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Sixth session  
Addis Ababa, 19 February - 3 March 1964

## PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDREDTH MEETING

held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa  
on Wednesday, 19 February 1964, at 3 p.m.

Acting Chairman: Mr. KAMITATU (Congo (Leopoldville))  
Chairman: Mr. MASSAQUOI (Liberia)  
Secretary: Mr. SYLLA

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## OPENING ADDRESSES (item 1 of the provisional agenda)

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared the hundredth meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa open.

Message from H.I.M. Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia

Lidj Endalkachew MAKOMMEN (Ethiopia) read the message of welcome which H.I.M. the Emperor of Ethiopia addressed to the participants in the Sixth Session. That session was particularly important, as it was the first to be held in Addis Ababa since the adoption, in May 1963, of the Charter of African Unity, which symbolized the maturity of Africa. It was to be hoped that the work and debates of the Sixth Session would be likewise inspired by the lofty and generous spirit that had characterized the Conference of the Heads of State.

The Organization of African Unity was convinced of the necessity of pooling the resources of the African countries and of harmonizing their economic activities, and for that purpose had constituted an economic and social commission. As complementary bodies, the Economic Commission of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU must coordinate their efforts to further economic development.

The agenda of the Sixth Session provided for consideration of the possibility of establishing an African common market and an African payments union, which were vital steps in the process of economic integration of the continent. If the African countries wished to maintain and strengthen their independence, whilst at the same time ensuring the rapid progress of their peoples, they must put an end to their petty differences, eliminate the artificial barriers that separated them and renounce unjustified ambitions.

As regards the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the participants in the sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa must make efforts to harmonize the trade and economic policies of their Governments, so that Africa might appear strong and united at that Conference. The African countries expected that the Economic Commission for Africa would continue to offer them the services and assistance which should permit them to fulfil the fundamental aims of the United Nations Development Decade.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mr. HOO (United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance) read a message from the Secretary-General. U Thant regretted that he had been obliged to interrupt his tour of Africa, and that he had been unable to meet the representatives of the African countries on African soil.

In the contemporary world, the struggle against poverty in which all societies were engaged had taken on new dimensions. At the same time, the formidable power of destruction which was in the hands of some countries, altered the relationships between industrialized countries, and the relationships between industrialized countries and developing countries. The struggle to survive had led men to seek forms of solidarity, beyond mere coexistence, along the path, towards international co-operation, regardless of ideological obstacles. Aid to the developing countries was assuming greater urgency each year.

Decolonization must be complemented by the elimination of ignorance, poverty and disease, which still crippled more than half of humanity. In those efforts, the role of the Economic Commission for Africa was immense, for it was in Africa that the problems of economic and social development were to be found in their acutest form. In the absence of a miraculous remedy, only the general mobilization of human and material resources could offer the hope of perceptible progress.

The Economic Commission for Africa was the outpost of an organization the universality of which was being demonstrated more and more. It could therefore rely on the resources available to the United Nations, and could call upon the resources and experience of the rest of the world. It was the universal character of the United Nations which lent perspective and depth, in the contemporary world, to the main problems of the various regions.

The development of Africa must first be considered as a regional affair, but it was also necessary to try to expand trade beyond regional boundaries, in a spirit of international co-operation and assistance calculated to accelerate the process of development, which had made it possible to carry out successfully the preparatory work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

They must re-examine the notions inherited from the past, and evolve new international trade policies, consistent with the goals of the United Nations Development Decade. It was to be hoped that the day would come when the United Nations would foster development by making use of those resources that were at present consumed by armaments.

Because it reflected a young and dynamic continent, eager to improve the living standards of its peoples, the Economic Commission for Africa had its own place in the United Nations Organization. It had a dual task: to ascertain and diagnose the state of the economies of its members, and to tackle the problems that arose in a number of fields, whilst at the same time concentrating its efforts on those strategic sectors where its present resources could be used to the best advantage. The results achieved under the able and devoted leadership of Mr. Gardiner were impressive. The establishment of regional and sub-regional institutions, signature of the Agreement to establish the African Development Bank, the draft statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the efforts made to explore the setting up of an African common market, or of a series of sub-regional markets, and of an African Payments and Clearing Union, the encouragement of industrialization at sub-regional level, and the opening of sub-regional offices.

It was also the moment to welcome the establishment in May 1963 of the Organization of African Unity. Co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the OAU would certainly be close and fruitful, because they reflected the noble aspirations of the African peoples and Governments.

