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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Sixth meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the  
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
15-22 April 1985

Item III.3 of the provisional agenda\*

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Twentieth session of the Commission/  
Eleventh meeting of the Conference  
of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
25-29 April 1985

Item III.3 of the provisional agenda\*

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)  
DECLARATION ON THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA  
(GA RESOLUTION 39/29 ANNEX) AND THEIR PROPOSED  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LONG-TERM ASPECTS  
OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. It will be recalled that at the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers/nineteenth session of the Commission held at the Headquarters of the Commission from 24 to 28 May 1984, the Conference adopted a special memorandum on the economic and social crisis of Africa for presentation to the 1984 second Regular Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity. After discussion by the ECOSOC, the special memorandum and the records of debate on it were made available to the General Assembly, of the United Nations at its 39th session. After discussing the special memorandum and reviewing the debate at ECOSOC, the Assembly decided to adopt a resolution and a Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa (GA Res. 39/29 and ANNEX) in which the Assembly called on the international community including the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations System to support the determined efforts of African countries to deal with the critical economic situation.

2. Then at its organizational session on 8 February 1985, the ECOSOC decided to give priority consideration to the question of the review of the immediate and long-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations System.

3. The information presented in the following pages represents the response of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to the General Assembly Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa (GA Res. 39/29 ANNEX) and the programmes and projects which they plan to initiate with respect to the long-term aspects of the Critical Economic Situation in Africa. Due to time constraint, the information provided by some agencies whose information arrived after the deadline is not included here. Such agencies will present their information during the meeting.

## II. RESPONSE OF THE ORGANS, ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES OF UN SYSTEM

### 1. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA)

4. In addition to activities in the regular work programme, the following initiatives are underway in the area of DIESA competence namely development issues and policies to ensure continuing priority attention at global level for special needs of Africa:

(a) Committee for Development Planning has continued to monitor implementation of proposals for action on sub-Saharan Africa pursuant to its statement issued in November 1984;

(b) A special issue of Journal of Development Planning on Africa will be issued in April 1985;

(c) Other global analyses being prepared within the department for the Economic and Social Council and other relevant intergovernmental bodies, particularly World Economic Survey and Socio-economic Perspective of World Economy to year 2000, will place special emphasis this year on the critical situation in Africa and long-term aspects.

5. In addition, DIESA envisages strengthening focus on Africa in global projections and perspective studies carried out through a system of consistent country models linked with the world economy. Initial emphasis is being given to enlargement of data bank. A volume on national models for policy analysis is planned to be issued by the end of 1985.

6. The need for further DIESA activities is under active internal review at the present time.

## 2. Department of Technical Co-operation and Development (DTCD)

### I. Water Resources

7. Through its Water Resources Branch, DTCD is executing a number of new projects which have been formulated in direct response to the emergency situation resulting from the consequences of the prolonged drought afflicting much of Africa and which is in part responsible for the critical economic situation. These projects, and their major objectives, are as follows:

(a) BKF/84/U08 - Creation et mise en service d'une brigade d'approfondissement de puits, financé by the United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund (UNEOTF);

The major objective is to supply drinking water to village populations in Burkina Faso through the deepening of existing wells which have dried up or are in danger of drying up.

(b) CHD/83/016 - Renforcement et réhabilitation des réseaux de forages pastoraux et villageois, financé by UNDP. The major objective is to make water available to the populations and livestock in trans-humance in the region around N'Djamena through the rehabilitation of the existing network of mechanized boreholes and the strengthening of the Government services responsible for their operation and maintenance;

(c) COI/84/U02 - Renforcement des opérations de forage du project COI/79/005 - Recherche et mise en valeur des eaux, financé by the United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund (UNEOTF). The major objective is to increase the number of wells being drilled in the Comoro Islands so as to progressively make available a supply of water to the maximum number of people;

(d) SOM/84/U01 - Emergency Water Relief for 1984 drought, financé by the UNEOTF. The major objectives are to supply water on an emergency basis to the populations most seriously affected by the drought in Somalia and to promote preparedness for future water emergencies;

(e) SUD/84/006 - Establishment of a Water Point Maintenance Unit on the West Bank of the Nile in Equatorial Region in the Sudan, financed by UNDP. The major objective is to establish a water point maintenance unit capable of repairing and rehabilitating all the boreholes in the project area so as to supply water to some 400,000 people consisting of both the indigenous population and large numbers of Ugandan refugees who have been migrating into the district;

(f) UNSO/DES/UQA/82/001 - Pilot Surface Water Schemes to support Agricultural Development in Karamoja, financed by the UNEOTF. The major objectives are to ensure an adequate supply of surface water in the Karamoja region of Uganda for agricultural, human and livestock consumption and to ensure that rainfed cropping is developed on an ecologically sound basis so as to prevent desertification. This is necessary because of the increasing number of traditionally pastoralist Karamojong who are turning to settled agriculture, partly as a result of drought-caused famine.

8. In addition, special extra activities have been undertaken through two on-going UNDP-financed projects to help alleviate crisis situation caused by the drought:

(a) Project MLI/84/005 - Evaluation, Planification et Gestion des Ressources en Eau, has provided drilling rigs and expertise to undertake emergency drillings in the Mopti, Timbuktu and Araouane areas of Mali;

(b) Project NER/83/002 - Exploitation des Eaux Souterraines en milieu rural, undertook emergency drillings east of Maradi in Niger resulting in 25 productive wells with good quality water.

