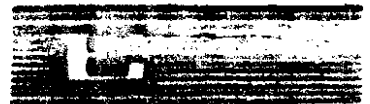




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Seventh meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the Whole
7-14 April 1986, Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon

DRAFT REPORT

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole was held in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, from 7 to 14 April 1986. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu, Secretary of State for the Plan and Regional Development. Statements were also made at the opening ceremony by the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, and Mr. Djomatchoua Toko, representing the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe.
3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission were present: China (People's Republic of), France, Korea, Switzerland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. An observer from the following State not a Member of the United Nations was also present: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
4. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) were represented.
5. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank.

6. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: African Development Bank (ADB), African Association of Trade Promotion Organization (AATPO), African Centre for Monetary Studies (ACMS), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC), Conseil International des Femmes, Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), Economic and Social Council of Cameroon, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS) and Organization of African Unity (OAU).

7. The Committee unanimously elected the following bureau:

Chairman:	Cameroon
First Vice-Chairman:	Mali
Second Vice-Chairman:	Egypt
Rapporteur:	Uganda

8. The Committee decided to establish an open ended resolutions committee composed of the following core member States from the different subregions:

Eastern and Southern Africa:	Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania
West Africa:	Mali, Nigeria, Togo
North Africa:	Algeria, Morocco, the Sudan
Central Africa:	Cameroon, Chad, Rwanda.

B. AGENDA

9. On 8 April 1986, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on ECA activities, 1984-1985.
5. Review and appraisal of the economic situation in 1984-1985 and perspectives for 1986:
 - (a) Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1984-1985;
 - (b) ECA/ADB economic report on Africa 1986.
6. Preparations for the International Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness.
7. The situation of food and agriculture in Africa:
 - (a) Report to the Conference of Ministers on the food situation in Africa;
 - (b) Report to the Conference of Ministers on review of food and agricultural policies in Africa: A basis for improving government policy planning capacities;
 - (c) Report to the Conference of Ministers on measures for the improvement of co-operatives and small farmers' organizations/associations in the marketing of food and livestock products;
 - (d) Report to the Conference of Ministers on a study of food import substitution programmes in Africa;

- (e) Report to the Conference of Ministers on land-use policies and farming systems in Africa;
- (f) Report on review of programmes and strategies of intergovernmental institutions to reduce food waste and losses in Africa;
- (g) Report on a survey of constraints on the improvement of storage facilities in Central and North Africa.

8. Progress in the implementation of ongoing special programmes:

- (a) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa:
Progress report on the second phase programme and consideration of future action;
- (b) United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa:
Joint progress report by ECA, UNIDO and OAU and consideration of future action;
- (c) Review and appraisal of the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in Africa.

9. Promotion of economic co-operation and integration:

- (a) Reports from the MULPOCs' Councils of Ministers;
- (b) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of ECA-sponsored specialized institutions, 1984-1985;
- (c) Biennial consolidated programme of work and priorities including budgets of ECA-sponsored specialized institutions, 1986-1987;
- (d) Regional and interregional economic and technical co-operation issues for consideration.

10. Institutional development: Establishment of the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development: Progress report and required further action.

11. Special issues:

- (a) The importance of coal in Africa: Basic proposals for its development;
- (b) Report of the Regional Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy;
- (c) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (d) Computer application and development.

12. Reports from the subsidiary organs of the Commission:

- (a) Report of the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists;
- (b) Report of the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Least Developed African Countries;
- (c) Report of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology Development;
- (d) Report of the seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development;

- (e) Report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade;
 - (f) Report of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts from Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and Legal Departments on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund;
 - (g) Report of the third meeting of the ECA Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;
 - (h) Report of the second meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS;
 - (i) Report of the sixth Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions;
 - (j) Report on the Regional Conference on Intra-African Tourism Co-operation held in Niamey (the Niger) from 2 to 6 October 1984;
 - (k) Report of the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.
13. Follow-up on resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly that are of interest to Africa:
- (a) Follow-up action on other relevant resolutions adopted by the twentieth session of the Commission/eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers;
 - (b) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and by the General Assembly at its fortieth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa;

(c) Work programme and priorities:

- (i) Proposals for second updating of and revision to the Medium-term Plan, 1984-1989;
 - (ii) Proposals for updating the Proposed Programme Budget, 1986-1987 in the light of General Assembly approved appropriations and availability of extrabudgetary resources; and
 - (iii) Project on review and appraisal of the impact of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on African development - policy-making, programming and executing of projects, 1975-1985.
- 14. UNDP Regional Programme for Africa, fourth cycle, 1987-1991 orientation paper.
 - 15. Other business.
 - 16. Date, venue and other matters relating to the eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.
 - 17. Adoption of the report and draft resolutions to the Conference of Ministers.
 - 18. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

- 10. Welcoming participants, the Executive Secretary of ECA, Professor Adebayo Adedeji thanked the Government, and people of Cameroon for their hospitality and for the excellent facilities extended to the meeting.
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11. Africa's development problems remained the focus of concern of the entire world. Only a few days previously, the African submission to the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, to be held in New York from 27 to 31 May 1986, had been made available to the Preparatory Committee of the Whole charged with the task of preparing for that session. The elaboration of that submission had preoccupied the ECA and OAU secretariats, as well as their legislative organs, for some three months.

12. The process of implementing the proposals contained in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 adopted by the twenty-first session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 1985 needed to be set in motion immediately. Some hope was afforded by the fact that total domestic output for the region as a whole had expanded by about 3 per cent in 1985, compared with 1.3 per cent in 1984, thanks largely to a better overall performance in the agricultural sector. However, that promising development had occurred at a time when the average debt-service burden for the region was at an all-time high, the gap in the external payments account of most countries was wider than ever, and most countries could not even afford some of the most routine expenditures, let alone expansions in capital outlay. Prospects for the future were rendered even more grim by the alarming downward trend in the prices of most commodities of export interest to Africa.

13. More details of performance in the major sectors of the African economy in recent years were available in some of the background documents for the meeting, notably the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa 1984-1985, the ECA/ADB Economic Report on Africa 1986 and the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the secretariat during the two years 1984 and 1985.

14. The situation of food and agriculture was a major item on the agenda. To allow the region to relive again a situation of widespread hunger and famine such as had been witnessed in the previous three years would be totally unacceptable. The elimination of mass poverty and the accompanying release of the latent forces of demand and self-sustaining growth could

only be realized through a massive boost in agricultural incomes. Furthermore, a revitalized, stable and productive agricultural sector was, for most countries in the region, an assured means of acquiring the much needed foreign exchange required for sustained growth. It was also the most practical means of ensuring the fullest participation of the greatest number of people in the development process. Several documents devoted to various aspects of the critical food and agricultural situation were accordingly before the meeting to assist representatives in formulating cogent and practical recommendations in that all-important area.

15. The urgency of debt-related problems was second only to that of food and agriculture. Imaginative measures needed to be taken collectively by both recipients and creditors to alleviate the increased debilitating effects of those problems on African countries' already weakened economies. Determined efforts were therefore required to ensure the holding of the proposed international Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness. The early establishment of the proposed African Monetary Fund would also go a long way towards helping African countries manage their monetary and financial affairs more effectively.

16. The Executive Secretary reiterated that success during the recovery period depended to a large extent on parallel measures to be taken in other sectors, notably industry and physical infrastructure, which traditionally supported agriculture and in turn depended on it for raw materials, supplies and markets. In the light of that fact, the Committee should review progress in the implementation of such ongoing programmes as the United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa and Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, as well as the programmes on the integration of women in development and on the least developed African countries.

17. The difficulties of the previous three years had demonstrated beyond doubt that the road to national economic and social survival was inextricably linked to a strategy of regional co-operation and integration. While significant progress had been made, especially in terms of putting in place the basic framework, machinery and instruments for regional collective

self-reliance, much remained to be done especially in the areas of joint planning and programming and financing the development and use of common resources. ECA would continue to enhance the role of the MULPOCs as catalytic centres for economic co-operation and integration, and all concerned should give the required support to the various sectoral and multisectoral institutions established to promote technical and economic co-operation in Africa.

18. History would judge the period 1975-1985 as one of the most crucial and most eventful decades in the life of the Commission. During that period, ECA had assumed its rightful role as a centre for the generation of ideas and directions for Africa's socio-economic development, including its technological aspects, and for the execution of projects at the national, subregional and regional levels. The period had also been characterized by an unprecedented crisis of development which had constituted a major challenge not only to the Commission and its secretariat, but also to its member States. Accordingly, it afforded a good opportunity for an exercise in self-evaluation with a view to revitalizing the organization and equipping it to deliver even more effectively. To that end, an outline of a project on the review and appraisal of the impact of ECA on African development, covering the critical areas of policy-making, programming and execution of projects during the period 1975-1985, was before the meeting for comment.

19. Finally, the Executive Secretary referred to the document on the orientation of the fourth regional programming cycle of UNDP. ECA and UNDP had collaborated closely in drawing up that document, which outlined the framework within which UNDP would allocate resources to its various executing agencies, of which ECA was one, over the period 1987-1991.

20. The observer for OAU said that the increase in rainfall and the subsequent improvement in agricultural production, coupled with the massive influx of food aid, had given the false impression that Africa's food crisis was abating somewhat. The experts should therefore examine the food situation from the standpoint of the continent's overall economic performance, particularly in the agriculture and food production support sectors.

21. Even though the results Africa would obtain from the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa would not be known until the Committee's eighth meeting, experts should, when examining the various agenda items, be guided by the need to recommend measures that could lead to the rapid implementation of projects falling under the four main priority areas of the Priority Programme. African States' main objective in requesting the special session was to obtain the international community's firm commitment and total support for their individual and collective efforts to implement their economic recovery programmes effectively.

22. In considering the agenda item on the fourth UNDP programming cycle, the Committee should formulate specific recommendations regarding the provisions relating to increasing UNDP's overall financial resources and the allocation of a large part thereof to the Priority Programme and projects in Africa, as well as regarding the new technical assistance approach being taken in order to ensure effective programme implementation.

