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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Nineteenth session of the Commission
and tenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24-28 May 1984

DRAFT REPORT

NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND TENTH MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. The nineteenth session of the Commission and tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 28 May 1984. In the absence of the outgoing Chairman of the ninth meeting, Comrade Mersie Ejigu, Head of General Planning of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and the Central Planning Supreme Council with the rank of Minister, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of COPWE opened the meeting.
2. Opening addresses were delivered by Comrade Addis Tedla, Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) Standing Committee Member, Deputy Chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and Member of the Executive Committee of COPWE, the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Secretary-General ad interim of the Organization of African Unity and Comrade Mersie Ejigu. The Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development of the United Nations read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A message from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was read out by his representative (see Section C below for summaries of those statements and messages).
3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
4. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Commission's terms of reference, observers were present from the following member States of the United Nations

which are not members of the Commission: Austria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Spain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

5. Observers for the Holy Sea, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, States not members of the United Nations, were also present.

6. The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) were represented, in accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended the meeting: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, United Nations University, World Food Council, World Food Programme, International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT).

8. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were represented in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference: African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, African Remote Sensing Council, African Regional Organization for Standardization, Central African Customs and Economic Union, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Pan-African Telecommunications Union, Organisation communautaire africaine et mauritienne, Banque ouest-africaine de developpement, League of Arab States, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Organization of African Unity and Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys.

9. The Conference unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Hon. Mr. Mulumba Lukoji	Zaire
First Vice-Chairman:	Hon. Mr. Mohammed Wafik Hosny	Egypt
Second Vice-Chairman:	Hon. Mr. Mohamed Ag Hamany	Mali
Rapporteur:	Hon. Mr. Stephen A. Echakara	Kenya

E. Agenda

10. At its two hundred and thirtieth meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
5. Formal opening of the meeting
6. Biennial report of the Executive Secretary including an update of programme performance
7. Critical economic situation in Africa
 - (a) Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1982-1983

- (b) Report on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the economic and social crisis in Africa, with particular reference to the current emergency situation in Africa including medium- and long-term development issues
 - (c) Critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa
 - (d) Intensive study to ascertain the cause(s) of the discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of the sector 1/
 - (e) The Scientific Roundtable on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa 2/
 - (f) Report of the Regional Meeting on Natural Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in Africa
 - (g) Africa's external debt and its impact on the current economic crisis
8. Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos in solving Africa's critical economic crisis: report and recommendations of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on selected matters:
- I. United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
 - (i) Second Phase Programme, 1984-1988
 - (ii) Europe-Africa Permanent Link through the Straits of Gibraltar
 - (iii) Report of the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning
 - II. United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa - report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry
 - III. The special problems of African least developed countries: report of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries

1/ Report prepared pursuant to ECA resolution 462 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983.

2/ Report prepared pursuant to ECA resolution 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983.

- IV. Regional review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development in Africa
- V. Perspective studies on the livestock sector 3/
- VI. Establishment of an African Monetary Fund 4/
- VII. Contributions of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions to African development
 - (a) Proceedings and recommendations of the fourth Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions
 - (b) Consolidated biennial report on the activities, 1982-1983, and the programme of work and priorities, 1984-1985, of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions 5/
- VIII. Evaluation and harmonization of the activities of the African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU: report of the Ad Hoc Committee prepared pursuant to ECA resolution 477 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983
- IX. Reports of the annual sessions of the MULPOCs
- X. Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission
 - (a) Third session of the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers
 - (b) Second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment
 - (c) Fifth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

3/ Progress report prepared pursuant to ECA resolution 463 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983.

4/ Progress report prepared pursuant to ECA resolution 467 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983.

5/ Prepared pursuant to ECA resolution 451 (XVII) of 30 April 1982.

- (d) Second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development
 - (e) Report of the Regional Meeting on the International Youth Year
 - (f) Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
- XI. Proposed updating of, and revision to, the Medium-term Plan, 1984-1989
- XII. World Population Plan of Action
- XIII. Other resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa
- (a) Follow-up action on other relevant resolutions adopted at the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers
 - (b) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa
- XIV. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
- Progress report on the Utilization of Pledges for 1982 and 1983
- 9. ECOSOC's request to its subsidiary bodies that currently meet on an annual basis to consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings and to report in 1984
 - 10. Other business
 - 11. Date and venue of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the sixth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
 - 12. Consideration and adoption of proposals and the report of the meeting
 - 13. Closure of the meeting.

C. Accounts of proceedings

Opening addresses

11. In opening the meeting, H.E. Comrade Addis Tedla, Member of the PMAC Standing Committee, Deputy Chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and Member of the Executive Committee of the COPWE, welcomed participants on behalf of the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia and on his own behalf. He extended to all a warm welcome to Addis Ababa.

12. He recalled that hardly a year had elapsed since they had celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and had adopted the Declaration of Addis Ababa on the deteriorating economic and social situation of Africa. The Conference of Ministers had at the present session to grapple with the current problems of Africa and to make feasible recommendations for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984, by Governments and by the international community as a whole.

13. While the 1960s had been for many Africans the decade when freedom and political independence were acquired, it became manifest in the 1970s that economic relations between African economies and those of developed countries were unjust and inequitable. The general consequences were sluggish growth and increased dependence on the outside world, not only for capital and manufactured goods but also for food. The 1980s were not encouraging, either, and unless more vigorous efforts were made such dependence would continue.

14. The most urgent problem facing Africa was the unprecedented food crisis. Twenty years ago Africa was self-sufficient in food. Food, and agricultural production generally, had since declined, while population growth had continued. The gap between supply of, and demand for, food had widened. Commercial imports and meagre aid from outside the region through food programmes could not cover

the deficits. The continuous decline in the prices of African export commodities, while the price levels of industrial imports rose steadily, had affected adversely not only long-term development projects but also short-term recovery programmes. Agriculture, the largest and most important sector of the African economies, could not be expanded because the deteriorating terms of trade had resulted in short-falls in investment inputs.

15. The only durable solution to that perennial problem would be an improvement in the terms of trade of African developing countries - in practice, in export prices of commodities. In spite of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, that had not occurred. African countries had therefore to press the developed countries for improvements in the way international markets operated.

16. A separate though related factor that crippled African economies was the debt burden, whose servicing had been estimated to absorb 22 per cent of export income in 1983. Debt relief measures should be taken by the international community. It was no less urgent to deal with and overcome the present food crisis in Africa.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had taken the initiative to contain the catastrophe by establishing a special group to deal with the crisis and had appointed the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa as his special representative in that connection. He expressed the hope that the group would be able to monitor the food situation and ensure the mobilization of the life-saving resources required.

18. Such short-term measures must be complementary to medium- and long-term measures. ECA, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), had made efforts with a view to implementing the measures prescribed by the Lagos Strategy, including the programmes of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The various African subgroupings should be encouraged to pool their resources to accelerate the pace of industrialization.

19. Referring to his country's experience since the upsurge of the revolution of February 1974, he said that since October 1973 six consecutive annual plans had been launched, in order to increase agricultural and industrial production. The Government of Socialist Ethiopia would shortly complete a Ten-Year Perspective Plan which aimed at the structural transformation of the economy, to enhance material conditions, and also at raising the cultural level of the people.

20. The Secretary-General, in a message read on his behalf by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, noted that the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA was taking place at a particularly difficult moment. The situation in Africa was, without doubt, an emergency requiring the support of the international community. Natural calamities such as drought had added to the severe impact of a sharp drop in prices for most primary commodities, higher interest rates and stagnating official development assistance receipts, which together had led to a large increase in Africa's external debt. Imports of essential commodities and investment programmes had had to be seriously reduced. As a result, a large number of Africans were suffering from acute shortages of food, drinking water and basic medical care. Almost half the population of the continent was threatened by famine, malnutrition and epidemics. Indeed, since the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the chief question confronting many African countries had not been one of development but of survival.

21. Other countries were becoming increasingly aware of the need for an effective international response to crisis, as the decision by the Economic and Social Council to hold a substantive debate on Africa's critical situation confirmed. It was to be hoped that the new political awareness would help to bring to an end the stagnation in aid flows to Africa and promote movement in the negotiations on replenishing the resources of the International Development Association.

22. It was essential however, for African Governments to take the lead in defining what they need and what action at the national and international levels would alleviate their difficulties. The causes of their present difficulties had to be clearly identified. While the food emergency might be the most critical aspect of the crisis in many countries, particularly the least developed, also faced medium- and long-term structural problems. The causes of Africa's situation might, in fact, be varied enough to require a country-by-country assessment.

23. The Secretary-General paid tribute to the many African leaders who had recognized the need to change policies that had proved ineffective. As the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act indicated, action was needed on development programmes that took full account of human needs while being selective in their priorities. Agriculture must be given priority in view of the declining area under cultivation, low yields and the inadequate technology currently in use; priority had also to be given to the development of human resources.

24. African Governments would need help, however, in dealing with the present emergency. With that in view the Secretary-General had taken a series of steps to increase international awareness of the need for additional resources, while the Director-General of FAO had been drawing attention to food shortages in Africa and seeking support in dealing with them. Specifically, the Secretary-General had appointed the Executive Secretary of ECA his Special Representative on the crisis and set up a small, temporary office in Nairobi to assist him. Resident Project Co-ordinators had been instructed to consult African Governments, bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental organizations on ways of making the international community's efforts more productive. He stressed that such efforts should be devoted to the improvement of existing mechanisms, funds and programmes. Action by the United Nations system could not substitute for financial support and technical co-operation from other sources.

25. Despite some encouraging signs, individual efforts by African countries and the international community had not been sufficient: a concerted effort was needed. He would continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for Africa and would take further action as necessary. He called upon the Conference to define a course of action that was likely to improve the prospects of international economic co-operation.

26. The Secretary-General ad interim of the Organization of African Unity said it was now an established tradition that the annual sessions of the Commission were closely followed by meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of OAU. By that arrangement, the Commission provided invaluable inputs to the work of the Heads of State and Government. The current session would enable the latter, at their next meeting, to consider the serious economic difficulties and unprecedented hardships that faced the African region in the light of all the available options.

27. The adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and of the Final Act of Lagos demonstrated the commitment to economic development of African Heads of State and Government. Africa's capacity to implement the Plan and the Act has unfortunately been greatly jeopardized by the drastic fall in foreign exchange earnings and consequent shortages in imported industrial raw materials and spare parts, by the rising cost of energy imports, by the severe liquidity squeeze and by mounting debt burdens. To those adverse factors has been added devastation by natural calamities such as floods, cyclones and, above all, a prolonged drought that had caused acute food shortages. The unprecedented combination of natural and man-made factors, coupled with the rapid growth in population, had created a crisis that called for urgent attention.

28. Africa's population was growing annually by about 2.7 per cent, its food production by 1.7 per cent. The widening food gap was such that millions of people living in the majority of OAU member States faced hunger and malnutrition, if not starvation. OAU believed that the food strategy outlined in the first chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action was still the answer to the basic food problem. Priority action should be directed to reducing food waste, attaining food security and increasing and diversifying food production.

29. The proclamation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) recognized the importance and pervasive impact of the industrial sector on all other sectors of the economy. Considerable efforts had already been made to prepare the ground for action during the implementation phase of the IDDA programme, due to begin in 1985. Core industrial projects and support projects has been identified and it was imperative that the necessary resources should be committed for their effective implementation.

30. OAU felt that the excessive reliance by the majority of African countries on imported energy would seriously affect the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was indeed a paradox that such a situation existed in a region endowed with virtually all known energy resources. The diverse issues involved in attaining energy self-sufficiency would be addressed by the proposed African energy commission, for which the preparatory work by OAU in co-operation with ECA and UNDP had already started.

31. Important steps had been taken towards the realization of the proposed African economic community - the ultimate objective of regional integration in Africa. It was time to consider the establishment of a consultative forum where subregional economic integration groupings could examine collectively the issues involved, including programme co-ordination and harmonization.

32. The efforts made to implement the first phase of the programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA) were commendable. However, difficulties had been encountered in implementing the feasibility study on a proposed African regional satellite communication system, largely because some organizations had regrettably proceeded on a unilateral basis, contrary to the directives of the Conference of Ministers of Transport and Communications, which was the legislative body for UNTACDA. The need to have a controlled and integrated system had, therefore, to be re-emphasized.

33. In conclusion, he reminded the Conference that the OAU Council of Ministers had welcomed the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the economic crisis in Africa. He had no doubt that the recommendations of the Conference would address that situation and the need for Africa, by collective effort, to move towards achieving its development objectives.

34. In the message read on his behalf, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations regretted that he could not personally participate in the meeting. He indicated that the food crisis in Africa remained the major preoccupation of a major forum of African leaders despite the efforts of all who had tried to promote food and agricultural development.

35. In certain quarters, there was pessimism about the possibility that Africa could be released from the grip of chronic food shortages and African Governments were increasingly blamed for the situation. His Organization did not share that pessimism. It was convinced that Africa could feed itself adequately and that Governments would take the necessary measures, given the indispensable international economic setting that favoured such action.

36. Admittedly, millions were hungry and many more malnourished in Africa. Moreover, the numbers affected had increased during recent years. FAO was sustained by the conviction that immensely tragic situation could and must be altered. Africa had the human and natural resources to increase food production and the technology was largely available. The African food crisis had attained such intensity, however, because of deep-seated difficulties.

37. The obstacles, as the delegates knew, were both domestic and external. Some were natural and others artificial. He considered it opportune to exchange ideas on how to tackle the fundamental issues and to design and agree on co-operative action. The support of FAO was, of course, at the disposal of the Conference of Ministers, which was supremely well-placed to consider domestic economic and social policies that directly affected food production. Resources allocation, prices, land tenure, popular participation and distribution of incomes generally, involved policies essentially determined by national governments, which could decisively affect food production. He expressed the opinion that the adjustment of policies to increase incentives to food producers constituted the essential element of the self-reliance for which the Lagos Plan of Action called. It was

increasingly evident that the flow of aid was being made dependent on the adoption of such policies. He expressed the hope that policies affecting farmers' incentives would be given a major role in the follow-up action to the Conference's deliberations.

38. While FAO activities in Africa were geared principally to the promotion of greater food self-sufficiency and the maximization of agricultural production, the attention of the Organization was necessarily diverted to the massive needs of entire populations that faced famine and starvation in the wake of recurrent catastrophes since the late 1960s. Twenty-four Sub-Saharan countries, including most of the countries with the lowest incomes in the region, were seriously affected currently. A joint task force of FAO and the World Food Programme continuously assessed the situation and monitored developments in the affected countries. In the light of its reports, FAO had made several appeals since May 1983 for international assistance to avert mass starvation.

39. Those 24 countries required about 3.3 million tons of food aid. The rehabilitation of food-crop production and the provision of animal feeds and vaccines, together with appropriate preparedness and post-emergency measures, called for immediate and short-term supplies estimated at about \$100 million.

40. In 1983, the 24 seriously affected countries had received 280,000 tons of food aid valued at about \$110 million from the International Emergency Food Reserve, approximately two and half times higher than the 1982 level. Food shipments to development projects in countries assisted by WFP was projected at 267,000 tons in 1984 compared to an estimated 254,000 tons in 1983. Emergency aid worth nearly \$14 million, in the form of various supplies and equipment, had been provided to 12 of those countries. That sum excluded the usual agricultural inputs supplied under FAO's normal development projects and special action programmes, as well as emergency rehabilitation assistance under FAO's Technical Co-operation Programme when not channelled through the Office for Special Relief Operations, worth more than \$5 million. The resources of FAO could make only a modest contribution in relation to the magnitude of the problem: hence his persistent appeals to the rest of the international community, especially the bilateral donors, whose response had been commendable.

41. He referred to the current initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to highlight the economic and social plight of Africa and to mobilize assistance for its relief. The Secretary-General's initiative could be a most helpful supplement and complement to the FAO activities he had described and was receiving full collaboration from FAO. As the Secretary-General had already indicated, however, every care should be taken to make full allowance for the respective areas of competence of the agencies involved, in order to avoid duplication and the creation of unnecessary bureaucratic structures and burdens.

42. In conclusion, he referred to the cordial and fruitful co-operation that had long existed between FAO and ECA and the effective functioning of the ECA/FAO Agriculture Division.

43. The Executive Secretary thanked the Government of Ethiopia for its hospitality and support to the Economic Commission for Africa. He expressed gratitude to Comrade Addis Tedla for his inspiring statement and his sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretary-General ad interim of the Organization of African Unity for their messages. He welcomed the presence at the meeting of the Director-General for Development and International Co-operation of the United Nations.

44. The Executive Secretary recalled that when the Conference of Ministers met in 1983 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Commission, a searching review of past performance and future prospects had been made. The Addis Ababa Declaration, made in commemoration of the occasion, contained the overall assessment. It expressed concern about the devastating crisis afflicting the continent: chronic food deficits, pernicious drought, natural disasters, the high costs of imports, especially of manufactured goods, capital goods and energy, the deterioration in the terms of trade, chronic balance-of-payments deficits, mounting external debts and problems of economic management.

45. The economic and social crisis had meanwhile grown worse. Drought had become ubiquitous: at least 34 African countries were currently affected,

compared to only eight countries in the early 1970s. Moreover, even those countries that were free from the scourge of drought suffered from other natural disasters, such as cyclones, earthquakes and severe flooding. The unfavourable climatic conditions had resulted in serious food scarcity, malnutrition, disease, famine, loss of human lives, depletion of livestock, a degraded environment, imbalances in and depletion of water resources, aggravation of employment problems, in fact, increased poverty and human suffering. The harsh consequences of the drought had been further aggravated by a greater disruption in the balance between human and livestock populations and physical resources. He stressed that the majority of the countries directly affected by the drought were the least developed countries, which were the worst equipped to deal with the mounting economic problems. He informed the meeting that, in compliance with ECA resolution 473 (XVIII), the secretariat had organized the Scientific Roundtable on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa in co-operation with other United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, as well as the OAU. The report of the Roundtable was before the meeting.

46. The Executive Secretary stressed the aggravation of Africa's crisis by the unfavourable international economic environment. The impact of world-wide recession on the African economy, particularly on its external trade, public revenues, balance-of-payments and external indebtedness, was devastating. The collapse of commodity prices, high interest rates and fluctuating exchange rates, and the stagnation of official development assistance in real terms had combined to make it more difficult for Africa to contain some of the consequences of the drought. Given the very high dependence of African countries on other economies, the prevailing international economic environment had become problem number two, after drought and desertification. The lesson that had been learnt was that a dependent development would lead Africa nowhere.

47. The fact that the majority of the world's least developed countries were in Africa emphasized how underdeveloped the continent was. Of the 24 countries dependent on food aid, 16 were among the least developed, which meant that the war against poverty, disease and malnutrition was Africa's number three challenge. Africa's task, he continued, was therefore three-fold to master the physical and climatic environment; to develop countervailing forces against a hostile external economic environment and reduce the region's external economic dependence and vulnerability; and, finally, to continue the struggle for economic decolonization and the foundation for self-sustaining growth and development.

48. The immediate task, however, was to combat the present emergency and lay the basis for economic recovery in the short- and medium-term as a prelude to the rigorous implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos. That was the essence of the initiative which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had taken in order to focus the attention of the international community on Africa's plight and to heighten its awareness, as well as that of bilateral and multilateral donors, of Africa's crisis. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council entitled "The critical social and economic situation in Africa" (E/1981/68), which was before the Conference had been extensively discussed by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole. The Commission, he was sure, was very pleased and most grateful that the chief administrative officer of the United Nations had given and continued to give so much personal attention to Africa's economic problems. He was encouraged by the growing international response to the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative. Some donor countries had already announced their intention to provide additional assistance to Africa. International financial institutions, such as the World Bank, and non-governmental organizations were intensifying their efforts.

49. Since the Economic and Social Council had decided to make the African crisis the priority item for discussion at its second regular session of 1984 and the 40th session of the OAU Council of Ministers had invited the ECA Conference of Ministers to draw up specific recommendations, the Preparatory Committee of the Whole had drafted a "Special memorandum on Africa's economic and social crisis" to represent the collective African view of the nature and causes of the crisis and of the measures which African Governments, individually and collectively, and the international community needed to take as a matter of urgency and in the short, medium and long term. The memorandum had four most important features. First, it shared the Secretary-General's perception that the solution to the crisis was far beyond the capacity of African countries acting in isolation. Second, it recognized that the fundamental issue at stake was that of survival, thus necessitating the most urgent international response. Third, it established a clear link between the emergency situation, the short- and medium-term measures for economic recovery and structural adjustment. Finally, the memorandum offered specific proposals as to how African Governments might contribute to putting the region back on the path of growth, development and modernization.

50. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary appealed to Governments to mobilize their energies for the task of convincing the international community of the urgency of Africa's situation, of what needed to be done and of their determination to obtain results. He called upon the countries to send representatives to Geneva for the Economic and Social Council session, to New York for the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly and, if need be, to the major capitals of the world, with the aim of persuading the region's partners in development of the urgency and necessity of a positive response. Finally, he expressed the hope that the international community's response would be positive, magnanimous and speedy.

51. In the absence of the outgoing Chairman, Comrade Mersie Ejigu, Head of General Planning of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and the Central Planning Supreme Council with the rank of Minister, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of COPWE, said that the Conference must assess progress in the implementation of the resolutions it had adopted one year previously in connection with the Addis Ababa Declaration which it had also adopted at the same time.

52. Its assessment had to be made against the backdrop of a very severe economic and social crisis in Africa.

53. He appreciated the efforts made by the secretariat to promote socio-economic development in Africa and the international community's interest in the crisis; he was gratified that the Economic and Social Council was taking Africa's economic crisis seriously and had made it a priority topic for discussion during its second regular session of 1984. He welcomed efforts by African States to tackle the crisis themselves, and paid homage to all the United Nations agencies for their efforts in furtherance of the Lagos Plan of Action.

54. The drought affecting the continent should not be considered in isolation, but rather in relation to its effects on socio-economic development. There was a definite relationship between poverty and desertification; the growth of industry and technology in Africa could play a key role in drought control.

55. It was therefore distressing to note that developed countries were taking very little interest in the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and had not provided any financial or technical support for it.

56. ECA, on the other hand, had organized meetings on the causes of drought and the success African countries had had in carrying out the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. It had studied the disparity between growing investment and dwindling output in the agricultural sector in Africa, and reviewed progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. He invited participants to read the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, which gave more information on ECA's activities since the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

57. He concluded by stating that Africans themselves had the primary responsibility for overcoming Africa's crisis.

58. The Minister of Planning of Mali proposed, on behalf of all the participants, a motion of thanks to the host country in which he expressed gratitude to H.E. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia, as well as to the Government and people of Ethiopia, for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the delegations since their arrival in Addis Ababa.

59. He expressed his appreciation to Comrade Addis Tedla, Member of the PMAC Standing Committee, Deputy Chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and of the Supreme Council for Central Planning and Member of the Executive Committee of COPWE, for his incisive analysis of Africa's critical economic situation.

60. He also thanked the Secretary-General for his message, which confirmed his interest in the crisis currently affecting the African continent, and for having drawn the attention of the international community to that crisis.

61. He thanked the Secretary-General ad interim of the Organization of African Unity, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for the thought-provoking statements they had made.

62. In conclusion, and on behalf of all the participants, he wished OAU a happy twenty-first anniversary.

General debate

6. Biennial report of the Executive Secretary including an update of programme performance (item 6);
7. Critical economic situation in Africa (item 7);
8. Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos in solving Africa's critical economic crisis: report and recommendations of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on selected matters (item 8);

9. ECOSOC's request to its subsidiary bodies that currently meet on an annual basis to consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings and to report in 1984 (item 9)

63. The representative of Algeria said that the prevailing crisis was as much the result of artificial as natural causes. Donors should not make the aid they provided subject to conditions that substantially delayed project funding.

64. During the current decade his country was seeking to foster greater industrial integration and to organize and stimulate small businesses, so as to decentralize and enrich its industrial fabric. The priority given to the modernization and mechanization of the agricultural sector had dictated a number of the courses followed in the industrial domain.

65. As one of the original sponsors of ECA resolution 477 (XVIII), his delegation believed that the Ad Hoc Committee created thereby should continue its efforts to inventory the activities; financial and personnel requirements of the various multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU so that those found to be serving a useful purpose could be strengthened; on the other hand, the Ad Hoc Committee should not hesitate to propose the dissolution of institutions where appropriate.

66. It was regrettable that a number of large projects supported by his country were not being properly run. In the case of the Pan-African Development Information System, for example, several organizational and technological decisions had been taken without consulting African experts. The eligibility of projects for inclusion in the second phase of the Transport Decade also deserved attention: in addition to receiving the backing of at least two of the countries they affected, projects ought to be in keeping with the interests of the continent and not further the purely political ends of any given State. Unfortunately several projects, including those mentioned in document E/ECA/CM.10/22, paragraph 138, 143 and 145, in ECA/UNTACDA resolution 34/28, 34/34 and 34/36, and Annex I to document E/ECA/CM.10/18 under the headings ROP-31-001, ROP-31-004, ROP-31-007, ROP-31-008 and RAP-01-001, did not obey that rule. The projects in question were almost exclusively concerned with transport links between the towns in a country not represented at the Conference: Western Sahara.

67. A Conference seeking solutions to the severe crisis gripping the African continent was not the right setting in which to try, surreptitiously, to promote an idea on which the United Nations and OAU had taken a clear stand. His delegation was not afraid to discuss the matter, but that was not the time or place.

68. Simple logic dictated that his delegation should not, on an incidental manner take a position at variance with that of its Head of State. It therefore declared all the documents in question outside the scope of the Conference's present deliberations and, thus, inadmissible.

69. The economic crisis in Africa was partly the result of deadlock in the North/South talks, where the leading developed countries had recently been taking a harder line towards the third world. In the circumstances, he welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in devoting particular attention to the drastic consequences of the drought; he likewise paid tribute to the Executive Secretary of ECA for his constant efforts to advance the cause of Africa.

70. The representative of Benin said that the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act, had not yet become part of the reality of African development. His Government had taken concrete steps to implement it, as the development strategy in its second five-year plan (1983-1987) bore witness. Self-sustaining growth involved the progressive expansion of production capacity, the integration of subregional economic areas and the accumulation of a surplus for capital formation.

71. He invited the Commission to consider the following six proposals:

- (1) Before the next session of the Commission, the African countries should formally record their experiences in implementing the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act;
- (2) A Ministerial Committee to be created, composed of five ministers of planning and economic development, in order to make donor

countries better aware of the serious problem of restricted liquid assets made available to Africa and the gravity of the African crisis. In accomplishing its mission, the Committee should endeavour to provide donor countries with factual, quantified information;

- (3) A Ministerial Committee to be created, composed of five ministers of planning and economic development in order to make Heads of State of the Arab League and of OAU better aware of the urgent necessity of holding the second Afro-Arab summit;
- (4) A summit of Heads of State of OAU to be held, in order to evaluate the extent to which the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act had been executed;
- (5) A Ministerial Committee to be created, composed of five ministers of planning and economic development in order to evaluate the extent to which the numerous resolutions, recommendations and texts of all kinds adopted at the ECA level during the last five years had been implemented through concrete actions;
- (6) ECA should be responsible for drawing up a timetable for carrying out the above proposals.

72. The representative of Burundi said that the meeting was being held in the midst of an unprecedented economic and social crisis, as certain socio-economic indicators for the continent which he cited amply showed. That crisis was not due solely to natural causes such as drought but also to exogenous factors for which wealthy countries and certain international monetary institutions were responsible.

73. The international environment had become more hostile with the reduction and politicization of official development assistance. He cited the cases of UNDP, IDA and UNESCO.

74. He considered that food security implied self-sufficiency, both quantitatively and qualitatively. As to the energy question, the time had come to follow up the resolutions on new and renewable sources, especially solar energy, to which he attached priority. Co-operation between petroleum-producing and other African countries was urgently required.

75. In order to put a brake on the brain drain from Africa to developed countries, he proposed that a multi-disciplinary centre for science and technology should be created in Africa, endowed with a suitable research infrastructure and adequate financial resources.

76. Finally, he paid tribute to the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary for their efforts to alleviate the suffering of the African peoples.

77. The representative of Chad said that his country, one of the least developed in the world, had suffered not only from disasters of every kind but also from a terrible war which now reached beyond its national boundaries. He praised the documents before the Conference for their striking presentation of the difficulties that countries had had to face. The most recent meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed Countries had found that the promise of the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted in 1981 had swiftly turned into disappointment. The various commitments relating to aid made by the developed countries had not been honoured. As a result of the tendency by donor countries to move from multilateral to bilateral assistance, many African multilateral co-operation institutions would soon find themselves out of business. Africa, he emphasized, should rely on its own efforts first and use external aid to supplement them. In spite of its meagre resources his country had made great efforts in all areas, agriculture and rural development in particular, where the first priority was to become self-sufficient in cotton. It would then turn its attention to food, and already had several projects in progress in that area. He applauded the Executive

Secretary's decision to send a multidisciplinary mission to the country and hoped that the mission's findings would soon be translated into facts. Only a third of the priority programme for 1982-1985 submitted to the International Conference on Assistance to Chad had been carried out by the end of 1983; he hoped that increased support would be forthcoming so that positive results could be reported to the Roundtable scheduled for 1985.

78. Each African State had to depend on its own efforts for survival. Chad also needed peace. In closing, he called for concerted efforts to bring about national reconciliation in Chad.

79. The representative of Egypt highlighted the main characteristics of the economic crisis in Africa. He noted in particular the continuing fall in the prices of Africa's exports and the impact of drought and desertification on African countries. He said that the international community had a special responsibility to come to Africa's assistance, yet official development assistance had drastically fallen and industrialized countries had not adhered to the commitments they made in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The solution to the crisis, however lay primarily in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, in which regard co-operation and solidarity among African States was all-important. The President of his country had underlined the need for solidarity in his message to the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the occasion of the commemoration of Africa Day.

80. The representative commended the initiative of the Secretary-General, including the establishment in Nairobi of the temporary office. Egypt stood ready to assist sister African countries in containing the crisis. The Egyptian Fund for Technical Co-operation had concluded agreements with 27 African countries on assistance in agriculture, irrigation and the training of personnel from those countries. The services of the Remote Sensing Centre and the School of Technology in Egypt were also at the disposal of drought-affected countries.

81. He commended the activities of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which was financing 63 projects in 41 African countries with a total commitment of \$600 million. He felt that priority should be given to food production and agro-industries. Self-sufficiency in food was the first step to economic independence. Finally, he commended the high quality of Arabic translators and interpretation at ECA, emphasizing that Arabic should be used on the same footing as French and English.

82. The representative of Guinea expressed his regrets that it had not been possible to hold the current meeting of the Conference in Conakry as planned, and invited it to hold its eleventh meeting there in 1985.

83. The deterioration in the international economic climate, coupled with drought and other natural disasters, amounted to an alarming situation. Thanks were therefore due to the Secretary-General for his initiative in setting up a special office in Nairobi. The crisis Africa was undergoing was making it difficult to implement the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act. Consideration should be given to means of enhancing national capacities for putting them into effect. For the same reason, African States needed to abandon their petty nationalistic ambitions and work to build a strong, unified continent. His own Government would be willing to renounce part or all of its sovereignty in the interests of African economic integration.

84. He told participants of his Government's efforts at national reconstruction and appealed to several international institutions, ECA among them, for help in assessing the country's current economic standing. He also called for additional financial and technical efforts by African Governments and institutions to support the work of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development and the MULPOCs.

85. In conclusion, he urged all States to participate in the forthcoming extraordinary meeting of African ministers of telecommunications on the proposed African satellite telecommunications system.

86. After expressing the appreciation of his delegation to the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia for their hospitality and congratulating the members of the Bureau for their election, the representative of Kenya remarked that the crisis in Africa required immediate, concerted action. Food and agriculture needed special consideration: most countries had become net food importers, and some had to rely on food aid, but at the same time the majority were not exploiting their agricultural potential. All African countries, with assistance from the international community, needed to exploit the continent's potential to produce food. Since annual rainfall throughout Africa was low and unreliable, planners needed to be aware of weather patterns and pay more attention to meteorological services. He emphasized that the time had come for planners to make consideration to extremes in weather as opposed to trying to bend the weather to our needs.

87. His Government was following a food policy strategy that aimed at attaining food self-sufficiency. Food storage facilities and an efficient distribution network had been established, to reduce food wastage. Research was being conducted into crops that could be adapted to low rainfall.

88. His Government was pleased to be able to host the temporary office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Africa's Economic Crisis. He assured the Special Representative and representatives of the organizations working with him that his Government would render all the necessary support to make their work a success.

89. He stressed the need for Africa to address the ideals of the Lagos Plan of Action. The very low level of intra-African trade was due in part to the poor infrastructure and lack of industrial development prevalent in Africa, which was why the development of transport and communications and industry was given such prominence in the Lagos Plan of Action. His own country had already established a Northern Corridor transport system connecting Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and the Kenyan part of the Lagos-Mombasa Highway, and other regional road networks were in

progress. His country was also ready to share its telecommunications network with its neighbours. Little, however, had been done to integrate the Lagos Plan of Action into national development plans. He hoped that arrangements could be made for the more effective implementation of that Plan and the Final Act of Lagos.

90. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya opened his intervention by conveying to African countries the fraternal greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of his country on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of the Organization of African Unity.

91. He observed that there had been a considerable improvement in the Commission's translation of documents into the Arabic language and expressed the hope that documents in Arabic would always be available at plenary, committee and subcommittee meetings.

92. He entered a plea for strong economic co-operation and integration in Africa. In that connection and on behalf of his Government, he invited the Conference to hold its 1990 meeting in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the occasion of the opening of the first phase of a canal that would eventually link Sarir and Tazerbo, in the south east of the country, to the coast. Such a meeting would also afford other African countries the opportunity to see what successes his own had achieved, in industrial and water resources development in particular. He stressed the importance of African countries' calling on other African countries for help before calling on the international community.

93. He urged the secretariat to conduct more socio-economic research, stressing the need to have a clear idea of available socio-economic structures and material and human resources in order to draw up short- and long-term development plans and programmes that depended mainly on local funding, and to co-ordinate economic activities and integrate African economies through regional co-operation

activities, making due allowance for political considerations. He deplored the fact that political considerations on the part of certain countries together with a shortage of information often obstructed efforts by his country to fund projects in developing countries. The role of the public sector in industry and agriculture needed to be expanded. The land tenure system in Africa did not lend itself to the development of agriculture or efforts to combat drought and desertification. Farming needed to be mechanized and irrigation should be more widely used. It was also vital to set up weather stations to study natural phenomena and to establish food reserves to cope with any eventuality.

94. He affirmed his country's conviction that multinational institutions were needed and were important. His country was ready to continue to support them, although some of them were not functioning effectively. In this connection, he referred to the Ad Hoc Committee established to look into the evaluation, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU and regretted that it had been unable to complete its work between the ninth and tenth meetings of the Conference of Ministers. While welcoming the efforts made by the MULPOCs, notably that in Tangiers, he lamented the poor results that multinational institutions had produced in recent years and said that unless the situation improved markedly, his country might be obliged to reconsider its participation.

95. He related his country's progress in integrating women into the development process and emphasized the need for women's training and employment programmes, especially in rural areas.

96. Finally, he suggested it would be useful if the meetings of the Conference of Ministers were to be held in countries where participants could visit inter-country projects or national projects of interest to other countries.

97. The representative of Mali suggested that the Conference should devote more attention to the economic situation in Africa and the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. In his view the African economic crisis was neither new nor strange to the international community: it had been going on for a decade. In response to an appeal from African countries the international community had diagnosed the causes. The next task was to administer the remedy. He therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's recent initiative, recommending that the programme of action he had laid should be carried out within the broad outlines of the Lagos Plan of Action with due regard for the Substantial New Programme of Action.

98. African countries must work at their own development. His country's development plan for 1981-1985 emphasized the harnessing of water resources, the restoration of plant cover and rebuilding of herds, and the improvement of transport links with other countries, all in connection with the objective of attaining self-sufficiency in food. Unfortunately endemic drought had put checks to the Government's efforts. With the support of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Government had therefore embarked on an economic recovery programme that would eventually lead to genuine structural adjustments.

99. He concluded with the suggestion that a resolution should be drafted calling on the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General ad interim of OAU, to enhance the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Third United Nations Development Decade.

100. The representative of Morocco pointed out that since the last session of the Commission, the economic and social situation in most African countries had deteriorated. Even the signs of an economic upturn in the developed countries had not had the expected beneficial effects on African economies.

101. The transport sector was the mainspring of development. Accordingly, the integrated development of transport infrastructure was accorded the highest importance by his Government, in keeping with the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act. A series of road and rail transport projects had been selected including a principal highway linking Tangiers with Lagos and a railway link across the desert from the Moroccan network to the future Pan-African railway system.

102. The purpose of the permanent Europe-Africa link was to build a structure across the Straits of Gibraltar in order to promote trade between the two continents. The venture would benefit countries lying along several major transport routes and would be of particular value to the land-locked countries in the subregion. Feasibility studies based on comparative costs of land, sea and air freight for distances of over 4,000 km and individual journeys by passengers of 2,500 km showed that the project was economically viable and could attract a substantial proportion of the current volume of traffic, while bringing benefits to 23 separate countries.

103. On the topic of the current crisis, he suggested the dispatch of an emergency high-level delegation to make donor countries more keenly aware of the gravity of the situation and the need for immediate action to remedy it. He called for specific customs legislation to apply to all non-African imports other than food, energy products and raw materials. The revenue from such an "African solidarity levy" would serve to pay for food imported from the dutiable countries into the least developed countries and those most affected by drought. In the same spirit, his country had for some years been offering phosphates to developing countries on preferential terms.

104. In conclusion, he reminded the meeting that his country was determined to work for the creation of a greater Maghreb that would shelter its members from hegemonic designs in any quarter.

105. The representative of Nigeria commended the ECA secretariat for the quality of the papers prepared for the Conference and for the excellence of its work during the period covered by the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary. ECA deserved all the support it needed to continue and intensify its activities. African Governments should contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development in order to enable ECA to take care of those crucial sectors that could not attract sufficient foreign resources.

106. The establishment of the OAU/ECA inter-secretariat committee had been an important step in fostering co-operation and collaboration between the two organizations. It was hoped that such collaboration would be further strengthened.

107. The critical economic situation in Africa, with low levels of investment, low overall rates of growth, low levels of foreign reserves, and mounting external debt, inflation, unemployment and widespread food shortages, could only be viewed with concern. It called for careful analysis and a re-examination of development strategies. There was, in particular, a need to review agricultural policies and provide small-scale subsistence farmers with the assistance they required. At the same time, however, bold steps were needed to encourage large-scale commercial agriculture. Industrial development policies needed to emphasize local value added, and in the social services area, cost recovery should be the guiding principle. Most countries needed to take steps to reorder their priorities, maintain their existing facilities, use standard, functional designs instead of grandiose ones, mobilize domestic resources, close their trade gaps and rationalize the operations of public corporations.

108. In general, policies were more important than programmes and projects in the area of economic recovery. While macro-economic projections would continue to be necessary to ensure consistency in the availability and use of resources, specific targets for the domestic production of such crucial commodities as food and drugs were needed.

109. Finally, he applauded the Secretary-General of the United Nations for focusing attention on the special problems of Africa. The success of the Secretary-General's efforts, however, would be judged chiefly by the flows of resources to Africa they generated. It was the international community's special responsibility to increase such flows.

110. The representative of Rwanda congratulated the Organization of African Unity and the people of Africa on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the Organization and thanked the Government and people of Ethiopia for their hospitality and the excellent facilities they had provided for the work of the Conference. He indicated that while he would have liked to deliver a long statement, the constraint of time would not permit. However, he wished to suggest that the Memorandum on the economic and social crisis in Africa should highlight the efforts that needed to be made by African countries both individually and collectively.

111. The representative of Sierra Leone noted that all the statements made so far had painted a pessimistic picture of Africa's prospects in the 1980s. That should not be so. Although African agricultural output was stagnating or declining, and natural disasters had contributed to the decline, the problem was not wholly a domestic one. While it was proper to direct attention to the responsibility of African countries for finding solutions to the continent's agricultural crisis, he urged the international community not to frustrate African efforts by paying low prices for the continent's agricultural exports. Declining cocoa prices in recent years illustrated that although pricing policies were important, there was a limit to the prices which Governments could pay farmers when they themselves did not receive remunerative prices on the world market. The buyers who had forced cocoa and coffee prices down in the latter half of the 1970s had severely reduced West African countries' ability to purchase vital agricultural supplies, thus limiting their power to cope with their growing debt-servicing problems.

112. The representative of the Sudan said he took particular note of the Secretary-General's initiative with respect to the crisis facing African countries and particularly the least developed ones. The Sudan would give every support to the Executive Secretary and the temporary institutional arrangements set up in Nairobi in that connection.

113. The discussion in the Preparatory Committee had painted a bleak picture of the drought and food crisis. The highly informative statement by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization did not encourage easy optimism about rapidly bringing the ordeal of human suffering to an end.

114. Over the last two decades, his country had witnessed with anguish the encroachment of the desert, with its devastating effect on the socio-economic fibre of the country and on agricultural output. He recommended the streamlining and articulation of national efforts, with support from other African countries and the international community at large. He reported that the Sudan had established an institution some years before under the auspices of its national council for research to deal with desertification, streamlining the national effort and selecting innovative approaches. He declared his country's willingness to share its experience with the growing number of drought-stricken African countries.

