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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Thirteenth meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the Whole**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
13-18 April 1992**

**DRAFT REPORT**

## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

I.1. The thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 April to 18 April 1992. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. Dr. Duri Mohammed, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. Mr. Issa B.Y. Diallo, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, also delivered a statement at the opening ceremony of the meeting. The representative of Togo expressed a vote of appreciation to the Government and People of Ethiopia for hosting the thirteenth meeting of TEPCOW.

I.2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following members States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

I.3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: China, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Republic of Korea, France, Holy See, Hungary, India, Italy, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey and Venezuela.

I.4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (UN-DESD), United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT), United Nations University (UNU),

World Food Council (WFC), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

I.5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

I.6. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), African Development Bank (ADB), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Banque de Développement des Etats des Grands Lacs (BDEGL), Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), International Parliament for Safety and Peace (IPSP), Organisation du Bassin de la Kagera (KBO), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and West African Clearing House (WACH).

I.7. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Commonwealth Secretariat and Lutheran World Federation.

I.8. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Nigeria
First Vice-Chairman:	Central African Subregion
Second Vice-Chairman:	Algeria
Rapporteur:	Lesotho

I.9. The Committee established an open-ended sub-committee chaired by the Second Vice-Chairman, to consider a draft communique and related resolutions for adoption by the Committee. The sub-committee had the following countries as its core members: Chad, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, the Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## **B. AGENDA**

I.10. On 13 April 1992, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

### **Conference theme: New directions for the Economic Commission for Africa**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.

### **PART I. Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1991 and prospects for 1992**

- 4.1 Economic Report on Africa 1992.
- 4.2 Biennial report of the Executive Secretary.
- 4.3 New directions for the Economic Commission for Africa in the 1990s.

### **PART II. Transformation, recovery and adjustment**

5. Implementation of regional development strategies: Update:

Progress report on implementation of regional development strategies (the Lagos Plan of Action, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Development and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation).

**PART III. Issues, studies and reports on regional cooperation for development in Africa**

**6A. Global economic integration issues in the region:**

- Criteria for the identification of inter-subregional projects

**6B. Sectoral issues on regional economic integration:**

**(i) Agriculture and environment:**

The effectiveness of subregional and regional development projects in the agriculture and rural sector with special emphasis on environment and sustainable development;

**(ii) Population issues in Africa:**

Analysis of the current strategy for the population programme in Africa and the implications of recent developments, including funding policies, for its scope and prospects;

**(iii) Information for development:**

- a. Information needs in the light of the emerging African Economic Community and policy implications in the acquisition and utilization of information technology in Africa;

- b. The overall strategy for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s as adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its sixteenth meeting in May 1990;

(iv) Transport and communications in Africa:

Progress report on the implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

(v) Industrial development in Africa:

Programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(vi) Natural resources and environment in Africa:

Report on the African Regional Preparatory Conference on Environment and Development;

(vii) Trade and development finance in Africa:

Report on Africa's preparation and participation in UNCTAD VIII.

**7. PART IV. Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers**

**PART V. Statutory issues**

- 8. Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa:

- (a) Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;
- (b) Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at the second regular session of 1991 and by the General Assembly at the forty-fifth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa.

**PART VI. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission**

- 9. (a) Proposals for updating the 1992-1993 programme of work;
- (b) Progress report on ECA Regional Advisory Services;
- (c) Revision of the Medium-term Plan 1992-1997.

**PART VII. Extrabudgetary resources and operational activities in ECA**

- 10. A review of the critical situation of the extrabudgetary resources needed for operational activities in ECA in the context of recent measures taken by major funding agencies of the United Nations, including the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme.
- 11. Any other business.
- 12. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.
- 13. Adoption of the report.
- 14. Closure of the meeting.

## C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

### Opening addresses

I.11. In his opening statement, H.E. Dr. Duri Mohammed, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia welcomed participants to the traditional stock taking of Africa's economic and social development and stressed that the work of regional organizations and institutions would have to take account of the new environment in which their activities were unfolding. In that new environment, Africa had begun to design common positions and programmes such as the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development. Both documents reaffirmed the importance of peace and democracy to the socio-economic future of Africa and the importance of broad public participation if ambitious economic goals were to be achieved. He urged all member States to redouble their efforts to implement the African Charter in the light of their own evolving circumstances.

I.12. The Minister pointed out that the core strategy of the Lagos Plan of Action for the attainment of national and collective self-reliance remained important. In that regard, the acceleration of subregional economic cooperation and integration as well as the strengthening of the five Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) ought to be considered as the principal means of attaining the goals set. In his view, member States should rely, to the extent possible, on internal resources for the pursuit of Africa's development, recognizing where the national interest lay, and imposing that insight on the totality of development effort. For that to happen, the LPA and APPER should be reconciled with the structural adjustment programmes defined in dialogue with individuals and institutions from outside Africa. He found the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa a useful contribution to the ongoing dialogue for the development of Africa. In the current circumstances, African policy makers should take the full measure of the human, financial and material resources that can and must be mobilized to ensure survival and growth. By using its own resources more fully and more efficiently than it had done in the past, Africa would increase the fruitfulness of the partnerships it forged with others.



I.13. Turning to the situation of his own country, he commended the unprecedented tolerance and farsightedness of its peoples, the leaders of opposition groups and the international community at large for having dispelled the threat of war, and the devastation it had caused. Rehabilitation and recovery were now the order of the day and from its past and severe sacrifices, Ethiopia hoped to win its future economic progress. The transition from war to peace and from totalitarian dictatorship to democracy had brought Ethiopia invaluable opportunities it hoped to seize as well as formidable challenges to which it would rise. Pursuant to the Addis Ababa Conference of Peace and Democracy held from 1 to 5 July 1991, Ethiopia had formulated an economic policy for the transitional period, and was planning to shift from a command economy to market-oriented economic development. It was already clear that Ethiopia's willingness to see economic agents largely guided by market signals was bringing increased outside assistance. For the progress to date, his appreciation went to all those who had helped make it possible. There remained, however, such difficulties as the problem of the demobilised soldiers of the defunct government, estimated at about 300,000, the large number of displaced persons, refugees and returnees, the need for a combined effort provide relief to more than eight million persons on the verge of starvation and the rehabilitation of infrastructure throughout the country. The rehabilitation and redeployment work involved was beyond the present capability of the country. Aware of the threat that the transition from an overly-centralized and undemocratic state to a decentralized and democratic policy could pose to social stability, Ethiopia hoped that sister countries and the international community at large would help it to face the challenges.

