

Distr. : GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.3/3  
27 November 1991

Original : ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

DRAFT REPORT OF  
THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF MINISTERS

(WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, 25 TO 27 NOVEMBER 1991)

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. The third extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held at Windhoek, Namibia, from 25 to 27 November 1991. It was formally opened by His Excellency, Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by H.E. Mr. Windsor K. Nkowane, High Commissioner for Zambia and the representative of the current chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers, Mr. Antoine Blanca, United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Mr. William H. Draper III, UNDP Administrator, Mr. Issa Diallo, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Ambassador B.N. Dede, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, and Mr. Milan C. Kerno, Vice-President of the African Development Bank.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tome and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: Finland, France, Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden.

4. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre/GATT (ITC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Saharian Office (UNSO), and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO).

5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

6. Observers were present from the following Intergovernmental Organizations: African Development Bank (ADB), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), African Regional Industry Property Organization (ARIPO), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Commonwealth Secretariat, Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Institut de formation et de recherche démographique (IFORD), International Civil Aviation Organization for Eastern and Southern Africa (ICAO), Kagera Basin Organization (KBO), African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Industry Country for Development, Lake Chad Basin Commission.

7. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: African Management Services Company, League of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

8. The Conference unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman	:	Dr. Zedekia N'Gavirue (Namibia)
First Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Rober Tagnon (Benin)
Second Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Tchouta-Moussa (Cameroun)
First Rapporteur	:	Dr. El-Sayed Doharia (Egypt)
Second Rapporteur	:	Mrs. Djiga Haby (Burkina Faso)

## **B. Agenda**

9. The Conference unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work
3. UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme
4. Any Other Business

5. Adoption of the Report
6. Closure of the Meeting.

### **C. Account of proceedings**

#### **Opening addresses**

10. His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia thanked the Chairman for Namibia for his kind words of introduction. On behalf of the Government and People of Namibia the President welcomed all delegates. The opening of the Conference gave his people an opportunity to express their gratitude for the support provided by the United Nations and African States during his country's struggle for freedom, national independence, and democracy. He said Namibia now looked forward to United Nations support in the final integration of the port harbour and enclave of Walvis Bay, the off-shore islands, and their inhabitants, with the rest of Namibia.

11. The Government of Namibia, he said, was preoccupied with meeting the most urgent social needs of its people, in areas such as education, health services, agriculture and food supply, and housing. To achieve those objectives, the Government had recognized the importance of people - centered planning and development. The Namibian Government had undertaken a series of participatory consultative planning exercises. Special attention had been paid to the formulation of national programmes of action which focussed on the plight of women and children. That was in line with the need to recognize the potential of women and children in the development of the African continent. The President also stressed the need to utilize the full economic potential of the private sector. For that purpose, the public sector must plan and develop services that would enhance private sector activities.

12. He was encouraged to note the significance that the Fifth Inter-Country Programme had placed on national long-term strategic planning, since that was to strengthen the management planning tools and policy-analysis systems of African countries. He made reference to the Cluster meetings cited in the Programme document, from which lessons could be drawn on how to rationalize economic integration and cooperation within the African region.

13. He said that the achievement of unity was of utmost importance if the African Economic Community was to make a difference on the world scene. That unity could only come about through a strong sense of political commitment. The case for such political commitment was strongest for Southern Africa, which had long experience of discriminatory policies.

14. The President noted that Namibia had been accorded the responsibility to coordinate maritime fisheries sector in Southern Africa. The environment and resources contained in that sectors required the attention of the United Nations institutions concerned, including the ECA, as well as the OAU and African Planning Ministries. Conservation policies had to be developed to safeguard Africa's maritime resources.

15. In conclusion, he observed that the agenda before this session involved important economic reform measures that African Governments must take, and outlined the complementary actions to be taken by their international partners. Such reform measures would create a new more constructive environment for socio-economic development.

16. He then declared the meeting open.

17. In his introductory remarks, the Ambassador of Zambia to Namibia, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers, expressed sincere thanks to the President of the Republic of Namibia for opening the session. He also extended thanks to the Government and People of Namibia for hosting the meeting, and for the warm welcome accorded to all.

18. He noted that the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme had given priority to regional economic cooperation, long term strategic development and the fostering of an enabling environment for human development. That programme was based on an orientation paper endorsed earlier by the 26th Session of the Commission and 17th meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning.

19. He said that the purpose of the Extraordinary Session was to consider the endorsement of the proposed UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa. That consideration would be made after a critical examination of the following key issues: (a) the level of resources earmarked for the programme, (b) the need to ensure an efficient distribution of scarce resources so that there would

be a significant impact on Africa's development, (c) the manner in which the programme could promote and encourage accelerated economic cooperation and integration among African countries, (d) the desirability of seeing that the transfer of responsibility for development to individual recipient countries would take into account the importance of the regional dimension to Africa's development. That he stressed was of particular relevance in the present build-up of regional "economic blocs". He considered that ECA should play a leading role in the harmonization and coordination of multinational and multisectoral programmes, and that Member States should be encouraged and supported in building linkages between their country programme, and subregional and regional programmes.

20. In concluding, he stressed the need for close collaboration among Africa's development partners, and effective economic cooperation among Member States, so that Africa's economic development aspirations could be realized. In that respect, a favourable political environment was highly desirable, and actions to promote such an environment should be encouraged. He urged the international community to support Africa's development efforts.

21. The United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation expressed thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, and to the Government and people of Namibia for the welcome accorded to him. He congratulated the UNDP Administrator and the Acting Executive Secretary of ECA for the initiative they had taken in jointly organizing the ECA Extraordinary Session, and the subsequent meetings between the African Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning, UNDP Resident Representatives and Agency representatives.

