

25777

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL

E/CN.14/SR.161(X)

11 February 1971

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth session;
Conference of Ministers

Tunis, 8-13 February 1971

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

held at the Bourse du Travail, Tunis
on Thursday, 11 February 1971, at 3.20 p.m.

CONTENTS: Membership and associate membership of the Commission (continued)
Statements by observers (continued)
Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa
Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s

Chairman: Mr. Tijani Chelli Tunisia

Executive Secretary: Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner

Secretary: Mr. L.K. Darboux

Corrections to the summary record should be signed by the delegation concerned and submitted in triplicate, to the Secretary of the Commission not later than 15 February 1971.

MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION (continued)

Mr. LEBSANFT (Federal Republic of Germany) stressed the vital importance of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. In that context, Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s (E/CN.14/493/Rev.3) represented a remarkable contribution to the overall international strategy. His Government considered that the starting-point had to be increased productivity and diversification in the agricultural sector and its integration into the economic process. Agriculture more than any other sector would determine future rates of growth and social progress, although dynamic changes could only come about in combination with the promotion of trade and industry. The strategy seemed well balanced in its concentration on a number of key areas and provided a sound basis for intensified co-operation with ECA.

In the near future his Government would take decisions designed to bring its development policies into line with the International Strategy. Priority would be given to the elimination of unemployment and under-employment, the promotion of labour, structural adaptation in rural districts, diversification of production structures in trade and industry, measures to increase the capability of recipient countries to manage their own planning, and assistance for population programmes and the improvement of nutrition and public health. An effort would also be made to group isolated projects into one consistent programme in order to ensure better co-ordination. Thus, decisions in the field of development policy would be taken on the basis of country-related aid programmes.

Referring to the assistance provided by the Federal Republic of Germany to Africa, he stated that total commitments up to the end of 1970 amounted to \$800 million, not including Government guarantees for suppliers' credits. Of total bilateral technical assistance, the African countries had shared 43.7 per cent up to July 1970. His Government also provided one-third of the total resources of the Development Fund of the European Economic Community and made considerable contributions to IBRD, IDA and other international organizations.

While on that subject, he wished to express his Government's regret at the harm recently suffered by some of its nationals working in an African country. Public opinion had been shocked by the incident, which his Government hoped would not impair its efforts to assist Africa.

The Federal Republic of Germany intended to strengthen its economic relations with Africa and increase its development assistance. In particular, it would continue to encourage private investment in African countries. Inter-State trade in Africa as well as trade with the industrialized world could make an important contribution to the achievement of economic and social progress. In that connexion, his own country's trade with Africa had almost trebled over the past nine years. African participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, for which his Government offered financial assistance, could help to increase the sale of African goods in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The fact that his country's trade balance with African developing countries had been adverse to the Federal Republic in past years had helped to ease Africa's balance of payments. Furthermore, his Government intended to help African countries to derive as much benefit as possible from the system of generalized preferences. In conclusion, he pledged his Government's support, within established priorities, for ECA's future activities.

Mr. WALRAVEN (Netherlands) expressed his Government's keen interest in ECA's activities and its desire to contribute to ECA's programme of work. Since the ninth session an International Development Strategy had been adopted in which ECA had an important part to play. With its insight into the needs and problems of the African countries, ECA was in a unique position to assist its members in drawing up national, sub-regional and regional development plans. ECA also had major responsibility for reviews and appraisals at the regional level. The document on Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s afforded a clear picture of the important task facing ECA. Having always strongly advocated the idea of an international strategy, the Netherlands would contribute to its goals to the best of its ability. In that connexion, it should be noted that in its 1971 budget the target of 1 per cent of net national income for development aid had been attained.

His country had co-operated in several ECA activities; such as the Niger River project, the African Telecommunications Network, the programme on housing and building, documentation on fiscal administration, the establishment of regional training centres and the preparation of an industrial perspective plan for North Africa. His Government was prepared to provide further support, including the services of highly qualified experts.

On 1 January 1971 a centre had been set up in the Netherlands for the promotion of imports from the developing countries. Its functions were to promote prosperity in the developing world by providing information about marketing opportunities in the advanced countries, in particular Western Europe, and to act as an intermediary between potential suppliers and purchasers. The centre would maintain contact with the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre and would be glad to co-operate with ECA's Africa Trade Centre.

