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STATEMENT MADE BY MR. A.F. EWING,
DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION, AT THE OPENING SESSION

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I should like to extend to all of you a warm welcome on behalf of Mr. Robert Gardiner, the Executive Secretary. Mr. Gardiner has been attending a number of major meetings, including ECA's Standing Committee on Trade. He is expected to return to Addis Ababa tomorrow and is, I know, looking forward to meeting you all. We are fortunate in that we shall be joined by Mr. Abdel Rahman, the United Nations Commissioner for Industrial Development. May I extend our warm thanks to His Excellency Endalkatchew Makonnen for his encouraging and dynamic address on behalf of the Imperial Ethiopian Government.

Until eighteen months ago, industry, transport and natural resources was a Cinderella in the ECA family. The first meeting of your Committee was held almost exactly a year ago and you laid down, in the light of our first study, "Industrial Growth in Africa", a detailed and ambitious programme of work. But you did more than this. You also established a philosophy and an outlook, coupled with a determination that the time had come for a real move forward in the industrial development of Africa.

The main task before your second session is to take stock of what has been done in the last year and to lay down the next steps. I would like, in these opening remarks, to review briefly what has been done, to draw attention in the light thereof to the principal papers before you, and to indicate what is in the pipeline.

Conforming to your decisions a year ago, the heart of our industrial programme is assistance in the building up of large scale industries strategic for economic development, requiring markets beyond the scope of single countries and, therefore, sub-regional co-ordination. We are tackling this tremendous problem in two ways - two prongs of a single fork. The first is the industrial missions we have sent and are sending to three sub-regions of Africa. Interim reports from the missions to West Africa and to East and Central Africa are before you this week, and a similar mission is going to North Africa at the beginning of next year. We plan to produce the final reports of the first two missions for the sixth session of the Commission and we hope to produce

at least an interim report of the third mission by the same time. We shall by then have covered most African countries. It may be, however, that Cameroun, the Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Congo (Brazzaville) and Congo (Leopoldville) would find a similar mission convenient at a later stage. These are bold ventures and we are under no illusions as to the difficulties involved in implementing a co-ordinated programme of industrial development. History in this field does not show any grounds for optimism. Why should Africa be different? Yet we feel there are grounds for real hope. The sheer necessity for co-ordination, if there is to be real and rapid industrialization, is evident. Africa can learn from the mistakes of others. Above all, the Addis Ababa conference has given a tremendous impetus to efforts of this kind. There are now in front of the governments of West, East and Central Africa concrete suggestions, we believe for the first time, for a bold co-ordinated programme. Manifestly, there is infinite room for discussion and negotiations. The next step lies with the governments concerned, but there is much we can do to follow up these reports if the governments concerned so wish.

The other prong of this part of our programme is the studies being carried out in depth on the key industries, studies with the sole objective of bringing the countries concerned around a negotiating table. You have before you the report of the meeting in Monrovia on the establishment of a large integrated iron and steel works in West Africa. The first results are encouraging. More detailed work is now in hand and we look forward with hope to the second meeting on this problem, provisionally scheduled to be held in Niamey next April, when we believe an agreement on the location of this plant and all that goes with it can be reached.

There are similar possibilities in other parts of Africa to which attention is drawn in a paper before you on the present position and prospects of the iron and steel industry in Africa, and also in the report of the East and Central African mission.

Another industry we are studying in depth is the chemical and fertilizer complex. Both the mission reports have tentative proposals in this area and it is clear that the possibilities of Africa moving rapidly into the chemical

field are very great. Our studies are continuing and we are aiming at a meeting in the course of 1964 on chemicals and fertilizers in West Africa. There are also, as is again demonstrated in the mission reports, real possibilities of moving in the engineering field. Here again our studies continue, with the objective of a meeting perhaps on a regional basis early in 1965.

Our survey of the textile market in Africa and the immense possibilities of expanding production is well advanced, and a meeting, again on a regional basis, is planned for 1964.

I would like to draw attention to two other subjects you will be discussing, on which papers have been prepared. One is industrial legislation. We have prepared a basic survey and made suggestions for future work. The other is industrial research and training. This is a vast field where we join forces with the Industrial Development Centre and the specialized agencies concerned, particularly UNESCO and ILO. Here again, we have put forward proposals for your consideration.

Looking to 1964 and early 1965, two other meetings are planned, both in co-operation with the Industrial Development Centre. One is a seminar on industrial estates and the other on industrial programming. Seminars in both these fields have been held with success in other regions, upon whose experience we wish to draw.

Turning now to energy and natural resources, the report of the first African Electric Power Conference is in front of you. This was most encouraging, both in attendance and in the animation and practical character of the discussions. An extensive but we believe realistic programme of work has been drawn up. We propose, if the Committee agrees, to hold a conference along similar lines, dealing with oil and natural gas, early in 1965.

The first regional Cartographic Conference for Africa was held during this year, again well attended, and we have established an effective cartographic unit. Similar units have been established for minerals and water, which we plan to build up as rapidly as resources are available, and an integral part of which is advisory services. We are in a position to advise in maintaining or developing surveying activities in both these fields, but the main emphasis is on development of Africa's abundant mineral resources and in

the proper utilization and development of surface and ground water. A seminar on ground water is planned for 1964. We are also beginning to play a part in assisting in the multi-purpose development of international rivers and river basins.

The third area within your terms of reference is transport. Two notable events during the last year have been agreements reached with ICAO and ITU on the co-ordinated development of air transport and communications, respectively. Some specific transport studies requested have been completed. Our main effort is going into a major study of transport development problems, which we are building up on a sub-regional basis. Here again, the emphasis is not on academic surveys but on the working out of practical proposals for consideration by the governments concerned for the development of transport facilities on a co-ordinated basis, co-ordinated in the dual sense of among forms of transport and among countries. A meeting on West African transport is planned for the middle of 1964, and another on East and Central African transport for the end of 1964. In this field one other project should be mentioned, a study of trans-Sahara transport. We hope our work will have reached a sufficiently advanced stage for a meeting of the countries concerned not later than the middle of 1964.

I have referred already to our advisory services, largely through regional advisers attached to us and financed under the UN Technical Assistance Programme. We hope and believe that governments will wish to draw increasingly on the services of a team of specialists we are building up. We already have advisers in minerals, water, cartography, transport, and expect to add more in 1964 and to cover also industry and energy.

A cross reference might be appropriate here to building and building materials. I have made no reference to our work on housing, building and planning since, as you know, there is a separate Standing Committee in this field. But we also have regional advisers in this area available to help inter alia in the building and building materials field.

There is one more aspect of our work to which I would like to refer, which is growing in importance. Virtually all the so-called regional programmes under the UN Technical Assistance Programme are now administered by ECA. We

are now, however, playing an increasing part in assisting governments in both the planning and execution of country programmes and are performing similar functions in relation to the activities of the UN Special Fund.

I have given you in a necessarily summary account an idea of what we have been doing and our plans for the next year or so, all of which derive from decisions you have already taken. We believe we have now established and begun to carry out a programme of work in the area which is the responsibility of your Committee. We have also built up the division of the secretariat whose task it is to service you. We are well aware of how much has still to be done, and of the fact that our contribution can be at best a small one, unless our resources can be expanded. At the same time, new prospects have been opened up in the last year by the increasingly intimate co-operation we have been fortunate in establishing with the UN Industrial Development Centre and the specialized agencies who have each, in their different spheres, an important part to play in this common effort.

May I, on behalf of the Executive Secretary and all my colleagues directly concerned with your work, wish this meeting every success.