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**MEASURES TAKEN BY ECA TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN REGION AND OTHER DEVELOPING REGIONS**

1. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, adopted in 1970, viewed economic co-operation among developing countries mainly as efforts to institute schemes for regional and subregional integration and trade expansion. Since then, several meetings, within and outside the United Nations framework, have adopted decisions and declarations widening the scope of co-operation beyond trade and integration agreements.

2. The most notable meetings outside the United Nations framework include the OAU/ECA/ADB African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems (Abidjan, May 1973); the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries (Algiers, September 1973); the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials (Dakar, February 1975); the fourth OAU Conference of Ministers of Commerce (Algiers, November 1975); the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (Manila, February 1976); the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries (Colombo, August 1976); and the Conference of African Ministers on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (Addis Ababa, September 1976).

3. These meetings, while recognizing that the existing integration schemes and trade agreements should constitute an essential element of co-operation in the developing regions, adopted recommendations on new ideas and approaches for a comprehensive programme of co-operation among developing countries.

4. The Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, and the resolution on development and international economic co-operation adopted at the seventh special session gave special importance to economic co-operation among developing countries in a wide range of activities. At its seventh special session the Assembly also urged developed countries to assist the developing countries in promoting and strengthening their mutual co-operation at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

5. The Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Mexico City in September 1976 identified in greater detail and in more operational terms the areas of co-operation among developing countries.

6. The resolutions and programmes adopted at these conferences contain, inter alia, recommendations for the establishment of measures and mechanisms to secure stable markets for basic export commodities, preferential treatment in trade relations among developing countries, promotion of payments arrangements, joint action in the fields of industry, science, technology, transport, shipping, foreign investment and training, and the use of financial resources available for development.

7. Taking into account the ideas and principles laid down by the conferences referred to above, the ECA secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Committee and the secretariats of the other regional economic commissions, has prepared a comprehensive work programme ^{1/} on economic co-operation between the African region and other developing regions and has taken a number of initiatives with a view to giving concrete shape to proposals for co-operation among developing countries.

8. In September 1976, the Executive Secretary of ECA signed a Memorandum of Agreement on co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA).

9. Within the framework of economic co-operation among developing countries and the memorandum of understanding for co-operation established between ECWA and the Arab League on the one hand, and between ECA and the Organization of African Unity on the other, the two Executive Secretaries agreed that their respective secretariats would prepare a joint position paper to be submitted simultaneously to the secretariats of the Arab League and OAU, indicating areas of possible co-operation between the two commissions and those intergovernmental organizations.

10. The two Executive Secretaries have also agreed that, for the immediate future, emphasis on co-operation between the two secretariats should be based on the following priority projects:

- (a) A Statistical Abstract for the Arab World;
- (b) A Regional Documentation Centre (data bank);
- (c) The brain-drain problem.

11. With regard to these three projects, working arrangements have been established, and it has been agreed that implementation should begin immediately.

12. In respect of other areas of co-operation, it has been agreed that the following will receive priority consideration, subject to further examination and to the availability of resources:

^{1/} (a) "Revised framework of principles for the implementation of the new international economic order in Africa, 1976-1981-1986" (E/CN.14/ECO/90/Rev.3), paras. 57-63;

(b) "Draft medium-term plan for 1976-1981" (E/CN.14/TECO/31 Rev.2), p.19.

(a) Agriculture: studies of agricultural co-operation and complementarities involving Arab countries in the ECWA and ECA regions;

(b) Development planning: inflation and current economic development;

(c) Exchange of officials and technical personnel: for in-plant training in industries, agriculture, etc.;

(d) Social development: exchange of information, experience and research reports between ECWA and ECA. Proposed African Research and Training Centre for Social Development.

13. For the implementation of these co-operation arrangements, it has been agreed that there should be:

(a) Periodic consultations between the two Executive Secretaries;

(b) Periodic meetings between substantive officers from the two secretariats to examine matters relating to identification and implementation of specific projects for co-operation;

(c) Appropriate arrangements for the provision of financial, manpower and other resources required for the implementation of agreed projects;

(d) Co-operation in joint ventures relating to countries within the ECWA and ECA regions.

14. ECA and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) have initiated a co-operation arrangement in a training programme on integration for officials of African inter-governmental organizations. For the immediate future, ECA, with the assistance of ECLA, is planning in co-operation with African intergovernmental institutions to send a selected number of African officials for a four-week training course which will be offered by some co-operation organizations in Latin America.

15. ECA and ECLA are also considering co-operation in a wider range of activities. To this end, plans are under way for the holding of a joint meeting of ECA and ECLA officials, some time in 1977, to identify principles and priorities and a programme of action for co-operation.

16. ECA and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) are jointly considering possible areas of co-operation. In countries served by ECA in the Mediterranean area, the two commissions are making arrangements to co-operate in the fields of agriculture, fresh water management in arid and semi-arid areas, forestry and forest-based industries, joint research in olive cultivation, trade in raw and processed agricultural products, establishment of producers' associations, industry, foreign investment (multinational corporations) and oil tanker pollution.

