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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Twenty-eighth session of the Commission/
nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3-6 May 1993

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DRAFT REPORT

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The twenty-eighth session of the Commission/nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was held at Addis Ababa, from 3 to 6 May 1993. The meeting was formally opened by His Excellency Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister and Representative of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a message which was read to the Conference. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, by Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); Mr. F. Lounes, Vice-President of the African Development Bank (ADB), Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa; and Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The representative of Senegal Mr. M. Ousmane Diene read out a statement on behalf of the outgoing Chairman of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission. His Excellency Mr. Solomon M. Dlamini, Minister for Economic, Planning and Development of Swaziland moved a vote of thanks on behalf of participants.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, France, Greece, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Palestine, Republic of Yemen, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.

6. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), Arab Organization for Agriculture (AOAD), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), Magreb Union (MU), Preferential Trade Area (PTA) and Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS).

7. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Environnement Développement et Action dans le Tiers Monde (ENDA), Lem Ethiopia, African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), Forum of African Voluntary Development Organization (FAVDO), International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA), and Research and Development Forum for Science-Led Development in Africa (RANDFORUM).

8. The Conference elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Cameroon
First Vice-Chairman:	Uganda
Second Vice-Chairman:	The Gambia
Rapporteur:	Tunisia

B. AGENDA

9. On 3 May 1993, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

**Conference theme: Taking Africa into the twenty-first century:
Implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing
The African Economic Community; and Agenda 21**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. One minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. General debate on:
 - (a) Perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development;
 - (b) Implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;
 - (c) Africa post-Rio: Implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position on Environment and Development.
6. Consideration of the report and recommendations of the fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on:
 - (a) Economic Report on Africa, 1993;
 - (b) Strategic objectives for Africa's socio-economic development in the 1990s;
 - (c) Strategies for financial resource mobilization for Africa's development in the 1990s;
 - (d) Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations: Strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face the challenges of the 1990s;
 - (e) Implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community

- Proposals for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;
- (f) Africa post-Rio: Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Africa Common Position on Environment and Development:
 - African strategies for the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Agenda 21:
A proposal
 - (i) Key issues of the African Environment and Development Agenda and strategies for addressing them;
 - (ii) Implementing the African strategies: Capacity building and resource requirements;
 - (iii) African approaches to negotiations for the international convention to combat desertification;
- (g) Issues in regional cooperation for development in Africa:
 - (i) Human development in Africa:
 - a. Programme for the implementation of the regional framework for human resources development and utilization in Africa;
 - b. Progress report on the establishment of the African Fund for Youth;
 - (ii) Development management agenda for the 1990s and beyond:
 - Strategic agenda for development management in Africa in the 1990s;
 - (iii) Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994: An African Position on the issues before the Conference;
 - (iv) Preparations for the World Social Summit 1995;
 - (v) Implications of the current Uruguay Round of Negotiations on Africa's Trade;
 - (vi) Infrastructural and structural transformation:
 - a. Harmonization of the implementation of IDDA II and UNTACDA II;

- b. Report on the proposed African foundation for research and development (AFRAND);
 - (vii) Advancement of women in Africa:
 - Progress report on the establishment of the federation of African women entrepreneurs; the African bank for women and preparations for the fourth World Conference on Women;
 - (viii) Rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions;
 - (ix) Strengthening ECA's programme of technical cooperation: ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG);
 - (h) Statutory issues:
 - (i) Review of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission;
 - (ii) Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers;
 - (i) Programme of work and priorities of the Commission:
 - (i) Medium-term Plan 1992-1997: First revision;
 - (ii) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1994-1995;
 - (iii) Programme evaluation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
7. Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD):

- Programme of technical cooperation under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;
- 8. Any other business.
- 9. Date and venue and other matters related to the twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.
- 10. Consideration and adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting.
- 11. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

10. In his opening address, His Excellency, Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia stated that notwithstanding the end of the Cold War stand-off, the long pent-up tensions released would require careful monitoring. In Africa, conflict still detracted attention from the needs of civil progress. Addis Ababa had hosted a number of United Nations efforts to find peaceful solutions to civil wars and the search for conflict resolution should continue to receive the support of every one.

11. The Prime Minister observed that nowhere was peace and stability more important than in Africa. The task of transforming national economies and of securing a place in the modern world was more than enough to engage all the combined energies of member States. Divided, Africa would surely fail in the endeavour to free its peoples from poverty and to become self-reliant member of the world economy. African countries should remind themselves that two thirds of the United Nations category of least developed countries were African. Unless the situation changed soon, Africa would be marginalized in the world economy.

12. The Prime Minister observed, however, that, luckily for Africa, some substantial instruments of progress had already been fashioned. The Abuja Declaration called upon member States to form the African Economic Community by lowering the barriers to trade and the free movement of goods

and people. One of the factors that had led to the formation of the European Economic Community was the belief that the individual economies in Western Europe were too small to be sufficiently competitive in the world economy. While, Africa did not expect to create an economic community overnight, it should keep the goal in sight, and make sure that it moved ever closer to that goal.

13. He confirmed that in addition to the framework of the African Economic Community, the guidelines embodied in Agenda 21 would be a useful addition to Africa's common knowledge. Ethiopia was very much aware of the fact that it must be careful not to reduce the carrying capacity of its land. Since its peasant farmers were important means of economic progress, Ethiopia would find ways of enriching them and the whole community through ways that did not impoverish its environment. These included using the monies saved from military expenditure to improve economic performance.

14. In its transition from an extremely authoritarian regime to genuine democracy, the Prime Minister informed the Conference that Ethiopia would devolve power to the regions, and ensure that elections at all levels were free and fair. All who should would be allowed to cast their vote without fear or favour. A national Commission had been charged with the task of producing a constitution that would safeguard political rights. Such measures were important politically and would help to ease Ethiopia's transition from a clumsy and inefficient command economy to one that was largely market-driven. The economic role of government in the market-driven economy would be a regulatory one. Apart from some strategic areas, economic decisions would be largely taken by private economic agents - the household, the private firms and the private farms. The Government would provide the infrastructural framework (roads, rural credit, educational and health services) in which such decisions would be efficiently and effectively taken.

15. He further informed the Conference that under its Economic Recovery Programme, Ethiopia had significantly devalued its currency and passed legislation that should make investment, domestic and foreign easier. It had also passed labour legislation that safeguarded the rights of workers without presenting serious constraints to efficient operations. Though it was too early to be sure, the early signs were encouraging, and Ethiopia believed that it would succeed since it was on the right road and going in the right direction.

16. In a message read on his behalf, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that the theme of the current session, namely implementation of Agenda 21 and of the Abuja Treaty for the establishment of an African Economic Community were presently at the

very centre of international economic policy discussions. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity for African countries to deliberate on processes and mechanisms for the implementation of those two objectives in a manner best suited to Africa's special needs and concerns and to the benefit of Africa's people.

17. He indicated that Agenda 21 was a comprehensive document that encompassed policy issues dealing with many of the most crucial aspects of development strategy. Although the time horizon of the implementation of Agenda 21 was long, African countries should immediately begin to focus their efforts on those issues of the Agenda that were most pressing to them on a national, regional or subregional basis. Success would require the building up of financial resources, the development of the institutional capacity and technical expertise for implementation of the areas of priority, and international cooperation. The United Nations was firmly committed to that goal and to its achievement. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was now a key United Nations priority, and would be taken up later in the year at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. However, it was largely up to Africans themselves, in the present era of increased competition for increasingly scarce development funds, to strive to keep Africa's problems and concerns on the international agenda by displaying a serious and sustained commitment.

18. The Secretary-General stated that he had established a Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development to serve as his "think-tank" on African development, to propose new ideas and new themes around which to mobilize international action in support of Africa's recovery and socio-economic transformation, and to define new instruments and mechanisms which would produce positive and tangible results. The Panel had recently met with him in Rome to consider the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in African development, and the issues of the diversification of African economies, as well as a more effective relationship between NGOs on the one hand and Governments and United Nations organizations on the other.

19. The Secretary-General drew the attention of the meeting to the forthcoming International Conference on African Development to be held in Tokyo in October 1993 under the auspices of the Government of Japan, the United Nations, and the Global Coalition for Africa. He urged African countries to seize the opportunity of that Conference to work towards a new partnership based on a clear rationalization of Africa's development needs and priorities. He observed that it was now clear that development had significant political and social dimensions as well and that peace, stability,

and security were thus integral components of development. In this connection the United Nations had taken the lead through UNAVEM in Angola, ONUMOZ in Mozambique and UNOSOM in Somalia in working with Africa to resolve many of the most violent legacies of the cold war, and to pave the way for socio-economic development. The Commission's involvement in those efforts appropriately symbolized the inseparable connection between the economic, social and political dimensions of development.

20. However, while it was of vital importance that all possible efforts should be made to stop conflicts once they had started, it was obviously preferable and more prudent to prevent such conflicts from breaking out in the first place. As noted in his Agenda for Peace, conflicts could be prevented through respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The demands increasingly made by African populations for greater responsiveness and accountability from their Governments must be encouraged and assisted as a prerequisite for development. The new international market economy could not benefit Africa unless the continent developed political institutions capable of building and sustaining a competitive economy.

21. Turning to the issues of regional cooperation, the Secretary-General observed that UNECA was well placed to make an important contribution to the Abuja Treaty, as its main preoccupations were regional economic integration and cooperation. Such cooperation would enable African countries to expand their production and market opportunities, thereby facilitating the continent's integration into the increasingly competitive global economy. The industrialized nations of the world had used, and continue to rely on international cooperation as an engine for growth and development, and Africa had to learn and benefit from the example of others. He was, however, confident that progress could be achieved if the coordination, intensity, and dedication of purpose which Africans had previously demonstrated with respect to political issues was directed towards the struggle for economic development.

22. In his statement, Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa began by welcoming guests and Ministers and paid special tribute to the people and Government of Ethiopia who have hosted the Commission for the last thirty-five years. Referring to the failure of the centralized approach of economic management to sustain social welfare gains, he said that a new consensus of world development favoured a more flexible market-based approach and that future economic growth would be driven by interactions between self-motivated and enterprising private agents. He emphasized the need to act with

seriousness of purpose and a sense of urgency in finding the right path to development in the twenty-first century.

23. The Executive Secretary said that the theme of the Conference - **"Taking Africa into the twenty-first century"** was aimed at bold strategies to overhaul underlying structures and spurt sustained growth. He pointing to two lessons to be learned from the newly-industrialized economies of Asia and Latin America and from post-industrial societies. He observed that Africa too could overcome underdevelopment and achieve rapid economic transformation and growth, food security and sufficiency. However, whatever was learnt from others had to be adapted to African circumstances.

24. The Executive Secretary noted the need for a pragmatic approach to socio-economic restructuring which reconciled theoretical objectives to real-life conditions. He observed that pragmatism could preserve an equitable social structure in spite of rapid transformation and that galvanizing national consensus behind economic reforms would assure their implementation by farmers, artisans, workers and enterprises in a climate relatively free of class conflicts. This needed capable and committed leadership and well-motivated competent bureaucracies. He noted that although it was tempting for countries to seek unilateral solutions to economic problems and to implement policies without considering their effect on other countries, opportunities for cooperation would reap larger benefits for each country. The Executive Secretary urged that lessons should be learnt from the stage-by-stage construction of the Single Market of the European Community.

25. He pointed out that the 1993 UNECA Economic Report on Africa underscored the need to address the structural elements of Africa's underdevelopment. The hard truth was that the structural adjustment programmes applied since the mid-1980s were taking too long to achieve self-sustained growth, because the reforms did not go far enough in correcting the structural causes at the root of Africa's underdevelopment and economic malfunction and because of continued civil disturbances and administrative paralysis occasioned by rival political authorities. Even under the most favourable conditions, the best that could be expected in 1993 was a growth rate of at most 3 per cent, or just about the rate of population growth.

26. Ten, strategic objectives had been identified to cope with the challenges that faced Africa in the 1990's. These were, a negotiated continental framework for regional security, stability and peace;

establishment of the African Community through prompt implementation of the Abuja Treaty; a comprehensive programme for building human capacities, including entrepreneurial skills, coupled with the indigenization of science and technology; re-defining the role of the State in Africa; sustainable development of the continent's agricultural potential to achieve food security; sustainable development of the industrial base based on increasing value added; upgrading transport, communications and energy infrastructures for the creation of a single African market; effective participation in all ongoing global cooperation that are charting world development and future international division of labour; a new pragmatic approach to Africa's external cooperation with countries in the developing world as well as with industrially-advanced countries; and, mobilization of the required capital resources.

27. He then observed that the purpose of identifying the Strategic Objectives was four-fold: to sensitize African and international leaders and peoples to the continent's precarious position; to identify the principal reasons why previous programmes of action for Africa's development have failed; to synthesize into a revitalized common strategic agenda the core objectives of action programmes; and to galvanize a renewed global coalition to attack the structural causes at the root of Africa's underdevelopment.

28. The Executive Secretary observed that a concerted assault on the structural causes of Africa's underdevelopment would require considerable domestic and external capital resources. The findings of the secretariat's indicative assessment were presented in the report, **Strategies for financial resource mobilization for Africa's development in the 1990s**. This UNECA study confirmed that the rate of gross domestic investment needed to be boosted substantially to about 35 per cent of GDP between this year and 2005. Since the dominant share of this investment had to be mobilized from gross domestic savings, considerable belt-tightening on the part of African societies would be needed to sustain a gross domestic saving rate of 25-35 per cent of gross national income. It would also require appropriate fiscal and public administration reforms; policies that reward saving, investment and entrepreneurship; elimination of economic distortions; overhaul of the financial sector's regulatory framework to speed up the growth of intermediary institutions; and a conducive political climate.

29. Referring to the crucial complementary role that external resources continue to play, the Executive Secretary stressed that the cumulative gross external financial requirements of ECA's 51

member States had been indicatively estimated, in constant 1990 dollars, at US\$ 950 billion. However, \$US 490 billion was required to service obligations on inherited and future external debt, leaving \$US 460 billion for capital investment. In the spirit of the UN-NADAF compact between Africa and international partners, bold initiatives were needed to reduce external debt, increase in official development assistance, private credit, and foreign direct investment with its attendant technology, managerial know-how, and world export markets. Other aspects of Africa's strategic agenda addressed in the Conference papers included development management, human development agenda, the impact of biotechnology in increasing food security and sufficiency in Africa and harmonization and implementation of industrial and infrastructural development during IDDA II and UNTACDA II. A report was to be presented on the implications of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations on Africa's trade. Africa's preparations for three United Nations international conferences, on Population and Development in 1994 in Cairo, the World Social Summit in 1995 and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, would also be reviewed.

30. The Executive Secretary emphasized the role of Africa's three premier institutions, UNECA, OAU and ADB within the framework of their joint secretariat, for establishing the African Economic Community. He said that UNECA was gearing itself to provide team leadership and exercise the responsibility for coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies executing development programmes in Africa, which was at the heart of the Commission's mandate. This role had received fresh endorsement by the Secretary-General, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in the context of proposals to strengthen the regional commissions as the regional arms of a single, integrated United Nations programmes. UNECA accepted the challenge to strengthen its organizational structure, its resource base of experts and its network of MULPOCs in order to live up to its more demanding role. Organizational restructuring was underway, aimed at clustering divisions, sections and units whose activities were closely related in order to enhance synergy among related programmes and to reinforce the multi-disciplinary approach to problem-solving that was one of the sources of the Commission's comparative advantage. The 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan and the revised programme of work for the 1994-1995 biennium were structured so as to cluster related programme priorities around major themes.

31. The Executive Secretary noted that the Commission continued to face precarious finances due to a lack of growth in its regular budget allocation and a sharp decline in extrabudgetary resources,

in spite of the increased responsibility and workload. He appealed to UNECA member States and to Africa's external partners to rally in support of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) with generous financial contributions at its ninth pledging conference which would coincide with the Conference of Ministers.

32. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary recommended that the creation of an enabling environment, implementation of sensible economic policies and provision of strong, far-sighted leadership were essential for socio-economic development and transformation. However, the pace of development, would be determined by the people's system of values, their endowed capacities, and their hard work. Thus, to take Africa into the twenty-first century as an economically-integrated continent would demand the strengthening of human and institutional capacities as a top priority.

