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REPORT OF THE FIFTH ECA/OAU JOINT MEETING ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Geneva, 13-24 August 1970

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Part I: Organization and attendance

1. The Fifth ECA/OAU Joint Meeting on Trade and Development took place in Geneva from 13 to 24 August 1970.
2. The purpose of the Fifth Joint Meeting was to assist African Governments to harmonize their views in order to adopt common positions on various issues that were to be discussed at the Tenth Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.
3. Representatives of the following Member States of ECA/OAU attended the meeting: Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (People's Republic of), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somali Democratic Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Upper Volta and the United Arab Republic.
4. A list of participants is attached to this report as annex III.
5. Opening statements were made by the representative of the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the representative of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.
6. The meeting unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Marc Nan-Nguema (Gabon) as Chairman; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Sayah (Tunisia) and Mr. M. Ismail Kahim (Somalia) as First and Second Vice-Chairmen respectively. Mr. A. El-Gowhari (United Arab Republic) was elected Rapporteur.
7. At its Second Session, the meeting decided to set up a drafting group composed of the following delegations: Algeria, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Mali.
8. The agenda prepared by the Secretariat was, after some amendments, adopted unanimously. It is reproduced in annex II to this report.
9. A list of the documents prepared by the ECA and OAU Secretariats for the meeting can be found in annex IV. In addition, the meeting had before it the reports of the main UNCTAD Committees and other documents prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat for the tenth session of the Trade and Development Board.
10. At the end of its deliberations, the meeting adopted this report and the recommendations which appear in annex I.

Part II: Account of Proceedings

The Second United Nations Development Decade

11. The meeting took note of the various developments which had taken place in the preparation of the Second Development Decade since the Fourth Joint Meeting. Progress had been made during the third Resumed Ninth Session of the Board on the formulation of UNCTAD's contribution to the Second United Nations Development Decade, but agreement had not been reached in two important areas, namely maritime transport and the objectives of aid and the implementation of the 1 per cent aid target by developed countries. However in relation to shipping and ports the delegations were informed that following consultations held with experts from some permanent missions in Geneva the President of the Trade and Development Board and the Secretary General of UNCTAD had been able to prepare a draft text which would be submitted to the Board at its Tenth Session. It was hoped that at its Tenth Session the Board would be able to endorse an additional text on the contribution of UNCTAD to the Second Development Decade.

12. With regard to the question of financing and aid, delegates expressed their concern that the developed countries had done very little to implement Resolution 27 (II) of the second Conference on the transfer of 1 per cent of the developed countries' GNP to the developing countries in the form of aid. The meeting reaffirmed its support for the recommendations of its third and fourth sessions and the stand of the Group of 77 developing countries on the question of aid. Many delegates stated that implementation of the 1 per cent aid targets and the adoption of favourable objectives for the financial assistance to developing countries is of prime importance to developing countries; in this respect many delegates referred to the favourable recommendations included in the Pearson Report and the report of the Development Assistance Committee in relation to the aid target and the objectives of aid.

13. The meeting expressed the hope that African countries in the OAU meetings and in the United Nations General Assembly, together with other developing countries, would make a concerted effort to urge the developed countries to accept and implement the objectives and conditions of aid policy and the 1 per cent aid target not later than 1972.

14. The meeting also discussed the provision of soft loans on concessional terms. It was recommended that in the future these loans should be equitably distributed among the developing countries.

15. Many delegates expressed their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the contribution of UNCTAD to the Second Development Decade appeared in the report of

the Preparatory Committee. Delegates were of the opinion that the efforts of the developing countries in UNCTAD to get the developed countries to accept commitments to certain objectives and targets had been diluted by the way the Preparatory Committee presented them in its report in document A/7982.

16. The meeting requested the ECA and the OAU to prepare a report recapitulating the evolution of UNCTAD since the first session of the Conference.

Third session of UNCTAD

17. The meeting emphasized the desirability of holding the third session of UNCTAD within the first part of 1972 so that the decisions arising therefrom could be used to reinforce the implementation of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

18. While the Secretary-General of UNCTAD already had produced a provisional agenda, it was hoped that the tenth session of the Board would take fully into consideration all elements of interest to the African region when considering the agenda.

