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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Addis Ababa, 27 October to 31 October 1969

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED
IN THE REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF ECA (E/CN.14/ECO/11)

M69 - 2338

INTRODUCTION

1. (a) Para.4: Representatives of UN bodies will be permitted to attend meetings of the Executive Committee of ECA whenever the participation of such bodies will assist the deliberations of the committee on matters of mutual interest between the ECA and the UN body concerned.
- (b) The OAU should be represented by an observer, at meetings of the Executive Committee to assist in matters of policy and programme co-ordination, in conformity with the spirit of resolution 190(IX) dealing with the relations between the ECA and OAU.

Agenda Item 1(a)

Chairman's report on meeting with United Nations

Secretary-General in New York on 18 March 1969

2. Para.11: The Chairman of the Executive Committee should write to the Secretary-General of the U.N. thanking him for the understanding he had shown on the need for the re-organisation of the ECA and for his desire to see something concrete achieved for Africa during the second United Nations Development Decade.
3. Para.13: The Executive Committee's report to ECOSOC should include:
 - (a) the Chairman's Memorandum of 18 March, 1969 to the Secretary-General;
 - (b) the Secretary-General's reply to the Chairman's Memorandum;
 - (c) document E/CN.14/ECO/6 dealing with the re-organisation, structure and functions of the Secretariat of ECA; and
 - (d) the addendum to E/CN.14/ECO/6 reflecting the Committee's attitude.
4. Para. 15 and 16: The Executive Committee should determine the Commission's approach to the Heads of State and Government of OAU; the African representatives at ECOSOC, the UNDP Governing Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations with a view to harmonizing their positions and securing their active support in the implementation of the resolutions and work programmes of ECA as well as the political backing of the African Heads of State and Government.
5. Para. 17: African representatives on UN bodies should be kept fully informed of the decisions of the Executive Committee and of the activities and aspirations of the Commission to enable the ECA to serve as "the window through which African problems should be viewed".

Agenda Item 1(b)

Interpretation and implementation of the resolutions of the ninth session and tenth anniversary of the Commission

- 6. Para 22: In cases where a re-shufflement within the Government of a country affects the membership of that country's national on the Executive Committee the Government concerned should communicate the name and other particulars of the person designated to replace the Committee's member affected by the re-shufflement.
- 7. Para. 23: Members of the Executive Committee should be referred to by name (instead of their countries of ~~origin~~) during their attendance at meetings of the Committee, since such members have been selected on the basis of their membership of ECOSOC, the UNDP Governing Council and the African Sub-regions and not as representatives of their countries.
- 8. Para.24: The Chairman and the Rapporteur of the 9th session of the Commission together with the Minister for Economic Planning and Development of Kenya should represent the Executive Committee at the next session of ECOSOC.
- 9. Para.25. The travel and subsistence expenses of representatives of the Executive Committee attending ECOSOC meetings should be met by the United Nations.

Agenda Item 2(a)

Arrangements and procedure for establishing working relations or effective contact between the Executive Committee and various organizations

- 10. Para.26: The Secretariat of the ECA should serve as the Administrative Secretariat of the Executive Committee and liaise with the rapporteur on relevant matters.
- 11. Para.27: The Secretariat of the Commission should keep members of the Executive Committee informed of the activities of the secretariat and should designate a liaison officer to work with the Committee. Reports on the secretariat's activities should be made available to member States every three months, through the magazine "African Target". A similar service should be provided for Ambassadors of member States resident in Addis Ababa.