22. He said that the present reduction of international tension would open an international climate of peace favourable to greater democracy and stronger economic growth. However, that reduction could also lead to a diminution in the special measures which presently benefitted the developing countries. He referred particularly to the volume of official development assistance which had on occasion been granted during the cold war by the two blocs for the purpose of winning the allegiance of such countries. Nevertheless, the end of the cold war could open up new possibilities for the strengthening of economic cooperation.

23. In that connection, he mentioned the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation for Development, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, which, when adopted by the General Assembly, had established guidelines for international economic cooperation, and for national and international policies intended to accelerate the growth of the developing countries in the 1990s. However, there was still a need for the international community as a whole to commit itself resolutely to the struggle against the underlying causes of poverty.

24. Development strategies for Africa needed to be conceived in a long-term perspective. However, results needed to be achieved in the short-term if many African economies were to survive. They needed to be based on sound macro-economic policies which took into account the human resources dimension, and centred on the basic needs of the people as they had been stated in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development.

25. He expressed disquiet at seeing that, globally and in real terms, the growth rate of resources available for development activities remained well below what it should be. He called upon the international community to take urgent and large-scale concerted action to halt and reverse the negative trend.

26. The alarming situation of the African economy still remained the greatest priority for the 1990s. He informed the Conference that a "New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s" had been submitted to the present session of the General Assembly. If adopted, the agenda would be an expression of the determination of the international community to fight side-by-side with Africa in the battle against underdevelopment, and to take up the major challenges confronting the continent. But Africa's first battle had to be fought by Africans themselves. It must respond to the aspirations of the people, encourage democratization and foster good management of the national economy. Those factors were vital for economic growth, and political and social progress. The marginalization of Africa had to be avoided at all costs. Africans should participate more than ever, and in much more dynamic fashion, in world affairs, so as to defend their interests in negotiations on the continent's key development problems, of debt, and international trade and commodity prices. He stressed the need for African countries to formulate a common position in the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

*New  
agenda*

27. He noted that the three priority areas of concentration of the UNDP regional programme corresponded closely to the objectives set for the African Economic Community. He assured the Conference that, for its part, the United Nations system was ready to work with the African countries in its efforts to reestablish equity and social justice, stability and peace, based upon a more dynamic and healthier African economy.

28. In his statement, the Administrator of UNDP said that the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme, had been privileged to play a role in Namibia's long struggle for political freedom. He thanked the Government of Namibia for hosting the ECA session and subsequent UNDP meetings at a time when critical changes were taking place in the world, in Africa, and in Southern Africa in particular. He stressed UNDP's commitment to helping Namibia achieve the humanistic and economic goals of the Government.

29. He recalled UNDP's close involvement in the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity which ratified the establishment of the African Economic Community. He expressed the hope that South Africa, if accepted as a member of the OAU, could play a dynamic role in strengthening the Community. A speedy and just resolution of the conflicts which have claimed lives and sapped that country's development capacity would speed the movement toward multiracial democracy in South Africa.

30. The challenge of economic transformation and sustainable development which Africa faced was enormous. UNDP would do all it could to help countries alleviate the human distress that often accompanied structural adjustment programmes, and to develop the long-term strategies needed for sustainable growth. UNDP was supporting African Governments in the development of national long-term perspective studies, and was funding an African foundation to strengthen the capacities of countries to formulate policies and manage their economies. The Social Dimension of Adjustment Programme of UNDP also helped those hurt by structural adjustment reforms.

31. He recalled the Cluster Meetings of Planning Ministers in July 1991, which discussed the key impact of the HIV/AIDS infection and maternal mortality. AIDS had become not only a health problem, but also the most serious threat to development in Africa.



32. He said that Africa was UNDP's number one priority. In 1990 the UNDP Governing Council had agreed that 55% of UNDP's core resources would go to the least-developed countries. This had resulted in Africa receiving a larger share of resources than other regions. Through Round Table meetings, UNDP had also helped governments to mobilize additional funds for development from donors.

33. He said that UNDP itself was also changing, as it pursued the goal of increasing the effectiveness of its assistance. Most significant in this process of change was the fact that UNDP had deepened its own sense of purpose and commitment to human development.

34. In concluding, he said that he was confident that the bold political and economic reforms being embraced by African peoples and their governments, would be nourished by good governance, political pluralism, transparency in national administration and accountability to those who were being governed.

35. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa expressed thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for the excellent conference facilities and the hospitality given to all participants since their arrival. He assured the Conference of his readiness to serve the Commission to the best of his ability for the advancement of the African peoples, and the socio-economic development of the continent.

36. He thanked the UNDP Administrator and his colleagues, who had spared no effort to establish and maintain a continuous process of consultations on the development of the Programme. This had particularly been the case with the ECA, which had a duty to define regional policies and strategies, and to coordinate all issues in the United Nations related to general economic and social development for Africa. He appreciated the fact that the draft regional programme was the result of discussion with all socio-economic groups and development institutions interested in the economic integration of the continent. ECA was equally committed to strengthening its cooperation with UNDP, with a view to promoting the rapid recovery and development of the region. In this connection, he informed the Conference that ECA was engaged in a critical assessment of its mandate and operations, which included an assessment of its relations with UNDP, all other UN agencies, and IGOs.

37. He said that the ECA had participated actively in the preparation of the orientation paper, around which the Fifth Inter-Country Programme was modeled. In addition to providing an intellectual input into the orientation paper, ECA had been requested to submit a strategy paper in respect of the areas of activity falling within its mandate and responsibilities. The strategy paper was, inter alia, expected to indicate the nature of the African economic crisis, to assist in identifying the root causes of the crisis, and to recommend suitable solutions.

