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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-sixth session of the Commission/
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of Ministers

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9-13 May 1991

**RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSION OF 1990 AND BY
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-
FIFTH SESSION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
SECTORS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO AFRICA**

1. The objective of this document is to report to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) and through it, to the Conference of Ministers on: (a) the action taken by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its second regular session held at Geneva in July 1990 on the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its sixteenth meeting and addressed to the Council; (b) the decision adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the recommendations of ECOSOC concerning these resolutions; and (c) other resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa.
2. At its sixteenth meeting, which was also the twenty-fifth session of the Commission which took place in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 15 to 19 May 1990, the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning adopted 27 resolutions, five of which were addressed to the General Assembly through ECOSOC. These were the Future of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), resolution 680 (XXV); Improving technical facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa, resolution 682 (XXV); Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) whenever appropriate, resolution 693 (XXV); the Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, (UN-PAAERD) resolution 698 (XXV) and Transforming and strengthening the Multinational Programming; and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa, resolution 702 (XXV).
3. The second regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 27 July 1990.
4. In the afternoon of 11 July 1990, the first Economic Committee started consideration of item 6 of the agenda entitled "Regional co-operation". This report was introduced by Mr. Kibria, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Co-ordinator of Regional Commissions' Executive Secretaries. During his presentation, he highlighted the resolutions adopted by the various regional commissions especially those from ECA. In fact, ECA was the one which had many resolutions with financial implications addressed to ECOSOC.
5. During the first day of the informal consultations, all the resolutions presented by the other regional commissions were adopted without any problem as they had no financial implications on the regular budget of the United Nations. As for ECA resolutions, things were not easy. Consultations started with resolution 680 (XXV) on the Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP). Many questions were posed on its financial implications, and clarifications were sought and given. Finally the resolution was adopted by consensus on the understanding that it would go to the First Committee of ECOSOC to be adopted and then transmitted to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

6. Next came resolution 693 (XXV) on Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation and in particular the phased application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) whenever appropriate. This seemingly easy resolution turned out to be a difficult one. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) came out with amendments to make the resolution more general. After some discussions a small ad hoc committee was established and was requested to work on the amendments proposed and propose a final text which could be acceptable to all. The ad hoc committee after discussion amended the resolution which was then adopted (see final text of resolution in the annex).

7. Resolution 698 (XXV) on Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, (UN-PAAERD) and resolution 702 (XXV) on Transforming and strengthening the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa were adopted after some discussions on their financial implications and like resolution 680 (XXV) on IDEP, the ECOSOC secretariat was requested to transmit them to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

8. Resolution 682 (XXV) on Improving technical facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa was adopted without any problem.

9. It may be recalled that among the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers there was one on Co-operation in Fisheries in Africa, resolution 694 (XXV). This resolution had not initially been submitted to ECOSOC for action. In Geneva, the representative of Morocco wanted it to be adopted by ECOSOC. He had it sponsored by Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania. The resolution was adopted after some discussions and clarification.

10. The following are some of the other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by ECOSOC at its regular session of 1990:

(a) Resolution 1990/52, Role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit periodically to it brief information on emerging trends and problems in the world's economy as a part of his note on the state of the world economy, and to continue to analyse emerging economic and social issues and problems of global significance in periodic reports, including the world economic surveys, and the regional surveys, and on the overall socio-economic perspective to the year 2000;

(b) Resolution 1990/54, Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries in which the Council recommended to the governing bodies of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system that they include in their agenda the question of the implementation of the Declaration and invited them to report to the Council, at its second

regular session of 1991, on steps taken by them and by governments within their respective spheres of competence with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration;

(c) In resolution 1990/61 on fight against the screwfly worm infestation, the Council urged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen its co-ordination mechanism and its technical and field operation support to countries for such campaign aimed at eliminating the screw-worm from North Africa, the Mediterranean parts of Europe and the Near East, through use of the sterile insect technique, which is the only technique available and proved for the purpose;

(d) In resolution 1990/62 on International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation particularly in Africa, the Council called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to assist the countries concerned in strengthening their preventive control capabilities for desert locust control by ensuring that technically appropriate programmes are developed that are complementary to and integrated with those of regional bodies and requested it, over the short and medium term, to reinforce existing structures and current technologies including early warning systems such as the African Real Time Environmental Monitoring using Imaging Satellites (ARTEMIS), which contribute to preventive control;

(e) In resolution 1990/78 on Refugees, displaced persons and returnees, the Council requested the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries; and

(f) In resolution 1990/86, Prevention and control of Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the Council requested the Secretary-General, in view of the adverse impact of HIV infection and AIDS on the health and economic and social well-being of women, children and families, to intensify its efforts in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund, to mobilize technical and other relevant resources to deal with these aspects of the problem.