23. In opening the meeting, the Secretary of State for the Plan and Regional Development, H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu, welcomed delegations and observers on behalf of the Government and people of Cameroon and on her own behalf. She expressed her hope that the facilities made available to the Committee were adequate for the smooth functioning of the meeting.

24. The meeting was taking place at a crucial phase in Africa's development, particularly in the light of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa and the extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers which had met from 28 to 30 March 1986. The African objective at the special session would be to translate Africa's Priority Programme into operational terms and obtain a broad measure of commitment from the international community. That commitment was necessary on account of the openness of African economies to external factors, and she called for the goodwill and understanding of the international community in that respect.

25. She underscored the need for Africa to rise to the challenge before it, and appealed to the meeting to make cogent and relevant recommendations for consideration by the Conference of Ministers. Food and agriculture had been accorded high priority, and the Committee had to make recommendations on measures for improving agricultural productivity. She drew the attention of the Committee to the issues of drought and desertification, preparations for the conference on Africa's external debt and the need for a collective approach. Reviewing economic co-operation and integration, she stressed the need for harmonization of policies and programmes and called for financial support of ECA regional institutions.

26. Finally, she exhorted the Committee to analyse systematically the respective situations and to draw up recommendations addressed to the various economic agents, and highlighted the role of Committee members in following through the implementation of those recommendations at the national level.

27. The representative of Tunisia read out a motion of thanks addressed to His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, and to the Government and people of Cameroon for the generous hospitality and warm and fraternal welcome extended to all participants, and requested the Executive Secretary to convey the motion to the Government of Cameroon.

Biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1984-1985 (agenda item 4)

28. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/3, the Executive Secretary said that the biennial report was a vehicle for reporting to member States on the activities of the Commission and its secretariat to promote economic growth and development in the region and to assist member States individually and collectively through their intergovernmental organizations, not only in formulating appropriate policies but also in solving specific problems and implement projects.

29. The major activities undertaken by the Commission in each of the programme areas of the Commission must be seen against the background of the difficult economic and social situation which prevailed during the period covered by the report, and was itself briefly analysed in the introductory part of the report. He drew the attention of representatives to the level of resources made available to the secretariat for the implementation of the work programme, and dwelt at some length on the efforts that had been made to promote technical and economic co-operation and integration as well as co-operation with African intergovernmental organizations.

30. In the discussion that followed several representatives commended the Executive Secretary for the comprehensiveness of the report and for the efforts made during the biennium under review to address Africa's socio-economic problems. A number of representatives regretted the fact that the document was received too late for a detailed study of its contents before the meeting. In that connection, it was suggested that ECA should improve its documents distribution system with a view to ensuring that its documents reached their intended users at the country level.

31. It was observed that in the analysis of the possible causes of the prevailing development crisis in Africa, attention was seldom given to internal policies and political and security factors which in some countries were as important as economic factors. In view of the fact that a specific item on the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa was usually on the Committee's agenda, it was suggested that the Executive Secretary might dispense with the chapter on that subject in his biennial reports.

32. Representatives noted with concern the relative decline in extra-budgetary resources made available to the Commission, but were partly encouraged by the rise in bilateral resources. It was suggested that recommendations should be made to the Conference of Ministers on the need to examine critically the budgetary resources available to the Commission and measures devised to augment them.

33. One representative observed that even though reference had been made to the problems of Africa's external debt and to the Addis Ababa Declaration on the subject, the issues involved should have been discussed in depth, as the Executive Secretary had done during his 1985 end-of-year statement on Africa's economic performance. Also, more should have been done to assist member States in their efforts to cope with the problems of external debt.

34. The observer from ACMS noted that no mention was made in the report of co-operation between ECA and the Centre, which had been substantial during the period under review. Furthermore, contrary to what was said in the report, the secretariat did not prepare the drafts of the joint statement of the African Governors to the annual meetings of the Board of Governors of IMF and the World Bank and the memoranda to the President of the Bank and the Managing Director of the Fund, but simply provided inputs to those documents.

35. The observer from UNESCO recalled that since 1979 annual joint concertation meetings between UNESCO and ECA had been held to develop joint programmes and projects at the regional level within their respective and common fields of competence. The Joint Concertation Meeting was now a fully institutionalized forum for joint assistance to African member States. He recommended that both ECA and UNESCO should bring to the attention of their respective governing bodies information on the development of programmes and projects in specific areas, within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's Priority Programme and the OAU resolution calling upon UNESCO to develop a special programme for science and technology and research development for Africa.

36. In reply, the Executive Secretary explained that reference was made in the report to the Addis Ababa Declaration on Africa's external indebtedness. Moreover, ECA planned to establish a debt monitoring unit within the secretariat in collaboration with the World Bank and UNCTAD. On the question of budgetary resources, it was his opinion that in view of the prevailing financial crisis in the United Nations, not much could be done as far as regular budget resources were concerned. However, the Ministers could take decisions on how to improve the flow of trust fund resources. While the point on the chapter on review of economic and social conditions was well taken, the basic reason for including that chapter

in the biennial report was to provide background and thus have a self-contained report, particularly in view of the fact that the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa might not always be available to readers of the biennial report.

37. The Committee took note of the report.

Review and appraisal of economic situation in 1984-1985 and perspectives for 1986
(agenda item 5)

(a) Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa 1984-1985

38. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/5, a representative of the secretariat stated that the survey showed continued economic deterioration for the region as a whole during the period under review and identified the severity of the 1984 drought as the major cause of the deterioration. Although some recovery had been observed in 1985 following the return of the rains, and projections for 1986 indicated a slight increase in productivity, that increase would be dampened by weak external demand and domestic constraints.

39. In the ensuing discussion, delegations commended the secretariat for the global view the survey presented of the economic and social conditions in Africa, which was a prerequisite for any detailed sectoral discussions. However, the survey had not been presented in time to permit thorough study and delegations urged the secretariat to ensure that future surveys were presented in good time; they should also be discussed by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers before review by the Committee.

40. Several representatives pointed out that the viewpoints and ideas reflected in the document were too supportive of those of the International Monetary Fund. Examples included price and currency adjustment policies and liberalization of economies. Speakers pointed out the severity of IMF conditionalities, and questioned the overall utility of IMF policy packages, which often ran counter to development strategies and did not take into account the specific problems of individual African countries. Furthermore, the report placed too much emphasis on the financial difficulties of some countries, without giving due consideration to their efforts which had resulted in positive contributions to the development process. However, one representative said that there was nothing basically wrong with the IMF prescription of disciplined economic management, and added that while the observation

that the measures were unpopular because they threatened certain vested interests was not true in some countries, it was nevertheless true in others. The Committee called upon the secretariat to conduct a comparative analysis of countries which had applied IMF adjustment measures and those which had not, so as to provide member States with a suitable and adequate framework for policy decisions.

41. Attention was also drawn to issues which should have been discussed in the report, such as recommendations for appropriate policy instruments to increase the development and utilization of domestic raw materials, create a favourable investment climate, and promote barter trade, and an appeal for a study on the latter was made. The survey should also have examined the effects of falling oil prices on both exporters and importers. A study on foreign exchange leakages was proposed, and the secretariat was requested to look more closely at the causes of the fall in cotton prices.

42. Delegations acknowledged the importance of public debt monitoring systems, and felt that examples should have been provided of countries with established systems. In a wider context, the use of foreign expertise was observed to be costly and delegations requested ECA to look into the matter and present proposals.

43. Issues raised regarding the data given in the report included the criteria used for the selection of the 11 countries whose profiles were presented. Errors in the data were pointed out, and the Committee agreed that the last sentence of paragraph 115 should be deleted. One delegation stated that paragraph 110 was unacceptable, and paragraph 140 incomprehensible. Paragraph 57 was questioned in the light of the provisions of the new international economic order regarding equal and equitable economic relationships and it was proposed that it should be either deleted or reformulated. Corrections to the data in paragraphs 24, 107, 108, 109, 110, 134, 136, 147, 194, 197 and 218 were proposed and the Committee requested concerned member States to submit their amendments to the secretariat in writing. The Committee agreed, moreover, that member States should in future endeavour to provide the secretariat with timely and reliable data, so as to avoid querying the data during meetings. Some delegations pointed out that, except in regard to the few points which had been questioned, the survey was solidly based. However, care should be exercised in the choice of wording, in view of the document's international audience.

44. The Executive Secretary said that while the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers had considered a summary of the present survey at its fourth session, that could not always be the case since the Joint Conference met once every two years, while the survey was prepared every year. The survey had to be credible and should faithfully reflect what had actually transpired in the countries without any covering up. Its preparation was a joint responsibility of the member States and the secretariat, and a strict timetable had to be observed in its preparation; to facilitate that task, the possibility of using national correspondents might be considered. Interpretation of data was always subject to debate and discussion; however the secretariat had taken note of all observations, and would prepare a revision of the document based on them.

(b) ECA/ADB Economic Report on Africa 1986

45. Introducing the Joint ECA/ADB Economic Report on Africa 1986, a representative of the secretariat said that part I dealt with economic developments during 1985 and prospects for 1986, while part II dealt with agricultural policies and performance in the period 1970-1985. He highlighted the recommendations made in part II of the report regarding the promotion of agricultural research and extension and the reform of policies, and drew the attention of the Committee to new roles proposed in the report for ADB and ECA.

46. In the ensuing discussion, delegations congratulated the ECA and ADB secretariats on the report, and noted that the policy recommendations it contained were in line with Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990. However, much as the spirit was commendable, the report covered the same ground as the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa 1984-1985; in future, the two documents could be merged.

47. The brief comparative analysis of agricultural policies was discussed at length. The lack of precision, objectivity and analytical criteria and the use of secondary data instead of primary data were criticized.

48. Concerning the data presented in the report, the representative of Nigeria said that Nigeria had never produced petroleum beyond its OPEC quota, and proposed deletion of the reference to Nigeria in subparagraph (b) on page 1. The representative of Mali proposed the following amendment of the second sentence of the last paragraph on page 13: "In Mali, the authorities had taken steps to reduce the State's share in the economy with a view to making certain enterprises private or semi-private." The representative of Algeria requested the deletion of the words "inefficiency and" in the second paragraph of part I, section 33. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania requested a definition of "public-sector development expenditure on agriculture", and informed the Committee that the figure for his country for 1984-1985 was 30 per cent. The country coverage and the regional groupings used in the tables were questioned, and the secretariat was requested to provide more detail.

