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**A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERREGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME  
OF ECA AND ECLA FOR THE PROMOTION OF  
TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
BETWEEN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) held in February and May 1977, respectively; the countries of Africa and Latin America adopted resolutions on the strengthening of existing technical co-operation arrangements and promotion of new programmes of technical co-operation among the countries of their respective regions<sup>1/</sup> using for that purpose their respective regional commissions, within the framework of their mandates and available resources. Pursuant to these resolutions the secretariats of the two commissions are proposing, as a contribution to the realization of the objectives and aims of TCDC and ECDC, the following draft action programme for the consideration of representatives of governments of Africa and Latin America.

## II. OBJECTIVES

2. Based on the principle of mutual interdependence, the interregional action programme of co-operation between Africa and Latin America of ECA and ECLA should have the following objectives:

(a) Establishment of appropriate mechanisms between the two Commissions for a continuous dialogue and exchange of information on TCDC and ECDC.

(b) Identification of potentialities and requirements of individual countries and groups of countries, and definition of possible areas of technical and economic co-operation.

(c) Formulation of specific programmes and projects and establishment of priorities for 1979-1980 and a long-term programme for 1981 onwards.

(d) Formulation of work plans including financial requirements.

(e) Identification of sources of finance and development of mechanisms and methods for the mobilization of resources and execution of operational activities in the selected priority fields.

## III. WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

### A. Categories of co-operation arrangements

3. It is envisaged that technical co-operation between the two regions will be carried out at four levels:

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<sup>1/</sup> ECA resolution 302 (XIII) of 28 February 1977; and ECLA resolution 363 (XVII) of 5 May 1977.

(a) Co-operation between Governments of the two regions through bilateral arrangements;

(b) Co-operation between one country in Latin America and several countries in Africa, or between one African country and several Latin American countries;

(c) Co-operation arrangements between two or more Latin American countries and two or more African countries;

(d) Multinational co-operation arrangements (co-operation between intergovernmental organizations of these two regions).

4. Several African and Latin American countries have bilateral technical co-operation arrangements. This form of co-operation could best be carried out on a direct government-to-government basis; ECA and ECLA could assist, if required, by undertaking the preparation of detailed country profiles in their respective regions and putting the information at the disposal of the governments. The profiles would include the inventory of: (a) training institutions including their areas of specialization and research facilities and significant results achieved by them; (b) technological capacities and requirements; (c) trained manpower availability and requirements; (d) productive capacities and potential, e.g. in agricultures, mining and industry; (e) transport experience and facilities, inter alia in the field of mineral and agricultural resources.

5. In both Latin America and Africa there are some countries which have more capability to provide technical co-operation to other countries. ECA and ECLA could play a useful role in promoting this form of technical co-operation through:

(a) Identification of countries having such capability;

(b) Identification of requirements of potential recipient countries in their respective regions;

(c) Acting as intermediary between the "donor" country and "recipient" countries as well as provision of backstopping facilities.

6. With regard to multinational co-operation arrangements both regions have accumulated a wealth of experience over the years. In both Latin America and Africa there are intergovernmental organizations which have been created to promote economic integration among groups of countries.

7. The two regional economic commissions could be effective catalytic agents in the promotion of technical co-operation arrangements among intergovernmental institutions in the two regions.

This would require, inter alia, that the two regional commissions should promote exchange of information on programmes and projects among the intergovernmental organizations and assist in the identification areas for mutual technical co-operation programmes, e.g., exchange of expertise, joint training and research programmes, joint ventures, mutual assistance in negotiations with transnationals, etc.

B. Suggested priority fields (1979-1980)

(a) Trade promotion

- (i) Exchange of information on imports and exports profiles both on a bilateral basis (using existing channels between governments) and on a multilateral basis;
- (ii) Mounting of field missions of government officials to selected countries in Africa and Latin America and communication by ECLA and ECA on the results of these missions to interested Governments;
- (iii) Convening of meetings of chambers of commerce and trade officials of selected African and Latin American countries to discuss the results of the above field missions as well as mechanisms for trade promotion.

(b) Manpower development

- (i) Exchange of information on training facilities and fellowship programmes, specifying disciplines;
- (ii) Exchange of inventories of indigenous specialists and consulting organizations and consideration of establishing interregional consultancy agencies;
- (iii) Arrangements for in-service training programmes of Africans in appropriate Latin American enterprises and vice-versa. This would require exchange of information on on-the-job training facilities and programmes at the national and multinational levels;
- (iv) Promotion of University exchange programmes for research students and University teachers.

(c) Science and technology

- (i) Exchange of information on adaptation, transfer, and development of appropriate technology in specific areas with emphasis on the conservation, processing

and utilization of raw materials produced in African and Latin America countries.

- (ii) Promotion of training programmes in defined areas of technological adaptation and development.
- (iii) Promotion of specialized seminars and conferences.

C. Mechanism for the preparation of a long-term programme from 1981 onwards

9. ECA and ECLA will take appropriate measures for joint programming of activities to be carried out during the period 1981 onwards. Such joint programme will be submitted to a joint interregional meeting to be convened by both regional commissions.

10. Individual governments and the secretariats of regional and subregional groups of Latin America and Africa will be invited to join in these efforts of the regional commissions and submit guidelines and suggestions to the secretariats of the respective regional commissions on subjects or sectors for possible projects of horizontal co-operation between countries and country groupings of Latin America and Africa and for analyses and studies of possible TCDC and ECDC programmes by the technical staff of both secretariats.

#### IV. FINANCING

11. For the implementation of the above programme the countries of Africa and Latin America will require adequate financial resources. There are five possible sources of funding:

- (a) African and Latin American countries;
- (b) United Nations Development Programme;
- (c) Regular budget of the regional commissions;
- (d) Voluntary contributions from developing countries with financial capacity; and
- (e) Voluntary contributions from developed countries.