38. The 1980s were in many ways a depressing decade for Africa. The poor economic performance of the African economies had plunged them into serious debt servicing problems. The seriousness of the situation was clearly demonstrated by a rapid increase in the number of African LDCs from 21 to 29 countries.

39. He feared that the unfavourable socio-economic conditions would persist in the 1990s and pose formidable problems and challenges to the African countries and their development partners. Therefore, he invited the Extraordinary Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers to review and confirm the continued relevance and suitability of the three priority areas contained in the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. In that regard, he called upon the Conference to consider the question of how the Programme and the resources available to it could best be utilized to accelerate the consolidation process for the African Economic Community. He said that the international community also needed to create a more supportive international environment if the Programme was to achieve its objectives, and African countries were to continue to adopt reform measures.

40. In conclusion, he reiterated the serious concern of the ECA Conference of Ministers regarding the drastic reduction of the resources allocated to the Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa from US\$ 226.1 million to US\$ 181.6 million. The Third Extraordinary Meeting should address the crucial and closely related problem of financial resources required for the implementation of the Fifth Inter-Country Programme.

41. The OAU Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development and Cooperation expressed the regret of the OAU Secretary General for not being able to attend the session. He said that the hosting of this meeting by Namibia was an indication of the country's determination to make its contribution to Africa's development. Africa was conscious of its economic problems. The region must take its economic destiny in its own hands, and move towards economic growth and sustainable

development. The challenge had assumed reality in the declaration adopted by the African Heads of State in July 1990, establishing an African Economic Community.

42. OAU attached great importance to the present session, as the Fifth Inter-Country Programme to be adopted addressed one of the major areas of concern to OAU, namely that of economic cooperation and integration. He noted that the Programme also intended to place emphasis on science and technology for development through net working among African science and technology institutions. He expressed the hope that regional science and technology institutions such as the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), and the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), would be assisted in the strengthening of their capacity to execute projects.

43. He considered that the Fifth Inter-Country Programme raised some questions concerning the expected impact of the programme on Africa's development. Among these were the greatly reduced amount of resources available to the programme, and the national focus of the programme at a time when the rest of the world was coalescing into regional blocs.

44. OAU was particularly concerned about the division of Africa by the UNDP into subregions. Such a division worked against the creation of an African economic community. He was nevertheless pleased to see that the UN had responded to Africa's unified voice by electing His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt as the next Secretary General of the United Nations.

45. He stressed that Africa needed now, more than ever before, open, honest and accountable governments. However, that objective still had to be internalized by some African countries, and as such its evolution would take some time. In the meantime, the attainment of socio-economic development must remain a major concern of Africa's leaders, the peoples of Africa, and African regional institutions such as the OAU, the ECA and ADB.

46. The Vice-President of the African Development Bank expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Namibia for their hospitable welcome.

47. He noted that determined efforts to reverse the declining economies in the 1980s had not yet yielded irreversible trends of growth. However, the African Development Bank was resolved to

continue to work closely with African Governments, and their regional and subregional organizations, such as OAU and ECA in achieving that goal. ADB's commitments to project and programme financing were expected to exceed US\$ 3.26 billion in 1991.

48. The Bank had also undertaken a number of initiatives designed to respond to the difficult economic situation faced by regional member countries. In realizing those initiatives the Bank had benefited from the support of UNDP under the Fourth UNDP Programme (1987-1991). He reported that during the preparations for the UNDP Fifth Cycle Programme there had been very close collaboration between these two institutions. In that connection, in many areas, there had been a convergence of views. Most notable was the emphasis on regional integration, long-term planning for economic transformation and strategic management, fostering of human development and a stable environment, and private sector promotion. He said that he was confident that the list of joint projects to be executed by the Bank with UNDP resources under the Fifth Cycle would reflect these priorities.

**Draft UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme (agenda item 3)**

49. The agenda item on the Fifth Inter-Country Programme was presented by the Chief, Division for Regional Programme, RBA of the UNDP. His presentation was divided into four sections, namely:

- i) background,
- ii) content of the Fifth Inter-country Programme,
- iii) implementation modalities, and
- iv) financial resources.

50. In summarizing the background to the document containing the Fifth Inter-country Programme, he informed the meeting that the draft programme before the meeting was derived from the Advisory Note which was prepared in close collaboration with ECA, the UN specialized agencies and African economic integration intergovernmental organizations. It was also presented for discussion in February 1991 at an inter-agency intergovernmental organizations meeting as well as at the meeting of ECA Ministers of Planning in May 1991 which endorsed the Advisory Note. The Advisory Note took into account lessons learned in the implementation of the Fourth Cycle and the

Lagos Plan of Action as well as developments in the 1980s particularly the difficulties experienced by African countries.

51. He informed the meeting that the constituent elements of the programme could be divided into the following broad thematic topics: (i) Regional Cooperation and Integration; (ii) Long-term Strategic Planning; and (iii) Fostering Human Development. In terms of activities to be undertaken under the theme of Regional Cooperation and Integration, he explained that UNDP would focus on three elements: assisting and facilitating the rationalization and harmonization of inter-governmental organizations and their activities; assisting in the establishment of an African Economic Community based on the viability and strength of existing IGOs; provision of assistance to key sectors with intrinsic integrative characteristics. In this connection, integration would be focussed on agriculture/food self-sufficiency and security, trade and finance, industry on the basis of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) science and technology, transport and communications.