## II. Action Programme in Public Administration for sub-Saharan Africa

9. The Seventh meeting of Experts on the UN programme on public administration and finance adopted a statement which inter alia said that the African crisis had arisen as a result of the cumulative effects of a variety of factors both natural and man-made and external and local.

10. Given the concern that the strategies adopted so far for tackling the crisis have not been adequate, it is clear that a different strategy is needed to remove some of the underlying causes of the worsening African crisis. The Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos adopted by the African Heads of State and Government provide important guidance in this direction.

11. While there are variations among the countries in the degree to which they are affected by the crisis and the capacities of their respective administrative systems, the statement identified the following aspects as calling for urgent attention in all the countries concerned:

(a) Strengthening personnel management systems and management development institutions;

(b) Improving financial management and fiscal administration;

(c) Supplies, procurement and maintenance management;

(d) Transport management;

(e) Modern management information system.

Points for action

12. Taking the framework established in earlier analyses, the governments of sub-Saharan Africa should take actions on the following lines:

(a) Inject urgently needed technical and managerial expertise within specially designed international technical assistance;

(b) Carry out crash programmes of training of nationals to fill the immediate vacancies in the above critical functional areas;

(c) Organize programmes to revitalize key institutions responsible for national capacity building, policy formulation and central guidance such as central budgeting organizations, civil service co-ordination and Central Personnel Agencies, national finance and planning agencies;

(d) Design special programmes to improve management performance of public enterprises;

(e) Identify mechanisms at the national level to spearhead sustained implementation of proposed measures.

13. The international community should find ways and means of promoting and undertaking joint programmes in areas indicated above. They should also assist in identifying mechanisms for funding the proposals formulated by the sub-Saharan countries affected.

3. Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

14. The United Nations Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (ACSTD) decided at its fifth session in February 1985, subject to approval of Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (IGCTD) to convene a panel in January 1986 in Senegal on the topic: Science, technology and self-sufficiency in food. Taking into account the African region where the problems of agriculture are the most pressing and the effects of persistent hunger and malnutrition most acute, ACSTD requested the panel to address the following issues:

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(a) Infrastructure to carry out agro-related research, development and demonstration, including examination of resources available to and constraints facing farmers;

(b) Measures for improving effectiveness of techniques for dissemination and field application of agro-related technologies at point of use, with particular attention to organization of extension services, provision of training for extension workers, demonstration, pilot projects, etc. with emphasis on flow of information from user to supplier as well as supplier to user;

(c) Mix of technologies already available for agriculture and related areas, including traditional, conventional and advanced technologies.

15. ACSTD also proposed, for approval of IGCSTD, to convene a panel in 1987 on the topic, "Science and technology for monitoring, evaluation and preventing long-term ecological crisis". The terms of reference for the panel are yet to be specified.

4. United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD)

16. UNFSSTD activities responding to Africa's critical economic situation are as follows:

- (i) Activities under project RAF/31/T01-Lagos Plan of Action with new focus on capacity building enabling better response to drought and emergency situations, as well as specific initiatives in food and forestry and to alleviate manpower bottlenecks such as shortage of junior engineers and technicians;
- (ii) Portfolio projects awaiting financing through multi-bi trust fund arrangements with interested donors since UNFSSTD core resources are severely restricted and future resources contingent on outcome of long-term negotiations. These include:
  - a. Ethiopia project - technical enablement programme for drought affected populations;
  - b. Four regional projects for joint execution with the African Regional Centre for Science and Technology (ARCST):
    - 1. co-operative research and development programme for production and processing of staple foods,
    - 2. information exchange network on food technology pilot project,

3. training programme in nutrition and food technology,
4. strengthening of consulting capacities in agro-industries, food technology and energy.

c. Five projects for Sahel countries:

1. MLI/80/T03 - Mali: strengthening national capacity for technology planning and promotion,
2. MAU/83/T03 - Mauritania: Assessment and planning of energy technologies,
3. NER/83/T02 - Niger: Establishment of a Centre National du Machinisme Agricole,
4. NER/83/T03 - Niger: Assessment and planning of rural energy technologies,
5. NER/83/T04 - Niger: Applied farming research in different ecological zones.

d. Continued support to the CILSS improved woodstoves project to massively diffuse improved stoves in Mali, Senegal, Burkina-Faso, Niger, Cape Verde, Chad and Mauritania;

e. A systematic programme for helping selected African countries on developing strategic options for development of science and technology to help resolve priority problems.

17. Start-up date and implementation of portfolio projects are subject to negotiations and conclusion of trust-fund agreements.

5. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)

18. UNCHS is preparing a background information document with respect to human settlements issues which will be distributed at the 11th meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning, 20th session of the Commission, scheduled from 25-29 April 1985 and preceded by a meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, scheduled from 15-22 April 1985.

6. United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO)

19. UNDRO has promptly responded to government requests from Angola, Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Sudan, for assistance in mobilization of financial resources, co-ordination of relief activities, assessment of current and anticipated implications of the long-term drought, determination of relief needs, and alleviation of disasters arising from bottlenecks in the transport sector or destruction caused by other natural phenomena such as hurricanes and flooding.

20. In addition to its other tasks, UNDRO issues periodic situation reports in each of the countries so as to keep the donor community informed of latest developments, communicated assessed needs and contributions pledged and transmitted data on the relief programmes undertaken by governments, bilateral donors, the UN system and non-governmental organizations.