33. In his statement Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of OAU said that the Conference was taking place at a time when Africa was on the verge of a double transition: transition to a new economic era and transition to a new political era. Over the last three decades, Africa had made commendable efforts in addressing issues which had hampered its economic development and recovery. Various strategies and programmes had been initiated either by Africa alone or with the cooperation of the international community in areas such as trade, transport and communications, human resources developments, food and nutrition, health, women in development and environment. Unfortunately, those efforts had not yielded the expected results. Since 1980, the situation had continued to deteriorate. Most African countries were implementing the Structural Adjustment Prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, against the dire social and political consequences of the adjustment programmes. Yet it was claimed that not enough was being done in that regard. He observed that it would be unwise to push the African countries beyond what was humanly bearable; any policy that put the manpower needs of those countries in jeopardy, deserved to be carefully examined.

34. Pointing out that Africa continued to wallow in economic morass because of matters, among others, that were completely outside its control such as the persistent collapse of commodity prices, the debt burden, inadequate resource flows and the adverse terms of trade. It was therefore important that its development partners especially the international financial and monetary institutions, bear that in mind when determining the modalities of cooperation with the African countries or their access to resources and expertise. He then observed that while Africans recognized

that they bore primary responsibility for the development of their continent, they also recognized the need for shared responsibility and commitment by all members of the international community towards the development of their region.

35. Referring to the theme of the Conference, the Secretary-General said that it was not until 1980 when ideas had crystallized in the form of the Lagos Plan of Action that Africa was formally set on the road to the Twenty-first Century. Following the fundamental changes that had shaken parts of the world towards the end of the eighties and the beginning of the nineties, the African Heads of State and Governments, meeting in 1990, had committed themselves once more to continental integration through the establishment of the African Economic Community. Unfortunately, for almost two years, after the signing of the Treaty of Abuja, Africa was still waiting for the Treaty come into force. The longer Africa postponed integration, the more marginal it would become in the world. He hoped that the initial obstacle would be removed in the next few months to enable the Treaty come into force. He then confirmed that OAU looked forward to closer cooperation with subregional groupings in order to achieve the objectives and aspirations of the Treaty. As the lead Organization with primary responsibility for the Continent, OAU was prepared to make full use of the expertise of institutions concerned with the socio-economic development of the region, more particularly UNECA. He stressed the need to exchange views on areas of priority, assist in policy formulation, eliminate duplication and to bring their expertise to the benefit of their countries.

36. The Secretary-General informed the Conference that OAU had had to pay a great deal of attention to the conflicts threatening to consume the continent. It had been actively involved in the conflict in Rwanda where the negotiations had reached the last but most delicate stage. Africa would have to demonstrate in concrete terms in the next few weeks that it was prepared to make some sacrifice in coming to grips with conflicts. It had also supported the regional effort to bring peace to Liberia and had fully played its role in securing international action on Somalia. But conflicts had dramatically exposed the weaknesses within OAU and it had therefore proposed the creation of a mechanism for conflict prevention, resolution and management. Until Africa redoubled its efforts at conflict management and resolution, its march towards economic integration and development would be greatly hampered. In that context, OAU expected that the forthcoming summit in Cairo

would adopt the proposed mechanism for conflict prevention, resolution and management and provide the continental organization with a new instrument for peace.

37. OAU strongly believed that the issues of governance were as important to economic development as peace and stability are. For that reason, it had promoted peace and national reconciliation. Events in Angola and elsewhere showed the dangers inherent in the transition process that had to be borne in mind at all times.

38. Referring to South Africa as a country with immense potential and capacity to contribute to African cooperation and integration, he expressed his organizations's fervent hope that 1993 would be a decisive year in the struggle for the dismantling of the structures of Apartheid and eliminating the remaining vestiges of racism in South Africa. In view of the recent developments in that country, in particular the cowardly assassination of Chris Hani, it was of crucial importance that the process of change be expedited. More than ever before, the time had come to proceed to the formation of the transitional mechanism that would steer the country towards a non-racial democratic South Africa, including the holding of general elections.

39. Mr. F. Lounes, Vice President of ADB observed that the nineteenth meeting of the Conference provided the occasion for a sharing of views on two important issues whose decisive impact in the medium- and long-terms on the socio-economic development of Africa was beyond dispute. Those issues concerned the African strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. Both themes happened to be closely related. ADB was convinced that only by pooling financial resources and efforts within the framework of regional integration could African countries find viable solutions to the major environmental problems they faced. It would be illusory to want to protect the environment without thinking about how to contain poverty. If poverty was not significantly reduced, there could be no effective protection of the environment. The over-exploitation of land by African peasant farmers had led to such destruction of plant cover that the soil had been exposed to erosion and the cumulative effects of drought. Similarly, the need for survival was forcing a destitute population which was growing rapidly to cut down an increasing number of trees without caring about replanting them. This human factor had combined with the climatic factor to create environmental problems which very often had a regional and international dimension.

40. Those types of problems could not be addressed if the approach was confined to the national level and to the short term. The solutions could only yield the full measure of their effectiveness if a regional integration structure was established to enable groups of member States to mobilize and pool more human and financial resources.

41. He briefly recalled the main thrust of ADB policy and what action it had undertaken or planned to take in each of those areas. With regard to Agenda 21 itself, the priority areas fell well within the context of the environmental activities which ADB was already conducting or planned to undertake in Africa. He expressed the hope that the Bank would be able to play an important role in the use of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). He informed the Conference that negotiations were being conducted between the regional development banks and the secretariat of GEF with a view to defining the role that regional funding institutions could play. The outcome of those negotiations would enable the ADB group to prepare, for African countries, projects or programmes to be financed by the Facility.

42. Similarly, he informed the Conference that soon after the Rio Earth Summit, ADB had, in cooperation with the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and the World Bank, set up a support group to sponsor the environment and sustainable development network for Africa established within ADB. In pursuance of its environmental policy, ADB was preparing environmental profiles for all its African member countries. The ADB group also planned to set up an African Environment Centre as a unit within the Environment and Social Policy Division of the Bank's Central Projects Department.

43. Turning to the proposed establishment of a Pan-African Trade Financing Bank advocated by the President of ADB, he noted that the projects coincided with the efforts being made to integrate the African economy. The general meeting of ADB shareholders would be held in Abidjan on 7 and 8 May 1993 to adopt the founding documents and the agreement establishing the African import-export bank. He informed the Conference that the bottom line for subscriptions set at US\$ 300 million had already been attained. The General Assembly of shareholders which would elect the Governing Board and the President of the Bank would, in all likelihood be held late in 1993. Also, ADB experts were already conducting a detailed study of the report drafted by eminent Africans on the role that the bank should play in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. This was being done

with a view to incorporating the relevant recommendation in the work programme of the bank. ADB was considering ways and means of strengthening the subregional economic communities as institutions.

44. Before concluding, he drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that the ADB group was paying particular attention to the issues of environmental protection and economic integration, convinced as it was that the two intersectoral issues constituted for Africa, along with poverty reduction, the major challenges for the coming years. He ended by stating that ADB was making every effort to mobilize additional resources that would take care of fresh financing requirements without running the risk of turning resources away from the core of its traditional activity of financing productive investment.

45. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Assistant Administrator, and Director Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP, stated that the years 1967-1974 were a period of particularly successful growth for sub-Saharan Africa, which registered an average annual GDP growth rate of just under 6 per cent. By 1980, primary school enrolment nearly doubled from 41 per cent to 79 per cent, and under 5 mortality rates dropped from 300 per 1000 in 1960 to 200 by 1980 and reached 164 by 1990.

46. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, Africa experienced decline for various reasons, among which was the shortage of institutions capable of dealing with domestic policy responses to the dramatic changes affecting the world economy such as oil shocks, recession in industrialized countries and decline in primary commodity prices.

47. Turning to the current state of the African economy, the Assistant Administrator observed that most countries in Africa were in the process of restructuring their economies, and at least 30 countries have been implementing structural adjustment programmes supported by the World Bank and the IMF in order to restore fiscal stability and credibility, which are essential for the revival of economic growth. She underscored the seriousness of the development challenges facing Africa today, and stated that despite advances in some countries, average growth rate for the continent had been under 2.5 per cent with population growth rates averaging 3 per cent. The economic problems presently facing African countries had been compounded by the scourge of HIV/AIDS and the deteriorating natural environment which eroded progress in human development. She stressed the

need for development leadership for Africa with stature of the vanguards of political liberation a generation ago.

48. In regard to the prevailing environment for development today, the Assistant Administrator stressed that there was need for the African countries to review carefully the concept of development, which in the past was limited to the assumption that economic growth would lift the whole society out of underdevelopment. However, African countries had to address human concerns such as education, health and income distribution. Africa's economic challenge had been exacerbated by the definite shift in international comparative advantage from the endowment of natural resources to technological capacity and skills both of which put Africa at relative disadvantage. The atmosphere in which African countries had to tackle development had changed, and the global environment was such that the previous levels of aid flows could no longer be guaranteed. The end of the cold war had led to less importance being attached to strategic alliances, thus leading to diminished aid to African countries.

49. Commenting on the diminishing development assistance to Africa, the Assistant Administrator outlined some of the causes including economic difficulties in donor countries; competition for development assistance especially from the former Eastern block countries and South East Asian countries; and the stringent criteria for development assistance. For Africa to attract more development assistance, the democratization process had to be speeded, civil wars had to end and regional conflicts had to be resolved in order to improve the environment for human development.

50. Whereas external assistance was useful to Africa, the Assistant Administrator stressed that strategies for African development should include mobilizing domestic savings, steering capital to small entrepreneurs, training and retaining national human resources, and putting adequate emphasis on local institution building to ensure internationalization of policy formulation, implementation and monitoring.

51. Turning to the impact of global trends on UNDP, the Assistant Administrator stated that, the UNDP share of development assistance had fallen from 12 per cent in 1970 to 7.5 per cent in 1991. In dollar terms, overall UNDP resources for the cycle 1992-1996 would be US\$3.3 billion with the African region's share being US\$1.3 billion. This decline in core budget had resulted in a

corresponding cut in UNDP's administrative budget. She referred to UNDP intercountry programme for Africa, and said that this programme was reduced from US\$226 million in the previous cycle to US\$181 million in the current cycle, which included US\$50 million debt carrying from the previous cycle. She regretted that for the rest of the Fifth Cycle (1992-1996), the total programme resource for regional programmes amounted to only US\$10 million, the equivalent to the IPF of a small country. Since 1987, a total of US\$54.2 million had been approved by UNDP/RBA towards 62 projects in support of regional integration through the eight major integration intergovernmental organizations (IGOS) alone, namely, PTA (22.3 per cent), SADC (21.9 per cent) and OAU (19.9 per cent). ECOWAS, UDEAC and ECCAS received 10.6 per cent, 9.4 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively. The Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) executed 15.4 per cent (US\$8.3 million) of the programmes of the subregional IGOs.

52. The Assistant Administrator stressed that there should be an analysis to determine the extent these programmes have met the goals of African peoples to achieving meaningful regional cooperation, and to determine the rationale required to achieve African goals in the light of the limited resources. African countries needed to re-examine, for instance, the current intergovernmental bodies with a view to rationalizing and streamlining them.

53. In conclusion, the Assistant Administrator stated that UNDP was committed to working with UNECA, OAU and other regional institutions in ensuring that its regional programme responded to regional themes. Due to limited resources, UNDP would limit its focus on programme priorities, namely, regional integration, strategic planning and management, and human development. For the future, she stressed that the intercountry programme resource would depend on well-established criteria, such as: the specific development impact of the programme; and the commitment of the participating countries as demonstrated by their willingness to co-finance from national IPFs and government sources.

54. Ms. Gertrude Mongella, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995, stated that the meeting of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was of particular importance to women. Promoting equality and integration of women in development depended critically on the policies and development framework that were being put in place at the national, regional and international levels. There was need to put special focus on the gender perspective in

order to avoid the further marginalization of African women in the twenty-first century. She said that the three previous women's conferences: Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985, had identified specific areas of concern which had led to the adoption of the Arusha and Abuja declarations on strategies for women's participation in Africa's development.

55. She informed the meeting that the strategies adopted during the previous conferences would be revisited at the Beijing Conference which was expected to draw up a platform for action, create the impetus to prepare women to move forward in the face of the challenges and demands of the twenty-first century and increase women's effective participation in decision-making on political, economic and social issues. During the cold war, the confrontation between superpowers had influenced Africa's decisions, politics and policies but, unfortunately, today resurgent nationalism and ethnic clashes were producing large numbers of refugees and displaced persons among whom women and children were the most affected. Hence, there was fear that Africa, and indeed, its women would be further marginalized.

56. The Secretary-General furthermore, stated that since women were the pillars and sustainers of Africa's economic system, gender analysis had to be considered in the elaboration, planning, execution and evaluation of development efforts; thus, successful planning for Africa required women's input in areas such as environmental protection, energy and water resources development, health, education, human rights, peace, institution and capacity building. She regretted that men's chauvinism continued to be entertained in conferences, meetings and decision-making bodies at the expense of development and that Africa continued to be governed by traditions contravening women's basic rights. Women should be allowed to contribute to solving "man-manufactured" conflicts currently dominating the African scene.

57. In the 1970s, women's issues never became part of the mainstream of economic planning and budgeting. In Beijing, however, emphasis would be laid on applying gender perspectives to global, regional and national issues rather than on "Women's Issues". In Africa, women play an important role in food production, supply and distribution yet governments pay little attention to women farmers. Issues of poverty eradication among Africans especially women required priority attention.

58. In this regard, she informed the Conference that the African Preparatory meeting for the Beijing Conference would address the problem of poverty and miseries among women and children. Each member State was expected to prepare a national report which assess difficulties, identify priorities for concrete and immediate action and show progress made in the implementation of the goals of equality, development and peace for women. Given the resource constraints of many African countries, the UNDP Administrator had advised all resident representatives to support the preparation of national reports and involve non-governmental organizations in national and regional preparatory activities.

59. The Secretary-General urged governments to make particular efforts to attend and participate actively in all preparatory meetings for the Fourth Conference so as to fully reflect Africa's position throughout the preparatory process and in the final outcome of the Conference which would lead to the Platform for Action. In conclusion, she stated that while she was looking for additional resources, from governments and other donors in her capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference, she was appealing to African governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Conference and its preparation.

60. His Excellency Mr. Solomon M. Dlamini moved a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants to His Excellency Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister and Representative of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia for having found time to open the nineteenth meeting of the UNECA Conference of Ministers, and for his inspiring speech. He expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister for sharing with the Conference the experiences of Ethiopia during the period of transition and observed that great strides had been achieved in a relatively short period. He further expressed gratitude to the people and the Government of Ethiopia for the hospitality accorded to the participants since their arrival in Addis Ababa.

61. In conclusion, he commended all the opening statements as inspiring to the meeting and thanked the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in particular, for his succinct statement that had provided an overview of the issues to be addressed by the Conference. He then thanked the secretariat for the quality of documents that had been put at the disposal of the Conference.

62. The representative of Senegal, Chairman of the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers expressed concern at the grim outlook of Africa's economies as reflected in the 1993 UNECA Economic Report on Africa. He noted that Africa was experiencing a constant decline in economic performance. The growth rate in economic development set in the new United Nations development programme for Africa in the 1990s was much higher than what was actually being experienced. Population growth rate outstripped economic growth rate.

63. He observed that some of the factors which contributed to the poor economic performance in Africa included the deterioration of internal and external economic environment. Persistent drought, natural disasters, political instability and wars were among the major internal factors. To this could be added the absence of bold measures to resolve population problems. External factors such as external debt, drop in prices of Africa's raw materials and the resurgence of protectionism in developed countries contributed to Africa's poor economic situation.

64. He called for creative imagination, solidarity and greater efficiency in management of Africa's economies. He, therefore, underlined the importance of the implementation of the Abuja Treaty when it came into force as well as the implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position on Environment and Development. He also drew the attention of member States to the importance of the implementation of the programmes for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and of the Transport and Telecommunications Decade for Africa, the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, as well as the African Human Development Programme.

