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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
African Institute for Higher  
Technical Training and Research

Extraordinary Meeting of the  
Governing Council

Addis Ababa, 15-16 June 1981

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF  
MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 24-25 NOVEMBER, 1980

Despite meetings held and agreements arrived at in Belgrade in September during the recent UNESCO Conference, and the early despatch of documents, all to ensure a good attendance at the November Executive Committee meeting, and although there had been indications earlier during the week of the meeting that the attendance would be satisfactory, a quorum was not in fact attained. After consultations on November 24 with the Acting Chairman of Council, the Minister for Higher Education in Kenya, Hon. J.J. Kamotho, a meeting was held at 10.15 a.m. on 25 November, with the following members present:

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Mr. E.A. Wangai           | Kenya                             |
| - Mr. C.I. Eli              | Nigeria                           |
| - Mr. T. Egedo              | Nigeria                           |
| - Mr. C.I. Edokpayi         | ECA                               |
| - Mr. C.P.C. Metcalfe       | UNDP                              |
| - Mr. V.C.O. Mwanze         | Nigerian High Commission, Nairobi |
| - Engr. Prof. M.O. Chijioke | Director-General                  |

The report below incorporates the Acting Chairman's views, as requested at the meeting, on the deliberations which were reported to him after the meeting.

Discussion was limited to examining possible actions to overcome the impasse and lack of progress confronting the Institute, in that so far the signed-up membership has not attained the constitutional minimum of thirteen, and of signed-up members only two, Kenya and Nigeria, have so far paid parts of their assessments. Also, two meetings each of the Executive Committee and the Academic Board have so far been called, but none has attained the necessary quorum for business to be formally transacted; consequently the Institute has not as yet the requisite authority to launch its training programme. Worse, it cannot interview, let alone engage teaching and support staff until more member states' contributions, in whole or in part, arrive and thus make it possible for external support, in particular the UNDP contribution to the Project, to be released.

It was agreed that this situation clearly stems from the ineffectiveness, typified by the lack of a quorum at meetings, of the arrangements so far made to facilitate the operation of the Institute (as compared for instance with the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing in Ibadan, Nigeria). In particular, the absence of any organic link with the ECA (which apart from being founding fathers with the OAU, is also the Executing Agency for the substantial UNDP contribution) was identified. Accordingly, the following actions were agreed upon:

- (1) Seeing that an emergency situation confronts the Institute, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council would be called by the ECA on a date in February 1981 yet to be fixed.
- (2) Between now and then, the ECA and the Director-General will conduct missions, some of these already scheduled, for more signatures and funds contributions from OAU-ECA member States.

- (3) On a continuing basis, the Kenya Government, the UNDP, the ECA and the OAU should also bring all their good offices, diplomatic and otherwise to bear on the problem of securing more Country Memberships of the Institute.
- (4) The Extraordinary Meeting of Council should review the constitutional bodies as proposed in Item 7 of the attached Provisional Agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting. The main amendments suggested would provide for (i) voting membership on the Governing Council and on its Executive Committee for the ECA and the OAU, and (ii) the responsible Minister of the host country to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of Council.
- (5) In view of the repeated absences from scheduled meetings by many members, which have frustrated the operations of the relevant machineries, new elections for the Chairman and for the Vice-Chairman of Council, and for the Country members of the Executive Committee should be held at the said Extraordinary Meeting, bearing in mind also the usual geographical and linguistic balances. A similar reorganisation of the Academic Board membership seems to be called for, but could be effected by co-option pending the normal re-election of members.
- (6) Every effort should be made between now and February by the ECA to identify qualified francophone candidates for the post of Deputy-Director General in the task of institution building and in making effective contacts on behalf of the Institute.
- (7) The other items on the attached Provisional Agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting were also thought to require urgent attention.
- (8) A special appeal was made to the Host Government to take every action possible, in particular the secondment of two to three administrative staff as requested by the Director-General in Document EXCO 80/C, for three to four months, to ease the take-off weight on the shoulders of the Director-General.

PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY  
MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Addis Ababa, \_\_\_\_\_ February 1981

1. Welcome address by the ECA Executive Secretary
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Summary Records of Second Session
4. Signing of the Constitution by new members
5. Operation of Institute's machinery - Oral Report by the Secretariat
6. Payment of Members' contributions and ways to facilitate payments
7. Proposed Constitutional amendments
8. Elections:     (a) Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council  
                  (b) Country Members of the Executive Committee  
                  (c) Review of membership of the Academic Board
9. Appointment of Deputy Director-General and other core staff
10. Adoption of Institute's Master Plan - Draft Resolution
11. Adoption of Institute's Technical co-operation Project
12. Arrangements for the Institute's Pledging Conference
13. Any other Business
14. Closing of meeting