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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SECOND MEETING
held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa
on Thursday 13 February 1969, at 3.30 p.m.

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

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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.

STATEMENTS

Mr. TANSLEY (Observer for Canada) said that his country's principal purpose in attending ECA sessions was to enhance its awareness of the aspirations and challenges of the African countries, the better to shape its programme of development assistance, which was in excess of 40 million dollars.

Many States had referred to the shortcomings of aid - the size of the overall flow of aid, its distribution, terms and conditions. His country wished to play an effective role in Africa's development, a role consistent with the principles of self-reliance on the part of the developing countries, and it would be of immense help if African countries could speak in clear and specific terms on the shortcomings of external assistance.

The Commission could perhaps draw some clear guidelines for donor nations on how their assistance should be allocated, planned, channelled and co-ordinated; it could identify the circumstances in which various kinds of assistance could best be utilized, and articulate the terms and conditions which should govern external assistance, either for all developing African countries or for various classifications of countries or sectors. If the kind of clear development strategy called for by Mr. Mboya emerged within which external programmes of assistance might operate, that would provide a sound basis for tackling the shortcomings of foreign assistance. Canada, like many other observer States, would welcome a thoroughgoing review of the problem.

In conclusion, he assured the Commission of his country's continuing support for the development and progress of the great African continent.

Mr. KANYAGO (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) expressed the hope, on the occasion of the Commission's tenth anniversary, that the efforts that had been made to collect and analyse data for development plans would be followed in the second Development Decade by a period of building and consolidation.

A few problems were causing his organization great concern. First, there was a need to create new job opportunities so that people could earn better incomes and make more productive contributions to the national economy.

At the sixth session of the Commission, the Executive Secretary had raised that issue, which most of the newly-independent States had to face, and had spoken of the disappointment of their expectations. The problem could not be solved merely by establishing new industries, attracting investment capital and expanding national output. That was clear from the example of the Central and East African countries where, in spite of their rapid economic growth, the volume of employment was not higher than ten years ago. Resolution 173(VIII) called upon African governments to initiate appropriate measures for the accelerated training of industrial labour force, but very little had been done in that direction. His organization appealed to member States to take the resolution seriously.

On the question of housing, he was glad that the Commission was fully aware of the immensity of the problem. According to the document entitled "A Venture in Self-Reliance", it was unlikely that more than two houses per thousand inhabitants were being built annually. Bearing in mind that population on the continent was on average increasing at the rate of 2.4 per cent and that the rate of urbanization was estimated at about 5 per cent, tremendous steps would have to be taken to cope with the situation. Some member States, he realized, could scarcely afford to allocate 1 per cent of their annual budget to housing, and had to seek finance from outside - a situation which made houses dear and also ploughed into foreign exchange.

With regard to foreign aid, his organization had on several occasions in the United Nations and on the platforms of its specialized agencies appealed to the developed nations to give aid on liberal terms so that recipient countries were not pulled back in their development efforts by debt servicing. The time had come for the developed countries to pay heed to that appeal.

Again, his organization had on several occasions appealed to GATT and other United Nations bodies to revise the existing tariffs imposed on primary products and exports from developing countries, so that they could increase their export trade and build up favourable balances of payments. He hoped that a modus vivendi would finally emerge.

In conclusion he hoped that the remaining countries under colonial yoke would soon find themselves in the fold of free nations.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1969-1970 (item 8 of the agenda) (E/CN.14/447, E/CN.14/441)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that in working out the Commission's programme of work, the secretariat had based itself on the new arrangements recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 2370(XXII) and approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1378(XLV) and 1269 (XLIII). Under the new scheme, the programme of work was established every other year for a four-year period, with specific, final proposals for the first biennium and somewhat less well-defined ones for the second. That scheme fitted in with Headquarters procedures in budget, programming and reporting matters.

Each division and section of the secretariat, working in accordance with the principles laid down by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, had made its proposals taking into account, inter alia, co-operation with Headquarters, OTC, the specialized agencies, governments assisting the African countries, inter-governmental organizations and other bodies in implementing their plans and projects.

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria) pointed out that since item 8 had already been studied in detail by Committees I and II and would be discussed again in connexion with a draft resolution, it would perhaps be wiser to leave the discussion on that point for the moment. The Expert Committee that the Commission was proposing to set up would moreover have an opportunity of studying the work programme and deciding on priorities in the light of experience.

Mr. HABTU (Ethiopia), Mr. GABDOU (Chad) and Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) agreed that examination of the agenda item could be deferred.

