



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS

(Addis Ababa, 19-28 June 1974)

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574-1923

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.14/626

E/CN.14/CAP.5/11

3 September 1974

Original: ENGLISH



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PART I

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening and duration of the Meeting

1. The fifth session of the Conference of African Planners was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 19 to 28 June 1974. The meeting was opened by Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA, who welcomed the Government representatives, observers and agency representatives to the Conference.
2. In his opening address, the Executive Secretary stated that the fifth session of the Conference was taking place at a critical period in the history of international relations. Over and above the impact of the world monetary crisis, increased prices for petroleum and petroleum products and chronic and widening balance of payments deficits, a number of natural disasters, including widespread drought, had occurred. Moreover, the region was still faced with slow rates of economic growth and increasing social tension resulting from mass poverty and growing unemployment.
3. He pointed out that, on the attainment of independence, most African countries had formulated forward-looking national plans, which it had generally been felt would mitigate the difficulties that existed. Most countries, however, had failed to achieve the targets set.
4. The Executive Secretary went on to examine the growth performance of developing African countries in recent years. The average annual growth rate for the period 1971-1973 had fallen below the target set in the Strategy for the Decade. Although exports from developing Africa had rapidly increased in 1973 as the result of an increase in the volume and price of export commodities, the terms of trade had slightly deteriorated, as import prices had risen even faster. In 1974, African exports were expected to slow down as a result of the forecast economic downswing in the industrialized countries. This would in turn inhibit the growth rate of African economies and accentuate their balance of payments difficulties.
5. The serious inflationary tendencies in African countries were due to causes beyond their control. Prices in Africa had risen rapidly in 1973, largely as a result of price rises in the world as a whole. Unless agricultural production increased substantially, the bill for basic foods would increase in 1974, and the chances of achieving the growth target of the Second Development Decade would be very slight indeed.
6. There was an urgent need to adopt an integrated approach to planning, in which the objective was not only to increase output but also to cope with the mounting problems of unemployment and underemployment, income distribution, developments in urban and rural areas and, in particular, mass poverty. In that connexion, serious consideration should be given to suggestions which might be made to Governments for an integrated approach to development analysis and planning to replace the old procedure of planning by stages. Since the unified approach to development analysis and planning was still in its initial stages, it would need to be formulated more precisely in terms that could be considered practical and applicable by member States.
7. Adequate attention should be paid to the implications of population issues for socio-economic development. With respect to another issue, that of unemployment and underemployment, the possible consequences of adopting labour-intensive techniques should be thoroughly investigated.

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8. Finally, the Executive Secretary urged that close consideration should be given to income distribution, which should be aimed at spreading effective demand as widely as possible among the population. Income distribution required policy instruments more effective than conventional fiscal policies. New and innovative systems of taxation would be required in order to ensure that savings were not adversely affected.

#### Election of officers

9. The Conference elected Mr. Lionel C. Greene (Sierra Leone) as Chairman and Mr. Eugène-Célestin Mbede (Central African Republic) as Vice-Chairman.

10. With the aim of ensuring that specific recommendations were available before the stage of adoption of its report, the Conference appointed a Drafting Committee whose members were Central African Republic, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and Sudan.

#### Attendance

11. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia. Although the names of the prospective delegates of Ivory Coast, Morocco and Somalia had been sent to the secretariat, these countries were not represented at the Conference.

12. Observers from the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (CDPPP), UNIDO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, UNRISD, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IBRD, IMF, WMO, ADB, IDEP, OAU, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the European Economic Community were present at the Conference. Observers from Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden, United States of America and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also attended.\*

#### Agenda and organization of work

13. The following agenda, which had been prepared by the secretariat, was adopted unchanged by the Conference:

1. Opening address
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the Conference
4. Matters arising from the fourth session of the Conference
  - (i) Rules of procedure for the Conference
  - (ii) Follow-up to decisions taken at previous sessions of the Conference
5. Review of activities in the field of development planning, projections and policies
  - (i) Report on ECA activities in economic development planning, projections policies (November 1972 - May 1974)

\* The names of the participants at the Conference were listed in document CAP.5/INF.4/Rev.1.



- (ii) Technical assistance and training activities
    - (a) The United Nations Multinational Interdisciplinary Development Advisory Teams (UNDATs)
    - (b) Report of the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) November 1972 - May 1974)
  - (iii) Matters arising from the eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa (Second Conference of Ministers)
  - (iv) Matters arising from the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity - African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence
  - (v) Matters arising from the Second ECA/OAU/UNIDO Conference of African Ministers of Industry
  - (vi) Matters arising from the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee for Development Planning (CDP)
6. Second United Nations Development Decade
- (i) The world economic situation and its implications for African development
  - (ii) The first biennial review and appraisal exercise
  - (iii) Preparations for the mid-term review and appraisal
    - (a) Country reports
    - (b) Reports from international organizations
    - (c) ECA national accounts estimates and other statistical problems in the context of the requirements of the review and appraisal of development progress
7. Some problems of socio-economic transformation in Africa
- (i) The unified approach to development analysis and planning
  - (ii) The interrelationship between population growth and socio-economic development
  - (iii) Technological planning and socio-economic development
  - (iv) A survey of the factors of greatest significance to investors in making assessments of investment opportunities
  - (v) Problems in the co-ordination of the public and private sectors in the development process
  - (vi) Drought in Africa
8. Election of members of the Governing Council of IDEP
9. ECA 1976-1979 medium-term plan in economic planning, projections and policies
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report.
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PART II

DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA ITEMS

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Conference of African Planners

14. Introducing document E/CN.14/CAP.5/1, concerning this item, the representative of the ECA secretariat said that the draft rules of procedure for the Conference had been submitted in response to a decision taken by the fourth session of the Conference in 1972. At that session it had been discovered that, despite the provision in rule 68 of the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Africa that "subsidiary bodies shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission", no such rules of procedure existed for the Conference of African Planners. Moreover, the absence of such rules of procedure had often created problems in connexion with the election of officers in the past.

15. After examining the terms of reference and the draft rules of procedure, the Conference took the following decisions:

Terms of reference

(a) Paragraph 2(b) of the terms of reference should be amended to read: "Members of the Conference shall be represented by delegates who may include the head of the national planning office, persons involved in over-all development planning and those training development planners at national universities or institutions". In view of the fact that only the Conference of Ministers could amend the terms of reference of the Conference of Planners, the Conference recommended the above change in its terms of reference for adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

Rules of procedure

(b) All references to 'specialized agencies' and 'International Atomic Energy Agency' should be replaced by 'all organizations of the United Nations system'. Similarly, references to 'a specialized agency' should be changed to 'an organization of the United Nations system.'

(c) Rule 3 should read: The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall notify the members of the Conference of the date and place of the first meeting of each session at least forty-two days before the commencement of the session. Such notification shall also be made to all organizations of the United Nations system, to intergovernmental organizations in Africa operating in the same field as the Commission with which liaison has been established by the Commission, to non-governmental organizations in category I and to appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II and on the Roster."

(d) Rule 4 should read: "The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and shall, together with the basic documents relating to each item, be communicated at least thirty days before the start of the Conference to the members of the Conference and to the organs, agencies and organizations referred to in rule 3."



(e) Rule 5(f) should read: "Any organization of the United Nations system, in accordance with the agreement concluded between the United Nations and that organization."

(f) Rule 6 should read: "Before the Executive Secretary of the Commission places an item proposed by an organization of the United Nations system on the provisional agenda, he shall have such preliminary consultations as may be necessary with the organization concerned."

(g) Rule 7(b) should read: "The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation to the Executive Secretary of the Commission not less than fifty-six days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Conference if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting."

(h) Rule 25 should read: "The working languages of the Conference shall be those of the Commission."

(i) Rule 26 should read: "Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language."

(j) The heading preceding rule 28 should read: "Language of documents."

(k) Rule 28 should read: "Documents shall be drawn up in the working languages."

(l) Rule 31 should read: "As soon as possible, the text of all reports, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Conference, its committees and its subsidiary bodies shall be distributed to the members of the Conference, to the other regional economic commissions, to all organizations of the United Nations system, to intergovernmental organizations in Africa operating in the same field as the Commission with which liaison has been established by the Commission, to the non-governmental organizations in category I and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II and on the Roster."

(m) Rule 32 should read: "A quarter of the members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum."

(n) Rule 57 should read: "The Conference may, after consultation with any United Nations organization concerned, and with the approval of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission, set up such standing subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them."

(o) The heading preceding rule 61 should read: "Participation of, and consultation with, organizations of the United Nations system."

The revised terms of reference of the Conference appear in annex I of this report, and the rules of procedure of the Conference, as amended and approved, appear in annex II.



Follow-up to decisions taken at previous meetings of the Conference

16. Under this item of the agenda, a representative of the secretariat made an oral presentation indicating that, following the acceptance of the report of the Conference of African Planners by the Conference of Ministers at its second meeting in Accra, Ghana, in February 1973, copies of all the documents presented to the fourth session of the Conference of African Planners had as promised, been sent to all national planning offices of member States of the Commission. Furthermore, a request had been sent to all planning offices for information as to the title of the head of the planning office and his postal address. Only 14 countries had responded to the request.

17. In the discussion that followed, participants stressed the need for strong links between the secretariat and national planning offices, and urged that African planners should co-operate with the secretariat of the Commission.

Review of activities in the field of development planning, projections and policies

18. As a general introduction, a representative of the secretariat explained that the primary purpose of item 5 was to provide background information on the activities of those institutions and organs whose deliberations were of importance to the work of the Conference.

Report on ECA activities in economic development planning, projections and policies (November 1972 - May 1974)

19. Under this item of the agenda, a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/CAP.5/2.

20. A summary of the first biennial regional report on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy and Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s had been made available for the meeting (E/CN.14/600). The Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa, 1973 was also available in summary form (E/CN.14/621/Summary). Other studies which had been completed were: The Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa, 1971/1972, Part 2, which dealt with the problem of employment in the region and the question of appropriate indicators for development; a study of issues in foreign private investment in Africa (E/CN.14/CAP.5/3); and a study of the co-ordination of the public and private sectors in the development process (E/CN.14/CAP.5/4).

21. Apart from the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa, Parts 1 and 2 other publications were the Economic Bulletin for Africa, Vol.10, No.2, and issues 10, 11 and 12 of the Planning Newsletter. In connexion with these two publications, it was indicated that contributions would be welcome from African scholars.

22. The secretariat had been represented at the following meetings: National Accounts and Development Planning in Low-income Countries, Paris, 13-17 November 1972, organized by OECD; a joint meeting organized by IDEP and CODESRIA, Dakar, January 1973; ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning, New York, April 1973, and tenth session of the Committee for Development Planning, Vienna, April 1974; joint ECA/CDPPP training workshop on the techniques of national review of progress, Addis Ababa, 15 October to 2 November 1973 and Dakar.



12 to 23 November 1973; ILO East African Symposium on the relation of social security, social planning, and economic development, Dar es Salaam 1 to 19 October 1973; Rehovot Conference on Economic growth in developing countries - material and human resources, Jerusalem, 5 to 11 September 1973; and the International Conference on Development Strategy, Socio-economic Structure and Distribution of Income, Vienna, 24 to 28 October 1973.

23. During the discussion of this item of the agenda, it was emphasized that the publications of the secretariat were useful in presenting a regional view of all problems of African developing countries, and that member States should make use of them and provide information, comments and observations when necessary.

The United Nations Multinational Interdisciplinary Development Advisory Teams (UNDATs)

24. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/CAP.5/6. Apart from the Yaounde and Niamey UNDATs, which were already operational, the Lusaka-based UNDAT had begun operations in the first half of 1974.