12. Para.28: There shall be two meetings of the Executive Committee every year, to be held a few weeks before sessions of ECOSOC, the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government.
13. Para.29: Meetings of the Executive Committee and Technical Committee of Experts should take place in Addis Ababa in order to cut down costs and to make it possible for the ECA Secretariat to provide full servicing facilities for such meetings.
14. Para.30: Reports of the Executive Secretary should reach the rapporteur a month before the meetings of the Executive Committee and the technical committee of experts and should contain information on:
 - (i) the implementation of the Commissions Resolutions and Work Programmes;
 - (ii) co-operation with International and intra-African Organizations;
 - (iii) the staff and financial requirements of the secretariat to enable it discharge its responsibilities.
15. Para.31: Reports on the activities of the secretariat and its sub-regional offices should be submitted every three months to members of the Executive Committee, but reports of special significance could be submitted during the intervening period if necessary.
16. Para.32: Reports of meetings of the Executive Committee should be circulated to member States of the Commission. The ECA secretariat should prepare reports dealing with Administrative and Technical matters, while all other reports or communications dealing with political matters should be issued by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, or, in his absence, by the Rapporteur.
17. Para.33: Within the limits of funds available, members of the Committee should undertake visits to member States of the Commission; the Chairman and the Rapporteur should attend meetings of the Heads of State and Government to keep them informed of the activities of the Committee and the ECA secretariat so as to ensure wide publicity of the Commission's activities.
18. Para.34: Reports of the meetings of the Committee as well as reports on the activities of the secretariat should be made available to the Sub-regional offices of ECA and the offices of multi-national organizations in Africa.
19. Para.35: Reports on the activities of UN Agencies operating in Africa should be made available at meetings of the Executive Committee.

20. Para. 36: The Secretariat of the ECA should make available to the members of the Committee a list of ECA Sub-Regional Offices and multi-national agencies operating in Africa.
21. Para. 37: The Executive Committee should be kept informed of the activities of subsidiary bodies of the Commission - e.g. Conference of African Planners, Conference of African Statisticians, Working Group on Manpower and Training, Working Party on Intra-African Trade, Advisory Committee on Staff Recruitment and Training.
22. Para. 38: The Executive Committee should maintain close contacts with African members of the various United Nations Specialized and other Agencies as well as with African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, and for this purpose the ECA Secretariat should:
- (a) supply members of the Executive Committee with an up-to-date list of African members serving on the various U.N. bodies, including African permanent representatives to the U.N., and should keep the committee informed of their meetings as well as matters to be discussed at such meetings;
 - (b) inform African members on the various U.N. bodies of the decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee;
 - (c) provide a mailing list of African members on U.N. bodies, including African Representatives to U.N., for the transmission of reports of meetings of the Executive Committee.
23. Para. 40: The representative of the OAU Secretariat at meetings of the Executive Committee should be in a position to provide reports to the OAU on the deliberations of the Committee so as to bring the Committee up-to-date with problems raised at OAU meetings which might be of interest to the Committee. The ECA Secretariat should also be represented on the OAU Committee which is the counterpart of the Executive Committee of ECA.
24. Para. 41: In keeping with the spirit of improving the working relations between ECA and OAU, the Secretariat of OAU should be invited to place at the disposal of the ECA, the OAU Office in New York to enable contacts to be made with African representatives at the United Nations. The exchange of documents on the activities of both organizations should be continued.

Agenda Item 2(b)

Arrangements and procedure for regular presentation of reports on the activities of ECA for the consideration of African Heads of State and Government

25. Para. 42, 43 and 44: Reports of the Executive Committee should be submitted for the consideration of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU in the form of a consolidated report reflecting all aspects of the

resolutions and deliberations of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat of the Commission should assist the Rapporteur in the preparation of such reports which should be forwarded to the OAU Secretariat for inclusion in the agenda of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and for presentation by the Chairman or the Rapporteur at the meetings of Heads of State and Government.

Agenda Item 2(c)

Arrangements and procedure for briefing African members of the Economic and Social Council and African Governments on the activities of the Commission prior to sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations

26. Para.45: Reports and other documents intended for distribution to African members of ECOSOC should be forwarded through their Governments and copies also forwarded direct to the African members.

Agenda Item 2(d)

Arrangements and procedure for receiving reports from the Technical Committee of Experts and for submission of Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers biennially

27. Para.46: Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee of Experts should be submitted to the Executive Committee and should deal with ECA studies and programmes of work and priorities. The Technical Committee of Experts should meet at the end of each year or early in the year to examine the implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the Commission during the preceding year, as well as to consider the draft programme of work and priorities for the succeeding year. At meetings of the Technical Committee of Experts preceding the biennial conference of Ministers, the experts should examine ECA's progress report on the previous biennium as well as the draft work programme and priorities for the next biennium. The relevant report should be presented to the Conference of Ministers through the Executive Committee.

