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**Sixth meeting of the Technical
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**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
15-22 April 1985**

Item IV.1 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Twentieth session of the Commission/
Eleventh meeting of the Conference
of Ministers**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25-29 April 1985**

Item IV.1 of the provisional agenda*

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN
MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

***E/ECA/TPCW.6/1/Rev.2
E/ECA/CM.11/1/Rev.2**

A. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The Fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs was held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, from 25 to 26 March 1985. It was organized and convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Conference was preceded by an Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting which took place in Addis Ababa from 18 to 22 March 1985.

2. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following member States of ECA and OAU: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Republic of Cameroon, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) (OAU member), Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following liberation movements were represented by observers: African National Congress (ANC), the Pan-African Congress of Azanias (PAC) and South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

4. Representatives of the following United Nations and international/regional organizations also participated as observers: International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), International Social Security Association (ISSA), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Advisory Committee for Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), Pan-African News Agency (PNA), United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNCSDHA), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), Association for Social Work Education in Africa.

5. The Conference was called to order by Mr. Yemane Araya, Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, in his capacity as Chairman of the Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs.

6. Comrade Berhanu Bayih, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Socialist Ethiopia, opened the Conference and delivered the message of H.E. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia.

7. The message of H.E. Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, while welcoming the participants to Addis Ababa and wishing them all a good stay recalled the timely convening of the Conference, Africa being currently confronted with an unprecedented and alarming economic and social crisis, while an unusually severe drought has stricken the continent, impairing agriculture, food production, hydroelectric power. The message recalled that, whereas food self-sufficiency ratios had dropped from 98 per cent in the 1960s to around 86 per cent in the 1980s, growth in food demand had kept pace with population expansion, the end result being an import of cereals of 24 million metric tons in 1982, as against only 4 million in 1970. The message highlighted the main prevailing problems that drought has dramatically compounded: malnutrition, famine, disease, loss of human lives, poverty, increase in the cost of living, dislocation of normal life situations. Among other problems besetting the continent, as reviewed in the message, were the prevalent illiteracy, rural exodus, refugees and displaced populations, the status of women, the role of the youth, disability.

8. While vigorously condemning the recent cruel massacre of the black populations at Uitenhage, near Capetown, the message underscored the denial of political, economic, social and human rights to the majority in South Africa, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa, and the latter's repeated aggression against neighbouring independent African countries.

9. Finally, the message briefly reviewed measures taken in Ethiopia, in line with the strategies embodied in the Lagos Plan of Action: population census, literacy campaign, expansion of basic health services, establishment and role of REWA and REYA, refugee repatriation and resettlement, combating drought and famine through extensive mobilization of human and material resources at the disposal of the country, and with assistance from the international community. It called on Africa to strive with full commitment to overcome the present critical problems and to lay the foundation for a better future, through the establishment of self-reliant economies.

10. In his statement, H.E. Dr. Peter U. Onu, Secretary-General a.i. of the Organization of African Unity, stated that the Conference was held, albeit with some delay, at an opportune moment, when everything possible should be done to ensure that the uncertainties created by the present situation should not annihilate the hopes of Africa for a better future. Reviewing the worsening socio-economic conditions obtaining, through statistical economic data, the acting Secretary-General underlined the impact of the unprecedented severe drought, the increasing food shortages, mass exodus, and the attendant deterioration in health and living standards, the worsening unemployment and underemployment situation, the tragedy of refugees and displaced persons fleeing man-made or natural disasters. Finally, he drew the attention of the Conference to the importance of the African Charter for Social Action and of

ACARTSOD, as two vital tools, for social action that should involve all the social groups, including women and youth. He expressed his hopes that the Nairobi World Women's Conference will enable Africa to achieve its aspirations and objectives for the African women, while the International Youth Year will be a year of success to the African youth.

11. Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, in his statement, stressed the urgent need for new policies, strategies and programmes that will transfer Africa from its present dependent situation to a fully self-sustained economic community. Underscoring the indivisibility of the processes of development, he recalled that emphasis should be placed on the interdependence of economic and social aspects of development and on growth with equity, due consideration being given to each country's values and ethos. He reviewed some features of the African social situation that bear evidence to a serious deterioration of that situation: decrease in food production, malnutrition, mounting unemployment and underemployment, increasing volume of refugee and displaced persons, increase in criminality rates and diversification of its causes. He stressed the need to give careful consideration to the complex issue of migrant workers, to the role and contribution of non-governmental organizations, to the importance of the role of youth in development. He also referred to ACARTSOD and to the need to give it new impetus through the appointment of a new Executive Director and of new members of its Governing Board. He concluded his statement by inviting the attention of the meeting to the need to adopt realistic recommendations that could be implemented to the benefit of all the people in Africa, particularly the masses in the rural areas.

12. Following these statements, H.E. Mr. F.M.M. Shava, Minister of Labour, Manpower, Planning and Social Welfare of Zimbabwe, on behalf of all the participants thanked H.E. Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam for his enlightening message, Comrade Berhanu Bayih for his participation and for having spared his time to deliver the message, the people, party and Government of Socialist Ethiopia for their traditional warm hospitality, as well as the Secretary-General a.i. of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA for their valuable contributions and substantive proposals.

Election of officers

13. The Conference unanimously elected the following office-bearers:

Chairman	Mr. Yaya Ouattara, Minister of Social Affairs	Ivory Coast
Vice-Chairman	Mr. François Muganza, Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs	Rwanda
Second Vice-Chairman	Mr. Djigo Tafsirou, Minister of Health and Social Affairs	Mauritania
Rapporteur	Mrs. G. Mongela, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office	United Republic of Tanzania

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Consideration of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference (doc. ECA/OAU/AMSA.IV/11).
2. Consideration of the Report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the following substantive items (doc. ECA/OAU/AMSA.IV/IGEM/Rpt):
 - (i) OAU progress report on its activities for the period 1980-1984;
 - (ii) Critical economic and social situation in Africa:
 - (a) Social trends and major social development problems in Africa;
 - (b) Strategies and action programmes - for the implementation of the social aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action - and for confronting the social implications of the African crisis;
 - (c) OAU report on the pluriannual programme of the social implications of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action;
 - (iii) Draft African Charter for Social Action;
 - (iv) OAU report on the establishment of the African Rehabilitation Institute for Disabled Persons (ARI);
 - (v) African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD):
 - (a) Progress report for the period 1980-1984;
 - (b) Designation of new members of the Governing Board;
 - (c) Appointment of the Executive Director;
 - (vi) Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes.

3. Date and venue of the next session.

4. Any other business.

5. Adoption of the Report.

6. Closing session.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Consideration of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference
(document ECA/OAU/AMSA.IV/11)(agenda item 1)

15. Having received the draft submitted by the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting, which was approved by the Governing Board of ACARTSOD in May 1981, the Conference decided as follows:

(a) To defer consideration of this draft until its fifth session;

(b) To request its circulation to all ECA and OAU member States for their consideration and comments;

(c) To take into account, when considering its draft rules of procedure during its fifth session, the need to have representation from the five African subregions in its Bureau, and to take all necessary actions that this would entail (inter alia, amendment of the agreement establishing ACARTSOD).

Consideration of the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting
on the substantive agenda items (document ECA/OAU/AMSA.IV/IGEM/Rpt)
(agenda item 2)

16. The report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting, in preparation for the Fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, was presented to the Conference by the Chairman of the Expert Group. Mr. Yohannes Wolde Gerima. The Conference agreed to proceed to the consideration of this detailed report on an item-by-item and sector-by-sector basis. Its approved recommendations about each item/sector are reproduced, as approved, hereinafter.

