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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Eighth session  
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ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN AFRICA

Resolution 176(VIII) adopted by the Commission at its 139th plenary meeting  
on 24 February 1967

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Recalling its resolutions 86(V) of 2 March 1963, 100(VI) of 28 February 1964 and 142(VII) of 22 February 1965 on economic integration,

Noting the reports of the secretariat on the present state of economic co-operation in Africa and on the four sub-regional meetings held since the seventh session (E/CN.14/386, E/CN.14/346, E/CN.14/351, E/CN.14/NA/ECOP/11 and E/CN.14/366 and Corr.1), the statement by the Chairman of the seventh session (E/CN.14/L.323) and the report by the Executive Secretary (E/CN.14/L.321),

Having considered the work programme proposed by the secretariat in each of the four sub-regions for the biennium 1967-1969,

Recognizing the need to complete at an early date the initial process of building institutions of economic co-operation to provide a stable framework for co-operation on specific projects of economic development,

Recognizing that in the sub-region of Eastern Africa ten out of the fourteen member countries have accepted the Terms of Association,

Recognizing that considerable efforts are being made to bring about economic co-operation in Africa at both the regional and sub-regional levels, especially in the form of achievements such as the Economic Community of Eastern Africa, the Inter-State Committee for the Development of the Senegal River Basin, the Niger and Chad Basin Commissions, the institutions of economic co-operation in the Maghreb countries, the Conference on Co-ordination in West Africa, the West African Customs Union and the Central African Economic and Customs Union,

Aware of the need to stimulate the process of economic co-operation which has been initiated among the six countries of the North African sub-region:

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Central African sub-region

1. Is gratified at the steps already taken by the Governments to increase the flow of trade between the countries of the sub-region;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to intensify his efforts through multilateral and bilateral agencies towards the realization of the sub-regional transport network adopted at the Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa held at Brazzaville in 1966;

3. Notes that more detailed studies are in progress on energy, industry, monetary co-operation and ways and means of promoting better utilization through mutual co-operation of research and training institutions;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to proceed at the earliest possible date with the detailed inquiry into agricultural specialization perspectives requested by the Brazzaville Meeting;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary when detailed preparations have been made and after preliminary consultations with the Governments of the sub-region to convene during the coming biennium specialized meetings on:

(a) Transport and energy;

(b) Industry and agriculture;

(c) Co-operation among research and training institutions;

East African sub-region

6. Recommends to those Governments which have not yet done so to make their views officially known to the secretariat on the Terms of Association;

7. Calls on the Executive Secretary to take concrete measures with the assistance of interested donor countries towards the development of a transport network within the sub-region including air and sea transport links;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to carry out detailed studies in close consultation with the Governments concerned of trade patterns as they exist now within the sub-region and to suggest concrete steps by which intra-subregional trade can be developed further with a view to eventually establishing a common market within the community;

9. Further requests the Executive Secretary, when such studies have been completed, to convene a meeting of experts from each of the countries concerned to examine the proposals for the expansion and liberalization of trade and to draw up practical and binding agreements by which a common market can be established within the sub-region;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to call a meeting of the appropriate authorities from each country of the sub-region to study ways and means of, and make practical recommendations for, co-operation in higher education;

West African sub-region

11. Calls on countries of the West African sub-region to communicate by 15 March 1967 to the Executive Secretary their comments and approval of the draft Articles of Association adopted at the sub-regional meeting held at Niamey in October 1966;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary, when the agreement of at least seven countries of the sub-region is received and before the end of April 1967 to convene in a West African city a meeting of Accredited Ministers and Plenipotentiaries of all member States of the sub-region, to sign the Articles of Association for the West African Interim Council of Ministers;

13. Calls on the Executive Secretary to assist the countries of the West African sub-region in establishing the secretariat of their community with the assistance of the UNDP, other multinational agencies, and bilateral donors and meanwhile to provide necessary secretariat services for the Interim Council of Ministers;

14. Authorizes the Executive Secretary meanwhile to convene, as soon as possible, meetings of technical bodies to continue studying and submit recommendations on co-ordinated development in the West African sub-region in the fields of transport, industry and energy;

15. Requests the Executive Secretary in consultation with UNCTAD and GATT to undertake immediate studies on the possibilities of expanding trade within West Africa in manufactured and other products and to submit concrete recommendations to this end;

16. Recommends that West African member States give their support to the proposed convention on transit arrangements in the sub-region;

17. Recommends that the members of the West African Economic Community pay special attention to the need for arrangements for financing the engineering and other pre-investment activities on multinational projects, sharing the local cost element in these projects, and raising external financing for them;

North African sub-region

18. Endorses the request of the sub-regional meeting on economic co-operation in North Africa held at Tangier in June 1966, which inter alia invited the secretariat to undertake three studies relating to:

- (a) Tourism;
- (b) Maritime transport;
- (c) The possibilities of co-operation among the six countries of the sub-region in other economic sectors;

19. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all the necessary steps to ensure that this programme of work is carried out under optimum technical conditions and as speedily as possible, thus enabling the Governments concerned to receive the relevant studies before the next sub-regional meeting and to draw from them all the appropriate conclusions for the promotion of co-operation among them in the above-mentioned fields;

General

20. Encourages member States in the various sub-regions to work towards regional co-operation and economic integration;

21. Invites the member States to base regional co-operation on the foundation provided by all the existing institutions of economic co-operation or integration;

22. Requests the States of the region to intensify their efforts to develop economic co-operation.