General Debate on: Perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development; Implementation of the Abuja treaty establishing the African Economic Community; Africa post-Rio: Implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position on Environment and Development (agenda item 5)

65. Several delegates and Observers including representatives of United Nations agencies, regional and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the general debate. Participants congratulated the UNECA secretariat for providing the meeting with high quality documentation and the new Executive Secretary in particular, wishing him success in applying

his wide and diverse experience to the search for solutions to Africa's economic problems as the region prepares to face the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

66. Participants noted that the meeting was taking place at a time when the world was experiencing tremendous social, political and economic changes with concomitant impact on the economies of African countries. The region faced the 1990s amidst reduced aid flows and unfavourable terms of trade. Three formidable challenges were identified as facing contemporary Africa namely its integration into the increasingly competitive, rapidly transforming global economy; engineering and sustaining robust economic expansion under conditions of environmental sustainability; and containing and transcending the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Participants called on member States to capitalize on the ideals of regional cooperation and economic integration embodied in the Abuja Treaty, and on the principles of sustainable development in Agenda 21.

67. Participants underscored the remarkable changes which the region had undergone starting from the 1960s following political independence when socio-economic development strategies emphasized the acceleration of national economic growth. It recalled, however, that despite significant gains under the first United Nations development decade, the incidence of poverty, unemployment and income inequality in the region had increased over the period. Accordingly, by the 1970s, the focus of regional development strategy shifted to the provision of basic needs. Following the energy crisis of the 1970s and subsequent shortage of resources, an integrated development planning strategy was advocated during the 1980s.

68. Participants also addressed the general economic and social situation in individual countries and in the region as a whole against the background of the situation in the world at large. They focused on the near- and long-term prospects for the growth of African economies and their development within an increasingly competitive post-cold war global economy. They pondered the minimum necessary conditions for economies to attain and sustain robust rates of growth.

69. The Conference focused on the economic and social conditions in Africa in 1992 and prospects for 1993, and noted that most countries in the region as a whole recorded lacklustre economic performance in 1992, with economic output growing at a rate of less than that of population growth, continuing a trend since the early 1980s of declining average personal and family incomes. Already the most debt-distressed region in the world, Africa's external debt had continued

to grow, although at a reduced rate thanks to some debt-reduction measures applied by creditors to some countries.

70. Participants noted that the weak economic performance of African countries and continuing deterioration of most social indicators was in spite of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) which most African countries had implemented. Opinion was expressed that structural adjustment programmes should be designed more flexibly, taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, being careful not to worsen the social situation. At the same time, African countries should play a more responsible role in the design and implementation of adjustment programmes so that they did not appear to be forced upon countries. Where the right adjustment programmes had been tenaciously applied, countries had been able to reduce macroeconomic disequilibria and to sustain modest positive per capita economic growth rates.

71. Participants recalled that in the course of their implementation, SAPs had contributed partially to significantly exacerbating the regional economic crisis and had made recovery more difficult by, among other things undermining the social and political cohesion of some African countries. There had also been a contraction and deterioration of the social sectors particularly in employment, education and health. On balance, the Conference felt that SAPs were not causal of the economic crisis but became necessary in the face of the economic deterioration of the various countries. Macroeconomic stabilization, it was argued, was necessary to ensure strong and viable economies.

72. Participants voiced support for the strategic objectives for Africa's economic development in the 1990s. These were identified in ten broad areas: a negotiated framework for regional security, stability and peace; implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community; building human capacities including entrepreneurial skills and indigenizing science and technology in Africa; re-defining the role of the state to improve the quality of governance; sustainable development of agricultural potential; sustainable industrialization; upgrading transport, communications and energy infrastructures; effective participation in the global processes; forging pragmatic international relations with developed and with developing countries based on mutual benefits; and the mobilization of the financial resources needed to sustain Africa's rapid development. Some observers from specialized agencies and IGOs identified specific objectives areas where they

envisaged fruitful collaboration between them and the Commission in the promotion of the development of Africa in the 1990s.

73. Participants acknowledged that the African countries' success in the implementation of some of the key strategic objective areas would hinge crucially on the success of strategies for the mobilization of financial resources. They took note of the prevailing global economic conditions which had intensified the competition for scarce global savings and official development assistance. In order to secure adequate financial resources for sustained robust growth to meet the targets set in the UN-NADAF programme, it was important, first of all, to implement bold and far-reaching economic policy reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of African economies to improve the investment climate and attract domestic as well as foreign capital.

74. The Conference urged the international community to foster a new partnership for Africa's development. The key elements of such partnership would include, *inter alia*, consolidation of official development assistance to development, the recycling of public debts into development projects, more active support to the private sector and encouragement of direct investments.

75. The Conference observed that African countries were managing two trying transitions simultaneously: the political transition to democracy and pluralism, and the economic transition to liberal free market principles. The Conference urged that Africa's transition ought to be accorded the same moral and material support which had been extended by the leading industrialized economies to supply to the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Concrete action was required to reduce the burden of external debt, as well as to increase the supply of fresh funds to finances crucial areas such as human resources and physical infrastructural development. In this connection the Conference supported the initiative taken by UNICEF in cooperation with UNECA on **"Debt Relief and Aid Restructuring in Africa"**.

76. With regard to the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, participants called on member States to accelerate the ratification of the Treaty ahead of the forthcoming Cairo Summit of OAU Heads of State and Government. By lowering barriers to trade and the free movement of goods, people and capital, the African Economic Community would provide opportunities for accelerated economic development through economies of scale.

77. The Conference noted that such cooperation would enable African countries to expand their production and market opportunities thereby facilitating the continent's integration into the increasingly competitive global economy. It therefore requested African countries to recognize that borderless regional economic spaces would be the basis of future global competitiveness and that they should take a lesson from the experience of contemporary developed nations that had used and continue to rely on international cooperation as an engine for growth and development. The stage-by-stage construction of the Single Market of the European Economic Community, the progress being made in setting up the North American Free Trade Area and the Uruguay Round of Negotiations were excellent examples in this connection.

78. In the area of economic integration, participants recommended the strengthening of the OAU/UNECA/ADB joint secretariat. Within the framework of a rationalized distribution of responsibilities in line with the comparative advantages of each of the three institutions, they urged UNECA to concentrate on policy research and analysis, while OAU should concentrate on the political and strategic interests of the continent, and ADB should intensify its activities for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of Africa's sustainable development. They observed that the decline of donors' interest in Africa called for intensified efforts to mobilize resources at the national, subregional and regional levels within Africa. The establishment of AFREXIM Bank and the organization of the Tunis Afro-Arab trade fair to be held in October 1993, the Conference noted, confirmed the concern shared by all African leaders for consolidating the region's economic integration.

79. Participants urged that subregional and regional intergovernmental institutions should be rationalized so as to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of limited resources. Where appropriate however, it was suggested, these institutions should be strengthened to enhance their impact in the region. It was suggested that the Commission's MULPOCS should work in close collaboration with the subregional integration organizations. As an illustration of the benefits that can be derived from subregional cooperation and integration, the Conference noted the concrete programmes aimed at increasing intra-PTA trade including Regional Custom Bond Guarantee Scheme, the PTA Motor Insurance Scheme and the UAPTA Travellers Cheques Scheme.

80. The Conference noted that resulting from these programmes, intra-PTA trade increased by about 8 per cent annually over the 1985-1992 period while the corresponding foreign exchange cover decreased by about 42 per cent. The transformation of the PTA into a common market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) would ensure the attainment of sustainable growth and development in the two subregions; promote joint development in various fields; create an enabling environment that could attract local and foreign investors; spur science and technology in the two subregions; foster conditions for peace, security and stability among member states; establish a customs union among member States; and contribute towards the establishment of the African Economic Community.

81. Participants observed that the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM) was an excellent subregional project which would foster the realization of the objectives of the Abuja Treaty. The project would also speed up regional economic, cultural and social integration efforts.

82. The participants proposed several actions which African countries should take towards implementing the Abuja Treaty including the setting up of an international committee to explore the strengthening of sub-regional organizations and follow-up on their harmonization and coordination.

83. Regarding the implementation of Agenda 21 and of the African Common Position on Environment and Development, the Conference urged member States to tailor their decision-making processes as well as the formulation and implementation of their development policies, programmes and institutional and human capacity building towards the promotion of safe and sound environment.

84. Participants noted that the implementation strategies should include managing demographic change and population pressures; achieving food self-sufficiency and food security; ensuring efficient and equitable use of water resources; securing greater energy self-sufficiency; optimizing environmentally clean industrial production; management of species and ecosystems; and preventing and reversing desertification.

85. The Conference stressed that the achievement of these strategic areas would require drawing on the continent's authenticity and on the genius of its intellectuals and scientists as well as the will of its political leaders. Additional prerequisites included improved terms of trade; effective management of the economy under democratic governance; the institution of greater cooperation

between countries having similar problems and characteristics; community involvement at the grass-roots level in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes; effective participation in all ongoing global cooperation that are charting world development and future international division of labour; and mobilization of the required capital resources.

86. The Conference noted that strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 should cover national, subregional and regional aspects of the development process, and NGOs should be actively involved at all three levels. It was observed that a number of African countries had already established institutions responsible for environmental matters. There was a need to update and implement environmental legislation; establish and strengthen NGOs as well as youth and women organizations involved in environmental protection; incorporate environment as a subject in school curricula; and to integrate environmental issues in macro-economic planning.

87. On the issue of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations and the strengthening of the ECA to face the challenges of the 1990s, the Conference observed that the Commission had an important role to play not only in the formulation, but also, in the realisation of the strategic agenda for Africa's development. It was noted that this role should be geared towards providing team leadership and exercising responsibility for coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies executing development programmes in Africa. Indeed this role had received fresh endorsement by the United Nations Secretary-General in recent proposals to strengthen the Regional Commissions as the regional arms of a single integrated United Nations programme. The Conference observed that the aim of the on-going restructuring of the Commission was to enhance the synergy among its related subprogrammes and to reinforce its multi-disciplinary capacity of solving social and economic development problems to better serve its member States. They urged that adequate resources should be provided to the Commission to enable it effectively implement its important and widening mandate.

Consideration of the report of the Fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 6)

88. The Chairman of the fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole presented the report of the Committee as well as the draft resolutions and declaration

recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Conference of Ministers as contained in document E/ECA/CM.19/26. The Conference took note of the presentation, examined in detail the report of the Committee as well as the draft resolutions and declaration and adopted them after making the necessary amendments. The report of the Committee together with resolutions and declaration as amended is contained in document E/ECA/CM.19/26/Rev.1.

Pledging Conference for the United Trust Fund for African Development (agenda item 7)

89. In introducing this agenda item, the Chairman of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Commission and the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers underscored the importance of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD). Since the Fund was established in 1977, it had successfully financed 40 projects. Despite the precarious economic situation of most African countries, it was crucial for Africa's development, that countries contribute to the Fund. He congratulated those countries that had honoured their pledges and urged those in arrears to settle them.

90. In addressing the Conference on the same subject, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, concurred with the opening remarks of the Chairman. Though African countries were experiencing many economic difficulties, it was still incumbent upon them to demonstrate their commitment to African development by contributing generously to UNTFAD. He further said that development partners of Africa would be encouraged to increase their development assistance to Africa by the example of African countries helping themselves through such gestures as contribution to UNTFAD. He underscored that the current scarcity of international development assistance funds offered African member States an opportunity for greater self-reliance in resource mobilization for which UNTFAD could play a catalytic role.

91. The Executive Secretary then explained the programmes proposed for the 1994-1995 biennium amounted to US\$4 million. These included the following priority areas: human resources development; natural resources; environment and energy; enhancement of long-term strategic planning; regional cooperation and integration; and enhancement of internal capacities for the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. He concluded by clarifying that member States could make their pledges either to the General Fund

which may be utilized to finance any of the operational activities of the the Commission or to the special fund which represented contributions to specific programmes.

92. Countries which addressed the Conference and made pledges included, Egypt, the Sudan, Cameroon, France, China, Namibia, the Gambia, the Congo, Malawi, Madagascar, Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, and Zambia.

93. The representative of Egypt pledged US\$100,000 for the training of experts operating in the socio-economic development in Africa.

94. The representative of Cameroon commended the use of UNTFAD for as a necessary institution for the mobilization of funds from and for African countries. He recalled the contributions made by his countries since 1977 which amounted to US\$308,000 of which US\$140,000 were fully paid. He mentioned that Cameroon was committed to South-South cooperation and would make the necessary efforts to pay the outstanding balance of US\$168,000 for the implementation of the 1994/1995 biennial programme in the areas of human resources development and rational exploitation of natural resources.

95. The representative of the Sudan indicated that his Government could not pledge to the Fund because of the many people displaced as a result of the war; and the 1990 drought, the economic restructuring programme which required a large amount of money in foreign currency; and acute inflation and recession in the country.

96. The observer for the Peoples Republic of China underlined the importance of the solidarity which existed between his country and Africa. In this respect, he indicated that the government of China was organizing in 1993, a technical and vocational training programe in China for African experts in the areas of: rice cultivation, fish farming, solar energy and biogas, desertification control, small-scale hydroelectric power, agricultural mechanization, environment, meteorology, and participation of women in the development process. He announced a contribution of three million Yuan an estimated equivalent to US\$600,000 to cover the necessary costs of the participants to the various vocational training activities.

97. The representative of Namibia announced a contribution of US\$50,000 to show the recognition of the need for development assistance in Africa, and the support offered by African nations in the struggle for independence of his country.

98. The representative of the Gambia pledged a sum of US\$30,000 to UNTFAD.

99. The representative of Senegal indicated that his country had been hosting the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) since 1980. A new premises of 5,000 m² had been allocated to the Centre in 1987 for the construction of its headquarters. In the meantime, the Government had made available spacious office accommodation in a private building for which it was paying rent of US\$56,000 per annum. He indicated that this amount constituted the annual contribution of his country to UNTFAD.

100. The representative of the Congo announced a contribution of US\$50,000 to UNTFAD and added that the arrears of US\$26,825 would be settled as soon as possible.

101. The representative of Malawi recalled the economic and refugee problems which his country was facing and announced a contribution of US\$3,000 to the UNTFAD.

102. The representative of Madagascar commended the UNECA for its efforts in mobilizing funds for operational activities on the continent and pledged a sum of 2 million Malagasy francs to UNTFAD.

103. The representative of Benin recalled that his country had been committed in the past three years to the democratization process and to a new economic system based on free market. His country had set up economic recovery and social adjustment programmes which had started yielding some results. He then pledged a contribution of US\$5,000 and appealed to UNECA to devise a proper mechanism that would better facilitate payment of pledges from various countries.

104. The representative of Nigeria recalled that since the inception of UNTFAD, Nigeria had contributed US\$4.4 million. He requested UNECA to update Nigeria's contribution accordingly. He then announced a pledge of US\$100,000 of which 25 per cent would go to the Niamey-based MULPOC.

105. The representative of Zambia indicated that his country hosts the MULPOC for Eastern and Southern Africa which had recently established the Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System (ESADIS). He further indicated that his Government had assigned to ESADIS, three staff members at its expense. Zambia would continue to support the MULPOC and would also pay all its outstanding arrears to the Fund.

106. He concluded by thanking the Conference for its message of condolence in respect of the recent deaths of the entire Zambian national football team, officials and crew in an air crash.

107. The observer for France indicated that like in 1991, his Government would contribute F.F 400,000 to UNTFAD.

108. The representative of Uganda announced a contribution of US\$12,100 and promised to settle the outstanding arrear of US\$17,900.

109. In closing the Pledging UN Conference, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary thanked the member States for their generous and encouraging contribution. He remarked that the total contributions which amounted to over US\$1,000,000 against US\$285,000 in 1991 demonstrated commitment by member States to Africa's socio-economic development.