21. UNDRO's activities by country are presented below:

#### ANGOLA

22. During previous relief operations from October 1981 to February 1983, UNDRO co-ordinated and monitored an emergency programme for 130,000 displaced and drought affected persons in southern Angola in which assistance from the international community in cash and kind exceeded US dollars 14 million, including an UNDRO emergency contribution of US dollars 30,000 and cash contributions to the UNDRO Trust Fund (for Angola) totalling US dollars 430,000 (Governments of Australia, Botswana, Ireland and Norway and OXFAM).

23. At the request of the Government (January 1985), a renewed programme of action covers two groups of displaced and drought-affected persons in the country: Those in the provinces of the Central Plateau (Bie, Huambo) and those in the southern provinces (Huila, Cunene and Kuando Kubango). Currently, the target group is estimated at 500,000 persons in these two regions.

24. A fact-finding mission to Angola is planned for March 1985.

#### BOTSWANA

25. In 1984, following two years of drought conditions, UNDRO launched an appeal for international assistance and in January 1985 allocated an emergency grant of US dollars 23,600 for purchase of covers for stock-feed stacks. As the country is at present in the fourth year of drought conditions, UNDRO will continue to monitor the situation and keep donors informed.

26. Total contribution in cash and kind reported to UNDRO to date amounts to US dollars 6,626,573.

#### CHAD

27. UNDRO has been focussing its efforts on relief co-ordination, mobilization and information on the situation and on relief needs. As of 28 February 1985, there were a total of 421,483 persons affected who were assisted in the Sahelian region, to which 150,000 in the south are to be added.



28. An Action Committee for Emergency Aid composed of representatives of the UN agencies, the main donors, the non-governmental organizations and relevant government departments developed in previous UNDRO missions is in existence and takes its decisions on a consensus basis. Aid provided by each donor is in a sense pooled and utilized by common agreement according to the priorities of the moment on the basis of information from the affected regions. The mechanism has allowed for a relatively high level of pledges, approximately 170,000 tons of food aid compared to the emergency relief needs estimated at 115,000 tons of cereals.

29. More recently, UNDRO has taken the initiative of bringing together bodies responsible for assistance in the medical field, i.e. the Health Ministry, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Medicines Sans Frontieres, which up-till now had been conducting independent relief programmes.

#### ETHIOPIA

30. UNDRO has since 1975 been assisting and advising in the assessment of the current and anticipated implications of the long-term drought affecting the country. Almost 25 UNDRO relief co-ordination missions - including three inter-agency assessment missions in 1980, 1981 and 1983 respectively - visited Ethiopia to identify relief needs, prepare concerted relief programmes and to strengthen local co-ordination. UNDRO delegates have permanently been in the country since August 1983.

31. With regard to the current drought emergency, UNDRO launched its first appeal on 3 April 1984, barely four days after the Ethiopian Government alerted local representatives of the international donor community to the rapidly deteriorating situation and renewed its request for international assistance.

32. With the creation of the Emergency Operations Office for Ethiopia by the UN Secretary-General, UNDRO has sought to strengthen local emergency management by assigning five monitoring/co-ordination officers to that office. Sponsored by Finland, Norway, Switzerland and the EEC, the officers monitor changing priority needs, follow and improve the transport and distribution of relief supplies and, in general, facilitate the overall assessment of the emergency. A considerable effort has been made by UNDRO to collect information on the contributions pledged by a wide variety of donors. As of 8 March 1985, the total monetary value of contributions in cash and in kind, as recorded by the Co-ordinator's Office, has reached US dollars 500 million.

33. In addition, UNDRO has implemented and/or financed a number of relief programmes with cash contributions received from Canada, Italy, the USA, Arab Gulf Fund (AGFUND), the EEC and others. These programmes comprise: internal transport and distribution of relief supplies, rebagging of emergency food for low-altitude airdropping in otherwise inaccessible areas, procurement of fuel and spare-parts, equipment for relief centres, seeds and blankets. Total value of these recent programmes is US dollars 3.5 million.

## MALI

34. The first evaluation mission by UNDR0 in May 1984 as a result of insufficient output of the 1982/83 growing season established a list of emergency relief needs. UNDR0 subsequently established and strengthened its presence by three logistics experts provided by the Government of Switzerland to plan and implement the transport and distribution of food to the affected population and villages in the regions of Kayes, Timbuctoo, Gao and Mopti. A co-ordination mechanism was established at the Ministry of the Interior through the participation of UNDR0, the United Nations agencies, the main donors and the non-governmental organizations which play an especially active role in Mali.

35. In late October/November 1984, an UNDR0/WFP/FAO multi-donor mission, composed of three teams evaluated the situation of the country from the point of view of stock-breeding, agricultural production and emergency relief and logistics. The mission reported a need for 202,000 metric tons of food aid, and identified a serious bottleneck in logistics caused by the geographic situation of Mali. Corrective action was recommended to overcome these difficulties at two levels:

- (i) to accelerate the arrival at regional centres in Mali of the food aid which is shipped through West African ports;
- (ii) to improve the distribution of the aid to the affected population in villages and distribution centres in the Sahelian zone.

36. A logistical support function is performed by a logistics expert sent with the assistance of the Swiss Disaster Corps at the request of the Donors Technical Committee and of the NGO Action Committee in Mali.