I.14. In his statement, Mr. Issa B. Y. Diallo, Acting Executive Secretary of ECA welcomed participants to the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, and said that the statement of the Ethiopian Minister of Planning and Economic Development, would serve as a useful point of reference for the Committee's deliberations. He then pointed out that the Conference theme of "New Directions for the Economic Commission for Africa" underlined the need for ECA member States and the secretariat to develop a response to the changes taking place on the international scene and in Africa. The Conference must determine what Africa must do to take advantage of the historical changes transforming the globe and what ECA must do to strengthen its role as a major force in that process.

I.15. The Acting Executive Secretary drew the attention of the participants to the current ECA data which showed that the economic growth rate in the region had been only 2.3 per cent as compared to 3.2 per cent in 1990, and as compared to the region's annual population growth rate of 3 per cent. Education, health and employment had been the worst hit by the continued deterioration of social services. Agriculture had continued to depend more on rain than on irrigation, and had therefore been heavily affected by drought and other natural disasters. Internal conflicts continued in some subregions. The flight of capital persisted. Infrastructural reforms suffered from a lack of adequate resources to operationalize them, and more importantly, from lack of cooperation between African countries in such areas as transport, communications, finance and trade. External factors had also seriously constrained Africa's economic performance in 1991. Trade had suffered heavily from economic recession in the industrialized countries. The overall price of commodities and beverages had dropped by \$US 2.8 billion from 1990. Another major impediment to regional growth originated from the external debt, which, estimated at \$US 275.1 billion, constituted 72.8 per cent of regional (GDP). Further, the preoccupation of the OECD countries with the emergency situation in Eastern Europe had combined with the conditionalities attached to financial aid to create a stagnation of the flow of external resources in 1991.

I.16. In spite of all that, he perceived signs of a potential for growth and sustainable development in the near future. The establishment of the African Economic Community was a step which would have to be fully supported by ECA, OAU, ADB and all subregional intergovernmental organizations. The transition to democracy in a number of countries was another significant development. As popular participation in political governance and socio-economic development gained ground in Africa, the management of economic and social infrastructure and broader participation in decision-making should improve.

I.17. The Acting Executive Secretary asserted that for ECA to remain a major force in Africa's socio-economic development, the organization would have to further strengthen its relationship with the Governments of member States. The exercise of joint responsibility for advocacy on African questions by ECA, OAU and ADB should be strengthened. ECA activities should be better harmonized with those of IGOs, the Bretton Woods institutions, professional associations, NGOs, the private sector and bilateral donors. Clear and concise tasks should be set for the MULPOCs, and

realistic solutions found to the financial and management problems of the ECA-sponsored institutions.

I.18. Concerning the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1991, Mr. Diallo pointed out that specific goals had been identified and had to be achieved within a specific time frame. The New Agenda was complemented by a United Nations System-wide Plan of Action, which would monitor and coordinate all United Nations System activities in Africa. Mr. Diallo hoped that the Conference would confirm its support for ECA's major role under the New Agenda to the international community, and direct the secretariat as to the priority areas that the 1993 report on the New Agenda should stress.

I.19. Regarding the other global issues, he urged the Conference (i) to make a statement on the importance of establishing self-reliant subregional trade, and to provide specific objectives and a time table for the development of a major initiative in this direction for the current biennium; (ii) to direct the secretariat in developing a major strategy for finding development solutions to environmental problems; (iii) to assure that both the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa were being implemented in a coordinated manner and to indicate if the tentative plan for coordination was moving in the right direction.

I.20. Similarly, he hoped that the Conference would consider the close connection between population factors, development, the environment and the agricultural economy, and direct the secretariat in producing a plan for integrating all four issues into a coherent strategy by the time of the next session in 1993. In the area of development information systems, the secretariat was seeking guidance on the manner in which its various databases could be integrated into a system networking from ECA. On a related issue, the meeting was also asked to consider how the Strategy for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa could be effectively implemented.

I.21. Turning to the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat, Mr. Diallo stated that the budget of the United Nations remained uncertain, and the role of the Organization was being

questioned along with that of the regional commissions in the socio-economic development and integration of the various world regions. The Conference needed to reaffirm that role, and in doing so, produce bold and imaginative suggestions for advancement in economic and social development through regional co-operation.

I.22. The Acting Executive Secretary concluded by observing that in a fast-changing world where competition was becoming particularly fierce and the resources available for development and international cooperation obviously dwindling, and in a region such as Africa which was grappling with upheavals whose effects might well be long-lasting, ECA had to reflect the objective realities in its philosophy and action in both its work programme and operational activities, if it was to play its catalytic role in Africa's social and economic development. Since periods of crisis were the times when management capacity was most tested, Mr. Diallo asserted that everything should be done to maintain the credibility of the Commission. Given its human resources, ECA, would have to strike a balance between research and operational activities, making sure to stress the quality rather than the quantity of its outputs, focussing on those activities that make a real impact on Africa's economic and social development and using its resources and operations to maximum advantage through close cooperation with like-minded institutions such as OAU, ADB and the subregional groupings.

I.23. The representative of Togo delivered a vote of thanks on behalf of all delegates. He thanked Dr. Duri Mohammed, Minister of Planning and Economic Development and the Transitional Government and People of Ethiopia for their exemplary African hospitality. He particularly commended the efforts that had been made by the Transitional Government to rebuild and democratize the country, and also hoped that the statement of the Minister would be a useful source of reference during the imminent deliberations.

I.24. He also expressed sincere thanks to Mr. Issa B.Y. Diallo, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Secretary of ECA for his excellent statement for the excellent documents made available to the delegates and, more particularly, for the preparation of document E/ECA/CM.18/Summary which summarized all issues referred to the meeting. He then exhorted the secretariat to keep up the good work, and urged the delegates to prepare concrete recommendations to be transmitted to the ministers for their consideration and approval.

## PART I

### Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1991 and prospects for 1992 (agenda item 4)

#### Economic Report on Africa 1992 (agenda item 4.1)

1.1. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/2: Economic Report on Africa 1992.

1.2. Under this agenda item, the Committee examined an overview of Africa's economic performance in 1991, and the main underlying factors. Based on preliminary data, overall regional output had grown at a rate of about 2.3 per cent. This was a decline from the 3.2 per cent growth rate for 1990, and was due to the severe recession affecting the OECD countries, which depressed demand and prices of Africa's exports of oil and metallic minerals; the continued weakness of tropical agricultural beverage commodities; economic retrenchment accompanying programmes of structural adjustment and liberalization in many countries; continued structural weaknesses in the regional economy; social and political unrest accompanying the process of democratization; and civil war situations in some countries.