It was so decided.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

TRANSPORT: draft resolution E/CN.14/L.359

Mr. AMONOO (Ghana), introducing the draft resolution, explained that it was designed to remedy the fact that nothing had been done apart from the establishment of a Permanent Transport Commission in the Maghreb

to fill the need to develop transport networks in the African countries since the matter had been raised at the Commission's third session.

He proposed that the words "has instituted" in the fourth preambular paragraph of the English version should be deleted to bring it into line with the French version.

Mr. HABTU (Ethiopia) felt that the draft resolution raised no difficulties and could be adopted immediately.

Mr. CHILESHE (Zambia) said that his country, which was landlocked, was particularly happy with the draft resolution and supported it unreservedly. He hoped that once the resolution had been adopted, the Commission would carry out studies on the question, taking account of its political as well as its economic aspects.

He wished to stress that in spite of advice to the contrary, Zambia had decided to develop its transport network to East Africa and not, for example, to the racist countries of South Africa.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.359 was adopted by acclamation.

INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE : (Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.361)

Mr. SHIYUKAH (Kenya), introducing the draft resolution, said he thought it should not give rise to any difference of opinion, since it merely stressed the need for increasing intra-African trade.

Mr. GOWA (Uganda) explained that the resolution, by stressing the need for intra-African co-operation, sought to remedy the fact that, despite UNCTAD recommendations, the developed countries had not opened up their markets to African products. To survive economically the African countries were left with no solution other than to develop trade with each other. As the Commission had just adopted a draft resolution on transport, aimed at increasing the flow of trade between African countries, it was only consistent that it should adopt the resolution on intra-African trade.

Mr. BOUDJAKDI (Algeria) supported the draft resolution, which could help the African countries take a decisive step towards self-reliance on a continental scale.

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria) thought that the proposed regional trade promotion centre would be of the greatest interest to all the African countries, large and small, and should encourage the members of the Commission to adopt the draft resolution.

Draft resolution E/CN.14/L.361 was adopted by acclamation

SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES: Draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.372)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY read out the draft resolution on small-scale industries sponsored by the delegations of Botswana, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic.

Mr. KETLOCETSWE (Botswana) said that it was practically unnecessary to mention the importance of small-scale industries, since industrialization was a way of advancing the economy and a remedy to the problem of unemployment.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad) supported the draft resolution. He pointed out that in the French text the words "pour la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'ouest" should be inserted after "Niamey" in the second operative paragraph.

Mr. MALUMBA (Democratic Republic of Congo) proposed that the following sentence be added at the end of the resolution, if the sponsors agreed: "Invites member States to pay special attention to national programmes for establishing small-scale industries".

In reply to a question from Mr. LOKO (Dahomey), Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) said that ECA and UNIDO were working together on small-scale industries, and had unified their programmes and gave assistance jointly. The ILO had been dealing with such activities for a long time, and FAO took an interest in rural industries.

The draft resolution as amended was adopted by acclamation

WORLD WEATHER WATCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: Draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.354)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY read out the draft resolution on the World Weather Watch and economic development in Africa, sponsored by the delegations of Kenya, Nigeria, the United Arab Republic and Sudan.

Mr. SHIYUKAH (Kenya) said that the influence of weather conditions on human beings, animals, plants, water resources, and, indirectly on industry, transport and the tourist trade was obvious. The World Weather Watch was an example of international co-operation that would enable the developing countries to receive highly accurate daily weather news including computer-processed data provided by satellites.

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria) recalled that the 1968 WMO/ECA seminar in Nigeria had demonstrated the close relationship between natural resources and meteorological conditions, and how such resources could be increased by using meteorological data.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY suggested the following drafting amendments: deleting the words "in Africa" at the end of the first preambular paragraph; replacing the words "hence will have a profound interest in the development" by "make a beneficial impact on economic development"; replacing the words "the development of the national economy in their countries" at the end of operative paragraph 2 by "economic development"; and in operative paragraph 3 replacing "seminar referred to under Noting above" "ECA/WMO seminar" and replacing the words "and also to support the ECA and WMO joint arrangements to implement their recommendations" by "and implement the recommendations of the said seminar".

The draft resolution as amended was adopted by acclamation

MANPOWER AND TRAINING: draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.353/Rev.1)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY read out the draft resolution sponsored by the delegations of Cameroon, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Nigeria, the United Arab Republic, Sudan and Togo.

Mr. DEWIDAR (United Arab Republic) said that the problem of manpower and training was even more acute in Africa than in other regions. The length of the resolution showed how much care Committee II had taken in drafting it.

