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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
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AGRICULTURE

Resolution 152(VIII) adopted by the Commission at its 139th plenary meeting
on 24 February 1967

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Taking note of the report on agricultural activities for the 1965-1966 biennium (E/CN.14/L.321),

Having considered the projected programme of activities in the field of agricultural development for the 1967-1969 biennium, as contained in document E/CN.14/360/Rev.1, and in its addendum I in particular,

Considering further the continuing unsatisfactory rate of growth of the agricultural sector, as reflected both in the report for the preceding biennium and, in particular in the statement by the ECA/FAO Joint Agricultural Division, and in the FAO Report on the Food and Agricultural situation in Africa,

Having regard to the dominant role of the agricultural sector in the economic growth of member States of the Commission,

Noting that a great deal of relevant information has already been accumulated over the years for the purpose of identifying the problems confronting the accelerated growth of the agricultural sector of African economies,

Considering the slow progress in the practical application of the great mass of available scientific knowledge for the development of the agricultural sector,

Appreciating the efforts made in the formulation of institutional machinery for regional and sub-regional co-operation as a necessary step towards the formulation and implementation of concrete proposals for agricultural development,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary and his staff for their continued efforts in the field of agricultural development in the region, and in particular for the achievements recorded in the report on the 1965-1966 biennium;

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2. Welcomes the close collaboration existing between the Commission, FAO and other interested agencies aimed at a more encouraging rate of growth in the agricultural sector;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to draw the attention of the Director-General of the FAO to the concern expressed at this session relating to the slow progress in agricultural production and to seek the assistance of that organization in formulating concrete proposals for the following purposes: greatly increasing the volume of agricultural production, and of food production in particular, by the use of appropriate fertilizers on a large scale; making possible the acquisition of farm machinery and other modern farm equipment by the African farmer at reasonable prices; provision and training of extension personnel to educate the farmer in plant protection methods and other modern agricultural techniques; instructing agricultural experts to co-ordinate research on a sub-regional basis, and agricultural economists to advise on the marketing of commodities, their distribution and storage, and price stabilization on the commodity market; promoting land-tenure reform as well as the development of agro-allied industries and the marketing of their processed products. These proposals should also embrace practical means of establishing community development methods, notably agricultural credit schemes which are of paramount importance for the socio-economic development of agriculture;

4. Further invites the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary to strengthen and staff adequately the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, to enable it to contribute more effectively to the implementation of the measures specified in operative paragraph 3 of this resolution;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary, for the purpose of this assignment, to establish the necessary liaison with all multinational and bilateral aid agencies, both for the avoidance of unnecessary duplication of action, and in order to define precisely the areas of such practical activities that have as yet remained untouched;

6. Requests further the Executive Secretary to report progress in the implementation of this resolution at the ninth session of the ECA.