1.3. In 1991, North Africa appeared to have posted the strongest growth (3.4 per cent), followed by West Africa (3.2 per cent), Southern Africa (1.5 per cent), Eastern Africa (1.3 per cent), and Central Africa (-3.6 per cent). Agricultural output increased by 2.5 per cent in 1991, due to better-than-average rainfall conditions in all subregions except Eastern and Southern Africa. The Committee took note of continued weakness in the manufacturing sector, with the possibility that there was a further reduction in the rate of capacity utilization due, in part, to the scarcity of hard currency for essential imported inputs.

1.4. The Committee also took note of the deterioration in Africa's terms of trade and lack of improvement in the region's share of world trade, which remained at a mere 2.2 per cent. Preliminary estimates indicated that the region's balance of payments deteriorated from \$US 2.5

billion in 1990 to about \$US 7.3 billion in 1991. Taking into account declines in private transfer payments, the account deficit for 1991 was estimated at about \$US 8.9 billion. A slight contraction of 0.7 per cent was noted in Africa's external debt to \$US 275.1 billion outstanding at the end of 1991. On the social front, the Committee acknowledged the continued breakdown in social services, the deterioration in all indicators of social well-being and the deepening of poverty throughout Africa in the wake of structural economic reforms.

1.5. Looking ahead to 1992, the Committee noted that prospects for modest regional economic recovery could depend on the strength of the recovery in the OECD countries and the extent to which this stimulated demand for African exports; stabilization of social and political conditions in the wake of the democratization process; economic liberalization and social transformation policies; and favourable weather conditions throughout the region.

1.6. The Committee called for the strengthening of the analytical aspects of the economic report, in order to give a fuller account not only of the causes underlying Africa's dismal socio-economic performance, but also concrete policy measures which should be undertaken to improve the situation. Analysis of the policies undertaken by member States would also lead to a useful exchange of countries' experiences. In order to address the intractable problem of lack of food self-sufficiency in Africa, the Committee recommended that member States accord top priority to the agricultural sector among all production sectors; offer more attractive incentives; improve agricultural competitiveness and productivity; and diversify their economies away from the traditional "cash" crops whose world markets had weakened due to persistent oversupply. On the question of civil strife, the Committee suggested that ECA should attempt to evaluate the opportunity costs of the subsequent destruction wreaked on national infrastructures.

1.7. Additional information on individual countries was provided to the Committee for incorporation, including more up-to-date production and export statistics, and the experiences of various countries on economic, structural and policy reforms which they had undertaken. The Committee also noted the suggestion that the joint publication of the Economic Report on Africa by ECA and ADB secretariats be revived which would necessitate the submission of data on regular basis by member States.

1.8. It was the Committee's opinion that the secretariat's forecast of 3.6 per cent growth in the regional economic performance in 1992 was rather optimistic. The underlying assumptions regarding the strength of the expected recovery among the OECD countries, as well as the translation of this recovery into demand for Africa's traditional exports was open to question. Similarly, the Committee felt that the impact of the severe drought affecting Eastern and Southern Africa had not been adequately taken into account.

1.9. It suggested that future reports should focus on policy directions that would achieve regional economic and social objectives, such as those set in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Noting that some of the data was rendered in terms of national currencies, the Committee recommended that an attempt should be made in future to supply a table of nominal exchange rates of national currencies in terms of a common denominator.

**Biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1990-1991 (agenda item 4.2)**

1.10. Under this agenda item, the meeting considered document E/ECA/CM.18/3. The Committee noted that during the period under review (1990-1991) several policy organs had met and adopted legislative decisions aimed at enhancing the performance of the secretariat. Among the major results of the said decisions were the General Assembly's approval of additional funds in support of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP); and the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs); the creation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa and the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000). The Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Teams (MRAG), a group of senior advisors designed to assist member States to attain the objectives of economic cooperation and integration through a multidisciplinary approach to self-reliant development and structural transformation was established.

1.11. The Committee further noted that several efforts intended to revitalize the operational framework of the Commission had been pursued. The vacancy rate of the secretariat was reduced from 25.7 per cent in 1988-1989 to below 8.5 per cent in 1990-1991. Pursuant to the General

Assembly resolution to increase the representation of professional women in the Secretariat, the total number of professional women at ECA as of December 1991 was 36 or 17 per cent of ECA staff. Every effort was being made to further increase the proportion of female staff at the Secretariat, including their appointment at higher levels. Similarly, the Committee noted that 1991 had marked the beginning of full-scale office automation in ECA, and that that had entailed a massive training programme for staff. In view of the limited regular budget and declining extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat intended to step up its efforts in the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources in the coming biennium.

1.12. With regard to the performance of the Secretariat, the Committee noted that the programme performance at output level for the biennium 1990-1991 was 91 per cent as compared to 88 per cent in the 1988-1989 biennium.

1.13. The Committee took note of the report with the observations that cooperation between ECA and subregional intergovernmental institutions should be enhanced especially at the operational level, in order to benefit from each other's experiences. In this regard, cooperation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) was encouraged and it was agreed that ECA would incorporate the data already collected by CILSS in its report. The Committee also drew attention to a number of outstanding issues related to the ongoing improvement of the Secretariat, which were not covered in the Report. It understood, however, that such issues would be raised under the agenda item relating to the new direction for the Economic Commission for Africa. The Committee also expressed the view that the editorial aspects of the report should be improved.

#### **New Directions for the Economic Commission for Africa in the 1990s (agenda item 4.3)**

1.14. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/4 entitled the Economic Commission for Africa in the 1990s: A policy and Management Framework for Facing Africa's Development Challenges.



1.15. The Committee noted that the document was largely based on the report of a Task Force established by the Acting Executive Secretary in November, 1991 and insights of ECA staff, as well as consultations with ECA's main collaborating partners. The Committee commended the Acting Executive Secretary for his initiatives and efforts at charting new directions for the Commission for the 1990s. It noted that the changes that have taken place in Africa and the rest of the world in the past few years and the accompanying challenges justified adjustments in ECA's policy orientation, programmes and management capacity with a view to ensuring greater impact of its activities. Such a reorientation was consistent with the reforms already underway in the rest of the United Nations System. The Committee accordingly urged the Acting Executive Secretary to pursue vigorously the implementation of the various proposals contained in the document.

1.16. The Committee reviewed the four sections of the report, namely: Purposes and Goals; the environment for operations in the 1990s; lines of programming and management for quality and efficiency. In so doing, it took note of the areas of focus for ECA's programme delivery, which had been identified, taking into account Africa's basic development issues that needed to be addressed. The areas are as follows: (a) strengthening ECA's advocacy role on socio-economic questions; (b) promoting regional cooperation and integration; (c) enhancing the efficiency of the public sector in promoting economic development and in fostering entrepreneurship; (d) ensuring a desirable balance between food supply, population, human settlements and environment; (e) fostering human-centred development; (f) achieving structural transformation and diversification of African economies; and (g) promotion of women in development.