11. The Economic and Social Council also took decision 1990/261 on the Inclusion of Liberia in the list of the least developed countries (LDCs) by which it recommended that the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session approve the inclusion of Liberia in the list of LDCs.

12. As is the practice, all resolutions adopted by ECOSOC should also go to the General Assembly for final adoption. Consequently, the aforementioned ECA resolutions, together with the other resolutions of interest to Africa which were adopted by ECOSOC, were transmitted to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

13. Among the resolutions adopted by the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly were the ECA resolutions referred to above together with those of interest to Africa also referred to above. In adopting ECOSOC resolution 1990/75 on the Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, the General Assembly agreed to provide funds for the required special multisectoral missions to be sent to member States to collect up-to-date information on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The cost of these missions amount to \$US 240,000. As for the resolution on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) (ECOSOC's resolution 1990/72), the General Assembly granted IDEP, as an interim measure, a subvention under section 13 of the regular budget for the biennium 1990-1991 in the amount of \$US 392,200 to finance the four posts of the Institute. As for ECOSOC resolution 1990/76 on Transforming and strengthening the ECA Multinational Programming and Organizational Centres, following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the 18 posts required by ECA for the biennium 1992-1993 of which the Fifth Committee took note without discussion and without a vote, the Secretary-General was requested to present a report to the next session of the General Assembly (forty-sixth session) to indicate: (a) a specific programme of work in relation to that of ECA; (b) a breakdown of various sources of funding of all posts, each post being specified; (c) a clear indication of the status of the MULPOCs in relation to their reporting and mechanisms.

14. The General Assembly adopted resolution 45/213 on International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, in which it agreed that the eradication of poverty in the developing countries is an objective of the highest priority and consequently urged the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to formulate and implement forthwith within their programmes and activities at all levels necessary measures and actions to eradicate this distressing problem.

15. The General Assembly also adopted resolution 45/184 on Co-operation in fisheries in Africa, which is different from ECA resolution 694 (XXV). In this resolution, the Secretary-General has been given an important role and was requested to submit, in close consultation with FAO to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1992, a report on co-operation in fisheries in Africa, including recommendations for its enhancement; he was also requested to include in his report ways and means of developing the potential capabilities of developing countries in fisheries, including economic and technical co-operation, particularly among developing countries.

16. The General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 45/214 on International debt crisis and development: enhanced international co-operation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries, in which the General Assembly welcomed the willingness of several creditor countries to reduce and/or write off the stock and debt servicing of many developing countries and stressed the urgent need for the broadest and most expeditious implementation of the recent initiatives and for building upon them. It also stressed the need to continue to strive to achieve, through dialogue and shared responsibility, during the initial years of the present decade, a durable, equitable and mutually agreed growth and development-oriented

solution to the debt problems of developing countries, taking into account their particular circumstances, including those of the countries whose debt is mainly to official creditors or to multilateral institutions.

17. In resolution 45/191 on Developing human resources for development, the General Assembly recognized that the achievement of a higher standard of living and the well-being of individuals and peoples in general, through self-reliance and sustained development, constitutes one of the basic goals of human resources development in developing countries and emphasized that human resources development in a context of political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, is essential to economic growth and development.

18. In resolution 45/192 on Net transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries, and their impact on the economic growth and sustained development of those countries, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in the World Economic Survey, 1991 an update of the section concerning causes of and factors related to the net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries and its impact on the economic growth and sustained development of developing countries, and to submit to it, at its forty-seventh session, a comprehensive and analytical report with a view to halting and reversing this phenomenon.

19. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/195 on the Report of the South Commission, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council, to convene, with existing resources, not excluding voluntary contributions, during the second regular session of 1991 of the Council, a meeting devoted to an informal exchange of views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the south commission, in particular, in its overview and summary.

20. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/200 on Commodities urged all the parties involved to meet their agreed commitments and to work for a balanced outcome to the multilateral trade negotiations within the Uruguay Round so as to ensure that their successful conclusions bring about further expansion and liberalization of trade commodities, taking into account a special and differential treatment for developing countries, as well as all other principles contained in the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round.

21. In its resolution 45/202 on Specific measures in favour of island developing countries, the General Assembly urged the island developing countries to promote regional co-operation arrangements in such areas as disaster prevention, inter-island transport feeder services and security and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to carry out activities in identifying specific problems and in recommending specific measures for island developing countries, taking into account the work already done on this issue within the inter-agency framework called for in paragraph 10 of resolution 43/189, in particular in areas such as the applicability of current socio-economic indicators to island developing countries, transport and the impact of national disaster.

22. In its resolution 45/234 on the Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-six session a report on the steps taken by the governments of developed and developing countries, individually and collectively, as well as by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to fulfil those commitments and policies, taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/54.

23. In its resolution 45/206 on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the General Assembly endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the second United Nations Conference on the LDCs and called upon all governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action.

24. The General Assembly also at its forty-fifth session adopted several resolutions on specific problems facing several African countries. These resolutions include among others International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola; Special economic assistance to Chad, assistance to Mozambique, Somalia, Benin and assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti; and special assistance to the front-line States.

Annex

ECA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1990

1990/72. Future of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 669 (XXIV) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the future funding of the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Recalling the Special Memorandum of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Considering the outstanding record of the Institute in the training of African planners and development specialists,

Considering also the continuing and growing need of African Governments for the services of the Institute in the fields of training, research and advisory services,

Considering further the possibility that the United Nations Development Programme may withdraw its financing of the Institute at the end of 1990 and that the Institute is the only regional institute able to provide training and research services to all States members of the Commission in the area of economic development and planning,

Noting with great distress that the persistent and substantial shortfall in the contributions of member States to the Institute will inevitably force its closure in 1990 if no remedial action is taken,

1. Urgently appeals to States members of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning:

(a) To pay immediately to the Institute their contributions for 1990 and their arrears for 1989;

(b) To pay back to the Institute all their remaining arrears according to a schedule to be arranged with the management of the Institute;

(c) To pay their regular annual contribution to the Institute in a timely manner under arrangements to be determined with the management of the Institute;

2. Calls upon the General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to approve the inclusion of four key posts for the Institute in the United Nations regular budget, namely the Director, the Chief of Administration and Finance and two senior lecturers, in line with the recommendation contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985, to enable the Institute to carry out its approved work programme and functions on a continued and sustained basis as stipulated in its Statute;

3. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to help the Institute to survive its present financial crisis and, in particular:

- (a) To set up quickly the evaluation mission announced in October 1989;
- (b) To give its full backing to the short-term training programme and the research and advisory activities of the Institute;
- (c) To continue its support for the activities of the Institute in 1990 and beyond;

4. Commends the Governing Council of the Institute on the decisions taken to rationalize the use of resources and urges the management of the Institute to persevere in that endeavour.

37th plenary meeting,
27 July 1990.

1990/73. Improving the technical facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the need for providing adequate equipment and training in the region in current information technology,

Concerned about the paucity of up-to-date office automation and computing equipment at the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Also concerned about the constraints that such a situation imposes on the Commission to properly assist African member States in enhancing their planning and monitoring capacities,

Urges the Secretary-General to provide the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa with the office automation and computing equipment necessary to enable it to function efficiently and to provide better service to member States.

37th plenary meeting,
27 July 1990.

1990/74. Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT), whenever appropriate

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/118 of 28 July 1989 on interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade, in which it invited the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare jointly a project proposal in this field,

Recognizing that African countries need to co-operate effectively with the rest of the world and to participate in international trade facilitation, including the use of electronic data interchange for the transmission of trade documentation,

Conscious of the urgent need in Africa to build up, strengthen and upgrade capacities to identify problems and requirements for the facilitation of international and intra-African trade, including the analysis of practices, procedures, laws, regulations, policies and documentation governing international trade, and that such capacity-building would benefit government ministries and departments concerned with planning, trade, transport, customs administration, statistics and data processing,

Recognizing further the desirability of interregional co-operation among the regional commissions jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in promoting the global application of agreed measures for the facilitation of international trade,

1. Decides to fully support the implementation by participating African States of the project proposal on interregional co-operation for the facilitation of international trade, prepared jointly by the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
2. Recommends the proposal for funding by donors;
3. Invites all States Members of the United Nations to support the project proposal;
4. Requests the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional development banks and bilateral donors to provide adequate financing to ensure the full realization of the project;
5. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on regional co-operation, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the further consideration of Council resolution 1989/118 by the regional commissions for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia.

