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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Third Conference of Ministers of
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8-14 March 1983

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Third Meeting of Experts
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5-14 January 1983

UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
DECADE IN AFRICA
(1978-1988)

FOLLOW-UP ACTION TAKEN ON RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS
AND PLANNING, THE EIGHTH MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
ECA, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. Resolutions adopted by the second Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

The second Conference of Ministers adopted a series of resolutions Res. 81/12 to Res. 81/22 i.e. 11 resolutions on the action to be taken as part of the programme of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa. The following is a brief summary of the action which has been taken:

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/12

1. In December 1981 in Geneva, ECA organized the fifth meeting of the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade which is made up of all the African regional and subregional organizations as well as the Organization of African Unity and all the institutions in the United Nations system, in order to examine regional, subregional and national projects with a regional impact. Following this, Working Group Meetings were organized by ECA in February/March and in September 1982 on each mode of transport and communications. These meetings were rounded off with the sixth Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee meeting held in October 1982 in Dakar. Joint action taken by UNCTAD and ECA made it possible to consider the problems of land-locked, semi-land-locked and island countries, during various field missions.
2. The African Development Bank played the leading role during Consultative Technical Meetings organized in 1981/82.
3. African countries communicate regularly to ECA, information on the status of financing and the progress in the implementation of the Decade.
4. UNDP has made funds available to ECA for financing the UNTACDA Co-ordination unit (\$3,500,000 for the period 1982/86), for the preparation of the second phase programme (\$852,500 in 1982), and for implementing certain regional projects.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/13

ECA has regularly been updating the programme of the first phase of the Decade, so as to include in it all the priority projects of African countries. Consequently, the programme of the first phase, which initially contained 771 projects at a cost of \$8.9 million, now contains 1,092 projects at a cost of \$15,443.404 million.

The breakdown of the projects is as follows:

<u>Sub-sector</u>	<u>Initial number of projects</u>	<u>Cost in millions of \$</u>	<u>Number of updated projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
ROP	127	179,619	224	2,271,073
RAP	41	322,311	79	5,439,000
AIP	175	63,274	201	2,162,943
SHP	52	32,004	75	1,176,154
HAP	100	224,076	120	2,904,915
INP	57	8,620	71	338,232
MMP	9	4,315	9	33,150
Total transport projects	561	834,219	779	14,325,467
TEP	42	22,348	90	531,063
SAP	2	38	3	7,700
BRP	93	16,941	115	211,817
POP	58	4,435	84	241,553
MAP	15	7,613	21	125,804
Total communications projects	210	51,375	313	1,117,937

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/14

ECA followed the timetable approved by the Conference of Ministers for the preparation of the second phase programme. All actions were taken in collaboration with members of the Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade.

The first draft of the second phase programme contains 1,322 projects at a cost of \$30,958.755 million. Among these projects, 617 have been transferred from phase one to phase two.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/15

Despite the appeal made by the Executive Secretary of ECA to African countries, their support for the Decade programme during the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities in 1981 and 1982 was very poor. Few African countries made pledges for the UNTACDA programme which was rather discouraging for ECA which had representatives in the conference room at the time pledges were made.

The following amounts were pledged:

for 1981	:	\$75,367
for 1982	:	\$41,150
for 1983	:	\$55,563

It is hoped that member States will make more effort in financing the Decade.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/16

The four vacant posts at the Division of Transport, Communications and Tourism have been filled entirely with African experts.

Concerning the preparation of the programme of the second phase of the Decade, four-fifths of the consultants engaged to undertake the task are African.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/18

ECA has undertaken sectoral studies in this field and hopes to submit a report on the studies during the fourth Conference.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/19

In June, in Nairobi, the OAU Council of Ministers and the Conference of Heads of State and Government adopted a resolution on "Freedoms of the air". Despite this action, not much progress has been made by African countries in this respect. African countries refuse each other the freedom they easily grant to non-African countries.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/20

The first conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held at Addis Ababa in May 1979, approved in the resolution 79/7, the principle of the establishment of an air tariff machinery and a structure to supplement the worldwide multilateral system.

The thirty-third session of the OAU Council of Ministers (Monrovia in 1979) adopted Resolution CM/Res. 739 (XXXIII) by which it requested AFCAC, AFRAA, ECA and OAU, to take the necessary action to organize and establish an African Air Tariff Conference as a permanent institution responsible for discussing and acting upon air tariffs to be applied by African airlines. This resolution was approved by the sixteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at Monrovia in July 1980.

