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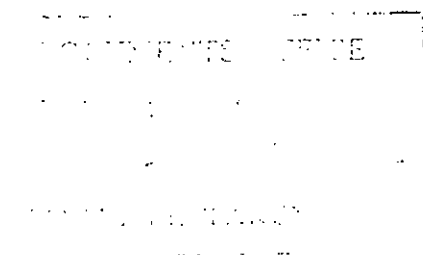
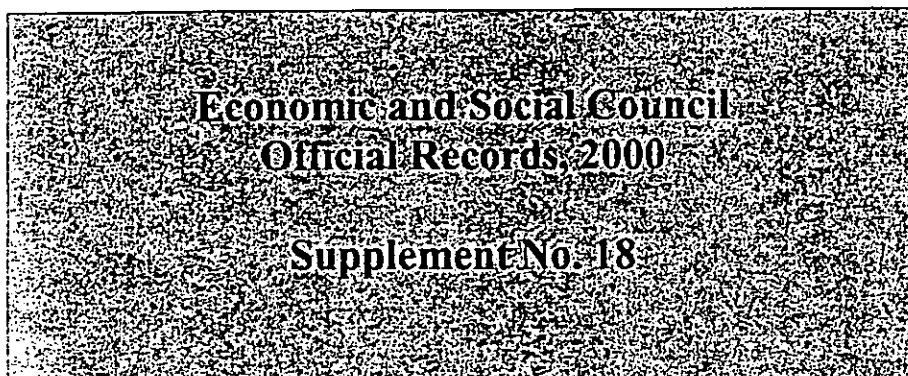
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT

9 MAY 1999 - 5 MAY 2000



UNITED NATIONS

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	African Development Bank
AEC	African Economic Community
AFREXIM	African Export - Import Bank
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
CAMI	Conference of African Ministers of Industry
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESTNET	ECA Science and Technology Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HIPCs	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICTs	Information and Communications Technologies
IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
MIGA	Multilateral investment Guarantee Agency
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	Official development assistance
OPRM	Office of Policy Planning and Resource Management
PICTA	Partnership for Information and Communication Technology in Africa
RASCOM	Regional African Satellite Communications System
RCMRD	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
RECs	Regional economic communities
RECTAS	Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SRDC	Subregional Development Centre
SRDC-CA	Subregional Development Centre for Central Africa
SRDC-EA	Subregional Development Centre for Eastern Africa
SRDC-SA	Subregional Development Centre for Southern Africa
SRDC-NA	Subregional Development Centre for North Africa
SRDC-WA	Subregional Development Centre for West Africa
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDESA	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNTFAD	United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period 9 May 1999 to 5 May 2000. It has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference and was adopted by the Commission on 5 May 2000.

CHAPTER I

MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Economic Commission for Africa

2. At the second meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning, held in Abuja, Nigeria on 5 May 2000, the Commission adopted two resolutions to be brought to the attention of the Council. The first resolution was transmitted to the United Nations headquarters for submission as a background document to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fortieth session. The second resolution serves as a guide to the work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) relating to the United Nations Trust Fund for Africa's Development (UNTFAD).

Resolutions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The resolutions brought to the attention of the Council are summarized below:

Draft resolution 1

835 (MFC.2) The Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002 - 2005

As a follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 41/203 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent resolutions on programme planning, the Committee considered the document entitled, "Proposed Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005."

The Committee endorsed the proposed Medium-Term Plan to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and noted with satisfaction that the priorities and orientation of the Plan were relevant to the issues and challenges confronting Africa.

Draft resolution II

836 (MFC.2) The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

The Committee recalled Commission resolution 808(XXX) of 3 May 1995 requesting that the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) be held yearly in New York in the context of the United Nations Pledging Conference, in order to strengthen the operational capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Concerned with the inadequate responses of member States and other partners in the New York Pledging Conference, the Committee recommended that the UNTFAD Pledging Conference be transferred back to the Economic Commission for Africa and be held on a biennial basis alongside the Commission's session, beginning in 2001. The Committee called upon African governments and their development partners to show their support for Africa's development by increasing their contribution to the Trust Fund.

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 9 MAY 1999 TO 5 MAY 2000

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. During the period under review, the secretariat prepared for and serviced meetings of various intergovernmental bodies of the Commission. The list of these meetings is given in annex II of this report.

B. Other activities

Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

5. Activities undertaken under this sub-programme were aimed at promoting greater understanding of the key issues in and ownership of Africa's development through policies for sustained growth and macroeconomic stability, trade and investment promotion, debt sustainability, social policy analysis and poverty reduction.

6. During the period under review, the secretariat undertook several studies in the area of economic policy analysis. These included *savings mobilization in Africa: Processes, institutions and cultural factors*; and *financial intermediation in Africa: Broadening local participation in the market for public securities and privatization of public assets*.

7. Work on the *Economic Report on Africa, 2000* was also completed during this period. Building on the innovations introduced in the previous year's report, the Economic Report, 2000 reviewed and compared the performance of African countries in 1999, focusing on the fundamental determinants of growth, namely income, poverty and inequality, economic structure, investment, governance and human capital. The report identified peace and stability and the need to deepen political and economic reforms as necessary conditions for achieving poverty-reducing growth and development in the twenty-first century.

8. In the area of trade and debt, the secretariat prepared the following background papers in the context of ongoing multilateral trade negotiations

within the World Trade Organization (WTO): *Strategies and policies for trade and investment promotion*; *Strategies and policies for debt management*; and *Public and private partnership in trade and investment promotion in Africa*. The papers discussed the challenges of promoting trade and investment in Africa through policies that increase private foreign investment, public savings and domestic investment, including addressing structural and institutional constraints to enhance the competitiveness of African economies. The paper on strategies and policies of debt management highlighted the magnitude of the debt problem in Africa and proposed strategies for strengthening the institutional capacity for debt management in member States.

9. In the area of social policy and poverty analysis, the secretariat undertook the following studies: *Government subsidy programmes in Africa: Best practice paper*; *Cross-country studies on trends in public expenditure allocation in selected African countries*; *The new face of poverty in Africa: Case studies of selected urban centres in Africa*; *Integration of quantitative and qualitative data for poverty analysis: Pilot studies using household survey data from selected African countries*; and *Higher education cost recovery: Potentials and constraints*. The studies examined the implications of macroeconomic policies on equity and growth; gender characteristics of poverty; strategies to ensure that public expenditure in Africa is pro-poor; and capacity-building for poverty analysis and monitoring. Several studies are planned for 2000 and beyond. The studies will cover such topics as development finance requirements, effectiveness of anti-poverty policies and programmes; trade reforms and export promotion; competitiveness of African exports; globalization; Africa's debt crisis; and Africa's trade and development in the twenty-first century.

10. The secretariat also organized, and participated in a number of meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences on key issues in Africa's development. In September 1999, it

organized a subregional follow-up conference to the World Summit for Social Development in Ouagadougou (for Central and West Africa), in addition to the two conferences previously organized for East and Southern Africa, and North Africa. The primary objective of these meetings was to monitor progress in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action for achieving social sector objectives in education, health and poverty reduction.

11. In February 2000, the secretariat organized a regional conference on brain drain and capacity-building in Africa. The conference reviewed various approaches and experiences in capacity-building and made practical recommendations for the adoption of comprehensive and integrated policies for effective utilization of human resources for Africa's accelerated development.

12. The following ad-hoc experts group meetings were also organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the period under review: Qualitative and quantitative data for poverty analysis: Analytical and conceptual tools for poverty measurement from 12 to 13 October 1999; Africa in the post-Uruguay Round: Raising Africa's competitiveness, from 19 to 21 October 1999; Growth Strategies for Africa: Lessons and Proposals from 7 to 9 December 1999; Development implications of civil conflicts in Africa from 7 to 8 April 2000; the status of Africa's debt; role of investment promotion agencies in Africa's development.

13. Advisory services were provided to member States and their intergovernmental organizations in addressing such issues as debt management; North-South cooperation; capacity-building in customs reform and trade facilitation. The secretariat also took part in a multi-donor mission led by the World Bank to undertake a needs assessment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to enable an appropriate and timely response by the international community in bringing lasting peace and sustainable development to the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes region. In addition, advisory missions were undertaken to Accra, Ghana (May 2000) and Abuja, Nigeria (March 2000) in support of the ongoing efforts of the two countries to establish a

second monetary zone within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

14. During the period under review, the secretariat collaborated and strengthened its partnership with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, African universities and research institutions in the exchange of ideas and information. In collaboration with the World Bank Institute, ECA provided assistance to some member States in capacity-building for poverty and growth analysis; and in the publication of a book on capacity-building in poverty analysis in Franco-phone Africa. Other areas of collaboration included attending meetings, workshops, seminars, staff exchange and secondment, and internship programmes.

15. The ad-hoc experts group meeting on Africa's development strategies which took place in Addis Ababa from 22 to 24 March 2000, reviewed previous development paradigms and the reasons for their failure, and made policy recommendations on the structural and institutional changes required for development.

Ensuring food security and sustainable development

16. Activities in support of ensuring food security and sustainable development during the period under review were aimed at promoting better understanding of the interrelationship among the nexus issues of agricultural productivity, population growth and environment sustainability, as well as promoting strategies for integrating these concerns into development policies and planning. To this end, the secretariat produced a number of policy briefs and reports; established websites and networks; organized meetings, workshops, and seminars; provided advisory services to member States; and strengthened collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, regional and subregional organizations.

17. The policy reports and studies undertaken included the following: Approaches to the management of the nexus issues: Best practices: inter-regional trade in agriculture: The scope for joint food security schemes in Africa; sustainable food production and food security in the Sahelian countries: Some key issues and policy challenges:

agricultural development in the West African subregion; implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Plan of Action (ICPD-PA) and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND). In addition, there was a study on soil erosion and destruction of land resources: Issues and trends in Africa: an issues paper on food security, population, agriculture and the environment; state of demographic transition in Africa: compendia of science and technology applications in the agro-industry sector in selected African countries; Africa: Demographic, environmental and agricultural indicators; socio-economic conditions in Africa and risk management; and accelerating sustainable development in Africa through regional cooperation. Other publications included a user's manual for the implementation of the Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA) model; Africa's Population and Development bulletin; posters for the World Environment Day, 1999; and a newsletter describing the activities and achievements of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) of ECA.

18. The overall objective of the various policy reports was to develop a conceptual framework for analyzing the linkages among the nexus issues of agriculture, population and environment for use as an advocacy tool in promoting policies and programmes to ensure food security in ECA member States.

19. Also in support of its advocacy work, the secretariat established two websites for disseminating information on population activities as well as on science and technology issues in Africa. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Global POPIN programme of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the secretariat created its own POPIN web home page and website dedicated to Africa's follow-up activities on the DND and ICPD-PA. In addition, the secretariat launched the ECA Science and Technology Network (ESTNET) which will soon be available on the internet to serve as a resource centre for information and communications on science and technology policies, issues and management in Africa.