25. The discussion of the item centred mainly on the inadequacy of the resources being made available to the Lusaka-based UNDAT and the need to realize as fully as possible the multinational and interdisciplinary potential of the UNDATs. In that connexion, the delegate from Zambia announced that, as a result of a meeting held in New York between the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the ECA Executive Secretary and a representative of the group of countries to be served by the Lusaka-based UNDAT, it had been agreed that the UNDAT should have a staff of twenty senior experts, seven junior experts and six consultants. The agreement had been approved at the first meeting of the UNDAT Council of Ministers of Eastern and Southern Africa, held in Lusaka from 6 to 8 May 1974; a copy of the report of that meeting had been sent to ECA. The delegate from Zambia also informed the meeting that, although for the time being only twenty senior experts, four junior experts and four consultants could be made available, the staff strength would eventually rise to the figures agreed upon. The Governments of the countries to be served by the UNDAT had rejected the idea of having a sub-team for Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

26. The representative of the secretariat stressed that there was a general shortage of resources, affecting all fields of activity. As a result, the proposed Dakar UNDAT and the UNDAT proposed for the North African subregion had not been established. Correcting an impression that the Yaoundé-based UNDAT consisted only of agronomists, the representative of the secretariat said that the team in question included at least one general economist (planner).

27. In reply to a question regarding the location of the proposed Second Central African UNDAT, it was stated that the criterion of effectiveness was being used to determine the appropriate location, and that either Bukavu or Kigali might be selected. On the whole, the problems facing the UNDAT assistance programme were difficulties in the recruitment of experts and consultants, the training of national experts by the teams and the formulation of project requests. It was therefore suggested that ECA and ILO should together look into the possibility of integrating the ILO job and skills programme for Africa (JASPA) with the activities of the UNDATs, since it was only in that way that more meaningful interdisciplinary services could be provided.



Report on the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) for the period 1972-1973

28. The Director's report (Doc. IDEP-DIR 2630) covered (i) The Institute's programme of activities, and (ii) its financial problems. In connexion with the programme of activities, the Director informed the delegates that, during the period under review, the Institute had organized 10 seminars, 3 conferences and 5 courses involving a total of about 700 participants and had carried out each year a six-month training programme involving 60 fellows. In addition, 20 requests for advisory services had been received, and most of them had been fulfilled. The Institute had succeeded in combining the three functions of research, training and advisory services in a more balanced manner than previously. It was recalled that in all cases the Work Programme was drawn up in accordance with the broad priorities indicated by the Conference of African Planners and worked out in detail by the Institute's Academic Advisory Board and the Governing Council.

Financial problems

29. (a) Phase II, 1970-1975. The Director indicated that, under present arrangements, the Institute's budget was expected to be met by contributions from African Governments (one-third) and from UNDP (two-thirds). However, the UNDP contribution had fallen from the normal level of \$US 1.02 million to about \$US 860,000 in 1974, and was likely to fall to \$US 680,000 by 1975. The Institute had been able to maintain current levels of operation since bilateral sources had made up the shortfall in the UNDP contribution; it could continue on the basis of contributions from the three sources until the end of 1975.

(b) Phase III, 1976-1977. The financial problem beyond Phase II had two elements. First, it was necessary to find sources to replace the declining UNDP support and to compensate for growing inflation in order to maintain present levels of activity. Secondly, there was a need for additional resources in order to expand the Institute's activities to meet growing demand. The Governing Council, conscious of the world-wide financial crisis, had concluded that the best way of ensuring the continuity of the Institute as a permanent body, as envisaged by the ECA resolution establishing it, was for African Governments to assume greater responsibility for its financing. Accordingly, the Council had prepared a financial plan which envisaged the doubling of African Governments' financial contributions as from the end of Phase II. This, it was thought, would constitute a solid demonstration of the importance the Governments attached to the Institute and so discourage any financial withdrawal by UNDP, while at the same time it would encourage bilateral financial assistance. The plan, which was accepted in principle by the Council of Ministers in Accra in February 1973, also formed the basis of a resolution by that Council calling upon UNDP to desist from any unilateral withdrawal of support for the Institute.

30. In the discussion that followed it was emphasized that training courses on planning techniques were indispensable. In response to questions concerning the decision to discontinue the nine-month course on planning, the Director pointed out that both the six-month research-orientated training course which was at present being given in IDEP and the three-month course on general planning



techniques were intended to train African planners on specific development problems and both provided more flexibility than the old formula. It was also noted that the three-month course would be conducted regularly. However, delegates affirmed the need for IDEP to increase its efforts to make available the results of its activities to planners in Africa.

31. Noting that some Governments had already taken steps to implement the financial plan submitted by the Governing Council, the Conference decided that the remaining Governments should be urged to take similar action to put the plan into effect. In view of the need to have information ready as soon as possible in order that steps might be taken to prepare a request for the financing of Phase III of the project, it was urged that appropriate action should be taken immediately and that the Director of the Institute should be informed of the results obtained by the end of October 1974.

Matters arising from the eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa (Second Conference of Ministers)

32. A representative of the secretariat introduced the annual report of the Commission for the period 14 February 1972 - 23 February 1973 (E/CN.14/591). While the report covered many development problems which were of interest to African development planners, the most important topic which was of immediate concern to the Conference was Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s, which had been revised by the Conference of Ministers at its second session held in Accra, Ghana in February 1973 so as to make provision for the development of natural resources, transport, communications and tourism, and science and technology. In addition, the Conference had requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to devise more effective methods for carrying out the regional review and appraisal exercise. Moreover, since the question of review and appraisal, as well as other subjects dealt with by the Conference of Ministers, including trade negotiations, monetary problems and drought, were to be dealt with under item 6 of the agenda, it was suggested that the Conference should take note of the report and then take up those subjects under item 6.

Matters arising from the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity - African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence

33. A member of the OAU secretariat said that the Declaration could be regarded as a reaction to the disappointing results of the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), inasmuch as the developing countries, and particularly African countries, had obtained very few concessions from the developed market economy countries concerning commodity agreements, development finance and international monetary problems. The Declaration was the result of three meetings organized jointly by OAU, ECA and ADB to discuss the problems of economic co-operation and development, and it was subsequently approved by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its tenth anniversary session. It was therefore regarded as a guideline to OAU member States and the secretariat on methods and policies to be pursued in matters relating to the development of, among other things, trade, human and material resources, finance and industry.



34. The meeting was informed that an OAU secretariat document concerning the implementation of the Declaration, which had been presented at the eleventh session of OAU in Mogadiscio in June 1974, indicated the problems facing the secretariat in that field. In particular, the secretariat was short of funds. The Heads of State and Government had agreed that the OAU Budgetary Committee should look into the matter and vote additional funds for the recruitment of competent experts to assist OAU in the implementation of the programme.

Matters arising from the Second ECA/OAU/UNIDO Conference of African Ministers of Industry

35. In his statement the representative of the secretariat indicated that the Conference of Ministers of Industry had had the following objectives: to review and appraise progress in industrial development in Africa in the light of the 8 per cent target set in the International Development Strategy; to promote intra-African co-operation in industrialization through the creation of multinational industrial undertakings; to examine industrial issues and policies in order to harmonize African positions in international negotiations; and to provide a basis for the co-ordination and utilization of bilateral technical and financial assistance.

36. The second Conference, which had been held in Cairo in 1973, had gone further than the first Conference, and had dealt with both the purpose and the methods of industrialization. The Conference had adopted a Declaration on Industrialization in Africa containing principles and guidelines for co-operation. In view of the relevance of the subjects discussed by the Conference to agenda items 6 and 7, it was suggested that discussion should be deferred until those items were taken up.

Matters arising from the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee for Development Planning (CDP)

37. Introducing this item of the agenda, a representative of the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (CDPPP) gave a brief explanation of the functions and the composition of the Committee for Development Planning (CDP). He then summarized the proceedings of the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee, the reports of which were made available to the Conference as documents E/5293 and E/5478 respectively.

38. The ninth session of the Committee had been almost entirely devoted to a review of performance during the first two years of the Second Development Decade. The Committee had concluded that the period 1971-1972 had been one of mixed performance. Developing countries had performed reasonably well as a group in aggregate terms. However, a lot of disparities existed between continents, between countries and between regions, and also between sectors within individual countries. The need to find solutions to the problems of widening disparities and income distribution was therefore still very urgent. The Committee had concluded that the developed world had not fulfilled its obligations under the International Development Strategy, and had not lived up to expectations, particularly with respect to the transfer of resources to the less developed countries. The Committee was of the opinion that, judged in terms of international action since 1970, the



International Development Strategy remained much more a wish than a policy.

39. The tenth session of the Committee had examined the problems of industrialization within the context of over-all development and the integrated approach to development analysis and planning. The Committee had felt that much of the criticism directed against industrialization was not valid; in fact, industrialization should be vigorously pursued by developing countries and should be directly geared to making a frontal attack on mass poverty and unemployment - the theme of the eighth session of the Committee. Indeed, the report of the tenth session emphasized that the question of industrialization was an extension of its pronouncements on mass poverty and unemployment contained in its preceding two reports.

40. In view of the relevance of the contents of these two reports to agenda items 6 and 7, the Conference decided to defer discussion of them until the agenda items 6 and 7 were taken up.

#### The world economic situation and its implications for African development

41. The secretariat informed the meeting that the purpose of the item was to look at selected world economic problems, such as inflation, the international monetary crisis, commodity problems including the energy and food shortage and foreign aid; examine their causes; evaluate measures which were being taken by African Governments to cope with them and suggest further measures as necessary. In such a way it would be possible for the participants to exchange views on how best to attack those problems.

42. The secretariat regretted that one of the papers intended for the meeting (the one dealing with floating exchange rates) was not available because the consultant working on it had not been able to finish it on time.

43. Inflation had become a universal phenomenon common to both developed and developing countries. In the first 3 years of the Second Development Decade, inflation had gathered momentum in African countries. The inflation rate in Africa was now between 8 and 9 per cent per annum, which was double the average rate for the 1960s. The sources of inflation were two: domestic and foreign. A breakdown of consumer price indices indicated that food prices had increased faster than the prices of the other components of the indices. The rising price of food reflected the poor performance of agriculture. Other domestic factors contributing to inflationary tendencies were a higher level of public sector expenditure and excessive monetary expansion. The openness of African economies and their heavy dependence on the importation of consumer goods and of capital goods and raw material inputs for industries were responsible for imported inflation.

44. African countries had adopted various measures to deal with the situation: price control, credit expansion control and reduction of import duties and excise taxes.

45. International monetary problems had been accentuated in August 1971, when the United States of America had decided not to exchange officially held dollars for gold, thus destroying one of the pillars of the Bretton Woods Agreement. Since then two realignments of the major world currencies had taken place. In both cases, the trade prospects, the reserve assets and the long-term debts of the developing countries had been badly affected. The purchasing power of earnings made in countries



whose currency had depreciated was eroded when they were spent in countries whose currency had appreciated. To resolve such problems, the Committee on Reform of the International Monetary System and Related Issues was created. However, the results achieved so far by the Committee did not ensure that the world monetary crises were over. African countries would have to work closely with the rest of the world in that connexion.

46. In the past 2 years, phenomenal rises in the prices of basic commodities had been observed in the world markets. Supply problems caused by natural disasters and the increased demand resulting from a high level of economic activity were the basic causes of the rapid increase in prices. Lack of confidence in currencies had led to speculation in commodities in order to hedge against inflation. The increase in the price of petroleum and petroleum products only reflected the general shortage of commodities. The rising petroleum prices had worsened the balance of payments situation of African countries, particularly the least developed ones which could not recoup some of the increased costs of importing food, fuel and fertilizer from increased export earnings. It was hoped that the recycling of funds from the oil exporting countries would alleviate the problem although it would increase debt servicing problems.

47. However, African countries were endowed with natural energy resources which remained to be exploited. Economic co-operation was required in that connexion because some countries did not possess resources and those which possessed them would need financial resources to develop them. Already, hydroelectric power sharing had been going on among some countries of the region. In that connexion, the meeting on the petroleum industry held recently in Tripoli had emphasized the need to step up exploration and exploitation especially of those sources of energy which were considered uneconomical in the past and the need for close co-operation among African countries in the field of energy development.

48. Although foreign aid had contributed to the development of African economies, there were signs that the rate of growth of foreign aid was declining. In fact, the target of 1 per cent of gross national product had yet to be achieved.

49. The discussions that followed centred on domestic policy measures that could be taken to attack the problem of inflation. The meeting agreed that while it was true that imported inflation was important, there were serious domestic factors contributing to rapid inflation. Among them were the low productivity of agriculture and the import substitution strategy, which depended on imported raw materials and even imports of foodstuffs. One remedy for those problems was to change the structure of agriculture, putting greater emphasis on food production. Similarly, industrialization should be based on raw materials which could be found domestically. Generally speaking, the situation called for a new style of development with a strategy based on the needs of the majority of the people.