37th plenary meeting,
27 July 1990.

1990/75. Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/27 of 18 November 1988, in which the Assembly decided that the final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 should be conducted at its forty-sixth session,

Noting with appreciation the reports of the Economic Commission for Africa on the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action and on the preparations for the final review and evaluation of the Programme of Action,

Also noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations Steering Committee and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Convinced that the final review and evaluation of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the General Assembly should be an occasion for an in-depth appraisal of the actions taken by all sides in the implementation of the Programme, as well as of the measures that are needed to sustain accelerated growth and development in Africa beyond 1991,

Convinced also of the need for States members of the Economic Commission for Africa to conduct a thorough assessment of the implementation of the Programme and that such an assessment should be as up to date as possible,

Concerned about the continuing deterioration in the economic and social conditions in Africa and the possibility of the continuation of such trends in the 1990s,

1. Recommends that mechanisms for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 be similar to those of the mid-term review of the Programme of Action and that for that purpose an ad hoc committee of the whole of the General Assembly be

established to appraise the Programme of Action and propose measures for sustained development in Africa beyond 1991;

2. Decides that a special memorandum addressed to the proposed ad hoc committee of the whole of the General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 should be prepared by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its seventeenth meeting in May 1991, and that the draft of the special memorandum should be considered at an intergovernmental expert group meeting to be convened immediately before the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and the Conference of Ministers;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Commission to send special multisectoral missions to all States members of the Commission early in the fourth quarter of 1990 to collect up-to-date information on the implementation of the Programme of Action, on the basis of which the special memorandum would be prepared;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the secretariat of the Commission the financial resources required for such special missions on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. Urges member States and their development and planning machineries to participate actively in the preparation of the special memorandum.

37th plenary meeting,

27 July 1990.

1990/76. Transforming and strengthening the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Recognizing that, over the years, the Centres have played a vital role in fostering subregional economic co-operation and integration and that the objectives for which they were established are more valid today than they were thirteen years ago,

Considering the imperative need for women to participate positively and effectively in the implementation of programmes aimed at their integration in the process of development in each subregion,

Concerned about the poor performance and achievements of the Centres during the past few years, mostly as a result of insufficient financial and human resources and their inadequacy to meet the new tasks that they are to perform towards economic recovery and transformation,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 43/216 of 21 December 1988, in which the Assembly, having considered the financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1987 and the report of the Board of Auditors, endorsed the recommendation of the Board and the concurring observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the achievements of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres be thoroughly evaluated with a view to deciding whether that experiment should be continued or whether the mandate, number and structure of the Centres should be completely reorganized,

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a review team whose mandate would be, inter alia, to examine the structure and organization of the Centres with a view to determining their suitability for the execution of their tasks, taking into account General Assembly resolution 43/216,

Noting that the current distribution and location of the Centres are in keeping with the spirit of the Final Act of Lagos in terms of the need to promote co-operation and integration within the framework of the subregional economic groupings,

1. Takes note of the report of the Review Team on the Structure, Organization and Operations of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, in which it is concluded that the structure, organization and operations of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres should be maintained, transformed and strengthened;
2. Warmly congratulates the Review Team on the thorough and objective manner in which it carried out its work and for its findings and recommendations;
3. Strongly supports the conclusions of the Review Team that the Centres' institutions should be transformed and strengthened to provide member States with the required technical assistance and advisory services for the execution of their joint projects within the framework of the intergovernmental organizations;
4. Adopts the new mandate of the Centres as proposed by the Review Team;
5. Strongly urges the General Assembly to provide the Centres with additional human and financial resources to enable them to respond more effectively to multinational and

multisectoral programming requirements based on priorities identified by member States, and to provide immediately a minimum core of such resources;