Any other business (agenda item 8)

110. No issue was raised under this item.

Date and venue and other matters related to the twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 9)

111. The Executive Secretary suggested that the secretariat and the bureau should consult and keep in touch with the member States regarding the dates and venue of the next Session of the Commission.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION/NINETEENTH MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

742 (XXVIII). Strategic objectives for Africa's economic development in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the important strategies and programmes that have been adopted by African countries and the international community in support of Africa's socio-economic development in the past three decades,

Cognizant of the momentous changes unleashed in Africa and the world by the end of the cold war,

Cognizant further of the formidable new challenges which face Africa in the increasingly competitive post-cold war world and the need for Africa to adjust,

Aware of the long-standing challenges, constraints and vulnerabilities underlying Africa's development problems,

Noting, at the same time, the important reserves of strength that Africa can harness to put itself on the path of sustained recovery and robust economic growth and transformation,

Noting further that the objectives of all these strategies, plans of action, and programmes have yet to be fully achieved but that they remain relevant and crucial to Africa's development,

1. Welcomes the document "Strategic objectives for Africa's economic development in the 1990s" prepared and elaborated by the Commission for Africa as a synthesis re-affirming and updating Africa's long-standing strategies in the spirit of the theme for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission/nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, "Taking Africa into the twenty-first century";

2. Takes note of the strategic objectives on which African Governments and peoples must focus in the 1990s, namely identified in this document: a negotiated continental framework for regional security, stability and peace; implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community; building human capacities, including entrepreneurial skills, indigenising science and technology in the African society, improving the health status of the population and reducing productive and social years lost; revitalizing the African region and its institutions and improving the quality of governance; sustainable development of Africa's agricultural potential to ensure food security and sufficiency; sustainable industrialization focusing on increasing the value added to Africa's natural resources and generating employment for the fast-growing work-force especially in the rapidly expanding cities; developing the continent's transport, communications and energy infrastructures; effective participation with a common voice in the ongoing global processes that are shaping the global economic system of the twenty-first century; international relations both with industrially developed and developing countries, based on mutual benefit; and the mobilization of financial resources required for Africa's development, with primary emphasis on domestic resources and external resources playing a complementary but crucial role;

3. Calls upon member States, each and all, to take note of the identified strategic objectives and be guided by them in their programmes of structural adjustment, transformation and development;

4. Further calls upon member States, each and all, to implement policies aimed at improving the investment climate geared to removing distortions and increasing economic efficiency and competitiveness; reforming the financial sector to step up the gross domestic saving rate to the range of 25 to 30 per cent to mobilize the massive amounts of domestic resources required to boost the gross domestic investment rate and sustain it in the range of 30 to 35 per cent of gross domestic product and to channel scarce resources efficiently to where they are most productive; and to take steps to boost African economies' absorptive capacities for external resources;

5. Also calls upon Africa's external partners to live up to their commitments under the compact of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to boost official development assistance to Africa, especially on concessional and debt-reducing terms, to reduce conditionalities attached to such resources, and to speed up its rate of disbursement; to maintain a stable international economic climate conducive to Africa's sustained development; to open markets to African non-traditional agricultural and industrial exports; to apply measures to genuinely reduce African countries' external debt burden by debt cancellation and conversion; and to set up new or extend existing multilateral guarantee schemes to encourage private and institutional investors to channel resources to African economies.

743 (XXVIII). Implementation of the Abuja Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the signing by the Heads of State and Government on 3 June 1991, in Abuja, Nigeria, of the Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community and the Treaty's provisions calling for the institutional and sectoral reinforcement of the regional economic communities as building blocks of the Pan-African Community,

Recalling also the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos and their provisions on collective self-reliance and self-sustaining development,

Noting recent initiatives taken in the world towards the establishment of large economic and trading blocs,

Mindful of the need for Africa to meet these and other development challenges by building up cohesive economic spaces, promoting strong sectoral and inter-sectoral linkages in priority areas such as transport and communications, agriculture, industry, money and finance and by harmonizing national economic policies and enhancing intra-African trade through progressive trade liberalization schemes,

Noting the efforts exerted throughout the continent to promote economic integration within the frameworks of various subregional and regional institutions,

Noting that subregional and regional economic integration programmes and related cooperative arrangements have mainly been foiled by the dire economic, financial and social conditions currently affecting African countries and weak political will,

Aware of the need for rationalization, harmonization and coordination among the various economic groupings and institutions,

Aware also of the need for strong national structures and mechanisms for economic integration that would help implement Community decisions,

Recalling resolution AGA.179(XXV) by which the Organization of African Unity Assembly of Heads of State and Government have directed the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to coordinate and pool their resources together in a joint secretariat to support the process for the effective establishment of the African Economic Community,

1. Reaffirms their commitment to the Treaty and the effective establishment of the African Economic Community;

2. Notes with satisfaction efforts deployed by the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat to help establish the African Economic Community;
3. Calls upon member States to speed up the ratification of the Abuja Treaty, and the protocols annexed to it and to ensure its immediate entry into force;
4. Further calls upon African Governments to establish sound structures capable of furthering the objectives of the African Economic Community at the national, subregional and regional levels;
5. Urges the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the President of the African Development Bank to assist subregional economic communities further their economic integration programmes and activities including the building up of cohesive economic spaces and the promotion of sectoral and inter-sectoral linkages in priority areas such as transport and communications, agriculture, industry, money and finance and the promotion of intra-African trade;
6. Further calls upon member States, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the President of the African Development Bank to take the necessary measures to facilitate the rationalization and integration of subregional economic institutions as called for in the Final Act of Lagos and subsequent resolutions of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and those of the various regional groupings;
7. Further urges the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the President of the African Development Bank to assist in carrying out the necessary studies and effectively establishing self-financing mechanisms for the funding of Community activities at the subregional and regional levels on a sustained basis;
8. Urges member countries to pay in full their arrears and current contributions to the budgets of the subregional economic communities to enable them function effectively and efficiently;
9. Calls upon the President of the African Development Bank to assist in furthering Community objectives of the African countries by providing substantial resources for the funding of related technical assistance programmes and ensuring the optimal utilization of the maximum possible resources allocated for the financing of multinational and regional development projects;
10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to follow up on the implementation of the Treaty and to report to the next Conference of Ministers progress made in implementing the provisions of this resolution.

744 (XXVIII). African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 which called for the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED),

Further recalling its resolution 712 (XXVI) of May 1991 which called on the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the Organization of

African Unity to jointly assist African countries not only in the preparations for, but also in the follow-up activities of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1/

Noting with appreciation the role which the Executive Secretary of the Commission has played and continues to play, notably as Chairman of the Africa/UNCED Joint Secretariat, which engineered the consensus on the African Common Position on Environment and Development and which initiates and coordinates UNCED inter-agency follow-up actions at the regional level,

Considering that the African Common Position on Environment and Development calls for "the formulation and signing of an international convention on halting desertification in Africa by the creation, through collective international effort, of green-belts north and south of the Sahara and the Kalahari deserts", 2/

Considering also that Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 requests the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to establish the necessary mechanisms for preparing a draft international convention on combating desertification,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration, by June 1994, of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Mindful of the central role assigned by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, through its resolution CM/Res. 1361 (LIV) of June 1991, to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the Africa region for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in safeguarding The African Common Position;

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which, inter alia, endorses Agenda 21 and which calls upon all concerned to implement all commitments, agreements and recommendations reached at the Conference especially those relating to resources for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Aware that General Assembly resolution 47/191 on the institutional arrangements for follow-up on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which established the Commission on Sustainable Development, requests the Commission to, inter alia, closely interact with other United Nations bodies dealing with matters related to environment and development, and equally requests United Nations regional commissions to examine the relevant provisions of Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and submit reports on their plans for their implementation, to the Commission in 1993 or 1994 at the latest,

Having examined the African Strategies for the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Agenda 21 as proposed in documents E/ECA/CM.19/8 and E/ECA/CM.19/8/Add.1,

1/ African Common Position on Environment and Development adopted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 14 November 1991, para. 2.

2/ African Common Position, para. 60(e).

Realizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa, requires concerted actions at the national, subregional and regional levels, an appreciable level of resource flows to support the individual and collective efforts of African countries and a revitalization of the relevant organs and institutions at the level of member States and at the regional level, particularly African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development,

1. Adopts the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21;
2. Urges member States to incorporate as many of the Strategies in the formulation of their own national strategies;
3. Further urges member States to establish and/or strengthen mechanisms for the mobilization of resources at the national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of the Strategies;
4. Calls upon African countries to participate actively and at the highest level possible in the negotiations on the convention to combat desertification in full cognizance of the strong correlation that exists between desertification and certain economic development activities;
5. Also calls upon African countries to intensify their efforts in promoting a fuller participation of the people in socio-economic development in ways that would favour sustainability and contribute to the fight against desertification;
6. Calls upon the Commission on Sustainable Development to support the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to periodically review progress in the implementation of the Strategies;
7. Further calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take the necessary measures to support Africa's post-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development follow-up in line with the responsibilities assigned to them in Agenda 21, particularly paragraph 38;
8. Urges the President of the African Development Bank, in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to explore the possibility of establishing an African environment fund in support of the implementation of the Strategies;
9. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit the Strategies to the Organization of African Unity Summit of African Heads of State and Government, meeting in 1993, for endorsement, and to continue to monitor and coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 within the framework of the African Common Position;
10. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the chief executives of relevant subregional and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to establish the modalities for reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa and reporting thereon to the Commission on Sustainable Development;
11. Urges the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to strengthen its cooperation with the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Economic Planning and Development, particularly in matters relating to Agenda 21 and the implementation of the Strategies;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue in his capacity as chairman of the Joint Secretariat, to mobilize the support of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank to assist member States in formulating their positions and forging a consensus within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the International Convention on Combating Desertification;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity a ministerial meeting to evaluate the negotiation process before the final session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee scheduled to be held in June 1994;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to present periodic reports to the Conference of Ministers on the implementation of the present resolution.

745 (XXVIII). Strengthening and rationalization of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 611 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on acceleration of the process of subregional economic integration in Africa and the new role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres as well as its resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on the transformation and strengthening of the Centres so as to enable them to play an effective role in providing the technical backstopping for subregional economic integration,

Recalling also its resolution 708 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on speeding up the economic integration of Africa and strengthening the Centres,

Considering that the promotion and strengthening of economic integration in Africa depend on the progress made first at the subregional level and subsequently at the regional level,

Further considering that the establishment of the African Economic Community should begin with the coordination, harmonization and rationalization of the development policies and programmes of the subregional economic groupings,

Convinced that, on account of the financial crisis facing the subregional economic groupings, the Centres should assist intergovernmental organizations and member countries in the formulation of policies and programmes for the establishment of the subregional economic communities,

Conscious of the fact that the role of the Centres is to help with the harmonization, coordination and rationalization of the activities of subregional intergovernmental organizations towards the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Recognizing that the Centres should be given the powers, human and financial resources required to carry out effectively their assigned task of assisting the intergovernmental organizations,

1. Invites African intergovernmental organizations to cooperate with the Centres in implementing their subregional economic integration activities;

2. Requests the intergovernmental organizations, in this regard, to communicate in good time, the areas of assistance and activity in which the backstopping of the Centres is required so that they can integrate such activities in their work programmes and order of priorities;
3. Requests the Centres to provide rational and effective assistance to the intergovernmental organizations in the preparation of policies for coordinating, harmonizing and rationalizing activities with a view to establishing a single community in their respective subregions;
4. Renews the appeal which it made in 1991 to the United Nations General Assembly for the financing of additional posts in the Centres both within the professional category and the general service category and for the provision of additional financial resources;
5. Appeals once again to member States to continue supporting the Centres by making specific contributions for their activities to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development for the development of their subregions and by facilitating the secondment of their staff to the Centres for short periods;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa to submit to the Conference of Ministers, in good time, a programme for the strengthening and rationalization of the MULPOCs which takes into account all the contributing factors.

746 (XXVIII). Human Development Agenda for Africa in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers.

Recalling the centrality of human development for sustained and sustainable development and growth in Africa as demonstrated, *inter alia*, in the Khartoum Declaration and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation,

Conscious of the many commendable initiatives taken by African Governments, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations system and the international community at large to assist in improving the human conditions on the continent,

Noting with regret the persistence of a dismal situation of human deprivation on the continent as mankind is about to enter the twenty-first century,

Mindful of the serious consequences of such deteriorating trends in the human development, on Africa's prospects for socio-economic transformation and sustained development,

1. Endorses the Human Development Agenda for Africa in the 1990s;
2. Urges African Governments to give priority to improving the conditions of human development through the implementation of a comprehensive and integrated strategy of development and structural transformation in which human development concerns and measures shall form the core, as enunciated in the Agenda for Human Development for Africa in the 1990s;
3. Urges further all African Governments to redouble their efforts to allocate adequate resources and redirect policies in a manner that would ensure the effective and successful implementation of human-centred development strategies;

4. Calls upon Africa's development partners, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to give full support to the priorities and operational strategies expressed in the proposed Agenda and to increase resource allocations to human development in Africa in the years ahead;

5. Takes note of the proposal for the establishment of a regional human development fund in Africa as outlined in the Agenda;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to initiate actions for the establishment of the fund, in cooperation with ECA member States, African regional organizations and institutions, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the private sector, the international community and African and non-African non-governmental organizations;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report regularly to the Conference of Ministers on the progress made in the establishment of the fund and the implementation of the Agenda.

747 (XXVIII). Strategic Agenda for Development Management in Africa in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions E/1987/55 and E/1988/115 on the Special Action Programme for Public Administration and Management (SAPAM),

Recalling also its resolution 632 (XXIII) of April 1988 endorsing the Special Action Programme,

Aware that the improvement and strengthening of managerial capacity is vital pre-condition of Africa's socio-economic development and transformation,

Noting that the Regional Conference on Development Management: Thirty Years of Experience, Emerging Challenges and Future Priorities, held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 March 1993, had adopted a Strategic Agenda for Development Management in Africa in the 1990s,

Convinced that the implementation of the Strategic Agenda would contribute to alleviating some of the serious managerial constraints on Africa's recovery and sustained development,

Further convinced that the priority areas articulated in the Strategic Agenda are relevant to addressing the development management needs of African countries,

1. Endorses and adopts the Strategic Agenda for Development Management in Africa in the 1990s;

2. Recommends that African Governments as well as regional and international organizations and associations use the Strategic Agenda as a guide for action in their efforts to improve development management capacities in Africa in the 1990s;

3. Expresses satisfaction with what has been accomplished by the Special Action Programme in its first phase and commends United Nations Development Programme for funding such a worthwhile project;

4. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to find ways and means for funding the second phase of the Special Action Programme so that it could contribute effectively to the implementation of the Strategic Agenda;

5. Calls upon African Governments and other international and bilateral agencies and institutions to do their utmost in mobilizing support for the Special Action Programme and the strengthening of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's capacity in the area of development management and ensure the realization of the objectives of the Strategic Agenda;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to coordinate and monitor activities related to the implementation of the Strategic Agenda and to report to the Conference, regularly, on progress made in the implementation of the Agenda.

748 (XXVIII). Population, family and sustainable development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 506 (XIX) of the ECA Conference of Ministers endorsing the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-Reliant Development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/94 of 26 July 1989 on support for African countries in the field of population,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989 on the convening of an international meeting on population in 1994 which requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure, among other things, that the regional commissions make a substantive contribution to the international meeting on population,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991 which decided that the meeting should be called the International Conference on Population and Development and which invited regional commissions to convene conferences to review regional population policies and programmes and to propose future action as part of their contribution to the preparations for the 1994 Conference to be held in Cairo, from 5 to 13 September,

Recognizing the interrelationship between population and development as stated in General Assembly resolution 45/199 containing the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, resolution 45/206 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries during the 1990s and resolution 45/216 on population and development, all of 21 December 1990,

Taking note of the report of the third African Population Conference held in Dakar, Senegal, from 7 to 12 December 1992,

Reaffirming its commitment to the recommendations spelled out in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action,

1. Approves the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development;
2. Requests African Governments to use the Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development in all preparatory activities and ensure that their delegations to the International Conference on Population and Development and to future United Nations Population Commission meetings use it as a

reference document to ensure adequate consideration of the priority interests of Africa in population activities;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to ensure that the principles and objectives of the Geneva Declaration on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women as well as the recommendations contained therein are incorporated in the work programme and priorities of the Commission and to establish a follow-up Committee of member States in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Population Fund;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development to provide the necessary resources to ensure the participation of African Governments to the Conference;

5. Calls upon all organizations in the United Nations system, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, intergovernmental, subregional, interregional and national organizations involved in population activities in the region to cooperate with African Governments to implement the Declaration;

6. Requests donor countries and agencies to increase the resources they provide to the United Nations Population Fund for its work in Africa;

7. Invites the United Nations Population Fund to step up its assistance to national and regional population programmes in Africa.