115. Suffering in the Sudan had been compounded by the refugee problem. Waves of hungry, wretched and frightened Africans crossed the country's extensive borders, escaping from severely-stricken to comparatively less stricken areas, which they soon over-grazed and made barren. He reported that the Khartoum Declaration on Desertification had been followed by the Second National Economic Conference, held in March 1984, which had rural development as a main theme and emphasized the importance of self-reliance and national efforts in economic and social development. That Conference saw foreign assistance only as complementary to domestic efforts.

116. He completely endorsed the sentiments and views contained in the ECA Special Memorandum, pledging his country's support at the forthcoming sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

117. The representative of Tunisia said that the present meeting was particularly important in view of the worsening economic crisis in the African region. Deteriorating terms of trade, falling prices for raw materials, growing protectionism, wildly fluctuating exchange rate and high rates of interest in addition to prolonged drought were stifling development efforts. He commended the Secretary-General for stimulating international awareness of the situation in the region and expressed support for his efforts to find solutions to the problem.

118. Africa's development rested first and foremost on the Africans themselves. Domestic resources needed to be mobilized and harnessed by means of medium- and long-term measures, in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action. Aware of the gravity of the situation, Tunisia had expressed its solidarity with African countries affected by drought by providing them with moral and material assistance within its limited means. A free flow of information was of great importance for African regional integration. The Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) therefore needed to be strengthened and established on a sound footing.

119. The difficulties that confronted the various ECA - and OAU - sponsored institutions were insurmountable : the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee established to implement ECA resolution 477 (XVIII) provided a suitable framework commended for the role it was playing in implementing the Lagos Plan of Action, and both it and the MULPOCs should be given additional resources to enable them intensify their efforts.

120. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania endorsed the comments made at the opening of the Conference on the worsening economic and social crisis facing Africa and the short- and long-term solutions suggested.

121. While recognizing that all the items on the agenda were important, she wished to concentrate on an issue of critical importance to her country and its immediate neighbours: an imported storage pest scientifically known as *Postephamis Truncatus* - Bostrichidae or the Larger Grain Borer. First recorded in the Tabora region in 1981, having entered the country through maize imports, the pest had spread to most parts of the country and now threatened adjoining countries. Although the Larger Grain Borer normally attacked maize it had also been identified in cassava and in other produce.

122. In some parts of the country it was not uncommon to find cobs in which up to 80 per cent of the grain was damaged after 3 to 6 months in storage. Losses were currently estimated at 9 per cent of the maize produced for home consumption each year or more, and all the measures taken so far had proved ineffective. Her Government was very concerned about the spread of the pest and had designed a three-year programme (a) to help the extension service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, with the support of the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute, to promote effective control procedures in heavily infested areas, (b) to expand a training programme on long-term containment, and (c) to ensure the continued availability of equipment and supplies (sacks, transport, insecticides, etc.). The programme would require \$6.5 million: she appealed to all the countries represented at the meeting and to international donor agencies to come to her country's and its neighbours' assistance.

123. The representative of Zaire said that the primary goal of the founding States of OAU had been to create a politically and economically strong united continent. As there was no political freedom without economic independence, the grave economic crisis Africa was currently undergoing was no less serious a threat to its political independence. He welcomed the decision by the United Nations Secretary-General to rally in support of Africa in its crisis,

commenting that States, too, were embarking individually and collectively on the difficult paths to progress. The entire continent, he considered, needed to open its eyes to its economic plight and take radical, decisive action.

124. He therefore called on the Secretary-General ad interim of OAU, in close collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA, to arrange for an early economic summit where Heads of State and Government could outline Africa's development problems in clearer, more African terms (with due allowance for some political and ideological differences). Such a summit would boldly set forth African interests in the light of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act and, by capitalizing on Africa's immeasurable potential while allowing for the constraints inherent in African economic systems, offer a solution better suited to the social and economic goals of the continent.

125. The representative of Zambia said that in the past two years the economic situation of the African continent had worsened greatly. Widespread famine had taken root in parts of his country because of severe drought since 1982, and over 40,000 people were in need of emergency food aid. Poor rainfall had prevented farmers from taking advantage of a national package of incentives including increased producer prices and credit. Real GDP growth over the past two years had been zero. The main export commodity, copper, continued to earn little foreign exchange and the shortage of foreign currency had reduced the country's ability to import industrial goods and spare parts and to service its external debt.

126. Far from calling into question the feasibility of the Lagos Plan of Action, shortages of foreign exchange, the drought and problems with energy supplies only made it the more necessary to implement the Plan as the survival programme for Africa. The political will that had led to the creation of sovereign African States remained a potent force for African advancement in other areas, including economic development. Since the adoption of the Lagos

Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, in 1980, his Government had been pursuing a long-term strategy more in line with the objectives of self-sufficiency in food and the local processing of raw agricultural produce. It had likewise embarked on a policy of tighter budgetary control and on reviews of the country's taxation and tariff structure and development policy-making machinery.

127. Active political support was vital for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos not only at the national but also at the continental level. Political leaders should ensure that ECA's operations were streamlined to facilitate the execution of development programmes. The Commission's lengthy procurement and recruitment procedures must be changed for the better. In the same context, he appealed for greater technical, economic and political co-operation at the subregional level.

128. Recalling the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the Silver Jubilee of the Commission, the representative of Zimbabwe indicated that the celebration had been more of a post mortem than jubilation, for one delegation after another had bemoaned the crisis facing the continent: severe drought which had persisted since the 1970s, desertification, proliferation of crop pests etc. Moreover, all subsequent meetings had been held in the shadow of the economic crisis facing the continent. The situation remained unchanged. More than 50 per cent of member States were among the least developed countries in the world, deserts were encroaching on their agricultural land at an alarming rate, and Africa had become victim to the crisis in the global economy.

129. His Government had laid a very careful foundation for the mobilization and better utilization of resources and had harnessed the resources of the soil. In the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-sustainment, it had laid emphasis on the development of effective educational and training institutions, the improvement of domestic markets and the provision of adequate incentives

to producers. However, the whole edifice had collapsed under the pressure of the general economic crisis. The longest drought ever experienced in the southern African subregion, coupled with the world recession, had seriously affected Zimbabwe, leading to a 30 per cent drop in exports, restricted import allocations and increased external borrowing. To alleviate the effects of these pressures, the Government introduced export incentives, extended export credit terms from 3 to 6 months and activated \$70 million in export facilities with the World Bank for much needed imports of raw materials. Those measures, which ran contrary to the need to create a new order, the basis on which the government of Zimbabwe was elected, were taken as a matter of survival.

130. Drought and world recession had been aggravated by the destabilization policy of the South African regime. The burden which the front-line States carried on behalf of the world's conscience had become very heavy. It should be remembered that any solution to the crisis that left any part of Africa in the hands of colonialists and racists would be but a short-term solution. He pointed out that South Africa's acts of destabilization were second to the drought in their economic effects and urged the international community not to wait until the front-line States were too weak to play a constructive role in the search for peace and freedom in Southern Africa.

131. The representative of Zimbabwe remarked that the very high attendance at the Preparatory Committee meeting attested the fact that member States and the international community attached great importance to the economic crisis facing the continent -- the focus of the meeting. Moreover, the level of debate was high and participants were interested in finding solutions to problems as shown by the formulation and adoption of the Special Memorandum on Africa's economic crisis. Those important aspects of the work of the Committee and the serious discussion of sectoral programmes and problems had led to the production of a package of proposals and recommendations which would have great significance for policy formulation by African countries.

132. However, there were at least two shortcomings in the work of the Committee: The great number and the general nature of its recommendations and proposals. While its resolutions did indeed pinpoint various issues and the action to be taken in specific sectors, their very number was a handicap in their implementation. The Committee, should have been more technical in its statements, proposals and recommendations.

133. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his country's support for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, who were carrying out a liberation struggle for the freedom and security of the sub-continent, without which no economic growth, self-sufficiency and self-sustainment could be attained.

134. The observer for the Africa Regional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development briefly explained to the Conference the outcome of the meeting of the Committee held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 May 1984. The report of her Committee, which had been endorsed by the Preparatory Committee, included six resolutions that the latter Committee had reformulated as:

(a) Draft resolution 511 (XIX) on the participation of African women in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women; and

(b) Draft resolution 512 (XIX) on African women in development, especially the urgent need to mobilize financial and human resources for women subsequent to the United Nations Decade for Women.

The Preparatory Committee had then approved those draft resolutions for submission to the Conference of Ministers.

135. She drew the attention of the meeting to the forthcoming Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. In that connection, she asked delegations to request African governments to ensure that many African women participated in the Conference. She also appealed to African States and the United Nations generally to provide support for the Committee's continuing women's programme.

136. The observer for Cuba expressed appreciation for being allowed to address the meeting. He referred to the adverse effect on international economic relations not only of the current economic crisis but also of the discriminatory, coercive, aggressive practices of certain developed countries against third world countries.

137. The situation had been aggravated by the reluctance of certain major developed countries, headed by the United States of America, to undertake tedious negotiations for a New International Economic Order. Growing protectionism and high interest rates had aggravated already dramatic foreign debt problems for third world countries. There was also a growing tendency on the part of some countries to adopt a selective, individual approach rather than a collective one, in order to divide the developing countries and erode the negotiating capacity of the Group of 77.

138. He stressed the importance of the forthcoming thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, particularly in relation to the evaluation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

139. In conclusion, he pledged his country's support for international action to solve Africa's problems. Its collaboration with many States of that continent was proof of its interest in the problems which Africa faced.

140. The observer for India stated that low-income countries in Africa continued to suffer from the effects of the recession which had afflicted the world economy since 1980. Even though that recession appeared to be abating, those countries were still harmed by the sharp rise in international interest rates, low commodity prices, the decline in concessional aid and protectionist policies in the industrial countries. The rate of economic growth in developing countries had fallen by approximately 1 to 2 per cent in 1982, with per capita income falling for the second year in a row. It was estimated that in 1982 a smaller volume of manufactures had been exported by developing countries than in 1981, and at lower average dollars prices. Receipts from the export of non-fuel primary resources had even been hit harder.

141. He explained that the worsening and inadequate flow of resources was global in character and therefore could not be resolved by regional or sectoral solutions. That crisis, arising from the issues related to raw materials, energy, trade and development, money and finance was a manifestation of sectoral maladjustments and required an integrated approach for its solution. The international financial and monetary systems therefore needed to be examined with a view to effecting the necessary reforms.

142. Reviewing the deteriorating balance-of-payments and the severe adjustment measures which threatened to cause social tension in some countries, he proposed a number of emergency measures, which included lower interest rates in industrialized countries, the improvement of environment for trade and the arranging of financial flows to developing countries on appropriate terms so that investments in infrastructure, agriculture and human resources could be made without incurring unmanageable debts.

143. He informed the Conference of the discussions at the seventh Conference of Heads of State of Governments of Non-aligned Countries on the need for a New International Economic Order and the commitment of that Conference to collective self-reliance. Areas of co-operation identified with that end in view included agriculture, irrigation, research into plant varieties, public health, technical training and small industries.

144. Finally, he expressed India's re-dedication to promoting Indo-African co-operation in the ensuing years. In addition to bilateral country projects, India was involved in major ECA projects such as the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing and other engineering industry development programmes.

145. The observer for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics pointed out that 1984 was the year in which a preliminary assessment of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the 1980s, the Third United Nations Development Decade, was to be made. While emphasizing

the importance that his country attached to that Decade, he noted that the progress achieved so far could hardly be considered satisfactory. Growth rates in most developing countries were far lower than those envisaged in the Strategy. For Africa, GDP growth was less than 1 per cent instead of the planned 7 per cent.

146. The Lagos Plan of Action was an important component of the International Development Strategy. The Plan provided for a more rational utilization of internal and external development factors, for increased planning and for the supply of basic essentials. Obviously, the complex problems of Africa could not be solved without outside support. In that respect, he outlined the assistance that his country had rendered. Between 1976 and 1980, the volume of net Soviet economic assistance to developing countries had increased by more than 70 per cent. The volume of USSR aid pledged to Africa had grown by more than a factor of four between 1976 and 1983. In addition, the USSR had prepared for ECA a geological map of Africa, a map of African mineral resources, a map of African oil- and gas-bearing regions and a monograph on the region's hydrogeology. In 1984, the Soviet Union planned to host seminars for specialists from African countries on the problems of implementing agricultural development, trade and maritime transport projects.

147. The observer for the United States of America declared that his country's support for the Economic Commission for Africa and its fine work was as well known as its support for the economic and social progress of the peoples of the African continent.

148. He emphasized the fact that the sole valid theme for the meeting was Africa's economic problems and how to resolve them. It was his belief that all those who had a sincere interest in resolving those problems, and in promoting the economic progress and social betterment of the peoples of Africa, would certainly agree that Africa's interests were best served by focussing on constructive proposals towards those ends.

149. He hoped that the representatives of Africa assembled at the Conference would not allow themselves to be led down false paths but would address themselves to the legitimate, worthy and urgent tasks at hand, namely, the resolution of the economic and social problems of the African continent and the economic and social betterment of its peoples. Those, he concluded, were the goals to which his country was dedicated.

150. The representative of the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) reviewed her Department's activities in the area of technical co-operation with national Governments and regional institutions, emphasizing water resources development, planning and public administration. Some 343 million people had been without adequate water supplies in 1980, and that figure was likely to rise to 500 million by 1990 because of resource allocation policies, shortages of manpower, the ineffective use of available resources and failure to involve local communities in developmental activities. The central role of planning had been stressed in both the Lagos Plan of Action and the Substantial New Programme of Action. Recent developments had made short-term planning and project evaluation urgently necessary, and priority had therefore to be given to strengthening the co-ordination capacity of Governments. As regards public administration, there was increasing awareness that administrative structures were ill-suited to development requirements, being preoccupied with survival rather than development. Remedial measures included the development and training of technical personnel, an area that required more attention than it had been given in the past.

151. In conclusion, she stressed the importance of co-operating with ECA and strengthening ECA's operational capacities. However, the drop in multilateral funding was making it difficult to adopt remedial measures. She therefore hoped that the Secretary-General's efforts would be crowned with success and assured the Conference of her Department's continued support and co-operation.

152. The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said that three very welcome developments testified to the importance of the meeting of the Conference of Ministers: first, the widespread recognition of the worsening economic crisis in Africa; second, the realization that a large range of medium and long-term issues were inseparable from short term decline; and third, the commitment of the United Nations system and the international community to identify possible lines of collective action. She expressed satisfaction with UNCTAD's fruitful co-operation with African countries and collaboration with ECA, and indicated her organization's commitment to continue in the same spirit.

153. Outlining UNCTAD's ideas and activities concerning such areas as external debt and its impact on the economic situation of developing countries, she stated that one objective in analysing a debt burden should be to restore the debtor country's capacity to service its debt. Other UNCTAD activities and studies related to protectionism and structural adjustment, commodity prices and earnings stabilization, and the management of international commodity trade. UNCTAD believed that one way of assisting in the reversal of the economic crisis lay in the transformation of technological infrastructure, and in that respect assistance had been provided to some African countries.

154. Finally, she reported her organization's activities in promoting economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) as it related to the development and ultimate negotiation of a Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) stating that there were good chances that a workable GSTP might soon be negotiated.

155. The UNDP Regional Director for Africa stated that since his assumption of office, his primary concern had been to consider how his Bureau could more effectively meet the concerns of African Governments as expressed in the Lagos Plan of Action. Accordingly, the administrative staff had been expanded, and the Bureau now had one department in charge of the regional programme for Africa and four departments to serve West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa respective.

156. He briefly described the financial situation of UNDP and the regional programme for Africa. The expected increase in annual voluntary contributions from funding agencies had not materialized: in other words, the resources made available to UNDP for the period 1982-1986 had diminished by almost 50 per cent. The initial Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for the regional programme for Africa had been \$US 233.4 million. Unfortunately, the figure used when the programme was submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers in Tripoli had been no more than \$US 206 million, and the situation since then had constrained UNDP to reduce the total resources for the 1982-1986 programming cycle by a further \$US 70 million.

157. UNDP and ECA were co-operating harmoniously because of the mutual understanding and trust demonstrated by both organizations. ECA had become the executing agency for regional projects financed by UNDP and had encouraged UNDP to approve in 1982 the regional programme whose priorities were based on those of the Lagos Plan of Action. One problem which seemed to be holding back the speedy development of ECA as executing agency was the obligation to have certain decisions cleared by United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Conference might consider that matter and help ECA to find a solution that would improve the quality of assistance UNDP rendered to African countries.

158. The multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU had always enjoyed the priority support of UNDP in Africa. For that reason, UNDP welcomed resolution 477 (XVIII) on the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the situation of those institutions and to make proposals for their most effective use.

159. UNDP had been closely associated with the special effort being made by the United Nations Secretary-General to mobilize the international community in response to the economic and social crises that Africa was experiencing. The Executive Secretary of ECA was to be commended for his initiative in inscribing that particularly disquieting item on the agenda. The African LDCs had been the worst hit: accordingly, UNDP was exploring with UNCTAD, the World Bank and ECA ways of making the mechanisms established under the Substantial New Programme of Action better suited to the goals of the LDCs.

160. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) conveyed the greetings of its Executive Director to the Conference and lauded the excellent co-operation that existed between OAU, ECA and UNIDO.

161. He reported that the Conference of African Ministers of Industry had reviewed progress and noted with satisfaction the efforts of member States to incorporate activities related to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa in their national development plans and subregional co-operation activities. Progress had also been made in co-operation between African and Latin American countries. On account of the success to date, the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats were considering the possibility of organizing a meeting in Asia similar to that recently held in Brazil so as to strengthen co-operation with the countries of Asia, including China.

162. Great efforts were required to mobilize financial resources for African countries to implement the programme for the Decade. He informed the Conference of the uses planned for the \$1 million allocated by the General Assembly, adding that the Conference of African Ministers of Industry had appealed for an increase in the allocation to an annual minimum of \$5 million and that a similar appeal had been made to UNDP. The Conference of African Ministers of Industry had also adopted a common position for the fourth General Conference of UNIDO and adopted a resolution on the subject. He hoped that the Conference of Ministers would endorse the recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and hoped that its endorsement would go hand in hand with the adoption of national and subregional measures aimed at financing IDDA activities. He appealed for active participation at the highest level possible in the fourth General Conference of UNIDO to be held at Vienna from 2 to 18 August 1984.

163. Finally, he informed the Conference of progress in the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency and appealed to African countries to intensify their participation in UNIDO's activities; he assured the Conference that UNIDO would continue to intensify its efforts to assist African countries.

164. The representative of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office said that multisectoral national, subregional and regional plans for combating drought and desertification were essential if African countries were to be able to deal effectively with the perils facing the continent. African countries also needed to co-operate with countries and organizations that were in a position to lend technical and financial support to short- medium- and long-term programmes. His office was always ready to back African countries, individually or in groups, that wanted support in the formulation, funding or execution of plans of action against drought or desertification.

165. The representative of the United Nations University expressed his gratitude at being invited for the first time, to the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The University sought to contribute in its own way to finding solutions to the crisis currently facing Africa, through the medium of several projects within its programme and training activities. Those projects included the award of fellowships in various fields, meetings and workshops in areas such as mineral resources and industrialization in Africa, national and subregional case studies on the activities of transnational corporations in Africa and on food technology and nutrition. The University had three associated institutions in Africa and was actively involved in the establishment of an institute for natural resources in Africa. Within the context of the Secretary-General's initiative it sought to link the deliberations of its own special committee on Africa to the search for long-term solutions to the crisis.

166. The Executive Director of the World Food Council said that the food crisis constituted only part of the deeper economic crisis afflicting Africa. While emergency measures were necessary to alleviate human suffering, action to meet medium- and long-term objectives was equally important. WFC had, over the past five years, co-operated actively with ECA and OAU in assisting African countries in their efforts to solve food problems. Several consultative meetings and workshops organized by WFC with African countries between 1979 and 1983, had led many of the latter to adopt national food strategies. That approach had been endorsed by both the General Assembly and several intergovernmental summit meetings.

167. He noted that food strategies were a means by which production, consumption, distribution and overall food security could be pursued within a coherent framework of national planning objectives and priorities, the principal objective being to provide a permanent solution to the food problem. The tenth ministerial session of the WFC, to be held at Addis Ababa in June 1984, would consider a special report on food strategies in Africa that evaluated progress and brought to the fore the critical issues and constraints encountered by African countries in the implementation of their food strategies.