49. The representative of Senegal pointed out that the analysis and evaluation in respect of his country was premature, since the new agricultural policy mentioned in the document had been adopted only in 1984 and had first been applied in 1985. It was not true that price controls on cereals were used to help protect urban consumers. He also took exception to the remark that Senegal remained a high-cost food producer both before and after the new policy had been adopted, and expressed his delegation's reservations on the sections of the report dealing with Senegal.

50. One participant said that the underutilization of manufacturing capacity was partly attributable to the shift from foreign to domestic

raw materials, since manufacturing equipment was often designed for specific raw materials, which might not be available when needed.

51. Delegations stressed the importance of agricultural research and the transfer of technology in agriculture, and the need for collective self-reliance in that area. However, there were difficulties in the promotion of agricultural and technological research in the Sahelian environment. The need to develop skills in project appraisal and evaluation as well as negotiating skills was pointed out. The observer from AAPT0 cautioned on the dangers of policy swings from one extreme to another.

52. Delegations indicated that pricing policies were often influenced by the level of international prices, and noted the proposed study on the harmonization of agricultural pricing policies in the West African subregion. The observer from FAO then informed the Committee that his organization had undertaken a number of studies in agricultural pricing policies, and was ready to make them available.

53. Delegations welcomed the new role of ADB in agricultural development, but emphasized that it needed to be properly defined.

54. The representative of the secretariat assured the Committee that the secretariat had taken note of all observations and would incorporate them in future reports.

55. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Committee's broad endorsement of the report, which had focused on agricultural research since even the little research being done was externally oriented. The objective of the comparative analysis in the report was to stress the need for country-specific research.

56. The Committee took note of the report and of the reservation stated by the delegation of Senegal.

Preparation for the International Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness
(agenda item 6)

57. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/23, a representative of the secretariat recalled that the proposed Conference had been called for by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session. The objective of the Conference as outlined in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 was to provide a forum for international creditors and African borrowers to discuss Africa's external debt with a view to arriving at appropriate emergency, short-, medium- and long-term measures to alleviate Africa's debt problems.

58. The document, prepared jointly by the secretariats of OAU, ECA, ADB and ACMS, which had been charged with preparing for the conference, contained suggestions on where the Conference should be held, who the participants should be, the choice of chairperson and the contents of the documentation.

59. In the ensuing discussion, delegations suggested that participation in the proposed conference should be open to all African countries to ensure that the debt problems and issues confronting each and every one of them were fully dealt with. Similarly, all the creditors should be invited to participate. In that way, the issues could be discussed and it would be demonstrated that Africa's debt was a problem of both donors and creditors.

60. Attention was drawn to the need for the document to emphasize the fact that external shocks arising from the international environment, such as fluctuating and falling commodity prices and currencies, particularly the United States dollar, as well as sharply deteriorating terms of trade, were major contributing factors to Africa's ever-increasing external debt which were beyond Africa's control.

61. Some delegations felt that according to the mandates given by the twenty-first session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the secretariats of ECA, OAU and ADB should concentrate on preparing a basic document on substantive issues, while procedural matters such as participation, chairmanship and organization should be dealt with by the current Chairman of OAU, through consultations to be undertaken.

62. The view was also expressed that the document for the conference should be designed to serve as a basis for negotiations. In that respect, emphasis should be placed on how much contribution Africa's debt had made to international development, thereby benefiting creditors' countries, which should therefore be considered as co-responsible for Africa's indebtedness. The expected outcome of the Conference should also have a bearing on the international economic system so as to prevent the re-occurrence of the related aggravating factors.

63. The representative of Morocco recalled the fact that the four secretariats had been working together to prepare relevant documents for the proposed conference. While he recognized ECA's economic role, which his country strongly supported, he was of the view that political issues should not come before the meetings of the Commission. Accordingly, he stated his country's strong reservation regarding such working arrangements.

64. Replying to the questions raised, the representative of the secretariat said that due account would be taken, in preparing the document for the conference, of the comments and suggestions made by participants.

65. Referring to the concern expressed over the expected outcome of the conference, he stressed the need to avoid the conference turning into a confrontation between debtors and creditors. Indeed, every effort should be made to ensure fruitful negotiations which would lead among other things to the adoption of important measures and the conclusion of effective agreements on possible debt cancellations and moratoria designed to improve the financial situation of indebted African countries.

66. The Committee agreed to continue its consideration of this item in the context of agenda item 12(f).

The situation of food and agriculture in Africa (agenda item 7)

- (a) Report to the Conference of Ministers on the food situation in Africa
- (b) Report to the Conference of Ministers on review of food and agricultural policies in selected African countries: A basis for improving government policy planning capacities

67. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/12/Rev.1 under sub-item (a), a representative of the secretariat said that it analysed the food supply situation in Africa, discussed past and proposed future efforts to rehabilitate African agriculture, and identified a number of basic constraints to those efforts. On the whole, the food supply situation had improved in all but six African countries during the 1985/86 period, due primarily to the return of the rains. In order to improve the food situation and rehabilitate agriculture in Africa, the report emphasized the need for continuous short-, medium- and long-term measures aimed particularly at small farmers and women.

68. Introducing sub-item (b), a representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/CM.12/15, which contained a brief survey of several policies generally affecting the food and agricultural sector in Eastern and Southern Africa and the associated recommendations for dealing with them. The policies were grouped into three broad areas: (a) sectoral performance policies; (b) incentive policies; and (c) support services policies. The inability of the Governments concerned to develop effective policies in each of those areas in an integrated manner had given rise respectively to (i) the existence of parallel-market economies and unfavourable domestic terms of trade against agriculture; (ii) inequitable income distribution and subsidy allocation against food producers; and (iii) limited and inefficient agricultural marketing and credit systems.

69. During the debate on the two documents, participants noted with satisfaction, the improved food supply situation during the 1985/86 period.

Concern was however expressed about problems that could possibly arise from the increased production. In that connection, particular mention was made of food surpluses and the difficulty of maximizing their use. To deal with the problem, it was proposed that FAO and ECA should assist in evolving arrangements for distributing such surpluses from the surplus countries to deficit countries.

70. On the coverage of document E/ECA/CM.12/15, it was pointed out that the findings of a study on the experience of a select number of countries could not necessarily be generalized to all parts of Africa, particularly because of ecological differences; accordingly, similar studies needed to be undertaken on experience in the other subregions, particularly the Sahel. In addition, the Committee called for studies on agricultural research, the cost of irrigation, and water usage.

71. Participants highlighted the vital link between agriculture and industry, as well as the important role women played in the development of the agricultural sector in Africa and the need to take that role into consideration when developing programmes and policies for the rehabilitation of agriculture, particularly in the areas of food production, processing and marketing, where women were predominant.

72. The need to go beyond problem "identification" studies into practical and concrete proposals for the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector was stressed. The reorientation of consumption patterns and the dissemination of information on such reorientation to farmers were identified as being crucial in the formulation of such policies. In that connection, one participant described the factors which, in addition to favourable weather, had led to the increase in agricultural production in his country: the Government had instituted concrete policies such as control of food imports, the granting of attractive incentive and pricing packages to local producers and ensuring the availability of agricultural inputs.

- (c) Report to the Conference of Ministers on measures for the improvement of co-operatives and small farmers' organizations/associations in the marketing of food and livestock products

73. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/16, a representative of the secretariat said that the purpose of the study whose findings it contained was to propose policies and programmes that would facilitate rural and economic development in Africa within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the African Regional Food Plan. The document contained information on those factors which had been responsible for successes in co-operative movements in Africa, and presented national and regional proposals designed to enhance the capabilities of co-operatives in the marketing of food and livestock products.

74. The Committee took note of the report.

- (d) Report to the Conference of Ministers on a study of food import substitution programmes in Africa
- (e) Report to the Conference of Ministers on land-use policies and farming in Africa

75. Under sub-item (d), a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.12/17, which contained the findings of an assessment of measures being taken by the Governments of Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe to achieve food self-sufficiency. Given the trends in production, trade and consumption patterns, it was estimated that many of the countries of the subregion would depend heavily on external sources to meet their food requirements by the year 2000 unless drastic measures and sound strategies for food self-sufficiency were adopted. In order to address the problems

identified, the document recommended: (i) formulation of policies to raise per capita domestic food production, especially by small farmers, including women; (ii) implementation of import substitution programmes focusing on staple crops; (iii) education of consumers, particularly in urban areas, on the need to utilize domestically produced foods; (iv) efficient management of agricultural production and marketing institutions in order to avoid waste of limited resources; and (v) co-ordination and harmonization, at the subregional level, of food development plans and policies.

76. Under sub-item (e), a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.12/6 containing the findings of a study on land-use policies and farming systems in Kenya, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The major land-use problems arose from inadequate governmental policies, such as those concerning land-use planning, irrigation and domestic energy, or from population, climatic and soil conditions, severe overgrazing and land degradation, as well as from conflicts between different land users. The following policy options to deal with the problems were proposed: (a) integration of land-use planning and farming practices into national and regional development planning; (b) development of institutions and mechanisms for integrated planning and co-ordination; (c) elimination of traditional conflicts between different land users through the adoption of new land-use systems which would enhance food self-sufficiency and maintain ecological balances; and (d) strengthening of the institutional base for research, data collection and information for planning, management and monitoring of land-use and farming systems.

77. During the discussion that followed, several participants reiterated their regret at the late distribution of the documents, advance study of which by national agriculture and food experts would have benefited the Committee.

