

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
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SOCIAL COUNCIL



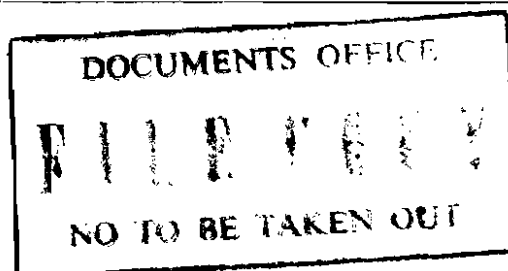
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Seventh session  
Nairobi, 9 - 23 February 1965



ESTABLISHMENT OF ECA WORKING PARTIES

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

1. The Executive Secretary proposes to set up a new type of Working Parties in place of the present Standing Committees with a view to (a) developing the activities that are now being undertaken in the sub-regions and emphasizing adequately their contribution to the solution of regional and continental problems, and (b) making the arrangement between the OAU and the ECA more effective than at present. The Working Parties will provide an appropriate machinery for maintaining and facilitating continuous contact, discussion and negotiations between the two Organizations. The Parties will, of course, operate within the framework of the proposed agreement with the OAU for which the Executive Secretary intends to seek authority from the Seventh session of the Commission.

Composition

2. Each Working Party except the one on Trade and Development is to consist of eight members, two from each sub-region, and would be serviced by a member of the ECA secretariat as well as by a staff member of the OAU, if the latter so agrees. The Working Party should have the power to co-opt, if and when desirable, representatives of donor countries, actual and potential. The advantages of this provision should be obvious to the governments. The Working Party on Trade and Development.

would consist of the representatives, one each from the twelve African countries selected at the last meeting of the UNCTAD at Geneva, to provide a continuing machinery.

3. Provision should also be made for representatives of Specialized Agencies to be associated with the Working Parties when those deal with matters that fall within the former's fields of competence. This provision should enable the Working Parties to draw upon the experience of the Agencies. For example, an ad hoc Working Party on Telecommunications Development will obviously stand to gain from the association of the ITU in its work.

4. As it is proposed to have at least six Working Parties, each sub-region will have to provide twelve representatives - the sub-regions taken together 48 representatives. In addition, countries which are members of the African Board for Trade and Development will have each to select a member for this body.

#### Membership

5. In order to promote a spirit of collective endeavour and a feeling of continuing responsibility it is proposed to make the tenure of the members of the Parties quasi-permanent, every person appointed to a Working Party continuing to be its member until the project on hand is completed.

6. It will be for the ECA at its Seventh session to select the countries which are to nominate the representatives on the different Working Parties. The representatives should be chosen from amongst top-level specialists in the areas of the Working Parties. The appointment of political nominees should be avoided at all costs; for the inclusion of such persons in a Working Party would damage its technical standing and hence its usefulness. At the same time the representatives should have high enough status, so that agreements reached by them in the Working Parties **would have a reasonable chance of being accepted and implemented by**

member States. It is hoped that it will be possible, in practice, to give the Working Parties professional independence and thereby add to their effectiveness as technical bodies.

7. Since these participants are to serve as representatives of governments and not in their individual or personal capacities, the governments should realize that in agreeing to participate in these Working Parties they also agree to bear travel and per diem costs of their representatives. (This is in accordance with the intentions of General Assembly Resolution 1798 (XVII) Rules governing payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances in respect of members of organs or subsidiary organs of the United Nations). The cost of servicing of these meetings will, of course, primarily fall upon ECA.

Terms of reference

8. A preliminary review suggests that for the time being the number of Working Parties may be restricted to seven as follows:

- (i) Ad hoc Working Party on Customs classification and Administration;
- (ii) ad hoc Working Party on Problems of Monetary Management and International Payments;
- (iii) ad hoc Working Party on Natural Resources;
- (iv) ad hoc Working Party on Transport. (This Working Party is to work out its schedule of priorities in the transport field, it being understood that co-ordination of air transport services should be disposed of within the first year, rail and road to follow.)
- (v) ad hoc Working Party on Telecommunications Development;
- (vi) ad hoc Working Party on Manpower and Training; and finally,
- (vii) the Trade and Development Board, appointed by the UNCTAD.

The need for a Working Party to cover agriculture is to be further studied.