19. During the Council of Ministers of the OAU and subsequently the African Heads of States meeting in Algiers in late 1968, the African States, after careful consideration of the report of UNCTAD II, resolved that a ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 should meet before the ninth session of the Trade and Development Board. In this respect the meeting was of the opinion that it would be desirable that the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Ministers to be followed by the meeting of Heads of States reaffirm their previous resolutions and recommendations on the matter. Such a meeting of the Group of 77 should try to harmonize the objectives of the Group and increase their continued solidarity, in accordance with the Charter of Algiers, in particular in relation to the general system of preferences.

20. The meeting also called upon the Chairman of the Group of 77 to initiate consultations among member countries of the Group of 77 with a view to the eventual convening of a ministerial meeting preceding the third session of UNCTAD, as recommended by the Charter of Algiers.

Commodity problems and policies

21. The meeting emphasized the importance of this item for the developing countries in general and the African countries in particular. It decided that the broad principles agreed upon at the Third and Fourth Joint Meetings should continue to constitute the basis of the African stand in the field of commodities.

22. The meeting considered the report of the ECA/OAU Secretariats on consultations among producing countries on commodities of export interest to the African countries.

23. It expressed its appreciations for the study and the proposals for joint action by African producers in respect of a number of commodities.
24. The meeting recommended that the ECA and the OAU should take the initiative to arrange consultations among all interested African producing countries in respect of citrus fruits.
25. The meeting expressed regret, however, that the study had not covered a number of other commodities of export interest to African countries, such as cotton, bananas, manganese, fruits and vegetables and potash, and in particular the transport problems facing some of these commodities. It requested the ECA and the OAU to study the problems faced also by these commodities with a view to making concrete proposals for concerted action by interested producers. The meeting expressed its appreciation to UNCTAD for its assistance in the preparation of the study before it and expressed the hope that UNCTAD would continue to assist the ECA in carrying out these studies.
26. Some delegations suggested that African countries should concert their efforts with a view to investing in the brokerage companies so as to end speculation on commodities of export interest to these countries.
27. The meeting recommended that the ECA and the OAU should explore possibilities of agreements between producing and consuming countries in the region with regard to primary commodities, especially foodstuffs.
28. The meeting re-affirmed its recommendation of the third Joint Meeting that a General Agreement of Commodities should be concluded so that there might be uniform principles and models on which all commodity agreements could be based.
29. The meeting also considered the Report of the Committee on Commodities on its fifth session.
30. It noted that agreement had been nearly reached on proposals submitted in respect of pricing policy and trade liberalization and expressed the hope that final agreement would be reached at the tenth session of the Trade and Development Board.
31. With regard to the draft resolution submitted by African countries on the question of the least developed among developing countries^{1/}, the meeting recommended that this draft resolution should be remitted to the Group of 31 for discussion in a working group to be set up during the tenth session of the Board.
32. The meeting also reviewed international action on commodities in the light of recent developments.

33. It expressed regret that continued efforts to achieve an international cocoa agreement had still not cleared all difficulties standing in the way of an agreement. It hoped that the consultations which were currently carried out by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD with a view to clearing the way for a cocoa conference would be successful.

34. The meeting also expressed the hope that the discussions which are presently being held at the International Coffee Organization would have a successful outcome with regard, especially, to allocation of quotas among the producing countries.

35. The meeting expressed its support for the recommendation of the FAO study group on oilseeds, oils and fats that the name of the study group be changed to "the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats", and that both the UNCTAD Committee on Commodities and the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems should consider changing the status of the group into a joint FAO/UNCTAD body.

Expansion and diversification of exports of manufactures and semi-manufactures of developing countries.

36. The meeting took note of the reports of the UNCTAD Committee on Manufactures and of the Special Committee on Preferences.

37. The meeting reaffirmed its support for the principle of establishing a General Scheme of Preferences in favour of developing countries as stated in resolution 21 (II) of the Second UNCTAD, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Third and Fourth Joint Meetings of ECA/OAU.