78. The Committee took note of the reports under the two sub-items.

- (f) Report on review of programmes and strategies of intergovernmental institutions to reduce food waste and losses in Africa
- (g) Survey of constraints on the improvement of storage facilities in Central and North Africa

79. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/38 under sub-item (f), a representative of the secretariat said that the study on which the document was based had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 1975, calling on developing countries to reduce food waste and losses by 50 per cent by 1985, and to past decisions of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

80. One significant finding of the study was that about 20 per cent of cereals alone was lost and that in 1985 alone, such losses were estimated at 14 million tons valued at approximately \$US 2.9 billion. The study provided information on the primary and secondary causes of food waste and losses and on curative and prophylactic measures, and noted the constraints in human and material resources, weak collaboration and delays in implementing programmes. To deal with the issues involved, it recommended that: (a) member States should allocate adequate resources to the reduction of food waste and losses; (b) greater collaboration should be promoted among institutions dealing with food waste and losses; and (c) full support should be given to the activities of those institutions, which should implement accepted programmes in collaboration with other relevant agencies.

81. Under sub-item (g) a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.12/39, which showed that most post-harvest losses occurred at the storage stage. In some cases, such losses amounted to about 10 per cent in cereals alone. The report also contained information on the functions and structures of storage facilities, measures to reduce losses at storage stage, including programmes and projects at national and subregional levels, and critical storage constraints, which included policies, structures and practices, pre-storage condition of crops, pest control methods, research, extension/training services and institutional problems. To assist member States in dealing with those constraints, the report recommended that: (a) member States should rehabilitate and improve food storage facilities,

particularly in rural areas; (b) mass media should be used to educate farmers on storage procedures and other measures; and (c) inter-country co-operation in compatible areas or fields should be established and/or reinforced.

82. The meeting took note of the reports submitted under the two sub-items.

Progress on the implementation of ongoing special programmes (agenda item 8)

(a) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: Progress report on the second phase programme and consideration of future action

Report of the fifth Conference of the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning /agenda item 12(k)/

83. In view of the fact that the two items dealt with the same programme, the Committee decided to take them together.

84. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/18, on progress on the implementation of the Decade programme, a representative of the secretariat said that it had been prepared jointly by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the Decade, and had been considered by the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at their fifth meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 3 to 11 March 1986. Of the 578 transport sector projects, 36 (6 per cent) had been completed and another 106 (18 per cent) were under execution in 1985, while of the 472 communications sector projects, 24 had been completed and another 71 were under implementation. \$US 3.7 billion (20 per cent) out of the total \$US 18.255 billion programme costs had been raised, about 61 and 39 per cent from internal and external sources respectively.

85. Introducing the report of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (E/ECA/CM.12/43), he drew the Committee's attention to the resolutions adopted by the Conference and to the major recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit's evaluation report on the Decade.

86. The representative of Morocco recalled resolutions 83/29 and 84/42 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, following which Morocco had organized the opening meeting of the Tangiers-Lagos highway steering committee, attended by 10 countries of which seven had been represented at the ministerial level.

87. Morocco had been surprised, at the Harare Conference, by the terms of document E/ECA/TPCW.7/L.1, which pointed out that a change in resolution 84/42 by the Conference of Ministers in its resolution 487 (XIX) had resulted in the secretariat being unable to organize the steering committee meeting. The consensus resulting from the consultations on resolution 487 (XIX) was stated in document E/1984/31 (E/ECA/CM.10/38) as follows: "... on the understanding that the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Conakry were still valid." Moreover, documents A/39/271 (E/1984/98), and A/40/409 (E/1985/109) included the Tangiers-Lagos highway, in paragraphs 36 and 16 respectively, among the projects of decisive importance to the development of transport in Africa.

88. Reiterating his country's reservations regarding the consultations which had taken place at the Harare Conference and their outcome, he offered to submit for consideration by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers a draft resolution on the Tangiers-Lagos highway which would be in conformity with previous decisions.

89. The representative of Algeria remarked that the issue had been discussed and decided by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the basis of the overall consideration of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, and cautioned against reopening debate on the matter.

90. After observations by several representatives, the Committee concluded that:

(a) The matter was a political one, and the matter had been considered and decided on by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which was the competent body to deal with it;

(b) The Committee was not competent to deal satisfactorily with the issue;

(c) The observations of the representative of Morocco would be reflected in its report to the Conference of Ministers;

(d) Any parties were free to take up the matter at the Conference of Ministers level, if they so desired.

91. The representative of UNESCO said that his organization would continue to collaborate with ECA in the implementation of the Decade programme; in

formulating a programme for the second Decade, closer co-operation and a multi-sectoral approach would be essential.

92. The representative of ICAO described his organization's involvement in the Decade and in promoting development and safety in air transport. ECA's efforts to liberalize the freedoms of the air, which largely depended on good will, were to be commended. He also informed the Committee of ICAO's various Air Navigational Plans in Africa and its allocation of \$US 1 million for search and rescue missions in Africa, as well as the continued close collaboration between ICAO and ECA.

(b) United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa: Joint progress report by ECA, UNIDO and OAU and consideration for future action

93. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/19, a representative of the secretariat said that it covered two main areas, inter-secretariat co-operation and policy development in the implementation of the programme for the Decade and the activities carried out in support of that programme. Basically, two problems had been encountered in implementing the Decade programme, relating respectively to financing and to data. With respect to financial problems, the African Industrial Development Fund was not yet operational and its viability was even becoming dubious because member States had not yet responded to the call of the Conference of Ministers to accede to the Constitution of the Fund and pay their contributions. Furthermore, the \$US 700,000 requested by the Commission, with the support of the Economic and Social Council, for allocation to the Commission out of the annual \$US 5 million allocated by the General Assembly to UNIDO for the programme had not been made available. The secretariat was taking steps to seek clarification on that matter from United Nations Headquarters.

94. Regarding data problems, the secretariats had not been getting the information on the status of subregional and other industrial projects needed to enable them to update such projects.

95. The representative of UNIDO referred to the close co-operation between the UNIDO, ECA and CAU secretariats as well as between UNIDO and African countries, at both the national and subregional levels in the selection, formulation and execution of industrial projects under the Decade programme. The \$US 5 million annual allocation was grossly inadequate in relation to the immense needs of Africa's industrialization. Therefore, the amount was being deployed in such a way as to generate maximum multiplier effect in selected priority areas. Activities undertaken by UNIDO under the Decade programme and financed from that allocation included the organization of national workshops on strategies and policy development and subregional meetings on industrial co-operation and mobilization of industrial investment finance, the preparation of selected feasibility studies, the publicizing of the Decade, as well as the organization outside Africa of promotional meetings to mobilize increased attention and support for the Decade.

96. There were, however, serious constraints affecting the implementation of the Decade. These included inadequate financial resources for both investment and technical assistance, the unfavourable international attitude towards industrialization in Africa, and the lack of appropriate feasibility studies. Co-operation had been established with both the World Bank and the African Development Bank with the objective of working out a common approach to increasing the financial base for industrial projects in Africa.

97. In the ensuing discussion, delegations emphasized that lack of well prepared feasibility studies on investment projects constituted a major constraint to the mobilization of industrial investment resources. ECA and UNIDO should place strong emphasis on the development of indigenous capabilities to prepare such studies, especially in the metal working sector, so that the countries of the region could absorb the technologies that were being transferred to them.

98. Participants strongly felt that the transformation of UNIDO into specialized agency of the United Nations should not lead to a reduction in the programme, and hence a loss to Africa, as evidenced by the reduction of the \$US 5 million allocated by the General Assembly to UNIDO for the Decade Programme to only \$US 4.3 million after UNIDO's conversion into a specialized

agency. It was noted that in order to secure the inclusion of even the reduced level of funding in the 1986-1987 regular programme of UNIDO had required intensive negotiations and a vote. In that respect, tribute was paid to the efforts made by African countries at the meetings of UNIDO's Programme and Budget Committee, Industrial Development Board and General Conference to secure that approval, and it was suggested that a resolution be adopted urging African countries to continue to participate massively and effectively in these and other such meetings.

99. Attention was drawn to paragraph 8 of document E/ECA/CM.12/19 which the participants felt needed to be amended to reflect the fact of, and the reasons for, the postponement to September 1986 of the eighth Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the preceding meeting of the Intergovernmental Experts of the Whole, which were initially scheduled to take place at Bujumbura (Burundi) in March 1986. That amendment was necessary as the report, contrary to the established practice, had not been submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Industry prior to its submission to the Conference of Ministers.

100. The Executive Secretary explained that the eighth Conference of African Ministers of Industry was not held in March 1986 as planned because its dates conflicted with those of the series of meetings preparatory to the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, which had to be inevitably organized throughout March. He was joined by participants, including UNIDO, in expressing appreciation to the Government of Burundi for the understanding shown in remaining ready to host the postponed Conference in September 1986.

101. It was noted that contrary to its title the document under consideration contained no section dealing with future action. It was therefore suggested that in future the progress report on the implementation of the Decade programme should, in addition to providing an appraisal of activities already undertaken, give also an indication of future action. The representative of UNIDO indicated that his organization was giving consideration to an evaluation of some of the IDDA projects upon their maturity, when such an evaluation would be able to lead to useful conclusions.

102. The participants were informed of the activities being undertaken by UNESCO in the area of new and renewable sources of energy in support of industrialization in Africa. Pilot projects were under way in West Africa to improve energy information networks, and proposals had been formulated for extending mechanisms for disseminating research and development results. Those activities and proposals were in support of the Decade programme. Co-operation between UNIDO and UNESCO in this respect was being intensified.

103. In response to a question addressed to UNIDO regarding its co-operation with ECA on the preparation of the 1984/1985 Economic Survey of Africa which presented a bleak picture of the industrial sector, the representative of UNIDO indicated that the views expressed in the survey with regard to the industrial sector were those of ECA. While noting the constraints and difficulties faced by many African industrial enterprises, UNIDO remained basically optimistic regarding the crucial role which industry was destined to play if Africa was to realize fully the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as well as Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. African countries should therefore be encouraged to take a more positive view of industrialization, he added.

(c) Review and appraisal of the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in Africa

Report of the seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the Integration of Women in Development [agenda item 12(d)]

104. As the two agenda items were closely related, the Committee decided to discuss them together.

105. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/20, a representative of the secretariat stated that the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held in Nairobi in July 1985 had noted the progress made in awareness, legislation, education, employment and women's grassroots organizations, but had drawn attention to persistent obstacles such as negative attitudes, discrimination

and insufficient recognition of women's economic contributions. African women had emphasized their particular concern over illiteracy, the inadequate access of women farmers to land, credit and extension services and the severe impact on women of the current African crisis. In order to overcome those obstacles the Conference had adopted comprehensive forward-looking strategies for application at the national, regional, international and global levels to ensure the equitable participation and adequate recognition of women in development.