168. He had submitted to the Council a proposal for an increase in Concessionary Development Assistance (CDA) of \$5 billion over a period of 5 years within existing development assistance programmes in support of national food strategies and programmes in developing countries, particularly in Africa. His concern was to see the declining trend in official development assistance reversed. He believed that several food supplies and a revitalized agriculture were basic to the revival of social and economic progress in Africa and the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action.

169. The representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) said that while more emergency food aid was needed, it was also important to integrate food aid in development and use it in programmes designed to increase agricultural production. Describing the activities of WFP in Africa and other developing countries, he said that the programme had placed emphasis on critical food needs. It had had 44 emergency operations in Africa in 1983, and 24 such operations had so far been approved for 1984. In 1983, WFP had delivered 319,000 tons of food for development assistance to be used in 144 development projects in Africa, chiefly to promote agricultural and rural development. It had also developed innovative uses of food aid which included price stabilization programmes and triangular transactions in which food surpluses in one area were brought and

used to promote agricultural development in others. To bilateral donors, the demand from whom had increased considerably, WFP provided services by arranging the purchase of goods, shipping them, and monitoring food distribution. It monitored food requirements in Africa and all pledges and shipments to affected countries, prepared monthly status reports, and recorded the arrival dates and quantities of food supplied. In response to the initiative of the Secretary-General, WFP had seconded a senior officer to the Nairobi office.

170. In arid areas of Africa, it was necessary to combine the provision of food and water, and the receipt, storage and distribution of food had to be carefully managed. Accounting practices also had to be improved, for donors wanted to know what happened to the food assistance they gave. He also emphasized the importance of the purchasing power of those affected by famine, giving as examples the cases of the 1974 flood in Bangladesh and the buffer stocks set up in India. He drew attention to the high priority that WFP gave to the contributions made by women to the development process, and the useful collaboration WFP enjoyed with United Nations organs, particularly the Emergency Unit of UNICEF. He hoped, finally, that WFP's work with Governments, United Nations agencies and non-Governmental organizations would make it possible to provide needed assistance to the affected areas.

171. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conveyed the regrets of its Director-General for his inability to attend the meeting owing to the session of the UNESCO Executive Board. The Director-General wished the Conference success and promised that he would never shun the duties entrusted to him by the international community. He would, in particular, continue to uphold the UNESCO Constitution in the interest of development everywhere.

172. The Director-General lent whole-hearted support to the advancement of developing countries in general and of the least developed countries in particular.

UNESCO's programmes of assistance were familiar to member States and to OAU and ECA, with whom areas of co-operation for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action had been defined. Co-operation between ECA and UNESCO through joint concertation meetings had gone a long way in the past two years towards developing a definite programme of action and specific projects had been identified for implementation in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action. New areas agreed upon in mid-February 1984 included environment, education, the social and human sciences, the natural sciences, communication and co-operation for development.

173. The role of UNESCO's regional offices had been underlined by the holding of the most recent joint concertation meeting at his Organization's regional office at Nairobi, Kenya, as well as by the "spirit of Nairobi". UNESCO appreciated the unflinching support and solidarity which its African members had demonstrated in order to safeguard the noble principles adopted by the international community, as well as their continuing participation in the Organization's activities despite the great hardships they faced.

174. The representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) expressed his organization's gratitude for being invited to participate in the meeting and recalled its regular participation in the activities of ECA. Even though great strides had been made in the development of civil aviation infrastructure, much remained to be done. The development of infrastructure had in fact fallen short of requirements, he added, quoting as an example the Air Navigation Plan developed in Arusha, Tanzania, in 1979. Communications services and facilities, too, still required a lot of financial and human resources.

175. Explaining ICAO's emphasis on civil aviation development for least developed and land-locked countries, he reported that airport projects in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland were in their last stages of implementation. Human resources development had always been given very high priority: he informed the Conference of past collaboration with OAU and AFOAC in that area. Finally, he informed the Conference that his organization was at the disposal of member States as a lead agency and executing agency for civil aviation projects.

176. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) said that the cumulative effects of malnutrition during the great drought of 1983, followed by a series of economic crises, had left the populations of a number of countries vulnerable to disease. The physical shortage of water had had dire psychosomatic effects on entire populations, debasing not only their nutritional but also their cultural standards. He described the action WHO was taking, alone and in collaboration with other intergovernmental and United Nations bodies concerned with drought and its effects. Many countries that applied to the World Food Programme for assistance were given help by WHO in deciding on the health and nutritional characteristics of the food they were to receive. WHO had set up joint drinking water and sanitation projects with several international and bilateral agencies in order to give greater support to advances in those areas.

177. His Organization was determined to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Representative on Africa's Economic Crisis.

178. The representative of the World Bank conveyed to the Conference the good wishes of the President of his Organization for a successful meeting. All the difficulties African countries were facing, which had been the subject of the documents before the meeting and the interventions of the various delegations, were well known to the Bank. But while they had been aggravated by the unfavourable external environment, they could be attributed to the pursuit by many African countries of domestic policies which in general had not encouraged the expansion of production. The Bank was working with many countries on difficult structural adjustment and policy reform programmes. As indicated recently by his President to the Development Committee, in view of all the unfavourable indicators the stark prospects for African countries made the need for domestic policy reform more urgent than before and highlighted the necessity for increased and sustained flows of both bilateral and multilateral concessional aid, provided with more flexibility than in the past.

179. At the September 1984 meeting of the Development Committee, the Ministers of Finance would examine a programme to guide the Bank and the international community in helping Africa to deal with its severe human, social and economic problems. The basic information for the programme would be derived from a deeper analysis of the African crisis, using such sources as the perspective study on ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2000, and certain documents prepared for the current meeting of the Conference. The Bank staff would work with relevant national and international organizations, including ECA, in preparing a report which would focus on such critical issues as medium-term adjustment problems, including the price and incentive environment, public debt, population and human resources development.

180. With regard to resources for the Bank Group, as a result of two resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Bank on 24 May 1984 the authorized capital of the Bank would be increased by \$3.4 billion to \$95 billion; and \$9 billion instead of \$12 billion would be committed over the three-year period starting 1 July 1984 as part of the seventh replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association (IDA). Since the sum committed was \$3 billion below that negotiated for the sixth replenishment, a fall of 24 per cent in real terms, it was obvious that the seventh replenishment would not permit the increase necessary for IDA to meet Africa's needs. However, the management of the World Bank had already begun to seek additional resources, as instructed by the Deputy Governors of IDA in January 1984.

181. The representative of the International Monetary Fund said that IMF advocated a lasting solution to Africa's current crisis. It approved of the spirit behind the study on the economic and social situation in Africa, just as it supported the advisory group established under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the special Nairobi office. The Fund supported any study aimed at creating a zone of economic stability in Africa and the increasing use of special concessionary loan facilities.

182. The Fund's facilities, such as the cereal facility, could be used by African countries upon request. IMF was prepared to provide loans on hard and soft terms; it was ready to explore, together with the United Nations, ECA, OAU and African States, avenues for providing technical assistance to ensure that Africa enjoyed lasting economic growth, and sustained financial stability.

183. The representative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) praised the exemplary collaboration that had developed between his Organization and ECA in establishing such regional projects as the Pan African Telecommunications network and the programme for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

184. Problems continued to exist, nevertheless, the most serious being the imbalances in the distribution of telecommunications facilities between cities and rural areas and between South and North. At the end of 1983, for example, there were fewer telephones in the whole of Africa than in Holland.

185. In the face of resource constraints, ECA, OAU, IAPU, ITU and other agencies had pooled their resources and formed an Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee to conduct the feasibility study on a regional African satellite communications system for the development of Africa, with emphasis on rural areas. In view of its long-term implications, the development of telecommunications required a careful examination by Governments of all available technological and economic options. He informed participants that his Organization was at their disposal and would do everything within the limits of its competence to provide assistance. He also informed the Conference of parallel studies currently being conducted by independent committees, saying he hoped they would shed light on some of the problems.

186. Finally, he regretted the effects of the world-wide recession which had led not only to a reduction of technical assistance and co-operation, but also to protectionist measures and the subsequent disruption of the North-South dialogue. The technology existed, however, and economies in the transport sector were showing great promise; what was now required was co-operation and the collective will to take appropriate action.

187. The Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization described the drought in Africa as a terrible affliction and cause of suffering. He said that he would confine his remarks to the meteorological and climatic aspects which were the special concern of his Organization. Droughts often led to a diminution in food production and water supplies, less growth of natural pasturage, with all their economic and social consequences. The current drought was one of the most important climatic phenomena for a hundred years. It posed a major challenge to science, since its end could not be predicted.

188. In fact, no methods of predicting the occurrence of drought existed. Member States would have to learn to live with the problem. Drought control measures such as water management, the proper recording of daily precipitation, the training of experts, and the monitoring, research and dissemination of weather and climatic data between member States were essential. Drought could not currently be alleviated by rain-making hence African agricultural production systems had to be versatile enough to endure prolonged drought. His Organization firmly believed that practical and useful steps could be taken to help African countries make better use of existing weather and climatic data and techniques. It intended to work with national meteorological services, regional organizations such as ECA and other international organizations to this end.

189. A long-term strategy had to be developed with the aid of research results. The AGRHYMET programme for the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and other such projects should be supported by ECA. It was essential to establish a pilot centre for meteorology in Africa, building on the WMO vocational training centres that already existed on the African continent, since the present meteorological services in Africa, taken in isolation, did not dispose of the necessary resources. Political support was also an important pre-condition for success. His organization had prepared a draft resolution for consideration by the Conference, with the object of ensuring that the various activities required were put on a firm footing.

190. The Chairman welcomed the proposals made by WMO and invited the meeting to consider them.

191. The observer for ARCEDEM stated that his Centre would assist member States in the development of specialized manpower capabilities to design, manufacture and maintain capital goods and in the promotion of entrepreneurship, all with a view to accelerating industrial development, on which the development of other sectors depended. ARCEDEM had 23 member States. He thanked Algeria, Egypt, the Niger, Nigeria and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their financial contributions, which had been of vital importance in launching ARCEDEM, and added that the host Government of Nigeria had donated 73 hectares of land and \$6.5 million for the construction of three mechanical workshops, one laboratory, a hostel to accommodate 72 people and a machine design office. The Centre had attracted international co-operation from UNDP and UNESCO for training and the provision of workshop machines. The Government of India had donated 13 machines worth \$310,000.

192. The Centre's engineering activities included training, design adaptation, upgrading of workshops and promotion of national centres. He appealed to those African countries which had not already joined ARCEDEM to do so.

193. The observer for the African National Congress of South Africa expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Conference. The economic crisis and unfavourable climatic conditions in Africa were of great significance not only to independent States but to the liberation movements as well. He referred to the Arusha meeting of the front line States, where support had been pledged for the liberation of those parts of Africa that were still not independent, pledged his organization to the struggle against racism in South Africa, and appealed to the international community for assistance.

194. The observer for the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) stated that in parallel with the struggle to produce food a struggle was taking place to liberate the tip of the continent from South African colonial rule. The military strategy being followed in South Africa suggested that the latter struggle would be protracted: a united front of the three South African liberation movements (PAC, ANC and SWAPO) would have brought South Africa to its knees in a very short time.

195. In South Africa, PAC was fighting not only the Boers but the whole Western bloc under NATO command. The southern part of the continent was where Africa's raw materials the same raw materials that Africa needed for its development programmes were concentrated. If Africa was to have access to those raw materials, therefore, a protracted struggle with South Africa and the western bloc might be necessary.

196. As far as the liberation struggle was concerned, one of the problems was the economically weak position of the front line States, which needed the rest of Independent Africa to come to their rescue. The front line States had already done a great deal. He appealed to other States for assistance to the liberation movements.

197. Speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States, the Ambassador of France to Ethiopia said that the clouds of a grave emergency hung over the nineteenth session. Africa had never before faced such a serious crisis. The current crisis was a combination of economic, political and physical crises which resulted in a situation where drought, the encroaching desert and food problems sometimes culminated in famine.

198. The food situation of Southern African and Sahelian countries had worsened in 1983. African countries which used to be net exporters of food had today become importers. The responsibility for dealing with the crisis lay primarily with African countries themselves. Their Governments had designed appropriate policies for revitalizing agriculture, deciding priorities in matters such as the fixing of remunerative prices, striking a balance between the production of food and export crops and stabilizing savings.

199. One of the causes of Africa's disquieting food situation was its inadequate transport networks, which inherited their bias towards exportation from the former colonial powers and thus favoured foreign trade more than domestic or regional trade. Those networks did not permit an equitable distribution of domestic foodstuffs, raw materials and products.

200. He concluded by expressing the determination of the Community and its member States to contribute to the work of the session and their confidence that the outcome would be useful and constructive.

201. The observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Union said that African economies were on the verge of collapse. Many countries had been forced to turn to IMF for balance-of-payments support, which entailed severe deflationary measures. Millions of urban and rural workers faced the stark realities of deteriorating living standards, underemployment and unemployment and a shortage of the basic necessities of life. The food situation in particular was disturbing.

202. In March 1984, trade union leaders had met in Dakar to discuss the serious social and economic difficulties facing the continent and its workers with a view to making concrete proposals for solving the crisis. The Dakar Declaration adopted at that time set out a practical agenda for action at national, regional and international levels and within the trade union movement itself. It supported the policies of the Lagos Plan of Action, emphasized the need for a change in the deflationary and protectionist policies of the industrialized countries and urged African Governments to reorient their policies so as to eliminate hunger, develop human resources, create jobs and satisfy basic human needs. Priority had to be given to national food strategies and integrated rural development, with industrial development programmes pivoting around the agricultural sector. Trade unions and rural workers' organizations had a vital role to play in the formulation and implementation of development plans. Industrialized countries should implement growth-oriented policies and increase aid resources, particularly food aid. He called on the Commission and all African intergovernmental institutions to respond urgently and constructively to the trade unions proposals.

Consideration and approval of the report and resolutions of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, held at Addis Ababa from 15 to 21 May 1984

203. The First Vice-Chairman introduced document E/ECA/CM.10/3 - Report of the fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (Addis Ababa 15-21 May 1984). He suggested that the Conference should consider that report, including the draft resolutions, submitted to it by the Preparatory Committee, together with the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis (document E/ECA/CM.10/37). The two documents were the outcome of profound study, analysis and debate and he commended them to the Ministers. A spirit of responsibility had prevailed throughout the meetings of the Committee and he especially thanked the Executive Secretary of ECA for having participated at all its meetings.

204. In the observations that followed, the representative of Algeria pointed out that his delegation had made reservations under paragraph 101 of the Report with respect to certain projects, which were not reflected in document E/ECA/CM.10/3 and expressed hope that the secretariat would take that into account in the final editing.

205. The representative of the Congo noted that throughout the Conference discussions had revolved around the economic and social crisis in Africa, which obliged Africa to depend more on its own resources for the support of the activities of such multinational institutions as the MULPOCs which governments had created. Rather than wait for voluntary contributions and aid donors, African States should ensure that some contributions emanated from Africa. He therefore suggested that a minimum amount of contribution should be established for each State in support of the work of the MULPOCs.

206. Stating that paragraph 209 did not fully reflect the general debate, the representative of Zaire suggested that the paragraph should read; "It was requested that the Executive Secretary should submit to member States as soon as possible a document on personnel management, indicating clearly the quantitative and qualitative representation by different African countries and subregions and the allocation of supervisory posts in the secretariat. The Executive Secretary was also requested to report on the number of personnel of non-African origin".

207. Because of its importance, the Conference requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and self-reliant Development (Annex II to document E/ECA/CM.10/14). Draft resolution 506 (XIX) was amended accordingly by the addition of a paragraph to that effect.

208. Some delegations proposed a number of amendments to the second-phase programme, 1984-1988, of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (contained in document E/ECA/CM.10/18) adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its fourth meeting, held at Conakry, Guinea, in February 1984. After an exchange of views, the Conference decided to approve that programme and amended accordingly draft resolution 487 (XIX) by the insertion of a preambular paragraph after preambular paragraph 8 and the insertion of a new paragraph after paragraph 3.

209. The Conference decided to amend paragraph 4 of draft resolution 526 (XIX) on the African economic and social crisis to include the Director-General of FAO and to reflect the need for further action by the United Nations itself and FAO.

210. In view of the fact that the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African countries at its fourth meeting, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 24 May 1984, had decided to modify the contents of draft resolutions 502 (XIX) and 503 (XIX), the Conference decided to align those resolutions with the texts of those approved by the latter Conference in the course of adopting its report.

211. Subject to the foregoing amendments, the Conference approved the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on its fifth meeting and the resolutions attached thereto.

212. The Conference, having considered the proposals made by the Secretary-General of WHO, adopted a resolution on meteorological services to combat drought in Africa (see resolution 528 XIX)).

Consideration and adoption of the report of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries

213. The representative of Mali, H.E. Mohammed Al Hamany, Chairman of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 24 May 1984, introduced document E/ECA/CM.10/34 which contained the report of that meeting.

214. The meeting, which had been attended by 18 African least developed countries (LDCs), had been preceded by a meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African LDCs. It had considered four topics, namely, the economic and social situation in African LDCs; the implementation of the Substantive New Programme of Action (SNPA) in the African LDCs; pricing policies in African LDCs; and the activities undertaken by ECA in 1983 and the 1984 work programme in favour of African LDCs.

215. The meeting had emphasized the plight of the African LDCs and had noted that, despite the commitments made by the international community and the tremendous efforts by those countries themselves, the implementation of the SNPA had not been very satisfactory. In particular, the results of the roundtables and consultative group meetings that had been so far organized had not totally met the expectations of the African LDCs. Finally, the Conference had approved three draft resolutions on, respectively, pricing policies in the African LDCs, measures for the effective implementation of the SNPA in African LDCs, and a substantial assessment of the roundtables and consultative group meetings.

216. As indicated above, the first two of those draft resolutions replaced resolutions 502 (XIX) and 503 (XIX), respectively. For the third, see resolution 529 (XIX).

217. The meeting approved the report of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries and adopted the three resolutions.

Consideration and adoption of the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis to the 1984 second regular session of the Economic and Social Council and to the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

218. When it was suggested that the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis (document E/ECA/CM.10/37) should devote some paragraphs specifically to LDCs, it was pointed out that the first complete sentence on page 27 (beginning "Donor countries ...") and the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 28 (beginning "In addition ...") dealt specifically with those countries. It might also be said that the measures to deal with the crisis - Chapter II of the Memorandum - concerned the LDCs.

219. It was proposed that the title of the Memorandum should be changed to read "Africa's economic and social crisis: a special memorandum submitted by the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development to the ..."; and that paragraph 37 of the Preparatory Committee meeting working paper, Rev.1, dated 19 May 1984, should be substituted for paragraph 37 of document E/ECA/CM.10/37. The secretariat was requested to take those proposals into account.

220. The representative of Ethiopia reminded the Conference that in appealing in paragraph 50 (c) for the cancellation of their debts, African LDCs were not asking for something new. The developed countries should be reminded that the cancellation of the debts of LDCs was one of the recommendations approved at the Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held at Paris in 1981. He therefore suggested that the tone of paragraph 50 (c) should be modified accordingly and that it should refer to the implementation of the SNPA in addition to calling for the cancellation of the debts of African LDCs.

221. Subject to the foregoing amendments, the Special Memorandum was approved by acclamation.

Other business (item 10)

222. Under this item of the agenda the Executive Secretary brought to the attention of the Conference the following issues: the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance on the external debts of African countries, scheduled to take place in June 1984 at Addis Ababa; proposals for electing the first members of the Technical Committee for PADIS [resolution 498 (XIX)]; the recommendation of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry on a common African position for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO; and the impending retirement of Mr. W.L. Booker, Chief, Division of Statistics and Mr. Mohammed Fakhreddine, Director of the North African MULPOC.

223. With respect to the forthcoming meeting on external debts of African countries, the Executive Secretary said that the purpose of bringing the matter before that Conference was to distribute the relevant documents to delegations, so that they could be delivered to the appropriate ministries in their countries. The documents were immediately distributed.

224. In order to enable the Conference to elect the members of the Technical Committee for PADIS when it met on 28 May 1984 to adopt its report, the Executive Secretary suggested that the country representatives of each subregion should meet over the weekend to decide on the country and if possible the expert who would represent it on the Technical Committee, so that the proposals might be available in due time.. His suggestion was accepted.

225. The Executive Secretary pointed out that, although the Conference had adopted the resolutions approved by the Conference of Ministers of Industry at its seventh meeting in March 1984, it had taken no decision on the Ministers of Industry's decision that a meeting of the African group should be convened in Vienna prior to the meeting of the Group of 77, in order to review and reaffirm the common African position on the UNIDO Conference adopted at their seventh meeting, as well as to agree on its negotiating strategy and on organizational

matters, including the request to the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA to arrange for such a meeting. The Conference approved the decision of the Ministers of Industry and their request to OAU and ECA secretariats to organize the meeting.

226. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and nineteenth session of the Commission was the last one that Messrs. Booker and Fakhreddine would attend before their retirement, the Executive Secretary considered it his duty to so inform the Conference. The two officers had served the Commission loyally and diligently for many years. Mr. Booker joined the Commission in 1961 and Mr. Fakhreddine in 1976. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the two senior staff members of ECA secretariat and wished them good health and good luck in their retirement.

Date and venue of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and twentieth session of the Commission (item 11)

227. The meeting welcomed and accepted the kind invitation by Guinea to host the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and twentieth session of the Commission, at dates to be determined later. The representative of Guinea thanked the meeting for accepting the invitation and expressed the hope that he would see all the Ministers in Conkary, Guinea, in 1985.

D. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE
CONFERENCE AT ITS TENTH MEETING

487 (XIX). United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 231 (XIII) of 26 February 1977, Economic and Social Council resolution 2027 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also its resolutions 435 (XVII) of 30 April 1982, and 464 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/54 of 29 July 1982 and General Assembly resolution 37/140 of 17 December 1982, and 38/150 of 19 December 1983,

Considering that the programme of the Decade requires regular adjustment during the entire period of the Decade,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission in the preparation of the programme of the second phase and its approval by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Further noting with satisfaction that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has provided funds for the preparation and organization of the four technical consultative meetings during the second phase programme,

Having considered the report on the implementation of the programme of the first phase of the Decade (1981-1983) and the report on the approved programme of the second phase (1984-1993),

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission in the quest for and means of mobilizing resources and securing international assistance for implementing the second phase programme,

Appreciating further the call by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for a second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa to enable complete integrated development of transport and communications infrastructures, which are closely linked with the development objectives in Africa and which would otherwise be incomplete at the end of the current Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Considering that the ECA Conference of Ministers has endorsed the programme for the second phase of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa with regard to the transport and communications routes accorded priority in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos,

1. Notes with satisfaction the level of success achieved in implementing the programme of the first phase of the Decade and the efforts being made towards the full implementation of the programme for the second phase;

2. Endorses the programme of the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Conakry, Guinea, on 10 February 1984;

3. Further endorses resolution ECA/UNTAIDA/Res. 34/30 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning recommending that ECA should study the prospects of a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa including an assessment of the first decade and consultations with donors;

4. Takes note of all the road projects approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, recommends the opening up of the African continent and invites each member State to speed up implementation of the transport and communications routes accorded priority in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos;

5. Requests member States:

(a) to vigorously pursue the financing of their national projects and provide the local cost components;

(b) to furnish the Commission and the other agencies with the necessary information on financing and physical execution of projects;

6. Appeals to donor countries and international financial institutions to participate fully and positively in the two technical consultative meetings on broadcasting scheduled for 1 to 6 June 1984 at Harare, Zimbabwe, and on air transport scheduled for 20 to 22 November 1984 at Lil'leville, Gabon, and in particular to provide technical and financial resources on liberal terms to African countries for the implementation of the second phase programme;

7. Appeals once more to donor countries and international financial institutions to lend substantial financial support to the second phase programme and to accord particular attention to the financing and implementation of transport and communications projects of the land-locked countries;

8. Further appeals to bilateral and multilateral technical assistance donors and international financial institutions to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with experts who would carry out specialized activities of the Decade programme;

9. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the financial support which he has provided for the organization of the technical consultative meetings and the preparation of the second phase of the Decade programme;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make every effort to secure and provide to the Economic Commission for Africa the additional resources needed for the implementation of activities mandated in operative paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 38/150;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to intensify contacts with bilateral and multilateral donors and African countries so as to enhance proper and complete implementation of the Decade programme and to ensure the preparation of relevant financing documents and prompt follow-up on interest expressed by donors and financial institutions in financing Decade projects during technical consultative meetings;

12. Further expresses its appreciation to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support which he has provided for the preparation of the second phase of the Decade programme and for strengthening the Decade Co-ordination Unit;

13. Appeals also to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide funds to the Economic Commission for Africa during the next programming cycle to enable proper monitoring of the implementation of the second phase programme and particularly for strengthening the Decade Co-ordination Unit;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission:

(a) in collaboration with other United Nations specialized agencies and African intergovernmental organizations to jointly organize co-financing meetings involving the appropriate number of donors for certain regional projects and transport corridor projects;

(b) to intensify efforts to contact as many donor countries and financial institutions as possible to promote the Decade programme;

15. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to assist African member States in ensuring prompt follow-up of interest expressed by donors in financing projects during the Technical Consultative Meetings by preparing relevant project documents in bankable format for submission to the various donors and financing institutions;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit to the eleventh meeting of the Conference a progress report on the implementation of the second phase programme;

17. Invites the specialized agencies of the United Nations to lend more support, within their respective areas of competence, to ECA in the discharge of its duties as the "lead agency" responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the Decade programme.

488 (XIX). Development of the African Remote Sensing Programme

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with appreciation the steps already taken by the Executive Secretary as highlighted in his biennial report for 1982-1983 towards the implementation of its resolutions 280 (XII) of February 1975 on the introduction of remote-sensing technology into Africa and 313 (XIII) of March 1977 concerning the establishment of a remote sensing programme in Africa,

Realizing that the achievements reported in the said report have been accomplished through utilizing mainly extra-budgetary resources which, all along have been inadequate for the development of the programme,

Further realizing that as a result of inability to provide counterpart financial resources to execute pilot projects in remote sensing applications through the establishment of model remote sensing centres which will clearly demonstrate the potentialities of the technology for resource development and rational utilization, potential technical co-operation partners are unwilling to make available their expertise and financial aid,

Conscious of the benefits to be derived from the applications of remote sensing to communications and natural resources development and to the solution of many of the phenomena affecting Africa's social and economic development, especially those concerning desertification, drought, environmental monitoring including early warning systems and pollution, as well as Africa's long-term development,

Recalling also the relevant recommendations adopted by the United Nations Second Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82) concerning the role of the United Nations and particularly the allocation of adequate resources to the regional commissions involved in the development of space technology applications, 1/

Mindful of resolution 37/90 adopted by the General Assembly during its thirty-seventh session concerning the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

1. Urges all member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to give moral, political, material and financial support to the African Remote Sensing Programme;

2. Requests the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide adequate resources, on regular basis, to the Economic Commission for Africa for the implementation and development of the African Remote Sensing Programme.

1/ Final Report UNISPACE-82, A/CONF.101/10, paras., 433, 434 and 437.

489 (XIX). African Demographic Training Institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 367 (XIV) of 28 March 1979 which, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to start negotiations with the host governments to modify the statutes governing the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) to make them regional in character and to enable all the countries served by the institutes to take full part in their management and financial support,

Recalling further General Assembly decision 37/444 of 21 December 1982 which approved the amended statutes of both institutes,

Taking note of the generally expressed need by the Demographers' Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers for facilities for middle-level training,

Aware of the continued need of African countries for demographers and of expertise to ensure the integration of population variables in African development planning,

Taking note of the precarious financial state of IFORD consequent to regionalization which is due to the insufficiency and irregularity in the receipt of contributions from the member States,

Taking note also of the issues raised by United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Evaluation Missions and the efforts being made to resolve them,

Concerned about the reduction in UNFPA funding of the training institute and the poor prospects for future funding of the institutes,

Conscious of the economic crisis of unprecedented proportions which the African countries are experiencing and the efforts which they are making to overcome this crisis and the need of these countries for increased international support,

1. Urges African Governments to discharge their responsibilities to the institutes by participating fully in their management and by paying their contributions promptly;

2. Further urges the African representatives on the Governing Council of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to bring to the attention of the Council the concern of African countries on the reduction in the funding of the institutes and to appeal to the Council for continued support to the institutes at least at their 1983 levels;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to work out in conformity with the statutes of RIPS and IFORD an equitable system for determining the contributions of the member States to the financing of the institutes;

4. Requests also the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the training institutes, to examine ways of organizing ad hoc middle-level training courses for the benefit of member States;

5. Draws the attention of the Governing Councils and Advisory Boards on Studies of the institutes to the need for looking into the issue of harmonizing the curricula of these institutes;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to explore possibilities of raising funds from donors to support scientific research projects of the institutes.

490 (XIX). Infrastructure Posts for the ECA Secretariat in the Field of Population

The ECA Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 which called upon the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned to assist, when requested, in further developing and strengthening national and regional facilities for training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population,

Recalling also the Economic and Social Council resolution 1763 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 in which the Council expressed the desire that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in the elaboration of its plans and programmes, should take into account the resolutions adopted by the regional economic commissions in dealing with the population problems of areas covered by them,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System which in section IV of its annex requested that the necessary authority should be delegated to regional commissions and adequate budgetary and financial provision made for their activities,

Further recalling the report of the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers ^{1/} which, inter alia, deplored the decreasing share of assistance being made available by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the regional commissions for demographic data collection, processing, evaluation, analysis and dissemination,

Aware that the regular budget resources to the ECA's population programme have now been considerably augmented thus reducing substantially the contribution of UNFPA to the substantive activities of ECA in the area of population,

Draws attention of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the priority which African nations accord to population redistribution, urbanization and migration within their overall population programmes, and the central role of population variables in development planning,

^{1/} E/ECA/CM.8/22.

1. Urges the Governing Council of UNFPA and the Executive Director to reactivate effective 1 January 1984 the two P3 and one local level posts which were frozen effective 31 December 1980, for use by ECA in the implementation of its work programme in the area of population estimates and projections, population distribution and urbanization, until such time that regular budget resources are made available for these activities;

2. Appeals to the Governing Council and the Executive Director of the UNFPA to enhance the capacity of the Commission to implement effectively its population programme by reactivating the two P3 and one local level posts mentioned in operative paragraph 1 above.

491 (XIX). Implementation of the Programme for the Industrial Development
Decade for Africa (IDDA)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/66B of 5 December 1980 by which the General Assembly declared the period 1980-1990 as the Industrial Development Decade for Africa; and resolution 36/182, Section II of 17 December 1981, 37/212, Section II, of 20 December 1982 and 38/192, Part II of 20 December 1983, all on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling also ECA resolutions 442 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and 446 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Welcoming resolution CM/Res. 941 (XL) adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers at its 40th session held in Addis Ababa from 27 February to 7 March 1984,

Having considered the report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 28 March 1984 and resolution 1 (VII) on the implementation of the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa adopted at that meeting,

Taking into consideration the information provided by delegates on the actions taken at the national, subregional and international levels on the implementation of the Decade Programme for the IDDA and of the various constraints encountered,

Conscious of the urgent need for some member States to intensify their efforts in the implementation of the activities outlined for the Preparatory Phase of the Decade Programme and for others to launch activities for the implementation phase,

Reiterating the need to accord priority to the development of strategic core industries that provide intra- and inter-sectoral linkages and essential inputs for the production and processing of natural resources, especially food and agricultural products,

Convinced of the need to undertake concerted actions for the mobilization of financial resources, including technical assistance from the Secretariats of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO and other African and international organizations and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies for the implementation of the Decade Programme,

1. Endorses the subregional initial integrated industrial promotion programmes adopted at the four subregional meetings organized on the promotion of intra-African industrial co-operation within the framework of the IDDA and requests the Secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO to synthesize and print the programmes into a single document for distribution to all African countries and intergovernmental organizations;

2. Commends the efforts made by several member States and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of activities during the preparatory phase of the Decade programme as reflected in document ID/B/313(ECA/JID/CMI.7/WP/1);

3. Calls upon other member States and African intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts towards the accomplishment of the priority actions to be undertaken during the preparatory phase of the Decade Programme as outlined in document ID/310 and to provide information on actions taken to the OAU, ECA and UNIDO Secretariats to enable their Joint Committee to more effectively monitor the implementation of the Decade Programme;

4. Calls on member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to undertake urgent measures to endorse the subregional integrated industrial promotion programmes, including the allocation of the necessary resources, as well as other follow-up actions recommended for the effective implementation of those programmes; to this end:

(a) Stresses the need for member States to provide financial and human resources for carrying out pre-investment activities related to subregional and regional projects which constitute a necessary condition for the execution of those projects;

(b) Urges member States to undertake all necessary measures for:

- (i) Strengthening indigenous capabilities in consultancy, technology, entrepreneurship, skilled manpower development and negotiations;
- (ii) Consultations among themselves to agree on the modalities for co-operation including marketing and financing arrangements as well as on the principal promoter for each project;
- (iii) The identification, production and development of local raw materials and energy resources as inputs for the identified projects;
- (iv) The promotion of trade in raw materials, energy and manufactures;
- (v) Technical consultations on joint investment promotion of the identified projects, including the use of TCDC/ECDC arrangements;

(c) Further urges member States to assist and encourage African entrepreneurs, industrialists and marketing and distributing companies to intensify their contribution to investment promotion and implementation of the national and multinational projects; and

(d) Invites the identified intergovernmental organizations in each sub-region concerned with industrial development to establish co-ordinating committees on the IDDA for each subregion and sub-sectoral technical committees to assist in the co-ordination, promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the multinational projects;

5. Recommends that in order to take advantage of economies of scale, market scope, and achieve integrated development, certain industries such as metallurgical, petro-chemicals and heavy engineering should be classified regional; others such as building industries (including cement), spare parts, agro-based, agricultural implements (excluding heavy agricultural tractors), chemicals (including basic chemicals), precision engineering, pharmaceuticals; non-metallic mineral products, energy-saving industries and electrical and electronic industry, should be classified subregional;

6. Welcomes the initiatives taken to promote co-operation between Latin American and African countries and organizations in the implementation of the Decade Programme and requests the Secretariats of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO to launch similar initiatives with other regions to the developing countries within the framework of ECDC/ECDC as well as within the UNIDO System of Consultations;

7. Calls upon member States and intergovernmental organizations to examine their ongoing and future industrial programmes and identify and send to the Secretariats of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO proposals for inclusion in the programme of activities called for in paragraph 8 below.

8. Requests the Secretariats of the ECA, OAU and UNIDO to prepare, on the basis of the initial integrated industrial promotion programmes and in consultation with member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, proposals for a comprehensive programme of activities to be undertaken at the national, subregional and international levels for the implementation phase of the Decade Programme;

9. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations General Assembly for its decision to allocate to UNIDO \$US 1 million from the regular budget of the United Nations for assistance in 1984 to African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of their programmes for the IDDA and appeals to the United Nations General Assembly to substantially increase this allocation to an annual minimum level of \$US 5 million and for the allocation to be put on permanent basis. To this end, a similar arrangement should be made for the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it and its MLPOCs to assist member States at subregional level in their consultations, negotiations and investment promotion of multi-country projects;

10. Welcomes with appreciation the generous financial contribution made by a number of countries to ECA, UNIDO and some African regional centres for the implementation of activities related to the Decade;

11. Expresses its appreciation to the African Group at United Nations Headquarters for its commendable efforts in securing the allocation of the \$US 1 million referred to in paragraph 9 above, and requests the Group to intensify its efforts with a view to securing a substantial increase of resources;

12. Reiterates the repeated appeals made to the international community, particularly the UNDP, World Bank, ADB, OPEC Fund, BADEA and other international organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies and financial institutions to increase and intensify their technical and financial assistance on preferential conditions, to African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of their programmes for the IDDA and calls on member States to join and increase their contributions to the African Industrial Development Fund;

13. Thanks the African Development Bank for earmarking \$US 1 billion in its 1982-1986 programme period for industrial projects and appeals to the Bank to allow interested member States to borrow from those funds, on favourable terms, for investment, inter alia, for meeting their equity shares in subregional projects, the preparation of pre-investment studies, and for the implementation of subregional projects;

14. Congratulates the Secretariats of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO for the efforts made in support of the actions taken by African countries and inter-governmental organizations in the implementation of the priority actions identified for the preparatory phase of the Decade Programme, welcomes the actions taken to promote the IDDA not only within but also outside Africa, and in view of the limited results so far achieved requests them to expand, publicize and intensify their assistance to African countries and inter-governmental organizations in the implementation of the priority actions for the preparatory phase of the Decade Programme and, based on the commitment of member States, to carry out the follow-up actions for the implementation of projects included in the four subregional initial integrated industrial promotion programmes with emphasis accorded to the:

(a) Integration of the projects contained in the four subregional initial integrated industrial promotion programmes;

(b) Formulation of industrial strategies and policies and elaboration of industrial master plans with particular emphasis on the development of strategic core industries and support areas;

(c) Development of industrial manpower, especially scientific and technological capabilities, including the mobilization of African competencies, both within and outside the continent, for the implementation of the Decade Programme;

(d) Promotion of intra-African co-operation within the framework of existing or future intergovernmental organizations, especially in respect of trade in raw materials and manufacture;

(e) Development of traditional and acquisition of foreign technologies;

(f) Mobilization of financial resources;

(g) Development of energy, technology, equipment and appliances;

(h) Survey of African demand/supply requirements, especially in the strategic core industries and support areas as an input into the preparation of an industrial map of Africa;

(i) Preparation of and circulation to all member States a directory of national, subregional and regional centres dealing with industrial and technological studies; and

(j) Continued promotion of the Decade Programme not only within but also outside Africa.

15. Directs the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa to undertake, at its next meeting, a careful examination of the proposals presented by the Secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO on the comprehensive programme of activities called for in operative paragraph 3 above taking into account the progress achieved and the problem encountered during the preparatory phase, and transmit them, along with its recommendations to the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, for consideration and approval.

492 (XIX). African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 1 (VI) section B(b) (v) adopted by the Ministers of Industry in November 1981 on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, which inter alia, called on all member States, to strengthen the African Industrial Development Fund as one of the mechanisms designed especially to increase the ability of member States to raise the large financial resources needed for the implementation of the Decade Programme,

Reaffirming the recommendation contained in resolution 2(VI) also adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its sixth session, particularly with respect to the strict application of articles 13 and 17 of the Constitution of the Fund, which stipulates that the Fund should have, as its supreme authority, a Board of Governors comprising the Ministers of Industry, while its management is carried out by the ADB secretariat for a period of five years, after which period the Fund's Board of Governors would review its final and definite structure,

Recalling resolution 1(I) adopted at the meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the African Industrial Development Fund in Addis Ababa in October 1979 authorizing the Executive Secretary of the ECA to negotiate with the ADB a management agreement for submission to the Board of Governors of the AIDF for approval,

Noting with satisfaction the results of negotiations between the ADB and the ECA which place emphasis on the principal responsibility of the Board of Governors consisting of Ministers of Industry in defining the aims, objectives and policies of the Fund,

Taking note that with 15 member States having signed or ratified the constitution of the AIDF, the minimum number of 12 has been attained, thus making it possible for the Fund to be operational,

1. Invites those member States, which are not yet members of the AIDF, to accede to its constitution as soon as possible and appeals to those member States which ratified the constitution of the Fund to pay their contributions;
2. Requests the ECA secretariat to disseminate information on the constitution of the Fund to all member States with a view to enabling the Fund to expand its membership;
3. Agrees that the African Development Bank should undertake the management of the AIDF under the policy direction of the Ministers of Industry of those member States which are members of the Fund in their capacity as members of its Board of Governors;
4. Requests ECA, in co-operation with OAU and UNIDO, to finalize with ADB the detailed management agreement for consideration and approval by the Board of Governors of the ADB and of the AIDF.

493 (XIX). Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Conference of Ministers.

Recalling the Caracas Declaration adopted at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/171 of 15 December 1980, in which the need for the strengthening of efforts and activities at the regional and subregional levels in crime prevention and criminal justice was emphasized,

Having considered the report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Deeply concerned about the increasing criminality of different forms and dimensions in many African countries, which is having an adverse impact on the social, economic and other aspects of lives of the people of the region,

1. Endorses the report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

2. Urges member States to consider crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of overall development, to encourage the exchange of data information and experience, joint activities for training and research, demonstration projects of a bilateral and multilateral nature, agreements on the provision of human, financial and material resources and the convening of regional and subregional seminars involving the various modalities of technical co-operation, and to involve the scientific and professional non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. Appeals to the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to support, through its decisions, the efforts of African countries in fighting problems relating to the growth of criminality;

4. Requests the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to support the appointment of a United Nations Regional Adviser for the African Region in the field of Crime prevention and criminal justice;

5. Invites the United Nations and all United Nations agencies to give all assistance possible to African States in their efforts to achieve a concerted socio-economic development within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action in order to improve the living conditions of the people, thereby reducing crime tendencies resulting from poverty, unemployment, overcrowded slums, etc.