Documentation

9. The Working Parties will have to adopt their own work schedules. ECA will prepare documentation for the meetings of the Working Parties. Reports prepared by and for the Working Parties are to be distributed to member Governments of the ECA and the OAU as well as to the various ECA offices and the office of the OAU. Member Governments will be invited to make observations in writing on these reports. In order to allow for their consideration, first, at the OAU and, then, the ECA session, the reports shall have to be circulated before 31 October of every year.

Meetings

10. The setting up of this new type of Working Party will impinge heavily on the customary schedule of ECA meetings and a complete revision of the schedule will be required. If the OAU decides to co-operate, a similar impact is to be expected on the OAU programme.

11. If the suggestions of the Executive Secretary are accepted by the Seventh session, the Commission will meet biennially instead of annually as at present. In the years in which the Commission does not meet sub-regional meetings will be convened.

12. It is expected that members of Working Parties will be included in delegations to sub-regional meetings so that they can, along with the secretariat of the ECA, explain to these meetings the activities of the Working Parties, and the work accomplished by them. The agenda of the sub-regional meetings will further include, besides sub-regional items and reports on the activities of groups within the sub-region, reports on regional and UN activities too.

13. As stated earlier, in order to be of value to the work of OAU, the timing of the Working Party meetings and those in the sub-regions should be scheduled well before 31 October each year. Such a time-table will permit OAU and its commissions to familiarize themselves with ECA work and take note of it in establishing their own programmes.

14. While the sub-regional meetings and the sessions of the Commission will be scheduled biennially, the Working Parties will be convened by the Executive Secretary as and when required in order to ensure proper planning and co-ordination with other meetings.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO AFRICAN PARTIES

Working Party on Customs Classification and Administration

15. (References are to the draft programme of work and priorities for 1965/66 Document E/CN.14/313/Rev.1.)
1. Survey of the present position of the customs classification in African countries. (77)
    - (a) Countries already operating on Brussels classification;
    - (b) Countries in the process of transposing to the Brussels classification, expected dates of initial period and final introduction;
    - (c) Countries that have already decided to change over but have not started the work of transposition
    - (d) Countries that are still undecided
  2. Technical aid required by countries in process of transposition or about to start it. Aid by : Customs Cooperation Council, Brussels. Regional Advisers. The Union Douanière Equatoriale. Nigeria and other countries which are using it have already passed successfully through the initial period. (77, 82)
  3. Methods of familiarising traders and customs officials with the working of the new tariffs. (82)
  4. Conciliating of the Brussels type of tariffs and statistical reporting on external trade under standard international tariff classification. (77)
  5. Submission to countries which are still undecided of specific reasons which prompted some countries to change over to new classification. Higher suitability of Brussels tariff nomenclature especially for (77) :
    - (a) new intra- and extra- African trade conditions;
    - (b) providing tariff incentives to infant industries;
    - (c) facilitating sub-regional and regional harmonisation of production and trade policies;
  6. Problems of customs administration concerning transit and trans-frontier traffic. (82)
-

Working Party on Problems of Monetary Management and International Payments

16. (Reference are to the draft programme of work and priorities for 1965/66 Document E/CN.14/313/Rev.1.)
1. Steps to increase monetization of African economies
  2. Development of Monetary and credit institutions in African countries. (69)
  3. Development of capital markets in Africa. (69)
  4. Mobilization of invisible Capital Funds in Africa. (69)
  5. Study of the effect of monetary and fiscal measures in African countries on the supply of and demand for money and on the inflationary situation. (73, 75, 76, 79)
  6. Impact of internal inflationary pressures on the international balances of payments of African countries. (70, 73)
  7. Measures by individual countries for exchange control to solve balance of payments problems and their effect on other African countries. (70)
  8. Inter-governmental consideration of measures; (71, 72)
    - (a) to facilitate inter-country movement of capital in Africa
    - (b) to solve or ease balance of payments problems through the creation of Payments Union Capital with or without clearing credits, agreement on control and restriction on trade etc.
  9. Impact of economic integration on inter-African country balance of payments. (72)

Working Party on Natural Resources

17. (References are to draft programme of work and priorities for 1965/66 Document E/CN.14/313/Rev.1.)

Energy - Project 19

- c) Compilation of all data on all forms of energy within the region and provision in collaboration with IAEA of information and documents on developments in the field of nuclear energy.
- d) Study of organizational and administrative problems of public corporations in the energy sector.
- e) Investigation in collaboration with UNESCO and other agencies, of existing facilities for the production of scientists and technologists in the field of energy.

Water - Projects :Project 20

Study and development of training facilities for African personnel in the field of water resources.