50. Moreover, the rate of expansion of money supply must be controlled. The same was true of the action of trade unions. While price controls had been applied in many countries of the region, they were not the most effective way of dealing with inflation. Invariably, price control boards became incapable of controlling the levels of prices.



51. The representatives noted with concern the problems of foreign aid from the recipient countries' point of view and of the transfer of foreign resources in general. However, it was suggested that one way of reducing the burden of debt servicing was to scrutinize properly the terms and conditions of loans before accepting them.
52. In introducing document E/CN.14/618, "The food situation in Africa: Towards an African food development plan," the representative of the secretariat stated that the paper was intended to contribute to attempts to tackle the world food crisis by formulating an African position on food security measures. But the paper took the food issue beyond the objective of mere security to that of the formulation of a long-term food development plan for Africa which would treat production, marketing and trade as integrated elements in dynamic economic growth. The last section of the paper gave a tentative outline of the proposed African Food Development Plan which was being submitted to the Conference for its consideration, comments and approval.
53. He explained that the paper did not accept the widely prevailing premise that the food crisis was due to climatic changes and cyclic crop failures. Too much emphasis had been laid on climatic factors and the incidence of droughts as causes of food shortages. While climatic factors had contributed to the problems, some other causal factors were significant. Chief among these had been the growing imbalance between agricultural production and the size of human and animal populations, which were rapidly increasing. The food crisis was also partly a consequence of the present world economic crisis since recent currency upheavals had led to commodity speculation and to the hoarding of food. Another factor had been the persistent pursuit by many African countries of policies emphasizing export crops while food production had been expected to respond spontaneously to increasing demand. Government policy had also put too much emphasis on large-scale capital-intensive agricultural projects and had neglected small-scale farming. Yet another causal factor had been the inadequate provision of institutional and infrastructural support for food production and distribution.
54. Recent data on trends in food production and consumption showed that Africa had not only enough resources to feed its population but also the potential to contribute to world food supplies. A permanent solution to food shortages in the region would need a marked change in traditional agricultural policies. There was, for instance, the need for a planned transformation of the agricultural production base so as to expand food commodities without compromising the realization of continued earnings from traditional export products. The envisaged process of transformation would have to be based mainly on a procedure whereby higher proportions of available investment resources were allocated to food production and fewer resources were allocated to the expansion of traditional export commodities. Greater emphasis should be placed on research on production, consumption and marketing.
55. The food development plan for African would, among other things, provide the international community with an investment guideline in food production through land, water, and fertilizer development and interregional co-operation. The plan would be based on existing data and also on data obtained by means of a widely circulated questionnaire on resources development and the impact of recent major agricultural policy shifts on the main constraints on food production. The detailed plan should be ready by the end of 1975.



56. In the discussion that followed, participants noted that the plan had come at a time when widespread drought, hunger and starvation had afflicted a large part of Africa's population. The major proposals relating to the plan were endorsed. It was suggested, however, that greater emphasis should be laid on the encouragement of the expansion of the production of foods that were highly income-elastic because such foods were usually imported. However, it was pointed out that there was little mention of pricing policies in the proposed plan. Pricing policies should be taken into account when the final plan was being prepared. They were important because of the incentives they could offer to farmers and because of the many ramifications they could have in the economy.

57. Participants urged that efforts be made to see that the Food Development Plan for Africa was co-ordinated with the national plans of individual African countries. Moreover, in view of the foreign exchange implications of export crops, it was felt that African countries should continue to give great attention to the production of export products especially since they were the only source of foreign exchange for some countries. Finally, it was observed that, in view of the difficulties of developing small-scale agriculture, some African countries had decided to encourage large-scale production in the public and private sectors while at the same time doing everything possible to help small farmers.

#### The first biennial review and appraisal exercise

58. In his introduction the representative of the ECA secretariat dealt briefly with the problems which confronted the secretariat in carrying out the first biennial regional review and appraisal in the Second United Nations Development Decade. In preparing its report, the regional commission was in principle supposed to use national review and appraisal reports prepared by member States. Very few countries had forwarded such reports to ECA. On the whole, the information available to the secretariat was extremely scanty.

59. The representative of the Centre for Development Planning Projections and Policies which was responsible for preparing the biennial global report on review and appraisal, drew attention to the same problem. The Secretary-General had sent out a note verbale to all Member States on 13 June 1972 requesting information for the global review, but the response from developing countries had been far short of expectation. The International Development Strategy launched in October 1970 by the General Assembly was a comprehensive programme for the achievement of certain goals and objectives of development. The goals and objectives and the policy measures were merely indicative, and it was clearly stated in the Strategy that individual countries should define their own goals and objectives in accordance with their economic and social structures and resources. The review and appraisal exercise was particularly important since it provided a built-in mechanism for identifying additional problem areas in the light of changing circumstances. The problems of mass poverty, unemployment, income disparities, population sectors left untouched by the development process and the deterioration of the natural environment were particularly noteworthy in that respect. Appraisals at the national level were the crux of the matter; the regional, sectoral, and global appraisals were designed by the international community to assist in the formulation of coherent development policies thereby furthering the cause of accelerated development.



60. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that many national agencies failed to carry out review and appraisal partly because they lacked the necessary personnel and partly because few plans had yet been formulated within the framework of the International Development Strategy. It was proposed that ECA should establish formal contacts with national agencies for the purpose of receiving timely information on development progress. Review at the national level would be further facilitated if ECA were to devise and distribute a standardized format for progress reporting.

Preparations for the mid-term review and appraisal exercise

(a) Country reports

61. The representatives of Nigeria, Mali, Malawi, Liberia and the Libyan Arab Republic presented their country reports on economic planning and development during the Second United Nations Development Decade. The representatives of Kenya and the Sudan also submitted country reports.

62. The representative of Nigeria informed the Conference that development planning in Nigeria had started long before the beginning of the Second Development Decade although the development plans had been partial and had been mainly concerned with the public sector investment programme, ignoring macro-economic targets and co-ordination of the public and private sectors.

63. The main features of Nigeria's planning experience during the Second Development Decade were: Changes in institutional framework; the launching and implementation of the Second National Development Plan 1970-74; articulation of government policy and the preparation of the Third Plan covering the period 1975-1980.

64. Institutional changes included the creation of the Central Planning Office, the Joint Planning Board, the National Economic Advisory Council and planning units in the executive ministries. Those institutions had been established to co-ordinate economic policies and development activities, to examine all aspects of economic planning and to provide a forum for a continuous exchange of views between government planners and leaders in the private sector.

65. The main objectives of the Plan for the period 1970-1974 were the achievement of an average rate of growth of gross domestic product of 6.6 per cent per annum; the promotion of a balance between urban and rural development; the reconstruction of facilities damaged by war; the production of high and intermediate-level manpower, and increased production of food and export crops with a view to dampening inflationary pressures at home and boosting foreign exchange earnings. Progress reports had been prepared on the implementation of the plan, which showed that in the first year of the plan (1970-1971) the gross domestic product had grown by 9.6 per cent as against 4.2 per cent planned, in the second year by 17.9 per cent as against 6.3 per cent, in the third year by 9.6 per cent as against 7.9 per cent, and in the fourth year 7.0 per cent as against 9.5 per cent. The most significant development in policy had been the indigenization of certain foreign enterprises to give Nigerians greater say in the management of their economy. Work on the preparation of the Third National Development Plan 1975-1980 was in progress.



66. The representative of Mali informed the Conference that planning in his country had begun in 1960. A 5-year plan had been established with an ambitious growth target of 8 per cent. However, in 1970, a 3-year economic plan had been launched, the goals of which had been to restore equilibrium in external trade by increasing exports by 11 per cent per annum and by limiting the rate of increase in imports to 4 per cent per annum and to increase agricultural and industrial production. Although the results achieved in the first 2 years of implementation had been satisfactory, the drought, which had struck Mali in the last year of the plan period, had seriously affected the development of the economy. Some of the objectives of the new 5 year development plan (1974-1978) were to expand agricultural production through intensive cultivation, to distribute income in such a way as to increase the purchasing power of the population as a whole and to bring about a steady increase in investments.
67. Although the Malian Government encountered difficulties in obtaining the specific and accurate information necessary for planning and projection, what information was available on the country's economic performance was always provided to international organizations.
68. The representative of Malawi referred to a 1974 economic report which reviewed economic conditions in 1973. He pointed out that most of the targets in the development programme had been met. However, the Government of Malawi had no development plan as such but only development policies covering 10-year periods, i.e., 1970 to 1980. Those policies were supplemented by (a) 3-year rolling programmes whose main co-ordinating agent was the Economic Planning Division in the Office of the President and Cabinet and (b) 1-year rolling programmes whose main co-ordinating agency was the Treasury. In addition the Economic Planning Division of the Office of the President and Cabinet, in conjunction with the planning units in the executing ministries, prepared an annual economic report of the country, which contained a survey of the past year's performance and a forecast for the coming year.
69. The representative of the Libyan Arab Republic reviewed the economic and social achievements of his country during the period 1971-1973 and explained to the Conference the main aspects and targets of the Three-Year Plan 1973-1975. The plan had been drawn up in the light of the new strategy, and economic, organizational and administrative measures had been taken to free and strengthen the national economy. The new strategy was to achieve maximum rate of growth of the economy by accelerating the rates of growth of agriculture and industry and maintaining a reasonable rate of growth of crude oil production.
70. The representative of Liberia informed the Conference that his country was working within the framework of the International Development Strategy and of Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s. He mentioned that a 3-year public investment programme (1975-1977), which would be integrated into a full 5-year programme (1975-1980), was being prepared. The most recent annual economic survey, which was under preparation, measured the actual achievements of the Liberian economy. A copy of the report would be sent to the ECA secretariat when completed.
71. The reports submitted by the representatives of Nigeria, Mali, Malawi, Liberia and the Libyan Arab Republic contained some of the material needed for preparing the mid-decade regional review and appraisal report. The other representatives indicated that their annual economic surveys and budget statements, which would also be useful in carrying out the mid-decade review and appraisal exercise, would be sent to the secretariat.



## Reports from International Organizations

### World Health Organization (WHO)

72. The representative of World Health Organization pointed out that WHO had carried out continuous review and critical reappraisal over a number of years in a way which was in keeping with the biennial review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade called for by the United Nations General Assembly.

73. WHO would take steps to provide the necessary material for the mid-term review and appraisal in 1975. Material collected in the Organization's Fifth Report on the World Health Situation, 1969-1972, would form the basis of that contribution.

74. The most successful large-scale programme undertaken by WHO during the decade was the attempt to achieve world-wide eradication of smallpox. A similar aggressive attack on other communicable diseases was also required. It was hoped to establish centres in countries where such diseases were a major public health problem in which the necessary fundamental and applied research on which to base comprehensive programmes could be carried out.

### International Labour Organisation (ILO)

75. The ILO representative pointed out that in establishing the procedure for biennial review and appraisal of progress, the General Assembly had sought to ensure that the International Development Strategy would remain alive and operative. In its 1973 review, the ILO had dealt only with the subject of employment problems and policies. For the mid-decade review, arrangements were being made to cover the following five topics in the ILO's sectoral report: Employment, vocational training, wages, social security and social participation in development. The drafting of the sectoral report was in progress and was due to be completed in November 1974.

### United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

76. The representative of the ECA/UNIDO Joint Division, which had recently been established in the ECA secretariat, informed the participants that UNIDO was engaged in work concerning the mid-decade review and an appraisal of the manufacturing industry. He also indicated that advisory services in the field of industry were available to member States on request, specifically in the field of review and appraisal. Such requests should be addressed to the ECA/UNIDO Joint Industry Division.

### The European Economic Community (EEC)

77. The representative of the European Economic Community informed the Conference that EEC had recently made a serious effort towards a meaningful contribution to the Second Development Decade. He mentioned that the rich countries could best help by opening their markets and by increasing their financial transfers to and industrial activities in the developing countries, with special regard to the interests of the least developed countries. However, the rich countries were facing a number of problems including those created by their trade unions.

78. The Yaoundé conventions were satisfactory agreements between a group of developed and a group of developing countries. Over four-tenths of the European Development Fund were spent on agriculture, with priority being given to local food crops, a policy which was in line with what was being advocated everywhere.