106. The President of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC), introducing the report of the Committee's seventh meeting, summarized the conclusions reached on the participation of women in the UNDP fourth programming cycle (1987-1991), the implementation of women's programmes at the subregional and regional levels, the follow-up to the Nairobi World Conference, the incorporation of women's needs into national development plans, the participation of women in industrial development and the preparations for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa. The Committee had expressed its gratitude for UNDP's support but had noted with grave concern the current precarious financial situation of the ECA women's programme, especially in the Gisenyi-based and Tangiers-based FULPOCs, and had called for the access of women to large resources such as those to be mobilized through the UNDP programming exercises. The Committee had also emphasized the inadequate participation of women in the preparations for the special session. Finally, it had adopted two resolutions for consideration by the Conference of Ministers.

107. Participants discussed extensively the issues raised by the two reports, paying tribute to African women's achievements and significant contributions to development. They agreed that there were major sociological and financial constraints to the advancement of women, but urged that recognition be given to the concrete efforts being made by Governments in promoting women. Several participants proposed amendments to the two resolutions presented with a view to clarifying some issues and facilitating the implementation of those resolutions. They also stressed the need for member States and international organizations to utilize African experts and suggested that a special resolution might be formulated to that effect.

108. The observer from UNESCO referred to his organization's continued co-operation with member States and the ECA women's programme, and appealed for effective co-ordination of activities not only within the United Nations system but also with CAU which had planned to establish a unit on women and development in Africa.

109. One participant objected to paragraph 22 of document E/ECA/CL.12/10 concerning the decision taken by the Nairobi World Conference to adopt all its documents by consensus, indicating that what should have been reflected in the report were the difficulties caused by proposals from certain countries.

110. The representative of Morocco expressed his country's reservation on resolution 2 in document E/ECA/CL.12/31 on the General Assembly's special session on the critical economic situation in Africa.

111. Responding to issues raised by participants, the APOC President and the representative of the secretariat expressed appreciation for the positive contributions of the Committee. The representative of the secretariat gave assurances that the particular situations in the Gisenyi-based and Tangiers-based MULPOCs would be regularized, although the policy organs of the Tangiers-based MULPOC had to make greater efforts to revitalize the subregion's women's programme.

112. The Committee took note of the two reports and recommended the transmission of the two resolutions as amended to the Conference of Ministers.

Promotion of economic co-operation and integration (agenda item 9)

(a) Reports from the MULPOCs' Councils of Ministers

113. The current chairmen of the governing bodies of the Yaounde, Lusaka, Niamey, Gisenyi and Tangiers-based MULPOCs introduced their respective reports, which dealt primarily with the work of each MULPOC's governing body, the studies conducted, sectoral activities, advisory services provided to member States, resolutions adopted at their 1986 meetings and assistance provided to various subregional groupings and intergovernmental organizations. They also described the implementation status of each MULPOC's work programme for 1985 and the problems encountered.

114. While congratulating the NULPOC and ECA secretariats in general on the efforts made to decentralize staff and other resources in furtherance of the NULPOCs' work programmes, participants regretted the continuing overall shortage of human and financial resources available to the NULPOCs, and called on ECA to continue its efforts to transfer staff from its headquarters to them. Member States were requested to make contributions in order to assist the NULPOCs in discharging the functions assigned to them.

115. The Committee took note of the reports.

(b) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of ECA-sponsored institutions, 1984-1985

(c) Biennial consolidated programme of work and priorities including budgets of ECA-sponsored specialized institutions, 1986-1987

116. Introducing the consolidated biennial report on the activities for 1984-1985 (E/ECA/CL.11/25) and consolidated biennial work programme and budget for 1986-1987 (E/ECA/CL.11/26) of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions, the Executive Secretary said that apart from the financial institutions, all ECA-sponsored institutions had in the past suffered not only from serious financial difficulties occasioned by the late pay out or non-payment of member States' contributions, but also from insufficient membership. Consequently, their budgets for the 1986-1987 biennium were generally modest.

117. A number of these institutions - for example UECTAS, POSSIPS and ARCT - were now seeking to ease the burden by charging States for the consultancy services they provided in the context of project execution. An example was the services in hydroecological surveying POSSIPS had provided to the Comoros, which had been covered by the World Bank. He appealed to member States to make use of the consultancy services provided by the institutions, which played an important role in Africa's socio-economic development.

118. During the ensuing debate, all speakers endorsed the Executive Secretary's remarks concerning the institutions' importance. Some delegations complained about the absence of up-to-date information on their financial obligations to the institutions. In that connection, it was suggested that one way of reminding member States of such obligations would be to prepare a list of member States' contributions and arrears as an annex to the annual report on the activities of the institutions, which was usually submitted to the Conference of Ministers.

119. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the rationalization of the activities of the institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU, one representative inquired whether there was going to be a special report or not. As part of the answer to that question, a representative reported briefly on the status of the implementation of the recommendation on the merger of the African Cartography Association and the African Remote Sensing Council.

120. A representative asked if the ECA-sponsored institutions co-operated closely with their counterparts at the national level. Another inquired whether IDEP was also affected by the current financial crisis, and asked why it had not yet established the agricultural planning programme which had first been suggested in the biennium 1978-1979. The representative of IDEP replied that the financial crisis was indeed a major reason why that programme had not been initiated.

121. The representative of UNESCO informed the meeting that his organization provided financial and technical support to some of the institutions, and would continue to do so in the future in close co-operation with ECA.

122. Responding to the call for published information on the status of payments of contributions/assessments, the Executive Secretary said that such an approach might help. However, what was important was that if member States could pay only 25 per cent of their arrears, the financial situation of such institutions as IDEP could improve appreciably. The implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations would be taken up under the agenda item on follow-up on the resolutions adopted by the Commission in 1985.

123. Where financial and technical support was concerned, ECA welcomed the fact that not only UNESCO, but other bodies such as UNDP and UNFPA, had always supported the institutions. The Executive Secretary reiterated that the institutions should to an increasing extent charge member States and project-funding African and United Nations agencies for their services, so as to augment their income. Similarly, member States, African funding agencies and the agencies of the United Nations system should use the services of these agencies to implement their projects.

124. After a further exchange of views, the Committee decided to appeal to member States for the prompt and regular fulfilment of their financial obligations to the institutions.

125. It then took note of the reports.

(d) Regional and interregional economic co-operation and technical co-operation: Issues for consideration

126. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/13, a representative of the secretariat described the secretariat's support for subregional economic groupings, through the MULPOCs, and its promotion of regional and interregional co-operation. While the paper presented concentrated on subregional economic co-operation, the secretariat intended to submit to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers two detailed papers, one on technical co-operation activities and another on interregional co-operation.

127. In the ensuing discussion, delegations congratulated the secretariat on the clear and succinct paper presented and took note of its intention to submit papers on technical co-operation activities and interregional co-operation to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The need for promotion of technical co-operation at subregional, regional and interregional levels was emphasized, and attention was drawn to its use as a means of promoting interregional transfer of technology. In view of the limited resources available for intra-African technical co-operation activities, attention needed to be focused on such activities at the interregional level,

particularly within the framework of South-South co-operation. It was pointed out that as the objective of technical co-operation was the training of human resources, information was required on existing facilities and possibilities, and reference was made to the need for a directory of those and information on their funding. Expertise in different fields already existed in various African countries, but funding continued to be a problem, and the secretariat was requested to suggest solutions.

128. The representative of Egypt said that his country allocated a portion of its Indicative Planning Figure to technical co-operation activities and had, in addition, created a fund for technical co-operation with African countries under which Egyptian experts in African countries and African students in Egypt were financed.

129. Delegations called for the harmonization of the activities and work programmes of subregional and regional institutions, and questioned the absence of the chief executives of some such institutions from the Committee meeting. The observer for OAU suggested that other regional institutions should participate in both the technical and ministerial meetings of the Conference.

130. The secretariat was requested to strengthen the Lusaka-based MULPOC and follow up on the development of low-cost building and construction materials and the Building and Construction Code of Conduct, the co-ordination of multimodal transport organizations and the establishment of the Eastern and Southern African Commodity Exchange, issues which had not been sufficiently discussed at the last Lusaka-based MULPOC meeting. Moreover, the long-standing request for the harmonization of the work of the Lusaka-based MULPOC with those of PTA and SADCC under the leadership of the MULPOC should be attended to.

131. The secretariat undertook to follow up on all outstanding issues. Invitations had been sent out to all chief executives of subregional and regional institutions. However, the change in dates as a result of the United Nations special session on Africa had complicated the situation. Endeavours would be made to ensure that the other regional and subregional organizations participated in meetings of the Commission. With respect to the weakness of the Lusaka-based MULPOC, the secretariat acknowledged that the MULPOC had suffered because of the prolonged sickness of the Director. Efforts were being made to recruit another Director.

132. The meeting took note of document E/ECA/CM.12/13.

Institutional development: Establishment of the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development: Progress report and required further action
(agenda item 10)

133. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/14, its summary and addendum 1, a representative of the secretariat said that despite the return of the rains in most drought-stricken countries at the end of 1985, questions would still continue to be asked as to the possible causes, periodicity, trends and duration of drought. Africa therefore needed a system of climatological and hydrological watch over such climate-related natural disasters as drought, floods, cyclones and storms, so that meteorological data and observations could be applied to such critical economic development issues as food production, water resources management and energy. He outlined the activities that the proposed African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) was to undertake, as contained in the ECA/WMO feasibility study annexed to the document. Regarding the location of ACMAD of five Regional Meteorological Centres (Cairo, Dakar, Nairobi, Niamey and Oman) which had been considered in the ECA/WMO study, only Cairo and Nairobi had the necessary infrastructure on which to build.

134. In the ensuing debate, delegations generally agreed that there was urgent need to establish ACMAD, and that the location of the Centre was an important issue to be discussed at the present meeting. Some representatives expressed concern over the financial implications of establishing ACMAD, and noted the need to mobilize human and material resources within existing national meteorological services to deal with the impacts of global weather patterns on African socio-economic development.