52. With regard to the second theme on long-term strategic planning, the meeting was informed that the issues to be addressed under this theme included: (i) facilitating the development of human resources and institutional capacities and capabilities for strategic planning, macroeconomic analysis, structural adjustment, management and continuous training capacities and (ii) management of natural resources and the environment. The third theme of fostering an enabling environment for human development encompassed issues of education for all within the framework of the proposals from the Jomtien Conference, health, HIV/AIDS epidemic, Women in Development, facilitating the participation of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the development process, promotion of employment and poverty alleviation.

53. On the modalities for the implementation of the programme, he stressed that the focus would be on national execution with a variety of players assuming more active participation. Inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, national institutions and governments would be used in the execution and implementation of the programme with a view to developing the sense of ownership of the programme by the participants. There would be more decentralization away from Headquarters to the Resident Representatives and other field representatives.

54. On the question of financial resources, Mr. Bazin informed the meeting that 50 percent of the total UNDP resources were directed to the Africa region particularly the sub-Saharan sub-region. All regional programmes of the UNDP had their budget allocations reduced in order to increase allocations to the Least Developed Countries, most of which were in Africa. African countries and their development partners must face the challenges of raising additional financial resources in order to alleviate the adverse impact of financial constraints during the Fifth Cycle. For example, the establishment of linkages between national and regional programmes/projects would increase the return on each dollar. Concerted efforts to raise funds by all agencies might result in additional funds for both national and regional activities. The utilization of experts as a result of TCDC, the utilization of UNVs, etc., might enhance cost effectiveness.

55. In the discussions that followed, a number of issues and concerns were raised. It was suggested that the role of Governments in the conceptualization, formulation, design and implementation of the regional programme should be greatly enhanced. It was stressed that meaningful participation/involvement of African Governments would ensure that the UNDP-funded programmes become part and parcel of their own national development efforts. The question of the amount of financial resources, by UNDP and their allocation among the different activities was raised. It was pointed out that consultations with some Governments, IGOs and agencies as well as evaluation of past and on-going regional projects had been used as a basis for the indicative allocation of funds.

56. The need and importance for promoting cooperation between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa as well as among institutions and organizations involved in African development was highlighted and noted. Instances of cooperation were cited in reply. A query was raised that the programme had omitted some important problems such as external indebtedness, dependence on primary commodities, and the need for employment- and income-generating activities. It was explained that almost all issues had been mentioned although coverage was not extensive due to limits imposed on the size of the document. Women in Development (WID) and other issues were also already included.

57. Because of the limited financial resources, the meeting noted the need to select only top priority programmes and that many very important sectoral programmes could not therefore receive financial assistance.

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58. Some of the issues that needed attention included demographic and population activities, mid-term monitoring of the programme, measures for introducing internal efficiency and management, mobilization of additional resources, and the need to give special attention to unique economic groupings such as island countries, river and lake basins.

#### General Debate

59. The delegate of Cameroun expressed his thanks to the Government and people of Namibia.

60. He was concerned as to whether the Fifth Inter-Country Programme could make sufficient impact on Africa's development. The issue of governance he believed, was outside the scope of UNDP. The programme needed to address the issues of commodity trading and debt financing more specifically, since those were issues crucial to Africa's economic recovery and development.

61. Africa's economic development needed to be based not only on regional cooperation, but must also identify international trade that it could enter with advantage. He drew attention to the experience of Korea, which had built its economic strength from international trading. The Fifth Inter-Country Programme could also build into its activities projects that would promote African's integration into the international trading world. He suggested that a chapter be added in the Fifth Inter-Country Programme on external trade.

62. The Zambian delegate expressed the need for a periodic review of the impact of the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. That was a necessary component in assessing the importance of the programme to Africa. He proposed a mid-term review of the programme to determine whether its direction and resources were adequate. Such a review would provide a basis for taking corrective actions. The budget of the Fifth Inter-Country Programme should be revised to allow for the additional cost of the review exercise. A timetable for the review should also be provided to the African ministers responsible for economic development and planning. He suggested that the session consider the adoption of a resolution on the matter.

63. The representative of Mauritius considered that the objectives and priorities defined in the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme correctly reflected the concerns of his government. The

initiative taken to include democracy as a key variable conducive to sustainable development. accountability and greater transparency in national affairs, was to be encouraged.

64. However, he said that one of the shortcomings of the programme seemed to be the lack of firm commitment to the private sector, a major contributor for the creation of wealth and employment. The African countries should step up their efforts aimed at achieving greater understanding of Africa's peculiar situation by the international community. Therefore, the emphasis on international cooperation was welcome. Projects of subregional institutions including those of the Indian Ocean Commission should figure prominently under the Fifth Inter-Country Programme.

65. The representative of the Gambia reminded the meeting that the Gambia was among the first of the African multi-party democracies. He requested that Governments and intergovernmental organizations should work closely together to ensure sound management of the limited resources allocated to the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme. He recommended that UNDP clearly spell out the course of action set up for the implementation of the programme.

66. The representative of Sao Tome and Principe appealed to UNDP to take into account the particular problems of countries such as his own. He expressed regret at the reduction of resources under the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme and exhorted UNDP to allocate those resources available to the priority areas identified by the African Governments, namely regional cooperation, transport and communication, and human resources development.

67. The representative of Benin requested that the Fifth Inter-Country Programme include activities aimed at addressing Africa's deteriorating terms of trade. He said Africa could not afford to be closed in, but instead should be opened up to international trade and economic relationship. The trade imbalance presently effecting Africa's economic growth also needed to be addressed. Integration as a concept had to be well defined, and areas with integrative possibilities explored. He gave examples of issues such as population growth, family planning and demographic concerns in which the integrative approach could be utilized. Demographic issues should therefore be reflected in the programme.