79. In 1971, the European Economic Community had adopted the General Scheme of Preferences (GSP), which the developing countries had been pressing for for half a decade. More recently, the European Economic Community had opened negotiations with 45 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific and with several developing countries in the Mediterranean area in the context of global agreements, with special regard to trade and aid. Those negotiations had led the Community to undertake an appraisal of its policies towards the less developed countries as a whole. In the negotiations, it had already been agreed that the European Common Market, accounting for 39 per cent of the world trade, would be opened to all the raw materials, semi-finished and finished products exported by the partner States, with very few exceptions.

80. According to a very recent decision of the European Council of Ministers, import duties would also be abolished on fruits (except some citrus fruits), vegetables, raw tobacco and beef exported to the Common Market. Moreover, discussions on an export-revenue stabilization scheme (STABEX) proposed by the Community for eight primary commodities was about to reach an advanced stage. Finally, in March 1974, the Commission of the European Community had proposed a plan by which it would contribute \$US 500 million to a world emergency fund totalling \$US 3 thousand million to be used to compensate those of the less developed countries which had been hit by recent world price movements. It was very likely that that proposal would soon become official European Economic Community policy.

#### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

81. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme informed the Conference that UNDP was closely following the activities connected with the mid-term review and appraisal exercise. National governments were responsible for indicating their requirements for achieving the development targets. UNDP was ready to consider requests for assistance to national programmes, especially in the formulation of national development strategy or the strategy of a particular sector.

82. Certain steps had already been taken by UNDP to provide individual countries with administrative assistance and soft loans for projects for which the necessary financing was difficult to obtain. UNDP also assisted in multilateral trade negotiations, as well as in the spheres of education, industry and rural development. The largest investment was directed to agriculture, particularly small-scale agriculture, and to countries seriously affected by drought.

#### ECA national accounts estimates and other statistical problems in the context of the requirements of the review and appraisal of development progress

83. The representative of the secretariat presented document E/CN.14/CAP.5/5 entitled "National accounts estimates for African countries and related statistical problems." The paper dealt with national accounts estimates both at the national and the regional levels and included a presentation of the provisional results of an exercise in the calculation of statistical relationships. The main method used had been regression analysis based on national accounting aggregates at constant prices.

84. The Conference noted the current deficiencies, in both quantity and quality, of the national accounting estimates for most countries of the region. The compilation of statistical information lagged behind the needs for planning and economic analysis purposes by about 2 years. The Conference expressed appreciation concerning the



efforts that were being made by countries of the region. It was especially grateful for their decisions to participate in the 1970's round of world population and agricultural censuses which would in time improve the statistical bases for national accounts estimates.

85. The Conference emphasized the need for ECA to prepare consolidated regional accounts for Africa by using national estimates, where available, and by making its own estimates in cases where such estimates were not available. The participants endorsed the need for further development of sectoral deflators to replace the current practice of using a single over-all gross domestic price deflator for the sectors.

86. It was further noted that the current unsatisfactory state of affairs in national accounts data for most countries of the region was due mainly to a lack of funds for statistical survey work and to an unusually high staff turnover in national statistical offices. The need for household surveys in devising an integrated system of demographic, social and economic statistics in the countries for planning purposes was also emphasized.

87. Other points to which emphasis was given during the discussion were: (i) The desirability of shifting the base year in the compilation of constant price series of national accounts data and the need to provide a link between the old and the new series; (ii) the need to develop sectoral deflators, especially with respect to exports and imports and capital formation; (iii) the importance of basing regression estimates on accepted theoretical bases and of giving preference to the use of physical indicators for the sectoral estimates of gross domestic product (GDP); (iv) the desirability of expressing national accounting aggregates in terms of SDR instead of US dollars, whose value vis-à-vis other currencies was fluctuating; (v) the need to improve ECA's present programme of data collection through country visits; (vi) the need for full co-operation among ECA, IMF, IBRD and ADB in the exchange of information concerning individual African countries in order to avoid duplication in data collection; (vii) the desirability of including planners in the ECA proposed national accounting training courses envisaged for 1976 and 1977; and (viii) the need for organizing joint workshops or seminars for both statisticians and planners.

88. In order to promote further statistical development for planning purposes in countries of the region and to reduce the unusually large staff turnover, the Conference endorsed the following secretariat proposals for consideration by both the national and the international authorities concerned:

(a) African countries should incorporate plans of statistical development into their economic development plans in such a way that the needs of planners for an adequate supply of basic statistics of reasonably good quality could be met. In such plans the training of national statistical personnel and the provision of funds for undertaking field surveys should be envisaged. Moreover, with a view to stemming the current large staff turnover in statistical offices, provision must be made for adequate salary scales and for promotional opportunities for statistical personnel which were at least equal to those provided for workers in other fields with similar comparable qualifications;



(b) African countries and international organizations should support the draft resolution requesting the establishment by the United Nations of a statistical development fund for developing countries, as contained in paragraph 290 of the Report of the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians (E/CN.14/611);

(c) Planners, particularly those in the French-speaking countries of the region, should help in the implementation of the revised SNA in their respective countries, by requesting presentation of national accounts data in accordance with the revised SNA for planning purposes (e.g. data for Upper Volta for 1968);

(d) African countries should hold multi-subject household surveys following the conduct of population and agricultural censuses to fill in the gaps in statistical information on population growth, migration, housing, employment and unemployment, levels of living and distribution of consumption as proxy for a distribution of income and wealth. As a corollary to the household surveys, consideration should be given to the setting up of a permanent field survey organization in order to ensure the regular collection of an integrated system of demographic, social and economic statistics for planning purposes at the least cost; and

(e) Countries of the region should effect the closest co-operation between their planning and statistical agencies, while maintaining the independent and objective nature of the statistics collected. That was important since the accusation had too often been made that statistics were not objective enough and that some of them were therefore unreliable.

#### The unified approach to development analysis and planning

89. In introducing document E/CN.14/CAP.5/7 entitled "The Unified Approach to Development Analysis and Planning", the representative of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) reminded the Conference that the issue of a new approach to development planning had already been considered at its fourth session. The purpose of the paper presented to the fifth session was to report progress in researching the project, which UNRISD was executing in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Latin America. The full results of the project would be published in 1975. The need for a new approach to development planning arose from a growing dissatisfaction with the results of development efforts based solely on the growth of aggregate production. The benefits of development had been confined to the privileged strata of the population, while problems of unemployment, income distribution and mass poverty remained unsolved.

90. The unified approach involved a reorientation in the field of development policy. It required dealing with the impact of development on the population instead of looking at the growth of the national product. Although each country would have to determine its own "style of development", it was, nevertheless, possible to identify such common needs as the need to alleviate mass poverty and thus improve the living conditions of the lower income groups, the need to provide employment to a growing population, the need to diminish income disparities and thus to obtain a more equitable income distribution and the need to involve the masses in the development process itself. The integration of social and economic objectives in planning was a basic feature of the unified approach, in which cross-sectoral integration, regional (sub-national) integration, and the integration of different populations in the development process were likewise essential.



91. Most of the technologies imported into African and other developing countries had not contributed to the growth of employment and had therefore not increased the participation of the population in the development process. However, to make generalizations on the choice to be made between labour- or capital-intensive techniques was unwarranted. Each case had to be studied on its own. Another problem to be taken into consideration was that of security of production, i.e., the problem of income fluctuations, from which the poorest population groups, and particularly those engaged in agriculture, suffered.

92. While for the most part conventional planning used quantitative techniques at the macro-economic level, in the unified approach, the emphasis was on micro-analysis and less on aggregates and averages. Methods of incorporating social indicators in planning models and of identifying interrelations and linkages were needed. Moreover, the unified approach recognized that a number of requirements of development such as "capacitation" could not be achieved through the conventional techniques of planning. The institutional problems involved implied that a close relationship should be established between technical and political decisions, and that, therefore, broader responsibilities should be taken by planners.

93. The main issue in the discussion which followed the presentation of the UNRISD report was the applicability of the unified approach in practical situations. Some representatives expressed the view that the integrated character of the unified approach could create difficulties in view of the financial constraints on African countries and could even lead to the abandonment of some projects when, for example, resources were not available for the social investment component. Moreover, it was pointed out that current sources of finances for developing countries were using criteria of profitability which were difficult to reconcile with the kind of action involved in the unified approach. The problem of statistical requirements was another prominent topic in the discussion. It was stressed that there was a need to develop "real indicators" which would enable planners to check the extent of real participation of the population in the development process in terms both of employment and of income distribution.

94. The view was expressed that although it was commonly argued that gross national product (GNP) was a narrow "economic" concept without any "social" content, the distinction between what was "economic" and what was "social" was a sterile one. Anyone working on development problems was by definition working for the transformation of society. Moreover, it should be kept firmly in mind that GNP was an accounting concept. Indeed, it was often characterized as social accounting in the sense that it dealt with society as a whole. It covered not only production of physical goods but also such service items as education, health and cultural entertainment. This perspective needed to be firmly kept in mind.

95. The Conference welcomed growing attention to problems of employment and income distribution although it was pointed out that planners had not been oblivious to those problems as was clear from development plans formulated in the 1950s and 1960s. What had hampered work on employment and related problems had been lack of statistical information. Vigorous efforts needed to be made to remedy that deficiency. It would be useful to make a beginning by formulating an operational target for employment in the "modern" sector of the economy, where information could be compiled fairly readily. In the traditional sector, pending compilation of information on unemployment, the emphasis might be put initially on achieving adequate improvement in productivity, again by formulating an operational target. That was but one example of



how certain goals could be given an operational character. The same approach could be applied in other areas, notably by coupling a target for increase in average per capita income with a target for increase in the income of the bottom fourth or third of the population, with a target for minimum consumption requirements (in terms of basic necessities), with a target for raising the poverty line, and so on.

96. In response to the concern expressed by participants about the financial problems involved in the application of the unified approach, the IBRD representative informed the Conference of the broadening of the activities in which the World Bank Group was involved. Until the inauguration of IDA the Bank had been involved mainly with infrastructure and large-scale projects. Since then, the Group's activities had broadened to include assistance to small-scale farming, education and feeder road projects and participation in such social developments as the eradication of river blindness. The lending rate of the Bank proper was below the market rate available to member countries and therefore included an element of aid.

97. In his intervention, the representative of UNICEF indicated that his organization had always stressed the need to co-operate with African countries and with United Nations specialized agencies in village technology, home economics, water supply and sanitation, food production and conservation, health, etc. In order to carry out such programmes, more resources were needed by African countries from external sources. Increased resources would help them to strengthen their social infrastructure, particularly where child and mother protection was concerned. Moreover, the need for additional funds was particularly acute in those African countries which were among the least developed of the developing countries or were severely affected by the drought or the world economic crisis. They needed more resources not only to expand their basic social services but also to maintain the rather low level of their current activities.

98. The observer from the Federal Republic of Germany said that the new approach called for changes in aid-giving practices. Donors would have to abandon the present piecemeal, project-by-project procedure for a programme approach, and traditional profitability requirements might have to be softened. Where the recipients were concerned, it would be necessary for planning offices to make an effort to identify viable projects and programmes. The Conference welcomed his recommendation that aid donors should consider giving aid on soft terms along the lines followed by IDA.

99. In conclusion, the UNRISD representative remarked that research on the unified approach had not yet been completed, and was in fact still at the conceptual stage. The tools of analysis and practical planning would be made available later.

The interrelationship between population growth and socio-economic development

100. A representative of the secretariat described two sets of studies being undertaken by the secretariat in pursuance of resolution 230(X) of the Commission.

101. The first was a series of macro case studies at the national level, which would examine the demographic, economic and social situations of countries, using alternative population growth for investment, consumption, jobs, education, health, etc. over the next 30 years and examining the projected capacity of countries to meet future demands. The second was a series of micro case studies at the level of the individual and the family which would examine the impact of family size and family building habits on family well-being; on morbidity and mortality rates, especially where mothers and children were concerned and on nutrition, physiological and intellectual development, housing conditions and the social mobility of children.