20. The secretariat organized a number of policy workshops, meetings and training during the period under review aimed at promoting better understanding of the linkages and relationship among the nexus issues; enhancing skills and fostering the understanding of the modalities of the PEDA model for use as an advocacy tool; examining the interrelationships between women's reproductive health and household food security; promoting the adoption of policies for the development and application of science and technology to ensure food security and sustainable development. The meetings and workshops included the following: The first meeting of the Advisory Board on Population, Agriculture and Environment held in Addis Ababa on 20 and 21 September 1999; a workshop on women's reproductive health and household food security in Africa, in Addis Ababa from 11 to 13 October 1999; a high-level stakeholders' workshop on sustainable development in January 2000, convened to review the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa, in preparation for the global review to be undertaken at the second Earth Summit in 2001; Africa's preparation for ICPD+5 in New York from 30 June to 2 July 1999; the second meeting of the Science and Technology Advisory Board in Addis Ababa in June 1999; a training workshop on the PEDA model from 12 to 20 June 1999; and the first meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRSTI) in Addis Ababa from 15 to 18 November 1999. Planned activities in this area include two subregional training seminars in 2000 - in North Africa and West Africa on environmental and natural resource accounting.

21. During the period under review, the secretariat collaborated with other United Nations agencies, regional and subregional organizations in undertaking its activities. This collaboration involved the exchange of data and information in several critical areas and the attendance of conferences, meetings and workshops. In this context, the secretariat participated in or jointly organized the following meetings and seminars: the first francophone and lusophone mayors' seminar on the problems of street food in Africa which was held in Praia, Cape Verde from 7 to 9 June 1999; a regional consultative meeting on sustainable development in Africa, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 7 to 9 September 1999; the twenty-

first FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Yaounde, Cameroon in February 2000; the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for the Subregional Development Centre for Southern Africa (SRDC-SA) in Windhoek, Namibia on 11 and 12 April 2000 where the PEDDA model was presented; a subregional meeting on the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa from 17 to 19 April 2000. In addition, the secretariat worked closely with UNFPA in reviewing the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA as well as Africa's preparation for ICPD+5; and with UNCHS (Habitat) in the follow-up activities to the Habitat agenda in Africa.

Strengthening development management

22. Activities in support of strengthening development management put particular emphasis on fostering public-private sector partnership in support of development; promoting public sector reforms for enhanced efficiency; promoting sound public sector policies and practices to foster an enabling environment for private sector-led development; and enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations to enable them contribute to development.

23. Activities in the area of public sector management were aimed at enhancing the capacity of central and local government institutions for efficient service delivery. To this end, the secretariat undertook a study to analyse government policy on financing local development and administrative structures to support the implementation of the policy. The study recommended the adoption of measures for accelerated decentralization of financial authority to the local level and strengthening local government structures.

24. In the area of civil service reforms, a number of technical comparative studies were undertaken with the aim of promoting efficiency, accountability and transparency in African civil services. These studies were useful as a basis for developing guidelines and service standards for improved productivity and performance in member States. Planned activities in this area are expected to build on past efforts by member States to improve the management of financial resources for

local development and to articulate policies to ensure that public expenditure is pro-poor.

25. In the area of private sector development, encompassing both small and large-scale enterprises, ECA's activities placed emphasis on promoting enterprise formation, privatization, micro-financing and the development of capital markets in Africa.

26. In collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), OAU, the Government of Senegal and ECA organized the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) in Dakar, Senegal in October 1999 on the theme "Industrialization and Poverty Eradication." The main issues considered by the meeting included the strategies for revitalizing private sector development in Africa and the impact of globalization on industrial development in Africa. In addition, the meeting was briefed on the activities related to the promotion of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization and the Conference of Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa, which was held on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting. The secretariat also distributed two background documents at the Conference, namely *review of current trends, approaches and strategies to private sector development: Subregional case studies; synthesis reports and comparative case studies on private sector development programmes in Asia and Latin America*.

27. Other activities undertaken in the area of private sector development included the preparation of comparative case studies on experiences and strategies to promote privatization in Africa; the role of microfinancing in the sustainable development of small and medium-scale enterprise in Africa; and the promotion and strengthening of capital markets in Africa. These studies were presented at various workshops and ad hoc expert group meetings on promoting private sector development.

28. In response to the strong demand for enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations, a number of seminars and workshops were organized by the secretariat during the period under review. Some were country-focused and targeted at addressing the policy analysis and

advocacy capacity of civil society organizations to enable them participate effectively in the process of policy and programme formulation and implementation. Other workshops were subregional and regional in scope and used as outlets for developing, publishing and disseminating a series of guidelines, technical manuals on critical issues with a view to strengthening the operational capacity of civil society organizations.

29. During the period under review, the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society held its first meeting in Addis Ababa on the theme, "Popular Participation for Sustainable Social and Human Development in Africa". The meeting examined the following issues: the Copenhagen Declaration - issues from the sub-regional follow-up conferences; and capacity-building of indigenous African civil society organizations. The meeting also reviewed the activities of ECA on human and social development as well as civil society in the context of the 1998-1999 work programme and previewed the work plan for 2000-2001. Alongside the meeting, a guest lecture was delivered on the topic, "Promoting public/private partnership for enhanced and sustained economic, social and human development in Africa."

30. In June 1999, ECA organized the Africa regional hearings for the Millennium Assembly. The event brought together representatives of governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions and community leaders to review and assess the institutional weaknesses of the United Nations in order to identify the challenges to the Africa region that should form part of the overall vision of the United Nations in the twenty-first century. The dialogue brought out innovative ideas and specific goals that the United Nations was expected to achieve in the coming decades, particularly in the five core areas of its work, namely development cooperation, economic and social affairs, humanitarian affairs, peace and security and human rights. Planned activities in support of popular participation include the preparation for the Conference on participation in development and governance in Africa scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2000. The Conference will take stock of the various participatory initiatives undertaken in Africa with a view to

defining approaches and strategies and establishing the framework and support mechanisms for promoting participatory development; examine the role and function of civil society organizations and identify the value they bring to the development and governance processes; review the current state of Government - civil society relations and identify approaches and strategies for enhancing cooperation between them.

Harnessing information for development

31. ECA's work in the area of harnessing information for development was aimed at promoting policies, methods and strategies for efficient utilization of modern information technologies and communications network in compiling and disseminating information for development, including geoinformation and statistics for sustainable development. Activities covered the following areas: statistical development, database development and management, information and communications technology, geoinformation and library.

32. In the area of statistical development, two studies were undertaken focusing on methodological issues involved in the compilation and maintenance of national establishment registers; and a study on the compilation and maintenance of international trade indices. Other activities undertaken in this area included an ad hoc experts group meeting on measures to improve intra-African trade statistics in Addis Ababa from 4 to 8 October 1999; a training workshop for national census personnel in Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 November 1999; a workshop on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting in African countries held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 11 November 1999; and a training workshop for franco-phone African countries on the implementation of the 1993 system of National Accounts in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 March 2000. Several workshops were also organized to strengthen and refine the process for further implementation of the 1993 system of National Accounts, population and household census, and environmental statistical indicators and accounting in African countries.

33. During the period under review, the secretariat organized and serviced the ninth

meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development which was held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 26 June 1999. The meeting reviewed the activities of the secretariat in the preceding year and considered the reports of the task force on monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa.

34. In addition, the secretariat provided advisory services and training to some member States and their IGOs in the organization and management of national statistical services. Sixteen AFRISTAT member States and two subregional economic groupings benefited from the training. The secretariat also published a poster and issued a press release to mark the African Statistics Day on 18 November 1999, which was on theme, "Improving coordination for statistical activities and programmes."

35. In the area of statistical database development and management, the activities of the secretariat focused on the maintenance, networking and dissemination of the ECA multi-sectoral regional database and the derived products, international cooperation, policy coordination, liaison and harmonization of standards, concepts and methods, and technical cooperation.

36. A number of publications and technical materials were prepared and disseminated by ECA during the period under review. These included the *African Statistical Yearbook, 1999; Statistical Annex to the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1999; Integrated national and subregional economic, social and environmental indicators for 1999 and 2000*. The technical materials included the *African Statistical Yearbook* on CD-Rom; national accounts data for the *Economic Report on Africa, 1999 and 2000*; and the *Development Information Newsletter, October and November 1999* in electronic and printed formats.

37. Other activities undertaken during the period included the implementation of the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS), development of minimum statistical standards, economic classifications and the development of national and regional live databases. Some of these activities were undertaken

in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division as well as other agencies.

38. Activities in the area of promoting information and communication technologies for development were geared towards raising awareness of the information age in Africa; encouraging the establishment of internet hosts in the region; encouraging and facilitating the establishment of African web sites with local content; development of national information and communications infrastructure plans, policies, programmes and strategies, sector applications and connectivity.

39. During the period under review, ECA organized the first African Development Forum (ADF) which was held in Addis Ababa in October 1999 on the theme, "The Challenge to Africa of Globalization and the Information Age." The Forum is an annual event that brings together high-level policy and decision makers and practitioners to focus on topical issues in Africa's development. ADF'99 was attended by over 950 participants, including a full gamut of stakeholders who are making knowledge for development a reality in Africa, from civil society and academia, to the private sector and high-level public sector officials. Among the high level participants were two Heads of State and Government (Ethiopia and Mali), one Vice-President (Malawi) and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The event included plenaries and keynote addresses, as well as working group sessions on the Forum theme areas, in addition to an exhibition. Under the overall theme, ADF 1999 had four sub-themes, namely Africa and the information society; strengthening Africa's information infrastructure; information and communication technologies for improved governance; and democratising access to the information society.

40. A number of initiatives were spawned at the ADF, including a plan for a regional School Net Africa, an African Distance Learning Programme, discussion lists and activities related to gender and the information age in the context of Beijing + 5, NgoNET Africa (an action group to engage civil society in the promotion of information and communication technology for African development), a telecentre network, activities to support the involvement of the African

diaspora in knowledge and development in Africa, the formation of a business to business network, the Alliance for African Business and the formation of national action groups with the specific aim of preparing for the Global Knowledge Information Infrastructure.

41. ADF '99 will be followed by a Post-Forum Summit intended to provide African political leaders with the opportunity to assess the results of ADF and reach consensus on the most promising initiatives for follow-up at the national, subregional and regional levels. The first post-Forum Summit will examine the information society strategies that were considered by ADF participants to be among the most promising in Africa's search for its own definition of the information society. Between 15 and 20 African Heads of State will be invited to the Summit, along with other leaders from the private sector and development agencies.

42. ECA is developing position papers and proposals on four sets of issues that emerged from ADF'99: policy and regulation within a broad information and communication policy context; applications to support education processes and meet the needs of Africa's youth; electronic commerce - the experience and the potential for Africa; and ICT applications in the area of health. Preliminary results have been assessed at the preparatory meeting for the post-Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in March 2000.

43. Other operational activities undertaken in the area of information and communications technology for development included the launch of the ECA intranet; and the establishment of the Technology Centre for Africa. In response to requests from some member States the secretariat provided advisory support in the formulation and adoption of national information and communication infrastructure plans and policies. In addition, the secretariat played a leadership role in the implementation of the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) particularly through such collaborative partnerships as the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa (PICTA) and the Global Knowledge Partnership.