749 (XXVIII). Preparations for the World Summit for Social Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 on the convening of a World Summit for Social Development in 1995,

Convinced that the World Summit for Social Development would provide a unique opportunity to focus attention of all countries on the main social and human concerns and for the promotion of policies and the strengthening of international cooperation to effectively address these concerns,

Convinced further that Africa has a special stake in the Summit and its outcome,

Cognizant of the continuing severe deterioration of social and human conditions in Africa and the need to reverse this unacceptable situation as a matter of urgency,

Determined to ensure the effective participation of Africa in the preparatory process for the Summit and at the Summit itself,

1. Urges member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to actively participate in the preparatory activities of the Summit, particularly the meetings of the Preparatory Committee set up by the General Assembly;

2. Underscores the need for member States of the Commission to adopt an African common position on the issues to be discussed by the Summit;

3. Decides that an African common position on the issues before the World Social Development Summit should be formulated by the January 1994 meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development which should serve as the regional preparatory meeting for the Summit;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to prepare, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and other African regional and subregional organizations, the necessary documentation for the meeting, including a draft African common position on the issues before the Summit;

5. Requests further the Executive Secretary of the Commission to transmit the African Common Position to the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Summit, which is scheduled to be held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 1994.

750 (XXVIII). International Year of the Family

The Conference of Ministers,

Guided by the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989 which proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family,

Recalling its resolution 713 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 in which it invited all concerned to make all efforts to prepare for the International Year of the Family,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 45/133 and 46/92 urging governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exert all possible efforts in preparation and observance of the Year,

Aware that many economic, social and political changes that have taken place in the African region, particularly in recent years, have had an impact on the structure, role and functions of families and have affected the ability of many families in the region to meet their basic needs and to effectively discharge their responsibilities to their members and nations,

Deploing the disruption of social and economic life and the plight of many African families which are forced to flee their homes and countries in situations of continued civil and armed conflicts, natural calamities, hunger and famine, which disrupts family unit and cohesion and brings untold social and economic suffering to families and their individual members,

Recognizing the efforts so far made by African Governments and non-governmental organizations in preparation for and observance of the International Year,

1. Welcomes the opportunity offered by the International Year of the Family to focus attention on families and to highlight the various economic and social issues that affect them;

2. Takes note of the recommendations of the United Nations Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 29 March to 2 April 1993, which examined in depth the situation of families in the Economic Commission of Africa and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia regions and national and regional preparations for the observance of the Year;

3. Reaffirms the role of African families as the natural and fundamental units of societies; as vital resources for constructive change and development; as the first and last units of societies to be affected by decisions and policies concerning economic planning and development, socio-cultural and political

changes, population issues, education, employment, health, nutrition, housing, sanitation, environment and other developmental issues;

4. Calls upon African Governments to intensify their efforts to prepare, observe and followup the Year, through such action as the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms, issuance of policy statements by Heads of State and Government, educational and information campaigns, meetings, seminars, workshops and consultations, as well as long-term policy measures and programmes in support of the family;

5. Urges that in order to achieve maximum impact and heighten awareness of family issues among the public at large, activities in observance of the Year should concentrate at the local and national levels, with the close cooperation and active participation of non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and other interested bodies;

6. Invites all African Governments, as a long-term measure, to develop both explicit and implicit policies, as part of sectoral and overall national development plans, for supporting, strengthening, and protecting the family institution and to provide mechanisms for systematically mitigating unintended negative social and economic consequences of national development policies;

7. Urges African Governments to develop short- and long-term measures to address and resolve the problems of civil and armed conflicts, and hunger and famine in order to avoid the dispersion, destitutions and impoverishment of families as a consequence of death, disappearance, imprisonment and forced separation of family members, as well as loss of land and property.

751 (XXVIII). Africa's preparations for the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that the time will soon fall due to undertake a mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention between the European Community and members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group,

Noting that notwithstanding the special status accorded to some commodities of the ACP group in the European Community market, the share of exports of ACP countries in the EC market has declined,

Considering the strong linkage between development, trade and finance and that adverse developments in those areas have constrained Africa's development,

1. Calls upon African countries to establish strong common positions on the key issues in the forthcoming mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention with the objective of expanding African countries' exports to the European Community;

2. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to assist African countries in their preparations for the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Conference of African Ministers of Trade and subsequently to the Conference of Ministers on the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention.

752 (XXVIII). The second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989 proclaiming the period 1991-2000 the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992 that adopted the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade and decided to adjust the period for the Decade to cover the years 1993-2002,

Bearing in mind its resolution 739 (XXVII) and its decision Dec. 1 (XXVII) of April 1992 on Industrial Development in Africa,

Aware of the need to harmonize the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the second United Nations Transport and Communication Decade in Africa,

Considering the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

1. Mandates the eleventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry to be held in Mauritius from 31 May to 4 June 1993 to examine the plan of action to harmonize the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and make any recommendations thereon;
2. Reiterates its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme to allocate under the regional component of its fifth programming cycle for Africa (1992-1996) adequate resources for supporting the activities of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade;
3. Appeals to financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other financial institutions to provide full support to the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and contribute effectively to the financing of identified projects in the implementation of the programme at the national, subregional and regional levels;
4. Specifically urges African countries to give priority to the mobilization of their own financial resources through increased domestic savings and better management of national resources for the financing and implementation of the programme of the Decade;
5. Invites African countries and African development institutions to take the necessary measures to create an enabling environment conducive to domestic, foreign, private and public industrial investment;
6. Urges African countries to promote the private sector and to fully involve them in decision-making and implementation of the programme of the second Industrial Development Decade;
7. Invites African countries to provide adequate support to African entrepreneurs in order to promote the development of small- and medium-scale industries;
8. Requests the General Assembly to provide increased resources to the Economic Commission for Africa for the Industrial Development Decade especially to strengthen industrial cooperation in the implementation of the Decade;

9. Further requests the Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa and the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to further harmonize their activities to support member States in their efforts and ensure the effective implementation of the Decade.

753 (XXVIII). Women in Development, the African Regional Preparatory Meeting (1994) for the World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995)

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered and adopted the report of its fourteenth meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 19 to 21 April 1993, submits the following omnibus resolution:

A. Fifth African Regional Conference Preparatory to the fourth World Conference on Women (1995)

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, ^{1/} endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985,

Recalling also resolution 35/4 of 8 March 1991 and 36/8 of 20 March 1992 adopted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on preparations for the fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace,

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

Taking note that many African countries have not yet set up their national committees for the preparation of national status reports regarding the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Calls upon African Governments which have not yet done so to establish national coordinating committees and/or to designate national focal points without delay in accordance with the Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8 of 20 March 1992;

2. Urges member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to initiate preparations for their national reports as soon as possible and to ensure their submission to the Commission by the end of March 1994 and to the secretariat of the World Conference in time to serve as contributions to the regional and global review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

3. Calls upon the secretariats of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity, as well as the Bureau of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee, to collaborate closely in the preparations of the fifth Regional Conference (1994) for the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in order to help define Africa's Plan of Action for consideration at the global Platform for Action to be staged at the World Conference in Beijing, China in 1995;

4. Calls further upon the secretariat of the Commission to ensure close liaison with the African Women Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), which is charged with responsibility for coordinating the African non-governmental organizations and convening the African NGO Forum in Dakar

^{1/} Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap I, sect. A.

(1994) and Beijing (1995), in order to ensure the full participation of those strategic non-governmental organizations which reflect the priority themes for the Regional Conference;

5. Urges member States of the Commission to institute appropriate information and communication campaigns at the national level which would harmonize with subregional and regional strategies for sensitization and awareness-creation among the various interested constituents in the region;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Senegal for its offer to host the Regional Conference in Dakar, Senegal in November 1994, preparatory to the World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing, China;

7. Adopts the agenda and thematic outline of the fifth Regional Conference on Women as annexed hereto.

B. Women and economic empowerment

Aware that progress in the integration of women in development at the national, subregional and regional levels has been slow and seriously constrained by financial and other productive resources,

Bearing in mind Commission resolution 736 (XXVII) on women and access to resources in the 1990s which also urged member States to step up their activities to promote trade among countries for products produced by women, and also for the creation of the necessary policy environment at the national level for the operation of small and medium enterprises initiated by women,

Anxious that appropriate human capacity-building measures should be promoted for women to enhance their capabilities,

1. Appeals to member States, intergovernmental organizations and the international community to support subregional and regional women's programmes by according special consideration for assistance to those projects concerning women which could further promote women's full integration in development. The forthcoming Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development offers an ideal opportunity for such support to subregional and regional activities,

2. Invites African Governments and their partners in development to favourably consider supporting the efforts to create the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs (FAWE) and an African bank for women as centrally controlled institutions which could facilitate and enhance the economic empowerment of African women;

C. Women and peace

Bearing in mind Commission resolution 737 (XXVII) on the role of women in conflict resolution, adopted by the Conference on 22 April 1992,

Aware that the role of women in the peace process is one of the priority themes on the agenda for both the African Regional Conference (1994) and the World Conference (1995),

Noting also the concerns of the United Nations Secretary-General regarding an agenda for peace as expressed in his statement to the United Nations Security Council 2/ and anxious that women as a group should actively participate in the new agenda for peace,

1. Urges again the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to implement within the limits of the resources, resolution 737 (XXVII) which requested them to assist the Uganda Government in the organization of the Conference on Women, Peace and Development due to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 22 to 27 August 1993;

2. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to submit to the Regional Conference of 1994 the highlights and recommendations of the Kampala conference as a contribution towards the preparatory processes of the Regional Conference.

Annex to resolution 753 (XXVIII)

AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
DAKAR, SENEGAL, NOVEMBER 1994

1. Report of the outgoing Chairperson of the fourth Regional Conference on the integration of Women in Development.
2. The African woman today: An overview assessment of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.
3. Priority areas for the twenty-first century:
 - (a) Women in the peace process;
 - (b) Equality, education and social issues;
 - (c) Women empowerment;
 - (d) Women, environment and sustainable development.
4. African Platform of Action.
5. Consideration and adoption of the report.

THEMATIC OUTLINE FOR THE AGENDA OF THE
FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

1. WOMEN IN THE PEACE PROCESS
 - 1.1 Wars, political conflicts and civil strife in Africa
 - 1.2 Women, a bridge to peace
 - 1.3 Refugee, returnee and displaced women

2/ Boutros-Ghali, B., An Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping (Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992), United Nations: New York, 1992, 53 p.

2. EQUALITY, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES

2.1 Women's rights

- 2.1.1 Legal literacy**
- 2.1.2 Violence against women**
- 2.1.3 Dissemination of information for and about women**

2.2 Gender and culture

- 2.2.1 Socialization processes and gender relations: the girl child**
- 2.2.2 Cultural and traditional attitudes and practices**
- 2.2.3 Education: issues beyond equal access**

2.3 Impact of endemic diseases and other health-related issues on women

3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

3.1 Women and economic policies in Africa

- 3.1.1 External debt crisis**
- 3.1.2 Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)**
- 3.1.3 Regional integration**

3.2 Women in the economic spheres in urban and rural areas

- 3.2.1 Access to employment**
- 3.2.2 Improving women's management and production capacities in the informal sector**
- 3.2.3 Entrepreneurship development**
- 3.2.4 Access to training, skills, technologies, factors and means of production and markets**

3.3 Political empowerment of women

- 3.3.1 Women and the democratization process**
- 3.3.2 Women in governance, politics and decision-making**
- 3.3.3 National machineries and emerging women's organizations and institutions**

4. WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Women's access to and management of natural resources

- 4.1.1 Drinking water and sanitation**
- 4.1.2 Land tenure and food security**
- 4.1.3 Sustainable shelter**
- 4.1.4 Energy and forestry**
- 4.1.5 Women and disaster management**

4.2 Environment policy analysis, support and training

754 (XXVIII). Rationalization and harmonization of institutions sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers.

Recalling its past resolutions 477 (XVIII) and 519 (XIX) on the evaluation, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of the African multinational organizations sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, and recalling chapter 10 of its recent resolution 726 (XXVII) of April 1992, requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to examine the problems and constraints facing the ECA-sponsored institutions and subsequently make concrete proposals aimed at alleviating their various problems including consideration of options such as the merger of some of the institutions,

Cognizant of the role that institutions sponsored by the Commission can play in supporting self-reliant socio-economic development and integration process of Africa,

Concerned about the present acute financial and other problems which inhibit the institutions from pursuing in an effective manner the goals and objectives for which they were established,

Noting with concern that only a small proportion of member States belonging to the institutions honour their assessed contributions and that the irregular and piecemeal manner in which payments of contributions are made adversely affects the financial position and the implementation of the activities of the institutions, as well as the morale of personnel financed from these contributions,

Convinced that the rationalization of the institutions, harmonization of their activities and pooling of resources for implementing them can help strengthen programmes and linkages between them, significantly improve the delivery of services to member States as well as contribute to resolving the current financial and associated problems of the institutions,

Having considered the document on rationalization and harmonization of Commission-sponsored institutions bearing the reference E/ECA/CM.19/17,

1. Agrees to revive its Ad Hoc Committee of its ten member States to examine the proposals on the harmonization and rationalization of Commission-sponsored institutions;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with its Ad hoc Committee and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and host government of the Commission-sponsored institutions to carry out a detailed study including cost-benefit analysis on the institutions to be merged and submit this study to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers;
3. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to provide financial assistance during its fifth programming cycle to facilitate the implementation of the measures contained in the document, including strengthening of the institutions concerned, and to give positive consideration to the recommendation allowing member States' contributions in local currency to be swapped with their equivalents in foreign currency by the Programme;
4. Calls upon the African Development Bank to assist in the strengthening of the capacity development of the Commission-sponsored institutions and give favourable consideration to the institutions for the award of consultancy and subcontract services;

5. Further calls upon the European Commission and the Executive Secretary of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group to give positive consideration to the project proposals of Commission-sponsored institutions in the context of the Lomé IV Convention;

6. Urges organizations of the United Nations system as well as other African organizations to make greater use of the services and expertise available at the Commission-sponsored institutions;

7. Appeals to member States of the Commission-sponsored institutions to make every effort to honour promptly and in full, their financial contributions to those institutions to enable them to function effectively and efficiently, and to make specific pledges within the framework of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to support their activities.

755 (XXVIII). African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that the report of the fifth meeting of the Board of Governors of African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, held in Nairobi in February 1993, was reviewed by the seventh meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,

Noting with appreciation that the Centre has maintained an appreciable level of programme delivery. thanks in part to the contributions of many member States and some development partners of Africa in the implementation of resolution 741 (XXVII) of April 1992,

Further noting with much appreciation that the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of countries has expressed willingness to support the Centre,

Recalling its resolution 621 (XX) adopting the constitution of the Centre and particularly Article 5 on the nomination of the members of the Board of Governors and Article 11 on the assistance to be provided by the Commission and the World Meteorological Organization to the Centre,

Mindful of the need to broaden the institutional sponsorship of the Centre in order to equally broaden its resource mobilization base,

Expressing its appreciation to the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the valuable support that they have been providing to the Centre so far,

Aware of the need to ensure that the running costs of the Centre are fully supported by all the member States in order to meet the main objectives of the implementation of Agenda 21,

Cognizant of its responsibility to periodically review the membership of the Board of Governors of the Centre,

1. Decides that the present membership of the Board of Governors is as follows: North Africa: Algeria, Morocco; West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, the Niger, Nigeria; Central Africa: Burundi, the Congo; Southern Africa: Angola, Malawi, Mauritius; Eastern Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya.

2. Urges member States, in their relations with their development partners, to advocate greater support to the Centre;
3. Further urges member States which are members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and have ratified the constitution of the Centre to support its project submission to the ACP Secretariat through the representative of European Development Fund in their country and keep the Commission and the World Meteorological Organization informed;
4. Calls upon member States to ratify the constitution of the Centre if they have not yet done so and meet their financial obligations;
5. Calls upon the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization to strengthen their support to the Centre in the mobilization of financial, scientific and technical resources necessary for the implementation of the research and other programmes of the Centre;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization to consider the possibility of the two agencies co-sponsoring the Centre;
7. Further requests the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization to favourably consider channelling financial support and for enhancing its technical assistance to the Centre with available means at its disposal;
8. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, in collaboration with the host country to organize a second donors meeting to mobilize resources for the Centre.