Mr. VENKATESAN (India) noted the progress made in the past year and welcomed the establishment of the Africa Trade Centre, to which his Government planned to provide two experts for the study of Africa's trade with developing countries in East Asia.

Many references had been made to the International Development Strategy, which reflected the consensus reached at the Conference of Non-Alligned Countries held in 1970 at Lusaka. The document on Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s focussed attention on many important aspects of the global strategy, which acknowledged the need for trade expansion, economic co-operation, regional integration and the establishment of preferential trade arrangements. In addition, as the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had pointed out, there was a need to hold consultations between shippers and ship-owners with a view to establishing reasonable and stable freight rates. A further important aspect of the global strategy was the development of technology suitable for the developing countries and the formulation of plans in a world context. He felt confident that in drawing up Africa's development strategy all the essential elements of the global strategy would be included. The central theme must be self-reliance, which also implied self-confidence. There was still an unfortunate tendency, even among the developing countries themselves, to under-rate their own achievements.

By planned effort India had succeeded in building up its industries to the point where it could now manufacture complete plants. Indian businessmen had collaborated in several joint ventures in Africa and hoped to continue to do so in the future. For that purpose they needed to know what conditions and safeguards existed. Clearly defined investment codes would be a valuable instrument for that purpose.

Several African countries had already taken advantage of India's experience in the development of small-scale industries and his country would be happy to offer help to other countries. In that connexion, he hoped that many African representatives would attend the Second Afro-Asian Conference on Small-scale Industries to be held in New Delhi in April 1971.

At the bilateral and multilateral levels, India had been trying to increase and diversify its trade with other developing countries and had gained valuable experience in the workings of triangular trading arrangements. His country also intended to co-operate with the developing nations of Africa in working out arrangements for preferential trade exchanges. Unfortunately, the trade prospects of the developing countries were clouded by the protectionist tendencies of some advanced nations, and he therefore welcomed the introduction of a generalized scheme of preferences. It was reasonable to expect that the preference-giving countries would not only take the necessary legislative steps to implement those arrangements as early as possible during 1971, but also introduce further arrangements.

With regard to technical co-operation, India provided practical courses for trainees from developing countries in such varied sectors as steel technology and sugar manufacture. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade was at present conducting a programme on international marketing with several African participants, and his Government planned to supply experts in various fields to ECA member States. His country would be glad to make available its considerable experience in drawing up industrial programmes on a national scale, planning industrial complexes and estates, and carrying out feasibility studies.

Mr. SMITH (United States of America) said that his Government was giving emphasis to greater economic co-operation among African countries in order to bring about better resource allocation and to provide for economies of scale. In agriculture, the United States supported the creation of the West Africa Rice Development Association, which it hoped would become a model for co-operation in tackling the problem of self-sufficiency in food. Assistance was being given to the African Development Bank and it was hoped to participate in the Bank's special fund. In transport, the United States had financed numerous studies and surveys to help develop highway networks. In keeping with its support for the International Development Strategy, his Government endorsed the approach set forth in the document on Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s. He hoped that the resolutions adopted on that subject would lead to constructive and practical measures.

ECA was the principal economic institution in Africa responsible for reviewing regional and sub-regional economic and social problems, assisting nations with their development plans, helping to formulate regional and sub-regional programmes and evaluating development activities. It was expected that ECA would play an increasingly important role in Africa's progress towards achieving the goals of the Second Development Decade. Within the limits of available resources, the United States Government intended to continue its direct support for some of ECA's important new projects. Mr. Rogers, his country's Secretary of State, had promised strong support for wider co-operation among African countries and in particular for ECA. Current United States plans included assistance for the provision of experts for the joint ECA/FAO studies on intra-regional co-operation and trade in agriculture, an expert to assist the regional trade promotion centre, an expert to assist ECA in industrial promotion and information, experts to assist the joint ECA/FAO Division in the livestock development study, scholarships for the staff development programme and funds to assist programmes of the Centre for Population. In addition, the United States would continue to make available the services of experts on a short-term basis.