(a) OAU Progress Report on its activities for the period 1980-1984

17. The Conference noted that, in spite of the difficulties experienced by the Organization during the period under review, the General Secretariat had endeavoured to implement the resolutions and decisions of the previous sessions of the Conference, and to promote co-operation with other organizations active in the broad field of social development.

18. Concerning the implementation of resolutions and decisions of previous sessions of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, the Conference further noted OAU's support to ACARTSOD (the General Secretariat has earmarked a yearly contribution of \$US100,000 for the first six years to the Centre's budget), OAU's association with the preparation of the draft African Charter for Social Action, the Organization's support to African National Liberation Movements, and to the PLO, through its Liberation Committee, the contribution of approximately \$US1,000,000 to assist member States confronted with natural disasters, the co-operation between OAU, UNHCR and other refugee-serving agencies to find durable solutions to refugee problems in Africa, the activities related to the establishment of the African Rehabilitation Institute and of an African Crime Prevention Organization.

19. The co-operation that has developed between the OAU secretariat and other organizations whose activities relate to social development, mainly ILO, ECA, UNCSO, UNESCO, ISSA and UNICEF from within the United Nations family, and ASWEA, CERDAS, CODESRIA, PAWO and PAYM from among the African social organizations, was noted by the Conference.

20. The Conference, while commending the OAU Secretariat's activities and initiatives, raised questions concerning ACARTSOD, ARI and the proposed African Crime Prevention Organization. One delegate sought a clarification about "income-generating" activities for refugee assistance. The Secretariat replied that income-generating was defined as "economic activities" of refugees aimed at making them self-reliant, thereby reducing their dependency on external assistance. It was suggested that, in order to harmonize social development policies and strategies in Africa, the Secretariat should carry out surveys of existing social development policies in order to identify basic principles that could guide national action, due consideration being given to existing structures and specificities.

21. The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations in Part IV of the report of the OAU Secretary-General save for recommendation "b" (on the African Charter for Social Action) and "g" (on the establishment of an African Organization for Crime Prevention).

(b) Critical economic and social situation in Africa

(i) Social trends and major social development problems in Africa
(document ECA/OAU/ANSA.IV/6)

(ii) Strategies and action programmes for the implementation of the social aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action, and for confronting the social implications of the African crisis (document ECA/OAU/ANSA.IV/7)

(iii) OAU report on the Pluri-annual programme on social implication
Lagos Plan of Action (document OAU/ECA/AMSA.IV/8).

22. The document on social trends reviewed the social situation obtaining in African countries in the light of the prevailing socio-economic crisis. African countries are presently facing an unprecedented crisis precipitated by natural disasters (drought), by increased desertification and also by balance of payments and external indebtedness problems. The negative impact of the crisis on the social development sector has resulted in serious deterioration in the welfare and well-being of a great number of people on the continent. Therefore, there is a need to make a careful analysis and have clear perception of the underlying issues, on the basis of which the mobilization of efforts at the national, regional and international levels, would be urgently needed. Some of the major sectors in social development that need attention include demographic and population factors, human resources development through education and training, rural development, agriculture and food production, employment, human settlements, health and nutrition, social policy and services. Special attention needed to be paid to certain social groups including youth, women, the aged, the disabled, refugees and displaced persons.

23. The document on the strategies reviewed the problems involved in, and the efforts required for, the effective implementation of the measures recommended by AMSA.III [Cf. Report of AMSA.III, pp. 6-19, document E/CN.14/AMSA.III/Rpt-CM/1095 (XXXVI)/AMSA.III/1980] pertaining to the social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action. The strategies and action programmes presented in the document related to the following sectoral activities:

- (a) Demographic and health situation;
- (b) Employment, unemployment and underemployment;
- (c) Role of women in nation-building;
- (d) Education and training for youth;
- (e) Rehabilitation of the disabled;
- (f) The aged;
- (g) Refugees and displaced persons;
- (h) Integrated rural development;
- (i) Improvement of quality of human resources;
- (j) Brain drain.

24. The OAU Pluri-annual project on the social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action initially financed by UNDP and executed by ILO, through its International Institute for Labour Studies, and whose financing by UNDP was discontinued since May 1984, was the subject matter of a document which reviewed the two major components of the project, i.e., training and research. The findings of the studies and research work carried out were circulated to member States as reference materials to backstop their field activities.

25. The rationale behind such a project was the need to define the new strategies required to bring about the changes that the first Lagos Economic Summit had politically endorsed, taking due account of the underlying basic principles of self-sustained development and of collective self-reliance. The main objective of the project was to increase the ability of the African Governments to better define the social prerequisites for, and consequences of, implementing the LPA, and to determine the institutional and human resources requirements for endogenous development, specially in the fields of food and agriculture, science and technology and assistance to the vulnerable or underprivileged social groups.

26. The Conference, while expressing the hope that its views could contribute, through the existing Steering Committee, to substantiating the preparations for the forthcoming Economic Summit, endorsed the following:

(a) The necessity of rethinking global development policies so that their social components are given as much importance as the economic ones, as every development endeavour is meant for the well-being of man;

(b) The search of a balance between demographic growth and socio-economic development;

(c) The development of data base as a condition for development planning, and the search for accuracy of national statistical data;

(d) The setting-up of regional exchange programmes on developmental problems that would help, through circulation of national experiences and knowledge, avoid mistakes and bring about an evident benefit from each other's endeavours;

(e) The possibility of carrying out comprehensive surveys of national social policies with a view to identifying similarities that would contribute to evolving a common co-ordinated approach to social development, thereby introducing an element of uniformity in the social policies of all African countries;

(f) Adoption of political and administrative systems of participation, which call for decentralization and collaboration of competent and determined individuals, would help evolve an efficient social policy that could benefit the entire population, while reducing to the minimum any administrative political difficulties. In this regard, all options are open, provided that, in the final analysis, it becomes possible to define and execute, at the national level, an adequate, efficient and rational policy.

27. The Conference also recommended that action be taken towards:

(a) The promotion of the welfare and protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families (a resolution to that effect reflecting the gist of the debate and the importance of that specific issue was approved by the Conference);

(b) The conceptualization and definition of national population policies in all the countries of the region;

(c) The formulation, wherever they do not exist, of national manpower and employment policies;

(d) The promotion of agricultural productivity through price incentives, improvement of rural infrastructures, use of appropriate tools and implements, etc.;

(e) Rural development as a means to checking rural exodus and uncontrolled urban growth;

(f) Popular participation through association of the individual and the masses with the development process;

(g) The definition and implementation of a national policy for the child.

28. Endorsements of action proposals as presented in the Report of the Expert Group and recommendations approved thereon are reviewed hereinafter. They should set the path for the implementation of the activities likely to bring about long-term fundamental changes in the social situation in Africa.

29. Demographic data base and population policies

(a) The Lagos Plan of Action has recognized the impact of demographic factors on global socio-economic development in Africa. The Conference agreed:

- (i) that appropriate machinery should be established to ensure greater integration of demographic factors in development planning, bearing in mind that the African population was expected to double between 1975 and 2000;
- (ii) that the current levels of fertility and mortality and the resultant high rates of demographic growth have serious implications for meeting the basic needs of the population; and;
- (iii) that the rapid rate of uncontrolled urbanization as a result of rural-urban migration is such a serious problem that it should be addressed immediately.

(b) It was noted that the estimated total population of member States is now about 500 million and that a decade ago (1974) the population of member States was estimated at 336 million and represented 8.0 per cent of the world's total population. This means that within the last ten years, the size of the African population had increased by 134 million. As regards population distribution, it was further observed that it is uneven, as 32 per cent of the population is concentrated in the Western subregion, with Nigeria alone accounting for 56 per cent of the population of that subregion. The second largest concentration was noted to be in the Eastern subregion (31 per cent), while the Northern, Central and Southern subregions represent 24 per cent, 12 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively of the total population of member States.