68. The representative of Mali expressed her thanks to the Namibian authorities for their efforts to facilitate the participation of delegations to this present meeting. She expressed concern at the



reduced level of resources allocated for the Fifth Cycle and appealed to the donor community to increase them. She considered that resources allocated for studies might not be used effectively, since such studies were often not exploited. Lessons could instead be drawn from the past thirty years of Africa's development.

69. She said that UNDP should not involve itself in politics. Rather, it should be concerned with the efficient utilization of resources, especially those allocated to field projects. She underscored the need for African Governments and the international community to fully and effectively integrate women into the development process.

70. The representative of Morocco observed that almost all the African countries had accepted structural adjustment programme (SAPs). But the social cost of those SAPs was too high, despite the Social Dimension of Adjustment Programme initiated by the World Bank. He recommended that the scope of that Programme be broadened to include all the social sectors. Employment issues in the perspective of year 2000 and beyond should be given greater attention since they were the most important challenges facing Africa. He also stressed priorities such as long-term strategic planning, sustainable development and the environment. He called for greater cooperation between UNDP and ADB in order to implement the important priorities of the Bank concerning the analysis of projects of small and medium scale enterprises and training.

71. He said that the democratization process in Africa should be strengthened through decentralization. There should be a transfer of powers to local authorities and a greater popular participation, especially that of women in the development process.

72. In conclusion, he urged the Governing Council of the UNDP to increase the level of the resources allocated to the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. He called for closer relations between the Regional Bureau for Africa and the Regional Bureau of Arab States and Europe of the UNDP, in order to take advantage of the possibilities for cooperation developed between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

73. The representative of Uganda endorsed the objectives and the three priority areas proposed in the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. Those he said were consistent with the aims of the ECA, OAU and the Eastern and Southern intergovernmental organizations.

74. He however observed that there was a lack of adequate involvement by governments, individually or collectively in the design and identification of cultural projects in support of the Programme. He envisaged shortcomings in the Programme as a result of that oversight and recommended that corrective measures be taken. He suggested that the Fifth Programme explore ways to make governments more involved and responsible for programmes at the country and inter-country levels.

75. In conclusion, he recommended that the document on the Programme clarify the criteria used in determining the spread of resources.

76. The representative of Swaziland expressed his satisfaction with the document on the Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa (1992-1996). He noted that the document was raising problems which were relevant to Africa and had proposed practical solutions to those problems. He further endorsed the importance that the document attached to the integration of women in development and requested that this issue be given proper financial and technical assistance, and also be accorded the priority it deserved.

77. He registered concern on the reduction of inter-country resources for the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. The number of programmes proposed in the programme was large, and the resources allocated to them was not adequate. He cautioned the meeting on the lessons of UNPAAERD, which had not succeeded mainly because of an inadequate resource situation.

78. He further observed the importance of involving resident representatives in the formulation of programmes and the importance of submitting progress reports on the programmes to the countries concerned.

79. The representative of Guinea-Bissau endorsed the concept of economic cooperation and integration outlined in the Programme. However, there was need to create structures which could enhance the integration of various sectors within each country. He highlighted the important role played by trade in the promotion of African economic integration. With regard to human development, he said that emphasis should be place on the utilization of reliable demographic variables, with special reference to the vulnerable groups. Finally, national mechanisms were

required to monitor the implementation of activities implemented under individual country programmes.

80. The representative of Botswana drew the attention of the meeting to the lack of a scientific and technological base in Africa, which he said was one of the major factors in Africa's economic decline. He cited Korea as a country that had used a strong scientific and technological base for its socio-economic take-off. He said that Africa should learn from the Korean experience.

81. He also noted the correlation between a well-developed human resource base, and scientific and technological development. He said that Africa's human resources capabilities needed to be strengthened if it was to contribute effectively to Africa's scientific and technological advancement. He suggested that the Fifth Inter-Country Programme should seriously address that issue and that adequate resources be programmed for activities in that area.

82. The representative of Senegal commended the UNDP for the approach and preparation of the Programme, and the choice of the areas of concentration. However, the low level of financial resources called for more focus in the activities planned by UNDP under the Fifth Cycle. He recommended that UNDP concentrate essential resources of the regional programme on economic cooperation and integration; support to the River and Lake Basin Organizations; and support to the regional programme for the execution of activities with a regional dimension through use of national indicative planning figures.

83. The representative of Burkina Faso observed that innovative measures had been taken in the design of the Programme. Those she said were in line with the policy measures presently being adopted in her own country.

84. She requested UNDP to consider at least maintaining funding at the same level as the Fourth Cycle if the level could not be increased. She underscored the importance of women to Africa's development and called on African governments to consciously integrate women in their development plans. The international agencies should also reflect the importance of women in their programmes.

85. The representative of Chad, drawing a lesson from the Fourth Cycle, said that there was need to reduce the areas of intervention and the number of programmes and projects. He noted that that

lesson should be taken into account in the design of sub-programmes and projects under the Fifth Inter-Country programme. He called for the strengthening and acceleration of the economic cooperation and integration process. In this regard, he proposed that the resources be fully earmarked for that priority area, and particular emphasis should also be placed in the management of rivers and lake basins entities.

86. The representative of Rwanda stressed the critical aspects to be considered while examining the draft UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme. One of those was the human dimension, especially the reduction of resource flows, which indeed would jeopardize human development related activities such as training. He expressed concern about the decision of UNDP not to maximise the expertise of national civil servants in UNDP funded projects.