Assistance to the African nations would continue through other channels: for instance, the United States contributed 36 per cent to the budget of the United Nations system and its direct aid to Africa amounted to over \$300 million per year. President Nixon had recently proposed to increase substantially United States contributions to multilateral development institutions, to bring science and technology to bear more effectively on development problems, to devote special attention to population problems, debt servicing and the introduction of greater flexibility into bilateral and multilateral aid problems, to stimulate private United States investment within the framework of the developing nations' own plans and to offer a system of generalized tariff preferences, including priority attention to requests from the least developed countries. In conclusion, he stated that ECA had a vital role to play in realizing the goals of the International Development Strategy.

STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS (continued)

Mr. TCHANQUE (Secretary-General of the Central African Customs and Economic Union), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, stressed that economic development was a long-term process, whose success was promoted by the creation of groups of countries bound together by political, historical, economic and cultural ties. His own organization was a striking confirmation of that principle. Created on 8 December 1964, it comprised the Federal Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the People's Republic of the Congo, and Gabon, which together formed a market of ten million inhabitants with a gross national product of 500 thousand million CFA francs. Its chief aims were to enlarge domestic markets, to promote the harmonious development of the economies of member States and to ensure the gradual establishment of a Central African common market. To that end, the members of the Union had decided to co-ordinate their industrialization policies, their planning and their transport systems with a view to promoting the development and diversification of their respective economies.

The Union had also instituted customs and fiscal arrangements designed to expand trade between its member States. A joint convention had been adopted to harmonize the advantages to be accorded to private investors. As regards industrial co-operation, efforts had been directed towards the establishment of sub-regional industries in which all member States participated, which constituted a completely new departure in that the companies set up were the property of the Union.

The objectives of the Union and ECA were similar and he looked forward to fruitful co-operation between the two organizations in the interests of the African continent as a whole.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN AFRICA (E/CN.14/480 Rev.1, Parts I AND II) (continued)

AFRICA'S STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1970s (E/CN.14/439/Rev.3) (continued)

Mr. TNANI (Tunisia) congratulated the secretariat on the impressive documentation it had produced but wished to make a few detailed observations. In the view of his delegation, part I of the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa (E/CN.14/480 Rev.1) should have been submitted to the Technical Committee of Experts for detailed examination with a view to removing certain factual inaccuracies. For instance, the statement concerning an agreement on shipping between Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya on pages 75 and 95 should be corrected, since no shipping line as yet existed, merely a link between Rabat and Tripoli under the direction of the Compagnie Tunisienne de Navigation. Part II, which concerned agriculturally biased economies, had greatly interested his delegation, which nevertheless believed that certain arguments should have been presented in greater detail in order to avoid ambiguity. For example, the theory of the divorce between rulers and ruled, advanced on pages 46 and 47 was finally rejected. The impression left on the reader was either that too little or too much had been said. Chapter VIII of Part II referred to the "green revolution" and the question of the use of fertilizers and of the development of high-yield varieties of rice and wheat was mentioned but not developed. The same consideration applied to the claim that the international corporation was an agency for the transmission of technical progress and capital resources, a point of view which should have been counterbalanced by a full statement of the contrary opinion. Those observations should not be construed as major criticisms but as corrections of detail to an excellent document.

Mr. MENSAH (Ghana) said that the African continent suffered from extreme poverty despite its rich natural endowments, was dependent on an inhospitable international climate, relied largely on trade and savings for its development, and had a low degree of self-reliance. The foundations of African economy were weak and the structure of production was out of step with the demand for commodities and services. Productivity was very low, technology was backward, and manpower, although potentially plentiful, was undeveloped. Industrialized countries such as France and the United Kingdom focussed their assistance activities on culture and made very little effort to acquaint Africans with the useful arts of life.

Because conditions varied so much from country to country any strategy drawn up for Africa must necessarily be all-embracing and thus ran the risk of appearing out of focus. The United Nations Committee for Development Planning had been obliged to concentrate on only a few specific aspects of international action, in order to ensure that national planning efforts to define strategy would succeed. National planning was needed to define and refine strategy and to identify means of application and obstacles likely to be encountered.