1.17. The Committee endorsed the areas of focus and recognized that they were established to galvanize programme delivery in the existing sectoral and overall priorities already established by the Commission. In doing so it recognized that the areas are neither a substitute for existing subprogrammes nor new priorities. They represented basic indicators of achievement of the objectives of ECA with respect to African development.

1.18. The Committee observed that the document provided useful suggestions with regard to ECA's assistance to member States in order to foster their economic development and transformation in the 1990s. It observed that ECA's past achievements had been considerable but that ECA had not paid

sufficient attention to promoting itself and its products. In this regard, the Committee recommended that improving ECA's image and publicizing its product should be one of the key elements of ECA's approach in the 1990s. ECA should strike a desirable balance between research and analysis and operational activities. To that end, the Commission was urged to seek extrabudgetary resources to support additional operational activities.

1.19. The Committee underscored the need for ECA to foster closer cooperation with other African regional organizations, United Nations agencies, the private sector, NGOs and universities. It noted that some of ECA's main achievements resulted from inter-agency collaboration. In this regard, particular stress was placed on the need for ECA to intensify collaboration with OAU and ADB and to harmonize their programmes and activities, to the extent possible, with a view to ensuring that the full potentials of African institutions and organizations were mobilized for the promotion of Africa's development. The Committee supported ECA's approach of fostering closer links with member States and suggested that this should involve using the existing arrangements more innovatively. The Committee also endorsed closer cooperation between ECA and the Bretton Woods institutions.

1.20. The Committee observed that member States had high expectations of the MULPOCs when they were established. The concept remained sound and valid, insofar as their activities brought ECA closer to the member States and various subregional groups. There was a need, however, to revitalize them in order that they can be of better service to the subregional economic groupings.

1.21. The Committee also expressed the view that the ECA-sponsored institutions should be streamlined and rationalized. It observed that there were problems of overlap and duplication of functions as well as underfunding for many of them. It therefore proposed that ECA should undertake an in-depth study with a view to rationalizing these institutions. The Committee further urged the Commission to harmonize the activities of its sponsored institutions with those of other subregional economic institutions.

1.22. The Committee also underlined the need to further rationalize ECA conferences and meetings as to their number, the substance of their agenda, the length and number of documents. There was also need to harmonize ECA and OAU meetings to avoid duplication and overlap.

1.23. The Committee recognized the need for reforms in the structure of the secretariat to achieve full consistence with the new orientation proposed in the policy document and recommended that the Commission should monitor and review its performance annually.

1.24. Finally, the Committee took note of the document and decided that the various proposals for strengthening ECA, in the light of the discussions on the policy paper, should be embodied in a resolution for consideration by the Committee and subsequent adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

## **PART II**

### **TRANSFORMATION, RECOVERY AND ADJUSTMENT**

#### **Implementation of regional development strategies: Update:**

#### **Progress report on implementation of regional development strategies (the Lagos Plan of Action, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Development and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation) (agenda item 5)**

- 2.1. Under this agenda item, the Committee examined document E/ECA/CM.18/5.
- 2.2. The Committee took note of the activities undertaken during the period 1990-1991 as follow-up to regional development strategies. Senior officials of the OAU, ECA and ADB secretariats had met twice to discuss ways of revitalizing the Lagos Plan of Action, while deliberations on the Final Act of Lagos at Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991 had led to the signing of the Treaty on the establishment of the African Economic Community. As regards the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), the General Assembly, on 18 December 1991, passed a resolution on the Final Review and Appraisal of UN-PAAERD which contained its follow-up programme, the United Nations New Agenda for the development of Africa during the 1990s. The Committee further noted that the secretariat had published the "Selected Policy Instruments" on the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) and a popular version of AAF-SAP both of which had been widely distributed. In the same vein, various meetings had been organized for groups representing various African interests and the international community to discuss the issue of structural adjustment. Member States were encouraged to make use of AAF-SAP when formulating their Policy Framework Papers prior to negotiations with Bretton Woods Institutions. The Committee also noted that the operationalization of popular participation had been given a fresh boost during 1990-1991 by the process of democratization that had become widespread across the continent. Other activities undertaken by

ECA, the NGOs, the media, communication organs, organized labour and women and youth groups were conducted with a view to ensuring greater popular participation in development.

2.3. While recognizing that African countries were primarily responsible for implementing the development strategies, the Committee noted that ECA had yet to provide the countries with adequate assistance in the formulation of their macroeconomic development policies. The decentralization of ECA activities to the MULPOCs could, to a certain extent, redress that situation.

2.4. With regard to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa during the 1990s, the Committee observed that some of the objectives seemed overly ambitious while the strategies for implementing them had not been amply specified. Similarly, the Committee agreed on the central role that popular participation had to play in development and urged member States to step up their efforts towards the implementation of the Charter on Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

2.5. It was recommended that comprehensive studies on the reorientation of the consumption patterns of African countries should be undertaken by the secretariat in an attempt to align them with their production processes. The secretariat was requested to increasingly involve member States in the design and development of strategies and to undertake specific actions for the sustained implementation of the existing strategies.

2.6. The Secretariat was urged to intensify and improve its assistance to member countries in order to better integrate the provisions of AAF-SAP in the planning of long-term strategies.

2.7. The Committee took note of the document.

### **PART III**

## **ISSUES, STUDIES AND REPORTS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

### **Global Economic Integration Issues in the Region:**

#### **Criteria for identifying inter-subregional projects [agenda item 6(a)]**

3.1. Under this agenda item, the Committee reviewed document E/ECA/CM/18/6 entitled "Criteria for selection of inter-subregional projects".

3.2. The Committee reviewed the criteria approved for identifying subregional projects as well as those used for two regional programmes, namely, the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988 (UNTACDA I) and the first Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990 (IDDA I). The Committee then reviewed the criteria used by certain subregional economic groupings and considered the proposed criteria for selecting inter-subregional projects within the context of the African Economic Community.

3.3. The Committee recommended that the document should be sent to the various existing subregional structures for possible discussion and use as an orientation document. It requested ECA to disseminate progress reports of subregional integration programmes in order that they might be better understood and to facilitate follow-up activities at national and subregional levels. It was recommended that studies and economic integration programmes should draw from the current relevant experience in the world. ECA should send a mission to all existing subregional economic integration organizations in Africa in order to have better knowledge of their programmes. Discussions should also be held amongst subregional organizations for mutual improvement of their programmes.

3.4. The Committee noted with satisfaction the strategies to be adopted by the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) in the 1990s for the establishment of a common market by the Year 2000.