## MAURITANIA

37. In December 1983, UNDR0 launched the first appeal to mobilize and co-ordinate international assistance for Mauritania. The appeal was repeated in March, August and September 1984, and UNDR0's involvement in Mauritania has been going on since then. Through its delegate, UNDR0 is currently assisting in the local co-ordination and mobilization of international relief assistance and in the implementation of an internal distribution/transport programme (7,500 tons of food aid) funded by the EEC.

38. Since the emergency relief programme, developed and implemented with UNDR0 assistance in the period December 1983 - December 1984 has been successfully completed, a new one for 1985, finalized in late February this year, will soon lead to a new appeal to external donors.

39. UNDR0 has contributed US dollars 30,000 from its regular emergency grant fund for a programme of procurement of emergency food, as well as cholera prevention measures. The EEC has channelled 1 million ECU's through UNDR0 for the implementation of the internal transport of the above-mentioned emergency food programme.

40. Since the launching of the first appeal in December 1983, contributions reported to UNDR0 in cash and kind for Mauritania have exceeded US dollars 40 million.

#### MOZAMBIQUE

41. UNDR0's involvement in Mozambique since March 1982 has been characterized by punctual action aimed at alleviating the disaster situations from assuming even larger proportions. Following the appearance, in September 1983 of a critical food shortage in the province of Inhambane, due to bottlenecks in the transport sector, UNDR0 in co-operation with the World Food Programme launched an appeal to cover costs related to the movement of food from the ports of Maputo and Beira to distribution points in Inhambane. The response of the donor community covered the appeal target and the operation was mounted successfully.

42. In early 1984, in the wake of the destruction caused by hurricane Domoina, UNDR0 undertook the reconstruction of the railway bridge linking Mozambique to Swaziland, the funds having been provided by the Italian Government. More recently this donor provided the Office with more than US dollars 1 million for the purchase of 11,000 tons of cement for Mozambique.

43. In January 1984, UNDR0 led a multi-agency fact-finding mission to Mozambique. As a result of the mission, the donor community was provided with a comprehensive reassessment of the emergency needs in the country. Another mission is currently being envisaged, in March 1985.

44. Since the first situation report for Mozambique was issued in March 1982, contributions in cash and kind reported to UNDR0 have exceeded US dollars 141 million.

45. In response to the recent flood situation which has developed in the valleys of several rivers, UNDR0 has advanced funds for the chartering of a helicopter for rescue and relief actions in the affected provinces. The costs of this operation have been covered, since then, by the Government of the Netherlands. Further, on 26 February 1985, UNDR0 launched an appeal for the provision of assistance to the flood affected population.

## NIGER

46. On 19 December 1984, the Government of Niger requested UNDRO to provide technical assistance in the field of logistics support on the ways in which the external aid (mainly food aid) could best be moved from ports on the Atlantic coast to Niger, and the internal transportation. The Government also requested UNDRO to ensure that the necessary funding be obtained. UNDRO immediately contacted potential multi/bilateral donors to obtain the financial backstopping for the project and at the same time selected and sent the consultant to Niger by February 1985 before the arrival of the first shipments. In addition, UNDRO contributed US dollars 20,000 from its Trust Fund for the financial coverage of a joint UNDP/Government arrangement which resulted in a supplementary contribution of US dollars 20,000. In addition, the EEC decided to contribute ECU3,500 per month through UNDRO as an additional contribution to the cost of the Technical Assistance Programme, totalling US dollars 14,700 for six months.

## RWANDA

47. At the request of the Government of Rwanda and the World Food Programme, backed by the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator, UNDRO launched an appeal to raise US dollars 400,000 to cover costs of in-country transport and distribution of 6,030 tons of food aid for 481,000 drought-stricken people over a three-month period. The response has been very positive. With contributions from the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and the EEC, the required funds have been raised.

48. On receiving confirmation that the food relief had arrived in Mombasa port and that distribution of relief assistance was underway, UNDRO transferred US dollars 151,000 for payment of transport and distribution costs.

## SUDAN

49. UNDRO has been monitoring the drought situation in Sudan since October 1984. That situation has been aggravated by the heavy influx of new arrivals from neighbouring countries. On 4 January 1985, UNDRO launched its appeal for international assistance.

50. UNDRO personnel in Khartoum since 24 January 1985 are assisting the UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representative in consolidation of information on multi-sectoral needs, assessment of priorities, development of concerted relief programme and co-ordination of international assistance. UNDRO has also sent a consultant on communications systems (computer) together with two computers, one printer and other related accessories and software to Khartoum for two weeks initially to explore the possibility of establishing a computer link-up between Khartoum and Geneva and then further, from Geneva to New York and also to train locally some staff members on the operation.

51. With the support of UNDRO and UNDP, a project named the Relief Information Co-ordination and Support Unit (RICSU) has been launched Khartoum as the Government's focal point, which would collect, collate, record and disseminate computerized data on relief needs as well as relief supplied or in the pipeline, together with the residual relief needs.

52. Contributions in cash and kind reported to UNDRO to date, total over US dollars 117 million, including an UNDRO emergency contribution of US dollars 50,000.

#### 7. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

53. IAEA assistance for long-term recovery would be provided to the affected countries in the priority areas which have direct bearing on the current emergency situation, namely agriculture and food production, and water resources development.

54. In agriculture, assistance would be to projects aiming at improvement in agricultural productivity by applying results of research using nuclear techniques, in efficient use of fertilizers, soil water management, plant breeding to improve quantity and quality of crops and plant protection.