44. In the area of geoinformation, the secretariat undertook several activities aimed at

raising awareness in the member States of the real and potential benefits of geographical information for development. This objective was achieved through promoting policies, methods and strategies for the efficient utilization of geoinformation in economic planning and development. To this end, the secretariat prepared two reports on the social and economic benefits of geoinformation and the commercial aspects of geoinformation; a study on land information systems for decision makers; published the *Cartography and Remote Sensing Bulletin*; and continued to maintain databases on the status of mapping coverage and programmes in Africa, and on educational and training facilities in the area of geoinformation in Africa. The secretariat also strengthened its collaboration with regional institutions working in the area of geoinformation - the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS) and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD).

45. In the area of library development, the secretariat established a multimedia centre and developed independent bibliographic databases for the management of information systems for acquisition, cataloguing, circulation and serial control.

46. The first meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) was held in Addis Ababa from 28 June to 2 July 1999 on the theme, "Harnessing information for development." Under the overall theme, the following sub-themes were addressed: African statistical development: A review and the road ahead in the new millennium; the economic and social benefits of geographic information systems; and content development and dissemination in Africa: Key issues (this was the sub-theme in the area of information and communications technology). The meeting put forward a number of recommendations to enhance the contributions of these three areas to the socio-economic development of Africa.

Promoting regional cooperation and integration

47. ECA's work in promoting regional cooperation and integration in Africa was aimed at facilitating and enhancing the process of regional integration through the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic

Community; promoting the coordinated building and effective utilization of regional networks of transport and communications infrastructure; promoting the adoption of policies and financing mechanisms for mining and energy projects; promoting cooperation for the management, development and utilization of transborder water resources including river and lake basins.

48. During the period under review, the activities which were undertaken in each of the foregoing areas are described in the following paragraphs.

49. In support of the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, the secretariat organized several meetings, seminars, workshops; and prepared a number of policy briefs and studies on emerging issues in the new global trading arrangements. These studies identified and analysed the factors affecting integration, including conditions that constrain or facilitate the process at the country, subregional and regional levels.

50. With regard to promoting integration in the transport sector, the secretariat organized a ministerial meeting in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast from 9 to 14 November 1999. The objective of the meeting was to review and evaluate progress in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a new African air transport policy. Several studies were also undertaken to address such issues as the impact of improved rural transport on women; liberalization of air traffic rights and the development of air services in Africa; privatization of ports and railways in selected countries. In addition, advisory services were provided to member States in adopting a common African position for the US-Africa Ministerial meeting on infrastructure development. Assistance was also provided to the three subregional port management associations in Africa in strengthening cooperation for the development of maritime ports in the region. This has resulted in the establishment of the Pan African Association for Port Cooperation (PAPC) in November 1999, a regional organization responsible for the development of port programmes and activities in Africa.

51. Collaboration with subregional organizations and other United Nations agencies was also strengthened during the period. ECA collaborated

with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in the introduction and implementation of maritime port state and flag state control systems in Africa.

52. The secretariat organized or participated in various international meetings and conferences on water resources management during the period under review. These included the meeting of senior water officials from the Zambezi River Basin countries; a meeting of Chief Executives of transboundary river/lake basin organizations in Africa; a subregional workshop on the problem of water hyacinth in the Great Lakes region; a national seminar and donors conference on water supply and sanitation; the African regional meeting which addressed the special issue of Lake Chad Basin water resources; the second World Water Forum where a "water vision" for Africa in the twenty-first century and a framework for action for 2000-2005 were formulated; and the seventh annual meeting of the Nile Basin Council of Ministers. In addition, ECA provided secretariat support to the Interagency Group on Water in Africa (IGWA), and also collaborated with member agencies of the Working Group on Water of the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa on various issues.

53. Several studies and discussion papers were prepared by the secretariat as background documents for various meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops on the development of the mineral and energy sectors in Africa. These included a study on the contribution of transnational corporations in the mining and energy sectors in Africa; a study on modalities for accessing new sources of capital for the development of Africa's mineral resources; a study assessing the adequacy of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for sustained development of mineral resources; and a study reviewing projection models for Africa's energy and power requirements.

54. The secretariat participated or organized the following meetings and conferences in support of the development of the mineral and energy sectors in Africa: an ad hoc expert group meeting on mobilizing resources for the development of the mineral and energy sectors in Africa; the first meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources

and Science and Technology; the meeting of the Bureau of the second Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Energy Resources in Africa; the mining sector meeting of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); the meeting of the Ministers of Energy of ECOWAS; and the ILO meeting on social and labour issues in small-scale mines.

Promoting the advancement of women

55. ECA's work in the area of promoting the advancement of women focused on mainstreaming gender issues into policies and programmes of member States; and promoting the economic and social empowerment of women. The modalities for achieving these objectives included meetings, training, publications and information dissemination and advisory services.

56. In line with its mandate and within the framework of the mid-decade review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action, ECA organized the sixth African Regional Conference on Women in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22 to 26 November 1999. The Conference reviewed and evaluated progress made by African countries in formulating and implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes in the 12 priority areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform of Action. Progress reports were submitted to the Conference by the Governments of most African countries. Evaluation reports covering the 12 critical areas of concern were also submitted to the Conference by OAU, ADB, several NGOs and United Nations specialized agencies, including ECA. The 12 critical areas of concern which were ranked in order of priority included poverty, education for women, health, human rights, women in decision-making, violence against women, institutions, women in economic activity, media, environment, the girl-child and conflict.

57. The major outcome of the Conference was the adoption of an African Plan of Action for accelerating the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action over the period 2000-2004 at national, subregional and regional levels. The plan proposed strategies and mechanisms for dealing with problems which had been identified as

impediments in the implementation of the Platforms. The African Plan of Action was adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers during its meeting in Addis Ababa, in March 2000.

58. Also in the context of evaluating the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action, ECA participated in an ad hoc experts group meeting organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on Beijing+5 which took place in Beirut, Lebanon in November 1999; and in the special session on Beijing + 5 in New York in June 2000.

59. Activities in the area of fostering the economic and social empowerment of women were centered on the establishment of two pilot Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs) to provide training, information and enhance networking among African women entrepreneurs. Activities undertaken in support of this objective included a follow-up meeting to the 1997 Bangkok Forum held in Bujumbura, Burundi in June 1999; field missions to West and Eastern Africa in November 1999; and the preparation and submission of a feasibility study and project document to potential donors and partners in January 2000.

60. In response to the request that regional commissions mainstream women's issues and gender perspectives in their existing mandates and activities, ECA has adopted gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting theme in all its core programmes and policies. To this end, the African Centre for Women of ECA was given the mandate to build the capacity of the substantive divisions in mainstreaming gender concerns in their programmes in order to ensure gender-responsive delivery of ECA's wide range of services. Several sensitization workshops for ECA senior professional staff have already been held; and a capacity-building needs assessment was undertaken in August 1999.

61. During the period under review, the secretariat produced a CD-ROM on the status of women in Africa, as a means of providing timely and reliable information on the role of women in development. The CD-ROM is a complement to the country brochures launched during ECA's fortieth anniversary celebration in 1998, which was

on the theme, "African Women and Economic Development."

62. The secretariat also organized or participated in various meetings and workshops which addressed issues of concern to women. These included a forum on policy options for the economic empowerment of women held in Dar-es-Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania in July 1999; the follow-up meeting to the Gender and Law Conference organized by the World Bank in Washington D.C. in September 1999; a training workshop on the development and application of gender indicators for monitoring the economic empowerment of women in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 1999; and the FAO Forum on rural women and information in Rome, Italy in October 1999.

63. At the invitation of the Government of Algeria, the secretariat undertook a visit to Algeria in July 2000 with a view to strengthening cooperation in the area of promoting the advancement of women.

64. Planned activities in the area of promoting the advancement of women include the on-going work on a publication entitled, *African Women Report-2000*, which will be released shortly.

Supporting subregional activities for development

65. Based in Central, Eastern, North, Southern and West Africa, SRDCs play a vital role in rendering services more effectively to regional economic communities (RECs) and have thus improved the Commission's capacity to support regional cooperation and integration efforts at the subregional level.

66. Accordingly, in the period under review, the work of SRDCs focused on providing technical support to, and strengthening cooperation with the RECs: facilitating development networking and information exchange among governments, civil society and the private sector at the subregional level; facilitating coordination services for the operational programmes of the United Nations system, in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator system at the national level; and strengthening ECA's outreach in the subregions. Highlighted below are some of the

major activities undertaken by SRDCs in their respective subregions during the period under review.

67. During the period under review, the subregional development centre for Eastern Africa (SRDC-EA) prepared several reports in support of facilitating development networking and information exchange. Among them were *an assessment of urban development in the Great Lakes region; an assessment of Lake Victoria ports; modalities for women's access to and ownership of land in Eastern Africa; a study on the feasibility of decentralized financing mechanisms in support of decentralization in Rwanda; report on economic and social conditions in Eastern Africa; policies, strategies and methodologies for the control and management of water hyacinth with reference to the Lake Victoria Basin; assessment of socio-economic impact of water hyacinth in the Lake Victoria Basin; gender profile of Eastern African countries; report on food security, population and environment in selected countries of Eastern Africa.*

68. During the period under review, the subregional development centre for Southern Africa (SRDC-SA) convened and serviced the sixth meeting of its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) in Windhoek, Namibia. The meeting considered several issues, including the economic and social conditions in southern Africa with particular emphasis on the impact of crime on the social and economic development of the subregion; population, gender and social issues emanating from decisions of various regional and global conferences; application of the Population, Environment and Agriculture (PEDA) model in developing policy options to ensure food security; capacity-building in science and technology; national planning for information and communications technology in southern Africa. Key regional and subregional organizations including OAU, COMESA, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and SADC also attended the meeting.

69. Technical support was provided to the regional economic communities (RECs) during the period under review. COMESA received assistance in restructuring its secretariat including training needs assessment for its staff; and assistance was provided to SADC in the finalization of its 1998 Economic Report and in the

preparations for the Southern African Conference of Ministers responsible for Population and Development which was held in May 1999. In addition, both organizations received support from the Centre in the development of a framework for a road safety programme in southern Africa under the umbrella of the African Road Safety Initiative.

70. Advisory services and technical assistance were also provided to some member States. Support was provided to Swaziland and Zambia in the development of their national transport policies. Zambia also received support in the area of population and development, and in the establishment of micro-financing fund for small and medium enterprises. The Centre, in collaboration with ECA's Development Management Division organized a national workshop for senior officials of the Ministry of Finance of Lesotho in August 1999.

71. Several operational activities were undertaken to facilitate networking and information exchange. These included a forum on policy options for promoting the economic empowerment of women, using information and communications technology in June 1999; a workshop on trade and investment promotion in southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia in November 1999; and a subregional seminar on integrated economic and social development in southern Africa which provided a forum for sharing experiences on the adoption and effective implementation of National Long-term Perspective Studies (NLTPS).

72. The Centre also released a number of publications. Key among these were the *Report on economic and social conditions in southern Africa, 1998-1999*; the *Southern Africa Development Bulletin* (3 issues), a medium for disseminating development information to member States; *policy framework on the nexus issues of population, food security and environment in southern Africa*; *Proceedings of the ad-hoc experts group meeting on the nexus issues*.

