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Eighth session
Lagos, 13-25 February 1967

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND
THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

held at the National Hall, Lagos,
on Friday, 24 February 1967, at 10.5 a.m.

Chairman Mr. AYIDA (Nigeria)

Secretary : Mr. SYLLA

CONTENTS : Consideration of draft final reports and draft resolutions
proposed by Committees I and II.
Consideration of the draft report on matters dealt with in
plenary meetings and the pertinent draft resolutions (continued).
Date and place of the ninth session (agenda item 13)
Closure of the session.

Participants wishing to have corrections made to this provisional
summary record are requested to write them on two copies of the record
and to send the corrected copies to the Office of the Secretary of the
Commission (Mr. A. SYLLA) as soon as possible. If necessary, the
corrected copies may be sent by post to the Office of the Secretary of
the Commission, Economic Commission for Africa (P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia), after the session, to arrive not later than 30 April 1967.

L67-275
M67-319

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT FINAL REPORTS AND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY COMMITTEES I AND II, (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.1, E/CN.14(VIII)/C.II/L.1, E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.2, E/CN.14(VIII)/C.II/L.2, E/CN.14/L.338 and E/CN.14/L.339).

Mr. SYLLA (Secretary of the Commission) reported that, owing to an omission, the draft resolution on agriculture (ECA(VIII)COMM.I/RES.3/Rev.3), adopted by Committee I, had not been included in the report of that Committee. Moreover, the reports of the two Committees contained remarks touching on their consideration of the programme of work that did not always agree. It was **clear** that those sections would be rearranged and combined in the final report. Lastly, the draft resolution on manpower and training (ECA(VIII)COMM.II/RES.32) had been considered by Committee II and could be adopted in the plenary meeting if the Commission so desired.

Mr. SBIHI (Chairman of Committee I) introduced the report of Committee I (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.1) and the nineteen draft resolutions adopted by that Committee (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.2). In that connexion, he wished to suggest that, in future sessions, the Commission should appoint not only a drafting committee consisting of representatives of all the sub-regions, taking into account the two working languages, but also a resolutions committee, which would be in charge of combining and consolidating the drafts submitted by the delegations. He moved that the Commission should adopt the report of Committee I and the various draft resolutions submitted, including that on agriculture (ECA(VIII)COMM.I/RES.3/Rev.3).

Mr. ASIODU (Nigeria) noted an omission in paragraph 32 (a) of the report. In fact it had been agreed that the following words should be added at the end of that paragraph : "and (d) Nigeria and Tunisia to act as hosts to joint centres".

Mr. KUO (Cameroon) noted that his country's name had also been omitted in that paragraph.

Mr. KONE (Mali) pointed out that he had supported the candidacy of the Niger to act as host to a joint centre for cartography but that he had submitted his own country's offer to act as host to the centre for photogrammetry, the interpretation of aerial photographs and geophysical surveys.

Mr. SBIHI (Chairman of Committee I) explained that, during the discussions of Committee I, the members had recognized that it was not for the Commission but for the Governments concerned to determine the most suitable sites for the proposed centres, in collaboration with the secretariat and on the basis of the studies carried out by it.

Mr. BONGHO-NOUARRA (Congo, Brazzaville) suggested that Governments that wished to make offers to act as host to the various centres should prepare detailed documents for that purpose and submit them to the secretariat.

It was so decided.

The Commission adopted the report of Committee I (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.1.

The CHAIRMAN called on the Commission to vote on the draft resolutions recommended by Committee I (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.2).

Ato WAKWAYA (Ethiopia) asked that note be taken of the reservations of the Ethiopian delegation concerning operative paragraph 1 of resolution VIII, the whole of resolution X, and operative paragraph 5 of resolution XVII.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the reservations of the Ethiopian delegate would be noted.

The Commission adopted the draft resolutions recommended by Committee I (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.I/L.2 and ECA(VIII)COMM.I/RES.3/Rev.3).

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the report of Committee II.

Mr. LAMANA (Chairman of Committee II) introduced the report of Committee II. He recapitulated the agenda items that the Commission

had assigned for study to his Committee which had accomplished its tasks without any major difficulties. The Committee also recommended seven draft resolutions to the Commission. Several of those drafts called for comment.

