concerned to discuss common problems concerning the training of staff in statistical services. ECA would be prepared to consider ways of organizing and financing such a meeting in the framework of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa. Moreover evaluation missions were planned in the above-mentioned countries.

249. It was pointed out that the document did not put forward any concrete proposal in respect of transport.

250. Supporting the view expressed in respect of the training needs of the Portuguese-speaking countries, a delegate pointed out that special attention should be given to these countries so that they might enjoy special terms for admission to training centres with fellowships for students from African countries.

251. Responding to the issues raised, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that arrangements were being made by the secretariat and the United Nations for the creation of centres for the Portuguese-speaking countries. He also stated that a mission had been sent to Angola and Mozambique and another to Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde to consider their needs, and that a consensus had been arrived at for the creation of a centre for population and demography. He agreed that the document did not reflect the amendments made at a meeting of planners due to lack of time and that this would be looked into and corrected.

252. Raising a point of order, a delegate remarked that his point had not been answered. He said two meetings were held between the Executive Secretary of the ECA and representatives of the Portuguese-speaking countries and that the secretariat had not made any statement in respect of these meetings. A delegate congratulated the secretariat on the idea of creating a centre for the Portuguese-speaking countries, but pointed out that the point he raised had not been responded to. He pointed out that the views of his country in respect of representation of countries on the Governing Council of institutes had been confused with those of another country. Responding to this a delegate requested that the country concerned should submit its amendments in writing.

253. Insisting that the decision raised at the meetings between the ECA secretariat and Portuguese-speaking countries be reflected in the document, a delegate pointed out that contrary to the views expressed by the Executive Secretary, the meetings were official and not informal. The Executive Secretary, however, pointed out that it was the business of the house to agree to incorporate the decisions be included in the document.

254. As to whether representation on the Governing Council of institutes should be by individuals or countries, the representative of the secretariat explained that the options listed in the document reflected the views expressed and that these would be put before the Ministers who would take a decision on it.

Report of the second meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on the Integration of Women in Development in Africa E/CN.14/741 (agenda item 11 (v); and

Report of the second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development E/CN.14/744 (agenda item 11 (vi))

255. Presenting the document, the representative of the secretariat apologized for the poor quality of the English version of document E/CN.14/744, and pointed out that the consideration of these documents should have come under agenda item 6. On the integration of women in development, she pointed out that a lot still had to be done both by way of the establishment of national machineries for women activities and in the area of training. She indicated that efforts were being made

to promote the integration of women in development at MULPOC levels and that there was a Unit at the ECA working in this direction. She stated that the suggestions made at the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee would go a long way in ensuring the further success of the activities in this area. She expressed the hope that African women would participate actively at the forthcoming Copenhagen Meeting and therefore called on governments to give the necessary guidelines so as to avoid any contradiction in the African position. She informed the meeting that the Inter-Agency Working Group on the integration of women in development in Africa was founded in 1978, and that at its last meeting in Lusaka in 1979 it adopted the report which was being put before the meeting. In the report it was suggested that national committees should be created in all the member countries so as to ensure the establishment of the national machineries for the integration of women in development.

256. A delegate supported the above idea and pointed out that as far back as 1975 the ECOSOC had identified areas in which action was required for the integration of women in development during the 1975-80 period. She noted, however, that the integration of women in development had not been taken seriously and that little progress had been made in the implementation of the programme. She attributed this to lack of concern on the part of governments who had left the implementation of the programme to women only. She therefore suggested greater publicity for areas in which women should participate, and went on to state that women outnumbered men in Africa and that most of them were in the rural areas playing a crucial role in agriculture.

257. Another delegate expressed regret at the failure of the whole programme of work of women, and remarked that since 1975 nothing had been achieved in spite of the United Nations Declaration of the Women's Decade. She said this might be due to the patriarchal nature of the African society. She stated however, that the 1980-85 programme and strategy for women should have been integrated in the various socio-economic sectors discussed under agenda item 6. She expressed the view that the isolation of the role of women could not be said to be positive, and therefore called for co-operation with other departments of the secretariat.

258. Speaking on document E/CN.14/741, a delegate wanted to know if the document was being presented only for information or whether it was meant to be discussed and put before the Ministers. The same delegate expressed the opinion that the document should be withdrawn since, according to him, it could not be sent to the Heads of State given the nature of the group that prepared it. This view was shared by another delegate.

259. Responding, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that the necessary machinery for reaching rural women was lacking, and that the national machineries for publicity were usually employed for political purposes. She stated that a technical machinery would be required for this purpose; but that the most practical approach as of the moment was the use

of the national machineries. She stated that a programme for women leaders had already been designed at ECA to draw up workable programmes within the framework of national development. She called for greater effort on the part of the countries, and requested that they should create institutions for the encouragement of women activities. She also mentioned that State assistance was required in order to reach rural women. She agreed with the point made that women should be regarded as an integral part of the society, but pointed out that since most African countries were underdeveloped, the role of women called for special attention, specially in the light of the fact that most African women lived in the rural areas where they played a crucial role in food production. She further stated that the prices paid for their products were not commensurate with their efforts and contribution to national development. To correct this situation it was desirable to educate and enlighten women in the rural areas. In that connexion, she said she would like a sub-item to be incorporated in agenda item 6 so that the role of women in development could be considered in the context of the global plan of action.

Other matters (agenda item 12)

260. The representative of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute took the floor again to address the problem of the need for an institution in Africa South of the Sahara for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders. He reminded the participants that at the fifth congress on the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, it had been recommended that governments and United Nations bodies consider the early establishment of such institutions. He quoted from Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/20, in which the Secretary-General had been requested to establish an institute for Africa South of the Sahara in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders. He also quoted from a resolution adopted at the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the six Congress on the Prevention of Crime, in which the Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP had been urged to take steps for the creation of such an institute.

261. He said it was his strong belief that that institute could establish machinery to deal with the problem of crime and treatment of offenders in the context of development. In deciding what country should host the institute, the capacity of the country, rather than political considerations should be taken into account. He explained that the institute would be part of the United Nations network in the area of crime and the treatment of offenders and would relate to the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute in Rome and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in New York.

262. He ended by saying he hoped the Committee would approve a resolution endorsing the request made by the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of an institute for Africa South of the Sahara in the field of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for submission to the Conference of Ministers at its sixth session.