494. (XIX). International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace

The Conference of Ministers,

Convinced of the importance of the full implementation of the specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year (A/36/215), as well as of the recommendations endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/48,

Recognizing that the preparation for the observance of the International Youth Year will contribute to the reaffirmation of the goals of the New International Economic Order and to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Convinced of the imperative need to harness the energies, enthusiasm and creative abilities of youth to the tasks of the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action for economic development of Africa including the Final Act of Lagos,

Aware that, for the International Youth Year to be successful and in order to maximize its impact and practical efficiency, adequate preparation and the widespread support of governments, all specialized agencies, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public will be required,

Taking note with appreciation of the Report of the Economic Commission for Africa on the Situation of African Youth in the 1980s (Document ECA/SDEHSD/IYY/83/WD.2 and the report of the regional meeting on the International Youth Year (E/ECA/CM.10/28) including the regional plan of action on youth, and congratulating the ECA for positive orientation of these documents,

Mindful of the existing co-operation arrangement between the executive secretariat of ECA and the general secretariat of the OAU,

1. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations made in the two above-mentioned documents and requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to bring them to the notice of all African countries, with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the Regional Plan of Action on Youth and regional co-operation for the International Youth Year;
2. Invites all African States, which have not already done so, to set up national co-ordinating committees or other forms of co-ordination for the International Youth Year;
3. Stresses the importance of inter-agency consultations as a useful tool in planning, initiating, promoting and implementing activities in the field of youth at the global and regional levels, in the context of the implementation of all recommendations concerning the International Youth Year;

4. Appeals to all States, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and to the public to make, in due time, generous voluntary contributions for the implementation of Africa Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
5. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to take all necessary measures for the better co-ordination of efforts in the field of youth through inter-agency consultative meetings under its aegis in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
6. Stresses the importance of establishing a similar co-ordinating structure for regional youth organizations, including the Pan-African Youth Movement, as a consultative body to the Economic Commission for Africa in carrying out youth-related activities;
7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of OAU, to ensure adequate and effective participation of Africa in the International Youth Year;
8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take all necessary measures to strengthen the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in order to enable it to fulfill the extended mandate entrusted to it in the field of youth including the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
9. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use all means at his disposal, within the regular budget of the United Nations, to increase the resources designed for the implementation of the International Youth Year programme;
10. Calls upon the secretariat for the IYY to make all necessary arrangements at the appropriate level, for the implementation of the African Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
11. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the secretariat of ECA to take specific measures to increase the dissemination of information on youth;
12. Requests that such global plan of action on youth be considered in an international meeting on youth in early 1985 as an integral part of the celebration of the year;
13. Expresses its full appreciation to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa and to the Secretariat for IYY for the successful preparation and organization of the African Regional Meeting on the IYY;
14. Expresses also its appreciation to those United Nations agencies and offices, particularly ILO, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, UNICEF and UNV/UNDP for their active collaboration in and contribution to the Regional Meeting.

495 (XIX). Utilization of existing African facilities for the development of human resources in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/187 in particular, section IV on structures for regional and inter-regional co-operation which, inter alia, calls on regional commissions to strengthen their relations with the organizations of the United Nations system and to serve "as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions",

Recalling also its resolution 444 (XVII) of April 1982 which, among other things, call upon African Governments to take a number of measures for accelerated development of African human resources,

Mindful of the recommendations of the African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization, adopted at their first Conference in Monrovia, Liberia, in October 1981, regarding national and regional institutional machineries for the review and co-ordination of programmes and policies in human resources development,

Guided by the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa on measures for national, subregional and regional self-reliance in the economic and social development of Africa, which accords high priority inter alia, to the development and utilization of human resources,

Conscious of the activities undertaken by the United Nations agencies, the Organization of African Unity and other international organizations to help member States to develop human resources in Africa as well as of their technical co-operation and collaboration programmes in institution-building, education and training,

Bearing in mind Africa's initiative to establish and strengthen national, subregional and regional institutions for design, research and development training and consultancy for the socio-economic development of the region,

1. Calls upon the United Nations agencies and other international and bilateral organizations carrying out activities in the field of human resources development in Africa to give preference to the utilization of existing national, subregional and regional institutions, and the strengthening and the expanding of such institutions;

2. Urges the United Nations agencies and international organizations to co-ordinate closely the planning and programming of their activities in the

field of human resources development with the appropriate African national, subregional and regional machineries and institutions with a view to ensuring optimal utilization of resources towards Africa's achievement of the goal of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in manpower supply;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to exchange information with other United Nations agencies, international and bilateral organizations and appropriate African institutions on programmes and activities in human resources development in order to facilitate collaboration in the development of human resources for Africa's socio-economic development.

496 (XIX). Environment and development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of December 1980 on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which, inter alia, calls for a mid-term review of the activities of developing countries to deal more adequately with the environmental aspects of development activities, for the international community to increase financial and technical support to drought-stricken countries that are under the stress of desertification, for consideration to be given by all countries to environmental aspects of industrialization in the formulation and implementation of their industrial programmes and for the improvement of the quality of life and environment through human settlement planning and better housing conditions, 1/

Taking note of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council decisions 10/4 and 10/6 of May 1982 on environment and development, which calls for assistance to developing countries to address serious environmental problems relating to poverty and underdevelopment, 2/

Recalling its resolution 446 (XVII) of April 1982 on the need to intensify regional co-operation for combating desertification in Africa; resolution 473 (XVIII) of April 1983 requesting for a Scientific Roundtable on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa and resolution 474 (XVIII) of April 1983 calling for the strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters especially the environment co-ordination capabilities of the Economic Commission for Africa, and for encouraging development of environmental education and training programmes in member States,

Having considered the report of the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment and its annexes dealing with environmental matters, 3/ namely, the recommendations and resolutions of three joint regional workshops held on:

- (a) combating desertification in Africa, 4/
- (b) industrial environmental impact assessment and environmental criteria for the siting of industry, 5/
- (c) developing a programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa, 6/

1/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, 33rd plenary, 1980, annex, paragraphs 156-158.

2/ See report of UNEP Governing Council at its tenth session, decisions 10/4 and 10/6 pages 90-92. Official Records of the General Assembly Thirty-seventh session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), 1982.

3/ See E/ECA/CM.10/13.

4/ See E/ECA/ENV/7.

5/ See E/ECA/ENV/11.

6/ See UNEP/WG.78/4.

Taking note of the assistance rendered by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to African countries in developing national programmes, and institutional arrangements for combating drought and desertification,

Recognizing that desertification control measures can be improved by the provision of alternative sources of energy for local consumption, the modernization of fuel-wood stoves and kilns for charcoal production from agricultural residues, and by providing alternative or supplementary livelihood systems to local population to prevent over-grazing in arid lands,

Noting that additional causes of desertification in Africa besides over-grazing over-population, deforestation and soil erosion, are bush fires accentuated by the current prolonged drought in Africa and devegetation resulting from the deleterious gases and fumes from industrial and mining processing plants,

Considering that most African Governments do not, as yet, have guidelines for assessing the environmental impact of industrial activity on the physical and human environments,

Fully realizing the long-term heavy costs that the neglect of the practice of environmental impact assessment might entail after pollution occurred,

Aware that the primary responsibility for promoting awareness of environmental problems and of the concept that environmental protection and development are compatible, lies first and foremost with governments who should develop environmental education and training programmes in line with their socio-economic development plans and policies,

Noting with appreciation that in response to the Lagos Plan of Action 7/ and the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decisions 9/12 of May 1981 8/ and 11/7 Part Eight A 9/ on environmental priorities for a regional programme for Africa, the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme has developed a Sub-Regional Environmental Groupings (SREGs) programme, providing a framework for co-operation with the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) in Africa to identify subregional environmental problems and propose common measures to enable African Governments to take immediate action to solve their problems in the spirit of self-reliant regional co-operation,

I. Promotion of technical co-operation, information exchange, technology and expertise for combating desertification in Africa:

1. Recommends that African Governments intensify their efforts in training personnel for combating desertification; promote technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) for sharing experiences and expert knowledge, technology

7/ See A/S - 11/4, Annex 1.

8/ UNEP/GC.9/15, Report of the Governing Council at its 9th session, page 132.

9/ UNEP/GC.11/18, Proceedings of the Governing Council at its 11th session, Annex I, page 28.

and information on combating desertification; strengthen their national network of agro-meteorological stations under the AGRHYMET programme; conduct an inventory of grazing lands for the suitability of species to maintain the carrying capacity of the land and to provide adequate resource allocations to carry out anti-desertification activities;

2. Urges the Governing Councils of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider seriously: (a) the inclusion of the United Republic of Tanzania and Nigeria within the terms of reference of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) to enable them receive assistance in implementing programmes for combating desertification; (b) expanding the scope of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office so as to enable the office assist the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in implementing the United Nations Environment Programme on combating desertification and drought, in the same way the UNSO is now assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel region (CILSS);

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies (UNSO, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO), to organize a regional seminar/workshop on the modalities for the exchange of information, technology and expertise on combating desertification between the 34 countries in the three subregions (Northern Sahara, Sudano-Sahelian and Kalahari Desert) so affected;

II. Industrial environmental impact assessment:

1. Strongly recommends that African Governments take immediately all precautionary measures for environmental protection in industrial development by:

(a) Adapting the UNEP guidelines for industrial environmental impact assessment and environmental criteria for siting industry, into national industrial development programmes;

(b) Ensuring that the application of existing industrial codes by developers is reviewed in terms of the national guidelines so developed and that appropriate legislative instruments be established to implement the guidelines;

2. Further recommends that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme assist member States in training manpower for carrying out environmental impact assessment activities within the context of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA);

III. Programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa:

1. Recommends that African Governments formulate integrated environmental education and training programmes and develop specific national environmental institutions, for the implementation of these environmental programmes in the country;

2. Requests member States to initiate the incorporation of environmental components into on-going training programmes at national institutions catering for decision- and policy-makers, administrators, managers, educationalists and other professionals whose daily decisions and normal work affect the quality of the environment;

3. Invites African Governments to increase awareness of environmental issues and concerns among politicians and in all sections of the community, particularly in the rural population, through the mass media, literacy programmes, political and social gatherings; as well as promote the exchange of information and experience among African countries;

IV. Regional co-operation on environmental matters in Africa:

1. Strongly urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to increase their support to ECA Environment Section for the effective implementation of the Environment in Africa Work Programme within the context of the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue their co-operation in implementing subregional environmental programmes for solving the specific environmental problems of the countries within the subregions, through the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs).

497 (XIX). Water Resources Development and Follow-up to the Mar del Plata
Action Plan

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, which adopted the report of the United Nations Water Conference and approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan contained therein,

Guided by resolution VIII of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata Action Plan, which called upon the regional commissions to play a central role in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation in matters of integrated water resources development and management,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI), of 5 August 1976, which requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make adequate provisions so as to enable the regional commissions to carry out their activities effectively, and 1979/67, of 3 August 1979, which recommends that the secretariats of the regional commissions should be provided with sufficient manpower and financial resources to enable them to discharge the expanded responsibilities assigned to them by the United Nations Water Conference,

Recalling also the recommendation on institutional strengthening at regional level called for in paragraph 32(iii) of the Lagos Plan of Action,

1. Calls upon governments which have not already done so to establish national committees on water resources in accordance with the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

2. Appeals to multinational, bilateral and intergovernmental technical assistance organizations and the agencies of the United Nations system to co-ordinate their efforts with the Economic Commission for Africa in assisting African Governments in the development of the region's water resources and to provide financial and material support for the implementation of regional projects in water resources planning, development and rational utilization;

3. Urges the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the President of the World Bank to increase the amount of funds allocated to the water sector in their national and regional programmes for Africa and, in particular, to give more emphasis to rural water supply programmes;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to strengthen the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in its water resources activities so that water experts can be deployed to the MULPOCs to assist member States in the planning and execution of their water development activities and in the follow-up of the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

498 (XIX). Pan-African Documentation and Information SystemThe Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 359 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 concerning the project for a Pan-African numerical and non-numerical data bank,

Recalling also resolution 377 (XV) of 12 April 1980 concerning the implementation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System project,

Further recalling resolution 413 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 regarding financial support for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System,

Recalling the resolution on PADIS adopted by the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Noting with concern the continuing poor situation of the documentation, information and library infrastructure in Africa,

Aware of the need to strengthen PADIS,

1. Decides to establish a regional technical committee for PADIS with the following terms of reference:

(a) to establish the overall policy of PADIS, inter alia by laying down policy, technical and financial guidelines;

(b) to advise the Executive Secretary on the formulation and implementation of the work programme of the project in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines;

(c) to oversee the execution of the project at all levels of the system;

(d) to take any other action that will enhance the effectiveness and economic viability of the project;

(e) to meet as often as may be required but not less than once a year, provided that during the transitional phase the committee shall meet at least twice a year;

(f) to co-opt specialists drawn from the relevant disciplines as necessary;

(g) to report annually on its activities to the Conference of Ministers through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

2. Decides further that the committee shall be composed as follows:

(a) the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, serving as chairman ex officio;

(b) five high-level experts who shall be elected to represent their respective subregions and who are expert in telecommunications, documentation, library science, information or computer science, to serve in their personal capacity for a period of four years;

(c) A representative of OAU;

(d) A representative of UNESCO;

(e) A representative of UNDP;

(f) Members co-opted in accordance with paragraph 1(f) above, provided that such members shall not number more than three at any time;

3. Further decides that the five members representing member States shall be elected by the Conference of Ministers on the recommendation of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, provided that for the four years for transitional phase the first members shall be elected by the Conference of Ministers at its tenth meeting;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to establish as early as possible in each MULPOC a subregional technical committee of PADIS whose principal function will be to monitor the implementation of the project within the subregions concerned;

5. Decides that the chairmen of the sub-regional technical committees shall be ipso-facto ex-officio members of the regional technical committee.

499 (XIX). Regional Plan of Action to combat the Impacts of Drought in Africa

The Conference of Ministers.

Recalling resolution 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 of the Commission on the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa in which it urgently requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to organize a special Scientific Round Table to examine the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economies and to propose measures that can be taken in the short-, medium- and long-terms to deal with the situation and in which it also requested the Executive Secretary to report on the outcome of the Scientific Round Table to the Tenth Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the Report of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa including the draft Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of drought in Africa,

Noting with concern that drought is a recurrent phenomenon that is likely to repeat itself at some unspecified future dates and also that the current drought period has become abnormally severe, persistent and widespread as evidenced by the fact that the current drought has, except for a brief period, continued unabated since 1968 and that it has spread itself beyond the boundaries of the Sudano-Sahelian region to forested, coastal and other areas of Africa that have hitherto been unaffected by the drought,

Deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of the current drought on the African socio-economic systems, resulting in serious food scarcity, malnutrition, widespread diseases and deaths, depletion of animal stocks, increased poverty, environmental degradation, imbalances and reduction in water resources, human suffering and hardship and in severe dislocations of the fragile economies of African countries,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the Report of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa;

2. Decides to adopt the Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Adverse Impacts of Drought in Africa;

3. Urges member States to: (a) adopt appropriate measures, including increased allocation of financial resources, and enhancement of manpower and institutional capabilities within the framework of the Regional Plan of Action, to better predict and combat the adverse impacts of drought; (b) rehabilitate their drought-stricken economies in a co-ordinated and integrated manner; and (c) design and enforce other appropriate policies for the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action in its entirety;

4. Calls upon the international community, including the organizations of the United Nations system, to assist generously the drought-stricken African countries in their efforts to combat the impacts of drought, rehabilitate their economies and implement the Regional Plan of Action on drought.

500 (XIX). Short-term forecasting in the African region

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African region as well as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Noting the increasing need for short-term adjustment measures in an increasing number of African countries as a result of, inter alia, fluctuations in the world economic situation, disastrous natural phenomena such as drought, flood, etc., other factors which cause distortion in the implementation and management of development and distribution,

Aware of the potential and importance of short-term forecasting system in assisting individual African countries to establish early warning systems and to devise adjustment and distribution policies to cope with internal and external economic disturbances,

Taking note of the efforts of the ECA secretariat to establish short-term forecasting systems in individual African countries; and aware of the difficulties these countries have in collecting and compiling complete national accounts data,

1. Calls upon all African countries to undertake and strengthen short-term outlook activities individually and collectively and provide ECA with their published outlook outputs so as to allow for the drawing up of subregional and regional outlooks based on approaches such as social accounting matrices (SAMs) which have the advantages of making up for the imperfection of the national accounts and of sufficiently highlighting the distribution policies;

2. Requests the ECA secretariat to:

(a) Continue to assist individual African countries on request, to establish short-term forecasting systems based on approaches such as SAMs including the creation of national capabilities to follow-up on the models,

(b) Concretise the co-operation efforts with other national and pan-African institutions particularly the African Development Bank and the Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and other international agencies in mobilizing the necessary resources so as to effectively assist individual African countries to construct SAMs and to implement short-term forecasting systems.

501 (XIX). Perspective studies in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 470 (XVIII) adopted by the Conference of Ministers of ECA on perspective studies in African countries,

Bearing in mind the urgent need for African countries to adopt measures to deal with the structural weaknesses of their economies with a view to achieving a clear transformation of the African economy in line with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Taking note with concern of the deteriorating economic conditions in the African region worsened by persistent drought conditions,

Taking note with interest of the secretariat's study entitled, ECA and Africa's Development, 1983-2008: A preliminary perspective study which highlights the alternative prospects of Africa in critical areas,

Aware of the usefulness of perspective studies at the national, subregional and regional levels especially in respect of assessing necessary actions at all these levels for the successful implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action,

1. Appeals to member States to undertake perspective studies on their respective economies;

2. Calls upon all research institutions, development institutions and universities in collaboration with ECA and OAU to continue to critically examine the study so as to stimulate new initiatives and actions for the successful implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action at all levels,

3. Requests the ECA secretariat to strengthen and continue its work on perspective studies in close co-operation with national planning organs and taking into particular account the following basic elements:

- (a) the vulnerability of the African economies to the international economic environment;
- (b) the effects of the drought and desertification on the economic performance of African countries;
- (c) the realism and feasibility of the various targets and strategies;
- (d) the need for a further disaggregation and extension of the study to cover perspectives of sub-groups of African countries;

- (e) the undertaking of yearly sectoral analysis and projections especially at the subregional and regional levels so as to cover the key sectors during the five years between the periods of the updates;
- (f) the usefulness of analysing several scenarios including sensitivity analysis on elements such as balance of payments and, capital availability constraints;
- (g) the importance of examining, in detail additional variables like science and technology and financial requirements;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to:

- (a) provide, on request, technical assistance to African governments and subregional groupings in establishing work on perspective studies at the national and subregional levels;
- (b) establish a specific schedule of reviews to be undertaken in the updating of the study and ensure the involvement of MULPOCs in the monitoring of the various critical areas and sectors in their respective subregions.

502 (XIX). Pricing Policies in the African Least Developed Countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the importance of pricing policies in encouraging productive activities and, especially, in increasing productivity and output in the agricultural sector,

Aware of the critical food supply situation in the African least developed countries,

Cognizant of the perverse effects of various economic and financial stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and the limited success such programmes have had and their cost, especially in low income countries,

Recognizing that current institutional pricing structures and price legislation need to be brought up-to-date,

Mindful of the dearth of statistics on production costs in sectors as vital as agriculture,

Recalling that steps urgently need to be taken to bring about national self-sufficiency,

Further recalling the experiences gained in formulating pricing policies and meeting the terms of the stand-by arrangements with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank by many African least developed countries,

1. Takes note of the study on pricing policies in African least developed countries presented by ECA secretariat in collaboration with UNCTAD;

2. Requests the African least developed countries to bring their institutional structures for fixing, controlling and monitoring prices up-to-date and into line with the economic situations they face, to make appropriate price-fixing arrangements for agricultural producers so that said producers may increase their output accordingly, and to check the current trend which allows middlemen to make exorbitant profit and favours some urban consumers at the expense of the rural sector;

3. Requests the ECA secretariat to make the study more comprehensive and to take into account all the parameters that could enable the definition of an appropriate pricing policy;

4. Invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to include in their economic and financial stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and undertaking to adopt adequate measures aimed at identifying the detrimental and beneficial effects and make compensatory arrangements for any adverse effects that the African least developed countries may encounter as a result of such programme;

5. Requests UNDP, the World Bank and IMF to give the ECA secretariat the necessary financial backing to provide coverage for all 26 African least developed countries and cope with the various subjects selected for investigation to enrich the study on pricing policies in the African least developed countries.