Agenda Item 3

Review of structure and composition of sub-regional groupings and associated problems

28. Para.49: A detailed study should be undertaken by the ECA Secretariat

on the need for a review of the present sub-regional groupings, taking into account the possibility of a Southern African Sub-region comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mauritius and Madagascar, and bearing in mind the possibility of including in any new re-grouping of countries into sub-regions the dependent territories of Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea and Namibia.

Agenda Item 4(a)

Reorganization, structure and functions of the secretariat

29. Para.54: In any arrangements for decentralization of UN operational activities to the ECA, two forms of decentralization should be taken into account, namely:

- (a) decentralization from UN and UNDP to the Headquarters of the ECA Secretariat, to enable the Secretariat carry out the mandate entrusted to it by the 9th Session of the Commission for implementation during the second United Nations development Decade;
- (b) further decentralization from the Headquarters of ECA Secretariat to the Sub-Regional Offices of ECA, so as to enable these offices to play a meaningful role at the sub-regional and multi-national levels.

30. (a) Para.55: Account should be taken of the fact that UNDP was prepared to supply the Sub-regional offices with experts and that the cost of the administrative services necessary for such experts might be met from the regular budget made available to the secretariat;

(b) The Sub-regional offices of ECA should be used as co-ordinating centres working in co-operation with groups of UNDP Resident Representatives, so that substantial economies could be made in the operations of United Nations bodies. Such co-ordinating centres could also make a contribution in formulating and implementation multi-national projects.

Agenda Item 4(b) (i)

Personnel

31. Para.56: The Executive Secretary should continue his efforts to Africanise the ECA as much and as quickly as possible, since the question of Africanisation in ECA involved the solution of African problems which could best be tackled by Africans for whom the economic and social development of their continent meant a great deal more than for those who needed to regard the development of Africa as just another case requiring attention.

32. Para.57: African Governments should be requested to assist the Executive Secretary in identifying suitably qualified Africans for service with the ECA, up to the target of 75 per cent which has been agreed in principle by the United Nations.
33. Para.58: In discussing matters relating to recruitment and personnel, reference should be made to basic principles rather than to the individuals affected. The Executive Secretary should continue his efforts to get ECA staff promoted as vacancies became available in order to raise the morale of the staff.
34. Para.59: While every attempt should be made to maintain standards, the Executive Secretary should also continue in his efforts to achieve some form of linguistic balance. Adequate facilities should be provided within the ECA Secretariat to enable both English and French-speaking staff members to learn the language of the other. The Executive Secretary should inform member Governments periodically of existing vacancies in the secretariat and of the relevant qualifications required.
35. Para.60: The proposals contained in the information document ECO/INF/1 should be considered as helpful in dealing with the question of personnel and staff development within the ECA Secretariat and the proposals should be recommended for urgent implementation. An official from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management should be invited to the next meeting of the Executive Committee to explain to members the United Nations position on staff recruitment and training.

Agenda Item 5(a) (i)

Changes within the United Nations
and their effects on ECA

UNDP

36. Para.66 and 67: As it would appear that the present operation of the UNDP system had no place for the regional economic commissions, it would be necessary, in the best interests of the developing countries, to rectify the situation when the UNDP Capacity Study is submitted to the UNDP Governing Council and the General Assembly for consideration. For this purpose the following action should be taken:
- (a) the secretariat should analyse the UNDP Capacity Study as soon as it is available and submit its conclusions to the Executive Committee and to all member States of the ECA for their guidance;
 - (b) the record of the proceedings of the Executive Committee on the subject should be made available to all African members of the UNDP-Governing Council and ECOSOC;

- (c) the ECA Secretariat should prepare for the consideration of the Executive Committee, a detailed examination of the formal relations necessary between ECA and UNDP to promote a more effective use of joint resources for the benefit of the African Region.

