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COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

Fourth session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa,
on Sunday, 18 February 1962, at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman : Mr. TEKLE HAIMANOT (Ethiopia)

Secretary: Mr. MATHU

CONTENTS:

Programme of Work and Priorities for
1962-1963 (continued)

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PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1962-1963 (E/CN.14/162) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN appealed to representatives under rule 46 of the Commission's rules of procedure to limit their interventions to five minutes, because of the shortness of the time left to the Committee in which to complete its work.

03 International Trade

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) introduced the remaining projects under the heading (except 03-10). Under project 03-02 (regional and preferential trade arrangements) the Secretariat had prepared a report on recent developments in Western European economic groupings (E/CN.14/139), including the most recent decision of the European Economic Community on a common agricultural policy. That would be studied by the Standing Committee on Trade at its next meeting in May 1962.

Two further papers were expected to be ready for issue within the next few weeks. The first, on the Commonwealth preferential system in Africa, had been held back on account of the current negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Common Market. The second related to African trade with centrally-planned economies.

Project 03-04, a continuing activity, included the publication of a Foreign Trade Newsletter containing information taken from periodicals and newspaper reports. It was hoped that African Governments would agree to nominate permanent correspondents to the publication, in order that new developments might be fully reported. The Conference of African Businessmen (project 03-11) had originally been planned for 1961 and was now scheduled to take place in 1962. A specific conference secretariat in Monrovia was primarily responsible, and ECA was merely giving assistance to the holding of the meeting.

Projects 03-12 and 03-13, on transit problems in West Africa, had already come in for comment at the previous meeting. Preparatory work was expected to start during the year, and it was hoped that the panel of experts on transit problems might be convened towards the end of 1962 and the working party on frontier traffic during 1963.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) recalled that a preliminary Conference of African Businessmen had been held in Monrovia in 1960, to study some common problems in inter-African trade. At meetings of the steering committee for the projected conference, held in Monrovia and Casablanca in the early part of 1961, it had come to light that many of the proposals made at the earlier conference had already to some extent been implemented by ECA and certain African political groupings. However, certain aspects of the original programme were still subject to discussion, and it had been decided to proceed with the project. His delegation, once fully represented, would be able to give the Commission more information on the subject.

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) outlined the background to project 03-10. The Executive Secretary was arranging to convene a meeting of African primary-producing countries to consider the position of the agricultural commodities of main interest to them, and preparatory work was now proceeding in collaboration with Headquarters and FAO. The Nigerian Government was considering a proposal that the meeting should be held in Lagos during June 1962.

04-01 Economic Bulletin for Africa

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) recalled that the Commission, at its first session, had concluded that it ought to produce a more flexible publication than an annual economic survey for Africa, and had accordingly decided that an economic bulletin should be published twice yearly. The practice had thus far been to devote the first issue of the year to an analysis of the current economic situation, and the second issue to special articles on subjects of specific interest to African countries and on activities of the Commission. The bulletin was intended not only to meet the immediate needs of government officials, but also to provide documentary material on African problems for universities and research workers.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY added that he was seriously considering the preparation of an economic survey of Africa since 1956, to be completed by the end of 1963 and submitted to the Commission at its sixth session in 1964. The Committee would recall that an earlier survey covering the years 1950-1956 had been submitted to the Commission at its 1960 session in Tangier. He hoped the resources at his disposal would enable him to carry out that enterprise.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) congratulated the Executive Secretary on the excellent work done in producing the Economic Bulletin, and suggested that future numbers should include a bibliography of publications put out by ECA and the other regional economic commissions.

05 Social Aspects of Economic Development

Mrs. BASTIER (Secretariat) stated that project 05-01 dealt with social problems and policies in relation to economic change. Part of her assignment as a regional adviser on social development had been to collaborate in the preparation of the regional chapter on Africa for the 1963 report on the World Social Situation; in gathering together the available material on major social trends, the staff were exploring much of the area of research covered by the project.

An attempt had been made to formulate the project in a somewhat more positive fashion than hitherto, following as far as possible indications provided by recent working parties and expert groups. To take account of proposals made by the Working Party on Economic and Social Development and the Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare, the Executive Secretary proposed to amend the wording of study (b) by adding at the end the words: "and values and institutions conducive to development". The main intent of the addition was to ensure that the positive inducements as well as the barriers to change should be covered by the study.

