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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Fifth session
Leopoldville, February-March 1963

COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

held at the Palais de la Nation, Leopoldville,
on Wednesday, 13 February 1963, at 3:25 p.m.

Acting Chairman: Mr. Gardiner (Executive Secretary of the
Commission)
Chairman: (later) Mr. Doukkali (Morocco)
Secretary: Mr. Chidzero

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Representatives wishing to have corrections made to this provisional summary record are requested to indicate them on a copy of the record and send them as soon as possible to the Translation Section, Palais de la Nation.

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The ACTING CHAIRMAN pointed out that the representative of Congo (Leopoldville) was unable to attend the meeting

Mr. RUGARABAMI (Tanganyika) withdrew his proposal.

Mr. Doukkali (Morocco) was elected Chairman.

Mr. Doukkali (Morocco) took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since more representatives would be arriving the following day, the election of the two Vice-Chairmen be deferred till the next meeting.

It was so decided.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY emphasized that the programme of work involved the allocation of limited resources of manpower and finance to help meet the vast needs of the newly-independent States of Africa. Moreover, the Commission's recommendations would have to be assessed by ECOSOC against the requests for action from the other three regional economic commissions, as well as the other demands made on the United Nations. The question of priorities was, therefore, of paramount importance, and careful consideration was needed in the selection of the most urgent projects.

The form of presentation of the work programme had been adjusted to correspond to a recent reorganization of the Secretariat. Thus the great expansion of the Division of Industry, Transport and Natural Resources in 1962 had entailed a much heavier programme for 1963 and 1964 than would otherwise have been possible. Recommendations made by recent meetings on industry and natural resources and on housing had been included in the Programme of Work and Priorities (E/CN.14/230 and Corr.1).

The new Unit dealing with problems of public administration was at present supported mainly by Technical Assistance funds, but it was hoped to establish some posts on the ECA account in the following year.

Every effort had been made to bear in mind the close and vital interrelationship between economic and social questions and to present a programme of work which exploited the different specialized skills in

the fields of economics and sociology without creating a gap between them.

With the expansion of the Secretariat it would be possible to undertake an economic survey of Africa, which it was hoped could be completed in time for the seventh session of ECA.

The work in the field of trade had been mainly geared to preparation for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development scheduled for 1964. Projects concerning the impact of Western European economic groupings on African exports might require co-operation with other regional commissions and with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division was carrying out a programme of projects dealing with information on agricultural problems and the planning of agricultural development, on marketing, on consumption and on assistance to governments. Document E/CN.14/230/Add.1 contained new projects on agricultural industries.

Since unexpected crises and changed circumstances were always likely to occur, as well as deficiencies in the recruitment of specialized staff, it would once again be necessary to request that the Executive Secretary be given authority to exercise his own judgement as to priorities of action within the work programme.

DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1963-1964 (E/CN.14/230 and Add.1 and Corr.1)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Head of the Division of Industry, Transport and Natural Resources to suggest a procedure for discussing the Programme of Work and Priorities for 1963-1964.

Mr. EWING (secretariat) said that the customary procedure was for members to make any general comments they might wish to make on the introduction to the document (part A, Observations on the Programme of Work and Priorities for 1963-1964); then the various sections and sub-sections of the remainder (part B, Annotated List of Projects for 1963-1964), in the order listed, were introduced by the appropriate members of the Secretariat, and discussed; and finally a draft report, summarizing the

Committee's conclusions, was prepared for approval.

The CHAIRMAN, noting that no member wished to make any general comments on part A, invited the Committee to consider part B.

B. Annotated List of Projects for 1963-1964

I. Economic and Social Development

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr Patel, Chief of the Development Problems and Policies Section of the Division of Economic and Social Development, to introduce section I. Economic and Social Development, sub-section 01, General Aspects of Development Planning and Policies.

Mr. PATEL (secretariat) described the projects listed in sub-section 01.

The main aim of the new Division of Economic and Social Development was to make a comprehensive study of the various economic and social aspects of African development; it hoped that it would be possible to convene late in 1964, a working party of senior economic planners from all African countries.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the secretariat required the Committee's guidance to ensure that the Programme of Work and Priorities reflected the wishes of all member states and he accordingly urged, any representatives who had points to raise would make their views known.

Mr. YAKER (Algeria) said that he considered the Programme of Work and the Order of Priorities acceptable as it stood.

There being no further comments on sub-section 01, the CHAIRMAN called upon Mr Vilakazi, Chief of the Social Affairs Section of the Division of Economic and Social Development, to introduce sub-section 02, Social Trends, Problems and Policies, and sub-section 03, Community Development and Social Welfare.

Mr. VILAKAZI (secretariat) outlined the various projects listed in sub-sections 02 and 03 emphasizing the endeavour which had been made to integrate the economic with the social aspects of the questions involved.

Mr. RUGARABAMU (Tanganyika) remarked that, when referring to sub-section 03-02, Study of the Applicability of Community Development Techniques to Urban Areas in Africa, Mr. Vilakazi seemed to have suggested that emphasis had hitherto been laid upon rural areas and that it was now to be transferred to urban areas. In Tanganyika, however, attention had been given chiefly to urban areas and was only beginning to be extended to rural ones: no doubt practice varied from country to country.

Mr. VILAKAZI (secretariat) explained that study of community development techniques have so far been geared to rural areas, and the proposal was that consideration should now be given to the applicability of those techniques to towns. Towns, however, were already receiving attention as well, and a study on Addis Ababa had been completed.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that there was no question of urban areas being given a greater amount of attention; it was simply being proposed that a study be made to ascertain how far techniques which had been worked out for rural areas might also be applied to urban ones.

There being no further comments on sub-sections 02 and 03, he suggested that, since a larger number of representatives would be able to attend the meeting the following day, further consideration of the Programme of Work and Priorities be deferred till the next meeting.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.