3.5. Member States were urged to fulfil the commitments that they had made at the levels of subregional and regional organizations.

**Agriculture and environment**

**The effectiveness of regional and subregional development projects in the agricultural and rural sector, with particular emphasis on environment and sustainable development**  
**[agenda item 6B(i)]**

3.6. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/7 on the Effectiveness of Regional and Subregional Development Projects in the Agricultural and Rural Sector, with Particular Emphasis on Environment and Sustained Development.

3.7. It noted the major shortcomings identified and analyzed during the design and implementation of national, subregional and regional projects in the agricultural and rural sector. In particular, it observed that many projects were developed with minimal consultation with the intended beneficiaries and without giving adequate consideration to the problems of recurrent costs or the question of externalities notably environmental degradation. Furthermore, the designers of projects often overlooked the concerns and the problems of small farmers, had a bias for cash crops and used benchmark prices in the computation of the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of projects, which did not reflect the true social costs of the country concerned. In addition, dumping and other market distortions rendered the results of the assessment of vital development projects bias.

3.8. The Committee noted that because of the poor performance of agricultural and rural development projects, Africa had failed to achieve a reasonable level of food security based on collective self-reliance. Projections showed that to ensure access to the food that the population of

the year 2010 will need, African governments would have to spend more than double the projected agricultural export proceeds on food imports.

3.9. The Committee observed that the responsibility for failure to attain food self sufficiency was shared between the international and national experts who designed and carried out numerous projects without proper consultation with the intended beneficiaries. There had been little effective participation of the rural communities, notably women.

3.10. The Committee endorsed the idea of developing agricultural and rural projects within a programme framework, based on increased measures of individual and collective self-reliance. This would ensure sustainable growth and development leading to structural transformation of the rural sector. It emphasized the need to preserve the environment and to use the Domestic Resource Cost (DRC) in developing the budgets for projects.

3.11. In developing projects related to increasing productivity in the food and agricultural sector, the Committee cautioned against the use of alien technologies which often were not adapted to the socio-economic and natural environment of the African country concerned. This often resulted in the degradation of the environment and the resource base without contributing effectively to increased productivity or sustaining production. The development of technologies should be based, as much as possible, on the existing ones and attempts should be made to use local materials and expertise.

3.12. The Committee emphasized the need for ECA to assist member States individually and collectively to create an enabling environment for the structural transformation of the food and agricultural sector within the framework of subregional and regional economic groupings; it also urged sectoral intergovernmental organizations to ensure food security at both national and household levels.

3.13. The Committee took note of the document and endorsed the recommendations contained in it.



**Population issues in Africa:**

**Analysis of the current strategy for the population programme in Africa and the implications of recent developments, including funding policies for its scope and prospects**  
**[agenda item 6 B(ii)]**

3.14. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/8 which discussed population issues in Africa and their implications for the operation of the African Regional Population Programme (ARPP).

3.15. The Committee examined the major population issues in the region that had led to the deterioration of living conditions and the physical environment. They included rapid population growth rates, mobility of population groups as a result of man-made and natural calamities, insufficient goods and services that were also inequitably distributed, and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

3.16. The Committee noted that it was important for countries to balance their economic and population growth rates. In this respect, it encouraged the countries that had not yet formulated population and development policies aimed at attaining the above objective to do so and to integrate them in their short, medium and long-term development plans. In addition, the Committee urged African countries to intensify population education programmes in the region from the primary level to the post formal education stages, and to involve both the male and female segments of the population in family planning programmes and policies.

3.17. The Committee appealed to all funding agencies engaged in population activities, particularly UNFPA, to provide increased resources to ECA, national institutions and other relevant organizations in the African region. It also emphasized that the research findings of these institutions should be disseminated as widely as possible, and utilized in development planning.

3.18. The Committee welcomed the invitation of the Government of Senegal to host the third African Population Conference in Dakar, in November 1992. It strongly recommended that African

countries should endeavour to participate in the Dakar Conference, and later to the fourth United Nations International Population Conference to be held in 1994 in order to ensure that African Governments and Institutions benefitted from them.

3.19. The Committee took note of the document and endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

**Information for development**

**Information needs in the light of the emerging African economic community and policy implications in the acquisition and utilization of information technology in Africa [agenda item 6 B (iii)a.]**

3.20. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/9 entitled Information needs in the light of the emerging African Economic Community and policy implications in the acquisition and utilization of information technology in Africa.

3.21. The Committee noted that data and information were central to socio-economic development planning in identification of options and in elaboration of strategies; this need became greater as the scale of planning enlarged and as the region moved toward the implementation of the African Economic Community. It was observed that timely information was critically needed both from within and outside Africa.

3.22. The Committee further noted that the information infrastructure in Africa was largely unprepared for the challenges posed by information needs of development planning in the 1990s. Planners had outlined their information needs and had underscored their dissatisfaction with existing information infrastructure in their countries.

3.23. Some problems of the present information infrastructure in Africa which were noted by the Committee included: inadequate organization of existing data/information; insufficient use of existing

facilities and resources; insensitivity of information structures to the needs of development planners; and lack of appreciation by decision makers, in many countries, of the role of information.

3.24. The Committee observed that while information technology, particularly in the form of computers was well disseminated in Africa at the government level, within parastatal organizations and the private sector, their potential for information access and exchange had yet to be exploited. The impact of computers and telecommunications facilities on the quality of socio-economic information in the region had been negligible.

3.25. The Committee agreed that the "appropriate technology" issue was a false one in information technology which prevented Africa from being competitive. Africa could bypass technology generations and acquire the most up-to-date tools, particularly because, in contrast to other technologies, the prices of information technology were constantly falling drastically.

3.26. In order to get information technology to serve Africa's development planning needs, the Committee agreed that the following policies should be adopted:

(a) A common approach to hardware acquisition and use which would promote compatibility, facilitate information exchange and sharing of scarce resources, including expertise. This would facilitate the development of information networks and save foreign currency;

(b) Human resources development to facilitate self-reliance in use of information technology and to correct the shortfall in technological skills; and

(c) Telecommunications development to promote information access and exchange.

3.27. The committee noted with satisfaction the work of PADIS in sensitizing African member States in the use of information technology for development. It urged African member States and the international community to lend support to PADIS in its endeavour to assist African member States in the development and strengthening of information infrastructures.

3.28. The Committee further noted with satisfaction the creation of a Working Group on ECA's Information Systems which was intended to help the Secretariat integrate its activities in this area. This was the first step towards the development of an information network that would provide an effective information base for the African Economic Community. The Committee expressed the hope that the necessary resources would be available for this purpose.