A similar amplification was proposed for study (c), the formulation of which would now read: "Analysis of the social aspects of development plans and of expenditure on social programmes, and the integration of social programmes and policies in comprehensive development plans". The addition was intended to make it possible to follow up the discussion that had taken place on those topics in the Working Party on Social and Economic Development,

and in particular to co-operate with the Development Unit in the preparatory work for the group of experts expected to meet in 1963 to discuss planning in the social sectors in relation to overall development plans.

She drew attention to the references to co-ordination with other projects and with the work of the Development Unit and the Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare. The Standing Committee had put forward at its latest meeting a number of suggestions for research, as a guide to the subjects considered important by those concerned with the execution of social policy.

The lines of work proposed under the project would allow the Secretariat to make the best use of its limited staff resources.

Mr. de LONZA (Dahomey) thought the word "social" somewhat narrow, and suggested that it be replaced by the word "sociological", which embraced the position of the individual in society.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria), commenting on the section as a whole, said that his delegation believed that the emphasis in that part of the programme should be on training, and more especially on the training of national planners in social development. The Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare had already taken note of that view; but he would like an assurance that adequate steps would be taken to put the policy into effect. The studies should merely constitute the background for the training.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY referred the previous speaker to the section of the programme in training (E/CN.14/162, page 49) which contained all the training projects in every field of activity under one heading. Project 41-02 was devoted to training in economic and social planning.

Mr. COMHAIRE (Secretariat), introducing the projects on population and urbanization questions (05-02, -03, -10 and -11), remarked that they were both modest and ambitious. They were modest because they purported merely to clarify certain social aspects of economic development, and because they were limited to studies and left the decision on action to

be taken by others. They were ambitious because the small staff was being called upon to fashion the tools that would enable others to act more effectively.

The Standing Committee had given an impetus to the work by putting forward valuable recommendations, including one proposing that studies on African municipal taxation and small tradespeople should be undertaken in 1963.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) proposed that study of the economic and social implications of migration be included under project 05-02 rather than under project 05-01(b), so that duplication of work might be avoided. The subject would obviously have to be covered in any study of demographic factors, and the same work should not be repeated elsewhere.

The CHAIRMAN answered that the Executive Secretary was ready to accept the suggestion.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) recommended that first priority be given to project 05-03 (a). A mass of information on urbanization in under-developed regions, including Africa, was already available, and the most urgent need of African Governments was for a summary of the findings to be derived from that information, to guide the framing of urbanization policy.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY agreed that the activity was very important. Under project 05-01 it was planned to convene a meeting of national officials responsible for urbanization in April 1963, when all available information would be placed at their disposal and arrangements made for an exchange of views. It was hoped that the results would prove useful to African Governments.

Mr. CHIDZERO (Secretariat), introducing project 05-04, said that the Executive Secretary desired the Committee's guidance on future pursuit of the activity. A number of sub-regional studies on the economic and social consequences of racial discriminatory practices had already been carried out, and the point at issue was whether those studies should be

extended to the remaining sub-regions, or whether priority should be given to studies in depth in the sub-regions already covered, or to studies of specific aspects of the question. All three methods had advantages and disadvantages. Under the terms of the governing resolution the Secretariat was bound to continue sub-regional studies, which might yield little of substance while other more important areas were neglected; hence the need for the Committee's guidance.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) was impressed by the way in which the Secretariat had handled a most difficult and delicate subject. The main value of the work, as he saw it, was to establish an inventory of racial discriminatory practices that were more or less institutional or legal: i.e. recognized and condoned by society and in some cases reinforced by legislation. Once the situation throughout the region in respect of such practices was known, action could be taken to abolish them. He accordingly hoped that work would continue to be focussed on those points until the whole region had been covered.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) thought there might be some advantage in conducting further research in depth in the areas already covered, in order to perfect the Secretariat's investigating techniques and grasp of the problems. The processes of racial discrimination were often so complex and elusive that more detailed study was needed for their proper understanding.

Mr. MORGADO (Portugal) supported the view of the Libyan representative that the studies should be extended to the remaining sub-regions in order that the Commission might get a general picture of the problem throughout the region as a whole.

06 Statistics

Mr. BERTHET (Secretariat), introducing the section, said that the various projects listed under it represented a prolongation of the programme submitted in the previous year; the object was still the same, namely to help African countries to improve their statistical services so as better to meet the needs of economic and social planning.