38. The meeting discussed the ECA/OAU study on the General Scheme of Preferences and its evaluation of the provisional offers of the OECD countries. Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the analysis it provided. These delegations thought that the study, though static, provided an illuminating first approximation of the revenue benefits likely to accrue to African developing countries if the present OECD offers were to be implemented without any pre-conditions. Other delegations drew the attention of the meeting to a number of weaknesses in the study. Those delegations stressed in particular that the approach adopted was static and as such did not take into consideration the possible inducement to an increase in exports as a result of the Scheme.

39. Delegates expressed their dissatisfaction with the contents of the provisional offers of the OECD countries and stated that they would abide by the relevant resolution of the 14th Session of the Council of Ministers of OAU in February 1970 urging potential donor countries to improve and harmonize their offers.

40. Some delegations pointed out that certain African countries might be adversely affected by implementation of a generalized system of preferences. As a consequence several delegations suggested that the developed OECD countries should consider the establishment of a discriminating quota system in favour of the countries most likely to be adversely affected.

41. In view of the fact that a number of African countries export a very limited number of products, a differential global quota system was suggested by some delegates with a minimum quota allocation to allow an acceptable rate of growth, with the purpose of compensating for the prospective shortcomings in the General Scheme of Preferences. The quota system suggested was supposed to take into account the total exports of each developing country, the commodity range, and the annual rate of change in its exports. Exports of least developed countries, according to the suggestion, would be allowed duty and quota free, and this allowance would be phased out progressively during the course of development.

42. Some delegations further pointed out that reverse preferences should be phased out over a period of time terminating by the end of the first term of duration of the General Scheme of Preferences.

43. The main objective of the Scheme was to bring about a structural change in the pattern of trade by encouraging the production and sale of goods not previously produced or sold, or goods not previously sold on a significant scale, by developing countries. As a result of this, some delegations expressed the view that the Secretariat document laid too much emphasis on the short-term probable effects of the Scheme. Other representatives stressed that the effect of the general system of preferences would be diminished if new trade negotiations of the Kennedy Round type envisaged in the framework of GATT on the basis of the most favoured nation principle were to be held.

44. Many delegations felt that the evaluation made by the ECA/OAU was satisfactory. Some delegations, however, pointed out that most of the gains and losses to be derived from the implementation of the scheme could not be quantified. It might consequently be misleading to calculate only the small visible part of the gains. Some participants further regretted that the secretariat's study had not taken into consideration the established trade links between certain developed and developing countries.

45. The meeting recognized, however, that the ECA/OAU document had not attempted to indicate what the African position on this question should be. The document had merely provided data and information, on the basis of which African Governments might formulate their position on this question.

46. The meeting expressed the hope that the OECD countries would endeavour to make the revised offers available as early as possible before the resumed Fourth Session of the Committee on Preferences. It was further hoped that the OECD countries would take into consideration the views expressed by this meeting.

47. The meeting agreed on the need for unity of African countries on this question. It was stressed that unity could only be achieved if the interests of all African countries were taken into consideration.

Financing related to trade

48. The meeting had before it the report of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to trade on its fourth session. It expressed its support for the three resolutions contained in annex IV of the report.

49. Delegates expressed disappointment that the target of 1% of GNP fixed for the volume of aid to the developing countries as accepted in resolution 27 (II) of UNCTAD II had still not been reached. Developed countries were urged to implement the target, including the provision of a minimum of 0.75 per cent by way of net official financial resource transfers, not later than 1972.

50. Support was also expressed for resolution 2565 (XXIV) of the General Assembly which called upon the IMF, inter alia, to approve an adjustment that would give the developing countries a larger share in the total quotas of IMF.

51. The meeting was of the view that a link should be found between the Special Drawing Rights within the IMF with a commitment to provide additional development finance and recommended that at the next allocation of SDR's due consideration should be given to the establishment of a direct link between this new reserve asset and additional development finance.

52. The meeting reaffirmed its support for the principle of establishing a multilateral interest equalization fund.

53. The meeting reaffirmed its support for a scheme for supplementary financing and expressed the hope that the report to be submitted by the IBRD pursuant to resolution 60 (IX) of the Trade and Development Board would contain proposals which would enable the scheme to enter into force from the start of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

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54. The meeting also had before it an ECA/OAU study on Aid to Africa. The participants took note with interest of the study.