Draft resolution III, on setting up a pool of African civil servants indicated that the Governments of some Member States were prepared to place qualified officials at the disposal of other African countries. However, as that form of assistance implied a certain number of commitments and obligations that had aroused anxiety among some delegations, Committee II had in its final report made a point of indicating the scope of the project. In draft resolution VI, the delegations present wished to emphasize the humanitarian, social and economic character of assistance to refugees, distinguishing it from any assistance that might be given to subversive elements who might take advantage of their status as "refugees". That was why the first preambular paragraph mentioned the United Nations Convention on Refugees. Draft resolution VII on the equitable distribution and Africanization of posts in the secretariat of ECA was inspired by the desire to ensure within the secretariat equitable representation of all the sub-regions of the continent, taking into account the working languages. The point was to strengthen the solidarity of the African States within the Commission and to make its action more effective. In this connexion, he pointed out that a preambular paragraph had been omitted in the final version. Therefore, the following paragraph : "Recalling General Assembly resolution 241(XI)" should be inserted after the first preambular paragraph. Finally, Committee II had emphasized the necessity for rapid Africanization of the ECA secretariat. The term of office of the Committee set up pursuant to resolution 51(IV) were limited to two years. Therefore, certain delegations had proposed setting up a committee comprising the current officers of the Commission and three other members appointed by the latter.

The Commission adopted the report of Committee II (E/CN.14/(VIII)/C.II/L.1).

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the draft resolutions proposed by Committee II. If the Commission approved the proposals made to it concerning the Committee set up pursuant to resolution 51(IV), it would also have to appoint three of the members of that Committee.

Mr. TOULAN (United Arab Republic) recalled that Committee II had decided to specify in its report that 80 per cent of the secretariat was to be composed of Africans by the end of 1970.

Mr. LAMANA (Chairman of Committee II) noted that, owing to an omission, the report of the Committee contained no section dealing with that point. Furthermore, he wished to mention that the delegation of Madagascar had withdrawn the amendments which it had submitted on that subject.

The CHAIRMAN said that note would be taken of that fact. Regarding draft resolution VII, he suggested that the secretariat should insert into the report a section on the discussion in Committee II of the question of Africanization of posts in the secretariat of ECA.

It was so decided.

Mr. KABALA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) recalled that, in draft resolution I, it had been decided to alter operative paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (c) to read as follows : "(c) Action needed to encourage young people to stay in rural communities, in order to curb their exodus to urban areas". He proposed that that wording be retained.

It was so decided.

Mr. DEBRAH (Ghana) proposed that the words "and those who fail to obtain diplomas" be inserted in operative paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (a) after the words "holding diplomas".

Mr. LAMANA (Chairman of Committee II) doubted whether the Commission meeting in plenary could without discussion amend the text of a draft adopted unanimously by Committee II.

The CHAIRMAN considered that the amendment proposed by the representative of Ghana was not incompatible with the general spirit of the draft resolution. He therefore suggested that the Commission should approve it.

It was so decided.

The Commission adopted the draft resolutions recommended by Committee II (E/CN.14(VIII)/C.II/L.2).

Mr. LAMANA (Chairman of Committee II) said he would be happy if the Executive Secretary would give his opinion on appropriate means for reviving the Committee set up under resolution 51(IV), whose term of office expired in 1964.

He proposed that the new Committee should comprise the four serving officers plus three members who would be chosen in a plenary meeting.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that nominations could be submitted to a plenary meeting or in writing to the Appointment and Promotion Board at Headquarters. He recalled that the procedure governing the operation of the Committee was in conformity with the United Nations Charter as well as with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

He furthermore affirmed that the Africanization of the Commission staff was continuing, in the interests of the United Nations and of the African States.

Mr. LAMANA (Chairman of Committee II) recalled that the Staff Recruitment and Training Committee should comprise seven members. In addition to the four officers of the eighth session, he proposed the candidacy of the United Arab Republic, Dahomey and Cameroon.

The proposal made by the Chairman of Committee II was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolutions proposed by Committee II were adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Commission to vote on draft resolution E/CN.14/COMM.I/RES.32.

Mr. DEBRAH (Ghana) pointed out the exceptional importance of manpower in the development of African countries. Experience had amply shown that capital was not the only factor to be considered in economic and social development. It was therefore necessary for countries which, precisely, lacked capital to concentrate all their efforts on improving their main asset : manpower. He hoped that the resolution would be adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/COMM.I/RES.32 was adopted unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON MATTERS DEALT WITH IN PLENARY MEETINGS AND THE PERTINENT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

The CHAIRMAN called on the Commission to vote on draft resolution E/CN.14/L.342.

