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QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECA CARTOGRAPHIC COMMITTEE

Submitted by the secretariat

1. At its ninth session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 1969 the Economic Commission for Africa adopted resolution 188(IX) under the heading of Institutional Machinery of the Commission.
2. By this resolution, three institutions were established by the Commission namely (a) Conference of Ministers (b) Technical Committee of Experts and (c) Executive Committee. The Technical Committee of Experts consisting of the principal or other senior government officials member States who are concerned with economic affairs, planning, development, and both financial and fiscal matters, was charged with the following functions:
  - (a) To examine studies prepared by the secretariat and to make appropriate reports to the Conference of Ministers.
  - (b) To assist the secretariat in the formulation of its work programmes and priorities.
  - (c) To take measures to ensure active contact between the secretariat and the Governments of member States at the working level of competent officials.
3. The secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Conference to the fact that since the Technical Committee of Experts as presently constituted under the Commission's resolution 188(IX), is capable of dealing with matters pertaining to cartography and other related subjects, it is unnecessary to establish a standing cartographic committee under the authority of the ECA.
4. The secretariat further considers that the creation of a subordinate committee will constitute duplication of efforts and involve the Commission in additional financial burden.
5. The Technical Committee of Experts, since its creation in 1969, has held meetings in Addis Ababa, for three consecutive periods during the months February 1970, February 1971 and September 1972 and discussed among other things the work of the Cartographic Unit.