87. He called for an increase in the level of the financial resources, in order to solve problems which would hinder the integration process. He particularly mentioned the refugee issue, the movement of persons across borders, promotion of intra-African trade and external debt. Finally, he called for the restructuring of African trade patterns.

88. The representative from Sudan endorsed the Fifth Cycle Programme especially in the area of long term strategic planning, which for a long time had been marginalized.

89. He underscored the importance of fostering human development and emphasized that it should be given the highest priority, particularly in the areas of education and training.

90. He expressed his concern over the carry over of US\$ 40 million which he said was an indication of a low rate of delivery.

91. UNDP, he said, had expressed its desire to improve on management arrangements, to which it had invited comment. In response to that desire he proposed that (i) national execution should be significantly expanded, (ii) cost effectiveness should be maintained by an increase in the use of the services of national experts and consultants and (iii) decentralization from New York to the Resident Representatives should be implemented so as to allow a more prompt and effective execution of the programme.

92. The representative of Cape Verde approved of the areas of concentration chosen for the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. However, the individual sub-programmes did not clearly reflect the interdependence and cohesion expected in the implementation of the programme.

93. Regarding economic cooperation and integration, certain key factors needed to be taken into account. They included the need to develop appropriate and relevant development information systems. He requested that modalities for the implementation and management of the programme be identified and that the budget should respond to the increased demands coming from African countries. Long-term strategic planning and the creation of an enabling environment for human resources development were priorities which would assist in the improvement of the environment and the quality of life of the peoples of Africa.

94. The representative from Tanzania said that, under regional cooperation and integration, transport, communication and industry should be given highest priority as they enhanced self-reliance and self sustainable development. He also noted that under long-term strategic planning, UNDP should minimize procedural issues which delay start-up of programmes and adhere to the timetable leading to the approval of the Fifth Cycle Programme, thereby preventing delays experienced in the Fourth Cycle. UNDP should minimize the extensive use of external consultancy so as to reduce costly out flows of technical assistance resources. The establishment of new structures in UNDP supported programmes should be avoided, and support should primarily focussed on enhancing the policy and operational capacities of existing national institutions in order to build self-sustaining capacities for planning and management.

95. The representative expressed his concern over the low level of resources which he described as nominal in real terms and he hoped this did not call for questioning the priorities which had been articulated in the Fifth Inter-Country Programme.

96. He observed that population growth should not be regarded as the cause for underdevelopment and stagnation; indeed the situation was the other way round. In that context he believed the strategy contained in programmes to obtain the goals of the "Child in the 1990s" to be the most feasible way of addressing population growth.

97. He observed that science and technology and the creation of employment were essential prerequisites for programmes aimed at enhancing human resources development. In that context Tanzania supported ILO's proposed skill development for self-reliant projects, which in his estimation offered solutions to unemployment and also promoted output and income.

98. The representative of Burundi considered that the orientation and the programmes contain in the Fifth Cycle Multinational Programme for Africa (1992-1996) were satisfactory. He however, underscored the necessity for coordination between UNDP programmes and other national programmes being implemented or under preparation.

99. Burundi was an agricultural country with a rural population in which women played an essential role. The representative stressed that the programme should accordingly take the importance of women in development into account.

100. The representative of the Congo was of the opinion that the Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa covered the main preoccupations of African countries. However, he was concerned by the drastic reduction of resources in the Fifth Programme at a time when most African countries were faced with worsening problems. He also urged a pragmatic approach to issues of cooperation and integration, and the avoidance of marginalization of national structures in the implementation of projects.

101. The representative of Guinea presented the regrets of his minister of planning who, though he had personally wanted to come and share his ideas on the pressing items of the agenda, yet had not been able to make the journey. Speaking on the Fifth Inter-Country Programme 1992-1996, he said that his delegation approved its content as it covered the priority areas of regional cooperation and human development. However, he thought that the programme raised as many concerns as it raised hopes. Hopes were raised by its quality, but worries were caused by the reduction of resources allocated to Africa in its crisis. This was happening at a time when the international community was making important financial commitments in favour of the USSR and Eastern Europe. In order to avert another failure of the present programme for Africa, he appealed to UNDP to consider the possibility of increasing its financial contribution. Resources should be earmarked for regional cooperation which should about 50% of the total. He expressed his delegation's wish that the

programme to be implemented in 1992-1996 should be subjected to an efficient and more concrete evaluation than the previous one.

102. The representative of the Comoros noted with regret that his country was not mentioned among African countries in which democracy existed. He said that in fact during the last one and half years Comoros had been enjoying pluralist democracy in which 17 political parties belonging to all persuasions could be found. Comoros was a member of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and PTA, and because of that he associated himself with the representative of Mauritius to appeal for support to these two institutions.

103. The representative of the Central African Republic expressed the wish of his delegation to see the present amount of the "non programmed reserve" increased from US\$ 14,160,000 to at least US\$ 30,000,000. He proposed that increase because of the potential occurrence of natural disasters. He stressed the need for effective training, and for the setting up of training mechanisms.

104. The representative of the Central African Republic supported the delegate from Cameroun, who had said that UNDP should not interfere with governments. It should let each country move to democracy according to its own pace. The delegation of the Central African Republic stressed that the UNDP Resident Representatives were highly valued in development and express the wish that their power should be increased so that they could be more efficient.

105. The representative of Niger observed that the Fifth Inter-Country Programme needed to focus on fewer activities in order to make an efficient use of the meager resources available. He requested UNDP to give priority to the development of river and lake basin organizations. He said that there was a need to put in place, within the framework of the Fifth Inter-Country programme, effective mechanisms aimed at monitoring, and evaluating the programme and sub-programmes and defining the respective role of the development partners.

