STATEMENT MADE BY MR. MASSAQUOI
CHAIRMAN OF THE SIXTH SESSION
AT THE CLOSING MEETING

Mr. Executive Secretary,
Fellow Delegates,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the members, associate members and observers of the Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa I wish to extend to His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Government and people our sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm and hearty welcome accorded us and for the magnificent programme and arrangements also made for us in this historic African capital. The various heads of governmental delegations have expressed individually their thanks to the Emperor but we have felt it necessary to reiterate this view collectively.

I express appreciation and congratulation to the Executive Secretary for a very brilliant and far-reaching speech which sets a new tone for the work of the secretariat during the next five years and which is a new and significant departure from the past in that it gives the necessary leadership to the Commission with respect to the transformation of the structure of the economies of the African countries for the ultimate purpose of the upliftment of the standard of living of the African peoples.
The Executive Secretary, Mr. Robert Gardiner, the secretariat, the interpreters and experts who have been called upon from time to time to serve the Economic Commission for Africa have all contributed to the success of the Sixth Session. Speaking for my colleagues, the heads of delegations, we are grateful for the excellent work performed by the Executive Secretary and the secretariat in the preparation of the conference documents, the professional level of which cannot be gainsaid. The interpreters whose untiring and efficient translations of the proceedings of this conference have made it possible for us to achieve the measure of unanimity which prevailed in most of the problems with which we were confronted. Special mention however, must be made of the very brilliant and far-reaching speech of the Executive Secretary which set the tone for the work of the Commission during the second five years of the Commission's history. A tone that gave direction to the implementation of the many concrete proposals which the Commission has approved at this and previous sessions.

Before reviewing the accomplishments of this session, I wish to express to the delegates accredited to this conference my personal thanks and the thanks of my delegation and Government for the honour given us to chair the opening of this session. My dear Colleagues, if we have achieved any measure of success during this conference it was made possible only through the overwhelming support and spirit of cooperation which you have given me. This has made the work of the Sixth Session of this Commission outstanding.

Dr. Victor Ho, Commissioner for Technical Assistance of the United Nations and the Special Representative of Secretary General U Thant, exemplifies the deep and personal interest in the economic problems with which our continent is faced and on behalf of the Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa I extend to Dr. Ho, and through him to the Secretary General, the hearty appreciation of the delegates for the increasing interest manifested by the United Nations in the developmental projects of our Regional Organization.
Mention must be made of the Specialized Agencies and inter-governmental bodies and observers whose interest in and contributions to the success of the Sixth Session is noteworthy. Particular mention must be made of the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the convening of the Transport Conference in April as well as the offer of the Government of the United States to assist in the financing of the African telecommunications network. For these offers and others generously made by the Governments of the USSR, the United Kingdom and other Observer-Governments the Commission is grateful.

In reviewing the accomplishments of the Sixth Session, we can be proud of the general attitude of concerted action with which we have tackled our problems. We have shown that, though young in age, our Commission is mature in its approach to the great problems which face our developing continent. This maturity has never before been expressed in such a spirit of African unity and solidarity - a need that has been long lacking among us. We are happy to note that language barriers, artificial boundaries, differences in political and economic ideologies and differences in educational backgrounds have not prevented the cooperation and feeling of oneness which can be said to have characterized the activities of this Sixth Session.

The large number of resolutions formulating and crystallizing the work we have undertaken, spell out our unanimous support of the Geneva Conference on Trade and Development scheduled for next month - a conference to which the Economic Commission for Africa will bring a unified African approach to the many problems that will be discussed; the establishment of sub-regional offices in the western, eastern, and central sub-regions to assist the Executive Secretary and to make the implementation of the resolution of the Commission more effective; transport problems by land, sea and air that plague us will be corrected, improved, or resolved and communication difficulties eliminated. More emphasis will be given to training and education at the professional and middle-grade levels. Here we commend the work already started at
the Dakar Institute which we note will be supported by all of us as well as by grants and gifts from other sources. The improvement of agricultural methods and education will proceed at an ever-increasing rate and the food and health problems of our people will be solved. The work of UNESCO, FAO, WHO, and UNICEF in these areas must be commended. Last but not least, we must mention the achievement of the African Development Bank a dream that has now become a reality. We cannot, we must not; we shall not permit the selection of the site of the Bank nor its President cloud the hard fought gains we have made from the final realization of this milestone so necessary for our development.

We also thank Mr. Sidikou, 1st. vice-chairman and Mr. Kamitatu, 2nd. vice-chairman for the comprehensive reports of Committees No. 1 and No. 2 respectively.

Finally, we must state here in this public manner that the Executive Secretary and his Deputy, the Secretary and all other members of the secretariat are manifesting in the policies and work of the Commission an unusual amount of energy, astuteness and efficiency. We must give them the mandate to continue so noble a task for the rapid economic development of this continent we all hold so dear and for the unity and solidarity of mother Africa and all its peoples.