(c) It was also observed that when demographic density is examined from the perspective of arable land, it can be well appreciated that land is becoming scarce and the population pressure on such land is becoming heavy. Concomitant with the higher demographic densities per arable land, is the problem of drought and desertification which was now seriously affecting more than thirty African countries. The Conference, therefore, appreciated that such events and phenomena indicate that land in the region is not such a free and surplus commodity, and as such, cannot be the raison d'être of any population size.

(d) In order to improve the demographic situation in the continent, the Conference agreed, among other things, that:

- (i) at the national level, content-specific population policies should be established;
- (ii) national population commissions should be created to promote and expand capacities for demographic data collection and analysis;
- (iii) member States should endeavour to implement the recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population, as well as the Mexico World Population Plan of Action.

30. Social policies

(a) Emphasis of this chapter is that social policies, which are in effect human rights provisions, aim at:

- (i) comprehensive human resources development;
- (ii) raising living standards and quality of life;
- (iii) improving health and human welfare;
- (iv) ensuring social justice and quality;
- (v) providing adequate social security for all segments of the population.

(b) Because of different levels of political, economic and social development, Africa has not been able to adopt a unified approach in pursuit of these goals. Some countries pursue free enterprise system, others centrally controlled economic systems, and others mixed systems.

(c) Training and education of people must take account of the existing traditional cultural values. Consequently an integrated and carefully co-ordinated programme aimed at improving the quality of life and promoting social justice and equity is, therefore, necessary for social welfare.

(d) Social security measures should be introduced wherever they do not yet exist, to cover not only the employed but also other social groups including peasants and the under-privileged groups.

(e) Emphasis in training social workers, and in the field of social welfare, should be placed not only on preventive action but mainly on developmental welfare programmes, while maximum use should be made of the existing African training institutions in the field of social development.

(f) The Conference agreed that, while a uniform approach to defining social policies was highly desirable, consideration should be given to the different levels of political, economic and social development obtaining in the countries of the region. It would be useful to evolve, a common platform that could help social development planners define adequate national policies that would take into account both the general objectives set forth for social development in Africa and the specificities of any national situation.

31. Health and nutrition

(a) Significant progress has been made in the field of health in the past few years, but its benefits are unevenly spread, and the majority of people in rural areas still have no easy access to modern medical facilities. Infant mortality rates have decreased, but are still very high compared to those in developed countries. Life expectancy has also increased. Medical personnel are in short supply and mostly concentrated in urban areas. Between 1970 and 1980, the number of persons per doctor has dropped from 10,000 to 6,500, but the ration is high, and variations among countries are quite significant. Only a minority (25 per cent) has access to clean water supply which is becoming problematic even in big cities having modern facilities because of massive growth in urban population.

(b) The problem of malnutrition is a complex one, and affects a large segment of the population. It is also compounded by poverty, ignorance and worsening food shortages. Lack of information about nutritional value of food and the importance of balanced and adequate diet, coupled with traditional eating habits, can affect even those who can afford nutritional foods. The most affected are the children and, in most cases, people are not aware of their poor nutritional status and that of their children. According to a World Bank study "Nutrition is fundamental to life, work and well-being.... Inadequate diet and related illness interfere with the learning ability, capacity to work, behaviour and well-being of large segments of the population in developing countries. The nutritional state of the populace both influences and reflects the level and pace of national development. Adequate nutrition therefore must be viewed not only as an objective but also as a means of economic development."

(c) The problem of malnutrition has many dimensions and an attack on it must be co-ordinated and mounted from several fronts. It will primarily call for an active encouragement to the growth, preparation and consumption of right kind of development, agriculture and primary health care programmes. Comprehensive information campaigns launched through the change agents at the community level, and, through mass media, at the national level, should help fight different taboos and prevailing ignorance about the nutritional value of various food items, the primary target group being composed of mothers, breast feeding mothers, expectant mother, babies and young children.

(d) As it is almost impossible for many African countries to cope with the health requirements of their population through modern medical facilities, because of their expensive nature, the advantages of primary health care become more evident as it relies on non-physician, para-medical staff with shorter and less expensive training, thereby making it possible for more medical and health personnel and services to become available to all sectors of the population.

It will also help reduce the physical and social distance between the people and their medical services, because of its community-based nature. However, for some time, the introduction of PHO will have its own problems, but a balance must be maintained between central surveillance of the system and the local control, to encourage grass-roots support and participation.

(e) Having reviewed and discussed all the aspects of this important sector of development activities, and bearing in mind that, as social development practitioners, the participants have to consider, as a matter of priority, measures that have social dimensions, the Conference agreed to the following recommendations:

- (i) priority should be given to preventive, mass-oriented medicine, while emphasis should be on primary health care, and on the health education of the population;
- (ii) training of health officers and workers to ensure a community-based health service;
- (iii) extension of vaccination programmes;
- (iv) promotion of research on traditional medicine and use of local drugs, to curb the costs of modern medicine and imported pharmaceuticals;
- (v) definition of a socially-based health and nutrition policy that gives consideration to the conditions prevailing in each country, as the success of such a policy will be directly related to the population adhesion to its implementation, and to the means earmarked to that end;
- (vi) encouragement of regional co-operation in the fields of medical education, of para-medical staff training, of medicines and drugs production, and of medical treatment, to benefit from each other's experience, and to save scarce foreign currency.

32. Rural development

(a) Rural development policies and projects are aimed at involving the masses for their own advancement as well as the nations' prosperity as a whole. Any programme to deal with rural poverty and rural development must be comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral, with agriculture as the main preoccupation. Mobilization of the people must be undertaken in an organized and planned manner with adequate incentives and reasonable guarantees. Supportive services such as primary health, adult literacy and education, rural water supply and rural housing must be given. Introduction of integrated rural development projects will result in harmonization of different approaches as well as savings of manpower and scarce resources. Training of people and clearly defined roles of the masses must be promoted. Resources, facilities and equipment needed must be set out and their deployment worked out.

(b) While generally agreeing with the contents of the documents, the Conference was of the opinion that well-managed rural development through, inter alia, decentralization of services to the district and, to the grass-roots levels, must be pursued. National policies for mass mobilization and participation must be introduced. Rural development must aim at attaining food self-sufficiency and recapturing the peasants by providing them with incentives and by improving the rural infrastructure. Improvement of productivity of peasants in Africa could be attained through, inter alia, innovation on the indigenous technology. Community-based services should be given to the under-privileged groups, especially the disabled, the children and the aged.

(c) Basic principles and components of integrated rural development programmes must be kept in view when drawing up strategies for accelerating rural development. Those comprise:

- (i) the multidisciplinary approach;
- (ii) proper setting of priority activities;
- (iii) provision of information and education to people in rural areas about the goals and problems of rural development endeavours;
- (iv) carrying out experimental integrated development projects before undertaking them at the national level;
- (v) promoting popular participation.