106. The representative of Mauritania endorsed the priority areas of concention outlined in the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. However, he felt that it would be necessary to ensure that the resources were adequately allocated to priority areas which would improve Africa's image before the international community.

107. Issues related to desertification and the deterioration of the environment deserved greater attention. More resources should be earmarked for the implementation of projects in the sub-programme on transport and communications. He called for the enhancement of Africa's productivity and improvement in its capacity to export internationally.

108. The representative of Nigeria called upon UNDP to assist in the formulation and financing of sound preventive programmes against AIDS. Reviewing the three areas of concentration of the Fifth Inter-Country Programme, he underscored the need to strengthen the existing subregional economic groups through capacity building and allocation of further resources earmarked under the Fifth Cycle.

109. The representative from Kenya endorsed the themes of the Fifth Inter-Country Programme. However, he expressed his concern that the programme might run into the same problems as UNPAAERD. He proposed the adoption of specific operational goals which would be clearly focused and would involve quantifiable measurements.

110. He suggested that the programme should address issues of growth performance, population management, environment, research, and science and technology.

111. He stressed the importance of long-term strategic planning. He also elaborated on the need for the Fifth Programme to address the issues of science and technology development.

112. The representative of Togo said that his country had been engaged for more than one year in a major democratization process. He said that the orientations of the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme met the preoccupations of the Government of Togo. However, he requested UNDP to focus its assistance only to the promotion of subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration, and the enhancement of human resources development. He urged UNDP to reconsider its technical assistance programme with a view to encouraging the utilization of national expertise.

113. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire said that the international community should continue to consider Africa as its first priority. Africa should be assisted in its developmental effort and should not be marginalized. In that connection, the resource flows towards the continent must be increased. The UNDP Administrator should redouble his efforts and should be supported by the ECA



Conference of Ministers. That was particularly important at a time when resources allocated to UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme were being reduced.

114. The African debt remained a major obstacle to the economic recovery of the region. Structural adjustment sacrifices borne by the people were being multiplied by that debt. Strong actions were required, which could include the reduction of debt and its cancellation. He called upon African countries to play a greater role in international trade. The deterioration of commodity prices hampered all development endeavours. In those areas, immediate actions were needed to reverse the trend. The actions of the inter-country programme should address the essential problems of development of the African region. However, Africa should pursue the reforms already initiated in all areas. He endorsed the areas of concentration outlined in the document. However, there was a need to increase the role played by countries in the choice of activities. Representatives of Governments and subregional organizations should play a greater role in the examination and adoption of projects under the Fifth Cycle. They would also review the mechanisms to be set up for monitoring and evaluation. He requested the ECA to convene an extraordinary meeting of ECA Conference of Ministers aimed at examining the projects formulated under the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme. He also requested that an increased role should be played by the ECA especially in the areas of policy coordination and implementation of the regional component of the programme.

115. The representative of Egypt described the Fifth Regional Programme as comprehensive and rather ambitious in view of its duration and the available resources.

116. He said that there was a need to plan out the detailed objectives of the sub-programmes financially and timewise. The phasing of detailed objectives he said could be done under the umbrella of strategic long-term planning for sustained economic development and integration in Africa.

117. He observed that the implementation of structural adjustments policies had distressed African economies and brought about economic and social burdens. The Fifth Regional Programme should help in alleviating some of those burdens. Projects that help create jobs, increase labor force mobility, enhancement of women's participation in economic activities, were necessary.

118. He stressed the importance and need for more sustainable integrative mechanisms that would create necessary linkages at the policy level and at inter-sectoral and regional levels.

119. He emphasized that the attainment of an effective integrative mechanism called for a comprehensive and reliable data base which he regarded as a basic requirement for successful policy formulation and implementation.

120. The representative of Liberia said that she was pleased with the coverage of the concerns addressed by the Fifth Regional Programme, particularly the role of women in development. She went on to underscore the role of women in Africa's development.

121. She stated that human resources development and science and technology, particularly appropriate technologies, were serious problems confronting Liberia.

122. She underscored the role of the private sector in Africa's development, particularly in the case of Liberia. She proposed strong inter-country or regional cooperation in that area and suggested that programmes be developed in support of private sector promotion.

123. She called on the Administrator of UNDP to do everything possible to increase resources for the Fifth Regional Programme as the limitation in resources in itself would cause serious constraints on the programme.

124. She stressed the need for coordination and cooperation between and among UN agencies, African IGOs, and international institutions. She proposed that mechanisms be built in for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Fifth Inter-Country Programme.

125. The observer for UNESCO endorsed the UNDP Inter-Country Programme and gave suggestions covering (i) the need to effectively use existing structures and platforms of inter-country, and regional co-operation; (ii) the need to build on ongoing institutions; (iii) the need to ensure complementarity between country level initiatives already underway and the inter-country Programmed activities; (iv) the need to ensure effective contacts and dialogues between the main actors in subprogramme C (human development); and (v) the need to make every effort to identify or design affordable alternatives and solutions.

126. The observer representing the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) expressed his organization's desire to participate in the implementation of the UNDP 5th Inter-Country Programme for Africa.

127. WMO, he stated, was interested in the development of projects at the subregional level. He further stated that WMO also supported the spirit of collective participation proposed for the implementation of the 5th Programme.

128. The observer for the World Food Programme (WFP) outlined the objectives and work of his organization. He underlined the need for the co-ordination of activities among all UN agencies.

129. The observer representing the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) outlined the functions of his organization. He invited Governments, research and development institutions, and industries in Africa to make effective use of his institution's facilities, especially its data base on patent and technology.