73. Collaboration and coordination of activities with other agencies of the United Nations system was strengthened in the period under review. Cooperation with the United Nations Country Team in Zambia and other countries in the subregion covered such activities as organising and

servicing meetings, workshops and seminars. In this regard, the Centre played an active role in the UNDP-led Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique Growth Triangle (ZMM-FT) initiative which was aimed at promoting sustainable growth and development through increased trade and investment, and more efficient use of resources in the three countries.

74. During the period under review, the subregional development centre for Central Africa (SRDC-CA) undertook several activities in support of promoting regional cooperation and integration in the subregion. These activities included the organization and servicing of meetings of the Centre's legislative organ, the preparation of reports and studies, as well as organizing workshops on topical issues of interest to member States in the subregion.

75. The major activities undertaken by the Centre during the period under review included the organization and servicing of two meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Centre. The first meeting was held from 10 to 11 June 1999 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and the second meeting took place in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad from 10 to 12 April 2000. Both meetings reviewed the activities of the Centre in 1999 and the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium. The meeting also reviewed and discussed the following reports prepared by the Centre: *rapport d'activités du Centre de Développement Sous-Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale*; *rôle des ONG dans le renforcement du processus de l'intégration régionale en Afrique Centrale*; *rôle des technologies nouvelles de l'information et de la communication dans le renforcement du processus de l'intégration régionale en Afrique Centrale*; *rôle et place des réseaux de femmes dans le développement national et l'intégration Afrique Centrale*; and *rapport sur l'industrie du pétrole en Afrique Centrale*.

76. In addition to these reports, the Centre prepared three reports which were presented for discussion at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts in 2000. These included the *report on economic and social conditions in Central Africa, 1999*; *IPA net et Plink (MIGA networks models)*; and *croissance, convergence et intégration dans les pays de la CEMAC*; and a

general equilibrium model on Central African Republic (RCANI).

77. The Centre also provided assistance in developing a programme for relaunching the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) following a request made to ECA by the ECCAS Conference of Heads of State and Government in February 1998. In this context, the Centre provided support to ECCAS in organizing and servicing the meetings of Ministers and the Summit of the Heads of State in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 1999.

78. The following reports were also prepared by the Centre for ECCAS: *repenser le développement on Afrique Centrale: Faire de l'integration régionale un puissant moteur du développement en Afrique Centrale au repenser le développement niveau national; Programme de redynamisation de l'integration régionale, de relance des institutions de l'integration régionale et de renovation de la communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale, 1999-2001; expertise des activités opérationnelles et de l'organigramme du secrétariat de la CEEAC; and evaluation de arrières de contributions de Etats members au budget de focationnement de la communauté, de la masse salariale du personnel et des dettes du Secrétariat Générale envers les Tiers.* In addition, the Centre in collaboration with the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (RCID) of ECA, prepared a study on financing mechanisms for subregional integration in June 2000.

79. The Centre is also cooperating with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) in promoting investments through the establishment of institutional mechanisms to facilitate investment in the subregion. To this end, the Centre provided technical assistance to some member States in the establishment of national investment promotion agencies.

80. The Centre organized three group training workshops in support of capacity-building in the member States. These included a workshop on

quantitative instruments for economic analysis held in Bangui, Central African Republic from 6 to 10 December 1999; a workshop on capacity-building for administrative decentralization, urban development planning and spatial development planning from 14 to 17 December 1999 in Limbe, Cameroon; and a training workshop on project management, planning and development for NGOs in Bafoussam, Cameroon in February 2000.

81. During the period under review, the Subregional Development Centre for North Africa (SRDC-NA) undertook the following activities in support of promoting regional cooperation and integration in its subregion: a seminar on irrigation and water management in North Africa in Cairo, Egypt from 9 to 12 October 1999; a seminar on debt management, investment and trade in North Africa from 9 to 12 November 1999 in Tangiers, Morocco. The Centre also completed the following studies in the period under review: *the Study on Long-term Perspectives and Employment in North Africa*; and *a study on European Union - Arab Maghreb Union integration process: The experience of countries that have signed agreements with the European Union.* In addition, the Centre collaborated with the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) in organizing a workshop on the harmonization of fiscal policies in the UMA region.

82. During the period under review, the Subregional Development Centre for West Africa (SRDC-WA) located in Niamey, the Niger worked closely with the Secretariat of the Mano River Union on a study for the revitalization of the Union. This is an integral part of the ECA-led initiative in support of post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction of the Mano River Basin countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

CHAPTER III

SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Abuja, Nigeria,

4 - 5 May 2000

A. Attendance

83. The second meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was hosted by the Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa in Abuja, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 4 and 5 May 2000. H.E. Mr. Jubril Martins-Kuye, Minister of State for Finance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria formally opened the meeting. Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), delivered a statement at the opening ceremony of the meeting. A statement was also delivered by Mr. Frank Ofei, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on behalf of Mr. Lansana Kouyate, the Executive Secretary. The meeting was held at the Secretariat of ECOWAS.

84. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee is made up of the 10 member States of the Commission consisting of the current and immediate past bureaux of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The following member States were not represented: the Republic of Congo and South Africa.

85. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.

86. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and ECOWAS.

87. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was represented.

88. The current bureau of the Conference of Ministers which presided over the proceedings of the meeting is composed as follows:

Chairman:	Nigeria
First Vice-Chairman:	Namibia
Second Vice-Chairman:	Morocco
Third Vice-Chairman:	Cameroon
Rapporteur:	The United Republic of Tanzania

B. Agenda and organization of work

89. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Ministerial Policy Debate on:
 - (a) New Directions for Regional Cooperation and Integration in Africa;
 - (b) Mid-Term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience;
 - (c) Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002-2005.
4. Consideration of the Report of the second preparatory meeting of Experts of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee.
5. Any other business.

6. Adoption of the report.

7. Closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Opening addresses

90. In his opening statement, H.E. Mr. Jubril Martins-Kuye, Minister of State for Finance, on behalf of H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, welcomed participants to Abuja and to the second meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers. He conveyed to the meeting the greetings of H.E. Chief Dapo Sarumi, Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who was not able to attend the opening ceremony. Mr. Kuye expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA and his staff for offering Nigeria the opportunity to host this important meeting. He reassured the Ministerial Follow-up Committee that Nigeria, as current Chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers, would live up to the expectations placed on her by African member States. He said that Nigeria was assuming this important leadership in the context of his country's successful transition to civilian administration on 29 May 1999. He commended the quality of the report of the preparatory meeting of experts and the far-reaching recommendations contained therein. Mr. Kuye invited the Ministerial Follow-up Committee to examine and discuss the issues raised in that report, as well as the working documents prepared by the secretariat. These documents would serve the Ministers in good stead in their deliberations and enable them to come up with decisions aimed at re-focusing future development of the continent.

91. The Honourable Minister noted with satisfaction that ECA's initiative to prepare a Report on the Status of Regional Cooperation and Integration in Africa would be very useful for charting new directions for Africa's integration in the face of emerging challenges in the international economic arena. Referring to the Follow-up to the World Social Summit, Mr. Kuye underscored the importance of the discussions that would take place on this agenda item of the meeting as the outcome

of the deliberations would contribute to Africa's input to the special session of the General Assembly on the Mid-Decade Review of the Social Summit. He said the consideration of all items on the agenda of the meeting provided a unique opportunity for the Ministerial Follow-up Committee to come up with recommendations for policies and strategies aimed at ensuring the complete emancipation of Africa from the various socio-economic and political problems facing the continent. In this connection, he informed the meeting that with the successful institutionalization of democracy, Nigeria was now fully mobilized to effectively contribute to the promotion of sustainable development in the continent. The Nigerian Government had embarked on the implementation of important policies and programmes at the national level and had been cooperating with other member countries in the West African subregion to promote and strengthen the integration of Africa in general and the subregion in particular. In this regard, he said that the initiative which Nigeria and Ghana had spear-headed to fast-track subregional integration had been widely acclaimed within and outside Africa. Other West African States had also decided to join the initiative. He hoped that the lessons learnt from the Nigeria-Ghana initiative would be of interest to other subregional economic groupings in order to deepen regional integration in Africa.

92. The Honourable Minister said that this goal could only be achieved with the cooperation of not only member States but also that of ECA, OAU and all international, bilateral and multilateral institutions. He, therefore, urged these institutions and development partners to provide to African countries and their intergovernmental organizations the necessary support and cooperation.

93. In his statement, Mr. K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA, welcomed participants to the second meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee. He expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting this meeting, for their hospitality to the participants since their arrival, and for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Lansana Kouyate, Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, for the support that ECOWAS had provided towards the meeting.

94. In assessing the recent past in Africa's economic performance, the Executive Secretary noted that the continent was now in its fifth year of economic recovery with growth in GDP outstripping population growth for the first time in many years. He also noted that most of the best performing countries benefited from the cessation of civil wars, greater stability, and economic and political reforms. However, he said that economic growth remained far below the level required to make any meaningful dent on the incidence of poverty in Africa. He, therefore, stressed the need to increase substantially the African economic growth rate in order to meet the internationally agreed poverty reduction targets. He said that growth must be complemented with policies that deliberately attack poverty and promote education, health, and social safety needs. In this regard, he informed participants that the next issue of ECA's Economic Report on Africa, 2000 would highlight a number of these challenges which had constrained Africa's development, namely: inadequate levels of human development as evidenced by education and health indicators; inadequate social and physical infrastructure; low value-added capacity; unfavourable terms of trade; small and fragmented national markets; limited access to western markets; the debt overhang; lack of research and application of technology; low savings and lack of entrepreneurship; an underdeveloped agricultural sector dominated by subsistence farming; conflicts; HIV/AIDS, and natural calamities, ranging from droughts to floods.

95. He suggested some of the key strategic interventions required to face this complex list of challenges. He particularly underscored the important role of women as equal participants in development, and the unprecedented opportunities for Africa to tap into the global system of information and knowledge if member States were to avoid further social and economic marginalization. In this regard, he underlined the important catalytic role ECA played to forge ahead with these strategic issues. He recalled that the Commission had created the African Development Forum (ADF) to establish an African-driven development agenda that reflected a consensus among major partners and that led to specific programmes for country implementation. ADF '99 was on the information age. The second ADF would be held in October 2000 on the theme,

"AIDS: The Greatest Challenge to Leadership in Africa".

96. The Executive Secretary said that any credible strategy to accelerate Africa's development must include the promotion of regional cooperation and integration. In that regard, ECA was actively cooperating with OAU and ADB in implementing the Abuja Treaty. To achieve this, ECA's Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs) were strengthened to provide technical support to the regional economic communities (RECs) in the various subregions of the continent, most of which ECA was instrumental in establishing. However, he observed that in spite of the various experiments on regional integration, the process remained too slow. With regard to the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Social Summit, the Executive Secretary informed participants that ECA had in the past two years organized three subregional follow-up meetings. These meetings provided a platform for Africa to review progress in each of the 10 areas of the Commitments undertaken at Copenhagen.

97. Concerning the issues of the proposed Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005 and the note on the pledging conferences, Mr. Amoako requested the Committee to consider the recommendations contained in the related reports before it. In this regard, he noted with satisfaction that the preparatory meeting of experts had already undertaken an in-depth examination of all the issues of the agenda and paid tribute to their very impressive work.