At its thirty-fifth ordinary session in Freetown, in July 1980, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res. 805 (XXXV) calling for the convening of a Diplomatic conference on the African air tariffs conference. This resolution was adopted by the seventeenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

In pursuance of the resolutions above, a diplomatic conference was held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 12 December 1980 under the auspices of ECA, OAU, AFCAC and AFRAA, during which the Convention calling for the establishment of an African Air Tariff Conference was adopted. AFRAA was charged with the responsibility of ensuring the implementation and co-ordination of the said Convention (article 1 of the Convention).

Follow-up

AFCAC sent certified true copies of the Convention to all countries and invited them to sign and ratify the Convention. AFCAC also focussed attention on problems associated with bringing the Convention into effect. It noted that some States seemed to be reluctant to ratify the Convention on the grounds that they had difficulties with some of the provision, especially article 7 dealing with the tariff approval process.

AFRAA established a task force to harmonize the provisions of the Convention with some procedures followed by IATA airlines for conducting this Conference.

The various difficulties were brought to the attention of the Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Addis Ababa in March 1981. This ministerial conference adopted resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/20 by which it invited all African States to sign and/or ratify the Convention, of which the original texts have been deposited with the AFCAC secretariat so as to create conditions required for the holding of the conference.

AFRAA submitted the draft procedures and code of conduct of AFRATC to the AFCAC secretariat, which in turn sent them to all member States.

An informal meeting was convened by AFRAA in Nairobi from 27 September to 3 October 1982 to examine the draft procedures and code of conduct of AFRATC.

The meeting which brought together 25 airlines, OAU and ECA made it possible to:

1. harmonize AFRAA's draft procedures with the Convention;
2. find a compromise on the solution of the difficulties related to the acceptance of article 7, namely paragraph 4 of article 9 which specifies that the decisions that will be applied will be those taken unanimously by members present and having the right to vote.

Airlines belonging to countries which have not yet signed the Convention were assured in a way as to encourage their Governments to sign it in the coming months. It is to be recalled that without the participation of ECA and AFCAC, the said informal meeting would have been a failure, because some airlines opposed the holding of the meeting since, as far as they were concerned, the Convention had not received the required number of signatures and ratifications.

The purpose of this informal meeting was to:

1. harmonize the documents of the rules and regulations on the procedures of AFRATC with the Convention. This made it possible to arrive at an understanding of article 7;
2. set up a body capable of dealing with African air tariffs and which will be responsible for co-ordinating AFRATC's activities after ratification by 25 countries;
3. have the opportunity to discuss the reform of African markets, the prorata system and a common policy which African airlines should adopt at the next IATA meeting.

Number of signatures

- To date, there are 11 signatures;
- Some countries, especially Mali and Egypt have informed AFCAC's secretariat that they are taking steps to ratify the Convention.

Resolutions UNTACDA/Res. 81/17

Res. 81/21

Res. 81/22

At its second meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 16-18 March 1981, the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning adopted Resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/17, Res. 21 and Res. 22. The aims of these resolutions are:

- (a) To call upon all those involved in the studies on Satellite Communications to co-ordinate their efforts in order to set up a single regional system (ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/17);
- (b) To launch an appeal for the development of rural telecommunications (ECA/UNTACDA/ Res. 81/21); and
- (c) To recommend the establishment of a specifically African communications industry based on a concerted policy among States and drawing inspiration from the objectives for standardizing communications equipment and measures to protect such industries (ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/22).

Implementation of resolutions

In pursuance of resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 81/17 ECA participated actively in the sixth meeting of UAPT Conference of Ministers in July 1981 and then in collaboration with PATU, organized a special co-ordinating meeting in Lagos in November 1981. At the same time, a prefeasibility study on appropriate modern telecommunications technology for integrated rural development (AMIT/IRD) based on

a regional satellite communications system was undertaken. The study which was financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, was carried out jointly by ITU, PATU, UNESCO, OAU and ECA. The report of the study was sent to all the member States for their review.

From 22 to 26 March 1982 a meeting of inter-governmental experts in communications and related discipline areas was organized by OAU, ECA, ITU, UNESCO and PATU as the inter-agency steering committee on project AMTT/IRD to examine the report on the feasibility study of the project.

At this meeting, which was attended by 101 representatives of 43 member countries and a large number of observer organizations and governments, the report on UAPT's preliminary study on its AFSAT project was also presented. The AFSAT study covered all the francophone countries which are members of UAPT as well as Zaire. Consequent upon its deliberations on the AMTT/IRD prefeasibility study, UAPT's preliminary AFSAT study, which was indicated to have been co-ordinated since late 1981 with PATU's preliminary study on its AFROSAT rproject, the meeting recommended the establishment of an inter-agency co-ordinating committee, composed of OAU, ECA, ADB, PATU (technical secretariat), UAPT, URTNA, ITU, UNESCO and the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA) with responsibilities among others to harmonize and integrate all on-going prefeasibility study projects and activities such as AMTT/IBRD, AFROSAT and AFSAT in order to reach a consensus on a single study on appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa.