55. Representatives of the ECA and the ADB briefed the meeting on the progress in the establishment of an African Development Fund as a soft-loan window of the ADB, financed by contributions from developed countries. A representative of the OAU drew the attention of delegations to the difference between that fund and the trust fund which it is proposed to establish in accordance with the self-reliance policy envisaged by the ECA. The trust fund envisaged by the ECA Executive Committee at its Second Session would be considered by the Council of Ministers of the OAU at the Council's 15th Session.

56. The meeting welcomed the presence of the ADB representative. Some delegations expressed the wish that in the future the Bank should also attend the meetings of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing Related to Trade.

Shipping

57. The meeting after having considered the Report of the Committee on Shipping on its fourth session re-emphasized the importance of shipping for African countries in view of the extent of African countries' dependence on trade and the geographical distribution of their trade. It was noted that many resolutions had been passed by the Committee on shipping in its fourth session. Some delegates expressed regret that a number of these resolutions had not adequately safeguarded the interests of developing countries. However, the view was expressed that this matter could be brought up in interventions before the Trade and Development Board.

Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems

58. The meeting noted that the markets of socialist countries of Eastern Europe offered great opportunities for the products of African countries.

59. It was pointed out, however, that many problems of an economic, institutional and trade policy nature needed to be solved in order to facilitate expansion of trade between socialist countries of Eastern Europe and African countries.

60. The meeting, in conformity with the recommendations of the Fourth Joint Meeting of ECA/OAU, requested the Secretariats of the OAU and the ECA to undertake studies aimed at analysing trade prospects for African countries in socialist countries of Eastern Europe and exploring ways and means of overcoming obstacles to trade between these countries and African countries in general taking into account the studies carried out by UNCTAD in this field.

61. It was stressed that the potential for trade between African countries and socialist countries of Eastern Europe would be fulfilled more easily if the former could be informed well in advance about the likely supply shortages of the latter. Many participants expressed the view that long-term agreements between African countries and socialist countries of Eastern Europe could play a useful role in this respect.

62. Attention was drawn to the fact that, though inequitable and unsatisfactory in many respects, a scheme of general, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory system of preferences for manufactures and semi-manufactures from developing countries had been proposed by developed market economy countries. The meeting recommended that pursuant to UNCTAD resolution 15 (II) socialist countries of Eastern Europe should also be urged to give preferential treatment to products imported from developing countries compatible with their economic systems.

63. With this end in view, it was decided that the African countries members of the Board, should press the Trade and Development Board at its 10th session to agree on a timetable for implementing resolution 15 (II).

Principles governing international trade relations and trade policies conducive to development, Conference resolution 22 (II)

64. The meeting noted that, up to date, a number of principles designed to govern international trade relations and policies which were adopted by UNCTAD I had not been implemented. Since UNCTAD I, new problems had arisen that make formulation of new principles necessary.

65. The meeting took note of resolution 22 (II) requesting the Board to establish appropriate machinery for consultation on, and settlement of, problems pertaining to the implementation or non-implementation of any of the existing principles and new principles that may be adopted hereafter. The meeting expressed support for the creation of such a body. It was hoped that such a body would examine causes for non-implementation of existing principles and suggest ways and means of removing them so that developing countries which hitherto had marginally benefited might gain in the future. Furthermore, the body was requested to recommend new principles to deal with particular problems with a view to their acceptance during the third session of UNCTAD.

66. The meeting was of the opinion that these questions should also be examined by a ministerial meeting of African States before the meeting of 77 and UNCTAD III.

67. As regards the attitude of African delegations in respect of this question during the tenth session of the Board, it was agreed that the African group should meet in advance of the discussion of these issues to harmonise their views.

Impact of regional economic groupings of the developed countries on international trade, including the trade of developing countries

68. The meeting noted that the Board at the first part of its ninth session had had before it two draft texts which were subsequently referred to a Contact group. No agreement, however, had been reached on a text in the group.

69. The participants expressed the hope that regional economic groupings of developed countries would not affect adversely the trade and economic development of African countries.

70. The meeting agreed that consultations on this item should be continued on the contact group level at the tenth session of the Board.