102. The population in Africa, which had been estimated to be 400 million in mid-1974, was growing at a faster rate than in any other region of the world and according to the most realistic population assumption, would reach 800 million by the year 2000. The low and the high population estimates were 750 and 950 million, respectively. Although the death rate was expected to decline in Africa, with life expectancy at birth increasing from 45 years at present to 58½ years in 2000, life expectancy would still be shorter by 7 years than the average for the other developing regions. Africa was also the only region in which there would be no decline in the dependency rates, as given by the age structure of the population, or in the proportion of the population which was dependent on agriculture.

103. While mortality in the African countries had declined substantially because of public health measures, such as anti-malaria operations, the problem of malnutrition and under-nutrition remained.

104. A number of countries, such as Egypt, the Sudan, Zambia, Madagascar, Kenya and Uganda had given attention to population policies in their development plans. Ghana and Kenya had in fact quantified the effect of a high population growth rate on education. In Mauritius a substantial decline in fertility had occurred recently as a result of family planning, and there were indications of fertility declines in Tunisia and Egypt. In a number of countries, such as Senegal, Mali, Togo and Madagascar, family planning services were being provided on a voluntary basis, in some cases as an experimental measure. Population policies and programmes in African countries also included other measures, such as the geographical redistribution of the population.

105. The ECA secretariat was ready to assist countries, on request, in all aspects of population programming - studies, projections, training and the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population programmes. It could also assist countries in formulating requests on any aspect of population programming for funding by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

106. In the course of the discussion, some representatives drew attention to the optional nature of controlling the rate of growth of population in their countries. It was held that the population problem could be more appropriately discussed within each respective country since African countries differed from one another in many respects, including in the extent of the natural resources and land potential available. A dynamic view of the development of macro-economic variables might also give results which differed from the static conclusion that arose from existing factor proportion. It was difficult to generalize for the continent as a whole. In Nigeria, for instance, the population issue did not appear as a priority problem because of the adequate land resources available, the growing importance of the oil output and the consequent rapid growth of the economy. The services of family planning organizations were being provided whenever families expressed a wish for them, but there was no intention to influence the people in that connexion. Government policy in Nigeria concentrated mainly on increasing the mobility of population from densely populated to thinly populated regions of the country and on providing training in various skills with a view to increased employment.

107. Other representatives, however, expressed serious concern about the population problem. In some African countries, such as Kenya, the availability of land with agricultural potential was extremely limited while population had been growing at rates exceeding 3 per cent per annum. Although the Kenyan economy had grown rapidly during the past decade, per capita income still amounted to only \$US 150.



108. Population projections had shown that, in the absence of a population policy, the present Kenyan population of 13 million would increase to 34 million in the year 2000. The Government had therefore accepted family planning and other health measures aimed at retarding the rate of growth in the hope that the population would reach only 28 million by the year 2000.

109. Africa admittedly was a sparsely populated continent, and population density was low in all but a few countries. However, it should be remembered that population size, i.e. the number of people alive at a given point in time, was a "stock" concept; whereas, in tackling development problems, it was necessary to focus on a "flow" concept. Development meant change. It implied that a country should be better off at present than it was in the past and that it should be better off in future than at present. In such a context, the accent was on increasing incomes, jobs, skills, etc. Clearly, therefore, the size of the population was less relevant than the change in size.

110. It was hoped that within 4 years all the African countries would be covered by macro-studies and at least half of the countries, by micro-studies. The results of these studies had confirmed that for economic development the rate of growth of the population was more important than the absolute size of the population. According to the development plans of African countries, an average of 17 per cent of the GNP was intended for investment. With the present 2.9 per cent annual rate of growth of population in Africa, half of the investment would go to keep the per capita income at the same level as before. However, if the population were growing at 2 per cent per annum, only one-third of the investment would be required to maintain the per capita income, and the rest could be used for increasing it.

111. Demographic projections were very important for development planning. It should be noted that demographic projections were not the same as forecasts in that projections indicated what the outcome of certain postulates would be. Projections were needed in formulating policy measures on a wide front, ranging all the way from meeting food requirements to providing employment and education.

112. The representative of WHO informed the meeting that within the context of the objectives of the decade the World Health Assembly had directed his Organization to (a) evaluate family planning services in the context of community, economic and national development, (b) support the development of health manpower and (c) expand activities in health research. In that framework the programme of the organization included activities relating to human reproduction, family planning and population dynamics.

113. The representative of UNICEF highlighted the need for providing adequate care to children and young people, who would supply the manpower needed for economic development. In that connexion, he informed the meeting that documents had already been prepared by his organization on planning and problems related to the development of youth and children (CAP.4/INF.6, 1972); on children and adolescents in the Second Development Decade - priorities for planning and action (E/ICEF/627) and on young children: perspectives of action in developing countries (E/ICEF/L.1303). Because of their share in the over-all population, their weight in the demand on social resources and their future prospects and role in development, children and adolescent groups should be given more attention in planning and programming. He therefore emphasized the need for the adaptation and revision of development strategy, the development of innovative methods and low cost programmes adapted to local rural community resources and the mobilization and participation of youths and adolescents in development projects.



114. The representative of UNESCO explained the new approach to the problems of education in the Second Development Decade, which emphasized the regeneration of the educational system and its adaptation to the needs of development.
115. The country representatives agreed that for the countries with limited resources, it would be necessary to pay close attention to the relationship between population growth and socio-economic development. There was a consensus of opinion that the ECA secretariat should continue its research on the relationship between population growth and socio-economic development in order to increase existing knowledge of the implications.
116. It was felt that the United Nations, including ECA, and the countries themselves should co-operate in developing improved systems of data collection and analysis for integrated planning. In that connexion, the Conference noted the household surveys programme in Africa, which had been endorsed by the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers and would take the form of integrated multi-subject household inquiries.
117. It was also felt that the ECA secretariat should assist individual countries, on request, in defining approaches to population. The Conference welcomed an ECA project on the people's core concept of population, which had been submitted to UNFPA for financing and was intended to be implemented with experts in African governmental departments, universities or institutions acting as consultants to ECA.
118. Finally, the Conference reiterated the importance of integrating the population factor into development planning and noted in that connexion a recommendation by the third meeting of the ECA Executive Committee on the possibility of preparing a joint report by the Conference of African Planners, the Conference of African Demographers, and the Conference of African Statisticians for consideration by the ECA Technical Committee of Experts.

#### Technological planning and socio-economic development

119. The representative of the secretariat reminded the Conference that in 1963 the Economic and Social Council had convened a United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology at Geneva for the benefit of the less developed countries. Following that conference and as a result of the increasing awareness of the United Nations and its member States of the important contribution that science and technology could make towards over-all socio-economic development, the Council established an Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (UNACAST).
120. UNACAST had prepared an indicative World Plan of Action on Science and Technology for the creation and expansion of the required infrastructure of scientific and technological institutions in individual developing countries or in groups of developing countries to enable them to utilize available knowledge for development. The World Plan had been completed in 1971.
121. In 1972 ECA and the African Regional Group of UNACAST, working in conjunction with various United Nations agencies and other international and nongovernmental organizations had prepared the African Regional Plan on the basis of the indicative proposals of the World Plan. The African Regional Plan spelt out specific action programmes and projects in conformity with the needs and priorities of African countries in the field of Science and Technology. Those needs had been ascertained by



conducting country surveys and by contacting competent sources of information in most African countries. The Plan was approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers at Accra in 1973. An Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development in Africa had been set up to oversee and scrutinize the work of the secretariat in connexion with the implementation of the African Regional Plan. A meeting of donor agencies was being sponsored by ECA in July 1974, at which the secretariat was going to demonstrate practical examples of the individual or collective need of African countries for financial and technical assistance for their development. The convening of the donors meeting was in compliance with a recommendation by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

122. In appraising the whole concept of the African Regional Plan and African socio-economic development in general it was indicated that the task had to be embarked upon by the Africans themselves. Africa was rich in resources, particularly natural resources, which either remained unexploited or were being drained away to foreign countries which had the capacity to develop them to their own advantage. It was also stressed that planning of science and technology had to be generated first at the country level. It was at the country level that, with the assistance of ECA and other organizations, stock should be taken of the available physical and human resources in order to ascertain the need for additional resources and to assess the plausibility of co-operation among countries in the joint development of resources.

123. ECA was interested in individual country science and technology projects and programmes which could be collated in order to identify those that merited inter-country and regional implementation.

124. The representative of UNESCO informed the Conference that his organization's attitude to ECA's efforts towards the promotion of science and technology projects and programmes was clearly demonstrated by its participation in the formulation of the Africa Plan and by the many meetings jointly sponsored by ECA and UNESCO in that connexion. In that regard he mentioned that a jointly sponsored ECA/OAU/UNESCO conference of African Ministers responsible for science and technology programmes in their respective countries had been held earlier in 1974 at Dakar, Senegal. Of the 31 resolutions adopted at that conference, 18 dealt extensively with closer co-operation between the three organizations.

125. He enumerated some projects and programmes of various types undertaken by his organization at the country, regional and world levels in the field of science and technology and some other programmes which were at present in the conceptual and planning stages. UNESCO had two important field science offices in the African region, one for the collection of statistics and the other for programme planning and supervision. The other UNESCO offices in Africa functioned largely as centres of information and documentation. They also furnished advice concerning the various steps to be taken in scientific research.

A-survey of the factors of greatest significance to investors in making assessments of investment opportunities

126. Document E/CN.14/CAP.5/3. "Issues in foreign private investment in Africa," reviewed the main problems related to the flow of foreign private investment to Africa and contained suggestions for reconciling the conflicting interests of private foreign investors and recipient Governments with a view to removing mutual fear and suspicion.



127. Private foreign investment was of course seldom undertaken out of a simple and altruistic desire to promote development in the recipient countries. The investors' motive was to make profits. The pursuit of high profits antagonized the recipient Governments which in turn tried to take stringent measures to protect their interests with the result that the inflow of foreign private investment might be hampered.

128. To avoid such a situation, it was argued that it would be necessary to establish mutual understanding by accommodating the interests of both contracting parties. To achieve that objective a coherent policy was needed to encourage foreign investors to reinvest at least part of their earnings rather than repatriating all of them; to work out the best possible arrangements for the repatriation of capital, dividends and interest by avoiding excessive rigidity and to give the necessary assurances to foreign private investors regarding the safety of their investments. Such a policy might eliminate the need for high profits on the part of investors.

129. In the discussion which followed, representatives expressed the view that the paper treated the problem of foreign private investment too superficially. They felt that the study would have been more informative if it had concentrated on more specific issues. The Conference expressed dissatisfaction with the content of the paper and emphasized that in future research efforts should be supported by empirical evidence insofar as was possible. The loss of revenue due to investment incentives given to foreign investors was, for instance, an issue of great interest. The analysis of cost and benefits of foreign investment at the country level was another area which required in-depth analysis and research.

130. The Conference noted that foreign private investment could supplement domestic sources of capital. Adequate machinery would, however, be necessary to oversee the activities of foreign companies. Projects proposed by foreign investors should be examined by a planning committee. Whenever possible, priority should be given to national investors with a view to fostering indigenous entrepreneurship.

131. While the beneficial effects of private foreign investment were recognized, they had to be measured against the costs of accepting such investments. It would be a worthwhile research exercise to study the benefits and costs involved in providing protection and incentives.

132. The Conference also discussed the need for standardization of incentives and of investment laws and for closer intra-African co-operation aimed at increasing the benefits from foreign investment. Such measures would eliminate unnecessary competition. There should also be a common policy for dealing with multinational corporations. However, some participants felt that there were problems involved in standardization since countries had different development problems.

133. In response to the comments made by the country representatives, the representative of the secretariat indicated that when the subject of foreign private investment had been included in the agenda for the Conference, the intention had been to study several aspects of foreign private investment in a number of African countries. However, that idea had had to be abandoned for a number of reasons. For instance, a detailed study had not been possible since it had been found that the main sources of information were the national plans, which in most cases contained no quantitative statements about benefits expected from foreign investors. Empirical evidence would be required for any in-depth study, and most variables had to be quantified, which entailed conceptual as well as practical problems. It was, for instance, impossible to quantify the cost of interference in national sovereignty or of the transmission of managerial know-how.



134. Another member of the secretariat suggested that a study of effective protection could be made. However, he recognized the difficulties involved in carrying out such study, one of them being the lack of input-output tables for countries of the region.