98. In an opening address read on his behalf by Mr. Frank Ofei, ECOWAS Deputy Executive Secretary in charge of Economic Affairs, Mr. Lansana Kouyate, ECOWAS Executive Secretary, who was outside the country on an official assignment, welcomed participants to ECOWAS Headquarters and said that the very hosting of the meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on the premises of one of the RECs in Africa was symbolic as member States strived to deepen regional cooperation and integration in the continent. He said that the focus of the regional cooperation and integration programme of ECOWAS was on such core national economic

management issues as harmonization of macroeconomic policies and promotion of sound economic performance. ECOWAS was working together with West African policy makers within a regional framework with the view to enhancing the long-term prospects of national economies. To that extent, he observed that ECOWAS was a symbol of the current trend towards the collective management of the development process in Africa.

99. Recognizing that progress in integration had not been uniform in the subregions of the continent, he suggested that the meeting focus on the factors that had hampered the integration process in Africa. In this regard, he underlined the positive role of ECA in deepening regional integration in Africa. He underscored the support ECA continued to provide to RECs and welcomed ECA's initiative to strengthen its SRDCs. He observed that these centres could be very useful if the working relations between RECs, SRDCs, ECA headquarters and member States were enhanced and made more functional. He recommended the strengthening of partnership arrangements between ECOWAS and the SRDC for West Africa located in Niamey (the Niger) so that that Centre would become an active participant in the ECOWAS integration programme in line with the pivotal role ECA as a whole had played and continued to play by devoting its resources and energy to facilitate the creation of Africa's RECs, beginning with ECOWAS as far back as 1975.

Ministerial Policy Debate on: New Directions for Regional Cooperation and Integration in Africa: Mid-term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience; Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002-2005 (agenda item 3)

100. In the general debate, the Ministers commended the quality of the various background papers prepared by the secretariat as well as the work done by the experts. Participants took note of the nine issues, which were identified as critical for the integration process in Africa as articulated in the issues paper on regional integration. These included the institutional framework; the nexus of trade liberalization, related costs and benefits, and production capacity; infrastructure/physical integration; policy harmonization/convergence; factor mobility; WTO/globalization exigencies;

implementation of regional commons; financing mechanisms; and information/data for decision-making.

101. Participants welcomed ECA's new initiative to publish an annual report on regional integration which will undertake a comprehensive empirical assessment of the status of integration in Africa resulting in the adoption of appropriate policies and programmes for enhanced integration in Africa. Participants acknowledged the potential utility of such a report in formulating and implementing policies and programmes to promote regional integration, and urged ECA to ensure the use of accurate data and indicators in the report. A similar observation was made about the report on the Mid-term Review of the World Summit for Social Development. In this regard, member States expressed their willingness to cooperate with ECA to ensure that reliable and accurate data and information were made available.

102. While noting the importance of the integration process for Africa's development, the Ministerial Follow-up Committee called for measures to accelerate the process, particularly in achieving the objectives of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC). In this context, several participants emphasized the important role of the private sector and civil society in promoting integration in Africa. It was pointed out that ECA could contribute to accelerating this process by assisting member States in adapting to the process of globalization and liberalization. It was indicated, for example, that ECA played a vital role in the re-launching of ECCAS and provided technical support to other subregional organizations. However, some participants observed that Africa had a multiplicity of integration organizations leading to needless duplication and overlap and constituted a burden on the resources of member States. This proliferation of integration had also put pressure on limited donor resources. In the light of this, participants suggested that ECA undertake studies to review the various integration programmes and projects and make concrete recommendations on the optimum number of integration structures for Africa.

103. On the issue of poverty reduction, participants shared experiences on the measures and strategies as well as well-targeted schemes

adopted by various countries to curb the incidence of poverty. The representative of Tunisia, for example, informed the meeting that his country had achieved significant progress in reducing poverty as a result of several initiatives undertaken by the government. These initiatives included the setting up of three national funds to address the issue of social and economic marginalization and the establishment of a Tunisian Solidarity Bank to grant "soft loans".

104. The representative of Cameroon, in describing the unrelenting efforts of his Government to contain poverty and the comprehensive result achieved, indicated that the debt stock unquestionably remained an impediment to economic and social development financing and poverty-reduction programme implementation. On the vexed issue of Africa's debt overhang, several participants lamented the fact that it constituted a serious impediment to the realization of poverty reduction goals. It was observed that current debt resolution mechanisms, particularly the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)s initiative were too slow, too selective in coverage and too condition-laden. As such, only a few countries had benefited from the initiative. Participants underscored the need to find more durable solutions to the debt problem. At the same time, it was observed that the volume of official development assistance (ODA) was on the decline as the debt stock continued to increase. One participant expressed the concern that the proposed Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa did not sufficiently highlight the debt issue. He suggested, therefore, that the debt issue be addressed in the framework of the new direction on regional integration to enable the adoption of an African common position on it.

105. The representative of OAU informed the meeting of the importance attached to the debt problem by OAU, and briefed the Ministers of the decision taken by the OAU Summit in Sirte, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the subject in September 1999. That decision mandated the OAU Current Chairman and the President of South Africa to engage Africa's creditors with a view to secure total debt cancellation. To that end, the Joint Secretariat had assisted in the preparation of the working document for the two Presidents.

106. Several proposals were made on the debt problem. Some participants proposed that Africa's debt should be rescheduled under more favourable conditions in order to free up resources for poverty alleviation programmes. Other participants underscored the importance of other sources of finance. In this regard, it was proposed that measures be adopted to back the initiative announced concerning the establishment of a Global Solidarity Fund and domestic resource mobilization, especially in the light of the strict conditionalities attached to the various debt relief initiatives and other external resource flows.

107. The representative of Uganda, whose country was among the few countries to have benefited from the HIPC initiative underscored the need for strong political will in fulfilling the conditionalities for debt relief. To this end, he suggested that ECA undertake a study to identify the implications for development of current debt relief initiatives. He also attributed Uganda's success in curtailing the HIV/AIDS epidemic to good political leadership, as exemplified by the commitment and openness of the government in dealing with the problem.

108. The Executive Secretary of ECA addressed the various issues raised by the participants, including regional integration, poverty reduction, the debt issue and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. On the issue of regional integration, the Executive Secretary reiterated the fact that regional integration was a fundamental pre-requisite for integration into the global economy. He observed that in spite of the difficulties experienced by some subregions in their efforts at integration, significant progress had been achieved in several areas. He promised that ECA would continue to provide support to member States and their intergovernmental organizations in realizing the objectives of integration, by conducting studies to clarify options and avoid duplication in the integration process in Africa. He drew linkages between the objectives of regional integration and poverty reduction, noting that the pursuit of regional integration would result in accelerated growth and development, the benefit of which would be spread to more people. Above all, he underscored the necessity for strong political will in achieving the objectives of regional cooperation and integration.

109. In commenting on the observations of the Moroccan delegation on the indicators and methodologies for the report on Regional Integration in Africa as well as the ECA Report on the Mid-term Review on the World Summit for Social Development, the Executive Secretary assured the meeting that ECA would take steps to ensure that the report accurately reflected the status of integration in both a qualitative and quantitative way.

110. He further explained that ECA's activities in the past three years had focused extensively on the debt issue, and that ECA would continue to play an advocacy role for debt relief for poverty reduction. He noted, for example, that the 1997 Conference of African Ministers for Finance had deliberated on the debt issue, and made proposals for reviewing the HIPC initiative. He also informed the meeting that ECA was working with the Bretton Woods institutions, the G-8 countries as well as African member States in formulating strategies that would ensure faster, deeper and effective debt relief. He informed the meeting that the next joint meeting of African Ministers responsible for Finance and Trade in November 2000 would focus on the debt issue and Africa's position under the New World Trade Organization (WTO) arrangements. He stressed that these activities had been informed by the view that the debt issue was no longer an economic issue but one that required the political will of the creditor nations in granting significant debt relief.

111. With regard to the HIV/AIDS issue, the Executive Secretary informed the meeting that ECA was currently working with other partners, including the private sector on an initiative that would culminate in October 2000, in the second African Development Forum on the theme, *"AIDS: The Greatest Challenge to Leadership in Africa."* He pointed out that the current initiative differed from previous initiatives in a fundamental way, as it was expected to result in concrete action plans at regional and country levels, around which international support would be mobilized for implementation.

112. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary welcomed the decision of ADB to open an office in Addis Ababa, and noted that this would go a long way to strengthen collaboration among members of

the OAU/ECA/ADB Joint Secretariat, particularly in promoting regional cooperation and integration.

Consideration of the report and recommendations of the second preparatory meeting of Experts of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning
(agenda item 4)

113. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee examined the report of the second preparatory meeting of Experts contained in document E/ECA/TPME/MFC.2/L. Participants made both general and specific observations and suggestions in respect of the various issues and proposals made by the experts in the report.

114. During the consideration of the section of the report regarding attendance, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania said that the delegation of his country arrived on, and participated in the last day of the meeting of experts. Consequently, the name of his country should be listed among the countries that participated in the experts meeting.

115. Under agenda item 3 relating to the Mid-term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience, the representative of Tunisia emphasized the need for the ECA secretariat to take into account the indicators of human development published by individual member States. He said that the Government of Tunisia, in collaboration with UNDP, had recently published the first national human development report on Tunisia. The report was an important policy document which contained a wide range of social and human development indicators and ECA would find it particularly useful in its analysis of the social conditions of Tunisia.

116. Under agenda item 4 on New Directions for regional cooperation and integration: Overview and plans for assessing regional integration, the Ministerial Follow-up Committee agreed to the proposal to amend the last sentence of paragraph 29 to read as follows:

"It was, however, emphasized that countries' representation to the various

regional and subregional bodies did not make it possible for good follow-up and coherence in the positions of member States due to the fact that member States are represented by different ministries and institutions”.

117. The Committee also agreed to the proposal to amend the last sentence of paragraph 34 to read as follows:

“The Committee took note of the fact that ADB -- a member of the Joint Secretariat -- had decided to commit 10 per cent of the resources of ADF for the period 1999-2001 to the multinational projects that contributed to regional integration as well as provided support to a range of integration projects including assisting in establishing the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM), the African Export-Import (AFREXIM) Bank and undertaking studies on the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) integration, among other things”.

118. Under agenda 5 on the consideration of the Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002-2005, the Committee agreed to the proposal to amend paragraph 46 as follows:

“Some participants questioned the rationale behind not co-locating some of the SRDCs with the major RECs. They requested the Executive Secretary to take steps towards rationalizing the location of the SRDCs and to submit a report to the next session of the Commission in May 2001 on the steps he would have taken by then”.

119. A participant commenting on paragraph 43 of the report noted that industrial development was key to Africa's international competitiveness. African countries needed to diversify their export base to enable them compete in the global market place. Industrial development held the key to Africa's export diversification. However, while the Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa had placed well-deserved emphasis on private sector development, industrial development did not feature prominently. He indicated that there was a major difference between

private sector development and industrial development and urged ECA to accord high priority to industrial development in its work programme.