Trade expansion, economic co-operation and regional integration among developing countries: Consideration of report of the Intergovernmental Group

71. The meeting re-emphasized the importance of this subject to African countries. Many delegates expressed their firm support of the recommendations on this subject contained in the report of the Third and Fourth Joint ECA/OAU Meetings on Trade and Development.

72. The meeting noted that the Intergovernmental Group on Trade Expansion, Economic Cooperation and Regional Integration among Developing Countries would meet from 2 to 18 November 1970. It was hoped that if the report of that meeting could be circulated among the respective governments as early as possible the issues therein should be discussed during the resumed session of the Tenth Board meeting scheduled for early February 1971.

73. Pursuant to resolution 23 (II), they requested the developed countries to make known, during the first meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group, the practical measures they intend to take to assist the developing countries, more particularly the African countries, to achieve the targets connected with the expansion of trade and regional economic integration.

74. A representative of the ECA secretariat, at the request of the delegates, briefed the meeting on the recent activities and programme of work of ECA in this area. He drew the attention of participants on the possibility of initiating bilateral trade consultations of a noncommittal and confidential nature between African countries in conjunction with the biennial sessions of the Conference of Ministers of the ECA. The first consultations could be held during the 10th Session of the ECA which would take place in Tunisia in February 1971. Consultations, he added, had been held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and these had led to the conclusion of a number of bilateral trade agreements in the two regions.

75. A representative of the OAU Secretariat informed the meeting about the activities which the OAU has been carrying out since 1968 in the field of economic co-operation in close co-ordination with the ECA. He further informed participants of the OAU decision to stage an All-African Trade Fair in Nairobi in 1972.

76. The Representative of the African Development Bank informed the meeting about the objectives and programme of work of the Bank in the field of economic co-operation between its member countries.

77. Following the above information the meeting expressed its appreciation to the two Secretariats and the representative of the African Development Bank and recommended that the ECA should provide facilities for the holding of trade consultations during the forthcoming session of the ECA conference of ministers. The meeting recommended that international organizations such as UNCTAD should extend all possible co-operation to ECA in this field.

78. The meeting reviewed activities of regional and sub-regional groupings in the region. In view of the complex nature of the questions of economic co-operation and regional integration in Africa the meeting requested the Secretariats of the ECA and the OAU to continue their efforts and studies on economic co-operation and regional integration in Africa with a view to evolving concrete suggestions. It was further requested that the two Secretariats should report regularly to the Joint ECA/OAU Meeting on developments in this field. In that connexion, the Meeting reaffirmed its recommendation of the Fourth Joint ECA/OAU Meeting that the ECA should benefit from an increase in financial resources and in personnel from the United Nations system to enable it to engage in operational activities and to take necessary initiatives for the study and participation in the implementation of projects of economic co-operation in the region.

Special measures in favour of least developed among developing countries

79. The meeting took note of the various developments which had taken place since UNCTAD II in respect of this subject. It re-affirmed the recommendations of the Third and Fourth Joint ECA/OAU Meetings on Trade and Development, and gave its full support to resolutions 63 (IX) and 65 (IX) of the Trade and Development Board, as well as resolution 2564 (XXIV) of the General Assembly on this question.

80. The Meeting emphasized the fact that resolution 24 (II) of the Second UNCTAD invited "international bodies responsible for particular measures designed to benefit developing countries generally, whenever possible, to design the form of, and elaborate

on, the special measures which might be taken in favour of least developed countries and to identify such countries in the context of each measure concerned taking fully into account the identifying criteria relevant to the policy in question".

81. It further emphasized that since Africa could be considered the least developed among the developing regions priority should be given to the question of identifying the problems peculiar to those countries and to evolving measures to solve them.

82. It urged all international bodies, including the subsidiary bodies of UNCTAD, which have hitherto not been able to suggest concrete measures in favour of least developed countries, to do so as soon as possible. It was further recommended that the Secretariats of the ECA and the OAU should take into account these proposals with a view to elaborating them for the development of African countries.

Special problems of the land-locked countries

83. The meeting noted with concern the importance and specific nature of the problems facing the land-locked countries. Attention was also drawn to the special problems facing African countries such as long distances from foreign ports for the shipment of their products as well as from the markets for their products.

