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Eighth Meeting of the Conference of  
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CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTES  
AND POLICY MAKERS ON THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
DECADE, THE MONROVIA STRATEGY AND THE LAGOS PLAN OF  
ACTION, ADDIS ABABA, 1-4 MARCH 1982

Note by ECA secretariat

GENERAL REPORT

1. Sponsored by the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the Conference of Directors of Social Research Institutes and Policy Makers took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1-4 March 1982. The objectives of the Conference were three:

1. To critically assess the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action within the global context, particularly in relation to the Third United Nations Development Decade, NIEO and the North/South dialogue.
  2. To critically assess the allocational, distributional and regional pattern of growth envisaged by and implicit in the Lagos Plan of Action.
  3. To consider the role of researchers and the research institutes in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action through individual as well as collective detailed research and the prospects and mechanisms of co-operation between ECA and researchers and institutes.
2. After the opening addresses and three plenary sessions the Conference broke up into two sub-committees. Committee A deliberated mainly on the issues of the sectoral implications of the Lagos Plan of Action. The Committee met in three sessions : the



first session was devoted to food and agriculture, industrialization and natural resources; the second session was devoted to the issues of human resources, science and development, women and development and the issues of trade and finance, energy and the least developed countries.

3. Committee B of the Conference deliberated on the issues of integration and the perspectives of individual countries within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action. The Committee met in four sessions with two sessions devoted to the problem of integration and two sessions to country experiences. Five papers were presented on each of the two issues.

4. The Conference concluded that:

(a) The hypotheses of a self-sufficient and self-sustained growth of the African economies require a favourable socio-economic and political climate in every country and between the various countries. It is necessary to undertake a detailed analysis of social, cultural, political as well as economic conditions in these countries for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

(b) The mobilization of human resources was a very important ingredient in the Lagos Plan of Action. Therefore there is need to reorientate the educational systems in order to eliminate the inadequacy of training, employment, but also for a better utilization and exploitation of African resources.

(c) In the area of economic integration, it is recommended that in instances where obvious discrepancies and omissions exist the economic subregional groupings should revise their treaties to reflect the essential objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and should set up appropriate institutions for the implementation and monitoring of the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action. This calls for sound data base and indicators to monitor such progress.

(d) It was recommended that the ECA through various research institutes undertakes decennial agricultural censuses to provide the necessary information for planning the agricultural sector. In the industrial sector ECA and UNIDO should as part of the Industrial Development Decade 1980-1990 support national research institutes to undertake national industrial surveys to provide the data base with which to monitor the progress of the Plan.

(e) In each member State a systematic diagnostic of the economies over the last two decades must be undertaken to determine the causes of the poor economic performances in agriculture and industry.

(f) Old linkages were being perpetuated and these were seen to make self-sufficient and self-sustained development difficult in the areas of trade liberalization and monetary harmonization. Co-operation needed to be extended to



other fields such as agricultural production and human resources development.

5. In a special session with the Executive Secretary of ECA it was agreed that ECA and CODESRIA would co-operate in several areas of action including the following:

- (i) the exchange of programmes of activities between ECA and member institutes to facilitate arrangements for mutual support and participation;
- (ii) the exchange of documents, studies and other papers;
- (iii) the exploitation of the library resources of ECA;
- (iv) the identification of suitable experts or institutions for consultancy services required by ECA;
- (v) assistance to ECA in the preparation of socio-economic surveys;
- (vi) the carrying out, initially, of at least three major socio-economic investigations required by ECA;
- (vii) biennial meetings of CODESRIA to be held prior to the meetings of the Conference of Ministers of ECA.