55. In the area of food production, assistance would be to projects using nuclear techniques in animal parasitology, nutrition and reproduction to increase livestock productivity and projects to preserve food by irradiation techniques.

56. In water resources development, assistance would be provided to projects using isotopes to investigate ground water in arid zones and to obtain significant economic data on water resources.

57. Assistance would be provided to country projects in agreement with governments concerned and this includes providing materials, equipment and facilities, expert services and training of national personnel. Where appropriate, subregional or regional projects would be supported. IAEA assistance could also be provided as part of larger projects executed by other organizations where nuclear techniques can contribute to better implementation of conventional projects.

#### 8. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

58. General Assembly resolution 39/29 touches directly on the areas of competence of the international civil aviation organization in its reference, in paragraph 14 of the declaration, to the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and to the need to build technological capacities.

59. The response of the International Civil Aviation Organization to this crisis has been both specific and general, direct and indirect, as outlined below. ICAO's response is necessarily constrained by the funds which are allocated to it, as its constitution does not provide it with any budget of its own for technical assistance purposes.

Specific actions taken in response to the emergency

60. With the creation of an Office for Emergency Operations in Africa by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a meeting of concerned agencies was convened to consider how assistance could best be co-ordinated. Since the role of transport, and particularly air transport, in emergency food distribution was emphasised, ICAO immediately offered its full co-operation. Soon after, the Government of Sudan instantly and generously responded to the need, exempting relief aircraft from charges, and despite its own problems making its facilities freely available. The burden of the airlift has created its own additional need in Sudan itself, where extra ground handling equipment is now required.

61. At the same time, ICAO personnel in the 31 countries of Africa where civil aviation UNDP projects are being implemented, were alerted to the action that had been taken and invited to co-operate in any way possible to help governments or UNDP in actions taken to alleviate the tragic situation.

62. In order further to ensure that all possible information should be made available in connection with the movement of personnel and emergency supplies, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was advised on the availability of detailed information about airfields that may be brought into use.

General support for the economies of the African countries

63. While few of the general activities of ICAO can be said to be a direct response to the critical economic situation in Africa, all of its activities are highly relevant to that situation. In both its regular programme of economic and technical planning of the international air transport infrastructure, and in its technical assistance programme directly addressed at the developmental problems faced by African countries, ICAO role is to create a systematic air transport network which will provide a vehicle for other economic activities such as trade, tourism and social coherence. The service aspect of air transport is crucial to general economic development, rather than being perceived as an end in itself.

64. As part of its regular programme, ICAO carries out a series of regional studies of air transport activities, aimed at assisting states in their development of air transport services. The most recent of these studies shows that despite the critical economic situation, air transport in Africa has grown at a rate of 11.2 per cent a year (1972-1982), substantially higher than the world average of 9.2 per cent.

65. Unit costs of operations by African airlines, are, however, well above the world average and a number of initiatives have been taken up by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) to bring costs down and thus stimulate trade. Such initiatives include:

- (a) a comprehensive economic analysis of operating costs of African airlines;
- (b) a feasibility study on the setting up of a joint maintenance base for the airlines of the region, under the auspices of the African Airline Association (AFRAA);
- (c) studies aimed at closer airline co-operation in the purchase and leasing of aircraft and more liberal attitudes to the granting of traffic rights;
- (d) expansion of technical pools for the common holding of spare parts;
- (e) feasibility study of a joint computer reservation system for AFRAA members;
- (f) standardization of training syllabi.

66. In 1976, ICAO carried out, in 39 African States, studies to determine the contribution that civil aviation can make to the development of the national economies of African States. One outcome of these studies, in which FAO and UNCTAD (ITC) collaborated in surveying potential air freighting of nontraditional exports, was a series of proposals for export of perishables and out-of-season produce. Some 20 African countries are now significant exporters to Europe of such produce, bringing sorely needed foreign exchange to benefit their economies. There is scope for greater expansion of such activities and ICAO is ready to undertake further studies.

67. ICAO, supported on the regional level by UNDP, has assisted in the setting up of a number of training institutions based on the findings of a 1974/5 manpower and training survey. The survey covered most of the countries of Africa and examined the need for training in all the important civil aviation disciplines. The principal regional institutions that have been given support are two schools for pilots and aircraft maintenance technicians at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Mvengu in Gabon, and two schools teaching ground-based skills (air traffic control, radio and NAVAID maintenance) at Niamey, Niger and Nairobi, Kenya. The Schools at Addis Ababa and Niamey have been operating for some years. Mvengu will begin to turn out francophone pilots in 1986, while the expansion of the Nairobi school will be completed later this year. At the national level, training institutions have also been supported in many African countries (Nigeria, Mozambique, Angola, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, to name but a few), building up the technological capabilities of these countries and promoting greater self-reliance. A proposal to update the now 10 years-old manpower and training survey, to ensure the optimum use of these training facilities, is being considered with UNDP.

63. The system of telecommunications on which aircraft depend, and through which air traffic controllers communicate with each other calls for substantial investment in equipment and in skills. The economic situation has often prevented even the minimum requirements being met. An Africa-wide survey carried out by ICAO in 1979/1980 has identified the major deficiencies in relation to the requirements stipulated in the ICAO-Africa/Indian Ocean regional air navigation plan drawn up by the participating authorities. A number of phased subregional action programmes have been prepared, in collaboration with subregional groups such as ECOWAS, UDEAC and SADCC.