84. The meeting urged that the problems of the land-locked countries, especially those situated in the African region, should be studied as a matter of priority with a view to initiating international action aimed at assisting those countries in overcoming the adverse economic consequences of their geographical situation, as these countries were among the least developed of the African countries.

85. The meeting considered the report^{1/} of the expert group which had been established to study this question, in accordance with UNCTAD resolution 11 (II) and resolution 50 (VIII) of the Trade and Development Board.

86. While some delegations expressed dissatisfaction with the analysis of the problems in the expert group report, other delegations drew attention to the positive contribution of the report and requested the application of the measures contained therein.

87. On the whole, the meeting was of the view, however, that more time was needed to study and evaluate this report before a common African position could be reached.

Particular problems in the field of trade and development

Long distances to markets and foreign ports through which exports are shipped

88. Attention was also drawn to the special problems facing African countries such as long distances from foreign ports for the shipment of their products as well as from the markets for their products.

Trade promotion

89. A representative of the ECA at the request of delegates briefed the meeting on the activities and work programme of the African Trade Centre (ATC). The meeting also considered the plan of operation of the ATC.

90. The meeting congratulated the Secretariat of ECA for the efficiency and speed with which it had established the Centre as requested by Resolution 199 (IX) of the ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, and noted with appreciation that since its creation in March 1970, the ATC had immediately embarked upon the implementation of its work programme.

91. It was suggested that the Centre in addition to duties already contemplated in the programme of work should endeavour to carry out more field studies and offer advice on practical problems facing the African countries in the field of trade promotion. The meeting emphasized that ATC should aim at assisting African countries in Africanizing and restructuring their commercial sectors. The desire was also expressed that ATC should assist African countries in establishing an African Trade Promotion Association.

92. The meeting requested that ATC should assist commodity producing countries in launching joint advertising and promotion campaigns. It was also recommended that closer co-ordination should be established between ATC and ITC with a view to allowing ATC increased access to the facilities and resources available in ITC.

93. The meeting expressed the desire that the Centre would be the main channel through which funds and experts in the field of trade and export promotion would be provided to Africa.

Technical assistance activities, including training of technical and special staff in the field of export promotion and invisible transactions

94. The meeting decided that, due to constraints of time, this item should be referred to the African Group on the Trade and Development Board.

Progressive development of the law of international trade: third annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

95. The meeting decided that, due to constraints of time, this item should be referred to the African Group on the Trade and Development Board.

Transfer of technology, including know-how and patents

96. The meeting decided that, due to constraints of time, this item should be referred to the African Group on the Trade and Development Board.

World food problem

97. The meeting decided that, due to constraints of time, this item should be referred to the African Group on the Trade and Development Board.

Elections of officers to the Trade and Development Board

98. The meeting decided to present the following candidatures to offices of the Trade and Development Board during its tenth session:

- (1) Vice-President: H.E. M. A. RAZAFINDRABE
Ambassador of Madagascar
- (2) Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelaziz AYADHI
First Secretary
Permanent Mission
Geneva

Election to membership of Committees

99. The meeting emphasized the importance of having effective African representation in the Trade and Development Board and all its subsidiary bodies. In this respect the meeting recalled the Resolutions of the OAU Council of Ministers in its 11th, 12 and 13th sessions concerning the strengthening of African representation in UNCTAD.

100. The meeting decided to present the following candidatures to the Committees of the Board:

Committee on Commodities

Chad, Kenya and Tunisia

Committee on Manufactures

Algeria

Committee on Invisibles and Financing Related to Trade

Kenya, Nigeria and Tunisia

Committee on Shipping

Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Arab Republic

Date and Place of the Sixth Meeting

101. It was decided that the sixth session of the ECA/OAU joint meeting on trade and development should be held in Geneva prior to the 11th Session of the Trade and Development Board. It was also agreed that the Secretariats of the ECA and the OAU would prepare the work programme and the provisional agenda of the sixth Session after consultations with the African Group in Geneva.