130. ARIPO endorsed the proposals of UNDP to use intergovernmental organizations in formulating its technical assistance programmes, and in the implementation of its programmed activities. ARIPO also indicated its support for the proposals contained in the "Implementation Modalities and Management Arrangements" section of the document on the Fifth Cycle.

131. The observer representing the International Trade Centre (ITC) elaborated on the "Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990's and Beyond", which had been adopted in December 1990 by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade. They had, at the same time, declared the 1990's the Trade Development Decade for Africa.

132. He underlined the relevance of trade to Africa's development, and noted that trade promotion could best be carried out through multilateral arrangements and in the context of subregional integration groupings. Trade promotion had also to pay special attention to womens' needs, since they constituted a large percentage of Africa's traders.

133. The observer for the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) noted that many of the elements of the Programme were in line with FAO's own Strategy Paper. He believed that improvement in agricultural trade as a growth strategy was also an important challenge for the future.

134. While FAO supported the shift to Government responsibility for project execution, he expressed concern that such a strategy might prevent member States from taking advantage of the expertise and experience of the specialized agencies. He further expressed the hope that the shift would not lead to the establishment of parallel entities, or to an expansion of project management activities of UNDP field offices, which FAO was presently equipped to carry out.

135. He hoped that FAO would soon receive a copy of the evaluation mission report on the Fourth Cycle, and a recent report on the evaluation of the management capacity of selected intergovernmental organizations. FAO would be happy to be consulted on the latter document. He requested UNDP to give early indications as to when pipeline projects scheduled for 1992 might start, and hoped that a timetable of actions for making the Programme operational might soon be developed.

136. The observer for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provided background information on the activities of his organization in Africa. He noted that assistance could be used in the transfer of technology for industrial development an area in which his organization had wide and relevant experience.

137. The observer for the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) said that his organization was in general agreement with the trends, objectives and strategies of the Programme. However, he stressed the need to use subregional economic groupings as building blocs achieving African economic integration. The mechanisms for doing that were not clearly indicated in the programme and should be specified.

138. Such mechanisms might include strengthening the programme management capacity of the secretariats, improving sectoral cooperation, and supporting programmes to strengthen trade and cooperation relations between the subregional groupings.

139. He further requested UNDP to clarify how it intended to go about significantly reducing the number of intergovernmental organizations during the period of the Programme. He recommended that the Governing Council designate a list of such organizations with which it would cooperate.

140. The observer for UNIDO said that his organization fully supported the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country programme. UNIDO had in the past cooperated with UNDP on the analysis of strategies for industrial activities.

141. He said that there was an overlap in the life of the Fifth Cycle Programme and the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II) and therefore expected that the Fifth Cycle Programme would make significant contributions towards the achievement of the targets set for the Industrial Decade.

142. He stated that the areas emphasized by the Fifth Regional Programme for addressing Africa's industrial development indeed provided a basis for planning future industrial policies.

143. The observer for ILO said that the employment issue was clearly spelled out as a priority in the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme and was in conformity with the Abuja resolution on employment adopted by the Heads of States in June 1991. ILO had set up a regional system of advisory teams who provided to Africa, on an ongoing basis, information on the employment situation and assistance to governments and labor administrations. This was particularly important under conditions of structural adjustment and for purposes of medium and long-term planning.

144. He urged that the results already achieved by previous Programmes should not be threatened by the reductions in the regional programme.

145. The representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that African economic integration called for a better system of telecommunications and transport. He said that the nature of surface infrastructure made civil aviation a top priority, which had to be satisfied before Africa could contribute to global development. The reduction of the UNDP funds earmarked for the regional programme posed a serious problem to that sector.

146. He said that the role of ICAO was to provide training on international standards, and to provide technical assistance designed to implement such standards. However, it could not provide those services if funds were not available.

147. The representative of the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) said that the section of the document on regional co-operation and integration was noteworthy for two reasons, namely the rationalization and harmonization of intergovernmental organizations, and assistance to essential sectors related to integration. He said that there was also a need to favour activities aiming at interagency collaboration, such as in the development of common projects. He praised the efforts of WIPO, which, with UNDP assistance, was working towards a collaborative arrangement with AIPO, ARIDO, and ARCT.

148. He said that the area of intellectual property was one of the sectors where African integration had been in force for the last thirty years. He stressed that it was one of the rare African institutions in which integration was total, because it acted on behalf of, and for, member States.

149. The observer from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) commended the proposed 5th Inter-Country Programme for Africa. In particular she commended it for its focus on fostering human development, which UNICEF shared as a central concern with UNDP. The inclusion of measures to address maternal mortality and disability under that subprogramme would represent a reinforcement of efforts to move towards the Goals for Children and Development in the 1990's, which had been adopted by the World Summit for Children in New York last year. The continued efforts at "mainstreaming" the concerns of women would also be most welcome.

150. She reaffirmed that UNICEF, in collaboration with other agencies, looked forward to lending support to the implementation of the Programme. She urged that the approach of participatory development, as stressed so eloquently by His Excellency President Nujoma in his opening address, be adopted as a central strategy in efforts to reduce pregnancy-related deaths, and improve the health and skills of women as key actors and a key resource for development.

151. The observer representing the African Regional Organization for Standardization pointed out that the quality factor was as important criteria for promotion of intra-african trade, and enhancement of export capabilities of Member States. Hence, it was essential that the Fifth UNDP Inter-Country Programme provided for the accelerated development of standardization, quality assurance and measurement systems of the regional level.

Any Other Business (agenda item 4)

152. There was no issue raised under this item.