Mr. HACENE (Algeria) hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) asked for Dahomey to be included among the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.342 was adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Commission to vote on draft resolution E/CN.14/L.329. However, he pointed out that the sponsor of that draft resolution, Somalia, was absent.

Mr. MBOYA (Kenya) deeply regretted the absence of the representative of Somalia, who had seen fit at a previous meeting to refer to political problems concerning Somalia and Kenya. For his part, he did not believe that the Commission was the proper place to raise divergencies of a political nature. On the other hand, he was happy that in view of the absence of the Somalian delegation the draft resolution would not have to be discussed, because the delegation of Kenya would then have had to cast doubts on the competence of ECA to adopt a draft resolution

that was so clearly oriented towards political questions. If the Government of Somalia wished to discuss such questions it could come and do so at Nairobi.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that in the absence of the sponsor of draft resolution E/CN.14/L.329, it would not be discussed. He called on the Commission to vote on draft resolution E/CN.14/L.330.

Mr. LAMANA (Chad) mentioned that the draft resolution had been submitted in order to facilitate the increasingly heavy task of the secretariat and to allow the sub-regional offices to intensify their activity and to deal with problems concerning the sub-regions. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the personnel of the sub-regional offices would be strengthened. On the other hand, he would be happy if the sub-regional offices could organize meetings on problems that concerned them but not the whole Commission. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.330 was adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN called on the Commission to vote on draft resolution E/CN.14/L.336.

Mr. BENJABER (Morocco) pointed out that the four countries of the Maghreb had since 1964 been taking action for the co-ordination and harmonisation of development efforts. A Consultative Committee had been set up for that purpose. It was true that ECA had greatly helped the Committee, but the scope of the task required that it should receive direct assistance from specialized agencies of the United Nations. A request to that effect submitted to the United Nations had not been granted because the Committee, being consultative, was not entitled to receive such aid. On the other hand, the Council of Ministers was so entitled. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.336 was adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN called on the Commission to vote on draft resolution E/CN.14/L.331.

Mr. N'DIRYE (Senegal) considered that the draft resolution was calculated to strengthen African unity and urged the Commission to adopt it unanimously.

Ato WAKWAYA (Ethiopia) recalled that the Director of the Institute had mentioned in his report that the state of contributions was not satisfactory. It would therefore be hardly realistic to recommend the continuation of the current system of financing, as we done in operative paragraph 4. On the contrary, he proposed recommending a revision of the system of financing. The Conference of African Planners would be perfectly competent to do that.

The CHAIRMAN suggested including the reservations formulated by the representative of Ethiopia in operative paragraph 3 and leaving operative paragraph 4 as it stood.

Ato WAKWAYA (Ethiopia) considered that that suggestion would make operative paragraphs 3 and 4 contradictory. He merely proposed that it be stipulated at the end of paragraph 4 that the current system of financing be continued "until the next meeting of the Conference of African Planners".

The amendment proposed by the representative of Ethiopia was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.331 was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution on relations with the Organization of African Unity (E/CN.14L.332).

Mr. TOULAN (United Arab Republic) indicated that the delegation of the United Arab Republic and that of Somalia had submitted draft resolution E/CN.14/L.332; although they had no precise reason to think that co-operation between ECA and OAU was not satisfactory, they had the impression that relations between the two organizations were not very clearly defined. If the sponsors obtained an assurance that their

doubts were unfounded, they would gladly withdraw their draft. However, on the other hand, if it was confirmed that some clouds darkened those relations it would be preferable to work now to dispel them rather than allow the situation to become aggravated.

If the wording of the third preambular paragraph should appear too categorical, the sponsors would agree to replacing the words "once and for all" by the words "with precision".

The CHAIRMAN remarked that it was a little late at that stage of the work to cast doubts on the effectiveness of the agreement concluded between the two organizations. During the discussion on agenda item 10 the delegations could have addressed any question they wished to the representative of OAU, who had then been present.

Mr. TOULAN (United Arab Republic) pointed out that the representative of OAU had been informed that doubts subsisted in the minds of some delegations. The very fact that the representative of that organization was not present to dispel such doubts rather gave reason to think that the draft resolution would have some utility.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) considered that the Commission could not pass judgement on the state of relations with OAU in the absence of the representative of that organization, who had left Lagos. The doubts expressed by the representative of the United Arab Republic were not based on any particular circumstance. In any case, it would be deplorable if relations were not cordial between two organizations which had in fact common aims. The Dahomean delegation hoped that a frank discussion would take place between the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU in order to prevent the recurrence of such an unfortunate discussion at the next session of the Commission.

