

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.14/STC/36
21 November 1963

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Standing Committee on Trade
Second Session
Niamey, 20 - 28 November 1963

UGANDA POSITION ON SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION
AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

(Submitted by Uganda)

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN COMMON MARKET

1. We support the general idea of an African Common Market as an ultimate goal. We believe it is essential that no African country should lose by the African Common Market and that all should share its gains.

2. We support the idea of the Economic Commission for Africa studying the practical problems of achieving an African Common Market, in particular:

(i) fundamental problems common to all African states:

(ii) problems for an African Common Market arising from the European Economic Community Association Convention:

(iii) problems for an African Common Market arising from the desire of non-Associated states to have access to the European Economic Community markets:

(iv) European Economic Community Associated states should be pressed to state their interpretation of Article 9 of the Convention: The Economic Commission for Africa should ask the European Economic Community if they would not object to Associated states according to other African states preferences greater than or at least equal to those they accord to the European Economic Community countries:

(v) the stages by which an African Common Market could be reached - e.g. by first having sub-regional groups, or by having a general treaty to which countries could adhere one by one:

3. We believe the creation of sub-regional groups would be the most practical methods, because of the existing pattern of production and trade of African states: but we are not doctrinaire about this.

4. The essential decisions on an African Common Market, even on the economic problems, are political, if only because of the responsibility of Governments for maximising employment.

5. On practical details:

- (i) quantitative restrictions, purchase taxes and fiscal duties must be studied, besides customs duties, especially in relation to the Associated states and Egypt:
- (ii) improvement of transport facilities is essential, as otherwise an African Common Market will be just so much paper and talk:
- (iii) studies should pay particular attention to problems of intra-African trade which is already in existence or which could be developed in the near future:
- (iv) the problems created by differing currency systems should be studied, also those created by exchange control:
- (v) the Economic Commission for Africa should make preliminary enquiries of the GATT Secretariat about recognition by GATT of an African Common Market, in connection with the obligations of countries which would be members of both African Common Market and GATT:
- (vi) the Committee should consider the adoption by all African countries for their tariffs of the Brussels nomenclature, and where possible of ad valorem duties instead of specific duties:
- (vii) the Economic Commission for Africa should undertake a comparative study of the kinds of products being protected and their degree of protection, in order to provide the necessary information for co-ordinating industrial protection:

(viii) the Economic Commission for Africa should be asked to analyse the implications of bilateral trade agreements in effect between African and third countries for the establishment of an African Common Market, and to recommend a procedure for overcoming these problems:

6. In view of the studies which are evidently needed, Uganda feels it would be premature to set up a Committee to decide the basic principles of an agreement for an African Common Market, until these studies have clarified the problems and proposed solutions.

7. Free trade in agricultural produce and in manufactures, existing or future, is implicit in the idea of an African Common Market, but to suggest immediate free trade is to prejudge the problems we need to consider.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

8. Uganda wishes the Economic Commission for Africa to describe and analyse the issues of importance to be discussed at the United Nations Conference. Based on this, the Economic Commission for Africa should suggest a common course of action to African countries.

A STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING A
CLEARING SYSTEM WITHIN A PAYMENTS UNION BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

9. Uganda supports this study in principle. If any proposals are to be presented to the Sixth Session there should be adequate time for study by Governments.