Problems in the co-ordination of the public and private sectors in the development process

135. The representative of the secretariat presented document E/CN.14/CAP.5/4 entitled "Co-ordination of the public and private sectors in the development process". Since most African economies were mixed economies, the decisions of both the private and the public sectors had to be co-ordinated in all stages of the planning process. Although African national plans had generally set over-all targets for the economy the macro-economic variables were not disaggregated into variables of the private sector and variables of the public sector, and when there was disaggregation there was little co-ordination between the two sectors. However, some instruments existed in a number of African countries for co-ordinating the programmes and projects of the private and public sectors under the national plan. The methods employed included the representation of private sector organizations in development committees, either at the national or at the local level, the use of incentives in order to encourage private sector organizations to undertake the production of certain products and the provision of certain services free of charge in order to encourage the development of indigenous entrepreneurship. In some countries, the State budget had been used to influence the direction of private investment.

136. In the discussion that followed, the representatives pointed out that planners first set up a macro-economic framework for the economy as a whole. However, when they came to the point of articulating the programmes and projects, they often concentrated on the public sector alone. One of the reasons why the private sector was not taken into account in detailed considerations of plan formulation and implementation was that information on the private sector was inadequate. The large number of operators in the private sector also hindered its integration into the planning process. Moreover, the political set-up of many African countries limited government interference in the operations of the private sector. It was therefore difficult for such governments to evaluate the performance of the private sector since they were unaware of the targets set for that sector.

137. However, attempts were often made by Governments to include the private sector in over-all planning through an exchange of views in advisory councils embracing all sectors of the economy.

138. In Nigeria an attempt to collect quantitative information on investment intentions in the whole private sector had not materialized. The relevant information had been obtained for the oil sector, but owing to the large number of operators in the non-oil sector, it had not been possible even to get the exercise off the ground. It had therefore been decided to contact the big enterprises informally, and that approach was beginning to prove useful. It was hoped that the situation would improve in the next planning period when, with the help of the National Economic Advisory Council, it would be possible to carry out a survey of the private sector, whose results would help planners to integrate the private sector into national planning.



139. It should be noted, however, that even after the targets of the private sector had been revealed, the role of the Government in their implementation would still be limited. The Government would merely try to influence the behaviour of the private sector by granting incentives, distributing scarce resources, such as foreign exchange, to private enterprises, and by setting up special government programmes to help small-scale industries and small-scale agriculture. Such measures would help to bring the private sector into line with the national development plan.

140. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the co-ordination of the activities of the public and the private sectors in planning was an issue which the Government had been trying to solve for a long time. No less than 18 working parties had been set up to undertake the various aspects of planning the nation's socio-economic development. The provision of assistance to small farmers in rural areas had been given high priority as was reflected in the establishment of rural development credit, a measure which had served to diversify the economy and to reduce rural-urban migration.

141. In Kenya the policy of taking planning to the people was conducted through planning at the district level. The district development committees consisted of local authorities, government technical personnel and leaders of religious organizations, co-operative societies and farming communities. That approach had helped in identifying projects at the district level and in incorporating the activities of the large rural sector into the planning exercise undertaken at the central planning office and it was hoped that it would help the central planning agency to understand the problems of the mass of farmers who had benefited least from the economy's past growth performance.

142. Some representatives said that their Governments had found it difficult to try to integrate the activities of the private sector into their national plan owing to the predominance of large multinational corporations or of overseas branches of foreign enterprises which operated outside the orbit of national planning.

143. The general conclusion that emerged from the discussion was that co-ordination of the private and public sectors was necessary in the planning process but that the difficulties involved in obtaining the required information on current activities of private enterprises and on their planned investment and production could not be underestimated.

#### Drought in Africa

144. The representative of the secretariat informed the Conference of the progress made in combatting the effects of the drought in Africa, especially in the Sudano-Sahelian area. The fact was that the drought had now affected other areas in Eastern and Central Africa which had not been affected previously. Moreover, the 1973/1974 rainfall had been a disappointing one.

145. Although relief had come from many sources, it had been inadequate. In fact only 40 per cent of the food needed had so far been pledged, and the tendency was increasingly to divert grain surpluses towards trade and to sell at exorbitant prices. Moreover, distribution of relief had been hampered by transport bottle-necks between the coast and the hinterland. Other problems which had confronted the relief programme were poor programme formulation, weak co-ordination between the bilateral aid donors and the international agencies and some lack of perspective on the part of the Governments of the countries concerned.



146. However, the representative of the secretariat felt that what should interest African planners was the programme for medium- and long-term solutions to the problem of drought. In that connexion he stressed that the main factor in the drought situation was the unbalanced nature of the economies of the countries affected and not the lack of rain. While climatic changes might be at work, the situation had been aggravated by man and animal through deforestation and overgrazing. Moreover, it had to be understood that agriculture would still be the basis of development of those countries. In that connexion, the development of water resources through irrigation and the development of underground water resources was important. Similarly, vast areas which were uninhabitable because of infestation by diseases would have to be developed by eradicating the diseases. The research findings and appropriate techniques needed to solve the problems of agricultural development in the drought affected areas were already available, and no time should be spent on further research programmes.

147. The ECA secretariat had been participating fully in the medium- and long-term recovery programme. Some of the projects which it was organizing were the trans-Saharan and trans-Sahelian highways, the investment programme for the Liptako-Gourma region, and the project on the Arid Zone Development Centre. Similarly, a pilot study on co-operation between the landlocked and the coastal countries had been undertaken. Another project in which the secretariat was involved was the UNCTAD trade-oriented study which had been based on the ECA strategy for attacking the drought problem. In order to make the secretariat's contribution more effective, the services of the Niamey-based UNDAT had been fully committed to the Interstate Committee for the Drought.

148. In his intervention, the representative of the World Health Organization informed the meeting that on the basis of a resolution passed by the World Health Assembly (WHA 2660), his Organization had established an assistance programme amounting to \$US 2 million to combat the main endemic and epidemic diseases in the drought-stricken regions by vaccination campaigns and treatment.

149. Moreover, the fifty-third session of the WHO Executive Board, which acknowledged reports submitted by the Director-General and the Regional Director for Africa on action already taken to assist the affected countries, also requested the Director-General to call the attention of the States Members of WHO to the joint appeal made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by FAO to combat the continuing emergency and to prepare for medium- and long-term needs in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone.

150. Similarly, the representative of UNESCO informed the Conference that at a meeting convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1973 to discuss medium- and long-term plans for co-ordinated action to assist the six Sahelian countries, it had been decided that UNESCO could contribute to medium- and long-term plans for the relief and rehabilitation of the drought stricken area in the fields of science (in particular through the MAB programme and other related activities in agroclimatology, ecology and hydrology), education and the social sciences. In that connexion, UNESCO had convened a regional meeting in integrated ecological research and training needs in the Sahelian region, which took place in Niamey from 11 to 15 March 1974. That meeting had recommended, inter alia, the undertaking of an inventory and survey of natural energy, animal and human resources; of research on the conservation and regeneration of natural resources; of multidisciplinary, integrated pilot projects and of post-graduate regional courses within the Sahel coupled with shorter training periods in technologically advanced countries to enable the people of the region themselves to undertake research in order to find solutions to their problems.



151. Other meetings envisaged by UNESCO included a month-long West African seminar for decision-makers and planners on integrated environmental management to be held in Dakar and a similar seminar for East African countries to be held in Nairobi in July 1974.

152. In the discussions that followed the representative of Mali opposed the view that the Governments of the countries concerned did not have the right perspectives on the drought problem saying that on the contrary, those Governments had drawn up a far-reaching programme based on water control at a meeting in Ouagadougou. Their main problem was a financial one. Moreover, transportation should be regarded as crucial to the effective operation of the relief programme. Indeed, transport networks should be considered as demand-creating and not demand-derived.

153. Commenting briefly on background documentation on the drought problem, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that in addition to the document prepared for the Executive Committee, which was available to the Conference, there was the comprehensive document on ongoing projects in connexion with the drought problem, which had been prepared in October 1973 by an interdivisional committee. Copies of that document were available in both English and French.

154. Other contributions by country representatives included a description of the efforts of the Nigerian Government to cope with the problem of drought and a description of the drought situation in the Central African Republic. The efforts of the Nigerian Government had included the sinking of bore holes and the establishment of a grain producing organization and arrangements to have grain storage facilities in certain parts of the country. In Nigeria and other African countries, erosion was a problem which international organizations might also include in their work programme. It was stated that the drought situation in the Central African Republic was so bad that the Ubangi river was at its lowest ebb since 1914. In fact, traffic had been interrupted for 4 months.

#### Election of members of the Governing Council of IDEP

155. As provided for in the amendment to sections of the terms of reference of the Governing Council of IDEP regarding the number of the members of the Council by region and the duration of membership (see E/CN.14/CAP.4/13 or E/CN.14/575, p. 25) suggested by the fourth session of the Conference, the following persons were elected for the period 1974-1976:

<u>Subregion</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>
North Africa	Mr. M. Makramalla, Professor, Institute of National Planning, Nasr City, Cairo	Egypt
	Mr. Musa Abufrewa, D.G. Follow-up and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Planning, P.O. Box 600, Tripoli	Libyan Arab Republic
West Africa	Mr. G.P.O. Chikelu, Director, Central Planning Office, Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Reconstruction, Lagos	Nigeria
	Mr. Grégoire Addra, Acting Director of Planning, Lomé	Togo



<u>Subregion</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>
Central Africa	Mr. Kaponda Mueme Ndambu, Head of the Division au Service du plan de la présidence de la République, Kinshasa	Zaire
	Mr. Eugène-Célestin Mbedo, Director of Planning, B. P. 732, Bangui	Central African Republic
East Africa	Mr. Y.F. O. Masakhalia, Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Nairobi	Kenya
	Mr. W.K. Nkowani, Director of Planning, P.O. Box R.W. 268, Lusaka	Zambia

156. The Conference recommended that the secretariat should take immediate steps to get the relevant sections of the terms of reference of IDEP amended to incorporate the suggestions which had governed the election described above.

ECA 1976-1979 medium-term plan in economic planning, projections and policies

157. The representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/CAP.5/9 entitled Programme of Work of ECA in Economic Research and Planning for the Medium-Term plan period 1976-1979, which comprised the following three main components: Development trends, requirements and possibilities; planning and programming; and development prospects and the special problems of the least developed African countries and the measures to promote their development. While the Conference accepted the work programme as submitted, some observations were made.

158. With regard to the least developed countries, the Conference asked for information on the criteria used for determining the existing list of the least developed countries and expressed the view that it would be necessary to study the special problems of those of the least developed countries which were also landlocked.

159. In reply, it was explained that according to the studies done by the Committee for Development Planning the following three criteria were used in identifying the least developed countries: Per capita GDP of \$100 or less; share of manufacturing in total GDP of 10 per cent or less and literacy rate (proportion of literate persons in the age group of fifteen years and more) of 20 per cent or less. However, those criteria had been used with some flexibility. Hence, countries with a per capita GDP of \$100 or less but with a manufacturing ratio or literacy rate somewhat exceeding the limits just mentioned were classified as least developed countries. Similarly, countries whose per capita GDP was over \$100 but not more than around \$120 and which satisfied the other criteria were also included. Moreover, all concerned had been advised that the criteria should be used with care and that countries in especially difficult conditions should not be discriminated against just because they were not on the agreed list. As to the need for using such criteria as income distribution, the meeting was informed that lack of information had precluded its use as a criterion. Finally, it was suggested that representatives might read with profit the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its seventh session held in 1971 (E/4990), in which the criteria in question were extensively discussed. That document had been distributed at the fourth session of the Conference in 1972.



160. Concerning the need to study the special problems of those of the least developed countries which were also landlocked, the meeting was informed that the Economic and Social Council would discuss those problems at its fifty-seventh session and that the secretariat would make the documents prepared for that discussion available to the member States of ECA. It would also make available copies of the report on the activities of organizations in the United Nations system and of regional development banks in connexion with the implementation of special measures in favour of the least developed countries.

#### Other business

161. Matters discussed included attendance at the meetings of the Conference, agenda items for the meetings of the Conference, the need for candidates for membership in the Governing Council of IDEP to submit their curriculum vitae to the Conference, the advisability of having a rapporteur, the energy crisis, the distribution of documents and the advisability of having precis writers.

