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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth session;  
Conference of Ministers

Tunis, 8-13 February 1971

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

221(X). Economic co-operation

The Conference of Ministers,

In accordance with:

(a) Resolutions 134(VII) of 22 February 1965 and 178(VIII) of 24 February 1967 and the recommendations of the Executive Committee urging the adoption of measures to provide the sub-regional offices with adequate material and skilled personnel to enable them to play a more active role in the economic and social life of the member States,

(b) Resolution 189(IX) of 10 February 1969 calling for review of the organization, structure and functions of the secretariat, including its sub-regional offices,

(c) Economic and Social Council resolution 1552(XLIX) of 30 July 1970 on development planning advisory services,

Considering the progress report on multinational inter-disciplinary development advisory teams and decentralization in favour of the sub-regional offices, as presented in the statement of the secretariat on the programme of work and priorities, 1971-1973, with projections to 1976,

Recognizing from the reports of the Executive Committee's meetings so far held and discussion of the document entitled "Some institutional aspects of African economic co-operation" <sup>1/</sup> that still closer co-operation is essential between the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat and the African multinational organizations,

Noting from the reports of missions on economic co-operation which visited all the sub-regions that considerable diversity characterizes the economic co-operation movement in the Africa region,

<sup>1/</sup> Commission document E/CN.14/497.

Aware that all the countries in the Africa region stand in need of an increasing volume of United Nations technical assistance which most of them wish to receive without prejudice to the existing demarcation of the sub-regions of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Convinced that the present strength of the African multinational groupings render them capable of assuming responsibility for initiating measures for the required inter-governmental negotiations for economic co-operation,

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to pursue vigorously and intensify the new policy of decentralization of the activities of the Commission;

2. Welcomes the Economic and Social Council decision to introduce a scheme of multinational inter-disciplinary development advisory teams to serve groups of developing countries, and to place the African teams under the direction of the Economic Commission for Africa;

3. Invites the United Nations and its agencies to provide the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat with adequate resources to enable the latter to achieve a wider degree of decentralization and to create an adequate number of the multinational inter-disciplinary development advisory teams within which must be integrated counterparts from the countries concerned;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to strengthen the secretariat's relations with the inter-governmental organizations for economic co-operation, and more particularly to assist them to identify their best opportunities for economic co-operation, and to strengthen their institutional machinery for this purpose;

5. Approves The proposal to leave to the inter-governmental organizations and member States the responsibility to decide on, and to convene the necessary meetings for negotiations and general consultations in such fields as may be of interest to them, and in the light of recommendations from the secretariat;

6. Urges the multinational organizations to take the initiative in convening all necessary meetings for their own inter-governmental negotiations and decisions, and to associate non-members with such activities wherever geographical or other relevant factors permit;

7. Exhorts the member States not formally associated with any existing inter-governmental groupings to make every endeavour to obtain such associations whenever economic, geographical, and related circumstances justify such action;

8. Calls on all concerned with African economic co-operation to intensify their efforts in this direction.