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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Conference of African Planners  
Third Session  
Addis Ababa, 20 to 29 May 1970**

**ECA ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS  
AND POLICIES - 1968 AND 1969**

ECA Activities in Development Planning,  
Projections and Policies - 1968 and 1969

Introduction

Since the second session of the Conference of African Planners in December 1967, the responsibility for economic development planning, projections and policies within the ECA has been transferred to the Research and Statistics Division. There is now, within that Division, an economic research section, one of whose duties is to assist the countries of the region in establishing more satisfactory arrangements for economic research and development planning.

2. This task it can best achieve by developing its current work on the analyses and projections of various economic data relevant to African development planning, by coordinating the projections made at the national level and by giving practical help in improving both the technical and organisational aspects of national development formulation and implementation.

3. The programme of work designed for the achievement of these objectives has, therefore, been organized in four parts: technical assistance and programme organisation; methodology and research; economic surveys and the collection, analysis and distribution of information. The description of these activities is given below.

4. In addition to a broad account of the activities in these areas since the last session of the conference, this report gives an account of the participation of the section in the UN preparatory activities for the Second Development Decade. It also contains the work programme arrangements for the period 1970-74. Hence, it serves as a general reference document for all the main topics to be considered by the Conference.

The ECA Research and Statistics Division

5. The Research and Statistics Division of the ECA is responsible for the two groups of projects in the ECA Programme of Work and Priorities known as Statistical Services, and Economic Development Planning, Projections and Policies.

6. The Division is organised in five sections. The sections and the units comprising them are as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Unit</u>
(i) Development and Training	-
(ii) Demographic and Social Statistics	-
(iii) National Accounts and Financial Statistics	National Accounts Public Finance Statistics Monetary and Price Statistics
(iv) General Economic Statistics	Computation Centre Foreign and Domestic Trade Statistics Industrial Production and Transport Statistics Agricultural Production Statistics
(v) Economic Research	Economic Analysis (including Projections and Planning) Economic Surveys

7. The essential idea underlying this arrangement is the need for very close links between statistics, demography and economic research, since it has to be appreciated that the collection and compilation of data cannot be considered separately from their utilisation.

8. This report is concerned primarily with the activities of the Economic Research Section. The work of the other sections is reported upon only in so far as it relates to economic analysis, projections, planning and economic surveys.

9. The work programme for Economic Development Planning, Projections and Policies for the period 1970-74 is attached to this report as an annex. It should be noted that ECA has now adopted a five-year "rolling" plan of operations, which means that the work programme should be revised and extended at fairly frequent intervals. It is the function of the Conference of African Planners to advise on the programme for the guidance of the secretariat.

Activities in Economic Development Planning, Projections and Policies since the Second Session of the Conference of African Planners.

Technical Assistance and Programme Organisation

10. Technical Assistance takes the form of advisory services in economic development and related matters, on request, to the member governments of the Commission and the provision of training facilities for government officials.

11. The advisory service is similar to that which has been assisting statistical development in the region in the last ten years. Briefly, it consists of a small number of persons with good practical experience who are available, on request by governments, to undertake short assignments on specific tasks. An important by-product of their work is the accumulation

at ECA Headquarters, of information on country practices and problems, which is of considerable help in devising methodology appropriate to the region. ECA staff members also undertake field assignments with the result that, when necessary, the service can achieve fairly wide coverage on both a subject and geographic basis. The statistical advisory service has proved its value, both as a form of direct technical assistance and as a means of supplementing the work of experts assigned to individual countries.

12. In accordance with the recommendation made at the second session of the Conference of African Planners held at Addis Ababa at the end of 1967, E/CN.14/CAP/40, the secretariat had organised advisory planning services in the interest of the countries of the region. Initially, the planning advisory service will concentrate on a few basic problems at the national level. These will include the organisation of national planning agencies, the development of basic planning procedures involving long, medium and short-term plans, and questions relating to the assessment of plan targets in the light of the overall economic situation of the country. Other questions relate to the means of maintaining a continuous appraisal of national economies, the relation between annual government budgets and development plans, project identification and selection, and regional and sectoral planning. It should, however, be noted that the work of the advisers is of a technical and practical nature; it is not their function to intervene in policy matters which are entirely the responsibility of governments. Their work is also to supplement that of country experts.