(d) To attain these, the Conference, agreed that popular participation entails, inter alia,

- (i) clear definition of objectives, policy and targets;
- (ii) exemplary leadership;
- (iii) dissemination of non-formal education;
- (iv) information to be given in a dispassionate manner, designed to stimulate discussion and free enquiry;
- (v) mobilization should rely on the establishment of study groups, at community level, with every segment of the community represented. Organizational work should resist the temptation of relying too much on vocal elements of the community, and mistake these elements as being necessarily representing natural leadership;

- (vi) while study groups should be the basis for increasing community awareness about the nature, extent and scope of problems of development in rural areas, a more permanent decision-making structure should be created by linking these groups on a geographic area basis. This should take the form of a citizens' council on rural development with appropriate chapters in similar localities to facilitate upward aggregation of grass-roots needs and demands;
- (vii) such councils should be assisted by a multidisciplinary team of sectoral specialists in the various dimensions of development (agriculture, animal science, formal and non-formal education, health, nutrition, cottage and small-scale industry, rural institutions such as cooperatives, specialists in the field of appropriate technology, etc.). The role of this team of technical specialists will be among other things to:
- elicit local support and participation in the definition of problems, needs assessment, assessment of local institutional capacities for problem solving;
 - interpret national goals and priorities of development in general, and social and rural development in particular;
 - interpret specific objectives for regional development;
 - assist local decision-making bodies in planning strategies and programmes for area and locality development;
 - provide training opportunities to members of citizens' councils through regional and national seminars and workshops, which among other things will increase the opportunity for council members to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues from other regions;
 - provide technical and supervisory backstopping for specific projects.
- (viii) policies, plans and programmes for integrated rural development should be widely discussed by various representative bodies which should be encouraged to engage in such discussions in an atmosphere of free-enquiry. Experience has shown that governments' use of manipulative techniques to obtain superficial agreements has often resulted in subtle non-compliance, subverting programme goals and objectives at the implementation stage.

(e) While the above represent some of the important actions to be taken at the country level, supportive actions are required at subregional/regional levels.

- (i) technical assistance, at the request of member States, should be provided to formulate policies, plans and strategies for integrated rural development with equity and peoples' participation;
- (ii) interdisciplinary technical advisory team should be set-up to evaluate varied approaches of rural development currently in operation in different countries. These approaches should be evaluated from the stand-point of economic efficiency and equity, peoples' participation and replicability;
- (iii) organization of subregional seminars to discuss a variety of models of integrated rural development intervention systems;
- (iv) continuation of research and publications to facilitate exchange of information relating to various aspects of integrated rural development amongst the member States;
- (v) evolving an exchange programme for rural development practitioners that will increase their knowledge and experience through exposing them to experiences carried out at the national level, within and outside the African region;
- (vi) vigorous advocacy of the structural reforms where necessary, and of institution-building, the recognition of the basic premise that Man is the author and beneficiary of development.

33. Agriculture and food production

(a) Agriculture accounts for 30 to 60 per cent of the GNP in African countries, while engaging almost 65 per cent of the economically active population, but the record of food production over the last two decades has been disappointing and the overall picture shows a general downward trend. Whereas between 1961 and 1970 food production increased by 2.6 per cent annually, the rate of increase fell to 1.6 per cent between 1970 and 1979. It improved to 4 per cent in 1980 but fell again in 1981 to 2.7 per cent, which is negligible as against the annual population growth rate of 3 per cent. On per capita basis, this represents a negative growth rate over the period from 1970 to 1981.

(b) This persistent decline in per capita food production is affecting incomes of over 60 per cent of the population engaged in agriculture, and depriving millions of others of adequate food supply, hence causing health problems and in some cases starvation and even deaths. Those closest to the land are often

the first ones to be affected by the poor harvests. Already living at subsistence level, they have no reserves to feed on or to feed their livestock, they lose almost everything and, abandoning their homes and fields, they become dependent on government handouts for their survival. No one knows exactly how many perished during the drought of 1973-1974, but persistent drought since 1979 is playing havoc again with millions of lives in many African countries.

(c) In spite of a substantial rise in food aid (from 0.8 million tons in the mid 1970's to 1.5 million tons in 1980) the commercial import of food grains had increased three times faster than the population growth and this had caused a noticeable shift in consumption patterns in many African countries and has aggravated a great deal Africa's food dependency.

(d) The food crisis is threatening millions of human lives and could cause serious political upheavals through massive exodus of population affected by famine. The economies of the drought-stricken countries are further deteriorating because they are compelled to divert scarce foreign exchange resources from needed development schemes to the importation of food supplies.

(e) What are the causes behind these frequent food crisis in Africa? An FAO publication Famine in Africa states that one of the major causes behind these frequent food crisis is a gradual breakdown of the delicate balance between the physical environment, population, technology and social structures and systems, and that most often natural causes are the direct or indirect consequences of Man's actions. The World Bank report: Accelerated Development in Sub-Saharan Africa puts the blame on governments, donors and development planners for neglecting the agricultural sector, misallocating investments and formulating policies harmful to the farmers, i.e. low prices, inefficient and uncompetitive marketing systems, irregular input supplies and limited participation of farmers in rural affairs. It also blamed the organizational deficiencies of the extension services and the lack of research output.

(f) Other causes of the food crisis could be:

- (i) for various reasons, there are large under-utilized lands in some parts of Africa. The estimated potential arable land available is about 1.7 hectare per person, but only 0.55 hectare per person is utilized at present;
- (ii) increasing cultivation of marginal lands due to population pressure in certain areas;
- (iii) desert encroachment on useful agricultural land at an estimated rate of 25,000 square kilometres per year;
- (iv) lack of supportive infrastructure (credit, feeder roads, storage facilities, transportation and farm machinery);

- (v) food losses through pests and poor storage facilities;
- (vi) poor farm wages;
- (vii) periodic droughts, insufficient rainfalls, floods, human and animal epidemics, etc.;
- (viii) non-improvement of traditional methods and tools in agriculture.

(g) Food production is a problem that cannot be solved in isolation; rather it should be tied in with national development plans, and, at the region's level, with the global strategy for African Development. Measures that could contribute to improving the situation in the food production sector are the following:

- (i) allocation of additional resources to the crucial agricultural sector;
- (ii) reforms in the land tenure system;
- (iii) expansion of rural infrastructures;
- (iv) promotion of irrigation schemes;
- (v) afforestation programmes to combat desertification and soil erosion;
- (vi) encouragement of livestock production;
- (vii) priority for the production of staple crops.

(h) Against such a bleak background, the Conference, when reviewing the situation, agreed that there was an urgent need to achieve food self-sufficiency in order to resolve Africa's dependence on outside help that often goes along with political strings. The Ministers agreed that the following measures, some of which are of a structural nature, while all have social dimensions, and subsequently a social bearing on the situation in Africa should be implemented:

- (i) reform of the land tenure system;
- (ii) introduction of new appropriate technologies commensurate with the needs and absorption capacities of the rural populations;
- (iii) development of rural infrastructure;

- (iv) exchange of information and experiences;
- (v) development of varieties of drought, diseases, and insect-resistant crops;
- (vi) selection and development of animal breeds more resistant to drought and disease, and dissemination of information on them among African countries;
- (vii) improvement of post-harvest technologies, and of sale prices;
- (viii) ensure more accurate stock evaluation as well as a rational exploitation and protection of fishery resources, while promoting fishery production through improvement of the treatment, conservation and marketing system;
- (ix) launching of an energetic policy for subregional and regional co-operation so as to achieve the objective of food self-sufficiency.

34. Education, literacy and vocational training

(a) The Conference stressed the crucial role that education and training play in the field of human resources development so vital to Africa's socio-economic development. It deplored the general low level of literacy in many countries, particularly in the rural areas, in spite of efforts to expand educational facilities and school enrolment. In this respect, the importance of functional literacy particularly in relation to improving the knowledge and skills of the rural population was emphasized.

(b) The Conference considered access to education as a basic human right. However, due to the rapidly growing school-age population, the demand for educational facilities has outstripped the capacity of many governments to provide adequate resources. Free universal primary education seems difficult to attain, for some countries. The issue of quality and relevance of school structures and curricula has yet to be resolved by several countries, as evidenced by the increasing number of unemployed school leavers even in cases where jobs are available.

