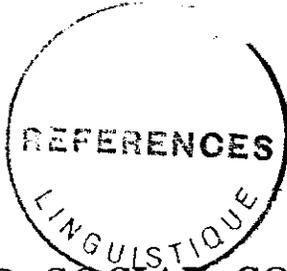




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Fourth meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the Whole
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-22 April 1983

Item 5

Note by the Executive Secretary

The annexed paper has been circulated at the request of the Nigerian delegation under item 5 of the agenda in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Commission.

Harmonizing and sustaining Africa's institutions for effective Development: Agenda item proposed by Nigeria for consideration under item 5 of the agenda for the fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

1. Multinational institutions have been conceived in Africa as the medium not only for promoting economic development, but also as a means of solving the problems faced by the structurally weak and miniscule African economies in their efforts to provide economic and technical services to facilitate their development efforts. These institutions further have as their ultimate goal the integration of the economies of African countries.
2. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, at the urging of African States, has sponsored or been involved in the creation of many of these institutions.
3. Over 30 of such institutions are to date in existence in Africa. However, with the exception of the African Development Bank (ADB), the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) and Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC) which are almost self-supporting, all the other centres or institutions have been bedevilled by financial problems emanating primarily from lack of political and financial support from member States.
4. For example, the total budget of the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) in Dakar for 1973 was US\$167,781.00, but the contributions received were US\$97,643.00 and these were from only thirteen member States. In 1979, the budget of the Centre was US\$1,434,624.00 but only US\$619,552.00 was contributed by 11 member States. Whereas in 1980, the budget was US\$1,434,624.00, only US\$240,389.00 was paid up by five member States. In 1981, out of a budget of US\$1,180,185.00, only US\$172,536.00 was contributed by two member States, and for the 1982 budget of US\$1,180,312.00 nothing was contributed by any of the 28 member States as at 31 December, 1982.
5. The case of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) is the same. In fact, the Institute has been surviving because of the financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other donors from the UN system. Currently, the Institute can only boast of four lecturers and by 1984, when UNDP's financial support would have been phased out, the activities of

IDEP may come to a complete halt. The case of African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) is not different. The host country has been mostly bearing the burden of keeping the Centre alive. As a matter of fact, almost all the Regional and Subregional institutions have passed through a similar experience.

6. The precarious financial position of these institutions will be exacerbated by the recent cuts in the UNDP funding for African development projects for 1983-1986 period. The cuts which range from 8 - 100 per cent are as follows:

	<u>per cent</u>
Eastern and Southern African Management Institute	8
African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM)	29
African Institute for Economic Development and Planning ...	32
African Regional Centre for Technology	16
Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping (RCSSM)	16
Central African Clearing House (CACH)	86
African Remote Sensing Council (ARSC)	100

Significantly, as from 31 December 1982, UNDP stopped funding virtually all Multi-national Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) for Africa, except those programme components devoted to women's activities.

7. On a broader and forward looking basis, as the future of the world economy becomes bleaker, so will the financial expectations of these institutions diminish.

8. The questions exercising many minds range from why some African countries have failed to join these institutions or centres to why those who have joined failed to honour their moral and financial obligations. These questions are, indeed fundamental questions for which all members of ECA have got to find answers, having regard to the fact that multinational institutions are important for Africa's economic and social transformation. This point assumes even greater significance when we bear in mind, as we have noted earlier, the structural and other weaknesses which frustrate the attempts of a number of African countries to establish viable institutions on their own.