69. Assistance is being given for airport construction and rehabilitation in a number of states, particularly those which are landlocked (Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Uganda and Chad are examples). ICAO is collaborating with the Belgian aid authorities in the planning of air field and other civil aviation developments in Rwanda, Zaire and Comoros.

70. An innovative project is now being developed of particular relevance to the landlocked countries of Africa, and directly related to the need for a means of communication free from the heavy capital costs of air field construction and the even heavier costs of road or rail construction. A feasibility study is being undertaken on the use of dirigibles in four areas of Africa to link the inland countries with their most accessible sea ports. The study will examine current technology in this field, review earlier experimental operations and, taking into account environmental, meteorological and operational factors, establish a cost benefit relationship for such a link.

71. As the next UNDP five-year cycle approaches (1987/91, ICAO is arranging a series of planning missions to visit and consult with developing countries in order to assist them in identifying their medium- and longer-term requirements and to establish their priorities in the civil aviation field.

72. The civil aviation sector carries a heavy responsibility of trying to meet immediate transportation needs while the longer-term investment plans of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in other modes are developing. Through its technical assistance programme, supported by UNDP and other funding sources, and supporting the activities of such institutions as the African Development Bank, ICAO is helping the countries of Africa, through training, direct infrastructure support and planning their priorities, to maintain their vital communication links without which no rescue is possible. The individual country projects, as well as those on a regional or subregional level, are aimed at advancing self-reliance through acquisition of technological skills, to provide a service industry by means of which the continent's wider developmental objectives may be achieved.



9. International Maritime Organization (IMO)

73. General Assembly resolution 39/29 on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa is being submitted to the IMO Council at its next session in June 1985 for consideration and any action or comments by the Council will be communicated to ECA in due course.

74. Meanwhile, IMO has assured the UN Secretary-General its fullest co-operation and support in any aspects of this grave problem which may fall within IMO's competence, including any specific project requests which may be made to IMO.

10. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

75. As in the case of other resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly which call for action by the organizations of the United Nations system, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the text of resolution 39/29, of 3 December 1984, will be brought to the attention of the WIPO General Assembly, when it next meets in September 1985.

(a) Measures in favour of countries affected by drought

76. WIPO has taken and will continue to take measures in favour of the African countries, not only those nine African countries most heavily affected by drought, namely, Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger and Sudan, but also in favour of the eleven other countries of Africa for which emergency unmet needs are recognized (Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

77. The measures pursued by WIPO within its field of competence - are designed to encourage domestic creative intellectual activity and to facilitate access to, and the selection, dissemination, and use of, technological, scientific and technical information; and literary and artistic works for the purposes of economic, social and cultural development. Although, the measures to give effect to these two objectives do not entail direct disaster relief, they do have a bearing and favourable impact in the execution of the medium-term development programmes of the affected areas.

78. The measures which are implemented by WIPO for the benefit of the African countries consist mainly of advice, training and the furnishing of documents and equipment, so as to assist the countries in Africa to create or modernize domestic legislation and governmental institutions in order to facilitate accession to international treaties, to have more specialists in government, in industry and the legal professions, and to acquire more patent documents and better methods for analyzing other contents. Special emphasis is placed on establishing and strengthening institutional infrastructure in order to facilitate:

(i) the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations related to the creation of indigenous technology acquisition capability, adaptation and use of the technology and the acquisition and dissemination of literary and artistic works;

(ii) the development, through regular training programmes, of a highly-skilled corps of personnel to administer those laws and regulations.

79. WIPO has provided and will continue to provide advisory and expert services to the twenty African countries facing emergency unmet needs caused by drought. It will also increase its efforts in the field of training by granting a significant number of fellowships in the near future.

(b) Medium and long-term action

80. WIPO is planning to organize in 1985, for the benefit of the whole African continent, a high-level policy-planning meeting on industrial property in order to evaluate the needs of the countries and to formulate the programme and projects which will be financed and carried out at a later stage in the fields of industrial property and transfer of technology. Other subregional meetings and national seminars will also be organized leading to similar action in the field of copyright.

81. WIPO has attached particular importance to the critical economic situation facing Africa. In its future aid and assistance policy, WIPO will continue to endeavour to obtain funds from contributing countries and organizations and to supplement funds from its regular budget for activities benefiting the most affected countries in Africa. WIPO will also continue to give priority in the allocation of resources available for development co-operation, to meeting the needs of the African countries which are affected by the critical economic situation as described in United Nations General Assembly resolution 39/29.

11. World Food Programme (WFP)

82. The World Food Programme, the food aid arm of the United Nations system, has been active in Sub-Saharan Africa for more than two decades. In fact, the first development project to receive the programme's support when it became operational in 1963, was in the Sudan. Since then, it has provided US\$1.641 billion of assistance to 432 development projects and 280 emergencies in Africa. In response to the current food crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa, the World Food Programme has increased its efforts not only to resolve immediate food needs, but to strengthen the continent's economic and social development, including its food producing capability.

83. In 1984, of the total WFP resources of US\$1.2 billion for both development and emergencies, US\$450 million or just under 40 per cent were allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa. That was approximately 8 times as much per caput as commitments for other countries.

84. There are four main areas in which the programme has concentrated its efforts: emergency assistance, development assistance, services on behalf of bilateral donors and information and co-ordination.