(c) Vocational and technical training was considered as a major alternative to most school leavers. Emphasis was put on the need to have close linkages between educational outputs and manpower requirements. Concern was expressed over the increasing rates of "brain drain", resulting in the loss to African countries, of highly qualified manpower, trained at a great cost.

(d) The Conference agreed to make the following recommendations:

- (i) there is need to reform the methodology, structures, and curriculum of educational and training systems in order to make education more responsive to Africa's development needs;
- (ii) professional training should correspond as closely as possible to availability of jobs in the labour market;
- (iii) wider inclusion of science, mathematics and other technical subjects in school curricula;
- (iv) formulation and implementation of comprehensive training policy guidelines for national training development backed by appropriate legislation;
- (v) establishment or "reconstitution" of administrative mechaneries to provide policy guidance and to co-ordinate training, guidance and counselling activities;
- (vi) development of well-trained and professionally-oriented crops of training staff/development personnel;
- (vii) establishing and maintaining a centrally administered training fund;
- (viii) removal of all discriminatory practices against women in educational institutions and curricula;
- (ix) design of special measures to curb drop-out rates among primary and secondary school children and develop appropriate training programmes for school leavers and drop-outs, on a wider scale;
- (x) introduction of appropriate and culturally acceptable sex education in schools, that should be shared by the parents as well, to combat adolescent pregnancies;
- (xi) develop appropriate services and personnel for psychological/occupational testing for career planning, guidance and conselling;
- (xii) to avoid or curb the "brain drain", develop adequate national and regional institutions for higher education and initiate more attractive salary structures;
- (xiii) establish a comprehensive inventory of African "brain drain" and suggest measures to curb it in co-operation with the ministerial departments responsible for human resources.

35. Employment and income distribution

(a) The problem of unemployment and underemployment in African countries emanates from a range of related problems extending well beyond the groups directly affected by unemployment and underemployment. At least four dimensions of the problem were observable:

- (i) the shortage of work opportunities manifesting itself in open unemployment;
- (ii) the under-utilization of labour in both the rural and urban sectors;
- (iii) the imbalance between employment opportunities on the one hand and expectations and aspirations of job-seekers on the other;
- (iv) the large sector of population consisting mostly of self-employed workers and farmers whose levels of income are often below the poverty line even by the standards of the least-developed countries.

(b) The unemployment and underemployment problem has its roots also in the basic economic and social structure. The commonest feature of African economies is the presence of a small but largely export-oriented modern sector in urban areas characterized by the employment of a high proportion of skilled labour and the use of capital-intensive techniques. Alongside this, is the informal sector mainly in the urban areas and, to a limited extent, in the rural sector. There is finally the rural farm economy which engages the majority of the people. If no additional job opportunities are created through relative expansion of economic activities, the employment market may easily get saturated, which is already the case in a certain number of countries, thereby perpetuating unemployment.

(c) Having surveyed the range of problems associated with unemployment, underemployment, rural-urban migration and urbanization, the Conference agreed that:

- (i) member States should evolve appropriate employment policies, which should encourage, among other things, self-employment, and promote and sustain appropriate policies on wages, incomes and prices;
- (ii) training and relevant education should be evolved in such a way so as to ensure and sustain the necessary development and proper utilization of human resources;
- (iii) the rural (agricultural) sector where the majority of people work should be improved by provision of social amenities, incentives and facilities;

- (iv) emphasis should be given to the training, education and employment of women to ensure that they are integrated in development;
- (v) African countries should participate in the drawing up of a global Convention on Migrant Workers.
- (vi) within the framework of national solidarity and in order to achieve a more equitable national income distribution, social security should be extended to cover other population groups, including the peasants.

36. Human settlements

(a) One of Man's basic needs is shelter. Human settlements have changed in both size and design since Man's early days on earth to suit the changing needs of the society.

(b) Population growth and movements affect the housing requirements of the society. One of the evident features of population movements in all African countries is the rural exodus which strains the economic and housing needs of African countries.

(c) Development of human settlements is not only the provision of houses for families and individuals. Human settlements involve also the provision of the necessary infrastructure (transportation, communication, recreational facilities, etc.).

(d) In dealing with the issue of human settlements, provision should be made for the rural population thus preventing the drift to the urban areas.

(e) It is, therefore, necessary to incorporate a human settlement component in any territorial or regional planning programme.

(f) The Conference agreed that:

- (i) the provision of economic housing schemes for the rural population must be tied in with the national programme for rural development, to divert the rural drift to the large urban centres and cities; in order to develop rural housing and to improve living conditions of the rural people;
- (ii) proper land use planning must be undertaken;
- (iii) consideration of population growth rates in evolving social housing programmes;

- (iv) the use of local materials in the provision of shelter is recommended to enable the poor to afford shelter;
- (v) a comprehensive policy on human settlements with a body to monitor its implementation should be defined, as early as possible.

37. Family welfare

(a) The importance of the family as the basic social unit has been maintained in spite of erosions due to modern concepts of freedom, individualism and tendencies toward permissiveness and secularisation of social relations. The nuclear family has gained greater recognition in Africa, but the extended family has shown great resilience because its residual functions as an ultimate source of social security and community recognition are still appreciated and needed.

(b) Preservation of the family unit, extended or nuclear, is of importance to all, and governments should safeguard the family against various factors which threaten its integrity. Laws governing marriage, divorce and custody of children need to be streamlined. Minimum legal age of marriage should be strictly enforced and medical risks to girls involved in early marriage explained to people. Family life education is very much needed for young people in order to control the rising incidence of adolescent pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and the different practices of female mutilation. Family planning facilities or family guidance services should be made available to individuals or couples to enable them to decide what is best for them with regard to the size of their families.

(c) The Conference agreed to urge governments to support the family as a basic social entity because strengthening the family will help maintain the social fabric of society.

38. Women

(a) In spite of progress made in some countries to improve the position of women, particularly during the United Nations Women's Decade (1975-1985), much needs to be done to give women equal opportunities in the various socio-economic development sectors. Efforts to achieve wider participation of women in the development process of African countries have at times been jeopardized by the adverse socio-economic conditions in the region. In some countries, attempts have been made to include women in decision-making positions. In others, however, the socio-cultural rigidities and taboos, and the political climate mitigated any notable progress.

(b) In education and training, women still lag behind men, in spite of some increases in female enrolment at the various educational levels. Women still predominate in subsistence agriculture and play a very significant role in food production. In wage employment they are still in the minority and very few occupy managerial and executive positions. They predominate in the informal sector. Some countries have established centres and started a number of income-generating projects to upgrade the skills and knowledge of women. A number of countries have enacted legislations to give more equality to women. However, the implementation of such legislations is quite slow and tend to be influenced by traditional prejudices, attitudes, customs and practices.

(c) The Conference endorsed the following:

- (i) strengthening the position of women in agricultural production, through appropriate national policies, relevant training in the required skills, improvement of basic rural infrastructures and technology, dissemination of information to rural women and communities, and improvement in women's access to land, capital and all other factors of production;
- (ii) provision of the necessary social services to women to enable them to perform their multiple roles more efficiently;
- (iii) provision of modern tools and techniques to alleviate women's domestic drudgeries
- (iv) expansion and diversification of women's employment opportunities in industrial enterprises and their contribution to industrial development through appropriate industrial policies which give due consideration to the needs of women, to the provision of financial resources and subsidies, and to the education and training in industrial skills;
- (v) reviewing human resources development policies and practices so as to include women on a wider scale;
- (vi) inviting member countries to accede/ratify the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

39. Youth

(a) Involving young people in the development process of their countries, does not need to be emphasized, as the future of Africa lies in the hands of youth. The present population of African youth between 15 to 24 years represent 19 per cent of the total African population. Hence youth must be provided with

adequate opportunities for education, training, employment, intellectual and physical self-expression, to prepare them for their future roles in the development of African countries.

