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Fourth session
Addis Ababa, February - March 1962

COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa,
on Monday, 19 February 1962, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey)
Secretary: Mr. MATHU

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

Representatives wishing to have corrections made in their speeches as summarized in this record are invited to indicate them in the text and send them within 48 hours of receipt of the record to Mr. Godet, Room 59, Africa Hall.

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PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1962 - 1963 (continued)

22-01 Trade and Marketing of Agricultural products

No comments.

22-02 Food consumption levels

No comments.

22-03 Commodity stabilization

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) did not think that the project, should, if continued, enjoy high priority, as the number of African countries producing basic commodities was constantly diminishing.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) pointed out that stabilization of the prices of agricultural commodities was vital to the African countries. The Secretariat would continue to implement the project unless the Committee decided otherwise.

23-01 Technical assistance to Governments

No comments.

23-02 Specific projects of importance to the region

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) asked for details of the projects.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) explained that the Secretariat was taking part in meetings on locust control and preparing reports. The Commission had emphasized at its third session the importance to tourism, which could become an important factor in the economic development of several African countries. The East African Institute of Social Research was co-operating in the project, which would take one year.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) pointed out that locust control came within the direct competence of FAO. The Secretariat's activities could therefore only be secondary and should not be the object of a special project. He proposed that project 23-02 be deleted and the activity, with the enquiry on tourism, included in project 23-01 (Technical assistance to governments).

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) seconded at proposal.

Mr. KPOGNON (Dahomey) emphasized the importance of locust control measures for the African countries. Tourism might also develop into an industry which would assist certain States to improve their economic development. He therefore asked that project 23-02 should not be deleted but receive a lower priority.

Mr. APPIAH (Ghana) declared that the project ought to be transferred, not deleted.

Mr. DONCOURE (Mali) felt that the two activities were too important to be considered merely as an annex to the technical assistance programme. He therefore requested that project 23-02 should be retained.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Nigerian representative had not asked for the deletion of the project but simply for its inclusion in the programme of technical assistance to governments. The proposal to give the project lower priority seemed acceptable to everyone. The Secretariat would therefore take into account the view expressed by the Committee.

It was so agreed.

31-01 to 31-12 Community Development

Mr. DULPHY (Secretariat) said that in establishing that part of the programme the Secretariat had taken account of the information obtained from studies carried out in the previous year, and of two recommendations of the third session. It had been careful not to separate social development from economic development, the priority of which it recognized, and to suggest projects as concrete as possible.

Project 31-01 (Assistance to governments in the planning, organization and administration of national community development programme) would give scope for both short-term and long-term consultations. The Technical Assistance Administration had already arranged to recruit a consultant in community development.

The purpose of project 31-02 (General survey of community development in Africa) was to obtain a better knowledge of national programme in order to draw from them conclusions of general interest.

Project 31-03 (Establishment of an ECA clearing-house on community development and social welfare) had been unanimously requested by the Commission at its third session. Technical assistance credits had already been allotted for the Clearing-House.

Under project 31-10 (Study of the applicability of community development techniques to urban areas in Africa) studies were to be made in certain large African cities, as had been done in Addis Ababa, of problems of rapid city growth, industrialization, migration, and disruption of traditional structure, in order to draw conclusions adaptable to other cases.

The study tour referred to in project 31-11 (Study tour on community development methods and techniques) was a continuation of the tour organized in 1960, and should enable the participants to compare different conceptions of community development.

To project 31-12 (Community development and economic development) the Commission would certainly attach considerable importance, for it had requested it unanimously. It had recognized that technical development did not always correspond to real development unless it was backed by the people. The purpose of community development was therefore to mobilize human resources in the service of development plans. The Commission had before it a study of the question, but the Secretariat would like to go further and set up a working group of experts, economists and statisticians, who would try to establish evaluation methods and determine the contribution made by community development to general development.

32-01 to 32-06 Social Welfare

Mr. DULPHY (Secretariat) introduced project 32-01 and explained that it was a follow-up of the Workshop organized at Accra in 1960. The meeting of experts referred to in project 32-05 would take place at Abidjan. Project 32-06 supplemented the study tour in project 31-11 on community development.

33-01 and 33-02 Allied activities

Mr. DULPHY (Secretariat) said that project 33-01 was linked with the Tunis Workshop, which had made a study of low-cost housing in Africa, and that its purpose was to compare different conceptions of housing programmes.

Project 33-02 continued a long study made by a consultant on co-operative movements in Africa. The study had examined the situation in order to obtain positive and negative information on which new projects could be based.

He then turned to the training courses in community development and civil protection. Project 41-07, which had been requested unanimously by the Commission at its third session, covered refresher training courses for administrative and technical staff rather than training proper. The first course had been held at Dakar; there had been nineteen participants and it had been a complete success. Other courses would be held in coming years. Project 41-08 continued the earlier course for the training of social workers.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) congratulated the Secretariat on drawing up a programme for community development and social welfare distinguished from its predecessors by its dynamic character. He feared, however, that there was some overlapping between certain projects, especially in urbanization; he asked for reassurance. Further, the fact that the Centre for the Exchange of Documentation was at the Headquarters of the Commission handicapped the other States Members, and it would be interesting to know how the Secretariat intended to overcome that difficulty.

