



DOCUMENTS OFFICE

FILE COPY

DO NOT BE TAKEN OUT

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.12/41
28 March 1986

Original: ENGLISH

67528 ✓

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Seventh meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the
Whole

Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon,
7 to 14 April 1986

(Item 13(c) (i) of the
Provisional Agenda)*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-first session of the Commission/
Twelfth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon,
17 to 21 April 1986

(Item 6(c) (i) of the
(Provisional Agenda)*

PROPOSALS FOR SECOND UPDATING OF AND REVISION TO THE
MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1984-1989

* E/ECA/TPCW.7/1.
E/ECA/CM.12/1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the Regulations and Rules governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (contained in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/204 of 14 June 1984), the medium-term plan is to be revised every two years.
2. Regulation 3.11 states: "The medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes; revisions to the plan shall be considered by the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget providing for implementation of the changes. The proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conference since the adoption of the plan".
3. At the nineteenth session of the Commission and its tenth meeting in 1984, the ECA Conference of Ministers examined and approved the proposals for first updating of and revisions to the medium-term plan of the Commission for the period 1984-1989 which, after further examination by the Committee for Programme Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, were incorporated in the "Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the Period 1984-1989 (supplement No. 6 (A/39/6))" which was approved by the General Assembly in its thirty-ninth session.
4. The medium-term plan, as revised for the second time, will serve as the framework for the formulation of the proposed programme budget for the 1988-1989 biennium which is the last biennium in the medium-term plan. The proposed revisions to the plan will be considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session in April-May 1986 and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986. The General Assembly will approve them at its forty-first session in September-December 1986.
5. In accordance with the Rule 103.11, revisions to the plan are required, inter alia:
 - (a) When intergovernmental mandates passed after the adoption of the plan call for new or substantially modified subprogramme;
 - (b) When the programme mandates in the opinion of the Secretary-General have become obsolete;
 - (c) When changes in the amount of voluntary resources available result in programme changes; and
 - (d) When the Secretary-General deems it necessary to propose new activities at the subprogramme level not covered by existing legislative mandates.

6. The updating and revisions suggested in this document have been done in accordance with the above cited regulations and the instructions of the Secretary-General and they are expected to be organized under the following headings:

- (a) Completely new programmes or subprogrammes;
- (b) Substantive revisions of existing programmes or subprogrammes; and
- (c) Other revisions (i.e. small textual revisions).

7. A completely new programme or subprogramme is required only when intergovernmental mandates adopted after the approval of the first revision of the plan call for activities whose objectives and strategy are not envisaged in the current plan.

8. A substantive revision of an entire programme is required only when its legislative basis has been significantly altered in such a way that it calls for related substantive modifications to the objectives and strategies of more than one existing programme. Substantive revision of a subprogramme is required if there has been a change in its legislative authority or in the problems addressed significantly enough to invalidate its objectives or the approach presented in its strategy for the last biennium of the current plan period. An organizational change which does not affect the subprogramme's objectives or strategy does not require a revision of the plan.

9. Small textual revisions are warranted where extensive changes in the objectives or strategy of a subprogramme is not needed but where small adjustments in the text of the current plan seem needed in order to correct errors or provide a clearer mandate for activities that may be proposed in the programme budget for the 1988-1989 biennium.

10. Since the small textual revisions do not affect the substance of the programmes, they are not presented in this document.

II. PROPOSED REVISIONS

11. According to the definition given above, a new subprogramme entitled "Trade promotion, market research, marketing techniques and trade information" under Programme 10 - International Trade and Development Finance in Africa is being proposed. The new subprogramme responds to repeated demands from African member States for better trade information, trade promotion and marketing which therefore need to be given sharp focus. Resolution 2 (VIII) adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in Brazzaville in October 1985 is particularly relevant. Furthermore, the new subprogramme will provide trade promotion support services to all other subprogrammes of the programme (see annex I).

12. Substantive revisions have been made to two subprogrammes, namely: Subprogramme 3: Integration of Women in Development under Programme 2: Social Development in Africa (see annex II); and Subprogramme 4: International Financial and Monetary Policies under Programme 10: International Trade and Development Finance in Africa.

ANNEX I

PROPOSALS FOR A NEW SUBPROGRAMME

Organization: Economic Commission for Africa

Major programme 16: International Trade and Development Finance

Programme 10: International Trade and Development Finance in Africa (ECA)

The following new subprogramme is proposed to be added to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 contained in A/37/6 X.