(b) Concern over the increasing rates of unemployment, underemployment, rural-urban migration, delinquency and crime among young people needs to be uttered, as these are phenomena which have economic, social and political implications. The growing numbers of school leavers at both the primary and secondary levels, without jobs or opportunities for further training is also cause for great concern. Some countries have started a number of projects for youth, to meet their training and employment needs, and to stem rural exodus. The need to step up such efforts was recognized particularly in view of the fact that 1985 is the International Youth Year, calling for special attention to the needs, aspirations and problems of youth.

(c) To this end, the Conference agreed to retain the following as adequate strategies and action programmes:

- (i) formulate relevant youth policies and programmes as an integral part of overall planning;
- (ii) provide wider and diversified vocational and employment-oriented training for school-leavers, to allow them choices;
- (iii) include in school curricula practical subjects which impart skills and knowledge relevant to rural life;
- (iv) improve rural conditions and rural-based employment opportunities to stem rural-urban migration of young people;
- (v) expand the informal sector as an alternative source of employment for young people;
- (vi) increase social services for young people, and improve the utilization of leisures through provision of adequate cultural and recreational facilities.

40. Refugees and displaced persons

(a) The refugee problem has been with Africa even before political independence was gained by many African countries. It was temporarily solved, since most victims of the colonial struggle returned home soon after independence. However, after independence, and for numerous reasons, the situation of African refugees with its new and complex problems, still remains dramatic.

(b) Since the early 1960s, various meetings have been held and conventions adopted all geared towards the solution or amelioration of the refugee problem. On the other hand, the steady and alarming refugee population increase from 750,000 in 1970 to 5 million in the early 1980s, has somehow subsided to over three million towards mid-1984.

(c) Some of the causes of asylum-seeking on the Continent could be: international conflicts, civil strife, racial and ethnic persecution, political dissent and social injustice. The responsibility for assistance rests first and foremost with the African Community at large, while the international community extends a helping hand.

(d) Until recently, Africa had the unenviable record of being host to the largest refugee population in the world. In addition to this, Africa is now confronted with another category of asylum-seekers, whose displacement was provoked by drought, desertification and famine. These are estimated to be around 10 million.

(e) Refugees could be categorized as follows:

- (i) those who have fled as a result of the racist policy of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia;
- (ii) remnants of the struggle against colonial rule;
- (iii) victims of internal upheavals and social unrests;
- (iv) victims of inter-State conflicts.

(f) In dealing with refugee assistance and protection, African governments should be guided by the following principles:

- (i) the need to tolerate ideological differences, to resist external influences, and the pursuit of political goals legitimately and democratically;
- (ii) subordination of tribalism;
- (iii) enactment of amnesty laws towards voluntary repatriation without fear of punitive action on the part of countries of origin.

(g) Refugee assistance and protection would be certainly enhanced through:

- (i) availability of adequately trained staff at reception centres and well documented handbooks for the use of refugee workers;

- (ii) the need to make refugees self-reliant, without looking at them as a source of cheap labour;
 - (iii) the establishment of income-generating projects for the benefit of refugees and local populations, and the placement of qualified refugees in suitable jobs, without any competition with the national available manpower;
 - (iv) the integration of rural refugees with local communities within the framework of agricultural development programmes;
 - (v) naturalization should also be envisaged as a possible option, where voluntary repatriation is not possible;
 - (vi) determination of the extent of the additional burden placed on the economies of the countries of asylum/origin towards the execution of development-oriented programmes to offset the effects of such an extra burden carried by the presence of refugees and returnees;
 - (vii) establishment of an African Centre for the dissemination of information on refugee problems and on refugee and humanitarian laws as recommended by the 1979 Arusha Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa.
- (h) Displaced persons constitute another category of asylum-seekers who are not covered by the existing international or regional instruments and who have recently become another vulnerable social group. These are those who are forced to expatriate themselves by: drought, famine, poverty or poor economic conditions. Even though this category is not considered to constitute a refugee community, they deserve to be considered for assistance since they are most of the time in a refugee-like situation.
- (i) Displaced persons' needs are, from the outset, of an emergency nature. Once the emergency phase is covered, economic asylum-seekers would require the services of adequately trained personnel to give them guidance and advice. As for the victims of natural disasters, their needs, immediate as well as short-, medium-, and long-term, cannot be efficiently catered for without a co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional and international levels.
- (j) The Expert Group approved the strategies suggested towards evolving durable solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, once the emergency assistance phase is properly addressed. It also retained the fact that some valuable recommendations were spelt out in the proposed strategies, that required consideration towards their inclusion as an additional input to what

the Ministerial Steering Committee for the preparations for the next Summit, and the OAU Council of Ministers, had recently approved. It stressed the need to pursue the organization of induction seminars intended to bring about a better and more in-depth awareness of refugee/displaced persons' problems, for the direct benefit of refugee-workers and of all other officials whose activities are related to assistance to refugees and displaced persons.

(k) Finally, it recalled that assistance to refugees and displaced populations should not be carried out to the detriment of the local populations but should aim, through ventures intended to bring them closer to each other, at achieving some kind of social osmosis, which remains, after voluntary repatriation, the next best solution to the problems of refugees, while those of displaced populations call for another type of durable solution.

41. The Conference, through its explicit appreciation of the quality of the documents presented, approved their substance in sectors that had not been duly reviewed in the foregoing parts of the report. The strategies suggested for the sectoral activities concerning the disabled, the aged and the brain-drain phenomenon were endorsed. The sector of human resources development, that had not been dealt with separately, called however for two recommendations that needed to be recorded for further action:

(a) Education being one of the basic human rights, it is necessary to democratize it in order to properly relate the skills acquired by individuals, quantitatively and qualitatively, to real employment needs and opportunities in the African countries;

(b) The informal sector should be properly re-assessed so as to rationally utilize all the human resources therein thus contributing to curbing the trend towards idleness, banditism and criminality.

42. On the OAU pluriannual programme for the implementation of the Social Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Conference agreed that this project should be pursued because of its intrinsic value, commended UNDP and ILO for their assistance to the project, and considered and approved a draft resolution to that effect.

Draft African Charter for Social Action (agenda item 3)

43. The Conference while considering the report on this issue regretted that the Ad hoc Committee of six member States was unable to carry out its work. It agreed to adopt a resolution to the effect of launching the process of properly preparing the required draft.

44. At a later stage, and while considering the proposal by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the drafting of an African Charter for the Child (Cf. para above), the Conference dwelt on whether there was a need to have a Charter for

the child separate from the Charter for Social Action. Following a lengthy exchange of views, the Conference agreed that the Ad hoc Committee responsible for the drafting of the Charter for Social Action should benefit from any substantive contribution which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would forward to it, drawing on its valuable knowledge and experience in this specific field. The Conference also accepted proposals made to the effect that the African Charter be drafted in such a way that it would cover the actions to be taken in favour of all the social groups: children - youth - women - aged - disabled, etc.

45. Views were also expressed that the Charter could be either a declaration or a document reviewing only principles. Such views are recorded by the Conference for the guidance of the Ad hoc Committee.