Work will be undertaken in collaboration with international organizations and Specialized Agencies concerned and will include ;

- (a) Surveys of needs in the various categories of personnel in the region.
- (b) Development of training programmes to meet such needs in manpower required to carry out and execute water development projects.

Project 21

- (d) Follow up closely the joint studies carried out by African countries of International Groundwater Basins and assist governments by short-term consultants.
- (e) Collaborate with ILO in the study of water legislation.
- (f) Continue with analysis of organizational and administrative problems of water resources development aiming at finding solution.
- (g) Collaborate with FAO in studies on the economics of water resources development and utilization; provide, on request by governments, advisory services.

Minerals - Projects :Project 22

Study and development of training facilities for African personnel in the field of mineral resources development.

- (a) Studies on the adequacy in quantitative and qualitative terms of the existing facilities in individual countries for training scientists and **technologists** in geology and mining engineering and their special branches on a sub-regional basis.
- (b) Training of intermediate personnel for geological and mining operations.
- (c) Arranging for fellowships and study tours for geologists and mining engineers to study the achievements of developed countries in mineral resources development.

Project 23

(a) Promotion of the immediate and long-term needs of geological surveys as an essential basis for mineral investigation in relation to industrial developments.

Cartography - Certain aspects of Projects :

Project 36

Establishment of training centres in photogrammetry and Airborne Geophysical Surveys.

Project 37

Examination of the nature and scope of the task of common centres and the means at present available in Africa with regard to the specialized services and resulting proposals.

Project 39

Organization of seminars to introduce basic modern techniques and organization and assist governments in designing their cartographic services.

Working Party on Transport

18. (References are to draft programme of work and priorities for 1965/66 Document E/CN.14/313/Rev.1.)

Standardization of international road networks - Project 24

A review is being carried out of the problems of developing different aspects of standardization of international road networks in West and East Africa with a view to recommendations for consideration at sub-regional meetings on economic coordination. Attention is being paid in particular to standardizing minimum specifications, introducing right-hand drive throughout Africa, adopting international road signs in accordance with the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic and standardizing highway codes.

Problems of Railway Development - Project 26

- (a) An inventory of technical features of existing railway systems, in particular detailed data on track, rolling stock, locomotives, and projected extensions;
- (b) A study of factors affecting the present levels of performance of railway systems.



The inventory is expected to be started in 1965. The first stage of the study of factors affecting levels of performance of railway systems, is also planned. The compilation and analysis of data already available, is expected to begin in 1965. These projects derive from the need to improve the performance of existing transport systems as well as expanding them.

#### Road Research - Project 27

A preliminary study of the adequacy of existing road research facilities and programmes in the African region and of the means and extent of the application of research findings to construction and maintenance projects.

#### Air Transport - Project 28

Investigations aimed at establishing an African civil aviation organ.

The objective is to convene a conference to establish such an organ as soon as possible. The conference will be convened and the preparation made jointly by ECAC and ICACO in consultation with the Organization of African Unity.

#### Transit problems of land-locked countries - Project 31

##### Training

Preparations to accelerate training of Africans in the field of transportation.

#### Working Party on Manpower and Training

19. (References are to draft programme of work and priorities for 1965/66 Document E/CN.14/313/Rev.1.)

Manpower Survey and Planning : Review of joint arrangements in African countries with UNESCO and ILO for surveying present and future manpower requirements, including arrangements for the setting up of focal points in African Governments (l. 2a. 85).

Training Requirements in Africa : A comprehensive survey jointly with ILO and UNESCO of training requirements by fields of activity and by categories of personnel (85).

Training Facilities in Africa : Survey of training facilities in Africa by fields of activity and by categories of personnel conducted jointly with African Governments, African universities, vocational and technical institutes, UNESCO, ILO and FAO (86).

Utilization of Training Facilities : A survey by fields of activity and by categories of personnel of Africans actually being trained in non-African countries and in selected African countries, jointly with UNESCO (87).

Stimulating Demand for Training : Assisting African Governments to take advantage of training facilities available both inside and outside Africa and to set up focal points for stimulating training programme (88).

Study of Training Methods : Evaluation of training methods on the basis of experience of ECA, the Specialized Agencies and other agencies (89).

In-service training for African economists and statisticians : Review of arrangements for in-service training at the Headquarters of the Commission and at ECE and ECARE (90).

Summer course for African students in economics and statistics : Review of yearly summer courses for African university students on economics and statistics held jointly with IDEP (91).