Message from Mr. IBRAHIM ABOUD, President of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of the Sudan

Mr. AHMED (Sudan) read a message addressed to the Commission by the President of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of the Sudan, who wished to express his best wishes for the success of the Sixth Session. The African peoples hoped that the feeling of African unity and the sense of purpose, which had already been shown in political affairs, would likewise make themselves felt in economic and social matters. The constructive work already undertaken by the Commission in its brief existence would set the pattern for its future activity.

Message from Mr. N. KHRUSHCHEV, CHAIRMAN of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

The CHAIRMAN of the Council of Ministers of the USSR extended cordial greetings to the participants in the Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa. The peoples of the rapidly developing African continent, who had won their independence, and who were building their relations on the principles of the Charter of African Unity, were on the way to achieve national revival. Their anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle to eliminate all forms of dependence had already been marked by signal successes.

The Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa was opening in the atmosphere of the relaxation of tension that was beginning in international relations. The desire of the peoples for peace was merging ever more closely with their struggle for economic independence and social progress. The peoples opposed imperialist methods of oppression and discrimination in political relationships, as well as in international economic and trade relations. Thus the extension of international economic co-operation, based on equality of rights, was assuming overriding importance.

He hoped that the Sixth Session might make an important contribution to the work of economic development in Africa, and further the advent of peaceful co-operation between all countries.

Message from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America

The PRESIDENT of the United States of America sent his greetings and words of encouragement to the Economic Commission for Africa.

The African countries' desire for economic and political co-operation was a tribute to the wisdom of their leaders. The establishment of the Organization of African Unity and the continued support for the Economic Commission for Africa were solid manifestations of their determination to fulfil their aspirations.

Since its very beginning, the Economic Commission for Africa had made substantial contributions to African economic development. Its programme was ambitious since it attempted to meet needs in a wide variety of economic and social sectors.

The African countries were to be congratulated on having entrusted so many important matters to a United Nations organization designed to serve the needs of all African peoples. The ECA could be proud of its accomplishments.

The United States Government had consistently supported the United Nations as the instrument best designed to ensure a peaceful world in which all men could live in harmony and strive for the common good and it therefore heartily supported the efforts of the ECA. It warmly sympathized with the African nations and welcomed the growing spirit of co-operation in Africa.

Mr. IBRAHIM (Nigeria), on behalf of the members of the Commission, thanked H.I.M. the Emperor of Ethiopia whose untiring efforts for the unity of Africa and of the world as a whole were admired by all African States. All participants in the Sixth Session shared in the new spirit which the Emperor had helped to create. In 1964 the Commission would consolidate the foundations it had laid. Africa was on the threshold of great achievements. Provided that the African States showed goodwill and a spirit of co-operation, they could attain their goal which was the unity of the continent.

Mr. CABOU (Senegal), on behalf of all Member States, thanked Ethiopia for its unfailing hospitality. Homage was due to the untiring efforts of H.I.M. the Emperor of Ethiopia to achieve the political and economic unity of the continent. The ECA had now passed the initial stages of its work. Organizations for technical assistance and economic co-operation would shortly be set up and would transform the aspirations for economic integration within African unity into a reality.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

The ACTING CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to elect its officers.

Lidj Endalkatchew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) proposed that Mr. Massaquoi of Liberia be elected Chairman.

Mr. IBRAHIM (Nigeria), Mr. BENNANI (Morocco) and Mr. GACEM (Tunisia) supported the proposal.

Mr. Massaquoi (Liberia) was elected Chairman by acclamation

Mr. SAGBO (Dahomey) proposed that Mr. Sidikou of Niger be elected first Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Sidikou (Niger) was elected first Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. IBRAHIM (Nigeria) proposed that Mr. Kamitatu of Congo (Leopoldville) be elected second Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Kamitatu (Congo (Leopoldville)), was elected second Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. KAMITATU (Congo, Leopoldville), read a message from Mr. Massa, Chairman of the Fifth Session, who had been detained at Leopoldville by his official duties in which he said that the Congolese people had been deeply touched by the confidence shown at the Fifth Session by the choice of Congo (Leopoldville) as host country and by the appointment of its representative to the Chair. The participants of the Fifth Session were to be congratulated on having taken practical steps, on having authorized the Executive Secretary to call the Conference on the African Development Bank, on having launched the African Institute of Economic Development and Planning and on having sent industrial co-ordination missions to the various sub-regions. Industrial harmony at a sub-regional level was one of the essential stages on the road to African unity. It was to be hoped that the guiding idea of the Sixth Session would be to realize more and more the aspirations of the African people, so that they might advance resolutely towards the integration of their economies by adopting a joint development strategy, by co-ordinating their plans and by creating an African common market.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Commission for the honour accorded to his country and to himself. The Economic Commission for Africa, which had attained its full stature, had a leading role to play in the destinies of Africa. The session had a very full agenda but, with the co-operation of all delegations and of the secretariat, he was convinced that its work would be carried through to a successful conclusion.