13. The ECA secretariat has in its budgets three regional adviser posts, and one of the advisers who is a specialist in national economic surveys, is already available for the countries of the region. Two others who are now being recruited will be responsible for economic planning. However, as indicated above, secretariat staff members are also available for advisory services. At the moment, very few requests for planning assistance are being received from countries and it has been possible for ECA staff members to meet all requirements.

14. From May to June 1968, a staff member of the secretariat assisted the Somali Government in the preparation of its interim plan (1968-70). Also in 1968, a two-man team of secretariat staff members undertook three missions to Zambia to advise the Zambian Government on development planning. The team provided assistance to the Zambian planning agency in applying cartographic methods to regional planning. Again in December 1969 and January 1970, another two-man team of secretariat staff members was back in Zambia to continue this type of advice. At the request of the Government of the Niger, two other staff members of the secretariat served in July and August 1968 as the Commission's consultants for the Niger Plan. In March 1970, a staff member of the secretariat went to North-eastern state of Nigeria to advise the government of that state on regional planning. In May 1969, the Regional Adviser on economic surveys went to Somalia to advise on the preparation of annual economic survey. In December 1969 and January 1970, he also visited Libya to advise the government on the preparation of the Annual Survey of the National Economy.

### Training Facilities

15. The training of planners is undertaken primarily as part of the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Dakar, Senegal. A full report on the activities of this institute and the election of the members of the Governing Council for which the Conference of African Planners has a mandatory function are items on the agenda for this Conference. (See document E/CN.14/CAP.3/7). Apart from the national and the sub-regional courses, the Institute continued the nine-month course - the basic core of its activities, in Dakar. Twenty participants obtained the Institutes Diploma in 1967-68 session while thirty obtained it in 1968-69.

16. However, there are other United Nations Institutes in the region whose activities are very relevant to development planning even though their main objective is not to train economic planners as in the case of IDEP. The institutions in question are the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at Rabat, Morocco for the French speaking African countries and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University College, Kampala, Uganda, for the English-speaking African countries. The aim of these institutes is to train professional statisticians with emphasis on Applied Economics such as econometrics, national accounts and other aspects of applied economics which are very vital for economic development planning. The courses are of three-year duration and the students take mathematics, economics and statistics in the first year and statistics and economics in the last two years. These institutes should be regarded as complementary to IDEP in that they provide training at the undergraduate level, while IDEP is concerned mainly with post-graduate activities. A table showing number of enrolments and man-months of training in these institutes since their inception is attached to this report.

### Conference of African Planners

17. As part of the activities under technical assistance and programme organisation is the organisation of the meetings of the Conference of African Planners. This Conference which functions as a sub-committee of the Economic Commission for Africa, is intended to enable countries to compare and coordinate their views on development planning and determine the guidelines for the work programme of the ECA secretariat in this field; the conference also has certain mandatory functions with respect to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. The first session of the conference to be organised by the Research and Statistics Division of ECA is the one now sitting.

### Methodology and Research

19. Activities concerned with economic research and planning methodology form a major part of the programme of work of the section. They involve analysis of the statistical data available in the countries of the region and projections based on them as well as critical comparative analysis of all published national plans in the region. In addition, surveys are

carried out from time to time on specific aspects of the economies of the region especially those aspects concerning economic development planning and its problems. These activities have two important aims:

- a. to establish a centralised system of statistical and economic analysis service. In economic research, one of the essential technical requirements is the development of a wide range of activities relating to projections of all kinds at all levels. This is very important if the problem of harmonization and cooperation is to be properly explained. And these questions are very important in view of the fact that most African countries are economically insignificant. Individually, they can have little influence in world markets. There is therefore the need to examine the possible future production of the whole African region in the light of the probable demand for the commodities offered in world trade. There would then be the possibility of formulating coordinated national development plans consistent with the international trading prospects. For this presentation, overall perspectives and targets are required. The work in progress at ECA, which is to some extent complementary to the previous statistical activities, is linked with the corresponding programmes of CDEPP, FAO, UNCTAD and other agencies. In tackling this problem of statistical analysis, all the available statistical data in each country have been used and they have now been put on punched cards and they may be made available for the use of any member country. Moreover, this type of work will enable the secretariat to suggest minimum basic data that have to be compiled by each country to enable easy comparison of development plans. The results of the work in this area are the subject of discussion under item 7 of the agenda.
- b. Another activity under research and methodology is the systematic analysis of African development plans. Among others, this analysis involves the use of statistical series to establish functional relationships of compute elasticities, coefficients, ratios such as ICOR, etc. between the aggregates of national accounts, quantitative information on the various sectors of the economy or information obtained from other statistical series. The aim is to find common characteristics and to seek out the reasons why plans had not been successful. This approach coupled with the results of ad hoc surveys will enable the secretariat to understand more the problems of African development planning and so be able to organize better its secretariat work as well as technical assistance including advisory services. Moreover, such studies will enable the secretariat to achieve standardization of definitions, concepts and terms used in development plans in the region.

20. One other aspect of the work on research and methodology is the place of regional planning and the use of aerial photographs in planning. Already reference has been made to the fact that advisory services were given to Zambia and Nigeria in these aspects of planning. In addition, there

are for the consideration of this Conference, three documents viz, "Regional Development and Regional Budgets"; "Regional Planning and Location - Dictionary" and "Some Applications of Aerial Photographs to the Inquiries and Studies of Economic Development", prepared by the staff members who undertook these advisory services.

21. Although the results of the analyses so far done are subjects of discussion under item 7, some of the results have already been published in "Planning Newsletter" (Vide issues No. 2, 3 and 4).

#### Seminars and Working-Group Meetings

22. Seminars and Working-Group Meetings are devices to make it possible for government officials and United Nations Officials and sometimes specialist consultants to come together to review methodological problems. In addition, these meetings form another channel of training for government officials as it provides the opportunity of exchanging views with professionals from other countries and other organisations than their own at personal level. Most questions that literature and correspondence cannot answer adequately are usually answered through personal discussion.

23. Invariably, the documents prepared for these meetings contain the results of research done either at the regional and/or the world levels. Where international recommendations are concerned, the emphasis is usually on their adaptation to conditions prevailing in the region. The conclusions of the discussions and the recommendations emanating therefrom are usually sent to member governments for adoption.

24. The seminars and working-group meetings planned for the period under review were:

- i) First meeting of the technical group on projections and programming: Commodity Projections for Africa, 1969. This was intended to be the first meeting on the project by which comprehensive arrangements for projections and programming in the region could be developed in consultation with the countries. It is proposed that the work will be undertaken by a technical Group on Projections and Programming which will meet once every year during the five-year period 1969-1973. At each meeting, 14-15 experts from countries of the region will participate; in order to ensure that the fullest use is made of the experience available, the membership of the Group will vary from meeting to meeting. Unfortunately, the meeting for 1969 could not take place because of lack of funds. However, the results of the work already done are to be presented by the secretariat under item 7.

The second meeting: "Data Required for Projections" is scheduled for November 1970. The funds are available and arrangements have already been started to call for the participation of member countries. This technical meeting will be concerned with work on targets and projections for the Second Development Decade.

- ii) Regional Seminar on Plan Harmonization (1969). This was a project proposed before the reorganisation of economic research activities, and so it had to be cancelled. Its basic essentials will be covered by the technical report on commodity projections indicated above.
- iii) Working Group on Economic Surveys: The meeting took place in Addis Ababa from 1 to 10 December 1969. The report of the meeting is for consideration under item 8 of the agenda.
- iv) Seminar on the Applications of Demographic and Social Data and Analysis in Development Planning: This seminar was held at Addis Ababa from 2 to 9 June 1969. Its report is available for consideration under item 7 of the agenda.
- v) Fourth Interregional Seminar on Development Planning:

The secretariat collaborated with UN Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies and the UN Office of Technical Cooperation in organizing this seminar which took place in Accra, Ghana from 4 to 13 December, 1968. Its report is for consideration under item 6 of the agenda.