503 (XIX). Measures for the effective implementation of the substantial new programme of action in African least developed countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 397 (XV) of 12 April 1980 entrusting the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries with the responsibility for ensuring the co-ordination of efforts, establishing priorities, monitoring and evaluating progress under the Comprehensive New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries, and its resolution 481 (XVIII) of April 1983 on measures for accelerating the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/195 of 20 December 1983 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries,

Taking note of the tremendous efforts made by the African Least Developed countries in the preparation of their respective country review meetings, especially in devising policies aimed at ensuring the successful implementation of their national programmes,

Noting that the review meetings so far organized have not totally met the expectations of the least developed countries, since the commitments made by donor countries and organizations have not fully matched the provisions of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Expressing deep concern at the disappointing results of the negotiations on the Substantial New Programme of Action at the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Belgrade, June-July 1983,

Noting with great concern the worsening economic situation of the African least developed countries caused by natural calamities such as drought and desertification,

Further noting with satisfaction the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the African economic crisis and efforts to mobilize the international community to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance in favour of African countries, especially the least developed among them and also the appointment of a Special Representative on the African economic crisis,

Deeply concerned by the considerable reduction in official development assistance especially on the concessional terms from all external sources to the African least developed countries since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action in 1981,

Bearing in mind that the intergovernmental group of experts on least developed countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will meet at a higher level in September/October 1985 in order to carry out the Mid-term Global Review of the Substantial New Programme of Action and to consider the possibilities of holding a global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the end of the decade,

Aware that the least developed countries should mobilize and allocate a greater part of their domestic resources to the implementation of their development projects and improve substantially their absorptive capacity through internal arrangements or with the support of donor countries and agencies;

Noting with gratitude the spirit of those countries which have already implemented the 0.15 per cent share of their GNP as Official Development Assistance to the least developed countries as provided for under the Substantial New Programme of Action,

1. Strongly urges those African least developed countries that have not yet organized their meetings to take all the necessary measures to do so in 1984 or at least before the Mid-Term Global Review meetings in 1985;

2. Urges African least developed countries (i) to adequately prepare themselves for the Mid-Term Global Review meeting in 1985 in order to make practical proposals for the adjustment of the Substantial New Programme of Action if need be, so as to expedite its implementation during the second half of the decade; (ii) to provide the necessary information and statistics to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa so as to be able to prepare a substantive regional assessment of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action during 1981-1984;

3. Further urges the African least developed countries to ensure the establishment of adequate new follow-up mechanisms at the country level or the strengthening of already existing mechanisms in order to maintain contacts with donors before and after review meetings;

4. Affirms that the principal objective of the country review meetings should be to secure additional resources and not to be a mere forum for the exchange of views on the countries development strategies, policies and public investment programmes and projects and, to that effect, donors should send high level representation from their respective aid agencies to attend the country review meetings and make firm commitments on the programmes and projects;

5. Requests the lead agencies, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to utilise local experts, the expertise within the United Nations system, especially the Economic Commission for Africa for the drawing up of the documentation for the country review meetings in African least developed countries so as to reduce expenditures for the preparation and organization of these meetings;

6. Calls upon donor countries in the context of paragraph 63 of the Substantial New Programme of Action to substantially increase the flow of financial resources and other support measures with the aim of achieving the 0.15 per cent target of their GNP as official development assistance to least developed countries or double their official development assistance to the least developed countries by 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter;

7. Urges donor countries and multilateral financial institutions to (a) provide financial assistance to the African least developed countries on very favourable terms and conditions taking into consideration the special peculiarities of the economies of these countries, (b) alleviate the debt burden on the African least developed countries through retroactive adjustment measures or equivalent actions and most desirably, the complete cancellation of debts, (c) to contribute substantially to the local recurrent cost of the priority projects which they are funding in the least developed countries, (d) to endeavour to improve aid delivery procedures in order to enhance the absorptive capacity of the least developed countries and, wherever possible, to harmonize such procedures so as to create a condition for possible co-financing of projects;

8. Welcomes the provision by some donors of assistance to African least developed countries mostly in the form of grants as well as in more flexible forms such as local recurrent cost financing, maintenance aid, rehabilitation aid, as well as balance-of-payments support, adapted to the special needs of the African least developed countries and in response to their deteriorating economic and social situation caused by the natural calamities;

9. Calls upon the international community to provide support for the priority areas identified by the African least developed countries in their country programmes on the basis of the provisions of chapter 1 of the Substantial New Programmes of Action, particularly food and agriculture, manufacturing, exploration and development of energy and technical resources, human resources development, expansion and diversification of exports, development of transport and communications, and improvement in planning, implementation and management capabilities;

10. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Representative on the African economic crises for the efforts that they are deploying in mobilizing assistance from the international community to alleviate the current economic crisis facing Africa and appeals to the international community to respond positively to the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on the progress in the implementation of this resolution to the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African least developed countries in 1985.

504 (XIX). Transportation and marketing of natural gas by pipeline

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 83/28 adopted by the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning meeting in Cairo in March 1983 on the preparation of a study on natural gas in Africa,

Conscious of the importance of this study for the development of natural resources in Africa, especially with regard to satisfying the needs of African countries in natural gas, particularly in the Sahelian countries,

1. Supports the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in his endeavour to undertake a comprehensive study on the distribution of African natural gas by pipeline in order to market it in Africa and possibly transport it to Europe; the study should include a comparison of various modes of transport;

2. Appeals to the international community, especially the organizations concerned, namely the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the African Development Bank and the World Bank to support and co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme to ensure the success of the study.

505 (XIX). Strengthening ECA as an Executing Agency

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which, inter alia, decided that the regional commissions shall have the status of executing agencies in their own right,

Recalling the agreement signed on 1 March 1977 between UNDP and ECA designating ECA as a participating and executing agency for UNDP inter-country projects,

Having considered the biennial report of the Executive Secretary for the biennium 1982-1983,

Noting with satisfaction the progress which ECA has achieved as an executing agency of UNDP and other inter-country projects within a short space of time to the extent that it is now one of the largest executing agency of UNDP-financed inter-country projects in Africa,

Also noting with concern the administrative difficulties being experienced by ECA in the implementation of these projects due to lack of differentiation between procedures and rules which should apply to its role as an executing agency as distinct from its normal regular budgetary activities in the recruitment of project personnel residing outside Africa and those above level L5 and in the procurement of project equipment and supplies costing above \$US 20,000,

Noting further with regret that the rate of implementation by ECA of UNDP and other inter-country projects has decreased substantially due to the above-mentioned constraints, which create unnecessary delays,

Bearing in mind the current critical economic situation of Africa and the expectation of member States that ECA secretariat should play an increasing role in assisting them in expeditious execution of operation projects funded by resources from the UN system, other than multinational and bilateral funding sources,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to relax the administrative constraints mentioned above by realigning the rules of recruitment and procurement with those of other UN executing agencies so that the ECA would be able to promptly execute projects thereby putting it on the same footing as the other executing agencies in the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the twentieth session of the Commission the progress in the implementation of this resolution.

506 (XIX). Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and Self-Reliant Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/37 of 25 November 1981 and 1982/42 of 27 July 1982 on convening of an International Conference on Population in 1984, which, inter alia, invited the regional commissions to consider at their annual sessions in 1984, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, with a view to formulating suggestions and recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level, and to transmit those suggestions and recommendations to the Conference for its consideration,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/6 of 26 May 1983 on the International Conference on Population, 1984, which requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite all States, representatives of national liberation movements, the United Nations Council on Namibia, government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/76 of 26 July 1983 on Cross-Sectorial review of population, which decided to continue to attach high priority to population programmes and activities as contributing to the social and economic development of developing countries and urged that increased financial support for population activities be made available and that competent entities of the UN system take appropriate action accordingly in a co-ordinated manner in their respective programmes of work,

Recalling further ECA resolution 366 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on priority population programmes of ECA, which requested the Executive Secretary to give high priority to and initiate programmes of assistance to countries on studies analysis and institution-building activities in priority areas on population and development interrelationships, infant and childhood mortality, levels, patterns and future trends in fertility and population distribution and development,

Taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population (E/1984/23 and E/1984/23/Add.1),

Re-affirming its commitments to the population programmes spelled out in the Lagos Plan of Action and reiterated in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 1983,

Noting with satisfaction efforts undertaken jointly by ECA and UNFPA to develop national expertise in the field of population,

Noting also preparatory work so far undertaken at the global and regional levels to ensure active participation by African countries at the International Conference on population scheduled to meet in Mexico in August 1984,

Taking note of the report of the Second African Population Conference held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 9 to 13 January 1984,

1. Approves the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and Self-Reliant Development adopted by the second African Population Conference;

2. Requests the Statesmembers of the Commission to ensure that their delegations to the International Conference on Population and to future United Nations Population Commission meetings use the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action as document of reference to ensure adequate consideration of the priority interests of Africa in population activities;

3. Further requests the UNFPA and donor countries and agencies to increase resources given to African countries to speed up the implementation of this programme;

4. Directs the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to ensure that the principles and objectives of this programme as well as the recommendations contained therein be incorporated in the Work Programme of the Commission;

5. Calls on all organizations in the United Nations family, the OAU, intergovernmental, subregional, interregional and national organizations involved in population work in the region to collaborate with the Economic Commission for Africa in implementing this Programme;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh meeting the outcome of the International Conference on Population and progress made in integrating the recommendations of that Conference and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for Population and Self-Reliant Development.

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report also to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU on the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population.

507 (XIX). Europe-Africa Permanent Link via the

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 1982/57 adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations during its second regular session in July 1982 on the subject of the proposed Europe-Africa permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar,

Recalling also the recommendations of the Experts appointed by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe following the adoption of the above-mentioned ECOSOC resolution, contained in the report of the Experts, approved by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1983,

Mindful of resolution 1983/62 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in July 1983 on the subject of the Europe-Africa permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar which, inter alia, requests that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa continue to monitor and analyse studies related to this project in accordance with the recommendations of the above-mentioned report,

Bearing in mind the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Conakry in February 1984,

1. Invites governments, international organizations, research institutions and the universities in the Mediterranean area and elsewhere to continue to co-operate with the Governments of Morocco and Spain and with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe, and make concerted efforts in the pursuit of the development of the project for Europe-Africa permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to place at the disposal of the Economic Commission for Africa the resources necessary for the implementation of the recommendations on the proposed permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar.

508 (XIX). Biennial report of the Executive Secretary

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling ECA resolution 403 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1979-1980,

Recalling also Section IV of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System, which, inter alia, stipulates that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations System for their respective regions,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution of 20 December 1983 on special measures for the economic and social development of Africa in the 1980s which, inter alia, urges donor countries to provide substantial and sustained levels of resources for promoting accelerated development of African countries and the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, invites all international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, the International Development Association and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to continue actively to consider increasing substantially their development assistance to Africa and to treat the matter of making a special effort in support of African economic and social development with the urgency it requires, requests the Secretary-General to convene, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Fifth Biennial Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and to take the necessary measures to ensure its success and, in this regard, appeals to donor countries, relevant United Nations organs, international and regional financial institutions and other interested public and private bodies to participate fully and contribute generously to the Fund.

Having examined Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary, 1982-1983 which included an update of the implementation of the work programme of the Commission, 1982-1983,

Convinced that a strengthened secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa is an imperative necessity for the member States of the Commission both individually and collectively, particularly in view of the current economic and social crisis facing Africa,

Taking note with gratitude the resources allocated by the United Nations Development Programme to the Economic Commission for Africa, during its second programming cycle in its capacity as a UNDP executing agency,

1. Takes note of the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary, 1982-1983, including an update of programme performance;
2. Views with concern the fact that the Commission does not have the necessary resources for carrying out evaluation of programmes and projects;
3. Appeals to those member States which have not yet paid the contributions pledged by them to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to do so urgently;
4. Further appeals to all member States to be prepared to pledge substantial funds to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development when the Fifth Pledging Conference takes place during the 11th meeting of the Conference of Ministers and 21st session of the Commission in April 1985;
5. Congratulates the Executive Secretary and his staff on the scope and the high quality of the Biennial Report, 1982-1983;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to continue to improve the methods of evaluating programme performance so that information on effectiveness and the physical implementation of projects can be provided to member States;
7. Appeals to the international community particularly the developed countries of Western and Eastern Europe, North America, Japan and members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries and other developing countries in a position to do so, international and regional financial institutions to contribute generously to the Fifth Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;
8. Thanks the United Nations Development Programme for its past support to the operational activities of the Commission and urges it to increase its allocations so as to enable the Commission to continue its good work as an executing agency of the Programme;
9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide more resources to the Economic Commission for Africa as the centre for general social and economic development within the United Nations System for the African region so as to enable it in general to assist member States more effectively and in particular develop the required capacity and capability in the field of evaluation of programmes and projects;
10. Decides that the Executive Secretary should continue to prepare his biennial report in the manner in which the one for 1982-1983 has been prepared.

509 (XIX). Strengthening African Capabilities in Science and Technology Matters

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provisions of programme elements 2.5 and 5.1 of the Science and Technology Chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action for the economic development of Africa, which require member States to mobilize the adaptive technology potential of the metal-working branch of the informal sector and promote the development of low cost rural technologies,

Further recalling the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and its Operational Plan,

Bearing in mind the measures contained in the Operational Plan, authorizing the conduct of Mid-decade Regional and Global Reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that for Africa such a review would not only mean essentially the review of the implementation of the Science and Technology Chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action for economic development of Africa but would also be invaluable to the OAU and ECA secretariats and the member States in their efforts to implement the said Plan,

Aware of the catalytic role the Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development established by Commission resolution 445 (XVII) and now required to undertake their tasks on a subregional basis, can play in the development of endogenous African scientific and technological capabilities and of the benefits that such Groups will derive from the results of the review,

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development, made at its second meeting held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 18 November 1983,

1. Approves the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee;
2. Calls upon all member States to give full and active support to ECA secretariat and its co-operating agencies in this regard;
3. Requests all member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and OAU to take these recommendations of the review into account in their efforts to implement Chapter V of the Lagos Plan of Action as well as the Vienna Programme of Action and its Operational Plan;

4. Urges all member States, the OAU secretariat, the ECA secretariat and other United Nations agencies to give active support to the activities of the Working Groups;

5. Congratulates the ECA secretariat for the initiative taken to promote, in co-operation with the government of the Republic of India, the development, demonstration and use of technologies suitable for the rural areas in Africa and for the efforts made in collaboration with the African Regional Centre for Technology and the German Foundation for International Development to mobilize the adaptive technology potential in the informal sector of African economies;

6. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the governments of the Republic of India and of the Federal Republic of Germany for the current financial support provided and that promised for the future respectively to promote rural technologies and mobilize the adaptive technology potential in African economies.

510 (XIX). Increasing Resource Allocation to Food and Agriculture in Africa and Declining Performance of the Sector

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling ECA resolution 462 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

Having examined the report of the Executive Secretary on the intensive study to ascertain the causes of the apparent discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of that sector (E/ECA/CM.10/21), prepared in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Convinced that the study is very useful not only at the regional level but also at the national level,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and those who assisted them on the useful work they have done;

2. Calls upon member States to undertake such studies at the national level and report thereon to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh session;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide on request, within the limits of the resources of their Organizations, such appropriate assistance as will enable the members States to carry out such studies;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh session the implementation of this resolution.

511 (XIX). African Women and the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985)

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the urgency for an effective intergovernmental regional meeting to prepare the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Africa at Nairobi (Kenya) from 15 to 26 July 1984,

Reiterating the need for a common African position at the World Conference,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa in establishing subregional committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development to ensure the participation of women in the deliberative systems of the Commission,

Appreciative of the positive role and guidance given by the subregional committees and the Africa Regional Preparatory Co-ordinating Committee through their various interventions and resolutions towards the advancement of African Women,

Taking note of the report of the fifth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee,

1. Urges member States of ECA to provide the subregional committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee with the necessary financial resources and support in order to implement the relevant programmes adopted;

2. Expresses its gratitude for the offer made by the United Republic of Tanzania to host the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace/Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development at Arusha in September 1984;

3. Reiterates its appreciation for the efforts being made by the Government of Kenya in preparing for the World Conference and assures the Government, women and people of Kenya of the full support of all African women and their governments in their efforts in hosting the Conference;

4. Further Reiterates its call to African member States to fully support the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting/Third Regional Conference and ensure their most effective and high-level participation at the Conference;

5. Calls upon member States to contribute to the Special Trust Fund for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in order, inter alia, to facilitate the participation of least developed member countries in the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and the World Conference;

6. Calls again upon the secretariats of the ECA and the OAU to redouble their efforts to prepare jointly the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting/Third Regional Conference;

7. Urges the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting/Third Regional Conference to consider and adopt strategies for the implementation of measures for the advancement of African women by the year 2000, especially strategies concerning women under apartheid, refugee and displaced women, women in agriculture and food production, and women in industrial development, which should be submitted to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh meeting through the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the 6th meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee and the 11th meeting of the Conference of Ministers on the implementation of this resolution.

512 (XIX). Women and Development in Africa: Mobilization of Human and Financial Resources for the ECA Women's Programme Beyond the United Nations Decade

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, have not yet been fully achieved especially in Africa,

Noting with concern that efforts made by member States and the international community have not yet resulted in the full and equitable participation of African women in the development process,

Considering the increasing needs of the national, subregional and regional machineries for the integration of women in development, in human and financial resources for the integration of African women beyond the United Nations Decade,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/142 of 20 December 1978 which called on the Secretary-General to increase the number of women in United Nations subject to geographical distribution, to 25 per cent over a four-year period,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 37/235 of 21 December 1982 which requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to implement fully the provisions of resolutions 33/143 of 20 December 1978 and 35/210 of 17 December 1980,

Deeply concerned that the proportion of women in professional posts in the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa is one of the lowest in the United Nations Secretariat and falls far below the expectations and targets set by the General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 27/1978 of 5 May 1978 which recommended that the General Assembly should take appropriate measures to provide for the financial resources and personnel necessary for the regional research and training centres for women from the regular budget of the United Nations,

Recalling also resolution 21 adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen, from 14 to 30 July 1980, and endorsed by General Assembly resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, requesting the Secretary-General, as an interim measure, to explore the possibility of redeploying vacant posts within the regional commissions to the women's programme,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 38/106 of 16 December 1983 which, inter alia, urged the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, to take urgently appropriate measures to ensure that all temporary and permanent senior women's programme officers posts were continued at the regional commissions within regular budget resources available to them,

Reiterating its call on African Governments and national machineries to ensure that their respective permanent missions to the United Nations and delegations to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly dealing with budgetary matters are well informed on the critical needs of African women and to advocate greater support for the women's programmes by the United Nations,

1. Appeals to member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that more women are recruited or promoted particularly to senior level and decision-making positions in the United Nations system;

2. Urges member States of ECA to provide the Subregional Committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development with the necessary financial resource and support in order to strengthen their role as African intergovernmental organizations and subsidiary organs of the Commission;

3. Requests member States to ensure that middle and senior level women are given every opportunity for training in the techniques of project design, management and follow-up;

4. Calls upon African States and Governments with qualified personnel to make available such personnel to assist other countries in the spirit of collective self-reliance and Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) called for in the Lagos Plan of Action;

5. Requests national machineries for the integration of women in development and the relevant departments of planning to ensure that projects involving women are integrated in national development plans and take into full account the needs of poor urban and rural women;

6. Urges the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of ECA to do all in their power to provide a core group of posts from regular budget resources, through the redeployment of vacant posts and the 1986/1987 regular budget submission, to the African Training and Research Centre for Women and the MULPOC Women's Programmes to ensure their long-term viability beyond the United Nations Decade for Women;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and the international community for the financial and technical assistance given to the ECA women's programme;

8. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme, the Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Decade for Women and all the other United Nations agencies to increase their efforts to provide technical assistance to African women, including appropriate training, scholarships and consultancy services, and to ensure that this assistance is delivered in a timely and effective manner;

9. Strongly requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to redouble his efforts to increase the number of African women in the Commission, especially at the policy and decision-making levels;

10. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to organize as soon as possible a special pledging conference for the regional and subregional women's programmes.

513 (XIX). Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for the Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Recalling previous decisions taken especially by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its seventh meeting held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 4 February 1982,

Conscious of the beneficial results yielded by previous All-Africa Trade Fairs, held in Nairobi, Algiers and Khartoum for the purpose of stimulating intra-African trade,

Welcoming the offer made by Togo to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair,

Recognizing with appreciation the financial contributions made by the OAU Council of Ministers towards the organization of All-Africa Trade Fairs,

1. Decides to accept Togo's offer to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair in 1985;

2. Further decides that the following member States: Algeria, Angola, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Nigeria, the Sudan (previous host), Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe shall constitute an Organizing Committee for the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair under the chairmanship of Togo;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to appeal to the Council of Ministers of the OAU through the Secretary-General of the OAU to continue to subsidize All-Africa Trade Fairs particularly the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair which is scheduled to take place in Lome, in the Republic of Togo.

514 (XIX): Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts exerted by the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations to realize its objectives and raise extrabudgetary finance for implementing its work programme,

Conscious of the fact that the Association could make a considerable contribution to the development of intra-African trade if given adequate encouragement and support from African countries,

Strongly appeals to:

(a) all member States of the Association that have not paid their contributions to the budget of the Association to do so without further delay;

(b) those African countries that have not yet joined the Association to do so as soon as possible;

(c) the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU to continue to assist AATPO in its attempts to mobilize external technical and financial assistance for the implementation of its work programme;

(d) EEC, ITC, UNCTAD and other international organizations and donor countries to consider requests for technical and financial assistance by the Association favourably.