(a) Emergency assistance

85. The World Food Programme has provided substantial relief to the populations affected by the present food crisis in Africa. In 1984, out of the 63 emergency operations approved by the programme for the entire world, 43 (68 per cent) were for 24 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. During that period, WFP committed more than 350,000 metric tons of food at a total estimated cost of \$125 million. Of that, 280,500 tons assisted drought victims in 21 countries, while 77,000 tons were allocated to feed refugees in seven countries.

86. The World Food Programme administers the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) which has a minimum established target of 500,000 tons of cereals a year. In 1984, donor contributions to IEFR totalled 655,000 tons. Although exceeding the established target, that amount still proved to be insufficient to meet last year's exceptional demands. In fact, 289,000 tons were provided for Africa alone.

87. In view of the forecast of prolonged emergency, WFP has, since October 1984, made repeated appeals for additional contributions to IEFR, with special reference to non-cereal commodities such as edible oil, dried skim milk, and high protein blended food so vital for the nourishment of vulnerable groups.

(b) Development assistance

88. While WFP devotes a substantial proportion of its resources to emergency assistance for Africa, stimulating and increasing economic and social development remains the programme's primary objective.

89. In 1984, a general emphasis prevailed throughout the donor community on assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa and the value of development commitments increased from US\$168 million in 1983 to US\$325 million in 1984, by far the highest level ever. There are now 153 development projects in operation in Sub-Saharan Africa receiving WFP assistance worth US\$1.312 million. This active portfolio has increased by 50 per cent since 1980, and constitutes 36 per cent of the total amount of aid for all recipient nations.

90. Priorities for WFP development projects have traditionally fallen almost exclusively within two major composite sectors: agricultural and rural development (Agricultural production, rural infrastructure, rural settlement, food reserve projects) and human resource development (vulnerable group feeding primary and other education projects).

91. Food aid administered by the programme is used to promote agricultural and rural development including helping Africans to produce more of their own food. Most development assistance is used directly in the agricultural and rural sectors where, in both food-for-work projects and in vulnerable group nutrition schemes, it directly benefits the rural poor. Food aid provided to food-deficit villages in this way can improve the villager's income, well-being and productive capacity.

92. The priorities established by the programme for the commitment of food aid are entirely consistent with the goals of increasing food self-reliance, individually, and within subregions of the continent, as set forth in the Lagos Plan of Action; by the Comité Inter-Etats de la Lutte Contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), by the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), and by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD).

(c) Services for bilateral donors

93. On behalf of bilateral donors of food aid, the programme provides various services which include arranging for the purchase of food commodities, undertaking the shipping, and monitoring the distribution of food aid. At any one time, the programme has on the high seas 25-30 vessels, on charter, carrying food aid which can be, if necessity dictates, diverted to alternative destinations.

94. The demand for these services has increased considerably in recent months as many donors have taken advantage of the Programme's experience and expertise not only for arranging shipments to Africa, but also for the overland transportation to landlocked countries. In 1984, the Programme purchased, shipped and/or monitored more than 350,000 tons of food aid on behalf of donors to 24 of the seriously affected African countries.

(d) Co-ordination and information

95. To ensure the maximum effectiveness of WFP inputs for the relief efforts in Africa, the Executive Director established the WFP Operational Task Force on Africa in November 1983 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Executive Director. In January 1985, considering the prolonged emergency situation in Sub-Saharan Africa, an operational secretariat of the task force was established to strengthen food aid co-ordination.

96. Because of the increased volume of food aid being delivered to Africa, food aid logistics is of major concern. To assist the Programme in this vital field, eight logistics and support missions were despatched to the most critically affected countries in Africa in order to identify short-term measures which would improve and accelerate the delivery of food aid.

97. The Programme also assigned transport co-ordinators and logistics experts at key ports and transit points along the delivery chain including Abidjan, Bamako, Cotonou, Douala, Lagos, Lome, Maputo, Mombasa, N'Djamena, Niamey and Port Sudan. In some countries, such as Chad and the Sudan, extensive logistics networks have been established in order to co-ordinate and manage the internal transport and distribution of the increasing volume of delivered food aid.

98. To assist it in resolving logistics bottlenecks for food relief in Africa during 1984, WFP received a \$2 million grant from the World Bank. This grant was fully committed for ten countries to improve storage and logistical infrastructures, to monitor and/or distribute food aid, or to fund UN volunteers. A further US dollars 3 million grant will enable the programme to continue with these logistical improvements during 1985.

99. Through its food monitoring activities, the World Food Programme has built up a unique system of information. During 1984, WFP issued monthly reports dealing with food aid pledges, deliveries, and logistics for Africa. These reports assisted donors in establishing not only their own food aid allocations, but also shipping schedules. Since January 1985, the Africa task force secretariat (WPTS) has been issuing weekly telex reports to major donors, updating the rapidly changing food aid situation and related logistics in most affected countries, and recommending necessary action.

100. This information service has been improved through the development of a fully computerized data base (WISAF) which enables WFP to process the growing and more detailed information data on food aid needs, donations, and shipment schedules to Africa, and provide, upon request, accurate, up-to-date information.

## 12. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

101. Within its fields of competence, meteorology and hydrology, WMO can contribute to the efforts undertaken by the African countries to alleviate the effects of drought and to improve agricultural production, water resources management, transport and communications schemes and the environment for the populations concerned.