ANNEX I

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fifth Joint ECA/OAU Meeting on Trade and Development

Recommends that

The Second United Nations Development Decade

- (i) the African countries should reiterate their support to the recommendations of the 3rd and 4th joint ECA/OAU meetings relating to the Second Development Decade and especially in the field of finance and aid;
- (ii) African countries members of the Trade and Development Board should endeavour to ensure that agreement should be reached on pending issues concerning the contribution of UNCTAD to the Second Development Decade during the first part of its 10th Session on the basis of suggestions adopted by the Group of 77 in document TD/B/L.194;
- (iii) the African countries in the OAU and the General Assembly should press developed countries to implement the 1 per cent aid target as early as possible and in any case not later than 1972;
- (iv) soft loans on concessional terms should be equitably distributed among developing countries;
- (v) the African countries should ensure that the text on the contribution of UNCTAD to the Second Development Decade should be attributed the importance it deserves in the final report on the Second Development Decade;
- (vi) the ECA and the OAU should prepare a report recapitulating the evolution of UNCTAD since the first session of the Conference.

Third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- (i) The Council of Ministers and the Heads of States meeting of the OAU should re-affirm their support for the ministerial meeting of 77 to precede the third session of UNCTAD.
- (ii) A ministerial meeting of African countries should be convened to discuss the issues likely to be put on the agenda of the ministerial meeting of 77 and UNCTAD III.
- (iii) The Chairman of the Group of 77 should initiate consultations with a view to convening the ministerial meeting of 77 before UNCTAD III. To this end the Group of 31 should, in accordance with the Charter of Algiers, take necessary measures for the preparation of this meeting.

Commodity problems and policies

- (i) the ECA and the OAU should arrange for consultations to be held among all African producing countries in respect of citrus fruits;
- (ii) the ECA and the OAU should continue to carry out studies on the subject of consultations among producing countries with a view to covering other commodities of export interest to African countries, with special regard to cotton, bananas, manganese,^{1/} fruits and vegetables and potash, and in particular the transport problems facing some of these commodities;
- (iii) the ECA and the OAU should explore the possibilities of agreements between producing and consuming countries in the African region in respect of primary commodities, especially foodstuffs;
- (iv) the draft resolution submitted by African countries on the question of the least developed among developing countries should be remitted to the Group of 31 for discussion by a working group to be set up during the tenth session of the Trade and Development Board;
- (v) the recommendation of the FAO Study Group on oilseeds, oils and fats that the name of the study group be changed to the "Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats", and that both the UNCTAD Committee on Commodities and the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems should change the status of the group into a joint FAO/UNCTAD body, should be implemented;
- (vi) African countries members of the Trade and Development Board should endeavour to secure a final agreement at the tenth session of the Board on pricing policy and liberalization of access to markets.

Financing related to trade

- (i) African countries strongly reaffirm the need to reach agreement by the beginning of the Second Development Decade, and by 1972 at the latest, on the establishment of a scheme of supplementary financing as well as the 1 per cent aid target, at least 0.75 per cent of which was to be in the form of net official transfers;
- (ii) the IMF, in accordance with resolution 2565 (XXIV) of the General Assembly, should approve an adjustment that would give the developing countries a larger share in the total quotas of IMF;

^{1/} To be studied in conjunction with the study on iron ore.

- (iii) the countries, members of the IMF, be urged to accept, within the framework of the measures decided upon for the Second Development Decade, the establishment of a direct link between the SDR's and additional development finance at the next allocation of SDR's, due to be determined in 1972;
- (iv) African countries should support the principle of the establishment of a multilateral interest equalization fund.

Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems

- (i) the ECA and the OAU should undertake studies aimed at analysing trade prospects for African countries in socialist countries of Eastern Europe and exploring ways and means of overcoming obstacles to trade;
- (ii) socialist countries of Eastern Europe should be urged to give preferential treatment to products imported from developing countries in accordance with paras. 3 and 4 of Part II of Resolution 15 (II); and
- (iii) the African countries members of the Board should press for an agreement establishing a timetable for implementing the relevant parts of resolution 15 (II).

Principles governing international trade relations and trade policies conducive to development

- (i) a meeting of relevant ministers from African countries should be convened before the ministerial meeting of 77 and UNCTAD III to review, inter alia, the problems associated with principles governing international trade and the setting up of a general system of preferences.