Project 06-01 constituted the basis of the whole programme, and 19 countries had already drawn up plans for developing their statistical services. A new development had taken place in technical assistance which it was believed would meet a long-felt want, namely the establishment of a regional advisory service, comprising the three permanent staff members and five regional advisers assigned under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, to provide a short-term consultative service to supplement longer-term technical assistance.

He went on to describe the work to be done under the remainder of the projects, and lastly drew attention to the training programme included in the general section on training. The worst bottleneck in the whole programme was lack of trained statisticians, and it was hoped that three training centres for middle-grade statisticians would be available by 1962. ECA was also giving assistance to a training centre for top-level statisticians, and was making arrangements to receive candidates for training in operation of the data-processing machines available in the recently established Secretariat mechanical unit.

Mr. AHMED (Morocco) congratulated the Secretariat on the work done in statistics. The task was tedious but indispensable, since accurate statistical data were needed for accurate forecasting of trends in economic development. His country, recognizing the importance of the task, had followed ECA's recommendations by re-organizing its statistical services and instituting training courses for statisticians.

One side of the work, however, appeared to have been somewhat neglected, namely agricultural statistics. It was difficult enough to obtain accurate statistics on industry, but even more difficult to obtain them on agriculture, because of the unpredictable conditions. His delegation would accordingly like to see permanent contact established between ECA and FAO's agricultural statistical unit, with a view to improving agricultural statistics in Africa.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) said he had been interested to learn that ECA's statistical section now had a mechanical unit where training might be given in the use of data-processing machines. He asked what exactly the facilities consisted of.

Secondly, he asked why it was considered necessary to prepare methodological manuals, on household services and the like, adapted specifically to African conditions (project 06-04(b)), and whether such adaptations would still conform with the recognized basic requirement of international comparability of statistics.

Mr. BERTHELET (Secretariat) explained that the recently-established mechanical unit was provided with IBM data-processing machines, and that the intention was to enable African Governments to send suitable persons to Addis Ababa for training in their operation.

There was no contradiction between ECA's efforts to draw up methodological manuals suited to African conditions, and the need for ensuring international comparability of statistics. Experience had shown that the methods suitable for use in advanced countries could not be successfully applied in the less-advanced countries without adaptation to their peculiar conditions. There was no question, however, of compromising on recognized international standards for the compilation of statistics.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) was still not convinced of the value of a mechanical processing unit using the IBM punch-card system. If countries had no such machines, there was no point in sending trainees to Addis Ababa. Nor did he advocate publication of statistical handbooks. The basic problem in many African countries was not to collect statistics but to publish the available data.

Mr. BERTHET (Secretariat) replied that countries which possessed IBM machines might still lack competent technicians to operate them. A number of Africans had been sent to Europe for training, but the added advantage of learning the mechanical process in Addis Ababa, was the opportunity it gave Africans to become acquainted with the work of ECA.

He agreed with the representative of Sierra Leone that the main problem was to collect and publish statistical data. That raised the question of the form in which they should be published. In general there was only one good method, but attempts were being made to analyse the various proved techniques. The publication of a handbook on agriculture, for instance, was costly, and the FAO technique helped to overcome the financial difficulty.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) agreed up to a point with the views expressed by the representative of Sierra Leone. What was wanted was a standardized nomenclature and indices to improve the comparability of statistical data.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) advocated training on the spot in countries possessing computers. The Secretariat was too optimistic in thinking that all African countries would adopt uniform standards for the compilation of statistics.

II-01 Industrial Surveys and Industrial Planning

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) said that the project was in the early stages of development. The programme of surveys necessarily covered a wide and important area of all-African economy, and the Secretariat would welcome a substantial expression of views. The build-up, initiated under the project of an inventory of African industries country by country demanded a major effort to collect and process available statistics. The data would be published in the first place in a general document on the industrial situation in Africa, to form a basis for further studies of intra-African trade.