OAU Report of the Establishment of an African Rehabilitation Institute for Disabled Persons (document OAU/ECA/AMSA.IV/10) (agenda item 4)

46. The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs reviewed in detail the report of its Expert Group on the establishment of ARI, and agreed on the following:

(a) The presentation made by the Secretariat on the work and recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee of Five, based on the assessment missions' reports covering rehabilitation facilities and services in 26 member States visited in 1982; the report of the ILO expert on the replies of 21 member States to the questionnaire on ARI sent to them for the first time in 1982 and for the second time in 1984; the draft Agreement also sent to member States in 1982 and 1984 and the Financial Implications presented to Expert Group;

(b) The assurance that the first phase of the establishment of ARI, 1985/87 would have no financial implications to member States as the OAU, ILO, host countries of ARI and its branches and donor countries would meet some of the costs;

(c) The urgent need to approve the establishment of ARI to avoid loss of funds from donors and the momentum following the pledging Conference in Arusha;

(d) The financial, material and technical pledges made by delegations during the Expert Group meeting; for example, the Congo pledged that it has earmarked about \$US120,000 from its 1982/86 development plan for ARI. Similarly Ivory Coast reiterated her financial and other support to the immediate establishment of ARI and its programmes. It also expressed her wish to become member of ARI's organs during the Arusha International Meeting on ARI;

(e) Most delegations endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group that the Co-ordinating Unit and the regional branch for Southern Africa be established at Harare, Zimbabwe, while the regional branch for Central Africa be established at Brazzaville, Congo;

(f) The unanimous views that the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee of Five be expanded to ten;

(g) On the application of the "African Rehabilitation Institute" which in French should be, "Institut Africain de Réadaptions";

(h) On a draft resolution on ARI.

47. A number of delegations took the opportunity to inform the Conference their official stand on ARI. Egypt, in a Note Verbale read out by the Secretariat, reaffirmed its acceptance of the establishment of ARI in principle in the light of the decisions of the forty-second Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers and the twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Summit; and proposed to host the Northern Africa branch. Sudan confirmed its support of the establishment of ARI, suggesting that more contributions to ARI budget should be sought from NGO's and other international sources and proposing to host the Eastern Africa branch. Tunisia, while endorsing the project of ARI, stated that she was not a candidate for hosting any of the Institute's branches. Benin confirmed its acceptance of the principle of establishing ARI and suggested that ACARTSOD undertake the remaining feasibility studies.

48. Objections to the immediate establishment of ARI, but not to the principle of establishing ARI, were raised by Rwanda which requested that its reservation be reflected in the report on the following grounds:

(a) the financial cost of the whole project as requested by resolution CM/943(XL) of the OAU Council of Ministers, should be made available;

(b) the OAU current scale of assessment was being contested and, as such, it could not be the basis of contribution to the ARI budget by member States unless it is reviewed and accepted by all.

49. One delegation raised the issue of the draft Agreement, stating that it should be recirculated to member States for study and reaction.

50. Having considered the foregoing, the Conference agreed on the immediate establishment of ARI, at the recommended locations, after the decision of the twenty-first Summit and adopted a resolution to that effect.

African Centre for Applied Research and Training for Social Development
(document ACA/GB/81-85/Rpt) (agenda item 5)

51. The Conference was apprised of the issues to be considered through the Report of its Experts and also by the Executive Secretary of ECA, Chairman of the Board of ACARTSOD. After due consideration of the substantive issues at stake, the Conference unanimously decided as follows:

(a) To appoint Dr. Duri Mohamed, Ethiopia, as the Executive Director of ACARTSOD on the recommendation of the Governing Board;

(b) To designate the following countries as members of the Governing Board:

Northern Africa:

Algeria

Egypt

Western Africa:

Benin

Ghana

Eastern and Southern Africa:

Ethiopia

Uganda

Central Africa:

Burundi

Congo

Host country:

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

thereby safeguarding the respect of the clauses of the Agreement, while maintaining certain continuity to ensure the smooth functioning of the Centre's bodies;

(c) To authorize the Centre to continue to cover from its budget the expenses of the participation of the members of the Governing Board in its meetings, pending the required procedure to amend the Agreement accordingly;

(d) To appeal to all member countries to accede, as early as possible, to the Agreement establishing the Centre, as such an institution is to serve the whole of Africa, and not only some of its countries;

(e) To urge all participating countries which are in arrears as regards their contributions to ACARTSOD's budget to settle their arrears and to regularly pay their contribution, as the Centre is likely to be crippled, if there are no funds to sustain its activities.

52. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its sustained and continued support to ACARTSOD.

Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (document E/CN.5/1985/7) (agenda item 6)

53. The report on this item was prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in response to the Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/22 of 26 May 1983, which requires the Secretary-General to take steps, within existing budgetary resources, for convening an interregional consultation, at an

appropriate policy-making level, to examine social welfare policies and provisions, in relation to present problems and concerns of Governments, and against the background of experience gained since the 1968 International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, with the objective of setting specific goals in the social field for the year 2000.

54. The Conference noted the background of the initiative launched by ECOSOC resolution 1983/22, the actions taken hitherto to prepare for the Interregional Consultation, the possible venue of the consultation, and the major issues of importance that have emerged in all regions of the world over the years for possible inclusion in its provisional agenda, which are the following:

- (a) The need for an integrative and dynamic approach to social welfare;
- (b) Social welfare as a factor in national development;
- (c) Problems of financing and delivery of social services;
- (d) Improvement and strengthening of administrative and training aspects of social welfare;
- (e) Exchange of experiences and ideas at the international level for the formulation of policy options and guidelines for the future.

55. It also took note of the draft resolution adopted by the twenty-ninth Session of the United Nations Commission on Social Development recommended that the second half of 1987 was a suitable period for convening the consultation, to which all the countries will be invited.

56. The Conference agreed:

- (a) To take note of the document submitted;
- (b) To adopt a resolution inviting the attention of the African countries to fully and actively participate in the Interregional Consultation, and requesting ECA, in close collaboration with OAU, to ensure that social development/welfare issues of special interest to Africa are given the importance and consideration they deserve in the agenda of, and documentation for, the Interregional Consultation.

Date and venue of the next session (agenda item 7)

57. The Conference accepted with appreciation the invitation extended to it by the Government of the Ivory Coast to hold its fifth session in Abidjan, in 1987, at a date to be agreed upon between the host Government and the Secretariats of OAU and ECA, and to be communicated to member countries in due course.

Any other business (agenda item 8)

(a) Appeal by the Representative of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCCIWD)

58. The Conference took note of this issue as presented in the report of the Expert Group, and put on record the adequacy of having this appeal given the consideration it deserves.

(b) Request from Rwanda on exchange of experience and knowledge

59. The Conference approved the need to devote more time, during its forthcoming sessions, to receive and record country statements on their social development programmes, so that the benefit of those country experiences could be exchanged and have more widespread effects.

I(IV): Resolution on the Report of the Secretary-General a.i. of
the Organization of African Unity on the activities of the
General Secretariat since the Third Conference of African
Ministers of Social Affairs

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 to 26 March 1985,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General a.i. (doc.OAU/ECA/AMSA IV/5),

Recalling resolution 6 (III) on the report of the OAU Secretary-General on the activities of the Secretariat, covering the period January 1977 to July 1980,

Noting with satisfaction the steps taken by the Secretary-General a.i. to implement resolutions, decisions and recommendations of AMSA III,

Desirous of ensuring that necessary action is taken to ameliorate the social conditions of the African people, in furtherance of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations it adopted during its previous sessions,

1. Takes note of the report of the OAU Secretary-General a.i. and commends the work accomplished since the Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs;
2. Invites the OAU Secretary-General a.i. to intensify his action to implement resolutions, decisions and recommendations of this Conference;
3. Appeals to all OAU member States to contribute generously to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought Famine in Africa, and expresses its appreciation to the OAU General Secretariat for its contribution to those member States which have been seriously affected by drought and famine;
4. Congratulates the OAU and the ECA secretariats for having convened the Arusha Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in preparation for the Nairobi 1985 World Women Conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and calls upon member States to implement the recommendations thereof, adopted by the afore-mentioned Arusha Meeting, specially by attending the World Conference, with women, as much as possible, leading the delegation;
5. Appeals to the Pan-African Youth Movement, through the Organization of African Unity, to step up its activities for the observance of 1985 as the International Youth Year (IYY) and its follow-up;

6. Urges the OAU General Secretariat to further strengthen its co-operation in the field of social development with the pan-African organizations and those of the United Nations System;

7. Further urges the OAU General Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugee and other appropriate United Nations agencies to intensify their activities towards the implementation of the ICARA II Declaration and Programme of Action on Refugee Assistance in Africa.