Mr. SYLLA (Secretary of the Commission) recalled that he had confirmed during the discussion that relations between the two secretariats were excellent. Of course, problems were raised by the implementation of the agreement that had been concluded because it was not easy to draw a line of demarcation between what was political, and

consequently within the competence of OAU, and what was technical, and consequently within the sphere of ECA. The question was in abeyance for the moment, but practical co-operation between the two secretariats was not thereby disturbed. He considered that the Commission had no obvious reason to fear that the tenor of the agreement left anything to be desired and he therefore requested that the Commission should for the time being refrain from making any comment, since the agreement had not yet been truly put into force. It would be better for the Commission to await its next session to consider the report that would be submitted to it concerning co-operation with OAU.

Mr. LAMANA (Chad) recalled that in its resolution 132(VII) the Commission had entrusted a task to the secretariat; the latter had performed that task by signing an agreement with the OAU. The Commission had noted that agreement and had had ample occasion to discuss the matter during the session. The Commission should express its approval of the agreement so that it could then be approved by the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly, but it would be premature to pass judgement on an agreement that would not be implemented and prove its realism until the future.

The draft resolution added nothing new to what was already being done.

Mr. HACENE (Algeria) paid a tribute to the delegation of the United Arab Republic for its laudable concern for efficiency and harmonization. However, after the explanations of the secretariat and the intervention of the previous speakers he asked that delegation whether it had any new arguments to put forward in support of the draft resolution.

Mr. TOULAN (United Arab Republic) could not entirely concur with those who considered that too little time had elapsed for it to be possible to pass judgement on the agreement concluded between ECA and OAU. As that agreement dated from November 1965, it should be possible to determine whether the co-operation between the two

bodies was proceeding on the right lines or not. After all it was the African countries that would suffer if such co-operation was not harmonious. The only aim of the draft resolution was to clarify the situation. However, in view of the absence of the representative of OAU and taking into account the assurances given by the secretariat, the delegation of the United Arab Republic would gladly withdraw the draft, expressing the hope that the Commission would never have to resume a discussion of the type that had just taken place.

Draft resolution for action by the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.14/L.343).

The CHAIRMAN said that that draft resolution would be included in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council and that its purpose was to invite the Council to approve the report as well as the Commission's programme of work, priorities and the measures it had taken.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.343 was adopted.

Draft resolution of thanks to the host country (E/CN.14/L.344)

Mr. MBOYA (Kenya), after recalling the address that the head of the Federal Military Government had given at the opening of the session, asked the Commission to consider the draft resolution proposed by all delegations present, in which the Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of Nigeria for their kind hospitality.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.344 was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution of congratulations to the officers of the session and the secretariat (E/CN.14/L.345).

Mr. MBOYA (Kenya) said that it was largely thanks to the efforts and devotion of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Rapporteur and all the members of the secretariat that the session had been able to conduct its work under satisfactory conditions. He therefore called on the Commission to express to them its gratitude by adopting the draft resolution proposed by all delegations present.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.345 was adopted unanimously.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSION (agenda item 13)

Mr. MEHIRI (Tunisia) said that his country invited the Commission to hold the ninth session at Tunis.

Mr. BONGHO-NOUARRA (Congo, Brazzaville) regretted that he could not support the proposal of the representative of Tunisia because the Government of the Congo (Brazzaville) also wished to invite the Commission for the ninth session.

Mr. SBIHI (Morocco), noting that the Commission had to make a delicate choice between two brother countries, proposed that it should agree to hold its sessions in rotation in each of the four sub-regions. Since, apart from the sessions held at Addis Ababa, the headquarters of the permanent secretariat, the Commission had already met in each of the four sub-regions, he considered that it was again the turn of North Africa to act as host. Consequently, he also proposed that the Commission should accept the invitation of Tunisia.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) recalled that in 1964 the sixth session was to have been held at Algiers and that it was for reasons concerning solely the domestic affairs of Algeria and completely unconnected with the Commission that the sixth session was finally held at Addis Ababa. Normally, the Commission should therefore have already held two sessions in North Africa. He proposed that the meeting be suspended so that delegations could confer.

Mr. DEBRAH (Ghana) supported the proposal of Dahomey and furthermore proposed that during the suspension the heads of delegations should meet to take a decision by secret ballot.

Mr. KONE (Mali) also supported the proposal of Dahomey in the hope that one of the two countries that had given invitations would withdraw. If they should prove unyielding, the Commission might decide on resumption of the meeting either by secret ballot or by drawing lots.