Mr. NOMBETE (Secretariat) said that project 11-02 (Study of individual Industries and Groups of industries) had been initiated in conjunction with the inventory. The studies of the listed industries would be carried out on a regional, sub-regional or country basis as appropriate. A number of seminars would be convened in 1962 and 1963 arising out of the studies made for the purpose of submitting concrete recommendations with regard to future plans. Provision had been made for feasibility investigations under project 11-10, to be followed by investment studies with a view to assisting governments to carry out development projects. Preliminary plans had been made for a conference on African Energy Resources in 1963, and considerable progress had been made in preparing a manual on the implementation of investment projects.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia), referring to project 11-01, suggested that the description should include a reference to the sources of investment of African industries. He also appealed to ECA to include some type of industrial development training programme on the lines of those provided in a number of European and American countries.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, replying to the first point raised by the representative of Liberia, agreed that some description should be included in project 11-01 of the sources of investment of African industries. On the second point, he indicated that negotiations were being initiated with the Governing Body of the Special Fund for the setting up of an industrial development institute, similar to the proposed economic planning institute, at which Africans would receive training in development programming.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) expressed concern about the availability of staff for the building-up of an inventory of African industries. Referring to the setting up of an industrial development institute, he recommended that ECA, in co-operation with UNESCO, should undertake a survey of skilled manpower in the sub-regions and enquire in particular

how the supply could be improved in quantity and quality, failing which the institute would be run entirely by staff from outside Africa. Something should also be done to adapt industrial research to the special needs of Africa. In the interests of intra-African trade it was also important to discover, measure and evaluate African mineral resources prior to a study on industrial development. Turning to the list of industries enumerated under project 11-02, he stressed the importance of agricultural equipment suited to special conditions in Africa.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) agreed with the representatives of Liberia and Nigeria on the importance of industrial training and research. Pointing to the difficulty of developing African industries if the budget situation were not divorced from balance of payments, he formally proposed the inclusion in the description of project 11-02 of studies of the interrelationship of fiscal problems, balance of payment situations, and industrial development. A study should be made of that kind of interrelationship, and the situation in each country spelt out.

The proposal was adopted

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) assured the Secretariat that his country was fully in favour of the proposed build-up of an inventory of African industries, and was prepared to supply the necessary information. In the setting up of an industrial institute for Africa it would be well to draw a distinction between industrialization and the spirit of enterprise. Seminars should be organized for that purpose.

In reply to Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone), who expressed some concern about overlap with the feasibility investigations already being carried out by the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Special Fund, and other bodies, the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY pointed out that those agencies' scope was world-wide.

In reply to a question by Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) regarding the functions of the proposed industrial development institute, the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that a reference to its establishment would be found in document E/CN.14/162. He hoped to be in a position to make a concrete proposal at a later stage, and it would be premature to answer questions before the completion of the study. He had mentioned the matter only because the representative of Nigeria had raised the question of training for industrial development.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) stressed that negotiations for the establishment of an industrial development institute should be given the highest priority in 1962.

12-01: Transport

Mr. EHRENROOTH (Secretariat) said that the group of studies under 12-01 represented a continuing project on transport problems in Africa, with emphasis on the role of the transport industry in promoting economic development.

The first step had been a report on transport in West Africa submitted to the third session of the Commission. The report, slightly amended, would shortly be available for governments.

A conference on sub-regional roads in West Africa had been held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 23 to 27 October 1961, and a report was being submitted to the fourth session in document E/CN.14/147. It contained four resolutions, the first calling for a seminar of Chiefs of Highway Divisions in West Africa (project 12-05), which was expected to take place early in 1963. The Monrovia Conference placed great emphasis on continuing action and the creation of the necessary machinery.

The second resolution recommended the establishment of a sub-regional office for West Africa with committees responsible for organizing the various aspects of transport work. The question of sub-regional offices was dealt with in document E/CN.14/161.

A study on East African transport was being prepared under project 12-01, in pursuance of resolution 35 (III) of the third session, and a progress report was contained in document E/CN.14/148. The principal recommendation in the report was for a meeting of government representatives in the East African sub-region, enlarged to include Ruanda-Urundi and Madagascar, to discuss sub-regional transport problems (project 12-06). In accordance with the Commission's terms of reference, a seminar on port administration was included as project 12-07. It was intended that the project should be carried out in 1963 in co-operation with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

In all the projects he had mentioned, stress was laid on joint action by African States, and it was hoped that many similar projects would be introduced into the Work Programme in the near future. Advisory services would be placed at the disposal of governments on request.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) recalled that it had been stated, rather cynically, that most countries on attaining independence acquired a flag and a national anthem, joined the United Nations, and established an airline. But in Africa air transport was a matter, not of national prestige, but of economic necessity. Airlines had been established in many regions of Africa, but it was doubtful if they were profitable. Running an airline involved serious economic dangers, and it was vital that the question should be investigated before other States or organizations in Africa ran into economic difficulties.