A. Explanation

Trade promotion covers all aspects of market research, marketing techniques, and trade information relating to domestic, intra-African and external trade. However, a review of the programme "International Trade and Development Finance in Africa" has revealed a serious oversight in that the trade promotion, marketing research and marketing techniques component was omitted when the medium-term plan was originally prepared. Although some elements were included under intra-African trade, quite a number of other aspects were left out. Yet, in the other regional commissions, provisions were made in the medium-term plan 1984-1989 for specific subprogrammes on trade promotion, market research and marketing techniques. More specifically, resolution 541(XX) of the Conference of Ministers calls for new measures to be adopted by African countries in promoting domestic and intra-African trade as well as specific support to the newly created Federation of African Chambers of Commerce. This requires a new thrust by the ECA secretariat. The importance of the inclusion of a new subprogramme in the medium-term plan cannot therefore be over-emphasized.

B. Subprogramme 5: Trade promotion, market research, marketing techniques and trade information.

(a) Legislative authority

16.121 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions 86(V), 100(VI), 199(IX), 262(XII) and 541(XX).

(b) Objectives

16.122 The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to design and promote trade promotion programmes aimed at improving the collection, analysis and exchange of market information, marketing techniques and business contacts necessary for developing Africa's domestic, intra-African and external trade by expanding exports and rationalizing imports;
- (ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to assist member States to implement trade promotion programmes aimed at improving the collection, analysis and exchange of information, marketing techniques and business contacts necessary for developing Africa's domestic, intra-African and external trade by expanding exports and rationalizing imports;
- (iii) Time limited subsidiary objectives of the secretariat:
 - Publication of trade brochures and other bulletins, trade directories and other relevant trade information and trade data aimed at achieving the following:
 - (a) provision to member States of more reliable and up-to-date information on trade opportunities available in Africa and elsewhere and on the latest techniques in marketing and trade promotion;
 - (b) provision of information on market channels and outlets for African traders seeking to develop new trade contacts with countries within and outside Africa;
 - (c) assistance in the establishment during 1986-1987 of national and subregional federations of chambers of commerce, agriculture, industry and mining; and
 - (d) the development of national trade promotion institutions that are capable of responding to the evergrowing need for increasing foreign exchange earnings through better marketing prospects.

(c) Problem addressed

16.123 Most African countries still face serious problems of developing reliable and adequate trade information for development and expansion of Africa's trade (domestic, intra-African and external) and establishing and/or strengthening of mechanisms and capabilities for trade promotion. Even at subregional and regional levels, there are no adequate policies for trade information,

training, import and export management, consultancy in trade and market research. This is a serious obstacle to the expansion of trade, especially intra-African trade as a means of promoting collective self-reliance in the region and the subprogramme will specifically address such issues.

(d) Strategy for the period 1988-1989

16.124 In order to develop comprehensive trade information systems, emphasis will continue to be placed on (a) technical advisory services aimed at the strengthening of existing trade promotion institutions and linking trade with industrial and agricultural production; (b) research studies aimed at identifying problems and opportunities for developing new trade opportunities and trade channels especially geared to the expansion of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation; (c) proposals and policies for the creation of appropriate subregional and regional trade promotion mechanisms such as federations of chambers of commerce and industry and associations of manufacturers and dealers; and (d) specific measures for assisting the African countries in establishing trade information systems at the national, subregional and regional levels with a view to linking all existing and potential traders not only with one another but with similar institutions outside Africa, so as to encourage the adoption of national trade development policies. In addition, the secretariat will progressively develop a programme of management consultancy in the field of trade with a view to assisting the existing State trading organizations and the creation of new ones and to enhance their role in inter-African trade. Feasibility studies will be carried out and concrete proposals made for the effective establishment of African multinational production and marketing enterprises specifically geared to supporting existing subregional and regional integration schemes.

ANNEX II

SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS OF EXISTING SUBPROGRAMMES

Organization: Economic Commission for Africa

Major programme 21: Social development and humanitarian affairs

Programmes 2: Social development in Africa (ECA)

The following text is a revision of the plan presented in paragraphs 21.65 to 21.68 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 contained in A/37/6 X.

A. Legislative basis of the revision

Economic Commission for Africa res. 535(XX); General Assembly resolution 40/108 on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking strategies for the advancement of women.

B. Subprogramme 3: Integration of women in development

(a) Legislative authority

21.65 - Economic Commission for Africa resolutions 360(XIV), 361(XIV), 447(XVII), 512(XIX), 535(XX); General Assembly resolutions 3520(XXX), 37/58, 37/59 and 39/128.

