

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



53732

Distr.
GENERAL



E/CN.14/INF/39

14 January, 1969

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Ninth session

Addis-Ababa, 3-14 February 1969

Item 7 f(ii) of the provisional agenda

INFORMATION NOTE

ON THE FOURTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF
THE REGIONAL GROUP FOR AFRICA OF
THE UN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT

ADDIS-ABABA, 9-11 July 1968

The Fourth Consultative Meeting of the Regional Group for Africa of the UN Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development was held at ECA Headquarters in Addis-Ababa from 9 - 11 July 1968 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Minister Mamadou AW from Mali. Representatives and observers from ECA, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, WHO and OAU participated in the meeting. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Rajaobelina drew attention to the central purpose of the Consultative meeting as a forum for joint consideration of the problems of the African Region amenable to solution by the application of science and technology. He underlined that the value of the Consultative meetings would be fully realized if it also served the purpose of facilitating cooperation among the specialized agencies and the coordination of their activities in the African countries.

The meeting opened with a number of statements by representatives of various organizations in which they outlined the objectives and the activities of their respective organizations in the field of science and technology. Discussion then moved on to the substantive items on the agenda. The most important subjects in these discussions are reported on in this information note.

Institutions within the African Region
for the application of science and tech-
nology to development

This subject was introduced by the Director for Science and Technology, UN Headquarters and it evoked considerable discussion. The ECA stressed the importance of planned action and the necessity to prepare a list showing the number and types of institutions required. However, before a schedule of institutions required could be prepared, it is necessary to have a picture of what institutions exist already. This was the purpose of the survey of institutions which had been requested by the previous Consultative Meeting but which had not yet been realized.

The subject of a survey in the African Region of institutions for the application of science and technology to development was then discussed at some length. On the basis of the experience gained in attempting to carry out the survey in its original form as suggested at the Third Consultative meeting, it was found necessary to revise the original conception of the survey and to widen its scope so as to include institutions other than just those intended for research. The ECA suggested that the survey be divided into a number of sectors and the appropriate agencies be requested to participate in it as follows :

- (i) Institutions for the application of science and technology in the agricultural sector (including agricultural research establishments, experimental farms, agricultural training and extension institutions); F.A.O.
- (ii) Institutions for the education and training of high level manpower and for non-oriented research. U.N.E.S.C.O.;
- (iii) Government institutions for policy-making and planning in science and technology; E.C.A.
- (iv) Government establishments for the provision of specialized scientific and technological services; E.C.A.
- (v) Institutions for natural resources surveys and research; U.N.E.S.C.O.;
- (vi) Institutions for industrial research and development; U.N.I.D.O.

A time table for the survey should be established in agreement with the specialized agencies. It was also agreed that the subject should be brought to the attention of the OAU summit meeting of last September to ensure that the member states, sub-regional groupings and similar organizations in Africa give their fullest cooperation to the carrying out of this extended survey.

World Plan of Action ^{1/}

Another major subject discussed was the World Plan of Action (W.P.A.). The discussions dealt primarily with the arrangements approved for the preparation of the Plan by the Ninth Session of the UNACAST ^{2/}, held in New York in April, 1968. In addition to the Plan frame document which indicated the form of and the subjects to be dealt with in the W.P.A., the Advisory Committee had also adopted decisions on the division of the preparatory work between the UNACAST secretariat, the Regional Economic Commissions and the Specialized Agencies.

The E.C.A. explained briefly the arrangements put in hand up to the time of the meeting for preparing its own portion of the Plan. These arrangements involved the dispatch of circular letters to all member states together with a paper setting out the purpose of the World Plan of Action and the kind of information required from them. The E.C.A. would, in the first instance, prepare a statement of needs and priorities in the African Region in the field of science and technology. This would form a basic document for the preparation of the African regional portion of the W.P.A.

It is expected that the preparation of the draft regional plans for the W.P.A. would be completed during the first half of 1969, and in 1970, the World Plan of Action will be finalized as the science and technology component of the Second Development Decade.

^{1/} Full title "World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development". This Plan is now being prepared in implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 11.55(XLI) and General Assembly Resolution 2318(XXII).

^{2/} UNACAST - "United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development". Refer to ECOSOC Resolution 980A(XXXVI).

LIST OF PARTICIPANTSMEMBERS OF REGIONAL GROUP

H.E. Minister Mamadou AW

UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

U.N. Headquarters : Mr. G. B. GRESFORD, Director for Science and Technology, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

U.N.E.C.A.

Mr. P. RAJAABELINE, Deputy Executive Secretary
Dr. A. BANJO, Head, Science and Technology Section.

U.N.D.P.

Mr. J. KOZHEVNIKOV, Deputy Resident Representative

U.N.I.C.E.F.

Mr. A. DEMERE

United Nations agencies :I.L.O.

Mr. K. A. GHARTEY

F.A.O.

Dr. A. Z. SHEIRA

W.H.O.

Dr. A. ADENIYI-JONES

U.N.E.S.C.O.

Absent

W.M.O.

Absent

OBSERVERSU.N.E.C.A.

Mr. P.A.L. CHUKWUMAN

Mr. G. DEKKER

Dr. M. B. CORNUNG

Mr. A. MAKONNEN

Mr. A. L. MULLIER

Mr. J. QUIRINO-LANHOUNMEY

Dr. N. M. SHUKRI

Dr. A. SUNDRALINGHAM

Dr. T. L. TCHANG