UNCTAD

37. Para. 71: The Joint ECA/GATT training courses in trade promotion should continue to be held each year for English and French-speaking African countries, so that two of these courses could be held in each year - one for the English-speaking Africans and the other for the French-speaking Africans.
38. Para. 73: The Joint ECA/OAU advisory body on trade should inform the Secretary-General of UNCTAD of the strong desire of African countries to make African bodies, particularly the Economic Commission for Africa, more operational in the fields of trade promotion and economic co-operation.

DECENTRALIZATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

39. Para. 76 and 77: More flexible arrangements and funds should be provided to enable ECA Regional Advisers to travel more extensively in response to the increasing number of requests from member States and such arrangements should also enable the ECA Secretariat to undertake direct recruitment of Regional Advisers. The present contractual period of one year for Regional Advisers should be extended to two years, in order to enable non-African Technical experts to familiarise themselves with African conditions and give them a sense of security.
40. Para. 78: The Executive Committee should request the UNDP Governing Council and ECOSOC to:
- (a) Designate ECA as an "executing agency" for certain Special Fund activities in which the Commission had accumulated specialized knowledge of the material and human problems of the African region;
 - (b) Involve the secretariat of the Commission in the preparation and drafting of plans of operation of Special Fund Projects, for which the secretariat had already accumulated necessary material, as a result of surveys, research and studies undertaken in relation to specific development problems of the countries of the region;
 - (c) Increase the Commission secretariat's involvement in the development or promotion of sub-regional or regional training **institutions**, which were established with Special Fund assistance;
 - (d) Grant the ECA secretariat an active role in the programming and planning of United Nations technical assistance and programmes of specialized agencies in Africa;

- (e) Grant the Commission secretariat full operational control of the UNDP/TA regional programme, and delegate financial responsibility to the secretariat of the Commission.

FAO

41. Para. 82: The establishment of a single United Nations programme for agricultural development, under the existing arrangement of the ECA/FAO Joint Division of Agriculture, has proved satisfactory and should be continued.

UNIDO

42. Para. 85 and 86: Support should be given to the following proposals:
- (a) the formation of a joint OAU/ECA/UNIDO Committee;
 - (b) the strengthening of national industrial promotion centres;
 - (c) securing UNIDO's assistance for the development of multi-national investment centres;
 - (d) securing UNIDO's co-operation in the running of regional seminars on major sectors of industry;
 - (e) establishing joint action in promoting sub-regional centres to deal with the manufacturing and utilisation aspects of agricultural equipment;
 - (f) securing UNIDO's co-operation in the field of small-scale industrial development.

UNESCO

43. Para. 88, 89 and 90: The attention of member States of ECA should be drawn to the need for an improvement in the working relations between ECA and UNESCO as well as to the need to ensure that, while supporting UNESCO's global programmes, Africa's special and immediate interests were not overlooked. Support should also be given to the following specific areas of co-operation defined in 1968 by the Director-General of UNESCO and the ECA :

- (a) follow-up action on the survey of African students studying or training abroad which was initiated in 1967;
- (b) the report on the first phase of the UNESCO study of university facilities in Africa which should be made available to ECA as a basis for future work in the field of manpower planning;
- (c) the agreement between UNESCO and ECA for joint action in revising the Addis Ababa education targets, in keeping with the relevant resolution adopted by the Nairobi Conference of 1968;
- (d) the agreement between UNESCO and ECA for joint action in running the ECA technical meeting on the application of science and technology and the UNESCO Ministerial meeting on the same subject.

ILO

44. Paras. 91 - 94: Support should be given to the need for continued co-operation between ILO and ECA and for the establishment of close working relations in the following fields:

- (a) manpower planning and training;
- (b) integrated rural development;
- (c) promotion of small-scale industry;
- (d) vocational training of youth and the analysis of the impact of educational policies on the manpower situation;
- (e) the formulation of the African aspects of a world employment plan.