He did not consider that development targets should be established on the basis of projections from the past into the future, because the performance of African countries in the past had been extremely low. It was true that certain deep-seated weaknesses did exist, such as the shortage of skilled manpower and the lack of adapted technology in the crucial sector of agriculture. In some countries, pre-occupation with the political situation had led to decreased concentration on the task of national development. Nevertheless, he was convinced that a higher than average growth rate could be attained in the 1970's if efforts were concentrated on development. The target set for the decade was a 4 per cent rate of growth in agriculture and an 8 per cent rate of growth in industry, those figures to be reviewed in the mid-70s. In his view, a more ambitious target should be set for the agricultural sector in Africa. As far as industry was concerned, Africa would be starting practically from scratch and the rate of growth would probably attain 8 per cent even if no positive steps were taken to encourage industrial development.

There would be two constraints to the attainment of a higher than average target in Africa, namely, the low rate of savings and the foreign exchange problem. Existing institutions for the mobilization of domestic savings were weak and not sufficiently varied and the interest-rate policies of many countries were not designed to induce a maximum rate of savings. Advice and technical assistance were needed from the international community on those problems.

Turning to the question of trade, he said that since the first UNCTAD, the international community had not taken any significant action in respect of primary commodities, which constituted the bulk of Africa's external trade. The system of preferences established by UNCTAD had not yet had any noticeable effects on Africa's trade position and needed thorough scrutiny and review. He appealed to countries members of OECD and to the United States of America to review their policies in that respect.

The African countries should continue to voice their need for supplementary financing and terms of assistance which were better adapted to their debt-servicing possibilities. The international community must recognize that the debt policies followed over the past twenty years had aggravated the debt problem considerably, and that no civilized international principles had yet been laid down in that connexion. No agreement had as yet been reached on the untying of aid, and it was to be hoped that the discussions being held on the question would be resumed as soon as possible. It did not seem to him that any of the developed countries would suffer any loss from a truly multilateral untying of aid.

It was gratifying to note that some developed countries were making efforts to increase their development aid to the desired level. He welcomed the statement by the United States observer that the United States Government intended to contribute to the African Development Fund. Unfortunately, very little was known of Japan's intentions in respect of assistance to the Third World. In addition, the conservative attitude adopted by the countries with centrally planned economies continued to be a matter of concern to his delegation.

Every possible step must be taken to ensure attainment of the targets set. In that respect, it was indispensable for the African countries to adopt a coherent position and to express their views unequivocally on the occasion of the third UNCTAD. The fact that the United Nations had failed to take effective action on the recommendations made by the Commission in connexion with the preparation of the third UNCTAD was a matter of great concern to his delegation, which intended to submit a draft resolution on that question to the Conference.

The African countries must co-operate with each other in seeking to solve their development problems themselves. The West African countries already knew what form they wished co-operation to take in their region and hoped for outside assistance in their efforts. As had been stressed by the Committee for Development Planning, the wrong use of wealth acquired could lead to stagnation; steps should be taken to avoid the emergence of that problem in an acute form in the 1970s. National mobilization, planned action and sustained efforts were the necessary pre-requisites for economic development in Africa.

Mr. ONANA (Cameroon) said it was regrettable that the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa (E/CN.14/480/Rev.1) had not been submitted to the Technical Committee of Experts for examination. After drawing attention to two errors in the information provided in the document about his country, he said that member States should be consulted more fully when such surveys were made. Frequent reference was made in the survey to the works and theories of foreign economists but there was practically no mention of the work being done by African economists.

With regard to the question of Africa's strategy for development, he confirmed the views expressed by his delegation in the meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts.

Mr. SYLLA (Senegal), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Arab Republic, read out the draft text of eight paragraphs concerning relations between ECA and UNIDO and the UNIDO Special International Conference, and suggested that it be included in the draft report of the Conference to be discussed under agenda item 12.

Mr. NEAL (Liberia) said that he would comment on agenda items 6,7 and 8, with particular reference to the principles of self-reliance, which was of the utmost importance to the progress of ECA's work. Comparison of the economic information contained in the secretariat's reports with economic data from other sections of the developing world showed that the African region was the least developed. His delegation was convinced that if the 6 per cent growth target indicated in the Strategy for Development report was to be achieved, the flow of finance from international sources, particularly that channelled through ECA, would have to be increased. If implemented, ECA's proposed programme of work for 1971-1973 would substantially help to achieve the targets set out in the development strategy, but first ECA must be made more functional and more responsive to the economic and social needs of Member States. Decentralization of its activities was essential. Secondly, ECA must do more than produce studies; it must turn its attention to concrete projects. Moreover, it should establish a well thought-out list of priorities. Rather than continuing to disperse its activities, the programmes to be undertaken should be gone into in greater depth. Member States must ensure a more effective distribution of resources within ECA.