Financing of training activities : Review of methods of financing training activities through the UN Specialized Agencies, bilateral agencies, African Governments, African universities and other sources (92).

ECA training in specialized fields : General review of ECA programme of training courses and seminars in specialized fields and arrangements for extending the scope of existing African training institutions or creating new ones (93).

Training of teachers and trainers : Training of teachers for vocational and technical instructors in Africa.

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DOCUMENTS OFFICE

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Establishment of ECA Working Parties

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

Corrigendum

Paragraph 4. Replace last sentence by the following text:

"In addition, African countries which are members of the Board for Trade and Development will have each to select a member for this body."

Paragraph 8(vii). Existing text to be replaced by:

"Ad hoc Working Party on the Trade and Development Board, appointed by the UNCTAD."

Working Party on Agriculture

20. (References are to the draft programme of work and priorities for 1965/66. Document F/CN.14/313/rev.1.)

1. Study of the demand for food and agricultural raw materials - actual and potential (in the light of the expected growth of population and national income), by country and region. (40, 41)
2. The need for and the scope of agricultural exports, by country and region of African countries (a) to cover the requirements of foreign exchange for development and consumption. (1, 42, 2)
3. The scope for such exports in the light of world demand and the competitive strength of African countries. (42, 4, 3)
4. Study of the conditions of production and supply of agricultural products to match the categories of demand outlined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above. The study would be broken into studies of:
  - (a) The natural endowments of different agricultural regions (41, 53);
  - (b) Measures needed to rectify deficiencies in natural endowment of water, fertilizers (46, 49);
  - (c) Farm planning with a view to take further advantage of the possibilities of increased output (50);
  - (d) Technique of cultivation (48, 49);
  - (e) Organization for marketing agricultural products, including provision of credit, transport, storage etc. (42);
  - (f) Financing of agricultural production. (45, 69);
7. Agricultural specialization between countries and regions within the framework of plans for economic integration. (41, 45)

A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN AFRICA

21. At the Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva last year, I insisted on the prime need for devising a machinery whereby African countries could determine their own priorities for economic development. The Trade and Development Board is designed to help them in the field of trade. But welcome as constructive developments in trade would be, African countries have at present to give top priority to methods and devices for an expanded and sustained flow of aid as the chief instrument for accelerating economic growth.

22. As we are all aware, the foreign assistance that the African countries have been receiving has been small relative to their need for rapid economic growth on the one hand, and their extremely limited internal resources on the other. Africans have not had, as yet, a Marshall or a Colombo plan, nor an Alliance for Progress. Starting late in the race for development, they have to make up for lost time and progressively reduce the distance between the standards of living of the African people and those of peoples in advanced areas of the world. But we cannot even conceive of achieving this objective without foreign aid on a much larger scale and a more assured basis than at present. This is where lies the significance of the proposition I am putting forward for your consideration. I am suggesting the establishment of an African Council of Ministers for Economic Co-operation.

23. The Council would meet from time to time and provide a focal point for the review and co-ordination of aid policies and programmes relating to Africa. The Council might recommend the establishment of a Fund to which it is hoped donor countries would find it advantageous to make contributions. Such Fund would be administered in a way to be determined, presumably by the African Development Bank, under the guidance of the Council of Ministers who would be advised by the ECA.

24. I take it for granted that the establishment of the Council and a Fund would help in increasing the total amount of aid and securing its

better utilization, and that it would strike the imagination of African peoples and inspire them to vigorous participation in the advancement of their countries.

25. Some donor countries may be willing to take the lead in the matter and contribute more than others, but the Fund will be open for contribution by all governments that wish to help Africa.

26. In taking decisions on the use of the Fund, the Council of Ministers would, I trust, adopt the convention of consulting the ad hoc Working Parties of the ECA that I have proposed elsewhere. These Parties, being serviced by members of the staff of the ECA and the CAU and, if necessary, of Specialized Agencies and covering all aspects of economic development, would constitute a source of expertise that can relieve the Council of Ministers of the need to have its own supporting staff. The arrangement would also help to co-ordinate the use of the Fund with the programmes of assistance organized by the ECA and other bodies.

27. I am communicating to you my preliminary thinking in this matter. My ideas are tentative. I have no confirmed preference for them; other ideas would be equally welcome. But we are all agreed on the basic importance of an African Organization for securing and handling aid from outside on a substantial scale. We should therefore give the subject urgent and serious consideration.