102. WMO assistance would be oriented directly towards developing national meteorological and hydrological services of the individual countries and towards fostering regional co-operation among those services. Such support could be given through the regular WMO programmes, the WMO Voluntary Co-operation Programme, and the UNDP and other donors schemes.

103. The immediate aspects, long-term and current activities of WMO in Africa are as follows:

### (a) Immediate aspects

104. In accordance with its mandate, two possibilities exist for WMO and its member countries, to assist in the immediate aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa.

- A meteorologist could be included in the management group of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA), to maintain an overview of current and past weather, and of the forecast, over all the affected areas, and be able to relate this knowledge to the concerns of the group. Climate System Monitoring information would also be provided.
- Special missions could provide emergency assistance to national meteorological and hydrological services in critical drought areas which do not currently provide acceptable weather data.

### (b) Long-term activities

105. In regard to longer-term activities, WMO has a critical role to play in promoting improved advance warning of drought conditions, and the provision of information for applications such as agriculture and water management whenever there are sensitivities to atmospheric or hydrologic conditions. Specifically, WMO could:

- (i) assist African countries to develop and implement the meteorological and hydrological aspects of a long-term plan to ensure self-sufficiency in food production and appropriate development in the other areas of the economies. Such a plan has to cover subregional and regional programmes which should use all the available resources, both human and material;
  - (ii) propose a project or programme with a clear cut and measurable objective. The proposed objective is to provide meteorological watch, weather forecasts and assessment reports on precipitation and crop and soil water balance for national and regional economic activities in Africa.
106. The intended outputs of the project should include:
- (i) A meteorological watch 1/ in respect of clouds, precipitation, humidity of the near surface layer of the atmosphere and soil moisture. This information should be available in both real time and delayed mode (especially over the past 10 days). This will provide a basis to monitor crop and pastureland status.
  - (ii) Short- and medium-range weather forecasts 2/ with particular reference to temperature, wind, humidity, precipitation, and the soil and crop water balance.
  - (iii) Climate analyses and seasonal assessment of weather and climate. 3/
  - (iv) Meteorological inputs for water resource assessment and national water balance studies 4/ to provide estimates of crop yields and pastureland status throughout the growing season;
  - (v) A drought watch system. 5/
- (c) Current WMO activities in Africa

107. WMO is at present implementing 35 technical assistance projects in 25 African countries, which are aimed at strengthening the national meteorological and hydrological services in order to improve their contribution to the national economic efforts.

108. The major regional programmes being carried out in Africa are the AGRHYMET Programme for the CILSS countries, the Hydrological Forecasting System on the Niger River, for the Niger Basin Authority countries, and the Nairobi Institute for Meteorological Training and a research project for some Eastern and Southern African countries. A new regional project for assistance to drought stricken countries in Eastern and Southern Africa is also being prepared and implementation is planned to begin in 1985.

109. Following recommendations made by the ECA Conference of Ministers, WMO has been involved in the development of a regional project to establish an "African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development". It is expected that WMO will be the executing agency for this project, after its approval by the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1985.



1/ The meteorological watch would comprise a composite observing system and associated telecommunication/data processing facilities which would allow a quasi-realtime monitoring of the weather conditions. It would consist of in situ observations (e.g. synoptic, precipitation, agricultural observing stations), surface-based remote sensing facilities (i.e. weather radars, lightning counters etc.) and satellite data, including digitized imagery. In respect of in situ observations, an appropriate mix of manned and simple automatic (rainfall) stations may be cost effective.

2/ Short- and medium-range weather forecasts will require the availability of numerical data (prepared by well equipped centres) and the ability of national Meteorological Services to interpret such data for use at a local, agriculturally useful scale. The need to prepare user tailored data by National Meteorological Centres will be the most important activity. Integration of newly developed and existing **meteorological** Centres will be the most important activity. Integration of newly developed and existing meteorological centres and regionally available processing facilities, integrated by a strong and reliable Global Telecommunications System, should be a basic consideration in the planning. Assistance will be sought from existing centres to obtain an early prediction capability.

3/ Climate analysis and seasonal assessment of weather and climate. The development of an integrated, nationally distributed but regionally co-ordinated data base is indispensable for this non-realtime activity (also needed for activities listed under the meteorological watch). A whole range of specialized products will be generated by this activity which will be produced regionally and interpreted nationally. Some products may be obtained from world and regional centres, others may need to be produced on a subregional or national level.

4/ Meteorological inputs for water resource assessments and national water balance studies. Running observations of precipitation, temperature, humidity, solar radiation, sunshine and wind when combined with information on soils and sowing dates permits the development of probability outlooks on crop water balances throughout the growing season. This information can be immediately applied to the timing of critical farming operations such as weeding, thinning, ridging and application of fertilizers. Similarly, such information can be used to estimate crop yields at harvest time, using weather observations throughout the growing season to estimate soil moisture, which is a key factor in determining yields. Rapid analysis and dissemination of weather observations made during the past five days, as they affect the development and spreading of crop pest and diseases, coupled with short-term forecasts permit farmers to take crop protection measures in good time and avoid the expense when these measures are not needed.

5/ Drought Watch System. A drought early warning system can be developed using these observations and techniques. Early indications can then be given of a meteorological drought, often preceding an agricultural drought which affects the productivity of the plants. Further information can be obtained by using operational meteorological satellite data to develop a vegetative index (from digital satellite data) to estimate the development and health of the crops and rangeland.