Mr. DULPHY (Secretariat) said, with respect to the first point mentioned by the representative of Nigeria, that the study on Addis Ababa had been carried out in conjunction with the Social Research section, which dealt with urbanization, and that the next projects would be effected in the same manner; that would obviate the danger of duplication.

The Secretariat intended that the documentation centre should be an active force. In addition to the card index and documentation which would be available at Addis Ababa, the Secretariat was considering the population of a liaison bulletin which would be sent to all Member States and would contain not only theoretical articles but also accounts of the results obtained in various countries. It was also considering having recourse to micro-films for the conveyance of all the documentation at its disposal to the governments concerned. Finally, it would keep governments supplied with documents and bibliographies.

Mr. KPOGNON (Dahomey) congratulated the Secretariat on the high priority it had allocated to Community Development, which was indispensable to African countries. He hoped that the application of Community Development to the rural sector as well as to the urban sector would be studied. He would also like a study to be made of the economic measures to enable community development to play its role in the State. Finally, he hoped that the training of specialized personnel would be accelerated so that community development might play its proper part, above all in agriculture.

Mr. APPIAH (Ghana) congratulated the Secretariat on its community development programme. With respect to project 32-06, which provided for a study tour on social welfare, he asked why the tour was confined to women. It was a fact that in most African countries women held much lower positions in the welfare services than men. If they wished the programmes to improve, exchanges of view should be at a higher level and between more experienced persons.

With respect to project 31-10, he was glad to see that the Secretariat was studying urban development by concentrating on migrations, about which everything was still almost unknown. He emphasized, however, that the conclusions of the study made on Addis Ababa would not necessarily apply to any country but Ethiopia and he hoped that the Secretariat would continue to be realistic in that respect.

41-01 to 41-06 Training

Mr. OYRZANOWSKI (Secretariat) introduced projects 41-01 (Training Facilities in Africa) and 41-02 (Training in Economic and Social Planning). He recalled that the duties of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, which the General Assembly of the United Nations had decided should be established under the auspices of the ECA, would include training, research and advisory functions. Preparatory work was being carried on actively in co-operation with universities, research institutes and other appropriate bodies in Africa as well as with the United Nations Specialized Agencies.

Mr. KPOGNON (Dahomey) hoped that the Secretariat would reserve its due place to the accelerated training of African staff, since it was above all the absence of qualified staff which hindered the execution of development plans.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) emphasized the necessity of previously determining the categories of specialists needed by the African countries for their economic and social development. He agreed that the success of development programmes depended on the quality and quantity of the staff assigned to execute them.

The teaching personnel to train African staff was another important consideration. The Secretariat should take care that the training was not unilateral; it should therefore call upon specialists from all

parts of the world, including planned economy countries, and preferably specialists from under-developed regions with difficulties similar to those of Africa. There should be no repetition of a recent experience, in which the direction of a training course had been entrusted to two American professors who had never been to Africa or had any contact with African university circles.

Mr. OYRZANOWSKI (Secretariat) said, in reply to the representative of Dahomey, that the Secretariat hoped to remedy the present scarcity of African staff by organizing short training courses, following the example of the Latin American countries.

In reply to the representative of Nigeria he said that during the next two months two members of the Secretariat would visit several African countries for the express purpose of determining their needs in qualified staff. The Secretariat was in liaison with the African universities on that subject and hoped soon to have a clear idea of the situation. As to the training courses it organized, it went without saying that it always endeavoured to entrust them to the most qualified specialists available, irrespective of nationality or any other consideration.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) wanted to know exactly what the Secretariat understood by "in-service training". He hoped that expression was not applied solely to the training courses organized to date, particularly at the headquarters of the United Nations at New York, which left much to be desired.

Mr. MATHU (Committee Secretary) gave as an example project 41-03 (In-service training for African economists and statisticians) which had started two years ago. Under that project, the ECA sent African officials - economists, statisticians, planners - appointed at the suggestion of their governments, to attend a course at the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or the Economic Commission for

Europe where they followed the research work carried out in this special sector. At present, a trainee from Sierra Leone was studying economic development planning in Bangkok and a Sudanese trainee was studying trade questions in Geneva.

The ECA also reserved a certain number of "training" posts at its headquarters, the holders of which participated closely in the work of the service to which they had been assigned. That was the case of a young official from Ghana who was being initiated in the trade problems of Africa. The ECA proposed to extend its activities in those matters by the establishment of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

With respect to the summer course for African University students of Economics and Statistics (Project 41-04), it had been organized at the express request of the participants in the Conference of Vice-chancellors of African Universities held at Khartoum in December, 1956. In 1961, the ECA invited twenty universities to send about 30 students to the course. The purpose of the course, which had lasted eight weeks, was to relate the teaching in economic theory given by the universities to actual problems in Africa, and the results obtained had been most encouraging. During the year in course they were expecting about forty students from some twenty universities.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

