



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECRET

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ECA/PSD.5/12  
10 March 1988  
Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth Session of the Joint Conference  
of African Planners, Statisticians  
and Demographers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21-28 March 1988

REPORT ON ECA PLANNING ACTIVITIES (1986-1987) AND EXAMINATIONS  
OF WORK PROGRAMME (1988-1989) WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE  
OBJECTIVES, PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED AND STRATEGY  
FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1995

Report on ECA planning activities (1986-1987) and examinations  
of work programme (1988-1989) with consideration of the  
objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy  
for the period 1990-1995

1. During the biennium 1986-1987 ECA activities in the field of planning covered a wider range of economic development issues in line with the priorities of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Recovery and Development, as well as the Third United Nations Development Decade of the International Development Strategy. The work programme was geared to address the African needs and to help planners and policy-makers in reviewing various policy options to cope with crisis management. More specifically the work programme was prepared to assist African countries to build an appropriate planning machinery capable of shouldering the implementation of development plans, formulation of appropriate policies and strategies within the framework of preparation of consistent national development plans, upgrading planning capabilities including institutional capacity building and improvement in planning techniques and methodologies.

Sub-programme 1: Socio-economic analysis, planning and projections

A. Socio-Economic Research

2. The annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, (1984/85, 1985/86) were presented in 1986 and 1987 respectively with the aim of continuously reviewing and assessing the problem and the indicated policy implications arising therefrom. The survey beside addressing the socio-economic developments, it analyses the emerging trends of critical issues of topical importance to the development of the African region. The 1984-1985 survey focussed on the question of drought and its related implications on the development of the socio-economic structures. Similarly, survey of 1985-1986 gave due emphasis to the debt and balance of payment problems of the African countries as a problem of far reaching consequences and implications on growth.

3. As an additional output, the secretariat prepared jointly with the ADB annual economic reports for 1986 and 1987. The 1986 report focussed on agricultural policies in the African region. The 1987 report dealt extensively with the question of domestic resource mobilization.

B. Planning and projections

4. During the biennium, the secretariat has undertaken various activities on the field of economic development planning aiming at strengthening the capability of planning methodologies, techniques and programming through the development of the analytical tools for plan preparation and implementation. In this context, a number of technical assistance and advisory services were provided to a number of African countries namely, Mali, Rwanda, Congo, Niger, Guinea and Cape Verde. Also technical assistance was provided to African Institution on short-term programme on energy and environment for African officials at IDEP and to intergovernmental organization like CEPGL and CILSS. Advisory services was extended to Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone. The technical assistance was provided to assist countries in the preparation of development programmes, recovery plans, investment programmes and contingency planning.

5. The other activities were carried out in the framework of strengthening planning apparatus in terms of techniques and methodologies at the country level. Short-term forecasting systems are now in the process of being established in one African country. The system has been designed basically to serve as an early warning system to capture variety of unanticipated disturbances that may arise from domestic as well as external factors such as drought, abrupt changes in fiscal policies, and movements in commodity export prices, etc. The secretariat is now taking steps to extend its work in this area during the 1988-1990 biennium.

6. The activity on multi-sectoral planning models was of prime significance in so far as it examines the developments in the key sectors of the African economies with the view of enabling planners to review and build consistent sectoral plans within a coherent and integrated national development programmes. In accordance with the recommendations of the second and third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, a technical working-group meeting was held in September 1986 to review and examine the topics which included the integration of the informal sector in multi-sectoral development planning, dynamization of input-output technical coefficients, the treatment of prices and balance of payment variables in short-term SAM-based forecasting models and elaborate modelling of the energy sector for improved energy balance in Africa. The programme not only addressed sectoral problems in a general context for policy reforms but also resort to applications such as updating the input-output table for one country and application of an energy model for another country.

7. To provide a framework for monitoring and evaluation of the current planning practices of African countries in the light of the objectives of the agreed regional development strategies, the secretariat prepared a number of studies on the status of the implementation of these strategies in terms of the level of attainment of self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-sustained development. This activity has a far reaching impact as it creates a mechanism for evaluating the degree of implementation of the regional plans.