- vi) Third Session of the Committee for Development Planning.

In conjunction with the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, the secretariat assisted in the organisation of the third session of the Committee for Development Planning held at Addis Ababa in April 1968. The session was specifically devoted to problems of plan implementation especially in Africa and the secretariat submitted a study of development planning and economic integration in Africa (E/DC.54/L.27). More will be heard about this Committee under item 6 of the Agenda.

25. From November 1969, the section cooperated with the United Nations Office of Technical Cooperation technical assistance advisory mission to the Planning Commission of the Imperial Ethiopian Government. The mission was to advise the Planning Commission on the technical assistance and Ethiopian Manpower requirements to fulfil the objectives of the Third Five-Year Plan. A staff member of the section was the technical secretary to the Mission. He completed his assignment on the 30th of April 1970.

- vii) Training Course in Budget - Plan Harmonization - 1970.

In March this year, two staff members of the Division cooperated with the Monetary, Fiscal and Trade Division in running a training course in Budget-Plan Harmonization. The lectures given were:

- (i) Plan Implementation Control by T. Benzineb, Associate Economic Affairs Officer.
- (ii) Regional Planning and Regional Budgets by E.B. Alayev, Economic Affairs Officer.



### Economic Surveys

26. While it is realized that economic and statistical analyses are prerequisites for sound economic planning, it should also be understood that economic surveys provide useful supplementary means of describing economic structure and changes and of giving guidance on policy formulation.

27. The aim is to build up an integrated system of economic surveys in the region. The plan is the same as that of statistical development, i.e. international recommendations adapted to the conditions of the region. The surveys are to be at three-levels-national, sub-regional and regional.

28. In its earlier years, ECA undertook detailed studies of the African economy on a sub-regional basis; the various volumes arising from this work have now been published or are with the printers. More recently, simpler arrangements have been introduced so that a general assessment of the African economic situation can be presented regularly in two basic documents: The Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa, which follows the same lines similar to publications of other regional commissions and the Economic Bulletin for Africa, which appears twice every year. It serves as a means of discussing selected topics in more detail than is possible in the Annual Survey.

29. The new important project under economic surveys is the one relating to economic surveys at the national level. At present, whilst an increasing number of countries of the region are producing annual economic surveys, mainly to provide the background for consideration of the annual economic budget, there are some who do not undertake such surveys. The aim is to encourage all countries of the region to undertake the preparation of annual economic surveys.

30. Towards this end, proposals for a simplified outline to serve as a guide to the content of national economic surveys were circulated to member countries in December 1968 and a working-group on national economic survey took place in Addis Ababa from 1 to 10 December 1969 as already mentioned. Also, there is regional advisory service in economic surveys as mentioned above. More will be said on economic surveys under item 8 of the agenda.

### Exchange of Information

31. Apart from its functions in developing methodology appropriate to the region and in providing statistical guidelines for African development policy, ECA also has the responsibility of ensuring that information on the economic activities of African countries is available throughout the region. To a large extent, this will be accomplished through the projects already indicated above.

32. For easy dissemination of information, ECA secretariat publishes certain economics documents, viz Economic Bulletin for Africa, Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa and Planning Newsletter. The Economic Bulletin and the Annual Survey have already been mentioned. The Planning Newsletter

is a new venture. It was started after the reorganisation of research activities in ECA. The maiden issue was in April 1969. It is published quarterly and provides regular information on regional and national activities, and is also used as a means of discussing technical and organisation matters. The Newsletter is regarded as a cooperative project of the secretariat and countries of the region and so contributions from national sources are welcome.

