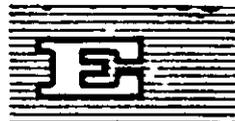


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Fifth session
Leopoldville, February-March 1963

COMMITTEE II

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais de la Nation, Leopoldville,
on Monday, 25 February 1963, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kande (Senegal)

Secretary: Miss Ragheb

CONTENTS:

- Economic and social development: Public administration (continued)
- Economic and social development: Social aspects of economic development, community development and social welfare
- Economic and social development: Housing and physical planning
- Training
- Implementation of decisions on decentralization of United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of regional economic commissions

Representatives wishing to have corrections made to this provisional summary record are requested to indicate them on a copy of the record and send them, by 1 May 1963 at the latest, to the Translation Section, ECA, Africa Hall, P.O.Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (continued)
(E/CN.14/180; E/CN.14/L.148)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution E/CN.14/L.148.

Mr. BAKRI (Sudan) said that the delegations of Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone had expressed a desire to join the Sudanese delegation in submitting the draft resolution; to meet those delegations' wishes, the text of operative paragraph 4 should now be considered amended as follows:

- (a) replace the words "other agencies concerned" by the words "the specialized agencies concerned and especially UNESCO";
- (b) add, after the words "public administration", the phrase "and to develop training facilities in this field".

Mr. WRIGHT (Sierra Leone) proposed the addition, in operative paragraph 1, after the words "Seminar on Urgent Administrative Problems of African Governments", of the words "and the summary of the discussions thereon"; also the addition in operative paragraph 5, after the words "otherwise determined by the Commission", of the phrase "and that adequate financial resources be provided".

Mr. BAKRI (Sudan) accepted the Sierra Leonean amendments.

The amendments were adopted.

Mr. LABERGE (Secretariat) stated that the meeting of the proposed working party would cost about 18,000 dollars.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote draft resolution E/CN.14/L.148 as amended.

Resolution E/CN.14/L.148, as amended, was adopted by 20 votes to none.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE (E/CN.14/169, 186, 187 and Corr.1, 188, 189)

Mr. VILAKAZI (Secretariat) presented the various relevant reports.

In connexion with the Report of the Seminar on Population Problems in Africa (E/CN.14/186), he pointed out that there were great differences in the relation between total population and economic resources from country to country in Africa. Everywhere, however, a large population increase was taking place and a migration to urban centres, which were rapidly increasing in size. That was creating an urgent need for demographic research and statistics, required for development planning.

The document "Government Expenditures and Racial Discrimination" (E/CN.14/189) examined the constitutional basis of discriminatory practices, since that was the best way to bring out the effects of such practices on public life. It was impossible to ensure racial justice and equality as between persons without first eliminating discriminatory principles embodied in the fundamental laws.

The Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Organization and Administration of Social Welfare Services (E/CN.14/169) and the Report on Certain Activities of Community Development (E/CN.14/188) dealt with a series of problems relating to social welfare and community development in general.

In connexion with the Report of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development (E/CN.14/187 and Corr.1), he recalled that the recommendation on co-ordination of planning had been adopted following a resolution of the Economic and Social Council. The meeting arranged for on the subject would be attended by fifteen experts on education, public health, labour, the social services, etc.

Mr. HOUHAT (Algeria) observed that document E/CN.14/187 contained a number of recommendations. He proposed the drafting committee redraft them in the form of a single draft resolution.

It was so decided.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING (E/CN.14/170, 175, 191)

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) explained in connexion with the Report of the Workshop on Urbanization in Africa (E/CN.14/170), that the appropriate

measures would be taken not only by the Economic Commission for Africa, but also by other competent United Nations bodies and by the specialized agencies.

The Meeting of Experts on Housing Problems in Africa, the Report of which (E/CN.14/191) was also before the Committee, had been arranged in pursuance of ECA resolution 53(IV). It had been something of an innovation, and the experts had been given very exact terms of reference. Annex III of the Report contained proposals for long-term programmes and suggestions about work the secretariat might undertake immediately. That would be the Commission's work programme if it accepted the Meeting's recommendations.

He drew attention to the fact that the Economic and Social Council had recently set up a Committee on Housing and Planning, which had just met for the first time. Its main function was to co-ordinate activities which were of their very nature decentralized. The Committee's Report was contained in document E/CN.14/175.

Mr. LOVELACE (World Health Organization) briefly outlined the policy and activities of WHO in connexion with town planning and housing. Town planning and housing were fields closely allied to public health; moreover WHO regarded health not so much as an absence of illness as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing. Town planning programmes usually came under ministries of public works, but WHO believed it would be desirable for ministries of health, through their sanitary-engineering services, to take part in drawing up and carrying out town planning programmes.

