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REPORT OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN THE EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN SUB-REGION

1. An informal consultation took place on 20 and 27 February 1964 among representatives of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and delegates of East and Central Africa. Delegates from the following countries were present:

Basutoland
Congo (Leopoldville)
Ethiopia
Kenya
Madagascar
Mauritius
Northern Rhodesia
Nyasaland
Southern Rhodesia
Tanganyika
Uganda
Zanzibar

2. The Director of the Economic Commission for Africa sub-regional office for East and Central Africa in Lusaka took the chair. The Executive Secretary was also represented by the Director of the Economic Development Division and the Director of the Trade and Surveys Division.

3. The discussion was based largely on the work programme for 1964-1965 (E/CN.14/267) and the report of the industrial co-ordination mission to East and Central Africa (E/CN.14/247).

4. The secretariat suggested that while the programme of work in East and Central Africa had to be drawn up within the framework of the over-all programme of work, to be decided by the Commission at the sixth session, it would be useful if each sub-region would indicate those projects which were of particular interest, together with an indication of priorities. A meeting of North African countries had already been held for this purpose, and the secretariat gave a brief indication of what had been decided, which had been based largely on the conclusions of the report of the North African industrial co-ordination mission. The secretariat suggested that the programme of work in East and Central Africa during 1964 might be based on co-ordinated industrial development, a co-ordinated programme of transport development, co-operation between countries in energy, agricultural development, trade problems (including tariffs and monetary policies), all leading to the gradual harmonization of development plans. It was pointed out that, building on the report of the industrial co-ordination mission and on the section of the Economic Survey of Africa dealing with East and Central Africa, it could be demonstrated how, by 1970, unemployment problems could be eased and incomes raised substantially, provided the whole sub-region were more closely integrated economically. The implications of doing this could be worked out in a variety of fields. More detailed research on some of these problems would be required, together with detailed discussions with the governments in the sub-region and such bodies as the East African Common Services Organization (EACSO) and universities.

5. Representative of the Congo (Leopoldville), Madagascar and Zanzibar requested that industrial co-ordination missions should be sent to their countries as soon as possible. They stressed that the conclusions reached by the East and Central African mission would be likely to require substantial modification if the possibilities in their countries were

taken into account. The secretariat undertook to review the findings of the industrial co-ordination mission's report to East and Central Africa in the light of the situation in the Congo (Leopoldville), Madagascar and Zanzibar before it was examined in detail by whatever meeting which it might be decided to convene for this purpose.

6. The representative of Basutoland, who indicated that he felt he was also expressing the sentiments of Bechuanaland and Swaziland, expressed the hope that Economic Commission for Africa experts would also visit the Protectorates, and that the problems of these countries would be fully taken into account in the development of schemes for sub-regional co-ordination. Basutoland was asking help from the United Nations and other sources in the setting up of a State bank, in the harnessing of water resources and in transport development. Representatives of other countries in the sub-region expressed their willingness to render assistance to the Protectorates as part of the process of co-ordination of efforts in the sub-region as a whole.

7. The representative of Mauritius pointed out that the possibilities of co-operation between his country and other countries of the sub-region were limited by geographical considerations. Nonetheless in certain fields such as transport, development of agriculture and trade, co-operation is possible. Furthermore, his country had had some experience of development problems and benefited recently of surveys by highly qualified experts, which he would be glad to put at the disposal of other countries.

8. Representatives of a number of countries stressed the importance of developing the infrastructure of the whole sub-region, and also of paying great attention to the development of training facilities at all levels.

9. There was general agreement that the report of the industrial co-ordination mission afforded, subject to taking into account the problems and possibilities of the countries which had not yet been visited, a basis for examination on a concrete basis of industrial co-ordination within the sub-region. There was also general agreement with the

suggestions put forward by the secretariat for further work on industry, agriculture, trade and related problems, energy, transport and the analysis and gradual co-ordination of development plans.

10. There was general agreement that more frequent meetings should be held in the sub-region based on the Lusaka office and also that adequate travel facilities should be made available to the secretariat in view of the wide geographical coverage of the sub-region.

11. The representative of Northern Rhodesia proposed that the work programme outlined by the secretariat should be adopted for the sub-region for 1964 and that, on the basis thereof, a meeting at ministerial level should be held in Lusaka at the end of 1964 or early in 1965, with the objective of co-ordinating economic policies in the areas concerned in the East and Central African sub-region. This proposal was unanimously adopted.