162. Members recalled that at the fourth session of the Conference anxiety had been expressed with regard to attendance at meetings and suggested that efforts should be made to remedy the situation by bringing the problem before the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, by appealing to the Governments of States members of the Commission, and by reorienting the agenda of the Conference to include problems which related more specifically to development and planning. In that connexion the view was expressed that the presentation of documents which had been discussed at other ECA meetings might be one reason why some members of the Conference failed to attend its meetings.

163. With a view to improving the contents of the agenda of future meetings, it was suggested that members should co-operate with the secretariat by suggesting items of practical importance. Members reiterated their desire to have more papers with empirical content submitted to the meetings of the Conference in future.

164. In discussing the failure of African intergovernmental organizations to send representatives to sessions of the Conference, the Conference was informed that in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission, all African intergovernmental organizations were usually invited to the sessions of the Conference. In fact, many of them had participated in sessions in the past and affirmative replies to an invitation to attend the fifth session had been received from at least two of them although in the end they had not been able to attend the meetings.

165. The suggestion regarding the curricula vitae of candidates for vacancies in the Governing Council of IDEP was in accordance with the terms of reference of the Institute and had been made in an attempt to ensure that participants in the meetings of the Conference would be in a position to ascertain that those elected to the Council satisfied the conditions of the terms of reference of the Institute. The suggestion was accepted.

166. The question of a rapporteur had been reopened because some participants felt that the appointment of a rapporteur might help in producing more balanced draft reports in future. However, while other participants felt that more balanced draft reports would be welcome, they were not sure that the appointment of a rapporteur was the best solution. Moreover, the question of appropriate officers had been considered when the rules of procedure of the Conference had been under discussion.



167. In view of the importance of the energy crisis, some participants felt that a specific paper should have been prepared in that regard and that the question of two-tier price arrangements should have been discussed. In that connexion the representative of the secretariat reminded the Conference that the energy crisis had been discussed under the item on the world economic situation (Item 6 (i)) and that reference had been made to the conclusions of the Petroleum Conference held in Tripoli in February 1974 regarding the need for co-operation in energy development in Africa. The question of two-tier price arrangements had not been discussed because it had been felt that politics were involved. Moreover, the matter was already being handled by the appropriate organs within the Organization of African Unity.

168. Country representatives expressed concern about the non-availability and late distribution of documents. They did not accept the secretariat's explanation that translation and typing bottlenecks were responsible.

169. Some representatives felt that it would be useful to improve the quality and content of the reports on the deliberations of the Conference. In their view, the discussions had not been fully reported, and some parts of the reports were not as accurate as might be desired. Accordingly, the Conference recommended that the secretariat should provide precis writers for future meetings. If necessary, the appropriate authorities should be requested to release funds for the provision of precis writers.

#### Resolutions for action by the Conference of Ministers

170. The Conference drew the attention of the States members of the Commission and other international agencies to the draft resolutions for action by the Conference of Ministers contained in Part III of this report and to the other recommendations made in the course of the discussions and reflected herein.

#### Adoption of the Report

171. The draft report was adopted after the relevant amendments had been noted.



## PART III

## DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

## 1. UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (IDEP)

The Conference of Ministers,

Convinced that IDEP is playing and should continue to play a useful role in contributing to planned development in Africa,

Taking note of the satisfactory results obtained by the Institute in providing training to African planners and carrying out research in relevant development issues,

Urges member States to implement the financial plan submitted by the Governing Council of IDEP;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue its support to IDEP and to increase its financial contribution, at least to the normal level of \$US 1.2 million;

3. Invites the Institute to expand its activities, combining in a balanced manner its three functions of research, training and advisory services;

4. Recommends that general training courses on planning be made a permanent element of the IDEP programme since this type of training is indispensable in the present conditions of African countries.

## 2. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 218(X), adopted in Tunis in February 1971, and 238(XI), adopted in Accra in February 1973, and General Assembly resolution 3178(XXVIII) adopted on 17 December 1973 which requests all concerned to make all necessary efforts to ensure that the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy is prepared and carried out in a co-ordinated and comprehensive manner;

Noting that the review and appraisal exercise cannot be meaningfully undertaken unless national reviews and reports are available and that the review and appraisal exercise at the national level is the crucial and fundamental element of the whole endeavour,

Aware of the many problems encountered by African States in collecting information,

Noting with concern that the response of African member States has so far been quite inadequate, thus creating considerable difficulties for international organizations, including ECA, in carrying out the exercise,



1. Calls upon all African countries

- (i) To strengthen their national machinery for review and appraisal of development efforts;
- (ii) To prepare on a regular and timely basis reviews of the development and performance of their economies within the framework of their development plans;
- (iii) To forward those reports and reviews and any other relevant information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Executive Secretary of ECA to assist them in their tasks relating to the mid-term review and appraisal and in particular to enable ECA to play its appropriate role in this exercise;

2. Requests ECA to prepare and distribute standard formats for the submission of progress reports by member States.

3. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS ESTIMATES AND OTHER STATISTICAL PROBLEMS

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the importance of statistical data for planning purpose,

Noting current deficiencies both in the quantity and the quality of national accounts estimates and general economic information requirements,

1. Urges member States

- (i) To incorporate plans for statistical development in their overall development plans, providing for the collection of current and basic data, the training of personnel, the funding of operational costs for field operations and adequate remuneration and promotion opportunities for statistical personnel in order to stem the abnormally high rate of turnover in statistical offices;
- (ii) To support the establishment of a United Nations fund for statistical development in developing countries;

2. Calls on member States to expedite the implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) by directing statistical offices to present national accounts according to the revised SNA;

3. Invites member States to mount multi-subject household surveys, which would pave the way for the preparation of national accounts in accordance with the revised SNA, possibly by establishing a permanent field survey organization;

4. Calls for closer collaboration between planning and statistical offices.



4. UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the purpose of development is to promote the well-being of all people,

Also recognizing that previous development planning has tended to lay more emphasis on quantitative economic growth,

1. Recommends that African Governments should lay more stress on evolving development strategies which would lead to the attainment of full employment, the equitable distribution of income, mass participation in the development process and elimination of mass poverty;

2. Supports the efforts of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) to evolve a "unified approach to development analysis and planning", which would enable planners to integrate social, economic and other factors in development planning;

3. Expresses the hope that research carried out at UNRISD will rapidly produce planning tools that will enable planners to prepare plans in which all factors of development are given their appropriate weights;

4. Requests the secretariat of ECA to co-operate with UNRISD in the implementation of its efforts in this respect with a view to developing operational methodology applicable to African conditions and indicators which will provide better measurements of development.

5. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS (a)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the recommendation of the fourth session of the Conference of African Planners in 1972 and accepted by the Conference of Ministers in Accra in February 1973 urging African Governments to ensure participation, at the highest level, in the sessions of the Conference of African Planners,

Noting that some improvement has occurred in this matter,

Recommends that African countries give increased support for more effective participation in the meetings of the Conference of African Planners, which is an important forum for discussion of African development problems and planning matters.



PART IV

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF ECA IN ECONOMIC RESEARCH

AND PLANNING FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN PERIOD 1976-1979

9.240 DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES

A. BROAD ISSUES AND TECHNIQUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT

9.241 Development trends, requirements and possibilities

Origin:

Commission terms of reference, first session report, third session report, fifth session report and tenth session report; ECA resolutions 80(V) and 238(XI); report of the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts.

Project aim:

To present an analysis and a review of economic trends and development and an annual appraisal of progress during the Second Development Decade, in the context of implementing both the international and the regional development strategies.

Priority A

Work content:

9.241.01 (a) Assistance to countries and territories (1976-1979):

Undertaking advisory missions to member States, on request, in the field of economic surveys; maintaining liaison with universities, economic and social research institutes and national organizations responsible for national economic surveys; and assisting in the training of personnel and organization of a regular programme for the conduct of economic surveys.

(b) Studies:

9.241.03 Annual survey of the socio-economic conditions of Africa  
Part I - in the year of review and appraisal (1977-1979);  
this study will be replaced by 9.241.05.

9.241.04 Study on methods of quantifying social factors and the assessment of their role in the development of national economies (1976);

9.241.05 Review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of development during the 1970s (1976-1979).



- 9.241.06 Annual study of a specific development problem using the countries of the region as a basis of comparison (1976-1979)  
(c) Collection and dissemination of information
- 9.241.20 Survey of Economic Conditions, Part I (Publication of) (see Project 9.241.03).
- 9.241.21 Publication of the report on review and appraisal (to replace 9.241.20 in the year of review and appraisal - 1977;1979).
- 9.241.22 Survey Part II (Publication of study 9.241.06)

Related programmes:

Close collaboration with CDPFP and all ECA Divisions and sections. Economic Bulletin for Africa (bi-annual)

9.242 Planning and programming

Origin:

Legislative Authority: Economic Commission for Africa 2nd Session Report paragraph 85; 8th Session Report paragraph 39; 10th Session Report paragraphs 331-341; ECA Resolutions 218(X) and 238(XI); ECOSOC Resolution 924(XXXIV); General Assembly Resolutions 2626(XXV) and 3716(XXVIII).

Project aim:

To assist Governments in improving their planning machinery and techniques, and thereby enhancing the over-all performance of their economies.

Priority A

Work content:

- 9.242.01 (a) Assistance to countries and territories (1976-1979):  
Providing advisory services to member countries, on request, in the field of development planning and projections; and maintaining liaison with central planning organs, universities and other planning institutions and organizations.
- (b) Studies:
- 9.242.03 Preparation of projections for African countries for the period 1981-1990 (1978-1979);
- 9.242.05 Analysis of African Development Plans (1976-1979).
- 9.242.06 Sectoral planning in African development programmes (1976-1979);



- 9.242.07 Study into the theoretical viability and applicability of the idea of "Pôles de développement" as instrument for the integration of national economies (1976);
- 9.242.08 Development of overall planning techniques and models suitable for African conditions in the light of country practices (1978-1979).
- 9.242.10 Study into the methodology of data collection, storage and retrieval for comprehensive regional planning (1978-1979).
- (c) Collection and dissemination of information:
- 9.242.20 Economic Bulletin for Africa (1976-1979);
- 9.242.21 Planning Newsletter (1976-1979).
- (d) Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups (1976-1979):
- 9.242.26 Conference of African Planners (1976 and 1978);
- 9.242.27 Training workshops in the techniques of planning (1977-1979).

Related programmes:

Close collaboration with specialized agencies, CDP, IDEP, Planners Conference, all ECA Divisions and Sections, Development trends requirements and possibilities, Planning Newsletter and Economic Bulletin for Africa.

- 9.243 Development prospects and the special problems of the least developed African countries and the measures to promote their development

Origin:

General Assembly Resolutions 2564(XXIV), 2626(XXV) and 2803(XXVI), UNCTAD Resolution 24(II); Commission Report of the tenth session; Commission Resolutions 210(IX), 218(X), 222(X), 232(X) and 238(XI).

Project aim:

To study and evaluate possible ways and means of assisting the least developed countries in Africa in overcoming the hindrance to their development and thereby in accelerating their rate of growth.



Priority A

Work content:

9.243.01 (a) Assistance to countries and territories (1976-1979):  
Conducting missions designed to identify the special problems of least developed African countries and provide advisory services; formulating proposals and recommendations on measures for overcoming specific impediments to their socio-economic development.

(b) Studies:

9.243.02 Studies of the socio-economic characteristics of the least developed African countries, their specific needs and the recommendation of measures for the improvement of their development opportunities (1976-1979).

Related programmes:

Close collaboration with UNCTAD, CDPPT, OAU, multinational African groupings, specialized agencies and all ECA Divisions.



ANNEX I: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE\*

1. It shall be the function of the Conference of African Planners (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference"):

(a) To advise the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning on annual programmes of work and research in economic and social planning, including projections;

(b) To act as a centre for the exchange of information on methods and techniques of development planning;

(c) To promote the co-ordination of national development plans;

(d) To establish working relationships with services, institutions and universities (working in the field and specifically concerned with development planning) and in particular, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; and

(e) To perform such functions as are conferred upon it by the Statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

2. (a) The Conference shall consist of members and associate members of the Economic Commission for Africa; and

(b) Members of the Conference shall be represented by delegates who may include the head of the national planning office, persons involved in overall development planning and those training development planners <sup>1/</sup> at national universities or institutions.