He therefore proposed that the Commission should consider the possibility of making a study of air transport in Africa with the object of determining (a) the problems involved, and (b) the possibility of co-ordinating the various bodies engaged in transport.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that he was in complete agreement with the representative of Liberia. Since the preparation of the work programme he had received a study on the subject from the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and had informed him that he hoped to use the document in the forthcoming meeting on transport in East Africa. The question of air transport would be added to paragraph (b) of project 12-01, with emphasis on the aspect raised by the representative of Liberia. However, like the question he had referred to earlier, it was one which the Secretariat had not yet studied fully and could not yet be placed on the work programme. In that connexion, certain people associated with air transport had suggested that Africa might learn from some of the European countries, the Scandinavian ones for example which operated a joint air transport system. A pan-African system, would certainly reduce costs.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) supported the views of the representative of Liberia, though he doubted whether some of the African countries would seriously consider joint services before they had learnt by experience the difficulties of running their own.

With regard to project 12-01 as a whole, while he questioned the value of studying such self-evident subjects as the role of the transport industry in promoting economic development, or the relative economics of road, rail, water and air transport in economic development, he hesitated to tamper with the work programme by suggesting their deletion. Instead he would propose an additional subject for

study by the Secretariat, namely the regional development of the inter-national rivers of Africa with a view to their service in transport and energy.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that he had thought the subject adequately covered by the description of paragraph (b) of the project, which he read out.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) expressed himself as satisfied with the Executive Secretary's reassurance.

Mr. ACQUAH (Ghana) expressed great satisfaction with the efficient way in which the Secretariat had prepared the transport section of the work programme. He was particularly pleased to see the subject given high priority, for it was unrealistic to discuss trade without relating it to transport. While, however, he appreciated the Secretariat's interest in such subjects as those described in projects 12-01 and 12-05, he felt that attention should be paid in seminars and workshops to the very urgent problem of developing inter-State highways throughout Africa. The most acute problem in the region was its primitive transport system: until very recently, for example, anyone wishing to travel from West Africa to the regional headquarters had been obliged to go through Europe. A good transport system was also essential to West and East Africa.

It was in the problem of transport that the Secretariat could be of the greatest use to its member States, for transport was the nerve system of a region. He therefore urged that the Commission should concentrate on the problem, and assured the Executive Secretary of his Government's full co-operation.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) fully supported the views of the representative of Liberia. With regard to the statement of the representative of Ghana, he pointed out that the coastal transport systems had been designed to serve the import requirements of Europe - in other words to transport material outside Africa - and therefore had nothing to do with the needs of Africa itself. He was surprised, therefore, that a West African Conference should have discussed national transport systems, and that the Commission was proposing (12-05) a seminar to discuss such problems as soil stabilization and road construction. It was useless to perpetuate a transport system that had been inherited and found inadequate. He therefore proposed that project 12-05 should be replaced by a project for studying the economic and technological problems of linking sub-regional transport systems.

The CHAIRMAN invited speakers for or against the motion.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) stressed the importance of transport in Africa, both north-south and east-west. In Libya the Government had, at its own expense, constructed a road which led northward 700 km and could be extended to the borders of Niger, Mali and Chad. He hoped that work would continue on the basis of his country's modest contribution.

With regard to the Nigerian representative's proposal, with which he was in sympathy, he suggested that the difficulty might be solved by the addition of economic aspects to the study, instead of by deleting the seminar altogether.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) replied that soil statistics could be studied in research laboratories, and the Commission should first find out what work was being carried out by other organizations and what funds were available. That study, however, would make no contribution to the real problem, which was to establish road links in Africa.

Mr. HASSEN (Mauritania) supported the proposal of the representative of Libya. He also described how he had to travel through London, at heavy cost, in order to cross Africa without going through South Africa, with which his country had no diplomatic relations.

Mr. AHMED (Morocco) also supported the Libyan representative's proposal, and suggested that the subject of telecommunications should be included in the study. With regard to the Nigerian representative's proposal, he considered that the matter was outside the present agenda and should be noted for a future meeting.

The suggestion regarding Telecommunications was approved.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) saw no reason to cancel the seminar under 12-05, which was the proposal of a group of responsible technical experts. He suggested that the subject of economics should be added to the seminar's task.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that he and his staff found themselves in a very awkward situation. They were being asked to delete a project that had arisen out of a report unanimously adopted by a conference of high-level experts, including a Minister of the Nigerian Government. Personally, he agreed with the representative of Nigeria on the need for priority, but he was faced with conflicting directives.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) maintained his proposal.

Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic) shared the views of the Libyan representative regarding the importance of African airlines. He also drew attention to the importance of navigation, and referred to difficulties encountered in transporting merchandise under the existing system. He would like to see a study made of the navigation lines between all African ports.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) submitted his proposal in a slightly revised form: "Study of the economic possibilities of constructing regional transport systems". He was proposing a separate item because he was convinced that a study of road stabilization would not produce the linking of transport systems that was so vital.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) pointed out that project 12-01 was one of continuing high priority, which was what the representative of Nigeria was appealing for; whereas project 12-05 was a new one, designed to fill one of the many gaps in the study of the transport system as a whole. He suggested that the Programme should be left unchanged, on the understanding that the aspects referred to by the Nigerian representative were included.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the Secretariat would be in favour of the insertion of an additional item, in the terms indicated by the representative of Nigeria, as a new 12-01(c), the former (c) becoming (d). Amendment of the Work Programme would need the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to amend project 12-01 in accordance with the proposals of the representatives of Nigeria and Morocco and of the Executive Secretary.

After discussion of a question of procedure raised by Mr. DE LONZA (Dahomey), it was agreed that the Chairman should summarize the Committee's decision on each project, to avoid the need for voting.

13-01 Natural Resources

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) introduced the projects, which were part of a continuing activity deriving from the first session. The seminar on groundwater development proposed for 1963 was to be organized in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and plans would be discussed shortly with the head of that Department. Plans for the regional cartographic conference for Africa were at a more advanced stage, and the conference would be held at a date between 1 April and 30 June 1963. The subject was wide, and the project was based on decisions by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Africa.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) strongly supported the projects on natural resources and hoped they would be given high priority. In his own country, despite recent discoveries of oil, groundwater development was essential and in the drier regions a matter of life or death. It involved difficult legal and economic problems. His Government was currently enquiring into his country's groundwater resources, and would later need guidance on the best methods of using them. He would welcome information on experience with modern methods in other countries with dry regions.

The Committee approved the project, and the comments of the representative of Libya.

21 and 22 Agriculture

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat), in a general introduction to the projects, said that they were to be carried out by the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, a method adopted by all United Nations regional commissions. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was conducting a very extensive programme in Africa and employed nearly a hundred field experts under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. FAO projects under the United Nations Special Fund were increasing rapidly, and the Headquarters office in Rome was dealing with a wide variety of economic and technical problems. ECA was concerned with the economic aspects; its function was to provide a link between the FAO programme and the economy of the region, and to perform continuing secretarial tasks such as preparing documentary material and organizing meetings.

The programme had three main parts, described under projects 21, 22 and 23. Apart from certain additions designed to make it more precise and practical, it differed little from the one approved in 1961 by FAO and ECA.

21-02 Agricultural development programmes and planning

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) was glad that the Secretariat was devoting so much attention to agriculture. He wondered whether it would be useful to have ECA/FAO liaison officers in all African countries. His country wanted advice on the important question of the use of agricultural surpluses as an aid to economic development. He hesitated to suggest that a new item be inserted in the programme, but asked for the Secretariat's views.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY replied that the problem of the distribution of food surpluses was world-wide, and was being tackled by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO. If the representative of Morocco thought there should also be regional committees to deal with it, the Secretariat would be willing to examine a proposal to that effect.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) said that he had not intended to propose the establishment of new committees, but to draw attention to the problem, which was important in Africa. His country had considerable experience in the use of surplus food production.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) asked the Secretariat for a detailed description of the activities it proposed to pursue in 1962 under project 21-02 (c) (Analysis of particular problems of agricultural development).

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) replied that the question was not easy to answer. It had not been possible so far to do a great deal on those subjects, which were referred to at every meeting of ECA and FAO. The diversification of agriculture was part of the larger problem of diversification of the economy as a whole, and had been discussed in a recent issue of the FAO Monthly Bulletin. Agriculture included production for local consumption and production for export. Diversification of production for export could, however, be a two-edged sword, for if all countries diversified they would eventually compete with each other. It must be approached with caution, and with due regard to developments in other countries. Diversification for local consumption was different, for Africa was faced with problems of

malnutrition and maldistribution. Africans suffered from protein deficiency because of the inadequacy of livestock production. Secretariat action in that field was still limited to relatively small projects. Recently, for instance, a staff member had visited Tanganyika and advised its Government on peasant tea schemes, wattle bark and coffee production, and irrigation schemes. The Secretariat had also advised on irrigation projects in Kenya, on field abattoirs in East Africa, and on commodity possibilities in two other countries, which had, for instance, been told of the state of the market for sisal.

The transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture was one of the main problems of agricultural development. ECA had in 1960 been co-sponsor with FAO of a land policy centre in East Africa, and in May 1962 the two agencies would be sponsoring a sub-regional centre on agricultural credit. They were also studying the economic aspects of land settlement schemes, peasant tea schemes, and the commercial use of game, and were conducting a livestock survey in southern Ethiopia with a view to increasing the export potential and thus the cash income from livestock.

Those were the contributions they were making in those large and rather nebulous fields.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) raised the question of duplication of work, suggesting that the activities proposed under project 21-02 were suitable for institutional action. He asked the Secretariat to clarify the relationship of the project to the proposed Economic Planning and Development Institute.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) replied that the main function of the Institute would be to provide training, whereas many of the activities under project 21-02 were investigational. The intention was that training activities should be channelled through the Institute.

21-03 Studies and meetings on agricultural development

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) expressed the fear that a meeting on agricultural planning in African countries would serve no useful purpose unless a previous study had been made on agricultural structure and land ownership in the various countries.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) said that project 21-03 had been included in the programme because the January meeting of the ECA Working Party on Economic and Social Development had clashed with an FAO meeting and consideration of the agricultural sector had therefore been postponed. The present proposal was to hold, before the second FAO Regional Conference for Africa, a small meeting of agricultural economists to discuss agricultural planning and its relation to overall planning. He did not understand the contention of the representative of Morocco that agricultural planning might be useless unless preceded by a census of agricultural holdings.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) agreed with the representative of Morocco that if countries did not know enough about their agrarian structures there would be little point in holding a meeting on agricultural development planning. A meeting would be valueless unless the participants were provided with new information. Unless they could be assured that the meeting would serve a useful purpose, his delegation considered that the emphasis of the item should be laid on the training of economic planners.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) agreed that meetings were useful only when the participants were supplied with fresh information. He felt certain that the meeting proposed under project 21-03(e) would provide much information that would be new and interesting to participants. Presumably the statistical information on land ownership requested by the representative of Morocco would be provided under project 06-01, and information gained from that survey would be used in preparing for the meeting. He supposed that the meeting would not dwell on already-published information but would bring together persons working on agricultural development planning whose purpose would be to

produce documentary material on the development plans of the various countries. It would thus serve a useful purpose, and his delegation considered that the project should be retained in the programme.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) insisted that the item was very important. He had spoken of the need for surveys because Morocco had experience of the difficulties involved. His Government was reluctant to grant agricultural credits or finance irrigation schemes unless it was certain that they would benefit a large part of the population. A knowledge of the agrarian structure of the country was therefore essential.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) agreed with the representative of Morocco that detailed plans at district and farm level could not be made without that knowledge. The Secretariat of the Commission, however, was concerned with the broader issues rather than with the details of each country's internal affairs. The Moroccan representative's suggestion was not well suited to the more general approach adopted by FAO and ECA.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) asked how a country could plan its agriculture if it was unaware of the extent and quality of its land and of the types of fertilizer and machinery best suited to its conditions.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) replied that, if that argument were carried to its logical conclusion, there would be no planning of any sort unless countries had exhaustive knowledge of all their resources. Few countries had complete knowledge of all the factors involved in their industrial development plans. Information would be gained from the Statistical Survey of Africa and from the technical assistance experts working at various levels, and information on the general sectoral distribution of government resources was also available.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) said there seemed to be some confusion about the purpose of the meeting. The representative of Nigeria seemed to fear that delegations would be presented with mathematical models and linear programming applied to agriculture. If that fear were correct, he would agree that the

meeting would serve no very useful purpose. If, however, as he thought, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the extent of practical planning in Africa, then it would be far from theoretical and should be retained in the programme. If the Secretariat would confirm that his idea of the purpose of the meeting was correct, agreement would be possible.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) said that the representative of Libya had put his finger on the crucial point. The meeting would primarily be an FAO meeting, and certainly not a theoretical exercise on planning applied to non-existent data.

The CHAIRMAN summarized the discussion, and asked the representatives whether the item should be retained in the Programme of Work.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 6.58 p.m.