Mr. SIDIKOU (Niger), said that the election of a representative of a small, poor and landlocked country like Niger as an officer of the Commission, provided further proof of the spirit of brotherhood and understanding which permeated the Economic Commission for Africa and was the surest token of African Unity.

Mr. KAMITATU (Congo (Leopoldville)) thanked the members of the Commission for the confidence they had shown, for the second year running, in the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville).



ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION  
(item 3 of the provisional agenda)

Mr. SYLLA (Secretariat), presenting the provisional agenda, stated that the latest revised version of document E/CN.14/234/Rev. 2 included the questions the insertion of which had been requested in writing, by Ghana, Tunisia and UNESCO.

Mr. KAMITATU (Congo, Leopoldville), hoped that the Commission itself would examine item 5 (e) - Industry Transport and Natural Resources - and would then pass immediately to discuss item 8 - Economic Co-operation in Africa. That would meet the wishes of a number of delegations who hoped that the deliberations at the session would be centred on the co-ordination of economic plans in Africa and on the preparation of a genuine strategy of African development.

Lidj Endalkatchew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) approved the agenda prepared by the secretariat, but thought that it should be brought up to date by reserving a prominent place for the forthcoming Conference on Trade and Development. It was important that the meeting at Geneva should not be confronted by rival theses, but should make a careful study of the economic situation and seek a common solution of the economic problems of the day. To prepare for this, members of CEAEIO had devoted a large part of their last session to the question, and the Inter-American Council for Economic and Social Affairs had set up a special committee to harmonize the views of the Latin American countries. It was essential that the African countries should in their turn adopt common positions, as recommended by the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization for African Unity, and that they should also endeavour to co-ordinate their policies with those of other developing areas. The Ethiopian representative therefore formally proposed that a separate agenda item be devoted to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) pointed out that in the view of the secretariat, problems arising in relation to the Conference would be discussed when the report of the Standing Committee on Trade (E/CN.14/253) was considered. The question was in any case dealt with

in a document (E/CN.14/27) shortly to be distributed. The secretariat intended to draw up a report based on the Commission's discussions, which would cover the whole question and be submitted to the Commission before it completed its work.

Mr. RAKOTO (Madagascar) thought it would be advisable to group together items 5 (k) - Co-ordination of activities of the Commission and the Organization for African Unity - and 10 - Action taken by ECOSOC on the draft resolutions recommended by the Commission at its Fifth Session, and likewise 8 (a) - African common market - and 5 (f) Economic surveys and trade.

He said that the Commission, in resolution 87 (V), had requested the secretariat to prepare for the seventh session a report on the question of an African payments union; in that case, was document E/CN.14/262 included on the agenda only submitted for information purposes, or should it be given serious consideration? Since the matter was an important one which required extensive study, he did not feel a decision could be taken at the present session.

Mr. ADOSSAMA (Togo), Mr. SAGBO (Dahomey) and Mr. YAMEOGO (Upper Volta), supported the suggestions made by the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville), and agreed that a certain priority should be given to items 5 and 8.

Mr. Djim SYLLA (Mali) felt that items 5 and 8 should be dealt with in committee. They involved complex and highly technical problems on which study was far from being complete, and upon which it did not seem possible at present to reach any firm conclusions; the problems raised by the creation of an African payments union were a striking illustration. The Commission should confine itself for the moment to promoting a wide exchange of views and information, following the order suggested by the secretariat. His delegation, however, wholeheartedly supported the proposal of the Ethiopian representative.

He expressed the hope that the Commission, when considering Africa's economic situation, would recognize the importance of the role of agriculture, the keystone of the development of many African countries.

Finally, with regard to item 9, he felt that discussion on technical assistance should be closely linked to consideration of the Report on the World Food Programme (E/CN.14/266) which so directly concerned the less privileged African countries.

Mr. AAMER (United Arab Republic), Mr. TAHIRI (Morocco) and Mr. SAGBO (Dahomey) supported the Ethiopian proposal to make the Geneva Conference a separate agenda item.