135. One representative pointed out that a few of the criteria used in the ECA/WMO Feasibility Study for location of the Centre were not scientifically objective. The inter-agency team had spent less time at the Egyptian Meteorological Authority in Cairo than at the Kenya Meteorological Department in Nairobi; he objected to the comparison between the Cairo and the Nairobi institutions contained in paragraph 40 of the document, and requested its deletion. The inter-agency team should visit all facilities, including the Egyptian Remote Sensing Centre which had been in operation since 1971.

136. Another representative said that the Centre should be located in the Sudano-Sahelian region, where countries were most affected by drought. Another, representative however, pointed out that the Centre had to deal not only with drought, but also with other climate-related disasters such as cyclones.

137. The observer for WMO stressed that the present relief from drought might be only temporary. Since drought was still scientifically unpredictable, the need for the Centre to respond to all weather-sensitive development activities was most urgent. ACMAD would be required to receive meteorological and related data and processed information from various national, regional and world centres, as well as high quality satellite data. It would process and adapt all available data, and distribute the tailored information to national meteorological services for onward transmission to the various users. To be able to perform that task effectively, ACMAD would require powerful and reliable telecommunications and data-processing facilities, both computer-based, as well as a "critical mass" of operational infrastructure and technological and intellectual resources to enable it to serve as a focal point with subregional centres for drought monitoring, early warning and others such as AGRHYMET. In conclusion, he said that paragraph 40 of document E/ECA/CM.12/14 should be seen in the light of paragraph 25, (ii) and (iv), both of which referred to the present situation.

138. The observer for ICAO said that his organization, which was also dealing with weather, especially in the area of civil aviation, should also be associated with the study.

139. The representative of the secretariat said that in the future ICAO would be invited to participate in any ad hoc inter-agency committee dealing with the project.

140. The Executive Secretary suggested the addition of a section (f) to paragraph 41 of the report stating that the host Government must be willing to underwrite the capital cost of establishing ACMAD, as UNDP assistance was temporary, and would cover only staffing and limited administrative costs. The Committee approved the inclusion of that condition.

141. In noting the report, the Committee recommended that the Conference of Ministers should pay careful attention to the financial problems which might arise in connection with the establishment of ACMAD, its location and the composition of its governing body.

Special issues (agenda item 11)

(a) The importance of coal in Africa: Basic proposals for its development

142. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/7, a representative of the secretariat briefed the Committee on the ongoing ECA study of coal in the various subregions, and appealed to member States to assist the study team in its work. Africa's coal potential offered not only an alternative energy source to fuelwood and oil, but favourable export prospects as well. He therefore stressed the need for African Governments to take urgent steps to formulate and implement measures that would enhance the development and utilization of coal in Africa.

143. One participant observed that the document raised interesting issues; measures must be taken to ensure that the ongoing study was not limited to an inventory, and he suggested the inclusion of market studies in relation to intra-African and international trade.

144. The secretariat informed the Committee that preliminary reports on coal production and trade possibilities had been carried out and were available and that the ongoing study would consider the production and trade aspects of coal in Africa.

(b) Report of the regional expert group meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

145. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/22, a representative of the secretariat said that, after reviewing the present status of and projected developments in nuclear power and other peaceful applications of nuclear energy in Africa, the regional expert group meeting had concluded that although there was growing awareness and fairly wide use of nuclear techniques in such fields as food and agriculture, health and medicine, industry and water resources development, Africa had yet to make use of nuclear power to meet its energy needs, for reasons which included the large capital investments required, lack of

infrastructural and industrial support, and insufficient qualified manpower. In order to overcome those constraints, the experts had recommended inter-agency co-operation in resource mobilization and in questions of access to nuclear technology and materials, manpower development in African institutions, the establishment of an appropriate international mechanism for co-ordination and monitoring of co-operation activities, and the establishment of an African association of nuclear scientists.

146. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the need for African countries to become involved in nuclear research and development activities from the start, rather than merely applying finished nuclear technology, which limited the possibilities of regional manpower development in that important field. The Committee also agreed that in view of the vast investments involved, existing national nuclear research institutions should be strengthened to meet the needs of member States through regional co-operation.

147. The Committee took note of the report and endorsed the experts' recommendations.

(c) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

148. On the basis of agreement reached by the Committee, a representative of the secretariat introduced documents E/ECA/CM.12/27, UNEP/AEC.1/2 and a telex from the Chairman of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to the ECA Executive Secretary.

149. After outlining the various elements of the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation on the environment and the machineries adopted by the Conference for the implementation of the Cairo programme, he stressed that the Committee should endorse the Cairo programme as a positive step, initiated by UNEP and supported by ECA and OAU, towards alleviating environmental problems in the region. He pointed out, however, the adverse implications of resolution No. 1/1 of the Cairo Conference, on ECA's environmental work programme which recommended

inter alia, that the ECA Conference of Ministers should decide to entrust the environmental functions assigned to the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

150. That recommendation could be complied with by enabling the Joint Intergovernmental Committee to act as an expert advisory group to the Ministerial Conference.

151. During the ensuing discussion, the representative of Egypt read out the telex from the Chairman of the Ministerial Conference to the Executive Secretary and suggested that the ECA final document be amended accordingly. The Committee took note of the telex.

152. The representative of UNEP read a statement from his Executive Director on the institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. He said that the Cairo Programme for African Co-operation had stressed that Africa's environmental problems required African solutions, and emphasized the importance of regional and subregional co-operation in formulating and implementing solutions and the need to allocate funds from national IPFs to support environmental activities.

153. On the issue of institutionalizing the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the secretariat emphasized the need for an interagency working group to facilitate co-operation and harmonization of the activities of the various organizations dealing with the environment in Africa.

154. The Committee acknowledged the need for such a policy organ, but cautioned against the financial implications to member States of establishing new institutions and suggested that existing institutions should be carefully evaluated prior to establishing any new ones.

155. In conclusion, the Committee decided to recommend to the Conference of Ministers the retention of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and the Environment, as the technical advisory body of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, whose legal status still had to be determined by the Conference.

(d) Computer application and development

156. A representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that in accordance with article 6 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had submitted document E/ECA/CM.12/28 for consideration; however, for reasons beyond its control, its representative had not been able to attend the meeting. He therefore suggested that the Committee should continue with the rest of its agenda until the representative of the member State was available for the introduction of the item.

157. The Committee accepted the proposal.

Reports from the subsidiary organs of the Commission (agenda item 12)

(a) Report of the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and Information Scientists

158. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/29, a representative of the secretariat summarized the account of proceedings of the plenary session and its decisions taken on the recommendation of its various committees, each of which had adopted work programmes and strategies for 1986-1987 and indications of the orientation of the proposed Medium-term Plan, 1990-1995. He concluded by drawing the attention of the meeting to the dire financial situation of IDEP, RIPS and IFORD draft resolutions which had been prepared for consideration by the meeting

159. In the ensuing discussions, delegation sought clarification on the proposals for financing IDEP. The secretariat explained that measures proposed included a request for the continuation of UNDP support for a transitional period, immediate recovery of 10 per cent outstanding arrears due to IDEP from member States and rescheduling of remaining arrears over a limited time period, payment of current contributions and the generation of income by IDEP from consultancies and other appropriate activities.

160. The meeting took note of document E/ECA/CM.12/29.

(b) Report of the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Least Developed African Countries

161. Introducing the report (E/ECA/LDCs.6/EXP.5/6 and Corr.1), the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts informed the meeting that the Committee, which had met in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 2 to 4 April 1986 to prepare for the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of LDCs, had in its deliberations discussed four main items relating to African LDCs: (a) review of economic and social conditions, major problems and policies 1984-1985; (b) progress towards the implementation of the substantial new programme of action for the 1990s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA); (c) assessment of food strategies; and (d) review of ECA activities in 1984-1985 and work programme for 1986-1987. In connection with the progress towards the implementation of SNPA, he highlighted the diminishing ODA flows and drew attention to the measures and recommendations for increasing aid to African LDCs.

162. The representative of Rwanda informed the meeting that Rwanda had presided over the last meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, and that the President, Mr. Rugaravu Apollinaire, had died on the opening day of the present meeting. She extended Rwanda's thanks for the messages of sympathy which had been received, and that added messages of condolence could still be sent to the family of the late Mr. Rugaravu who had had a very distinguished career and had continued to do his work up to the last minute.

163. The Committee then observed a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Rugaravu.

164. In the ensuing discussion, delegations congratulated the Committee on its work. One delegation inquired whether in general documents prepared on LDCs and in particular the document entitled "Structural adjustment: a painful process" could be made available to countries that were not LDCs, and if non-least developed countries could participate in the meetings of least developed countries. The Committee noted that the proposed study on the implications of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes for long-term growth and development in African LDCs would be done as a desk study, and wondered whether there were no alternative ways of doing it. One delegation, which had not been able to attend the last meeting, said that the data relating to its country were not correct and it would be providing the secretariat with accurate data.

165. The representative of Mali informed the meeting that, with the assistance of UNIDO, a solidarity meeting on industrial development would be organized in his country in September 1986 and extended an invitation to all other member States.

166. Responding to the questions, the secretariat said that non-LDC member States could attend the meetings of LDCs as observers, and that documents of the meeting were available to all member States.

167. The meeting took note of document E/ECA/LDCs./EXP.5/6 and Corr.1 and of the invitation extended by Mali.

(c) Report of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development

168. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/4, a representative of the secretariat said that of the five working groups of the intergovernmental committee, the meeting for Eastern Africa had been held in Ethiopia in November 1984, and that for Central Africa in Cameroon in March 1986. The working group meeting for North Africa was to be held in Cairo in June 1986, and those for West Africa and Southern Africa later in the year.

169. Although new technology was not necessarily always relevant to Africa, the Intergovernmental Committee had singled out biotechnology, microelectronics, new energy technologies, materials sciences and remote sensing as technologies which, with careful adaptation, could find applications in African countries. The Committee also recommended that a survey be made of existing facilities for research and development in selected areas of high technology which could be developed to benefit African countries, namely, industrial promotion of vaccines, hormones, antibiotics; applications of biotechnological techniques; and establishment of centres for promoting the application of microelectronics technology.