3.29. The Committee took note of the document.

**The overall strategy for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s as adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its sixteenth meeting in May, 1990 [agenda item 6B (iii)b.]**

3.30. The Committee reviewed document E/ECA/CM.18/10: Proposals for accelerated implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of action for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s.

3.31. Under this agenda item, the Committee noted the historical background to the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, and the draft strategy for its implementation which was considered and adopted by a working group in Nairobi in July 1991.

3.32. The Committee further noted that the level and quality of African statistics had deteriorated during the 1970s and 1980s due to economic crises that led to public spending cuts, weak interest in quantitative information in the process of economic planning, competition between external and internal statistics, inadequate infrastructure for data and information gathering, analysis and dissemination and poor management of statistical services.

3.33. The Committee considered selected measures for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action. It was noted that there was no ready framework that was applicable to all countries.

3.34. The measures considered were:

(a) The establishment of National Needs Assessment or Programme Review and Strategy Development (NA/PRSD) Teams to evaluate past experience and identify needs and priorities and to devise an appropriate 5-10-year statistics development plan on the basis of the evaluation results.

(b) Celebration of the eighteenth day of November as African Statistics Day by all member States, with activities designed to promote awareness on the importance of statistics.

(c) Coordination at the national and regional levels, of producers of statistics, on one hand, users, and bilateral and multilateral donors, on the other.

3.35. The Committee also recommended that National Boards of Statistics should be set up as autonomous bodies. Such boards should provide statistical guidelines and develop means of defraying some of their operating costs by marketing their products and services.

3.36. To increase the usefulness of African statistics in socio-economic planning, and in addressing grass-roots concerns, the Committee recommended that statistical activities should be extended beyond national accounts and macroeconomic statistics, to the level of districts and communities. Besides generating socio-economic data, the Committee expressed the need for coverage of the informal sector.

3.37. The Committee recommended that a study should be carried out on reducing the high turnover of trained statisticians from national bureaus of statistics. It was also necessary to build statistics capability in Africa at the national level and to place more emphasis on training of statisticians. At the regional level, the Committee recommended that ECA's Statistics Division should be strengthened in order for ECA to become the primary source of socio-economic statistics on Africa.

3.38. The Committee took note of the document and endorsed the actions recommended in paragraph 64 of the document.

**Transport and communications in Africa:**

**Progress report on the implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) [agenda item 6 B(iv)]**

3.39. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/11 entitled: Progress report on the implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II).

3.40. The Committee took note of the activities that had been undertaken from May 1991 to April 1992. These activities fell under three categories: (a) the preparation and adoption of the programme; (b) the launching of UNTACDA II and (c) coordination and mobilization of resources for the implementation of UNTACDA II.

3.41. The Committee recalled that the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa had been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1988. It was formally launched in November 1991 during the Symposium jointly organized by the Académie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer de Belgique, ECA, ACP and United Nations Information and Liaison Centre in Brussels. The last day of the Symposium had been devoted to the promotion of UNTACDA II through the organization of a Round Table with donors and members of the Resource Mobilization Committee. One hundred and fifty experts from more than 50 countries, 20 representatives of donors institutions and countries participated in this Round Table. The Committee also noted that the donors had agreed to mobilize their efforts to develop transport and communications in Africa within the framework of UNTACDA II. It particularly welcomed the memorandum signed by the World Bank and ECA inviting donors participating in the sub-Saharan Africa's Special Transport Programme (SSATP) to embark upon activities compatible with those defined in the UNTACDA II memorandum. That document recognized ECA's leadership and coordinating role in the implementation of the programme of the Decade.

3.42. The Committee suggested that the implementation of the programme should be carried out in a way that assured proper linkages with other economic sectors. In this regard, it called for more coordination between UNTACDA II and IDDA II. Moreover, it requested that a review of

guidelines for project identification be finalized and made available to member States, especially those related to railway projects. It was felt that more emphasis should be placed on research in the areas of maintenance of transport equipment, transport modes and applied research for alleviating the burden on women, who carried most of the goods from rural to urban areas.

3.43. On the harmonization of the implementation of UNTACDA II and IDDA II, the Committee urged ECA to prepare a plan of action for the harmonizations of the activities of the 2 decades and to present it for consideration by the next meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of transport, communications and planning. The conclusions of that Conference will be reviewed by the nineteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

3.44. The Committee recommended that a special fund should be established at the national level by the transport sector for the maintenance of transport infrastructure. It also urged member States to establish their respective National Coordinating Committees (NCC) in order to assist in the effective implementation of UNTACDA II. In that connection the Committee expressed its appreciation to the United Nations General Assembly for allocating resources to the programme, and hoped that additional resources would be forthcoming during future stages of implementation.

### **Industrial Development in Africa**

#### **Programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa** **[agenda item 6B(v)]**

3.45. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/12. It reviewed actions taken at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and United Nations General Assembly levels on Commission resolution 709(XXVI) concerning the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II) (1991-2000), which was adopted by the seventeenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. It also took note of the relevant resolutions and decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the fourth session of the General Conference of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the 1992 second regular session of the ECOSOC.

3.46. The Committee underlined the importance of mobilizing domestic resources for the implementation of IDDA II. Some of the measures that the Committee felt would ensure the success of IDDA II were the integration of IDDA programmes at national and subregional levels, the encouragement and full involvement of the private sector in the implementation of industrialization in the region, the mobilization of human, scientific and financial investment resources from domestic and foreign sources for project implementation in the region, the effective support and use of national and subregional institutions for Research and Development linked to production and the formulation of policies to protect African industries.

3.47. The Committee further underlined the need for ECA to harmonize its IDDA-related activities with other relevant organizations, including various African subregional organizations, the African Development Bank, the Organization of African Unity, UNIDO, the World Bank and United Nations specialized agencies involved in industrial development.

3.48. The Committee also stressed the need for coordination between the programme of the second IDDA and that of the second UNTACDA for an effective industrial and economic integration. The Committee then requested the secretariat to prepare a Plan of Action for the harmonization of activities of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and to present it for consideration by the next meeting of the conference of African Ministers of Industry. The nineteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers would then review the conclusions of that Conference.

3.49. In the light of the above observations, the Committee appealed through members States to UNDP Governing Council to allocate adequate resources to both ECA and UNIDO for the second IDDA during UNDP's Fifth Programming Cycle for Africa (1992-1996). It also recommended the adoption of the programme of the second IDDA and its submission to the General Assembly through ECOSOC for endorsement. The Committee further requested that an appeal be made to the General Assembly to provide ECA with additional resources required for the implementation of the second IDDA.