756 (XXVIII). Strengthening the Multidisciplinary Advisory Group of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA-MRAG)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the creation of the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group of the Economic Commission for Africa in December 1991 to implement multidisciplinary approaches and strategies in addressing the increasingly complex, multi-dimensional and inter-locking challenges of African development in the 1990s as well as in operational activities of the Commission,

Aware of the priorities in Africa's development which the Group is out to address, namely the establishment of the African Economic Community, the transformation of the African economies, the promotion of self-reliance and sustainable development, and enhancement of institutional and managerial capacity as well as the analysis of policy responses to environmental and human development, rehabilitation and reconstruction problems,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/211 on "Operational activities for development" as well as the Secretary-General's triennial review of "Operational activities for development" submitted to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly which underscores the importance of the multidisciplinary programming approach to socio-economic development problems,

Noting with appreciation the wide range of priority areas in which the Group has rendered technical advisory services to African Governments and their intergovernmental organizations since its inception,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary of the Commission on his initiative and commitment to the concept of operational multidisciplinary approaches to socio-economic development problem-solving in Africa;

2. Calls upon member States to make increasing use of the available resources and expertise of the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group in the search for coherent and lasting solutions to their socio-economic development problems;

3. Appeals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure that the current reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations duly takes into consideration the particular requirements of the Commission for adequately providing a multidisciplinary approach to its member States.

757 (XXVIII). Restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the various resolutions that have implications on the mandate and operations of the Commission including, in particular, General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, General Assembly resolutions 33/202 of 29 January and 44/211 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling also its resolution 618 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind operative paragraph 6 of its resolution 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on Strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s, which recommended the grouping of conferences along specific themes,

Having taken note of the new policy and programme orientation of the Commission as well as steps being taken to restructure the secretariat, and conscious of the need to align the intergovernmental machinery to this new orientation in order to enable the Commission to address the emerging challenges and priorities of the region effectively,

Having reviewed the existing intergovernmental machinery of the Commission, 1/

Decides that the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission should be as follows:

1/ See document E/ECA/CM.19/19.

A. ORGANS DEALING WITH OVERALL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

1. Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning (the Commission) and its Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW)

In order to better reflect its work and mandate, the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning is renamed the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning. The Conference will meet annually. Its meetings will be preceded by those of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

The special problems of the African least developed countries will be treated as a separate agenda item at the annual meetings of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning. The Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries is hereby abolished.

2. Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the MULPOCs

The five intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the MULPOCs shall continue to meet every two years and report to the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration and to the Commission through TEPCOW. The five existing follow-up Committees of Experts of the MULPOCs are hereby abolished.

B. THEMATIC CONFERENCES OF MINISTERS

1. Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development and its Committee of Experts

The Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development will address issues related to sustained development and transformation through the effective implementation of human-centred development strategies and programmes. The Conference will meet every four years, and at least once within the period of the Medium-term Plan.

The Conference will have a Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Fifteen which will meet every two years. Procedure for the establishment of the membership and functioning of the Committee shall be established by the Conference at its first meeting.

This Conference subsumes the functions of the following existing subsidiary organs: the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development; the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Social Affairs; and the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of institutions of higher learning in Africa. These subsidiary bodies are hereby abolished.

2. Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and the Environment and its Committee of Experts

The Conference will address the challenges of sustainable development and environment in Africa particularly in terms of promotion of strategies and programmes based on the interrelationships between agriculture especially food supply, rural development and water resources, population, the environment and human settlements. The Conference will meet every four years, and at least once within the period of the Medium-term Plan.

The Conference will have a Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Fifteen, which will meet every two years. Procedure for the establishment of the membership and functioning of the Committee should be established by the Conference at its first meeting.

This Conference subsumes the functions of the following existing subsidiary organs: the Conference of African Ministers of Environment, and the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, which are hereby abolished.

3. Conference of African Ministers responsible for Finance and its Technical Committee of Experts

This Conference will continue to meet every two years.

4. Conference of African Ministers responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration and Tourism and its Technical Committee of Experts

This Conference will address issues related to the trade, tourism and institutional aspects of regional economic cooperation and integration. The Conference will also deal with issues related to commodity prices and global trade negotiations. It will also address issues concerning the ECA-sponsored institutions and African intergovernmental organizations. The Conference will meet every two years.

The function of the existing Conferences of African Ministers of Trade and Tourism will be assumed by this Conference. These existing conferences are accordingly hereby abolished.

5. Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications and its Committee of Experts

The Conference will oversee the implementation of the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II). It will continue to meet every two years.

6. Conference of African Ministers of Industry and its Committee of Experts

The Conference will continue to meet every two years and will pay special attention to the implementation of the programme for IDDA II.

7. Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy and its Committee of Experts

The Conference will continue to meet every two years. Its scope will now embrace energy issues.

C. TECHNICAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The following technical subsidiary bodies will report to the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning, through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole:

1. United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa

The Conference will continue to meet every three years.

2. African Regional Conference for Science and Technology (meets every two years)

This Conference will foster the development and transfer of science and technology. Its terms of reference include consideration of issues related to scientific and technological information. The function of the existing Technical Advisory Committee on Nuclear Science and Technology in Africa will be integrated into the Regional Conference. The Committee is therefore, hereby abolished.

3. Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists

The joint Conference will continue to meet every two years.

4. Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

The Committee will continue to meet annually.

Annex to resolution 757 (XXVIII)

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ORGANS OF THE PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURE
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

I. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

The terms of reference of the ECA Conference of Ministers were established by Commission resolution 330 (XIV): Restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and cooperation in Africa as follows:

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Commission resolution 188 (IX) of 10 February 1969 on the institutional machinery of the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 328 (XIII) of 3 March 1977 on the restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and cooperation in Africa and 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and in particular the relevant provisions of that resolution which require, inter alia, that, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, the regional commissions should:

(a) Exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level,

(b) Convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the coordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions,

(c) Rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 16 August 1978 on regional cooperation and development reaffirming the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 as they relate to the regional commissions,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in which it is, inter alia, decided that the regional commission shall have the status of executing agencies, in their own right, in respect of the categories of projects described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Conscious of the need to establish a much closer relationship between the institutional machinery associated with the development operations of the Commission and those of other agencies of the United Nations development system,

Recognizing that the important role of operational executing agency which the Commission has now assumed, as a result of paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 inevitably requires a well-structured arrangement which will enable the Commission and other United Nations agencies to assist member States concerned to deal with development problems in a more rational and coordinated manner,

Recognizing also that the 1980s are likely to constitute a crucial decade for the African region, in view of the African approach to the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as well as international negotiations and other significant issues affecting the economic and social conditions of African countries,

Aware that the existing cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the Commission on the one hand and between the Commission and other development agencies operating in the region on the other hand needs to be further strengthened with a view to deriving the maximum benefit from the scarce resources available in the best interest of the overall development of the countries of the African region,

Reaffirming its belief in the crucial and dynamic role being performed by the Organization of African Unity in its endeavour to secure the rapid improvement of economic and social conditions in Africa through collective action among African countries,

Also reaffirming its resolution 327 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 in which it is recommended that arrangement should be made, in cooperation with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, for the Executive Secretary to be invited once a year to present to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity a statement on economic and social conditions in Africa, as well as a progress report on economic cooperation and integration within Africa and between the African region and other developing regions,

Having considered the recommendations of the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee dealing with the restructuring of the institutional machinery of the Commission, 2/

Decides that:

(a) The Executive Committee and the Technical Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa shall be abolished;

(b) The meetings of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa shall be held annually and the annual meetings shall be organized in such a way that alternate meetings shall, in particular, consider the programme of work and priorities of the Commission, which is examined at two-year intervals by the General Assembly, together with the Executive Secretary's biennial report on the execution of the Commission's biennial work programme, while the other meeting shall be held for a much shorter period in the years when the established major programme of work and priorities of the Commission are not being considered and shall consider such other matters requiring urgent attention, as the implementation of programmes and projects and resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Organization of African Unity and the specialized and other agencies of the United Nations as they affect the work programmes of the Commission; issues of international significance affecting

development activities in the African region and any matters which the Executive Secretary may submit for consideration;

(c) A Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole composed of high-level officials representing States members of the Commission shall be established to deal with the various matters submitted for the consideration of the annual meetings of the Conference of Ministers;

(d) The existing Conference of African Planners, Conference of African Statisticians and Conference of African Demographers shall be combined into a single Conference to be known as the Joint Conference of Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, which shall be held biennially;

(e) The programme of work and priorities of the Commission shall be derived from the decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the Conference of Ministers, the various ministerial sectoral conferences, the Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and the work programme thus derived shall be assembled by the Technical Preparatory Committee for submission to the Conference of Ministers;

(f) The Economic Commission for Africa shall continue to work closely in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank in the field of economic and social development and cooperation in Africa;

(g) The arrangements proposed above for holding annual sessions of the Conference of Ministers shall be established on an experimental basis and shall in due course be subject to review by the Conference of Ministers in the light of experience.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS OF THE MULPOCs

The Committees were established by resolution 311 (XIII): Multinational Programming and Operational Centres adopted by the Commission in 1977. The following terms of reference are a further definition of the responsibilities of the Committees:

1. Recommend strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at enhancing economic cooperation and integration within their respective subregions and with other African subregions, in conformity with the objectives of the African Economic Community;

2. Submit to the ECA Conference of Ministers the (biennial) draft work programmes of MULPOCs and suggest measures for the successful implementation of those work programmes. The latter will take into account the activities of the intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) with a view to supporting and not duplicating them;

3. Review and analyze the economic and social conditions prevailing in their respective subregions with a view to making appropriate recommendations of measures likely to foster economic cooperation and integration among the countries concerned;

4. Review and make subsequent recommendations on reports of sectoral meetings organized by or with the assistance of MULPOCs;

5. Suggest measures aimed at mobilizing resources for the effective implementation of the work programmes of MULPOCs; and

6. Carry out any duty assigned to them by the ECA Conference of Ministers in connection with their mandate.

III. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

In view of the continuing deterioration in socio-economic conditions, mindful of the need to have an integrated and effective interplay between economic factors and social and human development available, and with a view to accelerating the democratization process and popular participation in development as crucial elements and objectives of human-centred development, the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and assess the state of human development in the region;
2. Assist the member States to develop and to harmonize their policies and programmes in the area of human development and related fields such as human resources, social affairs and rehabilitation and humanitarian affairs, popular participation, etc.;
3. Review and analyze progress of developments in these fields, keeping in view the need for ensuring human development, and make recommendations on strategies and policies for the improvement of living standards in the region;
4. Identify and highlight the major economic and social development issues and concerns with a view to promoting policies and strategies for human development in the region;
5. Encourage the integration of human dimensions into development policies, plans and programmes at both the macro-economic and sectoral levels, emphasizing particularly the problems of economic decline and social degradation, mindful of the need for equitable distribution of the benefits and costs to all segments of African society with measures to protect the most vulnerable segments;
6. Encourage the establishment of appropriate mechanisms at the national, subregional and regional levels to ensure human development through democratization and popular participation;
7. The Conference's activities shall include the activities of the former following subsidiary organs: Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization; ECA/OAU Conference of African Ministers responsible for Social Affairs; and the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa;
8. Recommendations of the Conference to member States shall be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning;
9. The Conference shall meet every four years;
10. The Conference shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the methods of electing its chairman and other officers;
11. The Conference shall have a Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Fifteen comprising the officers of the Conference and other Ministers representing the five subregions of Africa, elected from among member States on a rotational basis to serve for four years. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee meets every two years between regular sessions of the Conference. It shall operate under the same terms of reference as the Conference on whose behalf it will act, and shall, in particular, follow-up on the implementation of decisions of the Conference;

12. The Conference shall require the ECA secretariat, within the terms of its mandate, to arrange inter-agency consultative meetings involving the participation of the Organization of African Unity, agencies of the United Nations system and other collaborating organizations that have technical cooperation programmes in Africa in the field of human resources development and utilization. Such meetings shall endeavour to foster policy and programme coordination and harmonization as well as promote collaboration in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of Ministers.

IV. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

With the view to adopting a holistic approach to economic growth and sustainable development with poverty alleviation as its major focus, and to this end, recognizing the need to strengthen linkages and relationships between critical areas such as agricultural and rural development and water resources, population, social development, the environment and human settlements, the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and the Environment shall perform the following functions:

1. Assist member States in the implementation of Agenda 21;
2. Review the current trends in economic and social strategies in the region to ensure that the alleviation of poverty receives high priority in the national policies and programmes for the achievement of economic growth and sustainable development;
3. Promote the formulation and implementation of macro-economic policies and sectoral and inter-sectoral programmes targeted at the alleviation of poverty, with a focus on vulnerable social groups and such specific groups as rural communities and the urban poor;
4. Review and analyze progress in the improvement of policies and programmes for enhancing agricultural growth and rural development;
5. Develop, as appropriate, operational agricultural multisectoral plans, programmes and policy measures, including programmes and measures to enhance sustainable food production development;
6. Promote the development and management as well as the assessment of water resources needs of all African countries for their sustainable development, mindful of the need to strengthen cooperation among riparian States in conformity with existing agreements and/or other relevant arrangements, taking into account the interests of all riparian States concerned;
7. Consider and make recommendations on issues and programmes relating to population, as well as the related issues of social development, to ensure sustainable development commensurate with the development objectives of all members of the Commission;
8. Undertake periodic review of rural and urban poverty, including its interaction with economic growth, population dynamics the environmental factors and human settlements, and suggest development policy towards substantial progress in the alleviation of poverty;
9. Consider and make recommendations on the multidisciplinary approach in the work programme of the Commission to ensure that concerns relating to poverty alleviation through sustainable development are adequately reflected in all activities and programmes undertaken by the ECA secretariat;
10. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and nongovernmental organizations at the subregional, regional and global levels, and take into account their relevant recommendations;

11. Recommendations of the Conference to the member States shall be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning;

12. The Conference shall meet every four years;

13. The Conference shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the methods of electing its chairman and other officers;

14. The Conference shall have a Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Fifteen comprising the officers of the Conference and other Ministers representing the five subregions of Africa, elected from among member States on a rational basis to serve for four years. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee meets every two years between regular sessions of the Conference. It shall operate under the same terms of reference as the Conference on whose behalf it will act, and shall, in particular, follow-up on the implementation of decisions of the Conference.

V. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE

The terms of reference of the Conference of Ministers of Finance were established in Commission resolution 541 (XX): Role of trade and finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis operative paragraphs 6 and 7 which read as follows:

...

6. Decides to establish a Conference of African Ministers of Finance assisted by the secretariats of ECA and OAU and the Governors of Central Banks as the appropriate machinery to meet at least once every two years, to deal, inter alia, with the following functions:

(a) Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the international monetary and financial situation on the African economies and proposing appropriate remedial action;

(b) Regularly assessing the structure and magnitude of Africa's external debts, including the debt-servicing obligations of African countries with a view to proposing effective measures to alleviate such debts;

(c) Reviewing intra-African monetary and financial cooperation and suggesting ways by which resource flows to Africa can be enhanced, including the proposed establishment of an African Monetary Fund;

(d) Promoting the exchange of information and the sharing of national experiences in dealing with monetary and financial matters;

(e) Devising strategies for strengthening Africa's position in international negotiations on money and financial issues;

7. Further decides that the secretariat of ECA shall convene the meetings of the Conference.

...

VI. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRADE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

As ECA positions itself to assist member States in implementing the Abuja Treaty, which has established the African Economic Community, it becomes important for the Commission to address the trade, tourism and institutional aspects of regional economic cooperation and integration in a holistic manner. The Conference of African Ministers of Trade and Regional Cooperation and Integration shall, therefore, perform the following functions:

1. Adopt, promote and implement measures designed to strengthen economic cooperation and integration among African countries;
2. Assist African countries and their intergovernmental organizations in making more effective the policy instruments for economic cooperation and integration of the Africa region;
3. Assist member States and their subregional IGOs as well as OAU and ADB in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;
4. Enhance Africa's trade sector through the adoption of appropriate measures, policies and strategies for the expansion of domestic, regional and external trade;
5. In close collaboration with the Intergovernmental Committees of the MULPOCs, assist the member States of the MULPOCs and their IGOs in the strengthening of existing institutional machinery for subregional economic cooperation and integration as well as strengthening existing institutions for subregional trade cooperation, within the framework of the Abuja Treaty;
6. Promote regional cooperation in tourism.