120. In his intervention on this matter, the Executive Secretary acknowledged the importance of industrial development for Africa. He drew the attention of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee to the Gaborone Declaration on Industrial Development adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry a few years ago. He explained that ECA fully recognized, as did the Gaborone Declaration, that industrial development was dependent on several factors, including for example, efficient and well-functioning infrastructures, solid macroeconomic fundamentals and effective capital markets. He further explained that these were the areas where ECA had a comparative advantage. It had and would continue to work on these areas in its various subprogrammes. In that sense, at ECA, promoting industrial development had become a cross-cutting theme which pervades its entire work programme. He stressed that this approach reflected ECA's new programme orientation, which was organized on thematic rather than sector-specific basis.

121. Under agenda item 6, on the Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD), the Executive Secretary pleaded for the support of African countries for the Fund and noted that the pledges and payments by African countries to UNTFAD had declined over the years. He drew the attention of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee to the fact that financial resources for the implementation of ECA programmes were derived from two sources: the regular budget voted by the United Nations General Assembly and extrabudgetary resources. In the past few years, the financial outlays for regular budget had been approved on a zero growth basis. At the same time, extrabudgetary resources have continued to decline. To reverse this trend, ECA has intensified its effort to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from traditional and new donors. As part of that effort, ECA has developed a partnership programme intended to mobilize resources for 19 projects covering a wide range of critical areas in Africa's development. He indicated that he had already submitted some of the projects in the partnership programme to a few

donors for funding. He stressed that increased pledges by African countries to UNTFAD would strengthen ECA's hands in obtaining more resources from donors. He, therefore, appealed to member States to make generous pledges to UNTFAD at the Pledging Conference which will be held in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers next year.

122. Several participants expressed their support for the appeal for increased pledges to UNTFAD. In addition, it was emphasized that, as part of its strategy of resource mobilization, ECA should reach out to Africa's private sector. In this regard, it was suggested that ECA should endeavour to approach the private sector, in particular the major private sector corporations operating in Africa to contribute to UNTFAD. It was stressed that the idea of ECA soliciting funding from the private sector was consistent with the trend of economic liberalization, in which the private sector had become the key engine of growth and development.

123. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee adopted the report of the second preparatory meeting of Experts in the light of the above comments. The Committee also adopted the two resolutions recommended by the experts.

Any other business (agenda item 5)

124. There was no issue raised under this agenda item.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 6)

125. The Chairman called on Madam Anne Konate, Minister of Economy and Finance of Burkina Faso to make a statement. In her statement, the Honourable Minister expressed apologies for having arrived on the last day of the meeting. She had been delayed by the fact that the flight she would have taken earlier to Nigeria had been cancelled. Her appreciation went to the Ministerial Follow-up Committee for giving her an opportunity to make an input to the Ministerial

Policy Debate which had taken place the day before. Turning to the major issue of regional economic cooperation and integration in Africa, she expressed her country's firm commitment to subregional economic integration both within the *Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine* West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the wider context of ECOWAS. Burkina Faso had actively contributed to promoting integration throughout the subregion by way of interconnecting electric power grids; road infrastructure; promoting both the free flow of goods and services, and macroeconomic policy convergence. She gave an overview of UEMOA community programmes in which Burkina Faso was also involved. They covered rural development aimed at creating an enabling environment for the integration of agricultural activities; environmental management; promoting the development of new and renewable sources of energy; air transport facilities; free movement of goods and persons; the establishment of a common external tariff which came into force in January 2000; the creation of the Abidjan subregional stock exchange; and the establishment of national policy committees which reported on a quarterly basis on policy convergence among UEMOA member States.

126. Thereafter, the Ministerial Follow-up Committee proceeded to consider and adopt the report, including the resolutions.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 7)

127. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to participants for their active participation in the debate. He hoped that they had enjoyed their stay in Nigeria and wished them a safe journey to their respective destinations. He also thanked the secretariat for a job well done.

128. The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

**LIST OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

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CHAPTER IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

835 (MFC.2) The Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002-2005

The Ministerial Follow-up Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/203 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent resolutions on programme planning,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998 on programme planning by which the Assembly adopted the proposed revisions to the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1998-2001 submitted by the Secretary-General,

Taking into account Commission resolution 809 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996 in which the Commission endorsed the new directions for the Economic Commission for Africa,

Having considered document E/ECA/MFC.2/2 entitled "Proposed Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005."

Convinced that the orientation of the Medium-Term Plan, in particular the sub-programmes are relevant to the issues and critical challenges in Africa's development,

Endorses the Proposed Medium-Term Plan for the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002 - 2005, to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the light of the comments and observations made by the Ministerial Follow-up Committee.

305th meeting,
5 May 2000

836 (MFC.2) The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

The Ministerial Follow-up Committee,

Recalling Commission resolution 808 (XXX) of 3 May 1995 on the strengthening of the Economic Commission for Africa operational capacity requesting that the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) Pledging Conference be held yearly in New York in the context of the United Nations Pledging Conference,

Concerned with the inadequate responses from member States and other partners in the New York Pledging Conference.

Emphasizing the need to strengthen UNTFAD as a vehicle for mobilizing additional resources for the effective implementation of the Economic Commission for Africa's work programme and priorities,

Recognizing that UNTFAD is intended to serve several aspects of development,

1. Recommends that the UNTFAD Pledging Conference be transferred back to the Economic Commission for Africa and be held every two years in conjunction with the Commission's biennial session, starting 2001;

2. Appeals to African governments and institutions to give full support to UNTFAD by increasing their pledges of contribution and paying arrears to the Trust Fund;

3. Invites African development partners to participate fully in the pledging conferences.

305th meeting,
5 May 2000.

Annex I

REPORT OF THE SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE (1 to 3 May 2000) AS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. Attendance

1. The second preparatory meeting of Experts of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was hosted by the Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa in Abuja, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 1 to 3 May 2000. The meeting was held at the Headquarters of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

2. The Follow-up Committee is made up of the 10 member States of the Commission consisting of the current and immediate past bureaux of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Cameroon, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia and Uganda. The following member States were not represented: Burkina Faso, the Republic of Congo, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.

4. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and ECOWAS.

5. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was represented.

6. The current bureau of the Conference of Ministers which presided over the proceedings of the meeting is composed as follows:

Chairman:	Nigeria
First Vice-Chairman:	Namibia
Second Vice-Chairman:	Morocco

Third Vice-Chairman

(and Rapporteur for this meeting)

Cameroon

B. Agenda and organization of work

7. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Mid-Term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience.
4. New Directions for Regional Cooperation and Integration in Africa: Overview and Plans for Assessing Regional Integration.
5. Consideration of the Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002-2005.
6. Note on the pledging conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD).
7. Any other business.
8. Adoption of the Report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Opening addresses

8. The meeting was officially opened by Ambassador Brownson Dede, Director-General, Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In his opening

remarks. Ambassador Dede welcomed participants to Abuja, the Federal capital of Nigeria and to the second preparatory meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning. He expressed his appreciation to member States and observers from the international organizations and the regional economic groupings that had responded to his Government's invitation to this preparatory meeting. He observed that their attendance reflected their commitment and interest in the important role of the Follow-up Committee. He noted that the Follow-up Committee provided the opportunity to exchange views on some of the economic and social issues and related challenges facing Africa.

9. The Director-General noted with satisfaction the growing convergence between ECA's policies and programmes and those of member States in areas such as good governance and democracy; human rights; people-centered development strategies; poverty reduction strategies; trade and investment issues; and regional economic cooperation and integration. He particularly emphasized the importance of economic cooperation and integration. He remarked that African Governments had a major and enduring responsibility to strive for regional economic cooperation and integration, especially in the wake of globalization and trade liberalization. He recalled Nigeria's attachment to the goals of the African Economic Community (AEC), which would strengthen economic cooperation and integration, as well as enhance competitiveness of African countries. As proof of his country's commitment to cooperation and integration, he informed the meeting that the Nigerian Government had established a new Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Integration in Africa under the Presidency. He said that it was also reassuring to note that the three key players in the promotion of regional economic cooperation and integration in Africa, namely: OAU, ECA and ADB, have continued to work together through the Joint Secretariat. These continental organizations have been providing substantial assistance to African governments for the implementation of the objectives and programmes of the Abuja Treaty establishing AEC. He expressed confidence that the OAU/ECA/ADB Joint Secretariat will continue

to actively cooperate with the Regional economic groupings in order to coordinate further the work of the OAU/AEC and hoped that ECA would be able to provide technical support to the Community to attain the goals of the Abuja Treaty.

10. Referring to the agenda item on the Mid-term Review of the World Summit for Social Development, Ambassador Dede indicated that the African experience in this regard had shown, among other things, the vital role African women were playing in the social and economic development of Africa. He also urged the meeting to carefully review the Commission's Proposed Medium-Term Plan, 2002-2005 which aimed at addressing the major challenges facing African countries. The subprogrammes contained in the Plan included key areas such as promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development; enhancing food security and sustainable development; promoting regional cooperation and integration; and promoting the advancement of women.

11. He thanked the ECOWAS Secretariat for putting at the disposal of the Follow-up Committee its beautiful conference facilities.

12. In his statement, Mr. Samba Jack, Director of the Office of Policy Planning and Resource Management (OPRM) of ECA, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, offered a warm welcome to participants from member States, regional and subregional organizations, as well as from international organizations. He expressed ECA's deep gratitude to the Honourable Minister of cooperation and Integration in Africa, Chief Dapo Sarumi and through him, to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the meeting and for the cordial welcome, as well as the hospitality extended to all participants.

13. He recalled that the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was created as part of the reforms and renewal initiated in ECA a few years ago. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee was mandated to provide policy guidance for the work of the Commission in inter-sessional years, that was every other year, when the full Conference was not holding. He said that an important item on the agenda of this year's meeting was the consideration

of ECA's Medium-term Plan for the period 2002-2005. He explained that the Plan needed to be endorsed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Ministerial Follow-up Committee acting on behalf of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning for inclusion into the Secretary-General's overall proposal for the United Nations.

14. The Director noted that the slow growth of the African economy presented a major challenge for improving the living conditions for the majority of Africans. However, there was a growing recognition that launching Africa on a dynamic, poverty-reducing growth path would require overcoming the constraints imposed by the initial conditions of development at the beginning of the twenty-first century. These initial conditions included small and fragmented national markets; weak institutions of governance; low investment in human capital exacerbated by human capital flight, low income and high incidence of poverty. He underlined the importance of the two policy issues which were on the agenda of the meeting, namely: regional cooperation and integration, and social development. These issues were increasingly seen as key to development. By focussing on them, the Commission believed that attention could be drawn to areas where, on the one hand, member States needed and ought to work together and, on the other hand, where individual countries should renew their commitment to sharing the benefits of economic growth.

15. The Director of OPRM reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to the promotion of regional economic cooperation and integration in Africa. Apart from being instrumental in the establishment of the regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa, ECA, working together with OAU and ADB in the context of the Joint Secretariat, had been actively involved in the process of establishing AEC. The presence of OAU and ADB at this meeting was evidence of the solidarity among the Joint Secretariat partners in support of integration in Africa. However, he said that the task of deepening regional cooperation and accelerating the process of regional integration in Africa remained urgent. He informed participants that regional cooperation and integration should serve three main objectives: first, to create an economic and market space large enough to

establish viable production capacities in industry; second, regional integration should be a vehicle for collective growth and prosperity; and third, it should be an instrument for adjusting to a world economy, which though marked by globalization was in many ways still organized along regional economic blocs.