Mr. HABTU (Ethiopia) said that governments certainly needed help to train the necessary manpower at all levels.

Mr. ASSOUMOU (Cameroon) proposed that the word "efforts" in paragraph 1(d) of Part I in the French text be replaced by "actions" and that the words "pour la mise en valeur et l'utilisation de la main d'oeuvre" be included at the end of Part II, paragraph 4(d). He stressed the importance of the resolution, which covered all aspects of the highly complex problem of manpower and training.

Mr. MALUMBA (Democratic Republic of Congo) fully supported the resolution. He proposed that the words "ainsi que l'assistance... l'autonomie nationale" in the eighth preambular paragraph of the French text be replaced by "est nécessaire pour renforcer l'autonomie nationale et que l'aide extérieure est utile".

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY suggested two minor drafting amendments in the English text: in the eighth preambular paragraph, "inter-African" should be replaced by "intra-African"; and in paragraph 4(d) of Part II, "an" should be deleted before "intensified".

The draft resolution as amended was adopted by acclamation.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (draft resolution E/CN.14/L.355/Rev.1)

Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) said that the draft resolution had already been adopted by Committee II and it was therefore unnecessary to submit it again in the plenary meeting. It was for the Commission to adopt the draft as it stood or to amend it.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad) pointed out that any draft resolution adopted by a committee formed part of that committee's report and should be submitted to the Commission for adoption.

Mr. BOUREM (Niger) agreed with the representative of Ghana, and formally proposed that the draft resolution be adopted.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation

AGRICULTURE: draft resolution E/CN.14/L.355/Rev.1; INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION CENTRES: draft resolution E/CN.14/L.373; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: draft resolution E/CN.14/L.364/Rev.1

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY suggested that the sponsors withdraw the three draft resolutions on agriculture (E/CN.14/L.363), industrial promotion centres (E/CN.14/L.373) and public administration (E/CN.14/L.364/Rev.1) whose provisions were similar to those already included in the secretariat's programme of work for 1969-1973. The draft resolutions therefore added nothing new to the secretariat's activities.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad) said that the aim of the draft resolution on agriculture was to extend the studies referred to in the text to the regions which had been overlooked in the secretariat's programme of work.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that all the points covered by the draft resolution on agriculture were already included in the secretariat's work programme; it was inaccurate to say that some regions in Africa had been overlooked.

Mr. BOUREM (Niger) considered that the three draft resolutions which it was proposed to withdraw should be retained and submitted to the Commission for approval.

Mr. CONDWE (Malawi) said that the activities referred to in the draft resolution on agriculture should not be restricted to the zones mentioned in the draft, because the rest of Africa also depended upon agriculture. He therefore suggested that the draft resolution on agriculture be withdrawn.

Mr. HABASHI (Director of the Joint ECA/FAO Agricultural Development Division) explained that the draft resolution on agriculture was similar to the proposed programme of work in that connexion, more particularly paragraph 40 comprising (a) Livestock and Meat; (b) Study on Price Stabilization and Commercialization of Grain; and (c) Fish.

Mr. EMMANUEL (Rwanda) said that the draft resolution on agriculture should be dropped because it duplicated the secretariat's work programme.

Mr. GOWA (Uganda) considered the draft resolution discriminatory, since it restricted the proposed studies to some zones in Africa, whereas agriculture was vital to virtually all the African countries. He therefore suggested that the operative part of the draft resolution on agriculture should be amended as follows: in sub-paragraph (a), the words "in the sahelian (savanna) zone" should be deleted, and the words "in Africa" added after the words "meat-producing countries"; in sub-paragraph (b), the words "as between regions in sahelian (savanna) countries subject to partial drought" should be deleted and replaced by the words "in Africa". Sub-paragraph (c) should also be amended to cover the other African regions.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad) was not convinced by the secretariat's arguments. He proposed that the resolution on agriculture be adopted, with the amendments proposed by the representative of Uganda.

Mr. BOUREM (Niger) proposed that the draft be put to the vote.

Mr. KETLOGETSWE (Botswana) proposed that a vote be taken on whether the draft resolution on agriculture should be amended or withdrawn.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolutions which it had been proposed to withdraw should meet that same evening to discuss the matter and make known their decision at the next plenary meeting.

Mr. CHILESHE (Zambia) pointed out that ECA activities should be viewed from an African rather than a nationalistic standpoint. He agreed with the representative of Rwanda that it would be better to withdraw the draft resolution on agriculture, which added nothing to the secretariat's programme of work.

The meeting rose at 7.5 p.m.