Mr. WALTER (Mauritius) also supported that proposal. He approved the arrangement of the agenda suggested by the secretariat, and felt that to alter it might lead to confusion in their discussions.

Mr. GACEM (Tunisia) emphasized that the arrangement of the agenda proposed by the secretariat was substantially the same as that of the agenda for the Fifth Session, and need not therefore be called into question. He recognized, however, the necessity for members of the Commission to consider questions relating to the Geneva Conference in the light of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization for African Unity, and of the conclusions reached by the Standing Committee on Trade.

The additions to the agenda proposed by the Tunisian Government directly met the wishes of the representative of Mali regarding the stress that should be laid in Africa on agricultural problems. The Commission could decide later whether those questions called for supplementary study, or whether they already afforded the opportunity for a useful exchange of information and experience.

There was another vitally important question which merited the attention of the Commission: co-ordination between the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa and those of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity - in other words, the question of the relations between the two major instruments of the revival and consolidation of the African economies. Since each of these bodies should have its own range of activity, it was important

that the functions of each should be precisely defined and that permanent links should be established between them. His delegation considered that the question should also be made a separate item on the agenda of the present session.

Mr. IBRAHIM (Nigeria) suggested that the Draft Agenda, the fruit of much careful thought on the part of the secretariat, should be left unaltered, except for the addition of the question proposed by Ethiopia. The Commission should itself consider that question, then refer it to the Standing Committee on Trade, who would prepare a final report based on the outcome of its discussions.

Mr. SYLLA (Secretariat) pointed out that the secretariat had merely simplified the agenda of the Fifth Session by re-grouping certain questions which seemed appropriate for joint study, taking into account in particular the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity. He recalled that the resolution adopted at Niamey had defined the respective fields of activity of the Economic Commission for Africa and the CES, and had brought out very clearly the complementary nature of their functions; the Organization of African Unity was a political body, the Economic Commission for Africa was a technical and essentially consultative organization. There would therefore be no difficulty in that direction, and the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa intended to consolidate its relations with the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity so that the Geneva Conference could start with the maximum chances of success.

It was because discussions in committee had the advantage of the participation of secretariat experts if need arose, that the secretariat had suggested referring certain items to committees, notably certain aspects of item 5. The Commission was in any case its own master and could always amend its agenda should it be found necessary to do so at a later stage.

Finally, Mr. SYLLA said that with regard to item 5, a report would be submitted to the Commission completing that of the Standing Committee on Industry, Natural Resources and Transport (E/CN.14/245/Add.1)

concerning the reports of the Industrial Co-ordination Missions to North Africa, West Africa, East Africa and Central Africa. The secretariat would take steps to establish two working groups to consider the two remaining reports (West Africa and East and Central Africa), and would give the necessary instructions for the completion of this important work.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) said that the document relating to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (E/CN.14/279) was now being distributed.

He saw no reason why that question and that of the relations between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity should not be examined separately in plenary session, if members of the Commission so desired.

Lidj Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) saw in the publication of document E/CN.14/279 yet another reason to follow up Ethiopia's proposal.

On the other hand, he was disquieted by certain reservations he thought he had perceived with regard to consideration of the question of the Common Market and the African Payments Union. In view of the complicated nature of these plans and the inevitable slowness of their application - the developed countries of Europe have given proof of this - the Commission should be careful not to neglect them.

Mr. AHMED (Sudan) stated that the explanations of the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission had convinced him that it would be advisable not to alter the agenda. The questions relating to the Geneva Conference would not fail to be brought up; as to the relations of the Economic Commission for Africa with the Organization of African Unity, it did not seem that their differences of opinion should give any cause for alarm in view of the spirit that had prevailed when those two bodies were established.

Mr. KAMITATU (Congo, Leopoldville) insisted that items 5 (e) (i) (ii) be considered jointly in plenary session immediately after examination of the reports of the industrialization missions. The Commission should take them up immediately after consideration of item 8 (c) concerning co-ordination of plans.

As to the reports of the industrialization missions, he understood that the Committee of Ten advocated setting up one working group only.

Mr. ABDEL-KADIR, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Industry, Natural Resources and Transport, confirmed this. Further, the discussions of the Committee of Ten had been of rather a delicate nature and the Committee had had to have a second meeting; its report would appear shortly and the Commission could ratify its conclusions or not.

