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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THIRD MEETING

held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa,
on Friday, 14 February 1969, at 11.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. El Nabi (Sudan)
Executive Secretary: Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner
Secretary: Mr. H.L. Senghor

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Date and place of the tenth session

Participants wishing to have corrections made to this provisional summary record are requested to write them on two copies of the record and to send the corrected copies to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission as soon as possible. If necessary, the corrected copies may be sent by post to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, Economic Commission for Africa (P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) after the session.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (E/CN.14/L.363, L.364/Rev.1, L.371, L.374, L.375, L.376, L.378, L.379, L.380, L.381, and L.382) (continued)

E/CN.14/L.363 (Agriculture)

Mr. GABDOU (Chad), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that it was based on the work programme for 1969-1973 which had been approved in plenary and also at the Kampala meeting. Its aim was to enable the secretariat to continue studies of the subject and extend them to all regions concerned.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Mr. CHILESHE (Zambia) said that had the resolution been put to the vote, his delegation would have voted against it because it did not adopt a universal approach to African problems. If each country were to bring its individual problems to ECA, the secretariat would be inundated with such requests and would be prevented from achieving anything constructive.

Mr. GONDWE (Malawi) hoped that the text of paragraph (c) of the first operative paragraph was as read out and ended at "trade in fresh water fish". Otherwise, like his Zambian colleague, his delegation would have strong reservations about it.

E/CN.14/L.364/Rev.1 (Public Administration)

Mr. BASITA (Burundi), supported by Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria), emphasized the importance of the resolution which recalled two previous resolutions and showed the great interest of member States in the work programme for the next biennium.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.371 (Industry)

Mr. KETLOGETSWE (Botswana), supported by Mr. DEWIDAR (United Arab Republic), said that the importance of industry to economic development in Africa was well known. He recalled his remarks made at the previous meeting on the subject of small-scale industries.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.375 (Tourist trade)

Mr. FALL (Senegal), supported by Mr. GABDOU (Chad), said that the sponsors had felt it necessary to introduce the draft resolution because they did not consider that tourism, which was such an important factor in economic development, had been given due importance in the work programme. It was especially necessary that particular attention should be given to the countries where tourist trade was least developed and that the developed countries, the main suppliers of tourists, should help to make the International Tourist Year in Africa successful.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.376 (Development of mineral resources)

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria), supported by Mr. DEWIDAR (United Arab Republic), drew attention to the importance of mineral resources in economic development. The most important part of the resolution was the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 2(a) that member States should not leave the exploitation of those resources completely in the hands of foreigners.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.378 (Science and Technology)

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria), supported by Mr. DEWIDAR (United Arab Republic), welcomed the establishment by the secretariat of a special section dealing with science and technology which was one of the most important elements in economic development.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.379 (Mobilization of domestic resources and international assistance to the African region)

Mr. AMONOO (Ghana), supported by Mr. LOKA (Dahomey), said that the aim of the draft resolution was to ensure that ECA continued to concern itself with the problem of international liquidity since the African countries lived largely on the receipts of foreign trade. Its

sponsors, therefore, felt that the African States should have a voice in the reform of the international monetary system, which was at present being discussed by the Group of Ten.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.380 (Sub-regional Office for Central Africa)

Mr. ASSOUMOU (Cameroon), supported by Mr. TSHIBAMBE (Democratic Republic of Congo), said that the deplorable situation in the Central African sub-region had already been sufficiently emphasized. It therefore requested the secretariat to take all necessary steps to enable that sub-region to work efficiently.

Mr. LOKA (Dahomey) agreed with the previous speaker and emphasized the important part all sub-regional offices had to play in African development.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

E/CN.14/L.374 (Housing, building and physical planning)

Mr. KETLOCETSWE (Botswana) said that the purpose of the resolution was to recall General Assembly resolution 2036(XX) and to recognize the work done by the secretariat in the past few years on the important problem of housing. It urged member States to do everything in their power to help in the work on that important aspect of economic development, which was one of the bottlenecks preventing progress in the continent.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Draft resolutions E/CN.14/L.381 and L.382 (Reform of the international monetary system and Union of African Chamber of Commerce)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that draft resolutions E/CN.14/L.381 and L.382 had not been discussed by the Heads of Delegations. He pointed out, too, that draft resolution E/CN.14/L.382 was sponsored by only one delegation; perhaps a co-sponsor should be found before the draft was considered.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.381 (Reform of the international monetary system)

Mr. OMER (Sudan) said that some amendments should be made to the operative paragraph. First, the figure 1 before the word "invites" should be deleted and placed before the words "to participate scheme", which should become the first sub-paragraph. Secondly, the abbreviation "SPRS" should be replaced by "SDRS". Thirdly, in the fourth sub-paragraph the words "An immediate" should be replaced by the words "To call for a". The purpose of the draft resolution was to seek to promote development financing through activation of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights Scheme.

Mr. LEWIDAR (United Arab Republic) said that his delegation fully supported the draft resolution and recommended its adoption.

Mr. KETLOGETSWE (Botswana), referring to the Executive Secretary's suggestion, at the previous meeting, that resolutions in which the secretariat was not requested to perform a specific task should be withdrawn, pointed out that under the terms of the draft under consideration no additional task was assigned to the secretariat.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) suggested that it might be useful to hear the views of the representative of the International Monetary Fund on the draft.