VII. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

1. The mandate of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning goes back to ECOSOC resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 1977, ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions 291 (XIII) of 1977 and 341 (XIV) of 1979. This mandate was in connection with the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.
2. In document E/ECA/TCT/59 of April 1988 the mandate was renewed for the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.
3. The purpose of the Conference is to act as the policy body on the development of transport and communications in Africa, including approval of policies, programmes, strategies and projects of the Decade.
4. Attendance at the Conference is usually at ministerial level, with an average of 40 African ministers participating. In general, the Conference is preceded by meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) and the Intergovernmental Experts on Transport and Communications.
5. The latter of these bodies is a technical advisory body of the Conference and is composed of national experts who must first examine the policies, programmes, strategies, projects, etc., prior to recommending them to the Conference. On the other hand, the IACC is the highest technical body, composed of United Nations and African specialized agencies and its responsibility is to coordinate and harmonize activities in the various transport and communications modes.

VIII. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY

1. The Conference of African Ministers of Industry and its subsidiary organ, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa, were instituted in 1975 with the broad objective of accelerating the pace of industrialization in the region through the harmonization of industrialization policies and strategies of member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and the definition of Africa's position at international negotiations on industrialization (especially within the framework of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization). These institutions are an expression of the collective reaffirmation by the African countries of the pivotal role played by industry in the socio-economic development of Africa. They have taken on increased importance following the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action, the proclamation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), since they offer guidance on and ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the two programmes at the regional level.

2. The main objective of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa is to review and monitor progress made towards the industrialization of the African countries and to recommend measures at the national, subregional/regional and international levels for accelerating the process of industrialization in the region.

IX. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

The basic objective of the African Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy is to promote cooperation by African countries through their development activities so that:

- (a) The production of minerals and energy in Africa can be expanded and diversified;
- (b) Minerals and energy can contribute towards the development and growth of the continent in the industrial, agricultural and other economic and social sectors;
- (c) Export earnings of African countries from mineral and energy raw materials and mineral/energy-based products may increase;
- (d) Intra-African trade in mineral and energy raw materials as well as in energy and mineral-based products can expand;
- (e) Sustainable utilization of minerals and energy in the continent may be enhanced;
- (f) Minerals and energy development and utilization can have the maximum possible impact on the socio-economic advancement of the African people;
- (g) African countries can intensify the sharing and exchange of information and experiences on the objectives, policies and strategies for sustainable development and utilization of their mineral and energy resources;
- (h) African countries can harmonize their policies and strategies for the sustainable development and utilization of their mineral and energy resources at the subregional and regional levels;

(i) African countries can establish modalities and programmes of cooperation and coordination in the utilization of mineral and energy resources; and

(j) African countries can find ways and means of promoting the profitable marketing of their mineral and energy products/outputs regionally and internationally.

X. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

1. The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa originated from the mandate provided by Economic and Social Council resolution 816 (XXXI) of 27 April 1961.

2. The Council resolution was based on (a) the usefulness of the previous United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East; (b) the importance of basic cartographic data and survey work for the economic development of Africa; (c) the consultations of the Executive Secretary of ECA with the Governments of States members and associate members of the Economic Commission for Africa on the matter; and (d) the debate of the Commission at its third session.

3. The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa is convened every three years by the Executive Secretary of ECA.

4. The work of the Conference focuses on enhancing the role of surveying, mapping and remote sensing in contributing to present and future sustainable development efforts of Africa.

5. The primary objectives of the Conference are:

(a) To provide a regional forum where government officials, planners, scientists and experts from both the public and private sectors, etc., from Africa and abroad, can meet to address common needs, problems and experiences in the field of mapping and remote sensing, including educational and training aspects, scientific and technological requirements, implementation issues and benefits;

(b) To generate discussions on the current cartographic status of the African countries and the capacity of their national institutions to produce the documentation and information required for the planning and development of natural resources and the protection of the environment;

(c) To propose appropriate lines of action to member States and to the Commission on measures and strategies that the African Governments should implement in order to build up/strengthen their institutional endogenous technical capacity to meet their needs in the field of mapping and remote sensing;

(d) To identify such recent techniques in cartography and remote sensing, within the means of the member States, that can be suitably adapted to improve the geographic information and data base in the two disciplines for the socio-economic development of the continent.

XI. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In its resolution 248 (XI) of 22 February 1973, the Conference of Ministers established the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development. The Committee provided a useful regional machinery for examining science and technology issues relevant to the development of member States. In view of the rapidly growing importance of science and technology in socio-economic development and the need to have the highest level of commitment, it is necessary to upgrade it to a regional conference.

The objectives of the Conference are as follows:

- (a) To assist the Commission in the definition and periodic review of strategies and programmes for the development and application of science and technology, including nuclear science and technology, in the Africa region;
- (b) To examine and advise the Executive Secretary on specific issues bearing on the implementation of such strategies;
- (c) In general, to actively pursue the promotion of science and technology and the formulation of measures to ensure their application to national, subregional and regional development;
- (d) To give special consideration in its activities to the needs of the least developed member States, and to the application and impact of new and emerging technologies;
- (e) To advise the Executive Secretary on ways and means of mobilizing resources of all kinds for the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects for the development and application of science and technology within the region.

Full membership in the Conference will be open to all African States. It will normally meet at least once every two years and submit its reports and recommendations to the ECA Conference of Ministers through TEPCOW.

The African Regional Conference for Science and Technology will have working groups to examine specific problems and issues for its consideration.

All member States are urged to make one government institution responsible for science and technology matters to serve as a focal point for the work of the Conference and to nominate representatives to participate in its sessions, on the understanding that such nominations should take into account the need to maintain a high degree of effectiveness and follow-up through continuity.

XII. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS, STATISTICIANS, DEMOGRAPHERS AND INFORMATION SCIENTISTS

The sixth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1980 adopted the following terms of reference of the Joint Conference:

1. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists, acting within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic Commission for Africa, shall, provided that the Conference takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

- (a) Serve as a forum for examining progress and problems in the fields of the African planning, statistics, population and information science and take action to ensure their development in the light of the general principles of self-reliance and technical cooperation among countries of the region;
- (b) Establish arrangements for the improvement of all aspects of methodology and practice in the four fields under African conditions;
- (c) Coordinate the training programmes for and promote the training of the necessary African personnel in planning, statistics, demography and information science;

(d) Collaborate with the secretariat in evaluating economic, social and demographic conditions in the region to assist in formulating appropriate strategies and monitoring their implementation;

(e) Conduct its operations in collaboration with other relevant bodies and international agencies.

2. The members of the Conference shall be the government officials in charge of the national planning, statistical, population and information science agencies of the member States of ECA, or their representatives. Representation of all other governments and bodies shall follow the same rules as for sessions of the Commission;

3. The Conference shall meet once every two years, with its first session being held in 1980, and shall report on its sessions to the ECA Conference of Ministers;

4. Work at sessions of the Conference shall be organized in plenary meetings and in committees. A joint report on plenary and committee meetings shall be agreed at a final plenary meeting of each session of the Conference;

5. At the beginning of each session, the Conference shall elect a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur. At the beginning of its meeting each committee shall appoint its chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur;

6. Member States and agencies shall bear the cost of their attendance at the sessions of the Conference;

7. Except as provided for herein, the rules of procedure of ECA shall, where relevant, apply to the sessions of the Conference.

XII. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (ARCC)

The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) is a subsidiary organ of the Commission set up in 1979 by ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 365 (XIV) to ensure the advancement of African women. It is made up of 15 member States, three from each of the five ECA subregions. The African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) acts as secretary to ARCC.

- (i) The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:
- a. Three members designated by each subregional Committee (with the right to vote);
 - b. The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote), and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote);
 - c.
 - i. The Pan-African Women's Organization;
 - ii. United Nations agencies;
 - iii. The representatives of donor agencies;

the above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them;

- (ii) The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee shall elect a bureau composed of:
- a Chairman,

- a first and a second Vice-Chairman, and
- two Rapporteurs;

(ii) The terms of office of the Bureau will be two years. The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau;

(b) The African Training and Research Centre for Women will act as secretariat of the Regional Coordinating Committee;

(c) The rules of procedure of the Committee shall be the same as those of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(d) By replacing the terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committee with the following:

"1. To harmonize and coordinate the subregional programmes approved within the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

2. To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes;

3. To organize the exchange of information and experiences;

4. To participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations and other relevant organizations;

5. To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;

6. To review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;

7. To convene every three years, the African Regional Conference on Women and Development;

8. To report to the deliberative organs of the Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion (Committee of Officials and Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres)."

758 (XXVIII). The role of cartography, remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) in sustainable development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/46, which approves the initiative taken by international scientific organizations to declare 1992 "International Space Year" (ISY) and recommends fostering international cooperation within its framework,

Welcoming the actions taken by several African countries in commemoration of International Space Year that has, somehow, contributed to the development and strengthening of ties among users and African scientists in the field of satellite imagery,

Mindful of the principles related to earth observation from space, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and stipulating that these activities should be carried out for the benefit of all countries, in accordance with international law, respecting the sovereignty of all States, all people, regarding their own natural resources, and respecting the rights and interests of other States,

Aware of the fact that planning for sustainable development requires updated information on natural resources which have to be necessarily integrated in national development programmes,

Noting that cartography, remote sensing and geographic information systems are important working instruments for environmental development, monitoring and follow-up,

Taking note of the efforts made by the international community in favour of African countries in the field of training, space techniques, remote sensing and geographic information systems,

Reaffirming the interest to jointly undertake with space agencies and international organizations pilot projects when these converge with the involved countries' interests,

Fully aware that new emerging technologies, such as remote sensing and geographic information systems, and that their utilization clearly modifies the comparative advantages among countries,

Noting the emergence of new geodetic techniques, such as Global Positioning Systems, that could improve the quality of geodetic data over the African continent generated in previous projects such as ADOS,

1. Encourages member States to:
 - (a) Enhance South-South cooperation in training, and in regional, bilateral and multilateral joint projects;
 - (b) Undertake studies in order to set up a database network on the regional and international level;
 - (c) Contribute to the global change studies as requested in Agenda 21;
 - (d) Elaborate a compendium on remote sensing and geographic information systems capacities in Africa, mainly on existing training facilities;
 - (e) Participate in the project of establishing a common geodetic datum for Africa, using the Global Positioning System, that will result in uniform maps and cartographic data over the continent;
 - (f) Take cognizance of and implement relevant United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels under the coordination and with the assistance of the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN);
 - (g) Actively participate in the seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in Iran in 1997 and in the seventeenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to be held in Geneva in 1994;

(h) Identify a focal point that will coordinate all national activities relative to geographic databases and the establishment of geographic information systems;

(i) Take the initiative in sensitizing policy and decision makers on the importance of these new technologies through seminars, symposiums and workshops;

2. Urges industrialized countries and the international community to maintain and strengthen their efforts for a more efficient utilization of earth observation data, geographic information systems and cartography and for basic and continuous training for the education of African users and scientists;

3. Requests countries advanced in space technology to:

(a) Facilitate access to satellite data, and in particular to make available stored data, which may bring about specific agreements in favour of developing countries;

(b) Extend their data acquisition network to better cover the African countries;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to:

(a) Promote the role and usefulness of the Commission in the fields of cartography, remote sensing and geographic information systems that are of such a crucial importance, in order to take into account the emerging needs of African countries;

(b) Intensify efforts, in collaboration with the Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Ouagadougou, the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing, the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys, the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing, the CRTNA and CGA, for the coordination of the activities of United Nations bodies and those of the above-named institutions in the field of cartography, remote sensing and geographic information systems in favour of member States;

(c) Assist member States in their efforts to coordinate activities in the above fields, at regional and national levels;

5. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Hydrographic Bureau, the member countries and the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing to pursue the actions that would lead to the establishment of hydrographic services for the Eastern and Southern African subregion, and to initiate the actions with a view of extending the services to the rest of Africa.

759 (XXVIII). Data acquisition in the field of cartography and remote sensing in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that remote sensing and geographic information systems are tools without which decision making and projects cannot be effectively carried out,

Noting the efforts made by member States and the regional centres to train staff in aerospace techniques so as to make remote sensing a tool that can be used in several areas of application,

Bearing in mind the lack of suitable African receiving facilities and the difficulty of securing access to data acquired outside of Africa,

Considering also that this situation constitutes a serious handicap to the implementation of many projects being prepared or under way,

1. Appeals to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme to set up, strengthen and support national, subregional and regional environment information systems programmes;

2. Urges all concerned to make every effort, in this regard, to set up suitable facilities for data acquisition, processing and dissemination at the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing in Nairobi, Kenya and the Regional Remote Sensing Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in accordance with ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 313 (XIII) adopted in March 1987 at Kinshasa, Zaire.

760 (XXVIII). International hydrogeological mapping programme for Africa and the study on cartography for development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution CM/CITB/Res. 1 (LVII) of the fifty-seventh session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity from 15 to 19 February 1993 in Addis Ababa,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General of the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing concerning the international hydrogeological mapping programme for Africa (IHCPA) and the statement made concerning the study on "Cartography for development",

Having noted with satisfaction the way in which the first phase of the international hydrogeological mapping programme for Africa has been conducted and the status of the study on "Cartography for development",

1. Congratulates the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing on the successful implementation of the work assigned;

2. Expresses appreciation to the countries and agencies which contributed to this endeavour;

3. Invites the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing to pursue its efforts during the second phase of the international hydrogeological mapping programme for Africa activities as recommended by the meeting of experts at the session held at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi;

4. Invites the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing to do their utmost to establish the cartographic data bank for Africa.

761 (XXVIII). Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 710 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 in which the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade was adopted,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/83 of 26 July 1991 by which the implementation of the second Transport and Communications Decade programme was launched,

Referring to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/456 of 20 December 1991 approving the launching of the Decade programme and providing resources for its implementation,

Further referring to resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89 of 8 February 1991 and 12 March 1993 respectively of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning approving and launching the implementation of the programme of the second Decade,

Having considered the report of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13 March 1993,

Bearing in mind that the first mid-term evaluation and review of the programme of the Decade is scheduled to take place in 1994,

Noting that new projects would be prepared for inclusion in the programme in 1995,

Recognizing the importance of resource mobilization and other promotional activities for the successful implementation of the Decade programme and projects at national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting with appreciation the immense support which the United Nations Development Programme has provided for the preparation and launching of the second Decade programme,

1. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to favourably consider and continue to finance activities in support to the implementation of the Decade programme during the Programme's fifth programming cycle;
2. Appeals to individual African and international financial institutions to increase their support for and facilitate the financing of projects and activities of the second Decade programme;
3. Further appeals to African member States to ensure and actively pursue the implementation of the second Decade projects;
4. Calls upon the member institutions of the Resource Mobilization Committee, especially the African Development Bank as Chairman of the Committee, to carry out resource mobilization and promotional activities to enhance the successful implementation of the programme;
5. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa in its capacity as lead agency, together with all the relevant mechanisms of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade, to:
 - (a) Carry out the first mid-term evaluation of the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa in 1994, as stipulated in the implementation strategy;
 - (b) Revise the objectives and strategy of the Decade programme in the light of changed circumstances, if need be, in consultation with member States;

(c) Assist member States and African intergovernmental organizations to prepare and screen new projects for inclusion in the programme in 1995 as stipulated in the programme implementation plan, in consultation with member States; 3/

(d) Organize two regional workshops on the second Decade to disseminate the strategy and promote the objectives of the second Decade in Africa;

6. Requests the General Assembly to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary regular budget resources to enable it to effectively and efficiently carry out the activities listed in paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above in its capacity as lead agency of the second Decade;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to its next meeting on the progress made in implementation of this resolution.