8. In accordance with resolutions 501(XIX), ECA prepared a development perspective study with the view of mapping the future path of the African economies under different growth scenarios. The study addressed itself to investigate certain critical variables of direct bearing on the economic and social life of the people and detrimental to the future development of Africa by contemplating on its growth under limiting growth factors such as drought, desertification, adverse external developments, etc. and a development scenario for a conscious change.

9. On economic integration, the secretariat has undertaken studies that focus on sectoral planning at the sub-regional cooperative arrangements. During the biennium, a study was made on the existing arrangements and potentialities for future cooperation in the field of transport and trade. The investigation was conducted at the Headquarters of sub-regional organizations namely, ECOWAS, PTA, UDEAC, CEAC. The activity serves as an important investigation tool in the process of the gradual establishment of the African Economic Community in fulfilment of the objectives of the Final Act of Lagos.

Sub-programme 2: Fiscal, Monetary and Financial Issues at the national level

10. During the biennium, the activities under this sub-programme consist of technical assistance and advisory services to countries and territories in the field of fiscal, monetary and financial issues, study on the effective links between fiscal and monetary policies and their impact on the balance of payments, and study on mobilization of personal savings in African developing countries.

11. The work under this sub-programme was postponed due to the financial crisis facing the United Nations during the biennium.

Sub-programme 3: African Least Developed Countries

12. The work programme continues to focus on activities and programme designed to contribute towards the efforts to resolve the development impasse of these countries and to upgrade the planning capabilities and development planning machinery through the provision of technical assistance and advisory services in plan formulation and evaluation, and undertaking of research activities in critical development areas.

13. The sub-programme covered a wider range of activities in favour of African LDC's. Notably among them are the following:

- (i) Technical assistance and advisory services were provided to three countries, namely Benin, Comoros and Mali. The secretariat also through its specialized divisions and units provided technical assistance in the various fields to quite a number of African LDCs.
- (ii) Support to country roundtables meetings in Central African Republic, Niger, Togo and Cape Verde.
- (iii) Review of Economic and Social Conditions in African least developed countries, 1985-1986.
- (iv) The implications of Structural Adjustment and Stabilization programme on long-term growth and development in African least developed countries: issues for consideration.
- (v) Progress towards the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African least developed countries (1986 report by the ECA secretariat).
- (vi) Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in African least developed countries, 1986-1987.
- (vii) The development and effective utilization of Human Resources in African least developed countries.
- (viii) The 1987 report on progress achieved by the African LDCs, individually and as a group, in implementing the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA).

#### SECTION TWO: WORK PROGRAMME IN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES FOR 1988-1989

14. The work programme is geared towards the accelerated implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos, the International Development Strategy, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development.

15. The main features of the work programme and priorities for 1988-1990 as adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers, include:

##### 1.1 Technical assistance to countries and territories

1.2 Annual survey of economic and social conditions in Africa

16. During 1988-1989 two annual surveys 1986-1987 and 1987-1988 will be prepared in 1988 and 1989 respectively. Missions will be mounted to countries with the view of collecting and assessing social and economic development at the national level to serve as inputs in the preparation of the survey.

1.3 Structural Adjustment and Stabilization

17. During 1988-1989, the work on this activity will consist of undertaking studies on the impact of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes in selected African countries.

1.4 Perspective studies in the economies of the African region

18. During 1988-1989, studies will be undertaken to establish the perspective studies at some selected African countries.

1.5 Short-term economic forecasting and outlook

19. During 1988-1989 missions will be mounted to countries, on request, to establish the short-term economic forecasting system at the country level.

1.6 Multisectoral planning models

20. The work will concentrate on the elaborate modelling of key developmental sectors in the area of agriculture and industry. The work will also involve undertaken of case studies in some African countries.

1.7 Monitoring the implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/64 on the Lagos Plan of Action and resolution A/40/40 on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa and of the United Nations Programme of Action on African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD)

21. During 1988 and 1989, the work programme will involve review of African planning practices in the light of agreed regional development strategies such as the Lagos Plan of Action and the United Nations Programme of Action on African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD).