3. The Conference shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its chairman and other officers.

4. The Conference shall submit once every two years to the Technical Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa for its comments and recommendations and transmission to the Conference of Ministers of the said Commission, a full report on its activities and plans, including those of its subsidiary bodies. The Conference may be required by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit for those years in which the Conference does not hold a session, a report of its activities and plans, including those of its subsidiary bodies, to the Technical Committee of Experts of the said Commission.

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\* These terms were adopted by resolution 105(VI) of the Economic Commission for Africa on 29 February 1964.

<sup>1/</sup> Subject to approval by the Conference of Ministers.



ANNEX II: RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS

I. SESSIONS

DATE AND PLACE OF SESSIONS

Rule 1

Regular sessions of the Conference shall be held every other year at a date appointed by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission").

Extraordinary sessions of the Conference may be held:

- (a) On the request of the majority of the member States of the Commission after consultation with its Executive Secretary; or
- (b) On such other occasions as the Conference of Ministers of the Commission in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Commission, deems necessary.

Rule 2

Each regular session shall be held at a place decided upon by the Conference at a previous session, due consideration being given to the principle that the Conference should meet at the headquarters of the Commission or in the different countries of Africa.

Extraordinary sessions shall be held at a place determined by the Executive Secretary of the Commission in consultation with the member States of the Commission or by the Conference of Ministers of the Commission, as the case may be.

NOTIFICATION OF DATE OF OPENING

Rule 3

The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall notify the members of the Conference of the date and place of the first meeting of each session at least forty-two days before the commencement of the session. Such notification shall also be made to all organizations of the United Nations system, to intergovernmental organizations in Africa operating in the same field as the Commission with which liaison has been established by the Commission, to the non-governmental organizations in category I and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II and on the Roster.



## II. AGENDA

### DRAWING UP AND COMMUNICATION OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and shall be communicated together with the basic documents relating to each item, at least thirty days before the start of the Conference, to the members of the Conference and to the organs, agencies and organizations referred to in rule 3.

#### Rule 5

The provisional agenda shall include items proposed by:

- (a) The Conference at a previous session;
- (b) The Conference of Ministers of the Commission;
- (c) Any member of the Conference;
- (d) The Executive Secretary of the Commission;
- (e) A subsidiary body of the Conference or any other subsidiary body of the Commission;
- (f) Any organization of the United Nations system in accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and such organization;
- (g) Non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 7.

#### Rule 6

Before the Executive Secretary of the Commission places an item proposed by an organization of the United Nations system on the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the organization concerned such preliminary consultations as may be necessary.

#### Rule 7

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Conference, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary of the Commission at least seventy days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item, shall give due consideration to any comments the Executive Secretary of the Commission may make;
- (b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation to the Executive Secretary of the Commission not less than fifty-six days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Conference if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.



## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Rule 8

The first item on the provisional agenda of any session after the election of the officers of the Conference shall be the adoption of the agenda.

## REVISION OF THE AGENDA

Rule 9

After the agenda has been adopted the Conference may amend it at any time.

## III. OFFICERS

## Election of Officers

Rule 10

The Conference shall at the commencement of the first meeting held in course of each regular session, elect from among the representatives of members of the Conference which are member States of the Commission a Chairman, and a Vice-Chairman.

## TERMS OF OFFICE

Rule 11

The officers of the Conference shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

## ACTING CHAIRMAN

Rule 12

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside. The Vice-Chairman, acting as Chairman, shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

## REPLACEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Rule 13

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Conference or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Conference or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, an interim Chairman shall be elected by the Conference from among the representatives of the members of the Conference which are member States of the Commission for the unexpired portion of the term.

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## VOTING RIGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

### Rule 14

The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman or the interim Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Conference in that capacity and not as a representative of the member States of the Conference which he represents. In such cases an alternate representative shall be entitled to represent the member of the Conference concerned in the meetings of the Conference and exercise the right to vote.

## IV. COMMITTEES OF THE CONFERENCE

### Rule 15

At each session, the Conference may set up such committees of the whole or committees of limited membership as it deems necessary and refer to them any questions of the agenda for study and report. The Conference may, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Commission, authorize such committees to meet while the Conference is not in session.

### Rule 16

The members of the committee of the Conference shall be nominated by the Chairman subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

### Rule 17

These rules of procedure shall apply to the proceedings of the committees, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

## V. SECRETARIAT

### Rule 18

The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Conference and its committees and subsidiary bodies. He may designate another member of the staff of the Commission to take his place at any meeting.

### Rule 19

The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall be responsible for keeping the members of the Conference informed of any questions which may be brought before it for consideration.

### Rule 20

At each session, the Executive Secretary of the Commission or his representative shall present a report reviewing the secretariat of the Commission's activities in the field of development planning, projections and policies covering the period between the present and previous sessions.



Rule 21

The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his representative may make oral as well as written statements to the Conference and its committees and its subsidiary bodies concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Conference, its committees and its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 23

The secretariat of the Commission shall interpret speeches made at meetings; shall receive, translate and circulate to the members of the Conference the documents of the Conference, its committees and its subsidiary bodies; shall publish and circulate the reports of the sessions, the recommendations of the Conference and the relevant documentation required.

Rule 24

No proposal which involves expenditure from United Nations Funds may be approved by the Conference or by any of its subsidiary bodies, unless previously sanctioned by the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

VI. LANGUAGES

WORKING LANGUAGES

Rule 25

The working languages of the Conference shall be those of the Commission.

INTERPRETATION FROM A WORKING LANGUAGE

Rule 26

Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

INTERPRETATION FROM OTHER LANGUAGES

Rule 27

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the working languages. In this case, he shall himself provide for the interpretation into one of the working languages. The interpretation into any of the other working languages by an interpreter of the secretariat of the Commission may be based on the interpretation given in a working language.



## LANGUAGE OF DOCUMENTS

### Rule 28

Documents shall be drawn up in the working languages.

## LANGUAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER FORMAL ACTIONS

### Rule 29

All recommendations and other formal decisions of the Conference including reports on its activities and plans and those of its subsidiary bodies shall be made available in the working languages.

## VII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

### Rule 30

The meetings of the Conference shall be held in public unless the Conference decides otherwise.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER FORMAL ACTIONS

### Rule 31

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Conference, its committees and its subsidiary bodies, shall be distributed to the members of the Conference, to the other regional economic commissions, to all other organizations of the United Nations System, to intergovernmental organizations in Africa operating in the same field as the Commission with which liaison has been established by the Commission, to the non-governmental organizations in category I and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category II and on the Roster.

## VIII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

### QUORUM

### Rule 32

A quarter of the members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

### POWERS OF THE CHAIRMAN

### Rule 33

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Conference, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Conference and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He shall rule on points of order and shall have, in particular, the power to propose adjustment or closure of the debate or adjournment or suspension of a meeting.



Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

#### POINTS OF ORDER

##### Rule 34

During the discussion of any matter a representative may at any time raise a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the Chairman shall stand unless over-ruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

A representative may not in raising a point of order speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

##### Rule 35

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative may speak in favour of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

#### TIME-LIMIT ON SPEECHES

##### Rule 36

The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question, except on procedural questions, when the Chairman shall limit each intervention to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a representative exceeds his allotted time, the Chairman shall call him to order without delay.

#### CLOSING OF LIST OF SPEAKERS

##### Rule 37

During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed. The Chairman may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Conference.

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## CLOSURE OF DEBATE

### Rule 38

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

## SUSPENSION OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

### Rule 39

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall be immediately put to the vote.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

### Rule 40

Subject to rule 32, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

1. To suspend the meeting;
2. To adjourn the meeting;
3. To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
4. For the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

## SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS OR MOTIONS

### Rule 41

Draft recommendations shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who shall circulate copies to representatives twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

### Rule 42

Upon request of any representative the text of any proposal or amendment there-to made by another representative shall be handed over to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon, and also immediately before a vote is taken on such a proposal or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any proposal or amendment be circulated to the representatives present before a vote is taken. This rule shall not apply to procedural motions such as those referred to in rule 38.



## DECISION ON COMPETENCE

### Rule 43

Subject to rule 40, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

## WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS

### Rule 44

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

## IX. VOTING

### VOTING RIGHTS

### Rule 45

Each member of the Conference shall have one vote.

### MAJORITY REQUIRED AND MEANING OF THE EXPRESSION "MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING"

### Rule 46

Except for the provisions of rule 7(b), decisions of the Conference shall be made by a majority of members present and voting.

For the purpose of these rules the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

## METHOD OF VOTING

### Rule 47

Subject to rule 50 the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands except that any member may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the State whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman.

## RECORDING OF ROLL-CALL

### Rule 48

The vote of each member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the record.

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## CONDUCT DURING VOTING

### Rule 49

After the voting has commenced, no member shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by representatives consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

## DIVISION OF PROPOSALS

### Rule 50

The Conference may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

## VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

### Rule 51

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises that proposal.

## VOTING ON PROPOSALS

### Rule 52

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted.

The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Any motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before them.



## ELECTIONS

### Rule 53

All elections of individuals shall be decided by show of hands unless, in the absence of objections, the Conference decides otherwise.

### Rule 54

If one elective place is to be filled and no candidate obtains in the first show of hands the majority required, a second show of hands shall be held confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second show of hands the votes are equally divided, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

In the case of a tie in the first show of hands among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special show of hands shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second show of hands shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

### Rule 55

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining a majority on the first show of hands shall be elected.

If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, there shall be held additional show of hands to fill the remaining places. The voting will be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous show of hands who shall number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special show of hands shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number.

If three restricted shows of hands are inconclusive, unrestricted shows of hands shall follow in which votes may be cast for any eligible person or member. If three such unrestricted shows of hands are inconclusive, the next three shows of hands (subject to exception in the case similar to that of the tie mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph of this rule) shall be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted shows of hands. The number of such candidates shall not be more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

The following three shows of hands thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on, until all the places are filled.

.../



## EQUALLY DIVIDED VOTES

### Rule 56

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

## X. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

### Rule 57

The Conference may, after consultation with any United Nations organization concerned, and with the approval of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission, set up such continually acting subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them.

### Rule 58

Subsidiary bodies shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

## XI. PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

### Rule 59

The Conference shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in its deliberations on any matter which the Conference considers is of a particular concern to that Member. Any Member thus invited shall not have the right to vote but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by a request of any member of the Conference.

### Rule 60

A committee of the Conference may invite any Member of the United Nations which is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter which the committee considers of a particular concern to that Member. Any Member so invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by a request of any member of the committee.

## XII. PARTICIPATION OF, AND CONSULTATIONS WITH, ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

### Rule 61

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the other organizations of the United Nations system and the terms of reference of the Commission, all organizations of the United Nations System shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Conference and its committees, to participate through their representatives in the deliberations with respect to items relating to matters within the scope of their activities, and to submit proposals regarding such items which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the Conference or the committees concerned.



XIII. CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
Rule 62

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 63

Written statements relevant to the work of the Conference or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to the members of the Conference except those statements which have become obsolete, e.g., those dealing with matters already disposed of and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members of the Conference, its committees or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 64

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statement:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the working languages of the Commission;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary of the Commission may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Conference;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages of the Commission for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Conference or its subsidiary bodies;

/...



(f) The Executive Secretary of the Commission, in consultation with the Chairman or the Conference itself, may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary of the Commission in the working languages of the Commission.

#### Rule 65

The Conference and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Conference or on the request of the organization.

On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary of the Commission and at the request of the Conference or one of its committees, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Conference or its subsidiary bodies.

#### Rule 66

Subject to rule 24, the Conference may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Conference. The limitations of rule 64 (d) and (e) shall not apply in this case.

### XIV. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

#### Rule 67

Any of these rules may be amended or suspended by the Conference.

#### Rule 68

These rules may not be amended until the Conference has received the report on the proposed amendments from a committee of the Conference.

#### Rule 69

A rule of procedure may be suspended by the Conference provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. The notice may be waived if no member objects.