9. Many of these institutions or centres in Africa have over-lapping or duplicating duties which may be one of the reasons for their inability to attract potential members. And possibly, also, why many member States do not pay their assessed contributions.
10. During the third conference of the Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional institutions held recently, this question of overlapping functions was discussed. That the report of the meeting emphasized strengthening of links and contacts among the various institutions for the purpose of avoiding duplication of efforts suggests that there is a feeling, if not conviction, among the Chief Executives that endeavours are already being duplicated. This, in turn, amounts to wastage of scarce resources.
11. In the field of socio-economic development, planning and management, one could notice an apparent overlapping of functions.
12. The *raison d'etre* for establishing IDEP is that it should provide high level manpower training in economic development and planning for the continent. Because of this mandate, one would have expected that, when the need for further studies in Applied Research and Training in Social Development in Africa (or, for that matter, the three centres for population studies, a kindred discipline for economic development planners) was recognized, member States of ECA would have thought of integrating them with IDEP rather than creating new centres, which, with hindsight, have failed to attract the political and financial support of all member States. Another area in which lack of Government support has been noticed is that of encouraging the enrolment of many students at IDEP. A number of Governments are said to hesitate to send their students to IDEP because they have been alleged to look down on the degrees/diplomas awarded by that institution. The preference for sending many students to Europe to undertake the same courses of instruction provided by IDEP only serves to undermine the institution.
13. Let us now turn to institutions in the field of agriculture and forestry. According to a report by Joint ECA/FAO Agricultural Division in 1977, for the development of food and agriculture including fisheries and forestry, there are over 40 regional and subregional inter-governmental organizations in Africa solely devoted to food and agricultural development and about 10 such organizations partially devoted to food and agricultural

development. ECOWAS with 16 members has, as one of its objectives, the harmonization of agricultural policies of its members. The African and Mauritian Common Organization (OCAM) with 10 members has established joint enterprises among its members for food and agricultural sector; the West African Economic Community (CEAD) with seven members has a Community Bureau for Agricultural Development, livestock and meat offices, fish products, etc.; Sene-Gambia, Nigeria-Niger Joint Commission, and Mano River Union have all agricultural development objectives. The duplication of functions is more than established here. The same applied to the Locust and Pest Control Institutions in West Africa, East Africa, to name a few.

14. In West Africa alone, there are over 25 institutions involved in the development of the region. And each of the sixteen member countries of ECOWAS belongs to at least 10 of these centres to which she is expected to pay contributions. Apart from financial problems and the attendant bureaucratic problems of making payments to 10 centres, it is easy to see that the duties performed do overlap. This is evident from paragraph 13 above.

15. Another area where there have been mutterings about duplication is in the functions performed by the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), the Lusaka MULPOC and the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC). Some member States have contended that either the Lusaka MULPOC or SADCC or ESAMRDC would have been made the nucleus of PTA which is supposed to be all-embracing in its functions regarding economic development of the region and facilitating integration of the region with overall African economic system. These States have also voiced preference for subsuming all the institutions already in existence under the PTA as an umbrella organization.

16. Nevertheless, most of these institutions have reportedly experienced crippling shortage of funds, manpower and technical know-how. This has given rise to charges of failure to deliver the goods, to match promise with performance. In turn, such experiences have led to frustration.

17. It is against the backdrop of these developments that the Nigerian delegation is proposing the following for the consideration and adoption by the ECA Conference of Ministers, during these meetings marking its Silver Jubilee:

(i) As a follow-up to its Resolution 390(XV) of 1980, the Conference of Ministers is being urged to request the Executive Secretary to set in motion urgently the implementation of operative paragraph 4 of Resolution 390(XV) which "Requests the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to undertake, in consultation, an appraisal of the objectives and operations of the various multinational institutions established under the aegis of the Commission with a view to making proposals as to their continued relevance and effectiveness and to advise on ways and means by which they may be better rationalized, co-ordinated or harmonized". The Nigerian delegation would wish to emphasize the need for sectoral integration so as to reduce overhead cost and avoidable dissipation of efforts.

(ii) A single consolidated budget consisting of the sum total of all the budgets of institutions that will emerge after the exercise in (i) above for adoption by the Conference of Ministers be established by the ECA because of its advantages. At the national level, each country would know what its commitments to economic development of Africa at the level of African institutions and centres are, and it would be easy to project and make provision for funds to meet these African commitments. Also, at the national level, the question of accession to the statutes of these institutions becomes relatively easier. It is hoped that all member States will be involved in the financial contribution to, and the execution of the activities of the centres. Thus, in the long run, obviating the need for calls for political and moral support of the said institutions.

Embassy of Nigeria,
Addis Ababa, April 14, 1983.