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PLANNING AND PLAN CO-ORDINATION ACTIVITIES  
IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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Planning and Plan Co-ordination Activities  
in the East African Community

1. The principal economic functions of the East African Community which was established under the 1967 Treaty for East African Co-operation, relate to the operation of the East African Common Market and to a major group of commonly controlled services, which includes railways, harbours, airways, posts and telecommunications, civil aviation, meteorology, certain scientific research services and the major tax departments.

2. Under the provisions of the Treaty, responsibility for planning matters within the East African Community, is vested in the Economic Consultative and Planning Council <sup>1/</sup> which consists of the three East African Ministers and of three Ministers from each of the Partner States. The functions of the Council are to assist the national planning of the Partner States by consultative means, and to advise the Authority (the Presidents of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda), on the long-term planning of the common services controlled by the Community. To assist the Council in discharging these responsibilities, there has recently been established the East African Committee of Planners, which consists of the Community Secretaries for Common Market and Economic Affairs, Finance and Administration, and Communications and Research, the three Permanent/Principal Secretaries for Planning and two other Permanent/Principal Secretaries or senior officials from each of the Partner States.

3. In approaching their tasks, the Economic Consultative and Planning Council and the Committee of Planners have placed particular emphasis on the introduction of effective long-term planning arrangements for the Community services, and on the co-ordination of the national planning of the Partner States at the sectoral level. In order to implement these long-term planning arrangements and to secure closer co-ordination in the planning of certain major sectors, the Committee of Planners has set up a number of Sectoral Sub-Committees, which deal with the industrial, tourism, and transport and communications sectors, and also with statistics and the services directly administered by the Community and generally known as the General Fund Services, (the Customs and Excise and Income Tax departments, certain scientific research services, civil aviation and meteorology). To this group of Sectoral Sub-Committees, it is proposed, within the immediate future, to add others which would be concerned with the co-ordination of planning for agriculture, power, and trade and balance of payments. The technical services for the Council, the Committee of Planners and the Sectoral Sub-Committees are provided by the Common Market and Economic Affairs Secretariat.

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<sup>1/</sup> There are four other Councils of the Community namely, the Common Market, Communications, Finance, and Research and Social Councils.

4. The planning arrangements of the East African Community are still at a comparatively early stage in their development, but a very substantial work-programme has now been approved by the Economic Consultative and Planning Council, in which the preparation of a five-year development programme for the Community services possibly extending over the period 1972-76 will form a significant part. This programme which will take careful account of the policies, requirements and related activities of the Partner States, will cover all the common services operated by the Community. It is intended that the preparation of a long-term development programme for the Community services within a framework of macro-economic and sectoral projections, should enable the three Partner States to discuss and resolve the major policy alternatives open to them in relation to the development of the whole range of commonly owned services. In its final form, it is envisaged that the development programme will set out agreed policy objectives for these services, proposed development outlays, project analyses, recurrent expenditure and revenue projections, manpower needs, requirements for domestic and external resources, together with an inventory of existing assets and liabilities.

5. The work-programme approved by the Economic Consultative and Planning Council, also provides for a series of studies, which it is hoped will make a significant contribution to the co-ordination of Partner States' plans in the transport and communications, industrial, tourism sectors of the East African economy. Plan co-ordination in the transport and communications sector of the East African economy will of course have a direct bearing on the long-term development programme of the Community itself, which falls largely within these sectors. Here, it is envisaged that the Council should be concerned with the general co-ordination of policies and of long-term planning in the transport and communications sectors, both in relation to the Community-owned services (i.e. railways, harbours, airways, posts and telecommunications) and to communications links falling directly under the Partner States (e.g. roads, coastal shipping). In this connection, a study is to be made on recent trends in the transport and communications sectors in East Africa, and in air and shipping services, and a comparative analysis is to be carried out of transport and communications sector programmes, both in the plans of the Partner States and in those of the common service corporations of the Community.

6. In the industrial sector, where the Secretariat works in close co-operation with the East African Development Bank, it is proposed to undertake an analytical study of certain of the most important multi-national industries. It is envisaged that this study should contain practical proposals as to what rationalisation, corrective and streamlining measures should be undertaken by the Partner States to ensure these industries derive the maximum benefit from multi-national co-operation. Within the East African Industrial

sector, it is also intended that consideration should be given to distributional criteria which may be applied in the Community over the longer term. To facilitate future industrial development, it is proposed that a study should be made of the longer term investment, infra-structure and manpower requirements for such development in East Africa, and also of those categories of machinery, equipment and industrial inputs for which rapid import-substitution in the Community is dependent upon standardisation throughout East Africa. It is also proposed to establish an inventory of the existing industries in the three Partner States and to prepare a survey of East Africa's industrial capacity over the period (1970-1985) by principal economic categories, i.e. investment, output, value added, and by principal industrial branches, taking account of both import-substitution and new export possibilities.

7. In the tourist sector, which is now growing extremely rapidly in East Africa, plan co-ordination will extend over a number of areas, including the preparation of tourist development plans for the Partner States, the introduction of high-level training facilities for the industry, the development of promotion and publicity services abroad, consultation on physical planning questions and on development of circuits.

8. Once the co-ordination of planning in the transport and communications, industrial, and tourism sectors is effectively under way, it is intended to extend these sectoral co-ordination activities to include agriculture, power, and trade and balance of payments.

9. The successful implementation of these various operations and their associated work-programmes, will have important implications for the Community's statistical services. Thus, with the introduction of long-term planning arrangements within the Community, much closer attention will require to be given to statistical series relating to services operated by the Community and to the co-ordination of statistics for these sectors in which Community services function, particularly transport and communications. Then the co-ordination of sectoral planning will require much greater emphasis to be placed on the process of harmonising the system of concepts, definitions, and classifications, coverage and timing of statistical series, and surveys, since in the final analysis, effective co-ordination will rest largely on the availability of a comparable series of statistics in the Partner States. Again, the introduction of a long-term planning system for the Community's services, and the co-ordination of planning in the different sectors, will require to be conducted within some form of macro-economic framework, which means that closer consideration will need to be given to the comparability of national production, income and expenditure and balance of payments statistics.