1.8 Studies on the African Economic Community and the African Common Market

22. During 1988 and 1989 the work on this activity will consist of undertaking studies on the structure of African markets and the creation of customs unions in Africa, and on the assessment of subregional sectoral co-operation especially coordination of development plans at the subregional level.

1.9 Substantive servicing of the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers

23. Substantive servicing of the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and of its planning committee.

Sub-programme 2: Fiscal, Monetary and Financial Issues

2.1 Technical assistance and advisory services to countries and territories

24. Advisory services to member States, on request, in the field of fiscal, monetary and financial policies.

2.4 Effective links between fiscal and monetary policies and their impact on the balance of payments

25. During 1988-1989, the work will involve undertaking in-depth case studies of some African countries to evaluate the effectiveness and co-ordination of fiscal and monetary policies with the view of narrowing down the external imbalances. The study will be presented to the sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

2.5 Mobilization of personal savings in African developing countries

26. During 1988-1989, the work will involve undertaking of in-depth studies in some African countries on savings and credit schemes with the view of recommending ways and means of influencing the mobilization and deployment of savings in accordance with requirements and priorities of the national plans.

3.1 Technical assistance to least developed countries

27. Advisory services to African least developed countries, on request, in development planning, project preparation, and organization of Round Tables.

3.2 Review of economic and social conditions in individual African least developed countries

28. During 1988 and 1989 two annual review of economic and social conditions in individual African least developed countries will be prepared.

3.3 Follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the SNPA: Evaluation of the effectiveness of SNPA in African LDCs in the 1980s\*

29. During 1988 and 1989, work will concentrate on the evaluation of the implementation of the SNPA in the African LDCs including mounting missions and extending support to African countries Roundtables.

3.4 In-depth studies on the economies of African least developed countries

30. In 1988, a study will be prepared on human resources development and utilization in African LDCs.

31. In 1989, a study will be prepared on financial structure and resource utilization in African LDCs.

SECTION THREE: PROJECTED WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1991  
AND 1992-1995

32. The projected work programme for the period 1990-1991 is based on the Medium-Term Plan 1990-1995. During this period, and given the changing needs of the African economies especially in the context of the various strategies which have been now adopted for Africa at the regional and global levels and the associated strategies which member States have adopted and would continue to adopt, the secretariat will continue to assist African developing countries in the pursue of these endeavours. The emphasis would be on the development of the analytical capability to assess the socio-economic situation, developing the required tools for crisis management, and the appropriation of a planning apparatus capable of formulating and implementing development plans, and developing the analytical tools to device techniques relating to sectoral planning, forecasting and outlook, regional and sub-regional coordination of plans and contingency planning for specific crisis.

33. Under sub-programme 1 on socio-economic analysis planning and projections, the secretariat will continue to provide technical advisory services and assistance to countries territories and intergovernmental organizations in national economic surveys, implementation of regional plans and economic planning and policy design. The secretariat will also continue to review and assess the economic and social conditions in Africa, evaluation of structural adjustment programmes, undertaking of studies on development perspective studies on the economies of the African economies, forecasting, outlook and sectoral planning and monitoring the implementation of agreed regional development strategies.

34. Under sub-programme 2 on fiscal, monetary and financial issues, the secretariat will undertake work relating to studies on formulation of effective fiscal and monetary policies and mobilization of resources and money markets.

35. Under sub-programme 3, least developed countries, the secretariat will undertake indepth studies on the economies of African LDCs, technical assistance in development planning programming and project preparation and continued review of the SNPA in the African region.

36. During 1992-1995, the secretariat intends to undertake indepth inter-sectoral analysis and synthesis of development issues, prepare and publish annual survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, develop and propagate techniques of planning including projections appropriate to the economic and social situation in Africa, and studies on measures for the promotion of economic cooperation in the African region. The secretariat will also continue to generate information on and provide analysis of the fiscal and monetary situation of African countries with an emphasis on the improvement of national financial institutions. The secretariat will continue to assist African LDCs in formulating plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate planning methodologies with a view to transforming their economies.

37. The Joint Conference is, therefore, invited to examine the broad elements of the 1990-1991 and 1992-1995 work programme and decide on the priorities with the view to enabling the secretariat to prepare a work programme for the 1990-1991 biennium for submission to the Fifteenth Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.