170. Where rural technology was concerned, member States had not made use of the 25 TCDC fellowships offered by India in rural technology. The African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) had a demonstration centre where rural technology was displayed.

171. ARCT had also identified three institutes where chairs of science and technology in food processing, biotechnology nutrition and health were to be sponsored as a contribution towards the implementation of the chapter on science and technology in the Lagos Plan of Action.

172. During the ensuing discussion, representatives emphasized the continuing need, which had been noted annually since 1982, for training and the use of African expertise in science and technology, so that experience could be accumulated as a result of assignments undertaken. It was recognized, however, that the high turnover of senior scientific and technical staff at national level was a major constraint to the achievement of that objective.

173. The meeting noted that owing to the delay in convening meetings of the Working Groups, the Intergovernmental Committee had not been able to complete its work on identification of priorities.

174. The meeting agreed that information on rural technology training available under the TCDC arrangements with India should be provided to member States so that names of suitable candidates could be submitted to the Government of India. It expressed support for the establishment of chairs of science and technology.

175. The representative of Burundi announced that a meeting was to be convened in Bujumbura from 6 to 11 September 1986 to take important decisions concerning the establishment of the African Centre for Solar Energy.

176. Regarding microbiology and biotechnology, the representative of UNESCO stated that the organization had established three subregional networks (MIRCENs) for the benefit of East Africa, West Africa and North Africa. Where science and technology policy was concerned, UNESCO periodically organized, in order to facilitate information exchange and co-operation, conferences of African and Arab Ministers responsible for the application of science and technology to development; the second such conference for Africa would be held in 1987.

177. The representative of WMO emphasized the impact of new technology on meteorology, and stated his organization's willingness to collaborate with ECA in launching the centre on solar energy, which, if it was to be a success, must work closely with national ones.

178. The representative of UNEP reiterated the Programme's support for science and technology within the framework of the Cairo Programme of Action.

(d) Report of the seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

179. This item was discussed with item 8(c) above.

(e) Report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade

180. Introducing the report (E/ECA/CM.12/8) a representative of the secretariat said that the issues discussed by the Ministers were the recent development in Africa's international trade relations, the expansion of domestic and intra-African trade, trade expansion and market research in Africa and activities of transnational corporations in Africa. The Conference had also considered the report on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund and a report on the Ministerial Follow-up Committee meetings.

181. In their main conclusions and recommendations the Ministers emphasized the need for the industrialized countries to desist from introducing new protectionist measures, roll back existing measures against developing countries' exports and augment the resources of the Common Fund established under the Integrated Programme for Commodities. They urged all countries to intensify their co-operation so as to ensure that intra-African trade increased to 10 per cent of world total trade by the end of 1995. Steps should also be taken to link trade development with progress in other sectors such as industry, agriculture, education and training, transport and communications. Moreover, the Ministers had decided to abolish the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for African Development. The Conference's biennial sessions would henceforth be preceded by a meeting of an Intergovernmental Group of Experts. Lastly, the Conference had accepted with thanks the offers of Zaire and Zimbabwe to host the fifth and sixth All-Africa Trade Fairs in 1988 and 1992 respectively and decided that in the event of a withdrawal by Zaire, Zimbabwe should automatically host the fifth Fair.

182. In the ensuing discussion, the meeting expressed concern that two-thirds of the capital of the Common Fund had not yet been constituted and that the Agreement establishing the Fund had not yet been signed by countries such as the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

183. Delegations asked what steps had been taken to implement resolution I (VIII) of the Conference on a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. It was suggested that an African expert meeting should be held to adopt an African common position prior to the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 to take place in Brazil in May 1986. To that end, the necessary guidance should be given by the Committee to the African Group in Geneva. It was also suggested that ECA should support and encourage African countries to establish African multinational trading companies.

184. One delegation wanted to know how the trade information system would work. Reservations were expressed regarding UNCTAD's performance of its role in trade promotion, and the need for it to be more actively involved in intra-African trade promotion was strongly emphasized. Attention was also drawn to the fact that although some of the provisions of the Lomé Convention had been deemed inadequate to Africa's needs, the Ministers of Trade felt that it provided a basis for trade and other relations between ACP and the European Economic Community. African countries were therefore urged to take full advantage of the Convention.

185. ~~Some delegations disagreed with the statement that the North African countries had made no progress towards the establishment of a preferential trade area:~~ the North Africa MULPOC Council of Plenipotentiaries had decided at its meeting held at Tangiers in March 1986, to organize an expert meeting on the subject.

186. One delegation indicated that the list of constraints on intra-African trade development given in paragraph 61 of the report should also include drought, desertification, famine, the refugee problem, the negative role of transnational corporations, the protectionist policies adopted by African countries and their unwillingness to facilitate free movement of goods, services and persons and implement trade preference schemes among themselves.

187. The representative of Zaire confirmed his Government's offer to host the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair and added that his Government was planning to initiate consultations with the OAU secretariat on the matter.

188. The observer from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that contrary to the point of view expressed in paragraph 17 of the report, his and other socialist countries had not only supported the Buenos Aires platform at UNCTAD-VI, but had never abstained from expanding their economic and trade co-operation with African countries on a just and mutually beneficial basis. The volume of trade between the socialist and African countries had increased twenty-fold during the period 1960-1984. The socialist countries had supported the idea of establishing the Common Fund and were actively participating in discussions on means and ways of realizing that decision. They were not responsible for the exploitation of African and other developing countries which was the main cause of those countries' current economic crisis and under-development.

189. The observer from the African Association of Trade Promotion Organizations pointed out that some of the major inadequacies of the Lome Convention lay in the fact that trade development was considered in isolation and not as an integral part of overall socio-economic development. He also appealed for financial support to AATPO to enable it to discharge its trade promotion role.

190. In response to the issues raised, the secretariat explained that the proposed trade information system would be based on a trade data bank operating within the context of PADIS. UNCTAD would also be requested to co-operate in providing data on trade of African countries. Member States needed to maintain continuity in their delegations to the meetings on multilateral trade negotiations to ensure their active and efficient participation. In that connection, he referred to the failure of UNCTAD-VI, to the inadequate clauses of STABEX, under which only a low volume of real resources was available, and to the problem of industrialization, which had not been satisfactorily dealt with under the Lome III Convention.

191. The Committee took note of the report.

(f) Report of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts from Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and Legal Departments on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund

192. Introducing the report (E/ECA/CM.12/32), a representative of the secretariat said that the third meeting of the Group of Experts had introduced a number of changes in the draft Articles of Agreement of the African Monetary Fund, reviewed the timetable of activities and recommended that the agreement establishing the Fund should enter into force on 1 January 1968. Regarding the provision that the Fund would begin operations once at least 40 per cent of subscriptions had been received, or at the latest 10 months after the entry into force of the agreement, the Group had recommended that if after 10 months, 40 per cent of subscriptions had not been received, the Executive Secretary should convene a meeting of all signatories to review the situation and recommend appropriate action.

193. The Group of Experts had also considered the report on preparations for the international conference on Africa's external indebtedness (E/ECA/CM.12/23) (for related discussion by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, see agenda item 6 above), and had emphasized the need for high-quality technical documentation for the conference.

194. The fourth meeting of the Group would precede the meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance to be held in Libreville (Gabon) in June 1966.

195. In the ensuing discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Technical Preparatory Committee should simply note the two reports and transmit them to the Conference of Ministers, responsible for economic development and planning leaving the continuation of the work to the fourth meeting of the Group and the Conference of Ministers of Finance.

(g) Report of the third meeting of the ECA Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment

196. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/9, a representative of the secretariat recalled the Joint Committee's objectives and summarized its discussions and

recommendations at its third meeting. Where the preparatory activities in member States for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless were concerned, the country reports submitted by delegations would be combined with the information already provided by member States at the Committee's two previous meetings on the subject to form the Committee's contribution to the International Year.

197. He then reported on the Joint Committee's work in relation to member States' efforts to improve the human settlements situation, particularly by developing land policies in urban areas and housing programmes for the masses (E/ECA/HUS/12), decentralized systems of building materials production (E/ECA/HUS/13 and 14), indicators for revised building codes and regulations (E/ECA/HUS/15) and co-operative self-help housing systems (E/ECA/HUS/16).

198. The Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee at its third meeting.

(h) Report of the second meeting of the Regional Technical Committee
for PADIS

199. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/33, a representative of the secretariat said that the Regional Technical Committee had considered and adopted recommendations on matters arising from previous ECA meetings, progress made in programme implementation, initiatives and difficulties in mobilizing finances for the PADIS programme, findings and recommendations of an evaluation conducted in September-October 1985, strategies for the period 1986-1990 and the work plan for 1986-1987.

200. The delegation of a member State of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS apologized for the inability of the representative of its country to attend the meeting of the Technical Committee. That representative had just been appointed to the post of technical adviser on informatics and he had had to assume his new responsibility immediately.

201. The meeting stressed the need for the effective operation of existing national information centres within the PADIS work programme, and took note of the report.

(i) Report of the sixth Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions

202. Introducing the report (E/ECA/CM.12/34), a representative of the secretariat said that in paragraph 2 of the annex "the Regional Remote Sensing Centre (CRTO) Ouagadougou" should be replaced by "the Institute for Development and Economic Planning (IDEP)."

203. The sixth Conference had reviewed progress made in the implementation of Conference of Ministers resolution 550 (XX) on the rationalization, co-ordination and merger of the activities of ECA-sponsored institutions and the securing of financial support for such activities. Accordingly, it had concerned itself with the implementation of the 10 member-states Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, the status of contributions by member States and the need to intensify internal revenue-generating activities.

204. In response to the request of the Conference of Ministers to ascertain from host Governments and member States their continued interest in the institutions, a letter had been written and only one member State had responded. Steps were being taken to create, as requested by resolution 550 (XX), a co-ordinating unit in the secretariat of the Commission.