515 (XIX). Establishment of the African Federation of Chambers of Commerce

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the need for concerted and urgent action on the measures outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action so as to attain the goals of rapid collective self-reliance and self-sustaining development and economic growth for African countries,

Recalling Chapter VII, paragraph 250 (ii) of the Lagos Plan of Action, urging governments to promote and facilitate the establishment of national chambers of commerce (where they do not exist), to include both State and private trading companies, with a view to establishing subregional associations (wherever they do not yet exist) and to agree to facilitate the setting up of an African Federation of Chambers of Commerce not later than 1985,

Convinced that national chambers of commerce and federations, associations or unions of chambers of commerce can play a more vital role in expanding and promoting intra-African trade,

Taking note with satisfaction of the efforts made so far by the national chambers of commerce of the region, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) and other organizations and individual African countries towards the creation of the Federation,

Further taking note of the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9-14 May 1984,

1. Calls upon African Governments to give full support to their national Associations of Chambers of Commerce so as to ensure their effective participation in the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce;

2. Further calls upon African national Associations of Chambers of Commerce to decide without further delay to designate one national representative to participate at the inaugural meeting of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce as required by the constitution adopted at the meeting of African Chambers of Commerce held in Cairo in November 1983.

516 (XIX). Development of Intra-African TradeThe Conference of Ministers,

Mindful of the cardinal importance which the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act attach to the promotion of intra-African trade as the mainstay of the African strategy for socio-economic development and collective self-reliance,

Conscious of the need for the creation and strengthening of African sub-regional economic groupings with a view to establishing an African Common Market by the year 1990, as required in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the important contribution made by the project financed by UNDP on the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation in the pursuit of the above-named objectives,

Noting with satisfaction the results of that project in assisting in the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and other supporting institutions, and the strengthening of existing economic groupings,

Noting further the urgent need for continued assistance in the development of these newly created institutions and the establishment of links among the various economic groupings with a view to facilitating the gradual establishment of an African Common Market,

Taking note of the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9 to 14 May 1984,

1. Deplores the fact that ECA does not have the necessary resources to continue the project despite the encouraging results achieved so far in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, particularly in the area of promoting intra-African trade;

2. Invites the member States of ECA to promote Intra-African trade and to facilitate such trade particularly the removal of non-physical barriers,

3. Appeals to all African countries and African institutions, especially the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), to provide financial support for activities in this field;

4. Expresses its gratitude to UNDP for having provided the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the project between 1979 and 1982;

5. Requests the Governing Council of UNDP to review the results of the project and reconsider the possibility of continuing financial support so that ECA may continue to assist African member States in the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation.

517 (XIX). OAU and ECA assistance of African countries in international negotiations

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the resolution on Africa's participation in international negotiations which appears as Annex III to the Lagos Plan of Action, in particular the operative paragraph 3 of the said resolution,

Considering the laudable efforts which the OAU and ECA secretariats have made to apply this resolution, in particular, in providing logistical and technical support to the African countries in their preparation to participate in international negotiations,

Taking note of the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9-14 May 1984,

1. Requests the ECA and OAU secretariats to intensify and improve their technical and logistic support to the African countries not only during the meetings and preparatory phase preceding the international negotiations on development issues, but also during the negotiations themselves;

2. Calls upon the two secretariats to assist the African countries in preparing for the international negotiations to define a strategy consisting of solutions to problems to be discussed;

3. Requests further, the two secretariats to provide the African Group with all effective support in the course of international negotiations, particularly in organizing regular consultation meetings to review the issues under negotiations and make the necessary changes in the strategy to be followed in the light of the changing situation;

4. Once again calls upon the two secretariats to make an assessment of the achievements of every international conference by analyzing the issues and problems involved and proposing appropriate measures to be undertaken by the African countries with respect to issues for which no solution have been found.

518 (XIX). Human Settlements

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 316 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, 358 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on institutional arrangements for Human Settlements and 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on the extension of the mandates of the above Intergovernmental Regional Committee to include environmental matters,

Further recalling resolution 8 (IV) of the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry of 26 November 1977,

Taking note of the General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982 on "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless",

Having examined the report 1/ of the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, held at Addis Ababa from 16 to 19 January 1984 and the resolutions adopted at the meeting,

Appreciating the activities undertaken by the ECA for the development of building materials and construction industries,

Convinced that Housing and Construction needs remain a major constraint to the development efforts of all member States and that appropriate assistance should be given continuously to them in their endeavours to remove those constraints,

1. Endorses the report and resolutions adopted at the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

2. Urges member States to take steps to implement jointly with the ECA secretariat the specific actions defined in the resolutions adopted by the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

3. Calls upon member States in co-operation with the secretariat of ECA to take necessary steps for a full and successful participation of the African region in the activities of the "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless";

4. Recommends the strengthening of co-operation between the secretariat of ECA, UNCHS, FAO, ILO, UNIDO and all concerned NGOs and inter-governmental organizations in order to promote human settlements activities in the African region;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to take the necessary steps to ensure satisfactory implementation of this resolution.

1/ E/ECA/HUS/ENV/2 or E/ECA/CM.10/13.

519 (XIX). Evaluation, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 477 (XVIII) establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on the evaluation, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of the African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU, which requested the Committee to submit its report thereon to the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, and paragraph 264(i) of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,

1. Congratulates the Ad Hoc Committee on its report and accepts the findings and the recommendations contained therein, including the desirability of extending the life of the Ad Hoc Committee so as to enable it to complete its work;

2. Invites all the member States of the Ad Hoc Committee to take part in the work and intensify their efforts to implement resolution 477 (XVIII);

3. Decides that:

(i) the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee is hereby extended for a further period of one year so that it shall inter alia:

(a) visit the ECA and OAU-sponsored institutions which it had been unable to visit, if necessary;

(b) make a more comprehensive study and make positive and specific suggestion for the co-ordination, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of the ECA and OAU-sponsored institutions including the possible dissolution of some of those institutions;

(ii) all the Chief Executives of the ECA and OAU-sponsored institutions shall, for the purpose of implementing resolution 477 (XVIII) present to the Ad Hoc Committee relevant progress reports and information at a meeting to be held between the former and the latter at the ECA secretariat on dates in December 1984 to be notified by the Executive Secretary;

(iii) the Ad Hoc Committee shall submit its second report to the eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers;

4. Requests the member States of the ECA and OAU-sponsored institutions as a matter of urgency to give, as required by paragraph 264(ii) of the Lagos Plan of Action, the necessary political and financial support to those institutions in order to enable them to survive and function efficiently and effectively;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary, the Secretary-General of OAU and UNDP to give every possible technical and logistical support to the Ad Hoc Committee.

520 (XIX). External Indebtedness of African CountriesThe Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the rate at which the external debt of the African countries has grown especially during the past four years and the difficulties which many African countries are experiencing in meeting their external payments obligations,

Conscious of the need for concrete steps to be taken at national, regional and international levels to deal with the external debt situation,

Noting that a Regional Ministerial Meeting on External Indebtedness of African Countries is planned to take place in Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 June 1984,

Mindful of the need to ensure that the meeting should be successful and of the need to maintain the original dates of the Ministerial Meeting from 18 to 20 June 1984,

1. Decides that the Ministerial Meeting should be preceded by a meeting of experts to analyse the critical issues and prepare its recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting;

2. Further decides that the Meeting of Experts should be held from 14 to 17 June 1984 and the Ministerial Meeting from 18 to 20 June 1984;

3. Authorizes that the recommendations of the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Africa's External Indebtedness should be submitted to the 1984 summer session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council annexed to the ECA Special Memorandum on African Economic Crisis.

521 (XIX). Sessions of the Commission

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling ECA resolution 330 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and co-operation in Africa and in which it was decided that the Commission should meet annually, albeit, on an experimental basis,

Recalling also that some of the reasons that led to the decision to meet annually were (i) the difficult economic conditions that were likely to face the African region in the 1980s; and (ii) the need to continue to work closely with the Organization of African Unity which meets annually,

Having considered the request by ECOSOC to its subsidiary bodies that currently meet on an annual basis to consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings, and to report on this in 1984,

Observing that the economic conditions facing the African region since 1979 have actually worsened and require more than ever before closer co-operation and regular consultations among member States,

Aware that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa is the only regional economic body that has been charged with the responsibility of sensitizing the Organization of African Unity and the international community through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations to the general economic and social problems of the countries of the region and hence need to monitor regularly the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, 1/ the current economic and social situation in the continent which demands consultations on a regular basis, and the growing number of international negotiations calling for collective African positions,

Aware further that the involvement of the Commission in the United Nations planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation process requires that it examines in one year or the other proposals for medium-term plans, programme aspects of biennium programme budgets and performance reports on the implementation of the Commission biennium work programmes,

Decides to continue to meet on an annual basis subject to the practice being reviewed at the twenty-third session of the Commission and fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in 1988.

1/ A/S-11/14 Annex I and Annex II.

522 (XIX). Strengthening subregional and regional co-operation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling ECA resolutions 335 (XIV) of 27 March 1979, 418 (XVI) of 10 April 1981, and 450 (XVII) of 30 April 1983 on Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) and its resolution 479 (XVIII) of 3 May 1983 on the strengthening of MULPOCs and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/138 of 17 December 1982 on the funding of the core staff of the MULPOCs from the regular budget of the United Nations, and taking note of the catalytic role the MULPOCs have played and continue to play in assisting member States towards the fulfilment of their commitment to the promotion of subregional and regional co-operation and integration,

Recalling further the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its second Extraordinary Session devoted to the economic problems of Africa, held at Lagos, Nigeria, on 28 and 29 April 1980, particularly the provisions concerning the strengthening or creation, as necessary, of subregional and regional economic groupings as a first step towards the establishment of an African Economic Community by the year 2000,

Further recalling with appreciation the continuing efforts to strengthen further Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), established on 28 May 1975, the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) on 21 December 1981, and the establishment of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on 18 October 1983,

Aware of the activities of the various intergovernmental and other subregional organizations concerned with the economic and social development of the African region,

Noting with appreciation the overall assistance that the UNDP has given to subregional and regional co-operation and integration in the African region over the years,

Convinced of the continuing need to strengthen subregional and regional co-operation and integration amongst the member States as a first step towards the establishment of the African Economic Community called for by the year 2000 under the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos,

1. Appeals to the member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty for the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States;

2. Urges the member States that have signed the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;

3. Appeals to member States to increase their support for the MULPOCs by pledging generously to UNTFAD for general or specific projects and by seconding, if possible, at their expense, experts to the MULPOCs on short-term basis;

4. Urges member States and Intergovernmental Organizations within each subregion to use the MULPOCs in their respective areas as Executing Agencies for the implementation of specific projects;

5. Appeals once more to the UNDP to provide financial support to the operational activities of the MULPOCs in addition to the assistance currently extended to the Women's Programme in the MULPOCs;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to intensify his efforts to secure funds for the operational activities of the MULPOCs;

7. Appeals to all United Nations Specialized and other Agencies to give financial and other assistance to the African region in the implementation of subregional and regional projects whose final objective is the establishment of an African Economic Community by the year 2000 in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos;

8. Calls upon all agencies of the United Nations System to collaborate more closely with the MULPOCs in implementing their multinational subregional programmes and projects.

523 (XIX). Tourism

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the importance of tourism in social and economic development,

Conscious that the growth of intra-African tourism requires collective efforts at the regional level in the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Noting that an African regional conference on tourism and co-operation is scheduled to take place in Niamey in October 1984,

1. Urges member States to participate at the highest level in the forthcoming African regional conference on tourism and co-operation;
2. Requests the secretariat of ECA to submit all available studies and documentation on the subject to the conference.

524 (XIX). The Meetings of the Policy Organs of the MULPOCs
February/April, 1984

The Conference of Ministers.

Recalling its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) with headquarters at Lusaka (Zambia); Gisenyi (Rwanda); Yaounde (Cameroon); Niamey (Niger) and Tangiers (Morocco).

Recalling further its resolution 296 (XIII) also of 1 March 1977 on the importance and necessity of economic co-operation,

Conscious of the vital rôle the MULPOCs play in promoting subregional co-operation and integration of the member States in the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Aware of the work programmes adopted by the meetings of the MULPOC Council of Ministers held at Conakry, Guinea, 14 February 1984; Brazzaville, Congo, 27 to 29 February 1984; Addis Ababa, 12 to 14 March 1984; Kinshasa, Zaire, 23 and 24 March 1984; and the meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC, Tangiers, Morocco, 31 March to 1 April, 1984,

1. Endorses the resolutions of the MULPOC Council of Ministers and of the North African Meeting of Plenipotentiaries annexed hereto as Annex I (Lusaka); Annex II (Gisenyi); Annex III (Yaounde); Annex IV (Niamey) and Annex V (Tangiers);

2. Congratulates the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) on their achievements in the field of subregional economic co-operation and integration and urges them to intensify their activities in this field.

525. (XIX). Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the Annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/202 of 20 December 1982, which reaffirms the decision to carry out in 1984 the first overall review and appraisal of the state of implementation of the policy measures, as well as the realization of the goals and objectives, of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling further United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/152 of 19 December 1983, which expresses its deep regret at the lack of progress in the launching of global negotiations which are intended to be one of the principal instruments for facilitating the implementation of the International Development Strategy,

Deeply concerned over the lack of real progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in Africa,

Recalling that the primary objective of the strategy should be to promote the development of developing countries in accordance with the objectives of the new international economic order,

Convinced that coercive economic measures adversely affect the economies of the developing countries and their efforts in the field of economic and social development and seriously impede the implementation of the International Development Decade,

Noting that for the implementation of the International Development Strategy to be successful, measures should be taken to build confidence in international economic relations,

1. Urges the Governments of the member States of the Commission to renew their efforts for the purpose of removing obstacles to the implementation of the major goals and objectives of the Strategy;

2. Invites States members of the Commission to bring to the attention of the summer session of the Economic and Social Council in 1984 the views of the countries of the African region regarding the causes which impede the achievement of the major goals and objectives of the Strategy;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the region and to submit it to the Commission at its twentieth session.

526 (XIX). African Economic and Social CrisisThe Conference of Ministers,

Gravely concerned about the deepening economic and social crisis in Africa and its grave implications for the peoples and economies of the continent,

Having carefully analyzed the nature, causes and impact of the current economic and social crisis as well as the measures necessary to deal with the crisis as contained in ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis,

Aware of the various activities and programmes already being undertaken by the African peoples and Governments to deal with the current crisis,

1. Adopts the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis;
2. Strongly appeals to all African member States to rally behind the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and to participate at the Second 1984 ECOSOC session at Ministerial level in order to mobilize support for this Special Memorandum;
3. Commends the decision of the 40th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the current crisis in Africa which requested the ECA Conference of Ministers to consider the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative and make recommendations thereon to the 41st ordinary session of the Council of Ministers and to the 20th ordinary assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;
4. Appreciates the efforts taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and implores them to continue to enlist the support of the international community for the efforts of member States;
5. Recognizes that while the primary responsibility for dealing with the crisis lies with the Governments and Peoples of Africa, the magnitude and severity of the crisis make the speedy and appropriate response by all members of the international community, the UN, its relevant organs and specialized agencies and other relevant institutions, as well as the significant improvement of the international economic environment necessary conditions for the effective solutions of the current crisis;
6. Calls upon all members of the international community, the UN, its relevant organs and specialized agencies and relevant institutions, to take urgent and appropriate measures, as contained in ECA Special Memorandum, to assist African member States in dealing effectively with the current crisis;

7. Notes with satisfaction the appointment of Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, ECA Executive Secretary, as his Special Representative on the Economic and Social Crisis in Africa as well as the establishment of the Nairobi Office and the useful work which this Office has already undertaken;

8. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for having helped the Conference of Ministers to prepare the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis and commends him for the high quality of the document and the depth and comprehensiveness of the analysis and proposals therein;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to transmit the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis and its annexes to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and appeals to ECOSOC to give this Special Memorandum the solemn and serious consideration it deserves and to take appropriate measures to assist the African member States in averting the impending catastrophe;

10. Further requests the Secretary-General of the OAU to transmit the Special Memorandum and annexes to the 20th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity.

527 (XIX). Special Appeal to the London Summit of Seven Major Industrialized Countries of June 1984

The Conference of Ministers,

Having reviewed once again the economic and social crisis which has engulfed the whole of Africa and the serious impact which it has on the social and economic conditions of the African people,

Gravely concerned by the deterioration in the economic and social situation of the African countries triggered by the unprecedented drought which now affects 34 African countries, and the devastating impact of the global economic recession,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for the development of our economies rests with our Governments and our Peoples,

Further recognizing that the scale and the complexity of the problem makes it difficult for the African countries to deal with it by themselves and that there is therefore an urgent need for massive assistance from the international community,

Commending the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in bringing to the attention of the international community the present serious and devastating economic crisis in Africa, and noting with satisfaction the appointment of Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa as his special representative on the present African economic crisis with the establishment of a temporary office in Nairobi to assist in dealing with the crisis,

1. Strongly appeals to all Heads of State and Government participating at the London Summit of Seven Major Industrialized Countries to be held in June 1984 to come to the assistance of the African countries through the mobilization of massive resources to deal with the present economic and social crisis in Africa;

2. Expresses its appreciation to those member countries of the international community who have taken special measures to implement the decisions adopted at the earlier meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to meet the aid targets of 0.7 per cent of their Gross National Product in official development assistance to developing countries, and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries, of which African LDCs constitute the majority;

3. Further expresses its deep appreciation to those bilateral and multilateral donors who have responded favourably to the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the economic crisis in Africa;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit this resolution to the London Summit of Seven Major Industrialized Countries to be held in June 1984.

528 (XIX). Meteorological services to combat drought in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the climatic situation and drought in Africa,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/68 of 29 July 1983 on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa,

Aware that the drought in Africa is a terrible affliction which has caused suffering among hundreds of thousands of African people,

Notes with appreciation the statement of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to the Conference of Ministers on the meteorological and climatic aspects of drought in Africa,

Realizing that drought is a recurring climatic, non-periodic phenomenon which cannot be currently predicted accurately by cycles or trends and must be studied scientifically,

Considering that practical and useful steps can be taken now to help African countries make better use of existing weather and climatic data and techniques to combat drought,

Being convinced that increased efforts on the causes, characteristics and prediction of drought in Africa - both physical and statistical - will assist the African Governments concerned to prepare long-term plans to mitigate the effects of possible future drought, especially from the point of view of optimum land use,

Recognizing that the availability of adequate meteorological and climatological information is essential to carry out reliably these studies,

Noting also with satisfaction the results of the AGRHYMET Programme being implemented by WMO in the Sahel for the Inter-State Committee for Fight against Drought (CILSS),

1. Urges member States to support the balanced development of their national Meteorological Services, thereby ensuring that these Services can make their fullest contribution to serve the socio-economic development in their respective countries in order to assist the African Governments on a sound scientific basis, in their efforts to mitigate the effects of drought, and other weather-related disasters as well as in the major efforts for the rational exploitation and conservation of their natural resources (particularly vegetation, water, marine and energy resources) and the solution of related environmental problems;

2. Invites member States to promote individually and collectively their efforts in atmospheric science research, particularly to those problems of relevance to the weather and climatic anomalies occurring in Africa and to the application of meteorology to socio-economic activities;

3. Invites further the member States to consider fostering their co-operation and collaboration in the field of meteorological research.

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to study with WMO and other concerned United Nations Organizations and specialized agencies the feasibility of establishing an advanced centre for meteorology in Africa or any other alternative institutional mechanism and to submit the study to the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the co-operation of ECA in all projects which WMO is considering for all drought-stricken regions in Africa including projects such as the AGRHYMET Programme.

529 (XIX). A Substantial Assessment of the Roundtables and Consultative Group Meetings

The Conference of Ministers.

Recalling paragraphs 111 and 113 of the SNPA recommending the setting up of national mechanisms for regular and periodic review and implementation of the SNPA,

Further recalling its resolution 482 (XVIII) on the First Round of Review meetings for African least developed countries,

Noting with concern that the review meetings so far organized have not totally met the expectations of the least developed countries,

Aware of the importance of the Mid-Term Global Review of the progress in the implementation of the SNPA to be held in September/October 1985 under the auspices of UNCTAD

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to urgently prepare an appropriate framework to enable African LDCs to assess the implementation of the SNPA and to forward on time the individual country's assessment to the ECA secretariat;
2. Request the Executive Secretary of ECA in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank to make an assessment of the Roundtables and Consultative Group Meetings so far organized, before the next meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers of African LDCs.