2(IV): Resolution on Migrant Workers

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 to 26 March 1985,

Having considered the issue of African migrant workers and the impact it has on the socio-economic development of the sending and receiving countries,

Aware of the work underway since 1979 to prepare a draft international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families,

1. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the International Labour Office (ILO), and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), to carry out an in-depth study of the situation of African migrant workers as early as possible, in those sending and receiving countries that are willing to associate themselves with such a study, in order to elicit the appropriate actions and measures to be taken towards the promotion of the welfare and protection of the rights of the migrant workers and their families;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue extending their assistance to the African Group in New York towards its participation in the work underway for the preparation of the draft International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families;

3. Urges all African Governments to give due consideration to the draft International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families (doc. A/C.3/39/WG.1/WP.1), as provisionally agreed upon by the General Assembly Working Group during the first reading, so as to define national policy guidelines regarding the text of that Draft Convention, and to have their policies presented to the General Assembly Working Group, as and when required;

4. Further urges African Governments to instruct their permanent missions in New York to regularly and actively participate in the meetings of the General Assembly Working Group on the Drafting of the aforementioned Convention.

3(IV): Resolution on the OAU Pluri-annual Programme of the
Implementation of the Social Aspects of the
Lagos Plan of Action

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 25 to 26 March 1985,

Considering the importance for the successful implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, of taking into account the prerequisites for, and social consequences of, endogenous and self-sustaining development in Africa,

Considering that the benefits derived from emergency aid to Africa must not mask the essential need of having a vision for a global and coherent social action in the medium and long term,

Considering that the report of the Secretary-General a.i. of the Organization of African Unity on the Pluri-annual Programme on the social implications of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action makes an appreciable contribution to defining such a vision,

1. Stresses the importance of social research activities in defining endogenous development strategies, as well as the need of taking into account the findings of such research work to better determine implications of Africa's economic development as set out in the Lagos Plan of Action;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General a.i. on the pluri-annual programme on the social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action;

3. Congratulates the Secretary-General a.i. of OAU and the Director-General of the International Labour Office for their effective collaboration in all spheres of economic and social development of Africa, and particularly concerning the social implications of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action;

4. Congratulates also the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support accorded to the Pluri-annual Programme on the Social Implications of the Lagos Plan of Action during its preparatory phase, and requests it to do the same for the main phase of the project;

5. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization to continue their collaboration with the Organization of African Unity in carrying the activities to the project during its operational phase;

6. Invites member States to provide all possible assistance to the Pluri-annual Programme and to make maximum use of its outputs in implementing the Lagos Plan of Action;

7. Invites the Secretary-General a.i., of the Organization of African Unity to submit to the next session of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs a progress report on the Pluri-annual Programme on the Social Implications of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

4(IV): Resolution on the Draft African Charter for Social Action

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 25 to 26 March 1985,

Recalling its resolution 4(ii) on the African Charter for Social Action and its decision concerning the composition of the Ad hoc Committee of (doc.E/CN.14/AMSA III/Rpt.-CM/1095 (XXXVI)/AMSA.III/Rpt., page 21, para.11),

Considering the report of its Expert Group on this issue and the recommendations therein,

1. Decides to designate Zimbabwe as the sixth member of the Ad hoc Committee representing the southern African subregion;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa to make the necessary arrangements so that an adequate budget be approved for the Ad hoc Committee to meet and work out the draft Charter it is entrusted with;

3. Invites the Ad hoc Committee, once it has achieved its work, to circulate the draft Charter to all OAU and ECA member States for their consideration and comments, prior to its submission to the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs.

5(IV): Resolution on the Establishment of
African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 25 to 26 March 1985,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General a.i. of the Organization of African Unity on the establishment of an African Rehabilitation Institute for Disabled persons (doc.OAU/ECA/AMSA/IV/10),

Having examined the recommendations made by the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee of Five on the International Year of Disabled Persons at its fifth meeting,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.943(XL) adopted by the Fortieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the establishment of an African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI),

Considering the decision by the forty-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers to refer the question of the establishment of an African Rehabilitation Institute to the Fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Conscious of the urgent need to establish the African Rehabilitation Institute,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General a.i. on the establishment of an African Rehabilitation Institute and commends the Organization of African Unity and the International Labour Organization for their sustained efforts towards the establishment of ARI;

2. Further takes note of the recommendations of the Ad hoc Committee and those of the International Meeting on ARI held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 22 to 24 January 1985;

3. Urges member States to communicate to the OAU Secretariat, at their earliest convenience, their reactions to the draft agreement;

4. Decides to expand the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee from five to ten members by appointing the following new members:

1. Malawi
2. Guinea
3. Algeria
4. Zaire
5. United Republic of Tanzania

In addition to: Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mozambique.

5. Decides that pending the establishment of the ARI bodies, the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee of Ten should act as the interim Board of the Institute;

6. Calls upon all OAU member States, donor countries, UNDP and other funding sources to give ARI all the necessary financial and other assistance, and to support its activities;

7. Urges the other subregions, namely the Western, Eastern and Northern African subregions to send in their responses to the OAU General Secretariat, to speed up the selection of locations for ARI's other regional branches;

8. Requests the OAU Secretary-General a.i. to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Co-ordinating Unit and the ARI regional branch for Southern Africa, located both in Harare, Zimbabwe, as well as the regional branch for Central Africa, located in Brazzaville, Congo, be launched immediately after the decision of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers and of the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

6(IV): Resolution on the Interregional Consultation on
Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, meeting in its fourth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, from 25 to 26 March 1985,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 on the implementation of the Declaration of Social Progress and Development, and 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of December 1982 on the world social situation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3262(S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Taking note of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/22 of 26 May 1983 on the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Policies for Social Integration, Popular Participation and Social Welfare contained in doc.E/CN.5/1985/7 dated 7 January 1985,

Aware of the serious consequences of the critical African socio-economic situation for the welfare of the peoples in Africa, and for the funding and delivery of social services which are even more essential now than in previous periods of economic development,

Reaffirming the essential role of social welfare in overall development and in dealing with pressing current social issues, namely, the social aspects of food shortages, refugees' and displaced persons' problems, breaking-up of families, lack of adequate health and educational facilities, unemployment, urbanisation, high rates of population growth, etc.,

1. Urges all member States to intensify their efforts at the national and community levels to consider, examine, and evaluate their social welfare policies and programmes in order to meet the identified needs of the people;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary General of OAU to take all necessary measures to ensure that the African region and its LDCs are fully involved and adequately represented at the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes to be held in 1987;

3. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary General of OAU to prepare a report on the issues identified in ECOSOC resolution 1982/22, with special emphasis on those issues of particular concern for or relevance to Africa, so as to ensure that the substance of this report is taken into full consideration in the agenda of and documentation for the Interregional Consultation.