205. During the ensuing discussion, the Committee sought clarification regarding the difficulties which had led to the delay in the implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations and who was ultimately responsible for implementing them. Some delegations also asked what was the technical basis of the recommendations, and why the report did not mention initiatives taken by other ECA-sponsored institutions such as TAHA and TEHA.

206. The secretariat replied that the ultimate responsibility for implementing the recommendations rested with member State Governments through the Governing Councils of the respective institutions. The slow progress in the implementation of the recommendations had been due largely to the provision made in the Ad Hoc Committee's report which called for the holding of further consultations between ECA, the host Governments and the institutions prior to the taking of a final decision. The consultations had been initiated, and all but two of the governing bodies had met and taken decisions; however, consultations were still going on with TAHA and TEHA, and their outcome would be reported at the next meeting of

the Committee. Regarding the technical basis, the recommendations had evolved from the findings of a two-year study carried out by the 16-member State Ad Hoc Committee.

207. The Committee expressed grave concern over the improper functioning of the institutions, stressed the urgent need to find suitable solutions, and requested the Executive Secretary to find ways and means of having the decisions of the Ad Hoc Committee implemented, taking due note of the North African region's experience in the implementation of Conference of Ministers resolution 55C (XX).

(j) Report on the Regional Conference on Intra-African Tourism
Co-operation held in Niamey, the Niger, from 2 to 6 October 1984

208. Introducing the report (E/ECA/CM.12/40), a representative of the secretariat said that the Regional Conference had decided to: establish a Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, establish subregional co-operation machineries, establish an inter-agency co-ordinating committee for the development of tourism in Africa, undertake a series of studies on the promotion of tourism and convene a general African Conference on Hotel Management. The Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was expected to institutionalize the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism.

209. In the ensuing discussion, reservations were made with respect to the financial implications of the decisions taken by the Regional Conference, particularly with respect to the request for institutionalization. Some delegations from countries where tourism constituted a major foreign exchange earner stated that they would support any measures aimed at the development of the sector including institutionalization of the Ministerial Conference.

210. In noting the report, the Committee agreed to transmit it to the Conference of Ministers of Planning together with the comments and the reservations expressed.

(k) Report of the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport
Communications and Planning

211. This item was discussed with item 8(a) above.

Follow-up on resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly that are of interest to Africa (agenda item 13)

- (a) Follow-up action on other relevant resolutions adopted by the twentieth session of the Commission/eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers
- (b) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and by the General Assembly at its fortieth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa

212. Introducing documents E/ECA/CN.12/21 and E/ECA/CN.12/35, a representative of the secretariat described the various measures taken in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the twentieth session of the Commission/eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The Conference had adopted 30 resolutions covering all socio-economic development sectors. Eight of them - those on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the least developed countries, African migrant workers, the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the appointment of MULPOC directors, women and development, and the introduction of Portuguese as one of the official working languages of ECA had been brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, which had acted upon them. However, at the General Assembly, a decision was made that no resolutions already acted upon by the Economic and Social Council should be taken up again unless they had financial implications. Even then, those resolutions that had financial implications did not receive favourable consideration.

213. In the ensuing discussion, delegations thanked the Executive Secretary for his efforts to implement the various resolutions, and congratulated the Acting Director of the North Africa MULPOC on the work he had accomplished often under difficult conditions. The secretariat representative said that all member States of the MULPOC would be notified of the decision regarding the appointment of the new Director.

(c) Work programme and priorities

(i) Proposals for second updating of and revisions to the Medium-term Plan 1984-1989

214. Introducing the proposals (E/ECA/CM.12/41), a representative of the secretariat said that the work of the secretariat was prepared within the framework of a six-year Medium-term Plan established by the General Assembly in 1982. The first updating of the Plan had been approved by the Committee and subsequently by the General Assembly in 1984. The current proposals had been occasioned by certain decisions taken by the Commission during the last few years, and had been prepared in accordance with the regulations and rules governing programme planning and the programme aspects of the budget.

215. The Committee endorsed the proposals.

(ii) Proposals for updating the proposed programme budget 1986-1987 in the light of General Assembly approved appropriations and availability of extrabudgetary resources

216. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/36 containing the proposals, a representative of the secretariat said that the 1986-1987 work programme had been endorsed by the Committee prior to its consideration by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and adoption by the General Assembly. Because the actual regular budget and extrabudgetary resources and some critical aspects of activities had become known only after adoption of the programme by the General Assembly, it now had to be updated to match available resources and incorporate inadvertently omitted activities.

217. Of the 14 new posts requested, only five had been approved for activities on monitoring and evaluation; integration of women in development; environment; and marine affairs. As a result, programme managers had had to review their programmes. Fortunately, some of them were able to absorb, within the existing resources, the activities for which new posts were not available. The proposals being made were those of programme managers who could not absorb such activities with existing resources. The programmes and sub-programmes affected included

sub-programme 4: policies, institutions and technical assistance for economic co-operation; and sub-programme 5: education and training of the programme - development issues and policies in Africa; the programme - environment; sub-programme 2 - water resources of the programme - natural resources and the programme - population.

218. In the ensuing discussion, delegations asked how the decisions of the forthcoming United Nations special session on Africa would be reflected in ECA's work programme and priorities since the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would have concluded its 1986 session by the time the special session ended.

219. The secretariat replied that decisions of the General Assembly of themselves constituted a mandate for the Commission to implement specific activities. In that connection, new activities could be established for implementation with new resources either from the regular budget or from extrabudgetary resources.

220. The Committee endorsed the proposals for updating the 1986-1987 programme budget.

(iii) Project on review and appraisal of the impact of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on African development - policy-making, programming and executing projects, 1975-1985

221. Introducing the report (E/ECA/CM.12/42, the representative of the secretariat explained that the purpose of the project was to undertake an internal evaluation of the operations and functioning of the secretariat. The need for such an evaluation was now even greater as member States were becoming more and more concerned about efficiency, particularly on account of current financial difficulties. The appraisal would cover the period 1975-1985, and he called for the support of Committee members in providing the information and data required.

222. After lengthy discussions on the criteria for the selection of the period to be studied, the Committee decided that the appraisal should cover the period 1958-1985, with special emphasis on the period 1975-1985. Underscoring the importance of the evaluation, the Committee decided that the study should, after completion, be submitted to each member State for comment before it was finalized. Finally, the Committee commended the secretariat for its initiative and assured it of its support.

UNDP regional programme for Africa, fourth programming cycle, 1987-1991
orientation paper (agenda item 14)

223. Introducing document E/ECA/CM.12/37, a representative of the secretariat said it had been prepared in close collaboration between the ECA and UNDP secretariats. It outlined the new thematic approach to the programme, defined priority development areas on which it should focus, and described the procedures that would be followed in preparing the fourth programming cycle. If the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning agreed to the proposal to do so, the document would be submitted in October 1986 to a special session of the Conference which would consider the draft regional programme for Africa to be submitted to the UNDP Governing Council in June 1987.

224. The representative of UNDP endorsed the introductory remarks of the secretariat representative and briefly highlighted the structure of the paper.

225. In the ensuing discussion, some participants asked if the \$US 2 million expected to be allocated during the fourth programming cycle might not decrease, as had been the case during the third cycle, an assurance that the total would remain stable, or even increase, would be most welcome.

226. One participant enquired about the position of UNDP with regard to the provision of financial support to ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions, and the progress that had been made, under the third cycle, in the UNDP evaluation of those institutions. In that connection, the members of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL) inquired as to the status of the UNDP evaluation of that grouping's projects.

227. One participant said that the document made many unsupported ascertations, many of which required more detailed study.

228. Many other delegations, which were of the opinion that the document was very valuable said that the proposals it contained should be aligned with those made in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990. The representative of OAU strongly endorsed that view, and welcomed the close co-operation between his organization and UNDP.

229. The representative of UNESCO commended the co-operation between the organization and UNDP, but pointed out that the document did not always place sufficient emphasis on problems of education.

230. The representative of FAO also welcomed the co-operation between his organization and UNDP, and said that while the approach the document took to agriculture was a very interesting one, it lacked a clear focus.

231. The representative of UNIDO said that, despite the good co-operation which existed between UNDP and UNIDO, the document neglected industry.

232. The representative of ICAO welcomed the co-operation between UNDP and his organization, and expressed the hope that in the fourth programming cycle, more emphasis would be placed on training in the field of civil aviation.

233. Replying to the comments made, the representative of UNDP said that only the Programme's Governing Council was in a position to decide on the total allocations under the fourth programming cycle. The third cycle evaluation would be completed before the end of May 1986, and would therefore be available to the proposed special session of the Conference of Planning Ministers. He would ascertain the status of the evaluation of the Great Lakes countries' projects on his return to New York, and contact the secretariat of the Community in that respect.

234. The Executive Secretary said that the Committee should express its views on the desirability of convening a special session of the African Ministers responsible for economic development and planning to consider the draft regional programme for Africa in October 1986. The document before the Committee dealt only with the sub-Saharan African countries, and was from the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa. It was envisaged that another document on the North African countries to be prepared by the Regional Bureau of Arab State would be submitted to the Ministers for approval in October. He sympathized with the suggestion that African specialized institutions must be involved in the execution of UNDP projects. In that connection, he and his colleagues - the Secretary-General of OAU, the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of UNDP, and the President of ADB would meet in May to discuss ways of mobilizing resources for African development, the use of which the institutions would benefit from.

235. The Committee took note of the report, and endorsed the proposal that a special session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Economic Development and Planning should take place at Addis Ababa on 13 and 14 October 1986.

Other business (agenda item 15)

236. The delegation of Zaire informed the Committee that, in collaboration with the delegation of Burundi and Rwanda, it would prepare a draft resolution requesting UNDP to release funds for the implementation of the CETGL projects.

237. The representative of Chad thanked the Executive Secretary for not publishing the arrears of payment of contributions to ECA-sponsored institutions. He proposed that arrears should be grouped into two periods, namely from 1979 to 1982 and from 1983 to 1985. Since Chad had not benefited from the institutions' services during the earlier period, it would make payments only in respect of the second period.

Date and venue and other matters relating to the eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 16)

238. The Secretary of the Commission informed the Committee that consultations on the above subjects were still in progress.