16. The Director stressed the fact that Africa needed and deserved new directions in regional integration. However, he noted that the new orientation in regional integration in Africa would only be achieved if the several impediments to integration in the region could be overcome. Among the most significant of these were overlapping country membership of RECs; lack of policy harmonization and convergence among member States in the same RECs; inadequate financing of existing RECs, including programmes of cooperation; low involvement of private sector and civil society actors; and prevalence of conflicts which had sown the seeds of political distrust and physical destruction in various subregions.

17. The Director informed the meeting about the ECA initiative to conduct regular assessment of integration in Africa. The vehicle for accomplishing this task would be a publication to be titled "**Annual Report on Integration in Africa**". The report would undertake an assessment of Africa's integration performance and review major themes of importance to regional integration and cooperation in Africa. He also drew the attention of the meeting to the other items of the agenda of the meeting, namely: the Mid-Term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience; and the note by the secretariat on the Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD). In this regard, he noted that almost all African countries were far from realizing the goals stipulated in the commitments taken at the World Summit for Social Development. Referring to the brief note on UNTFAD, he invited the meeting to reconsider a decision taken a few years ago to transfer the Pledging Conference from Addis Ababa to New York. He said that in the light of meagre pledges being made to the Fund in New York, the ECA secretariat was proposing that the Pledging Conferences be held in conjunction with the biennial meetings of the Conference of Ministers

responsible for economic development and planning as was the practice in the past.

Mid-Term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience
(agenda item 3)

18. The Committee considered document E/ECA/MFC.2/4 entitled, "Mid-term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience."

19. The Committee noted that the World Summit for Social Development was the first global meeting of its kind to take on the challenge of tackling the critical issue of global poverty, which was, in the final analysis, the root cause of a myriad of social and economic problems. The Copenhagen Declaration was a reaffirmation by Heads of State and Government to end global poverty; achieve the goal of full employment and foster stable and just societies. These three goals were followed by 10 commitments and agreements namely: creating an enabling environment for the achievement of social development; eradicating poverty through decisive national actions and international cooperation; promoting full employment as a basic priority; promoting social integration; promoting human dignity and achieving equality and equity between women and men; promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education and health; accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries; ensuring that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals; increasing significantly the resources allocated for social development; and improving and strengthening the framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development. The exceptional challenge of Africa in these areas received special attention.

20. The Committee also noted that in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Summit at the intergovernmental level, special attention was given to the role of regional commissions. It was in response to this request, and in accordance with the General Assembly mandate on regional follow-up meetings to the World Summit for Social Development, that ECA, in collaboration with UNDP, convened three subregional meetings for

the continent. The primary objective of the meetings was to monitor progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, by highlighting areas where progress had been achieved as well as provide information for decision makers and development actors to design intervention strategies to speed up progress towards desired targets. In spite of the progress achieved by some countries in such areas as poverty reduction, employment creation, achieving social objectives in relation to education, health and progress in establishing enabling socio-political environment and good governance, a number of constraints and challenges remain to be addressed. Among the major constraints identified were the debt overhang, over-dependence on rain-fed agriculture, lack of human capacity for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, lack of adequate physical infrastructure, especially in rural areas, adverse impact of HIV/AIDS, as well as ongoing internal and inter-State conflicts.

21. A number of important conclusions and recommendations emerged from these assessments. The first was that almost all African countries were far from realizing the goals stipulated in the commitments because of the difficult economic and political contexts in which they had to operate. Secondly, a major challenge in realizing the goals stipulated in the Social Summit was to design strategies that would ensure the sustainability of recent gains in the macro economic spheres and integrate them into social policy. This required, for example, ensuring political stability and designing peaceful mechanisms for conflict resolution; investing in human capital formation and institution-building and addressing major structural problems such as diversification and dependency. Third, African countries need to develop their information and statistical data bases to ensure the delivery of timely and reliable data on the social sectors.

22. There was extensive discussion on the choice and relevance of some of the indices used and data contained in the report. In this regard, some participants noted that the data did not reflect the situation in some countries and the indices for measuring political freedom and civil liberties should not have been included in the report because it was highly subjective and some member States still regarded matters of governance as sensitive

issues. Some participants suggested that the report could be further enriched by obtaining information from national publications such as the various national human development reports or the UNDP Human Development Reports. In addition, information could be obtained from ECA's Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs) or RECs. Some participants observed that any poverty alleviation programme that did not put the needs of the people at the centre was bound to fail. To this end, it was suggested that the formulation and implementation of anti-poverty policies and programmes should be holistic, well targeted and participatory.

23. The Committee noted and supported ECA's plans to refine the assessment tools further, working closely with member States and other development partners. The meeting welcomed UNDP's support for ECA's work in follow-up activities in general, and on social indicators and data in particular.

24. The Committee took note of the report and endorsed the recommendations contained therein. The Committee recommended that a regional consultative meeting or briefing for African countries be organized by OAU and ECA before the special session of the General Assembly on the Mid-Decade Review of the World Summit for Social Development scheduled for Geneva in June, 2000. That meeting would help to harmonize the African position on the 10 commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action before the special session.

New Directions for Regional Cooperation and Integration in Africa: Overview and plans for assessing regional integration (agenda item 4)

25. The Committee considered document E/ECA/MFC.2/3 entitled "Regional Integration in Africa: An Issues Paper."

26. The Committee noted that strengthening integration in Africa had become more urgent for various reasons in light of the formidable internal and external development challenges facing the continent as it entered the new millennium. First, Africa was the only continent where average income as a proportion of that of the rest of the world was projected to diminish and the only

region where poverty would remain pervasive. Second, Africa was being subjected to further pressure to liberalize its trade under the Uruguay Round Agreement which had been superimposed on already weak initial conditions. Third, Africa was caught in the maelstrom of major and seemingly irreversible process of market-driven globalization and liberalization. Fourth, Africa would also have to adjust to the far-reaching transformations whereby information and knowledge would become the most important factors of production in the globalized world, surpassing such conventional factors as capital, labour, land and other natural resources and in an environment where the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) had extended the global reach of international economic agents and led to the compression of time and space. Integration would therefore be needed both as an instrument of adjustment and development.

27. The Committee noted the nine issues that were identified in the paper for discussion. These included institutions for economic integration; the nexus of trade liberalization, related costs and benefits and production; infrastructural/physical integration; policy harmonization/convergence; factor mobility; WTO/globalization exigencies; implementation of regional commons; the financing of Africa's regional integration; and the harnessing of information/data to strengthen Africa's integration. The Committee noted that there was need to re-examine the appropriateness, functionality and dynamism of the integration institutions and the need to strengthen them, and extend the institutional mechanisms for integration by incorporating national structures, the private sector and the civil society. It also noted that emphasis on production, productivity and competitiveness would enhance intra-African trade and Africa's global reach. The Committee also noted that inefficiencies in infrastructure, particularly in transport and communication, were contributing to the high transaction costs that have to be significantly reduced if Africa is to successfully compete internally and externally. To this effect, particular attention should be given to removing the inefficiencies and bottlenecks and extending the financing opportunities by involving the private sector, both local and foreign. The Committee also underscored the importance of freer and guaranteed factor mobility across the

continent and the need for efforts to dispel the perception that Africa was a high-risk investment environment. To ensure a conducive development environment, the Committee also noted the need for policy harmonization and convergence within the national domains, as well as, subregionally. It also underscored that the overall development environment in Africa would be enhanced if the scope of integration concerns were extended to addressing the regional commons, such as the problems of the environment and conflicts. The Committee was also concerned that financial constraints had inhibited the operations of RECs and the implementation of subregional projects; and underscored the necessity to urge financial institutions to overcome their lending hesitation to finance such projects.

28. The Committee also endorsed with appreciation ECA's initiative to conduct a regular, authoritative and reliable assessment of integration in Africa.

29. Noting the importance of appropriate institutional arrangements for the management of regional integration, the Committee observed that inadequate attention seemed to have been given to the establishment of relevant institutions for promoting coherence in matters of regional integration at the national level. There were three options for countries to consider, namely: creating focal points for regional integration within an existing ministry; establishing a national policy committee; or creating a department or ministry fully dedicated to regional integration matters. It was noted that some countries, especially in West Africa, have now embraced that latter option. Even where a full ministry had been established for integration, it would still be necessary both to devise mechanisms for involving other stakeholders in the policy-making process relating to integration and to harness and coordinate the efforts of all government departments in the area of integration. It was suggested that a National Consultative Council be established to bring together, for periodic dialogue, government, private sector and civil society groups. The Consultative Council would also be useful for sharing information and data on matters of regional integration. On the other hand, an Inter-Ministerial Committee could be created to coordinate the efforts and activities of government departments/ministries handling

integration matters. These arrangements would contribute to improving coordination on matters of integration at the national level. It was, however, emphasized that countries' representation to the various regional and subregional bodies did not make it possible for good follow-up and coherence in the positions of member States, represented by civil servants in the meetings of the regional intergovernmental organizations.

30. The Committee stressed the need for member States to be more committed to the process of regional integration. Such commitment could be demonstrated by incorporating into national legislation the commitments entered into within RECs. In this regard, it was noted that a greater political will over and above supranationality was needed to accelerate the pace of integration. However, some participants cautioned that implementing and enforcing supranationality clauses would be difficult for RECs. For one thing, the application of the concept of supranationality would increase the fears of loss of sovereignty by member States and, moreover, it would be difficult for RECs to impose and enforce sanctions against member States on whom they depend for their assessed contributions to fund their operations.

31. The Committee underscored the need for multi-speed approach to regional integration as a means of accelerating the process of integration. In this regard, the delegate of Nigeria presented the experience of his country in the context of ECOWAS in pursuing the Fast Track approach. It was indicated that though ECOWAS has had a mixed record – with significant successes in many areas and a few setbacks in others, it was committed to accelerating the pace of integration, as demonstrated by the adoption of the two-track approach by the ECOWAS Summit in Lome in December 1999. Consequently, two ECOWAS member States, Ghana and Nigeria, had adopted the fast track approach in five programme areas, namely: the establishment of a second monetary zone consisting of the non-CFA countries; the establishment of a stabilization fund; the establishment of a free trade area; the launching of a regional infrastructure programme (which covers a rail link, a West African Shipping Line, a regional airline, West African Power Pool, West African Gas Pipeline and the second phase of the

ECOWAS Telecommunication Project); and a Programme of an increased private sector involvement in regional integration (which will include stock exchange, banking and insurance). It was indicated that the establishment of the common currency for the non-CFA monetary zone would be completed by 2003, the common currency for all of ECOWAS would be completed by 2004 and the establishment of a Trade Zone for Ghana and Nigeria should have taken effect from 30 April 2000. It was noted, however, that progress was slow in some areas. For example, some of the institutions which were meant to be established have yet to take off. These included the creation of the Parliament, the Court of Appeal and the Arbitration Panel.