**Natural resources and environment in Africa**

**Report of the African regional preparatory conference on environment and development**  
**[agenda item 6(B) (vi)]**

3.50. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/13 entitled "Africa's preparations for the United Nations conference on environment and development".

3.51. The Committee noted that the African programme for environment and development included the following items: food self-sufficiency and security; efficient and equitable use of water resources; management of marine and coastal resources; increasing energy self-sufficiency; effective control of demographic changes and pressure; development of human settlement planning and management; optimizing industrial production and pollution control; management of biological and biotechnological diversity; mitigation of global warming and climatic change; protection and regeneration of the tropical forest; reversal of desertification in Africa; human resources development; popular participation; development of environmental legislation; creating awareness on the environment; management of solid and toxic wastes; environmental revival; elimination of poverty; drought monitoring; development of science and technology; health; the fight against the effects of natural disasters; environmental measures in land-locked countries; and minimization of the effects of refugees on the environment and on development. The Committee then considered the African common position on the African Programme for Environment and Development. It also reviewed the role of African regional institutions and United Nations agencies in the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED)

3.52. The Committee expressed gratitude to the secretariat for the activities undertaken within the context of Africa's preparations for UNCED. The Committee sought clarification about the strategies adopted to mobilize resources for implementing Africa's Environment and Development Programme, and on Africa's position regarding the management of marine and coastal resources, an issue which was of major concern to countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

3.53. The Committee suggested that member States should establish institutional and regulatory measures on environmental protection for better management of the sector. It also requested

intergovernmental organizations to include issues on environmental protection in their programmes. Noting that the environment was an issue around which developed and developing countries had a sense of interdependence, the Committee emphasized that multilateral cooperation was necessary in order to safeguard the planet. The Committee urged ECA to provide assistance to member States in that regard and to consider natural resources issues separately from environmental issues.

3.54. Finally, an appeal was made to the member States to participate actively in the Rio de Janeiro Conference in June 1992, considering that the Rio Conference is a World Summit that will frame the earth charter on environment.

**Trade and development finance in Africa:**

**Report on Africa's preparations for and participation in the eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) VIII [agenda item 6B (vii)]**

3.55. The Committee considered the "Report on Africa's preparation for and participation in the eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development" (UNCTAD VIII), documents E/ECA/CM.18/14 and E/ECA/CM.18/14 Add.1.

3.56. The Committee took note of the various activities undertaken by Africa in the context of UNCTAD VIII. In accordance with one of the recommendations of the eleventh Conference of African Ministers of Trade, a meeting had been held in Lusaka, Zambia, to adopt a common position for UNCTAD VIII negotiations. That position was presented under the name of the "Lusaka Declaration". Subsequently, the seventh Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 (G.77) was held in Tehran, Iran to adopt a single text on the position of the G.77. During that meeting, it was apparent that the traditional solidarity of the G.77 had eroded. Africa was, therefore, obliged to carry out its multilateral negotiations alone.

3.57. The Committee felt that the non-reflection of Africa's interests in the UNCTAD negotiations was inter-alia due to its poor participation, as the size of Africa's diplomatic representation in Geneva clearly testified. The Committee noted that the negotiation frameworks offered by UNCTAD and the GATT were important for Africa, and that the continent should strive to improve

its position in the negotiations. ECA, OAU and ADB were important fora for defining Africa's interests on the international scene, and should therefore be fully utilized.

3.58. In order to offset the loss of the G.77 solidarity, the Committee recommended that Africa should strengthen cooperation among her regional institutions, namely, OAU, ADB and ECA, and increase her representations at Geneva. Africa should also take advantage of the cooperation framework offered by the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the "Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of African Trade in the 1990s and Beyond", as adopted by the extraordinary session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in December 1990.

#### PART IV

**Issues from the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 7)**

4.1. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/15 and its two addenda on issues from the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers. Part I of the document contained issues brought to the attention of the Commission, but not requiring any action on its part. Part II contained issues calling for action by the Commission.

4.2. The Committee noted a change in the presentation of the resolutions of subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies since their reports were not presented along with the resolutions. It reviewed the resolutions and provided guidance to the Committee of resolutions before considering their endorsement and subsequent recommendation to the Conference of Ministers in its eighteenth session.

4.3. The Committee cautioned against increases in the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies. It drew attention to current attempts to rationalize and streamline meetings and conferences. In particular, it was suggested that the institution of a Conference of Ministers on Science and Technology should be referred to the Consultative Committee on Conferences which was being proposed for assessment and recommendations.

4.4. The Committee regretted that some of the working institutions sponsored by ECA were hampered in their activities by lack of financial support from the member States. It recommended that the budget of ACMAD should be approved and that the required resources should be mobilized urgently.

4.5. On the composition of the Board of Governors of IDEP, the Committee made the following recommendations: (to be filled in later).

## PART V

### STATUTORY ISSUES

Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that are of interest to Africa (agenda item 8)

- Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers [agenda item 8(a)]
- Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1991 and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa [agenda item 8(b)]

5.1. In considering documents E/ECA/CM.18/16 and E/ECA/CM.18/17 under this item, the Committee noted that follow-up action to the Memorandum on the Final Review and Appraisal of UNPAAERD adopted by the Conference at its previous session, was not discussed in the documents. This was considered a serious omission. While the Committee noted that some issues covered in the documents had also been the subject of separate agenda items of the present meeting, it directed that the text of the New Agenda for Africa in the 1990s should be circulated to the Committee, so that members could better understand the role of African countries and the international community.

5.2. The Committee took note of the documents.

## **PART VI**

### **PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

#### **Proposals for updating the 1992-1993 programme of work**

##### **[agenda item 9(a)]**

6.1. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/18: Proposals for updating the 1992-1993 programme of work.

6.2. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the editorial variations that had arisen between documents E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1 (the proposed work programme approved by the twelfth session of TEPCOW) and A/46/6/Rev.1 Supplement No. 6 (which was endorsed by the General Assembly). The Committee sought and received assurance from the secretariat that the listed activities of collaboration, harmonization and liaison with intergovernmental organizations in the ECA region and additional activities under IDDA II and UNTACDA II, could be accommodated within the existing budgetary limits and, thus, had no additional financial implications. The Committee noted that activities under IDDA II and UNTACDA II, particularly, had been provided for under a separate General Assembly resolution 46/458.

6.3. The Committee recommended the adoption of the proposals for updating the 1992-1993 programme of work listed in document E/ECA/CM.18/18.

#### **Progress Report on ECA Regional Advisory Services**

##### **[agenda item 9(b)]**

6.4. Under this agenda item, the Committee examined document E/ECA/CM.18/19, entitled "Progress report on the new orientation of ECA advisory services during the 1990s".