Trade expansion, economic co-operation and regional integration among developing countries

- (i) the ECA and the OAU should assist African countries in holding non-committal and confidential consultations in conjunction with the biennial sessions of the Council of Ministers of the ECA with a view to increasing their bilateral contacts and possibly making concrete trade agreements;
- (ii) international organizations, and in particular UNCTAD, as a matter of priority, should extend all possible co-operation to ECA in the arrangement of such consultations;

- (iii) the ECA and the OAU secretariats should prepare and present to the next session of the Joint ECA/OAU Meeting comprehensive and detailed studies on economic co-operation and integration in Africa within the framework of a strategy for economic development in the region;
- (iv) the ECA and the OAU secretariats should report regularly to the Joint ECA/OAU Meetings on developments in the field of economic co-operation and integration among African countries;
- (v) existing intergovernmental regional groupings should benefit from more support in their efforts to intensify co-operation among the African countries and should embark upon regional economic co-operation.

Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries:

- (i) the recommendations of the third and fourth joint ECA/OAU meetings be maintained to form the basis for the African position on this question, as well as the relevant parts of resolution 24 (II);
- (ii) after formulation of the special measures to be taken in favour of the least developed among the developing countries procedures and criteria could be laid down for their identification;
- (iii) international bodies, including the subsidiary bodies of UNCTAD, which had hitherto not been able to suggest concrete measures in favour of the least developed countries, should do so as soon as possible;
- (iv) the ECA and the OAU should examine any concrete measures which might be decided in favour of the least developed countries and take account of these measures in order to assure the appropriateness of them to the economic development of African countries.

Special problems of the land-locked countries

- (i) the problems of the land-locked countries, especially those in Africa, should be studied as a matter of priority with a view to initiating international action aimed at assisting those countries in overcoming the adverse economic consequences of their geographical situation.

Trade promotion

- (i) more resources should be put at the disposal of the ATC to allow it to expand its activities particularly in the field of training and advisory services;
- (ii) closer co-ordination should be established between the ATC and ITC with a view to avoiding duplication and allowing the ATC increased access to the facilities and resources available in ITC;
- (iii) more emphasis should be laid by the African Trade Centre on the problems of Africanization and restructuring of commercial sectors in the region;
- (iv) efforts should be made by the ATC to establish an Association of African trade promotion organizations, such as associations of exporters.

ANNEX II

AGENDA^{1/}

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the meeting
THE AFRICAN POSITION ON ISSUES AT THE TENTH SESSION OF THE UNCTAD
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD:
4. UNCTAD and the Second United Nations Development Decade
5. Third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:
objectives, provisional agenda, programme of preparatory work and proposed
organization
6. Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference
7. International trade and financing: consideration of action arising from
the activities of the main Committees and other subsidiary bodies of the
Board:
 - (a) Commodity problems and policies;
 - (b) Expansion and diversification of exports of manufactures and
semi-manufactures of developing countries, including the reports
of the Committee on Manufactures and of the Special Committee on
Preferences;
 - (c) Financing related to trade and invisibles:
 - (i) Financing related to trade, including the relevant part of
the report of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing
related to trade, and a progress report by the International
Bank for Reconstruction and Development on supplementary
financing;
 - (ii) Report of the Committee on Shipping
8. Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems
9. Principles governing international trade relations and trade policies
conducive to development: Conference resolution 22 (II)

^{1/} Adopted in the plenary meeting on 13 August 1970.

10. Impact of regional economic groupings of the developed countries on international trade, including the trade of developing countries
11. Trade expansion, economic co-operation and regional integration among developing countries: consideration of the report of the intergovernmental group
12. Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries
13. Special problems of the land-locked countries
14. Particular problems in the field of trade and development:
 - (a) Trade promotion;
 - (b) Technical assistance activities, including training of technical and special staff in the field of export promotion and invisible transactions;
 - (c) Progressive development of the law of international trade: third annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;
 - (d) Transfer of technology, including know-how and patents;
 - (e) World food problem;
15. Any other business
 - (i) Election of Officers to Board
 - (ii) Election to membership of Committees
16. Date and place of sixth meeting
17. Adoption of the report

ANNEX III
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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CONGO (REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU)

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