Mr. CABOU (Senegal) said that the Work Programme of the Economic Commission for Africa was heavily loaded and considered that item 10 - Programme of work and priorities - should be examined as soon as possible to enable those delegations which were unable to remain until the end of the session to participate in the choice of priorities.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) pointed out that the question of the African Payments Union, although set down for the seventh session, was included in the agenda of the Sixth Session as the group of experts had been able to submit its report before the scheduled date. It was, therefore, not merely a matter of informing the Commission as the secretariat would be happy to receive new directives for pursuing its task.

The Programme of work and priorities had only been included in item 10 because the secretariat thought that the decisions relating to future work would derive naturally from consideration of past activities. In a general way the secretariat attempted to organize the agenda so as to take into account the interdependence of the various questions. This would appear more clearly when the Commission had before it the report on all the work accomplished in 1963. He hoped that with those explanations and the assurance that the observations of the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville) and the proposals of Ethiopia and Tunisia

would be given full consideration, the Commission would see fit to give its approval. In that case, the secretariat would immediately bring forward a new and revised agenda.

Mr. AHMED (Sudan), supported by Mr. IBRAHIM (Nigeria), Mr. MAMADOU (Guinea), Mr. WINE (Northern Rhodesia) and Mr. IBRAHIMA (Mauritania) formally proposed that the agenda, amended as indicated by the Executive Secretary, be approved.

It was so decided.

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION  
(Item 4 of the Agenda)

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) pointed out that two Associate Members, Kenya and Zanzibar, now fulfilled the conditions for full membership of the Commission.

Kenya and Zanzibar were declared full members by acclamation.

Mr. MAKAME (Zanzibar) thanked the Commission on behalf of the President of the Republic and the Government and people of Zanzibar. Fully aware of the important role entrusted to the Economic Commission for Africa, Zanzibar, although its population did not exceed 300,000, was resolved to give it its full support, for it relied upon the Commission to help in reforming and consolidating its institutions.

Mr. OKELO-ODONGO (Kenya) greeted the Commission on behalf of the newly-independent people of Kenya and its President, Jomo Kenyatta. On this occasion he thanked all those who had helped Kenya in its difficult struggle for independence and in realizing that objective sooner than anticipated. Kenya was deeply aware of the common destiny of the African peoples and Jomo Kenyatta had been one of the first to promulgate the idea of pan-Africanism. Nevertheless, the struggle against colonialism would not be won until all territories still under its yoke such as Angola, Mozambique and South-West Africa had been

liberated, until political independence was backed by an equal economic independence, until all danger of re-colonization is finally removed and until the plagues of hunger, sickness and illiteracy have been eliminated for ever.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) pointed out that with the dissolution of the Federation of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland the two territories of which it was composed had become distinct entities and should be allowed to participate separately in the work of the Economic Commission for Africa as associate members.

Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland were admitted as associate members by acclamation.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) indicated that Rio Muni and Fernando Poo, which were allowed at the previous session to participate in the work of the Economic Commission for Africa as associate members, had expressed the wish to be considered as a single entity under the name of Equatorial Guinea.

The request was favourably received by acclamation.

Mr. JONES (Equatorial Guinea) thanked the Members of the Commission and promised the unreserved co-operation of Equatorial Guinea.

Lidj Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) greeted the new members on behalf of all the delegations. The presence of Zanzibar and Kenya in the Economic Commission for Africa as full members offered striking testimony to the growing independence of the African continent and the determination of the young African states to solve their problems in the spirit of the Charter of African Unity. Soon Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Equatorial Guinea would follow the same path and assume the position due to them in the great family of independent African states.

Mr. KALLON (Sierra Leone) joined in these words of welcome. As a member of the Commonwealth, Sierra Leone was particularly happy to welcome Zanzibar, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, as well as Kenya,



whose heroic struggle will go down in history. Nevertheless, he also wished to bring to mind that the African liberation movement will not end until all the African territories have thrown off the yoke of colonialism.

Mr. ONWONA-AGYEMAN (Ghana) said that at the request of Ghana the agenda included an item entitled "Representation of Angola, Mozambique and South-West Africa as Associate Members of the Commission". The Ghana delegation was in consultation as to the procedure to be followed to ensure the representation of these three territories in the absence of Portugal and the Republic of South Africa, continental powers, which had been excluded from the Economic Commission for Africa and therefore could not present requests for admission in their name. The Ghana delegation would subsequently present the results of those consultations.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) requested, in the name of orderly procedure, that the Commission should consider the examination of item 4 as concluded and agree to deal subsequently with any proposal which might be presented to it by the Ghana delegation with regard to the representation of Angola, Mozambique and South-West Africa.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.