762 (XXVIII). Reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting the need to coordinate the completion, construction, maintenance and operation of the Trans-African Highways,

Recalling resolutions 604 (XXII) of April 1987 and resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/79 of November 1989 adopted in Addis Ababa and Tangier respectively by the Conference of Ministers of Economic Development and Planning and the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to set up an autonomous Trans-African Highway Bureau which will be funded by member States and located at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Noting the difficulties that the secretariats of the Trans-African Highway Authorities are experiencing, particularly the plight of the secretariat of the Lagos-Mombasa Trans-African Highway Authority which was established in Bangui and subsequently dissolved for lack of financial support from its member States,

1. Decides that:

(a) The Trans-African Highway Bureau, staffed with a coordinator and a secretary, be reactivated and located at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(b) The salaries and entitlement of the coordinator and the secretary shall be wholly funded by assessed contributions from the member States;

(c) The activities of the Bureau shall be funded mainly by the assessed contributions from the member States;

(d) A meeting of plenipotentiaries be convened before October 1993 to consider, adopt and sign the draft statute of the Trans-African Highway Bureau that would subsequently be submitted to member States for ratification;

(e) The statutes become effective as soon as they have been ratified by 26 member States;

(f) The United Nations Development Programme and other financial institutions be requested to give financial support to the activities of the Bureau;

(g) Every effort should be made to enable the Bureau to start functioning in 1994.

763 (XXVIII). Utilization of human resources in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting the substantial resources that Africa devotes to the development of its human resources,

Noting further that in spite of its lack of skilled manpower in the economic and social sectors, Africa continues to suffer from a substantial brain-drain as reported in a recent United Nations study,

1. Appeals to African Governments to do their utmost to give priority to the employment of skilled Africans, particularly in the transport and communications sectors by establishing a transparent incentive package to endure the retention of such skilled manpower;

2. Appeals also to bilateral and other donor agencies to give priority to the utilization of skilled Africans in the implementation of projects that they finance in Africa.

764 (XXVIII). Development of building materials industries in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the importance of building materials needs in the construction industry in Africa,

Recognizing the necessity to promote the utilization of the local building materials with the view to saving financial resources allocated for importing building materials, and diversifying the range of technologies available in the area,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by the Economic Commission for Africa in the implementation of the ongoing project in the area of the development of the building materials industries,

Convinced that this project will reinforce the current efforts deployed in the region to solving the problems that constitute the high cost and the shortage of materials and promote an efficient utilization of the locally available resources,

Mindful of the objectives of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

1. Supports the development of the project on building materials industry in Africa and calls for its immediate implementation;

2. Invites African Governments to support the implementation of the project by providing necessary facilities;

3. Also invites all countries to ensure that the project is implemented using materials and practices that are environmentally acceptable;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to redouble efforts in the mobilization of financial resources necessary for the execution of the project;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary General of the African Regional Organization for Standardization, the acting Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Directors-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Managing Director of Shelter-Afrique and the President of the African Development Bank to cooperate in the effective implementation of the project on building materials industries, particularly the following:

- (a) Implementation of pilot demonstration projects for the promotion of local building materials;
- (b) Manpower training in the production of these building materials and construction techniques;
- (c) Formulation of unified standards for building materials with the view to ensuring quality of the products;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure that the project on the development of the building materials industries is continued and extended to other African countries within the framework of the Regional Programme under Industrial Development Decade for Africa II;

7. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme and other donor organizations to provide the Commission with the financial assistance necessary for continuing the project for the development of building materials industries.

765 (XXVIII). Tourism development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Realizing the need for national policies and for greater cooperation between the public and private sectors with a view to promoting both the unity and adversity of the African region,

Recognizing the highly positive role that tourism can play in economic and social development,

Convinced of the need for high quality tourism products based on rational use of natural and human resources,

Convinced further of the fact that tourism should fully participate in activities for protection, development and rational use of natural and human environment,

Considering the need of establishing mechanisms for human resource development and the enabling of competent and motivated managers for tourism,

Convinced that adequate and efficient transport and communication facilities have significant impact on tourism development in Africa,

Recognizing the complementarity of some African tourism products and the need of an active cooperation to develop, promote and market the tourism resources within the framework of better impact and the African integration,

Convinced of the importance of the Conference of the African Ministers of Tourism as one of the main organs of concertation and coordination at the highest political and technical level in Africa,

1. Recommends that member States should take all necessary steps to:
 - (a) Recognize the positive role that tourism can play in economic and social development;
 - (b) Allocate to the tourism sector the human, financial and legal resources that will enable it to play this role fully;
 - (c) Improve and develop of both quality and diversity of tourism products as part of their effort do make rational use of natural resources and other national assets;
 - (d) Make optimum use of the cultural heritage, crafts, traditional architecture, local goods and services;
 - (e) Protect the natural and human environment for the sake of sustainable tourism;
 - (f) Harmoniously introduce handicrafts in the tourism product;
 - (g) Develop human resources through initial and continuous training with a view to enabling them to acquire the necessary skill for tourism development;
 - (h) Build close cooperation among themselves by:
 - (i) Setting up an association of owners of hotels managed by transnational corporations;
 - (ii) Mobilizing African expertise within the framework of South-South cooperation;
 - (i) Constitute an African association of tourism and hotel training establishments in order to make for greater consultation and joint action regarding training programmes and methods and with a view to harmonization in this area;
 - (j) Pursue a concerted policy the policy makers of African countries in order to reach such common ground on facilitation as will make for the development of tourist flows among the countries;
 - (k) Bring together concerned member States to prepare and implement joint tourism projects on subregional or/regional levels and establish inter-State tourism circuits based on complementarity, joint promotion of the products and on the African integration policies;
2. Further requests member States and relevant institutions to pay particular attention to the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. Accordingly, it requests African Ministers of Tourism to participate actively in the African integration process and invite them to send, at their earliest convenience, to the secretariat of the Organization of African Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa their comments and views on the draft Protocol relating to tourism that had been presented to the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take the appropriate measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism mainly by:

(a) Assisting the member States in the implementation of the above decisions in general and in particular actions for the development of tourism in Africa

(b) Organizing a seminar on tourism, environment and sustainable development should be organized in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Tourism Organization and other international organizations;

(c) Taking all the necessary measures for implementing the project proposal submitted by the Commission, in consultation with the national handicrafts administrations and all parties concerned, on the integration of handicrafts and cultural artifacts in the African tourism products,

(d) Helping member States in the establishment of such an association which should become operational by the next meeting of the Conference;

(e) Providing member States with the necessary technical assistance and mobilize financial resources for the development of tourism in Africa;

(f) Pursuing its action in order to establish a mechanism for vocational training for competent managers on subregional basis;

(g) Commissioning a study on the possible reopening of the Ngaoundéré Hotel Training School in Cameroon and to report thereon to member States. The Executive Secretary is also requested to provide similar assistance to countries which may so desire;

(h) Pursuing activities undertaken by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations with the cooperation of the Commission by:

(i) The organization of seminars on management and contractual relations with transnational corporations;

(ii) The publication of handbooks and technical publications;

(iii) Technical assistance to African hotel owners;

(i) Instituting periodic consultation between African transport and tour operators to define and implement measures to reduce the cost of tourism-related transport;

(j) Holding a joint Conference of Ministers of Transport and Tourism to discuss the inter-face between the two sectors;

3. Requests the General Assembly to provide the Commission with the appropriated human and financial resources to enable it to provide necessary assistance for the continuation of the growth of tourism in Africa and the improvement of its performance;

4. Invites transnational corporations which play a positive role in the development of African tourism to strengthen their contractual relations on the basis of an equitable partnership policy;

5. Invites the Commission, the African Development Bank, the Organization of African Unity and other like-minded institutions to assist member States in the mobilization of the funds needed to finance such projects (which help to promote African integration) through the organization of round-table meetings with development partners at the subregional level by the end of 1994;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers on the progress in the implementation of this resolution.

766 (XXVIII). Strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and integration in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned by the ever widening North-South gap in the flow of vital information as well as in acquisition and utilization of information technology,

Conscious of the importance of information in fostering African regional co-operation and integration, in particular through strengthening of existing regional groupings and the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the need to establish data networks and data bases as specified in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community as well as the emphasis on information technology delineated in the Lomé IV Convention,

Recalling also its resolutions 716 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991, 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 and 732 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992,

Appreciative of the continuing support given by the International Development Research Centre to the Pan-African Development Information System's activities to strengthen the information capabilities of member States,

Appreciative also of the support given by eleven member States for the submission of the project "Information Technology for Africa" for further consideration by the European Commission in the framework of the Lomé IV Convention,

Noting with satisfaction the performance of the Economic Commission for Africa's Development Information System in the delivery of technical assistance to member States,

Noting with further satisfaction the proposals of the Executive Secretary to incorporate the activities of the System into the programme budget of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the Commission's subregional development information centres as information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Noting with concern the decreasing availability of extrabudgetary resources for implementation and utilization of development information systems and technology,

Further noting with concern the precarious financial situation of PADIS and the need to end its reliance on extrabudgetary sources of funding,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide adequate resources for mandated programmes in Africa, with special attention to those in science and technology for development, the preparation of his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1994-1995,

1. Requests the System to build elements of cost recovery into its delivery of information services and products;

2. Urges member States, in order to receive further needed technical assistance in information systems development:

(a) To give priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme Country Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs);

(b) To consider development information activities in their 1993 pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

(c) To use, where appropriate, the financial provision under the Lomé IV Convention for this purpose;

3. Urgently appeals to the donor community to support the Commission's activities to strengthen development information capabilities in the African region;

4. Requests the Commission to continue its leadership role in the coordination of development information and technology to respond to Africa's pressing development problems;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to seek additional resources for the Commission's subregional development information centres in the framework of the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development;

6. Requests the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, to ensure the provision of four professional and two local level posts as well as resources to permit the delivery of activities to the Commission's subprogramme on information systems development beginning with its 1994-1995 programme budget.

767 (XXVIII). Programme of work and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers.

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 43/219 and 44/194 reiterating and reaffirming the importance of programme planning, and the programme aspects of the budget, the role of the Medium-term Plan as the principal policy directive of the Organization and furthermore stressing the significance of these to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization,

Recalling its resolution 726 (XXVII) of April 1992 on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s, in particular operative paragraphs 2 and 4 respectively, expressing its desire for the secretariat's programme of work and priorities to make significant contributions to Africa's development,

Having examined the revised Medium-term Plan 1992-1997,

Having examined also the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1994-1995,

Convinced that the proposals contained in the revised Medium-term Plan 1992-1997 and in the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1994-1995 indicate significant changes towards sharper focus on the specific issues, realities and characteristics of the African region,

Commends the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa for the innovative approach it adopted in designing the work programme and the activities therein,

1. Endorses the work programme and priorities of the Commission for the biennium 1994-1995 as contained in document E/ECA/CM.19/22;

2. Appeals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in making his proposals for the 1994-1995 programme budget to give special consideration to the development needs of the African region by providing Commission with adequate resources to enable it fully carry out those responsibilities assigned to it under Programme 30: Regional cooperation for development in Africa, of the Medium-term Plan 1992-1997;

3. Calls upon the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider favourably the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1994-1995 at their forthcoming sessions.

768 (XXVIII). African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 285 (XII) of 28 February 1975, 433 (XVII) of 30 April 1982, 577 (XX) of April 1985, 574 (XXI) of 19 April 1986, 612 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 and 622 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 on the financing and future development of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Recalling also its resolution 669 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 and 680 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 which appealed to the General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to approve the incorporation of four core posts of the Institute in the regular budget,

Bearing in mind its resolution 726 (XXVII) of April 1992 on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s which expressed gratitude to the General Assembly for providing the Institute with a grant to cover the costs of four professional posts for the 1992-1993 biennium thus enabling it to contribute to the process of strengthening the operational capacity of the Commission in meeting the challenges facing Africa in the 1990s,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/62 and 1990/72 of 27 July 1990 which, among other things, recommended the incorporation of four core professional posts into the United Nations regular budget as a contribution to the long-term financing of the Institute and to enable it to carry out its approved work programmes and functions on a continued and sustained basis,

Noting that the Joint Inspection Unit after a thorough examination of the Institute's situation had, in its 1990 report, (JI4/REP/90/4) recommended that eight permanent posts should be created in the regular budget to erase annual uncertainty about the Institute's budget and offset dependency on United Nations Development Programme funding;

Bearing in mind that United Nations Development Programme policy requires that funding of core posts in institutions such as the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning should be discouraged and that the Programme is currently supporting a preparatory phase project designed to improve operational capacities for research, short-term training and networking, advisory/consultancy services and management audit,

Commending the increasing efforts of member States to regularly meet their obligations to the Institute by paying their annual assessed contributions,

Noting with appreciation that the resources put at the disposal of the Institute, in the form of the grant for the four professional posts for the years 1991 to 1993, have been productively used and that recent achievements in revitalizing the Institute and in improving its delivery capacities would not have been realized without these resources,

Noting with interest the increasingly successful attempts to generate independent incomes by various means and to develop operational projects for possible funding from diversified bilateral and other donor agencies,

Convinced that with the expansion in the fields of its activities to include subject areas related to development management in general, the Institute will in future years play an even more important role in the promotion of sustained development of Africa,

Considering that the Institute is the only bilingual regional institution of its kind in Africa and that it has an outstanding record of training and research services to African countries in the area of economic development and planning,

Considering also that there are increasing demands being made by member States and their intergovernmental organizations for the services of the Institute, particularly for tailor-made training programmes,

Considering further that counterpart United Nations institutions in other regions have benefitted from regular budget posts,

Conscious of the urgency of stabilizing the financing of the core posts in the Institute;

1. Urgently appeals to the General Assembly to convert the grant to the Institute into established professional posts in the regular budget as provided in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's proposed programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium.

2. Appeals further to the General Assembly to provide the other types of resources for programme implementation, as requested in the Institute's component of the Commission's proposed programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium;

3. Calls upon member States to support, at the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and in other relevant fora, the requests for a minimum of four established professional posts for the Institute as part of the Commission's programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium;

4. Requests member States to sustain their support to the Institute through payment of their contributions and through increased use of the various types of services it provides;

5. Urges the Executive Secretary and the management of the Institute to continue their efforts to mobilize resources from extrabudgetary and other supplementary resources to enable the Institute implement its expanded programmes.

Annex II

**DECLARATION:
IMPLICATIONS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS
ON AFRICA'S TRADE**

We, the African Ministers responsible for economic development and planning, meeting in the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning from 3 to 6 May 1993 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, declare as follows:

We noted that the ongoing Uruguay Round is the most protracted, comprehensive and complex trade negotiations ever undertaken under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), dealing with both conventional issues, such as tariffs and non-tariff measures, and new areas such as liberalization of trade in agriculture, textiles and clothing, intellectual property rights, and trade-related investment measures, as well as services.

We have reviewed the progress made in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and we noted that these negotiations, which started in September 1986 with the Ministerial Declaration at Punta del Este, are stalled in their final stage with serious concerns of developing countries still unresolved.

We are aware that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round could have profound implications not only on their trade in goods and services but also on technology transfer to developing countries and to Africa in particular.

We recognize the strong linkage between development, trade and finance and that adverse developments in those areas have constrained Africa's development.

We call upon African countries to establish strong common positions on the key issues in the ongoing and future multilateral trade negotiations, with the objective of better articulating the vulnerable position of the African countries in international trade.

We call upon the major negotiating partners in the Uruguay Round (United States of America, European Community and Japan) to work towards the successful conclusion of the final stage of negotiations, taking into account the interests of the developing countries, especially Africa, and in the interests of the world at large.

We urge the major negotiating partners to consider setting aside in an annex to the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations, preferences and derogations for a well-defined transitional period during which African countries would implement economic restructuring measures aimed at diversifying their production sectors and exports, boosting their competitiveness and increasing their share of global trade.

We call upon the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Director-General of GATT to undertake studies on the potential impacts of the post-Uruguay Round global trading regime on specific economic sectors of African countries and the development of the region as a whole and practical measures to mitigate the negative impacts and with a view to maximizing trade opportunities that may result from the Round.

We also call upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the President of the African Development Bank and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist African countries in formulating, at the appropriate time, common positions in multilateral trade negotiations.

We also request the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of African Ministers of Trade and to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission on the issues arising from the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations of GATT.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

6 May 1993