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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twelfth session

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Nairobi, 24-28 February 1975

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

260(XII). Measures for contributing to the application of the Declaration, Programme of Action and the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials, 1/ held at Dakar in February 1975

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the trend of the international economic situation towards the perpetuation of unequal economic relations, imperialist domination, neo-colonialist exploitation and a failure to find solutions to the basic problems of developing countries, in particular of African countries,

Considering that the African countries are all determined to take joint action to further those of their economic relations which have cleared the way for developing countries emerge from their position of dependence on imperialism,

Convinced that the only way for African countries to obtain their complete economic emancipation is by the recovery and control of their natural wealth and resources and of the means for their economic development so as to ensure the economic, social and cultural progress of their people,

Considering that at present raw materials have an importance which is unprecedented in history since they make up the general framework of the claiming procedure being followed by the oil-producing countries in their struggle for fairer conditions for all raw materials-producing countries,

Recognizing that the negotiations between industrialized and developing countries to which this procedure should lead must therefore be full negotiations covering the entire problem of raw materials and taking account of the interests of all developing countries, without any hint or threat of political, economic or military pressure likely to limit freedom of dialogue and action or to restrict the full exercise of the rights of the developing countries and of the developing countries of Africa, in particular,

Mindful of the basic need to consolidate the unity and solidarity of the African countries and to prevent any action aimed at dividing them,

Determined to achieve the economic decolonialization of the entire continent, as is essential for the complete liberation of African countries from foreign economic domination and multinational companies,

Reaffirming that producer-exporter associations, which are vital elements in the national commodities policies of developing countries, should be responsible for the co-ordination of production, research, development and marketing so as to protect their income, strengthen their market position, stand up successfully to the well-organized buyers of the industrial countries and guarantee fair and remunerative prices for their commodity exports,

Recalling the declarations and the programmes of action adopted by the fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries, 2/ the sixth special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Dakar Conference on Raw Materials, 3/ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, 4/

1. Decides:

(a) That because of the special importance for African countries of the setting up of a special fund for financing regulating stocks of their export commodities, the Executive Secretary of the ECA should actively follow up, and closely co-operate in the implementation of the corresponding resolution adopted at Dakar; 5/

(b) That ECA should give maximum assistance to African countries in the preparation of negotiations between industrial and developing countries concerning raw-material and development problems on the basis of a unified approach, having regard to the close relationship between monetary, trade, financial scientific and technical co-operation and other problems;

(c) That ECA should actively participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Developing Countries on Commodities;

(d) That ECA should take the following action under its programme of work for 1974/1975 in accordance with a strict timetable and in close co-operation with its Executive Committee:

- (i) The organization of meetings among African countries which are producers and exporters of the same commodities with a view to setting up or consolidating appropriate producer-exporter associations;
- (ii) Active participation in the setting up of similar associations elsewhere in the Third World;

2/ A/9330.

3/ Reference unavailable / E/AC.62/6.

4/ General Assembly resolution 3281(XXIX).

5/ E/AC.62/6 resolution 4.

- (iii) The creation of an African consultative and co-ordinating board of associations of producers and exporters of raw materials and agricultural products;
- (iv) Participation in the setting up of the board of groups of developing countries producing and exporting raw materials decided on by the Dakar Conference;

(e) That ECA should keep a continuous watch on the prices of goods and services exported and imported by African countries, particularly the prices of food and industrial goods and services imported from developed countries, and on the development of the monetary situation with a view to providing effective help to African countries in the implementation of policies for guaranteeing a steady improvement in their terms of trade by, among other things, helping to devise and apply an indexing system in close co-operation with UNCTAD;

(f) That ECA should co-operate with the competent African and Afro-Arab agencies and with agencies of the non-aligned countries and developing countries in preparing and implementing economic, financial and technical co-operation programmes benefiting African countries through action for the domestic processing of their natural resources in accordance with the decisions adopted by the group of seventy-seven in February 1975; 6/

(g) That ECA should prepare a study on the size and function of non-African undertakings engaged in producing, marketing and investment-financing activities in African economies and participate actively in devising a code of behaviour governing multinational activities;

(h) That member States of ECA should jointly and actively support any country exercising its sovereignty over its natural resources in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and with the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly 7/ and any country subjected to political pressure or economic or other forms of aggression in connexion with the exercise of its right to determine the export price of its products;

(i) That ECA should prepare a study on the overall food shortage of the African countries with a view to encouraging the formulation of a development policy for agriculture and food in accordance with the decisions of the World Food Conference 8/ and a policy for the co-ordinated shipment of supplies to African countries short of food within the framework of international commodity agreements or by taking advantage of complementarity with other regions of the world;

(j) That ECA should devise a programme of effective action to help the least developed and the land-locked and island African countries;

6/ E/AC.62/4.

7/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

8/ E/5587 and Add. 1-4.

(k) That ECA should continue its active assistance to African countries:

(i) In co-operation with UNCTAD in connexion with the adoption and implementation of the integrated global commodity programme;

(ii) Within the framework of multilateral trade negotiations;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to co-operate closely with OAU in the implementation of this resolution.

183rd meeting,
28 February 1975.