6.5. The Committee noted with satisfaction the formation of the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG), and agreed that the group would be useful in assisting member States to find lasting solutions to their economic development problems. The Committee further noted the activities that had been carried out by the Group, and endorsed the proposed work programme for 1992.

6.6. The Committee, however, emphasized that in order for the ECA-MRAG to be effective, adequate resources both human and financial should be put at the disposal of the Group and cautioned that experts of the Group should demonstrate commitment to the regional and subregional programmes. The Committee further emphasized that the activities of the ECA-MRAG should continue to be harmonized with those of the MULPOCs.

6.7. Taking cognizance of the limited resources at the disposal of the Group, the Committee felt that industry, and transport and communications sectors were important in most African countries and that advisory services in those sectors, should be accorded the priority they deserved by the Group. It noted that the Group was updating brochures on its activities, and urged that they be distributed widely to all the African member States.

#### **Revision of the Medium-term Plan, 1992-1997**

#### **First Revision of the Medium-term Plan for the period 1992-1997 [agenda item 9(c)]**

6.8. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/20: "First Revision of the Medium-term Plan for the Period 1992-1997".

6.9. Under the agenda item, the Committee discussed proposed revisions in the 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan (MTP) arising from: (a) recommendations of the Task Force on the Review and Appraisal of the Policy Orientation, Programme and Management Capacity of ECA with regard to regrouping the Commission's activities; (b) the efforts pending from 1990 to disaggregate the "Development Issues" subprogramme and to link the issues and problems of human resources planning, development and utilization with those of social development and poverty alleviation; (c)

the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s; and (d) instructions from the United Nations Headquarters advising the revision of the MTP to reflect the implementation of: (i) the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) and the ECA Conference of Ministers' resolution 712 (XXVI) on Africa's participation in UNCED; and (ii) UNCTAD VIII, which took place in February 1992.

6.10. Noting that there were provisions for a second revision of the MTP in 1994, the Committee agreed that there was ample time to consider and introduce additional amendments. It also felt that human resources and social development in Africa were of sufficient importance separately and should not have been merged. To that end, the Committee expressed a reservation about the recommended deletion of paragraphs 30.19, 30.20 and 30.22, which it felt, would dilute commitment to human resources. It also felt that paragraphs 30.62 and 30.63 should not be deleted. In the same vein, it was proposed that advancement of women (Subprogramme 8) should be included among those accorded high priority in paragraph 30.15.

6.11. The Committee felt that paragraphs 30.49 and 30.50 of Subprogramme 5 concerning LDCs should be updated in light of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action of the LDCs in the 1990s adopted at the September 1990 LDCs conference and that the resolutions of the LDC Conference of Ministers held on 17 April 1992, in Addis Ababa should be taken into account. On the forthcoming Earth Summit (UNCED), the Committee noted that provisions were being made within the MTP (paragraphs 30.72, 30.74, and 30.75) to maintain the utmost flexibility with regard to follow-up activities, in view of the Committee's present inability to predict the outcome of the conference.

6.12. The Committee endorsed the changes, subject to the above comments.



## PART VII

### EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ECA

**A review of the critical situation of the extrabudgetary resources needed for operational activities in ECA in the context of recent measures taken by major funding agencies of the United Nations Development Programme (agenda item 10)**

7.1. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.18/21 entitled: "A review of the critical situation of the extrabudgetary resources needed for the operational activities in ECA" and a progress report on the utilisation of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) (E/ECA/CM.18/CRP.3).

7.2. The Committee noted that while extrabudgetary resources accounted for approximately 40 per cent of total ECA financial resources in 1985-1991, they were projected to decline to 25 per cent of the total resources in the 1992-93 biennium. This alarming decline was attributed to, among other factors, the impact of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/211 which had placed emphasis on national execution. As a result, United Nations agencies funding operational activities would allocate less resources to intercountry programmes such as those implemented by ECA.

7.3. The Committee observed that it was ironic that, at a time when regional cooperation and integration in Africa was being given high priority, as exemplified by the signing of the Treaty on African Economic Community, ECA should face such a steep decline in its extrabudgetary resources.

7.4. The Committee underscored ECA's role as an executing agency for programmes and projects in the area of regional economic cooperation and integration and appealed to United Nations funding agencies for technical cooperation to continue their assistance to the ECA secretariat.

7.5. While recognizing that resolution 44/211 was adopted at the insistence of Africa and other developing countries; it suggested that the resolution should be expanded to reflect the importance of the regional dimension in operational activities for development.

7.6. The Committee also noted that the alarming decline, in the level of extrabudgetary resources could also be partially attributed to the sharp reduction of bilateral assistance and contributions by member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD). Noting that bilateral assistance was being diverted to other regions of the world, the Committee urged the ECA Secretariat to ensure that it remained competitive in order to position itself as a credible institution. Its operational programme for technical assistance and cooperation should mobilize and attract a significant amount of external resources. The secretariat needed to improve on its image and market its products more efficiently. Member States were invited to increase ECA's extrabudgetary resources by contributing significantly to UNTFAD in the true spirit of self-reliance. Member States were also invited to allocate a certain percentage of their respective national IPFS for the execution of the fifth intercountry programmes.

7.7. The Committee also urged African countries, who were members of the UNDP's Governing Council to ensure that the concern expressed by the Commission with regard to the low level of resources allocated to inter-country activities, was given due attention during the Council's deliberations. It reiterated its appeal for closer cooperation between both the UNDP Arab Bureau and the Regional Bureau for Africa.

7.8. The Committee requested the ECA secretariat to alleviate the financial crisis it was facing, through: the promotion of self-supporting activities; use of restrictive budgetary measures; and resource mobilization operations targeted at multilateral and bilateral donors such as the European Economic Community in the context of Lomé IV. The Committee also encouraged the secretariat to work towards the review of the criteria used by United Nations funding agencies to allocate resources to the regional commissions with the objective of obtaining more resources from such agencies.

**Any other business (agenda item 11)**

7.9. The Committee stressed that it was important for the secretariat to provide information regarding the United Nations New Agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s in order for African countries to know their obligations and those of the international community. The

Committee also observed that TEPCOW should consider, at an appropriate time, the role of youth in development.

7.10. The Committee also expressed concern with regard to the late arrival of ECA documents at technical ministries responsible for TEPCOW meetings. It requested ECA and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of member States to ensure that this problem was corrected in future.

**Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 12)**

7.11. The Committee took note of the fact that in accordance with the practice of rotating the venue of the Conference of Ministers between ECA headquarters and member States in alternative years, the next meeting of the Conference should be held away from headquarters. Since no invitation had been received for a member State to host the next meeting of the Conference, it left consideration of the issue to the Conference of Ministers.