(b) Objectives

21.66 - The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objectives: to promote the equitable participation of women in the development process of the Africa region;
- (ii) General objectives of the secretariat: to assist member States to implement the Arusha Strategies for the advancement of women beyond the United Nations Decade for Women in the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

(c) Problem addressed

21.67 - States members of ECA need data on the economic role of women in the context of future socio-economic trends in order to formulate policies aimed at integrating women in mainstream development strategies.

(d) Strategy for the period 1988-1989

21.68 - Research and policy analysis on the economic role of women and their access to factors of production will be carried out. Inter-disciplinary research for projections on the socio-economic situation of women to the year 2000 will continue with a view to improving the effectiveness of national development plans. Training in the use and development gender-related indicators will be carried out. Assistance to member States in the formulation of plans for the effective participation of women in food production and food security in the regions will be strengthened, particularly dissemination of information to rural women on appropriate home and farm technologies, income generating activities with relevant training. Monitoring to analyse the changing condition of women in the region will be also conducted, and information on progress in implementing the above-mentioned strategies at regional level will be disseminated.

Major programme 16: International trade and development finance

Programme 10: International trade and development finance in Africa (ECA)

The following text is a revision of the plan presented in paragraphs 16.103 to 16.120 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 contained in A/37/6 X.

A. Legislative basis of the revision

ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 541(XX).

B. Subprogramme 4: International financial and monetary policies.

(a) Legislative authority

16.115 - The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Conference of Ministers resolutions 405(XVI) and 541(XX).

(b) Objectives

16.116 - The objectives of this subprogramme are:

- (i) Intergovernmental objective: to promote the flow of international financial resources to developing African countries, especially the least developed ones; to adopt appropriate strategies for strengthening the negotiating capacity of African countries in international monetary and financial relations; to develop effective measures for dealing with

Africa's external indebtedness; to encourage the reduction of financial and monetary obstacles to the expansion of intra-African trade as well as trade among developing countries through financial and monetary co-operation; to encourage the improvement and strengthening of the capacity of African countries to mobilize domestic resources.

- (ii) General objective of the secretariat: to undertake studies and research aimed at identifying concrete measures and techniques of mobilizing domestic and external resources, improving financial and monetary co-operation in African countries and between Africa and other regions for the purpose of expanding intra-African trade and international trade respectively; to analyse the main developments in the international monetary and financial system with a view to providing advisory services and technical assistance on how to deal with the impact on African economies.
- (iii) Time limited objectives of the secretariat:
- (a) To assist member States to prepare and participate effectively in the negotiations on a fundamental reform of the international monetary and financial system (1986-1987);
 - (b) To assist member States in overcoming their mounting external indebtedness and their balance-of-payments problem and to this end, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank, prepare technical studies and offer advisory services on the International Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness (1986-1989);
 - (c) To assist member States to establish more subregional clearing and payments institutions in different parts of Africa linking the resulting institutions into an all-African clearing and payments system and the establishment of an African Monetary Fund during the plan period especially during 1988-1989;
 - (d) To identify co-operative action to be taken by African countries among themselves in terms of linkages to be established between subregional clearing arrangements and with other developing countries so as to bring about an international financial and monetary system that will sustain their development efforts (1988-1989), and to assess the implications of the possible involvement of African countries in multilateral financial and monetary arrangements with other developing countries (1988-1989).

C. Problem addressed

16.117 - Recent development in international monetary and financial relations manifested in factors such as the reduction in flows of concessionary financial resources, high interest rates, mounting external debts and worsening balance-of-payments deficits call for a new strategy and approach to international monetary and financial relations.

D. Strategy for the period 1988-1989

16.118 - In research studies, policy proposals and technical advisory services, the highest priority will be given to strengthening the existing national, subregional and regional monetary and financial institutional capabilities and developing new ones as appropriate for domestic and external resource mobilization including the rational utilization and management of such resources. High priority will also be given to efforts aimed at finding effective solutions to the problems of external debts and balance of payments and to the promotion of increased resource flows to African countries on concessional terms; the development and strengthening of monetary and financial relations with other developing regions; establishment of payments and clearing arrangements in North Africa; strengthening of existing development finance institutions; establishment of an African Monetary Fund (1986-1989); and North Africa (1988-1989); and other forms of monetary and financial co-operation. Continued support will be provided to member States with a view to developing and improving their negotiating techniques in international monetary and financial negotiations.