The work done by WHO had a variety of aspects. In the first place, it helped States to set up environmental sanitation departments in their ministries of health to give technical advice to government bodies. In addition, it had launched ten environmental sanitation projects in Africa, chiefly for training personnel and improving sanitation, particular emphasis being laid on the establishment of pilot zones. Secondly, and more generally, WHO convened committees of experts to study housing in relation to public health. The Committees' reports were published in the WHO

Technical Reports Series. Thirdly WHO also, in co-operation with other international organizations, organized seminars on housing. It was prepared to co-operate with ECA in the field of housing with a view to improving existing conditions and to working out health standards for future housing.

There was a particular point to which he wished to draw attention, namely the lack of drinking water in towns; in view of the excessive growth of the urban population that could produce a dangerous situation favourable to the spread of communicable diseases.

In general, WHO gave technical assistance to member countries requesting it, assistance which frequently took the form of advisory services provided by experts of great experience.

In view of the importance of environmental sanitation, water supplies and the like in connexion with urbanization and housing, he suggested that expert committees studying town-planning programmes should include among their members a sanitary engineer.

TRAINING (E/CN.14/218, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226)

Mr. ROYER (Secretariat) introduced, briefly, the documents submitted to the Committee on the subject of training. One of the documents (E/CN.14/218) had been prepared by UNESCO, and dealt with the part played by UNESCO in training for public administration. Document E/CN.14/222 was a short Report on the Summer Course in Economics for African University Students, held at Addis Ababa. In pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 1708(XVI) steps had been taken to expand the training programme of the Economic Commission for Europe to include fellowships for economists from the ECA region (E/CN.14/223).

Document E/CN.14/224 was a Report on the Statistical Training Centres set up by ECA. The Centres represented a continuing programme undertaken by the secretariat; the fact that during the previous October 200 trainees had been taking the Centres' courses gave some idea of the scale of the task.

Document E/CN.14/225 consisted of a Report on the Training Course in Community Development Methods and Techniques. The course was a bilingual one for officials already in administrative posts; thus it had provided an occasion for a reciprocal exchange of views and experience between teachers and trainees.

Lastly, the Committee had before it a Report on the Training Course for Customs Officials in English-speaking countries of West Africa. (E/CN.14/226). It had been decided that a similar course should be held at Dakar for officials in French-speaking countries.

The secretariat proposed to continue its activities in that field.

Mr. ACQUAH (Ghana) wished to draw the Committee's attention to the training of middle-grade administrative staff, which he regarded as most important. It would be desirable for officials of that class to have an opportunity of learning the aims and techniques of community development so that they could make the population aware of them and thus help to raise its level of living. He would like the secretariat to make provision for guidance courses in that field.

There being no further comment, the reports were approved.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ON DECENTRALIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS (E/CN.14/227, 228)

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) presented the Report of the Executive Secretary on steps taken by the Secretary-General to implement ECA resolution 50(IV) (E/CN.14/227). Since the fourth session, the substantive personnel of the ECA secretariat had been strengthened, regional advisers had been recruited under the technical assistance programme, and a Technical Assistance Co-ordination Unit had gone into operation in August 1962. Twenty-three regional projects, listed in the annex to the Report, had been decentralized to ECA, against thirteen in 1961. The delegation of powers had extended to a whole range of technical and administrative activities. Lastly, in the field of technical co-operation, ECA was following up the work of the experts in the field and providing them with "backstopping".

As might be seen from the Report, decentralization did not apply equally to all the various fields of activity: it was more thorough-going in statistics than, for example, in transport and industry, since the Divisions dealing with transport and industry had only recently been set up in the secretariat. The process of delegating functions was, however, continuing step by step and would be intensified as ECA gained experience.

At its fourth session the Commission had decided, by resolution 64(IV), to set up two sub-regional offices. The measures taken in that connexion were reported in document E/CN.14/228. The agreement between ECA and the Government of the Niger concerning the sub-regional office to be set up at Niamey would be signed shortly. The secretariat had not as yet received any proposals from the governments of the North African sub-region for the office to be set up in North Africa.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) stated that the United Nations was doing everything in its power to decentralize economic and social activities to the regional economic commissions. In view of its increasing proficiency, ECA would undoubtedly be required to assume increasingly wide responsibilities.

Mr. BENNANI (Morocco) proposed that, in view of the importance of the question of setting up a sub-regional office in North Africa, consideration of the matter be deferred till the following day; after consulting with the other delegations concerned, his delegation would then have a concrete proposal to make.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.