33. During the period under review, the secretariat completed drafts on "A Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa" 1967 and 1968. The documents are being printed. The work on 1969 is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 1970. Nos. 1 and 2 of Volume VII of the Economic Bulletin for Africa were published. Nos. 1 and 2 of Volumes VIII and IX and No. 1 of Volume X are being printed. Volume VII deals with industrialization in Africa. Volume VIII is devoted to problems of economic planning which were discussed at the second session of the Conference of African Planners. No. 1 of Volume IX deals with tariffs and foreign trade preferences for African countries. No. 2 of Volume IX examines agricultural problems in the North and East African sub-regions. No. 1 of Volume X is devoted to the report of the Fourth Interregional Seminar in Development Planning, Accra, 4 - 13 December 1968. Similarly, five issues of the Planning Newsletter have been published since its inception. Among other things, No. 1 reviews ECA Programme of Work and Priorities in Economic Planning, Projections and Policies, as well as the Accra Interregional seminar on Development Planning; No. 2 reports on Preparations for the Second Development Decade and reviews some African Plans, No. 3 continues the review of African Plans; No. 4 gave comments on Methodology, Organization and Growth Rates for African Countries during the Second Development Decade and discusses the status of Statistical Data Series, Censuses and Surveys for Economic Planning, while No. 5 discusses "The Role of Public Enterprises in Planning" among other things.

34. One other publication during the period which was not mentioned in the Programme of Work and Priorities is "Summaries of Economic Data". This had been done for about 40 African countries. This summary is a short form of Economic Surveys and can be very useful to busy politicians and administrators who have only limited time at their disposal for keeping up-to-date about developments in fields other than their own specialisation. It is recommended that this format might be adopted by countries in preparing short summaries of economic data and it is believed that the circulation of such documents between countries would assist in the understanding of each other's problems and progress and would help in the movement towards African cooperation and unity.

#### The United Nations Second Development Decade

35. The involvement of the section in the preparatory work for the United Nations Second Development Decade is not included in the Programme of Work and Priorities. However, it is another area in which the section had operated since the last session of the Conference of African Planners. In fact, the agenda for this meeting had been prepared with the Second Development Decade in mind and item 6 is concerned with the proposals for

strategy in the Second Development Decade.

36. So far, the ECA in conjunction with the CDPP, had undertaken sub-regional studies to formulate strategy and procedures for the second Development Decade and had participated in the meetings of CDP and inter-regional seminars such as the Accra and Bangkok seminars. As indicated above, these things are the subjects of discussion under item 6.

## ANNEX I

UN Training Facilities in Economic Research and Planning1967-68 to 1969-70

1. Name of Institute: Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Dakar, Senegal

Course

Nine-Month Course (Full)

	Enrolments	Man-Months of Training	No. of Diplomas Awarded
1967-68	20	180	20
1968-69	30	270	30
1969-70			

- \* In view of the fact that the course is organised in three self-contained parts each lasting three months, and it is possible for candidates to take parts of the course in some sessions and take the rest in subsequent sessions for the purpose of obtaining the Diploma, the number of diplomas awarded does not necessarily agree with the number of participants registering for the full course in any particular year.

2. Name of Institute: Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquee, Rabat, Maroc

Enrolments and Successes

Training Course	1967-1968		1968-1969		1969-1970		Total 1967-1970	
	Enrolled	Successes	Enrolled	Successes	Enrolled	Successes	Enrolled	Successes
		ses		ses		ses	Man-Months of Train- ing	ses
1st Year	49	21	63	21				
2nd Year	27	26	21	12				
3rd Year	16	15	26	26				

	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	Total 1967-70	
Training Course	Enrolled ses	Succes- ses	Enrolled Succes- ses	Enrolled Man- Month of Train- ing	Succes- ses
1st Year	-	-	30	73	
2nd Year	-	-	-	23	
3rd Year	-	-	-	-	

Summary of Proposed Work Programme and Priorities

1970-74

The list below gives a summary of the projects the secretariat intends to carry out in the period 1970-74 in furtherance of its objective of assisting the countries of the region in establishing better arrangements for plan formulation and implementation. The programme assumes that the preoccupation of the region in the fields of economic development planning in the next decade will be within the framework of the UN Second Development Decade.