He drew attention to certain projects which his delegation considered essential for the implementation of the development strategy. Transport and communications must be improved if inter-regional trade was to be fostered and it was encouraging to note the ECA project for a trans-continental highway. Consideration should be given to economic structures, the need to expand national markets to cover wider areas and the optimum scale of enterprises to achieve maximum output. The iron and steel project undertaken by ECA for the West African sub-region was the type of activity which should be encouraged. Traditional agricultural structures should be transformed. Some 70 per cent of the population of Africa still continued to employ outdated techniques but if agriculture was to play a supporting role in the promotion of economic growth, it must be brought up to date. He was glad to note the work done by ECA particularly in connexion with the import of seeds, pesticides, etc. The ECA programme

for hydrological studies was valuable for those countries which had seasonal water problems. Finally, ECA must co-operate with UNCTAD in undertaking studies which would enable the African countries to become members of the main shipping conferences. The majority of African countries were heavily dependent on mineral exports in bulk and 40 per cent of the cost of those products represented freight charges.

The African countries were embarking upon the Second Development Decade with a clearer picture of the problems facing them and realization that the responsibility for solving those problems lay primarily with them. He endorsed the proposed African strategy for development in the 1970's (E/CN.14/493/Rev.3). He reiterated the need for special measures to help the least developed among the developing countries, and drew attention to the co-ordinating role which must be played by ECA to enable governments to work closely together and thus avoid the disappointing experiences of the past decade.

Mr. ANCHOUEY (GABON) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the important decisions so far adopted by the Conference. He was particularly interested in Africa's strategy for development (agenda item 8). Gabon had recently adopted its second five-year development plan, covering the period 1971-1975 with special emphasis on the sectors of education, agriculture, health, transport and prices. He was glad to note the importance attached by the secretariat to education and training and his Government welcomed the establishment in Gabon of the OCAM Institute. He noted the emphasis placed in the secretariat report on the close relationship between the agricultural and industrial sectors and hoped that experiments in integrated rural development would be tried out in various regions. He also noted the project for a trunk road across Central Africa. His Government welcomed the proposed meeting of transport experts to be held in Gabon.

Since prices in Gabon were in general extremely high, he was glad to note the research being undertaken by ECA which might make it possible to contain excessive price rises. The structure and formation of prices and the reasons for price increases should be studied and ECA should propose possible solutions and provide consultative services to governments. So far as loans, especially in the field of agriculture, were concerned, the main attention should be focussed on IDA loans granted on reasonable terms. Consideration should also be given to repayment terms, reductions in interest rates and measures to assist countries in servicing their external debt. Finally, he suggested that the Executive Secretary should draw up a comparative table giving full information about all the conferences, seminars, study groups, expert meetings, and so on proposed for the region, to enable countries to see exactly which ones they were interested in attending and make suitable arrangements to do so in good time.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) said that his delegation associated itself with the recommendation by countries members of UNIDO and urged all delegations to support the text read out by the representative of Senegal.

Mr. MOPOLO-DADET (People's Republic of the Congo) said, in connexion with agenda item 8, that the governments of Africa had at last realized that they must rely on their own efforts to fashion their future; they should no longer passively submit to events but should make their collective strength felt. The secretariat report showed how precarious, even after a decade of independence, that independence was. There could be no real development strategy unless it incorporated a strategy designed to put an end to the manoeuvres of those who were hindering African development. The difficulties currently being experienced by African countries were a legacy of colonial domination and they must seek complete freedom from colonial constraints, such as the senseless and anachronistic war still being waged by Portugal. The attitude of Portugal and of the racist minorities in Africa had inspired a cunning plot which had led to such actions as the proposed Cabora Bassa dam project. The Conference should denounce the action of the foreign firms involved in that project, and express its full solidarity with its brothers in Guinea (Bissau), Mozambique and Angola. The effects of the attempt at colonial reconquest were being felt in the economic pillage of the African countries, and the deterioration in their terms of trade. The countries of Africa must have no truck with imperialism; no compromise was possible with the enemy, although it might be admitted as a tactical manoeuvre. If governments continued to act separately, the situation would not change; only a full realization of their national identity would enable them to attain true independence.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary), commenting on some of the points raised, said in reply to the representative of Tunisia that a substantial number of copies of the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1969 (E/CN.14/480/Rev.1) had been distributed during the meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts. He invited representatives to communicate in writing to the secretariat any amendments or corrections to the document. The survey covered a very important aspect of the Commission's work and it would continue to be produced each year.