17. ECA was represented at the Barcelona Conference sponsored by ECE to examine methods of protecting the Mediterranean from pollution by oil tankers. The Commission is to participate in a follow-up conference scheduled to be held in Greece, at which necessary protocols for such protection will be drawn up.

18. In addition to co-operating with other regional economic commissions in specific areas, ECA is also involved in co-operation programmes with developing countries.

19. At the request of UNDP ECA consultants undertook a survey on technical co-operation among African countries, and participated in the Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries ^{2/} held in Addis Ababa in October 1976. ECA will assist in the preparations for a global Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which is to be held in Argentina in October 1977, and will be represented at that Conference.

20. A draft Agreement for Co-operation between the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and ECA has been prepared (see annex I). Seven Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organization are members of the Bank. The Bank was set up to give financial assistance to African countries that are not members of the Arab League.

^{2/} The report of the meeting (DP/TCDC/RAF/12) is the subject of one of the items on the provisional agenda of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

ANNEX

REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (hereinafter known as "the Bank"), and the UNITED NATIONS, acting through its ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (hereinafter known as "ECA"),

Considering their common interest in contributing to the effective economic and social development of the African States members of ECA which may be eligible to receive assistance from the Bank,

Recognizing that co-operation between them would bring about better co-ordination and more effective and efficient implementation of their respective activities in those countries,

AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

Article I

Objectives

The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate co-operation between the Bank and ECA and the undertaking by ECA of certain activities determined in consultation with the Bank and aimed at promoting the economic and social development of the African countries which may be eligible to receive assistance from the Bank.

Article II

Areas of Co-operation

Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the terms of reference of ECA and the availability of resources:

1. It shall be the aim of the Bank and ECA to co-operate in the promotion and undertaking of any of the following activities:

- (a) General and sectoral studies related to economic and social development;
- (b) The exchange of documentation relating to economic and social development;
- (c) Consultation with each other on other activities in relation to which it may be feasible or desirable for them to co-operate.

2. ECA shall, at the request of the Bank and of a Government eligible to receive assistance from the Bank:

- (a) Determine, together with the Bank and the Government, which projects in the particular country are suitable for Bank assistance;
- (b) Assist in the elaboration of such projects;
- (c) Consider, together with the Bank and the Government, how such projects may be financed by the Bank;
- (d) Provide the technical assistance required for the implementation of projects financed by the Bank; and
- (e) Assess the results obtained from, and the effects of, the implementation of projects financed by the Bank.

Article III

Method of Operation

1. Where, in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 1 of article II of this Agreement, the Bank or ECA requests the other to undertake any activity which is outside the ordinary activities of the other or involve extraordinary expenditure of funds, the Bank or ECA, as the case may be, shall by an exchange of letters determine what compensation shall be paid to the other.
2. Where, for the successful carrying out of any of the activities set out in paragraph 1 of article II of this Agreement, it becomes necessary for a joint mission to be undertaken, the Bank and ECA shall consult each other concerning the arrangements to be made regarding the mission.
3. Where, in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 2 of article II of this Agreement, the Bank requests ECA to undertake any of the activities set out in that paragraph, all of the details of and conditions governing the undertaking of the activity by ECA, including its duration and the manner in which payments shall be made by the Bank for the use of ECA, which shall in all cases be in conformity with United Nations practice, shall be determined by an exchange of letters between the Bank and ECA.

Article IV

Review

The Bank and ECA shall meet once a year to review the progress made in achieving the objectives of this Agreement and to consider ways in which the provisions of this Agreement can be more effectively and efficiently implemented.

Article V

Amendment

The provisions of this Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement between the Bank and ECA.

Article VI
Settlement of disputes

Any dispute between the United Nations and the Bank arising out of or relating to this Agreement which cannot be settled by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement shall be submitted to arbitration at the request of either Party. Each Party shall appoint one arbitrator, and the two arbitrators so appointed shall appoint the third, who shall be the chairman. The procedure of arbitration shall be fixed by the arbitrators, and the expenses of the arbitrators, as assessed by the arbitrators, shall be borne by the Parties. The arbitral award shall contain a statement of the reasons on which it is based and shall be accepted by the Parties as the final adjudication of the dispute.

Article VII
Duration

1. This Agreement shall expire at the end of two years from the date of its entry into force, but may be renewed by agreement between the Bank and ECA for further periods of two years at a time.
2. The Bank or ECA shall have the right to terminate this Agreement at any time by giving not less than six months' written notice to the other.
3. If notice is given terminating this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article, the Bank and ECA shall take such steps as may be necessary so as not to prejudice the implementation of projects already being undertaken in pursuance of the provisions of this Agreement.

Article VIII
Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement, of which the English and French texts are equally authentic, has been signed on behalf of the United Nations and the Bank by their respective, duly authorized representatives on this day of 197.....

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

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Signature

Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa

FOR THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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Signature

President of the
Arab Bank for Economic
Development in Africa