32. Several participants commented on the question of the new orientation of regional integration in Africa. It was emphasized that the issues raised in the ECA paper did not amount to new directions – the directions for regional cooperation and integration in Africa were clear. Rather, they reflected a new approach. It was further observed that market-based integration with emphasis on trade liberalization was not the only approach for Africa. This was because that model assumed that the constraints to intra-African trade were mainly attributable to trade barriers. However, the lowering of trade barriers had not led to significant increase in intra-African trade. Some participants highlighted the fact that the low intra-African trade was due to high unrecorded trade. Others noted that the real cause of limited intra-African trade was weak production capacities. African countries should, therefore, place greater emphasis on increasing their domestic productive capacities as pre-requisite for increasing trade. It was noted that a composite of measures was needed to improve the productive capacities of African countries. These include pursuing sound macroeconomic policies; the development of physical infrastructure; improving labour productivity with emphasis on development of relevant skills for modern economy; better policy convergence and harmonization among member States; and the adoption of stabilization and equalization schemes within individual RECs -- to provide support especially to the least developed countries among the member States of each REC.

33. The Committee noted the importance of Africa learning from the experience of other regions in implementing its integration process. However, this should not lead to wholesale adoption of foreign approaches that might not be relevant to the African context. Rather, Africa should base its integration on its specific conditions and realities. It was emphasized that there were several developments and trends currently impacting on the process of African integration. These included the process of globalization, the treaty obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the commitments entered in other international agreements or plans, for example, the recent African-Europe Summit Plan of Action. This argues for the need to undertake studies on the implications of these issues for Africa's integration. However, such studies should not be seen as end in themselves, but rather as a means to better implementation of integration programmes in Africa. Indeed, particular emphasis was placed on the need to make a quick transition from studies to projects. It was observed, in this regard, that financing of RECs had three components, namely: payment of salaries; financing of studies; and funding of projects. The Committee underlined the need to put more money in implementation of projects and programmes of RECs.

34. The Committee examined the role of the Joint Secretariat in establishing AEC, the involvement of stakeholders in the process of preparing the ECA's Report on Regional Integration, and the relationship between RECs and AEC. As regards the role of the OAU/ECA/ADB Joint Secretariat in implementing the Treaty establishing AEC, it was stressed that members of the Joint Secretariat had a major responsibility in accelerating the pace of implementation of the Treaty. The Committee observed that part of the Sirte Declaration relating to AEC was borne out of the desire to impart new momentum to the process of integration in Africa. OAU was actively engaged in pursuing the implementation of the various aspects of the Sirte Declaration, a process that would potentially contribute to accelerating the establishment of the AEC. The Committee took note of the fact that ADB – a member of the Joint Secretariat – had decided to commit 10 per cent of the resources of the African Development Fund (ADF) to multinational projects that contributed to

regional integration, as well as, provided support to a range of integration projects including assisting in establishing the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM), the African Export-Import (AFREXIM) Bank and undertaking studies on SADC integration, among other things.

35. It was stressed that through its SRDCs, ECA was helping the various RECs in their institution-building efforts. ECA's assistance has also proved particularly useful in strengthening the development of the programmes of some RECs. For example, the programmes being implemented by some RECs have been inspired by the work done by ECA. In addition, ECA was encouraged to promote exchanges of experience and sharing of information among RECs. Indeed, it was observed that ECA could bring the RECs closer by organizing periodic forums for them to hold dialogue on a range of policy issues. In general, the need for closer collaboration between RECs and the SRDCs was emphasized.

36. On the question of involving various stakeholders in the preparation of the ECA's Report on Regional Integration in Africa, it was suggested that ECA should seek ways to consult and involve the governments, RECs, private sector and civil society organizations in the preparation of the report. Such involvement was necessary, given that these stakeholders would be the major end-users of the report.

37. In considering the relationship between AEC and RECs, the Committee questioned whether the functioning of the Protocol on the relationship between AEC and RECs have had the desired impact; whether the activities of RECs emanated from and where based on the Treaty of AEC; and to what extent the activities of the member States in the area of regional integration reflected the commitments they made in RECs. It was observed that for the process of integration to advance, there was need for the RECs to adhere to the provisions of the protocol governing their relations with AEC and for RECs as well as member States to implement activities that contributed to deepening the process of integration.

38. The Committee took note of the report in the light of the above observations.

Consideration of the Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa: 2002-2005 (agenda item 5)

39. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/MFC.2/2 entitled "Proposed Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005". The Medium-Term Plan sets out the overall orientation of ECA's work as well as the main objectives it intends to accomplish and the expected impact in each of the major subprogrammes during the four-year period. The Committee noted that the Plan will form part of the overall plan of the United Nations which will be presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. The Committee was informed that the Medium-Term Plan had been prepared in accordance with new guidelines and format given by the United Nations Headquarters. The Committee was thus invited to consider the Plan by providing comments and observations which would be forwarded along with the document to the United Nations central review bodies.

40. The Committee recognized the eight subprogramme areas around which the plan was organized. It was noted that these subprogrammes covered the critical issues and challenges in Africa's development. These included facilitating economic and social policy analysis; promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development; enhancing food security and sustainable development; strengthening development management; harnessing information for development; promoting regional cooperation and integration; promoting the advancement of women; and supporting subregional activities for development.

41. The Committee raised a number of issues which should have been more explicitly addressed in the Plan. These included strategies for resource mobilization for implementing the Plan; measures to improve Africa's position in the new global trading arrangements; women and children; peace and development in Africa; the role of civil society and the private sector in development; and the issue of strengthening collaboration between ECA and RECs.

42. It was observed that the Medium-Term Plan did not contain any indication of resources to

implement it. As such, it was more a set of guidelines than a plan. It was explained that only after the General Assembly had approved the Plan that a biennial programme budget which would include the resources and activities to be funded would be drawn up.

43. As regards measures to improve Africa's position in the new global trading arrangements, it was explained that ECA's activities in the past four years had focused on various aspects of globalization. For example, ECA collaborated with the OAU in providing technical backstopping to African delegates in the negotiations under WTO and in meeting other critical challenges of the global economy. Participants suggested that ECA should do more to sensitize member States to the implications of globalization, particularly in addressing such issues as trade promotion, and devaluation. The Committee, however, suggested that future activities of ECA should put emphasis on improving the global competitiveness of African economies and promoting interregional trade. Participants noted that ECA, as the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa, could play an important role in providing policy guidance and building consensus among member States around such important issues.

44. With regard to the issue of capacity building and women and children, it was explained that these had been addressed in various parts of the document. Concerning peace and development, the Committee was informed of a new ECA - led initiative on post - conflict peace-building and development for the countries of the Mano River Basin. It was expected that the lessons learnt from these initiatives would be applied in other regions emerging from conflict to promote peace and development. Indeed a similar initiative is envisaged for the Great Lakes region.

45. As regards collaboration between SRDCs and RECs, it was indicated that ECA provided a range of technical support through its regional advisory services and SRDCs, for institutional strengthening of the various RECs in Africa. For example, support was provided to ECOWAS in the restructuring of the ECOWAS Fund and its computerization programme. The secretariat assured the Committee that it would do more in future to strengthen collaboration between SRDCs

and RECs located in the various subregions of the continent.

46. Some participants questioned the rationale behind not co-locating some of the SRDCs with the major RECs. They urged ECA to consider the possibility of relocating its SRDCs and requested the secretariat to submit a report on the issue to the next session of the Commission in May 2001.

47. Other participants felt that the issue of strengthening the capacity of civil society and the private sector to participate in the development process should have been more explicitly treated in the work programme. The Committee suggested that ECA should do more to enhance the role of civil society organizations and the private sector in development.

48. The Committee advised ECA to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and partners in the implementation of the programme of work. In this regard, a number of agencies expressed their willingness to work closely with ECA, particularly in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources to fund certain aspects of the work programme. Some participants wondered whether ECA would be able to deliver on its promise of assistance to member States under the various subprogrammes, against the backdrop of limited resources.

49. The Committee noted with appreciation the comprehensiveness of the report and the clear and concise manner in which it was presented.

50. The Committee took note of the report in the light of the above observations and recommended draft resolution I.

Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)
(agenda item 6)

51. The Committee considered document E/ECA/MFC.2/5 entitled "The Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) - Note by the Secretariat".

52. The Committee noted that since the creation of UNTFAD, pledging conferences had been organized every two years, in conjunction

with the sessions of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning. The Committee also noted that a total amount of SUS 17,085,592 had been pledged to the Fund from the time of its establishment in 1977 to date. However, the Committee was informed that only 87 per cent of this sum had been paid, leaving current arrears of SUS 2,238,489 to be made available. This notwithstanding, the Committee recognized that the resources made to the Commission through the Trust Fund were critical to the effective implementation of ECA's work programme as the Fund had helped to generate substantial additional resources to launch major projects and programmes in key priority areas such as regional integration, infrastructure development, the advancement of women, capacity building, etc.

53. The Committee noted that the pledges of contribution to the Fund could be divided into two phases, namely: the period 1977-1995 when the pledging conference for UNTFAD was held in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers, and from 1996-1999 when the Conference was held in New York. It was pointed out that the use of the New York Conference had not fulfilled the expectations of the Commission as the number of pledging countries and the amount pledged considerably decreased during that period. The Committee, therefore, welcomed the proposal to hold biennially the next Pledging Conferences for

UNTFAD in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers, as it was the practice in the past. Taking note that the next Pledging Conference will be held in conjunction with the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning to be held in May 2001, the Committee invited member States to fully participate in the next Pledging Conference.

54. The Committee took note of the report and endorsed the secretariat's recommendation to transfer the Pledging Conference back to ECA. The Committee recommended draft resolution II for adoption.

Any other business (agenda item 7)

55. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 8)

56. The Committee considered the report as well as draft resolutions and adopted them.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 9)

57. The Chairman thanked the members of the Committee for their active participation and the secretariat for its hard work.

58. He then declared the meeting closed.

Annex II

**MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING
THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW
(9 MAY 1999 TO 5 MAY 2000)**

TITLE OF MEETING	DATE AND VENUE
Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning	Second meeting, 5 May 2000, Abuja, Nigeria
Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry	Fourteenth meeting, 22 - 23 October 1999, Dakar, Senegal
Meeting of the Bureau of the second Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Energy Resources in Africa	Second meeting, 7 February 2000, Capetown, South Africa
Meeting of the Committee on Development Information	First meeting, 28 June - 2 July 1999, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia First meeting,
Meeting of the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society	First meeting, 21 -23 June 1999, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology	Second meeting, 15 -18 November 1999, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Meeting of the Advisory Board on Population, Agriculture and Environment	First meeting, 20 - 21 September 1999, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Meeting of the Advisory Board on Science and Technology	Second meeting, June 1999, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Subregional Development Centre for Southern Africa	Sixth meeting, 11 - 12 April 2000, Windhoek, Namibia
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Subregional Development Centre for Central Africa	Second meeting 10 - 12 April 2000, Ndjamena, Republic of Chad

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title
E/ECA/TPME/MF2.2/INF.2	Provisional Programme of work
E/ECA/MFC.2/Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
E/ECA/MFC.2/2	Proposed Medium-Term Plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005
E/ECA/MFC.2/3	Regional Integration in Africa: An Issues paper
E/ECA/MFC.2/4	Mid-term Review of the World Summit for Social Development: The African experience
E/ECA/MFC.2/5	The Pledging Conference of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development - Note by the Secretariat
E/ECA/MFC.2/CRP.1	Technical Cooperation Projects Funded under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)