He entirely agreed with the representative of Ghana regarding the basing of future projections on past performance; nevertheless ECA was compelled to base its work on assumptions which might be considered realistic, and past experience did not encourage a more daring assumption than a growth of 4 per cent in agricultural production and 8 per cent in industrial production. He hoped that actual performance would surpass those figures. The secretariat had concentrated on the subject of savings and foreign exchange but governmental response was slow and it had been difficult to collect full information for such international meetings as UNCTAD III. He hoped that governments would choose their most responsible officials to represent them at the forthcoming UNCTAD III and UNIDO meetings.

The Survey (E/CN.14/480/Rev.1) had been published on the responsibility of the secretariat because of the difficulty in getting replies from governments before the text had to be finalized. Every effort was being made to make use of more African sources, so far as that was consistent with maintaining a scholarly approach. The report on development strategy in the 1970s (E/CN.14/493/Rev.3) was meant to give an indication of elements which countries could select as a basis for their own strategy. Senegal, for instance, had indicated that it wished to place particular emphasis on industry. The Liberian representative had suggested that ECA's efforts were being too widely dispersed, but reference to the resolutions adopted by the Commission showed that the secretariat was expected to deal with all aspects of economic development in Africa. Efforts were made to concentrate on specific aspects and there had been an intensification of activities connected with trade and industry after the setting up of UNCTAD and UNIDO. The secretariat, despite its extremely limited resources, was also devoting attention to science and technology, to rural development, to transport and to invisibles. He drew attention to part II of the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1969, which attempted to analyse economic trends and types of economy. That section was a preliminary venture and he hoped that in future years it could be improved with the collaboration of delegations.

He noted that agenda item 9 had been fairly fully covered by the statement of the observers for international organizations. Under that item, he drew attention to document E/CN.14/INF/50 which indicated that more than twenty international organizations were channelling resources to Africa through the auspices of ECA.

Mr. MENSAH (Ghana) proposed that the Commission should complete its discussion of agenda items 7 and 8 by taking formal note of the Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa (E/CN.14/480/Rev.1) and by adopting the report on Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s (E/CN.14/493/Rev.3).

Mr. SYLLA (Senegal) said that the adoption of a development strategy implied the need for the designation of an instrument to implement that strategy. The role and functions of the Commission were in a state of flux pending the results of the questionnaire for the study on regional structures. He therefore proposed that the Conference should adopt a resolution defining ECA's role in respect of development strategy and the exact relationship between it and the specialized agencies.

Mr. BELAI ABBAI (Ethiopia) supported the view expressed by the representative of Senegal. One of the most important resolutions being considered by the Commission was on the subject of African development strategy, and it was essential to have machinery for its implementation.

Mr. MAMADOU TOURE (Mauritania) said that in view of the complexity of the document on development strategy his delegation would be reluctant to approve it, and he suggested that the Commission should merely take note of it.

Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary) said that he hoped that governments would not hesitate to request assistance from the secretariat for the implementation of their development strategy. He was not, however, quite sure what was meant by an implementing agency, since implementation would be at three levels: national, sub-regional and regional.

Mr. TNANI (Tunisia) said that all delegations were in agreement on the substance of the strategy, and the question of the means by which it was to be implemented should not delay ratification of the secretariat's report. He therefore fully supported the ~~Chanaian~~ representatives proposal on agenda items 7 and 8.

Mr. MOPOLO-DADET (People's Republic of the Congo) said that although the report on strategy, on which he had commented at some length, was an efficient instrument, it was incomplete in certain aspects. His delegation would therefore adopt it with reservations.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Conference should take note of the Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1969 (E/CN.14/480/Rev.1).

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Conference to adopt the report on Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s (E/CN.14/493/Rev.3).

The report was adopted subject to the reservations expressed by the representatives of Senegal, Mauritania and the People's Republic of the Congo.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.