The ECA Conference of Ministers at its eighth meeting which took place in Tripoli from 27-30 April 1982, endorsed the recommendation passed by the Inter-governmental Experts Meeting on appropriate modern telecommunications technology for rural development by adopting resolution CM/8/L.9 on appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa.

The first meeting of the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee on the appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa took place at the OAU General Secretariat in Addis Ababa from 25-27 August 1981. The meeting was convened by OAU in accordance with the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Experts Meeting on the AMTT/IRD study and ECA Conference of Ministers Resolution CM.8/L.9.

This meeting, which was attended by OAU, ECA, URTNA, ITU, UNESCO and UAPT, agreed amongst other things to deal in detail with the issue of harmonization and integration of all the study projects at the second meeting of the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee, and at a special meeting of the agencies assisted by their experts and consultants. During this meeting, the various terms of reference guiding the different studies could be compared and amended if necessary. Also preliminary consideration of the clauses relating to the implementation of the feasibility phase of the integrated study would be discussed.

The Committee agreed to hold this second meeting in Addis Ababa at a time to be agreed upon after due consultations with all members concerned.

It should be noted that the study on a Regional Satellite Communications system is in line with resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.81/21 on rural telecommunications.

Consultations have begun among CAU, ECA, ITU, PATU and UNIDO with respect to the organization of a regional seminar on the needs and implications of multi-national co-operation with a view to the establishment of an African communications equipment industry.

In November 1982 the seminar on promotion and development of telecommunications industry in Africa was held in Algeria and it was financed by UNIDO and convened by PATU as recommended in resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.81/22.

II. Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers of ECA

1. Resolution 422 (XVI)

At each of its sessions, the Conference of Ministers of ECA adopt a resolution on the Decade. By its resolution 422 (XVI), it approved all the resolutions adopted by the second Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning. It charged the Executive Secretary of ECA with the responsibility of organizing four Consultative Technical Meetings as well as the undertaking of actions prescribed in the resolutions UNTACDA 01/12 and 81/22.

The Executive Secretary of ECA has actually organized the Consultative Technical Meetings referred to above. UNDP has given considerable support to the Decade programme and the other actions undertaken are mentioned in paragraph I above.

The United Nations General Assembly has granted ECA financial support to the tune of \$350,283 for the period 1981/82 to enable it to effectively play its role of a lead agency for the Decade and to organize the Consultative Technical meetings.

2. Resolution 435 (XVII)

This resolution takes note of the results of the first four Consultative Technical meetings and recommends the organization of a fifth meeting.

This resolution has been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly. The Fifth Consultative Technical Meeting will be held from 11 to 14 October 1983.

III. Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council adopted two resolutions namely Resolutions 1981/67 of 24 July 1981 and 1982/34 of 29 July, 1982. These two resolutions in a way endorsed resolutions 422 (XVI) and 435 (XVII) of the ECA ministers and also paved the way for resolutions of the General Assembly. The action to be taken in connection with ECOSOC's resolutions are almost the same as for those of the General Assembly.

IV. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly

The General Assembly endorsed the resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers and of the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 35/108 of 5 December 1980, by which it approved the organization of consultative technical meetings to mobilize financial resources. In this connection, the General Assembly provided ECA with an amount of \$250,000 for the organization of the meetings.

The amount made it possible for ECA to organize the Lome meeting in 1981 and to prepare the documents for the Ouagadougou and Yaounde meetings.

Since the funds made available to ECA were insufficient, the General Assembly endorsed resolution 1981/57 of ECOSOC by the resolution 36/177 of 19 December 1981 and granted ECA another \$145,000 for the organization of three Consultative Technical Meetings.

The cost of the four meetings which were organized is as follows:

	<u>General Assembly</u> in \$	<u>UNDP</u> in \$
Lome	108,427	65,320
Yaounde	102,729	9,603
Abidjan	71,683	25,190
Ouagadougou	<u>67,444</u>	<u>20,555</u>
	350,283	120,663

The total cost of the four meetings was \$470,946. Of this amount, the General Assembly contributed \$350,283 and the UNDP \$120,663.

The findings of the four meetings are contained in the document DEC/TRANSCOM/CM/III/2.