Mr. LAMANA (Chad) said that, if the Commission adopted the principle of rotation proposed by the representative of Morocco, it would also be necessary to decide in what order the Commission would successively hold its sessions in the various sub-regions.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if the Commission adopted the principle of rotation, the heads of delegation could during their meeting study the manner in which that principle would be applied.

Ato WAKWAYA (Ethiopia) asked if the question of the place of meeting of the Commission were dealt with in the rules of procedure.

The CHAIRMAN replied that, according to the rules of procedure, the Commission decided at each session the place at which it would hold its next session.

Mr. SBIHI (Morocco) thought that the Commission could adopt the principle of rotation without thereby having to alter its rules of procedure.

The CHAIRMAN noted that the members of the Commission were in agreement that in principle future sessions of the Commission would be held successively in each of the four sub-regions in turn.

The meeting was suspended at 1 p.m. and resumed at 1.35 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN reminded members that before the meeting was suspended they had agreed that the Commission should hold its biennial sessions in each of the sub-regions in turn. If for any reason, a country was obliged to withdraw its offer to act as host, other countries in the same sub-region should be afforded the opportunity to receive the Commission. If none of them was able to do so, the session concerned would be held at the Commission's headquarters at Addis Ababa. In accordance with that principle, the Heads of Delegation had decided that the next session would be held in the Republic of the Congo, the one after that in Tunisia and subsequent ones in the East and West African sub-regions, in that order.

The next session would be held early in 1969, the exact dates being decided by the secretariat in consultation with the Governments of Member States.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) referred to the Commission, its secretariat and their role in the process of African development. The rapid movement towards the political independence of African countries had left them little time to plan a post-independence programme. The experience of other regions had shown that political independence did not necessarily bring economic emancipation, without which it was worth very little to the masses. However, the Commission had defined the broad policies most conducive to the economic and social advancement of Africa. In its work, it had been able to draw on the striking movement in economic thought which had taken place since the 1930's, and which had also been strengthened by the work of the United Nations. The Commission had had to prepare for the development of modern industry and agriculture in Africa and for the installation of the necessary transport, power and other infrastructure facilities.

It would have been a costly mistake to take a leap into the future without first finding the true dimensions of the job to be done. The countries of Africa were now in a position to embark upon the process of economic modernization, but in order to formulate realistic policies, each step must be preceded by careful study. Such study should lead to the preparation of policy documents; indeed, the work of the secretariat emphasized concrete proposals as a basis for decision and action. The current session of the Commission had carried the process a stage further by adopting resolutions geared to that purpose. The profusion of resolutions submitted had shown the way in which member countries wished the secretariat to come to grips with the details of economic policy. The secretariat would treat the resolutions adopted as a fundamental part of its mandate for the next biennium.

The normal resources available within the secretariat were not adequate to carry out the programme of work demanded by Member States, but he was confident that the secretariat would receive generous support from bilateral and multilateral sources, and he expressed his appreciation of the equally generous assistance offered by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. In conclusion, he assured the Commission that the secretariat would continue to provide a focus for the co-ordination of United Nations action in Africa during the next biennium and he hoped that its efforts would be crowned with success.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the resolutions just adopted would make the Commission's work more effective in the next two years and that the one on economic co-operation in particular represented a significant step forward in the development of the African economies. He expected such development to proceed over the next ten years at three levels : national development plans, sub-regional economic integration arrangements and the continental economic framework provided by bodies like ECA. It was the Commission's task to harmonize and co-ordinate the activities of Member States at those different levels.

The eighth session had endorsed Mr. Mboya's call for a Marshall Plan for Africa, involving massive aid programmes in the four sub-regions. He hoped that delegations would communicate to their Governments the enthusiasm with which the session has adopted the proposals regarding the promotion of intra-African trade and industrial integration, and that individual countries would take the initiative in developing closer international transport and telecommunication links.

He was sure that the resolution on the Africanization of the ECA secretariat would strengthen rather than weaken the secretariat, since the Commission had expressly indicated that merit and competence should not be sacrificed in the process. He hoped that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Member States would take that reservation into account in sponsoring candidates for top positions in the ECA secretariat.

He thanked the delegations for their co-operation and the two Vice-Chairmen, whose hard work in the two Committees of the whole and the Drafting Committee had enabled the Commission to complete its agenda in good time. He appealed to the members of ECA to continue to tackle their problems in the same spirit of mutual understanding that they had shown at its eighth session.

He declared the eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa closed.

The meeting rose at 2.5 p.m.