6. Decides that, given the financial constraints and the need for better co-ordination between the Centres and intergovernmental organizations, the Centres should report directly to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa through the committees of intergovernmental experts that will be responsible for supervising the activities of the Centres at the subregional level;

7. Urges the General Assembly and donor and technical assistance organizations to provide the Centres with sufficient resources for the formulation and implementation of programmes for the effective participation of women in the development process of their respective subregions;

8. Recommends that the current number and composition of the Centres should be maintained since they fit in with the structure of existing subregional economic groupings; their distribution could, however, be reviewed in future to make for the rational use of available resources and to reflect developments in the subregional economic groupings;

9. Takes into consideration the memorandum on the strengthening and transformation of the Centres, submitted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and annexed to the present resolution;

10. Appeals to member States to continue their support and assistance to the Centres through the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and by any other appropriate means;

11. Urges technical assistance and funding agencies to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Team regarding the need to provide the Centres with sufficient financial and human resources for the effective execution of their mandate.

37th plenary meeting,
27 July 1990.

1990/77. Co-operation in fisheries in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the abundant fishery and aquacultural resources of the African continent, particularly with the extension of national jurisdictions in the exclusive economic zones,

Considering the need for African countries to develop inter-State co-operation in order to promote the development of the fishery sector,

Convinced of the determination of African countries to overcome the difficulties they encounter in the development and acquisition of new technologies for the exploitation of fishery resources,

Recognizing the significant contribution that fishing can make to food self-sufficiency, the improvement of nutrition and the diversification of exports,

Considering the dynamism of the Indian Ocean Commission and the shared concerns of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Africa and States members of the Indian Ocean Commission regarding multinational co-operation for the development of fishery resources,

Considering that the process set in motion by the ministerial conference on co-operation in fisheries among the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, held at Rabat from 30 March to 1 April 1989, encourages the countries of the South to join together in order to promote the fishery sector,

1. Calls upon African States to develop joint research programmes, in particular for the evaluation and monitoring of shared stocks;
2. Further calls upon African States to promote better integration of the fishery and aquaculture sector in their national economies in order to increase its contribution to development;
3. Urges African States to establish an intra-African information network on fishing vessels operating illegally, and, taking due account of existing international law, to propose measures to be instituted within the context of a regional legal framework to exclude such vessels;
4. Requests the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, in association with the Economic Commission for Africa, to assist African countries to establish such a network;
5. Requests the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organizations, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Economic Commission for Africa, to take fully into account the recommendations of the ministerial conference on co-operation in fisheries among the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, held at Rabat in 1989;

6. Calls upon African States to strengthen their co-operation in the implementation of projects for the management, exploitation and marketing of fishery and aquacultural products at the national, subregional and regional levels;

7. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in the interest of greater coherence and efficiency, to do its utmost to ensure the unification of policies in activities concerning inland and ocean fishery resources and the non-living resources of the sea and legal questions relating thereto;

8. Requests member States:

(a) To make full use of advanced marine training centres in Africa and to strengthen their role;

(b) To promote the exchange of information, to make use of those centres with a view to the development and utilization of a standardized statistical system covering all aspects of fisheries at the subregional level;

(c) To promote the joint negotiation of fishery agreements concerning the high-sea fleets of non-African countries;

(d) To accord greater importance to the development of small-scale fishing whenever possible, because it can be better integrated into the African economy and has a greater capacity for adaptation to the socio-economic requirements of Africa;

(e) To improve the living conditions of African fishermen, particularly in the areas of education and health, which at present hinder development;

(f) To give priority to multinational co-operation in fish marketing and preservation, in order to:

(i) Facilitate the access of African products to markets of the North, inter alia, through product promotion and the provision of market information and export infrastructure;

(ii) Attain self-sufficiency in certain fishery resources through the development of intra-African trade, particularly the harmonization of taxation on fishery products;

9. Further requests member States to promote the development of aquaculture in Africa and, to the extent feasible, pool their national human and financial resources within subregional bodies for applied research;

10. Exhorts member States to explore the possibility of bringing national entrepreneurs and foreign enterprises together for the establishment of joint ventures on the basis of mutual advantageous co-operation.

37th plenary meeting,
27 July 1990.