1. Programme Organisation

- a) Third Session of the Conference of African Planners (1970)
- b) Fourth Session of the Conference of African Planners (1972)
- c) Fifth Session of the Conference of African Planners (1974)

2. Methodology and Research

- a) Second Meeting of the technical group on projections and programming: Data required for Projections (1970)
- b) Seminar on integration of national plans with sectoral and regional development plans (1971)
- c) Study on the approach to regional integration of national projections to obtain a picture of the African economy (1971)
- d) Third Meeting of the technical group on projections and programming: aggregative growth models for African economies (1971)
- e) Working group of experts on regional harmonization of development plans (1971)
- f) Working group on financing of development and budget harmonization (1971)
- g) Fourth Meeting of the technical group on projections and programming: sectoral projections for Africa (1972)
- h) Seminar on infrastructure and economic development (1972)
- i) Seminar on commodity trade policy and economic growth (1972)
- j) Fifth Meeting of the technical group on projections and programming: integrated approach for projections, planning and policies (1973)
- k) Seminar on employment policy and economic growth (1973)

3. Economic Surveys

- a)
  - i) Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1970
  - ii) Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1971
  - iii) Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1972
  - iv) Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1973
- b)
  - i) Economic Bulletin for Africa (1969)
  - ii) Economic Bulletin for Africa (1970)
  - iii) Economic Bulletin for Africa (1971)
  - iv) Economic Bulletin for Africa (1972)

#### 4. Echange of Information

a) Bibliographies of economic material published by African countries

- i) Bibliography of economic material published by African countries (1970)
- ii) Bibliography of economic material published by African countries (1972)
- iii) Bibliography of economic material published by African countries (1974)

b) Manual on Planning for African Countries (1971)

c) Planning Newsletter

- i) Planning Newsletter 1970
- ii) Planning Newsletter 1971
- iii) Planning Newsletter 1972
- iv) Planning Newsletter 1973
- v) Planning Newsletter 1974

#### Continuing Tasks

The following continuing tasks will be undertaken during the quinquennium:-

- a) Providing advisory services and undertaking advisory missions to member countries, on request, in the field of development planning, projections and economic surveys.
- b) Giving assistance to and maintaining liaison with central planning organs, universities and other planning institutions and organizations.
- c) Preparing, as required, and revising, reissuing studies, documents and papers not linked with specific projects and sub-projects.
- d) Cooperating, as necessary, in implementing the programmes of other division and sections of the secretariat and the African programme of specialized and operating agencies of the United Nations, IDEP and similar organizations.
- e) Following up former projects, sub-projects and visits, by correspondence, elaboration of reports and recommendations, etc.
- f) Collecting and processing data required for projections; the preparation and revision of long-term projections for all the countries in the region.
- g) Studying the results of economic projections prepared by national and international organisations for African countries and analysing the results, regionally and internationally, of the long-term projections of each of the African countries.
- h) Evaluating the possibilities for long-term economic growth and cooperation of the countries of the region, and determining the basic elements for economic cooperation and policy development.

- i) Studying the techniques and methods used in programming, overall and sectoral projections as well as projections on the basis of commodities and recommending the most appropriate techniques and methods for conditions obtaining in Africa.
- j) Cooperating with the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, to improve world economic projection models, bearing in mind needs and circumstances of Africa.
- k) Collecting and Processing the development plans of the African countries, studying the obstacles to their implementation, and considering measures to be adopted to improve development plans preparation and supervise its implementation.
- l) Determining the special circumstances required for planning in Africa, bearing in mind the pattern of resources and needs in the African countries and the preparation of a minimum pattern to all African plans.
- m) Studying the requirements of ECA member states for specialized staff for projections, planning and economic surveys, and the training and other sources required to meet these needs;
- n) Assisting Governments to organize, at the national and sub-regional levels, in cooperation with IDEP, courses on projections, planning and economic surveys, and in establishing, as required, regional training centres, with the help of UNDP as necessary.