Mr. TOURE (International Monetary Fund), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the question of links between the SDR scheme and development financing was being examined by the Board of Governors of the Fund. At the 1966 meeting it had been decided that

the establishment of such links was not the best means of ensuring the transfer of real resources from the developed to the developing countries, and that for the time being the two matters should remain separate. According to the rules drawn up at Bretton Woods, the question of increases in the Fund's quotas was reviewed every five years. Special cases could, of course, be considered in the period between statutory reviews but such consideration would be governed by the provisions of very specific rules.

Mr. ASSCUMON (Cameroon) questioned the expediency of the adoption of such a resolution by the Commission. After all, the question was already being dealt with by a body in which both African and other developing countries were represented.

Mr. PAULOS (Ethiopia) agreed with the representative of Cameroon. The draft resolution was redundant.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad), supported by Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) and Mr. KETLOGETSWE (Botswana), proposed that the co-sponsors should discuss the matter with the Executive Secretary and the representative of the International Monetary Fund with a view to preparing a more appropriate text. Further discussion on the matter should be deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. OMER (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors, supported that proposal.

Mr. NEAL (Liberia) said that his delegation recognized the importance of the draft resolution. The developing countries certainly needed all the development financing they could get, particularly from multinational institutions. In view, however, of the comments made by the representative of the International Monetary Fund and of the fact that the question had not been included in the agenda for the session, his delegation considered that it would be inappropriate to adopt the resolution as drafted. He proposed, therefore, that a reference be made in the Commission's report to the principles mentioned in the draft resolution and to the importance member States attached to the question of developing countries' liquidity and that the draft resolution be withdrawn.

Mr. SANU (Nigeria), Mr. GONDWE (Malawi) also supported that proposal. The question of quotas was tied up with that of reserves so, in the absence of instructions, his delegation could not commit its Government to a resolution calling for an increase in quotas. If necessary, the secretariat could be requested to make a serious study of the matter for the next session.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) agreed with the Nigerian representative. His delegation had no instructions on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Liberian proposal that the draft resolution be withdrawn and a reference to the matter made in the Commission's report.

The proposal was adopted by 18 votes to 6.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.382 (Union of African Chamber of Commerce)

Mr. OMAR (Sudan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of his delegation, said that the establishment of a Union of African Chamber of Commerce would do much to stimulate trade in view of the importance of the business community in that connexion. The terms of the draft resolution were in no way binding, the Executive Secretary merely being requested to contact governments and report back to the Commission if the idea of such a union met with approval.

Mr. MONDAY (Gambia) considered that the draft resolution would serve little purpose in fostering African trade, since the matter had already been covered in the draft resolution on industrial promotion centres. (E/CN.14/L.373).

Mr. KHUMALO (Swaziland) said that his delegation too doubted the usefulness of the draft resolution and could not therefore support it.

Mr. MUTTI (Zambia) pointed out that the draft resolution had not in fact been seconded.

Mr. SHUKUKU (Kenya) proposed, in view of the lack of support for the draft resolution, that it be withdrawn.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.370 (Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries)

Mr. BOUDJAKDI (Algeria) proposed the insertion, after the words "Requests the Executive Secretary" in operative paragraph 3, of the words "in collaboration with OAU".

It was so agreed.

Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) proposed that, in the first preambular paragraph of the English text, the term "least advantaged" be replaced by "least developed".

It was so agreed.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.363 (Agriculture)(resumed)

Mr. MUTTI (Zambia) said that, when he had spoken on the draft resolution earlier, he had been unaware that the representative of Chad had in fact already made the adjustment his delegation requested. For that reason, he wished to withdraw his reservation and express his wholehearted support for the resolution as adopted.

Date and Place of the Tenth Session (Agenda item 14)

Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that it was his privilege to invite the Commission, on behalf of the Tunisian Government, to hold its tenth session in Tunis.

Tunisia, a founding member of ECA, had been untiring in its support for the Commission since its creation. In the ten years since, ECA had proved itself and adapted to the new African realities.

Tunisia was proud of the fact that, over 2,000 years ago, the Romans had given to it the name of "Africa". During its own efforts towards independence, it had supported other nationalist movements in the struggle to put an end to the colonial era and it was now happy to join sister African states in the work of development. The faith of ECA's Members in the future underlined their determination to break down the old barriers and to build together a united and developed Africa.

The Tunisian Government would spare no effort in placing every facility at the Commission's disposal for the tenth session - which was particularly important since it would be attended by all African Economic Ministers and would take place in 1971 when a new era in ECA's life would begin.

In conclusion, he thanked the Commission, on behalf of his delegation, for the honour it would pay to Tunis by selecting it as the venue for its tenth session.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad) recalled that the Commission had decided, at its seventh session, to hold the ninth and tenth sessions in Brazzaville and Tunis respectively. Subsequently, however, it had been decided to hold the ninth session in Addis Ababa, since it coincided with ECA's tenth anniversary. The Government of Congo (Brazzaville) had then agreed that the tenth session should still be held in Tunis, rather than Brazzaville. His delegation was therefore glad to support the proposal in that sense and moved that it be adopted by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.