Agenda Item 5(b)

Proposed semi-operational activities
of ECA during the second United Nations Development
Decade

45. Paras. 95 and 96: The proposals contained in paragraph 9 of document E/CN.14/ECO/6 should serve as the basis for the formulation of concrete recommendations to the appropriate United Nations bodies, in regard to those fields of United Nations operational activities in Africa which the ECA Secretariat and its sub-regional offices could undertake more efficiently and economically during the second United Nations Development Decade. The semi-operational activities of ECA envisaged during the forthcoming development decade should include:

- (a) areas of activities which were, so far, not adequately catered for by various United Nations operations in Africa;
- (b) activities which the ECA Secretariat considered it could economically and efficiently undertake by virtue of its specialized knowledge of the material and human problems of the African Region;
- (c) projects relating to sub-regional and other multi-national co-operation for economic and social development in Africa;
- (d) planning and execution of projects in co-operation with other United Nations bodies operating in Africa

Agenda Item 6

The second Development Decade
and its implications for the regional economic commissions

46. Paras. 97-98: The Economic Commission for Africa should serve as the principal United Nations organ to focus attention on the African Region and assist in the formulation of programmes for the development of Africa. The Executive Secretary should therefore establish a Unit

within the secretariat to collect relevant material on all aspects of the subject, including a special study of the reasons for the failure of the first United Nations Development Decade, as far as Africa is concerned. The report of the Unit established to undertake this assignment should be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration and follow-up action.

47. Para 99: The principle of self-reliance should be emphasized for the following reasons:

- (a) African countries have come to realise that external aid (bilateral or multi-lateral) had not produced the desired results for African development;
- (b) external aid tended to diminish and sometimes conflicted with the interests and priorities of individual countries;
- (c) African countries generally admitted that aid should be a complement to, and not a substitute for, effort at the national level;
- (d) industrialised countries which provided aid might not necessarily regard Africa as a region particularly deserving of attention and might disagree with African countries as to what constituted genuine obstacles to accelerated development;
- (e) the emphasis placed by some industrialised countries on demographic growth in Africa should not be accepted as the principal factor in the formulation of policy for economic development in Africa where the "population bulge" has not become an acute problem, although there is need for a certain degree of vigilance in this field in a more distant future.

48. Para.100: The following action should be taken:

- (a) a request should be made to the United Nations Preparatory Committee to invite the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to attend meetings of the UN Preparatory Committee;
- (b) an overall continental strategy for Africa during the second United Nations Development Decade should be formulated for Africa, using as its guidelines such common objectives as: self-reliance, investment financing, development of communications, transport, intra-African trade and economic co-operation; arresting the present deterioration in the terms of trade with the industrialised countries; removing the constraints which have so far impeded development, so as to provide the necessary impetus for sustained economic and social growth.
- (c) the Executive Committee should further examine at its next meeting, the issues relating to the second United Nations Development Decade and its implications for the Regional Economic Commissions.

Agenda Item 7

Collection of information and publicizing the activities of ECA

49. Paras. 103-108: In order to improve the effectiveness of the Information Service of ECA, the following action should be taken:

- (a) ECA should endeavour to prepare, more frequently, feature material for African radio services, such as: round-table discussions by participants at meetings; discussions by expert on specific development projects; discussions of UNDP project by ECA, UN specialized and other agencies; discussions with donor countries on their individual contributions to African countries;
- (b) the distribution list for the "African Target" should be revised so that the "Target" could be given the widest circulation possible within the African continent;
- (c) attempts should be made to send telex news items from ECA to selected African countries for radio broadcasts and, for this purpose, the Executive Committee should give consideration to the countries to be selected, the facilities available in such countries and the financial implications;
- (d) visits to selected countries, on a sub-regional basis, should be undertaken periodically by members of the ECA Information Service in order to: collect information about national development efforts; publicise the activities of ECA; organise public discussions on African development;
- (e) the ECA Secretariat should prepare a comprehensive paper dealing with the proposals for the collection of information and publicizing the activities of ECA and the method of implementation, including the financial implications, for further consideration by the Executive Committee.

Agenda Item 8

Date and Place of Next Meeting

50. Para. 109: The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Addis Ababa from Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October, 1969, so as to make it possible for the Executive Committee to receive the report of the OAU meeting held in Addis Ababa from 27 August to 10 September, 1969 and for the Executive Committee to arrange for the participation of representatives of the Committee at the FAO meeting to be held in Rome from 29 October to 27 November, 1969.