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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA

African Regional Group of UNACAST
Tenth consultative meeting

Addis Ababa, 18-20 June 1975

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REGIONAL PROJECTS
RECOMMENDED BY THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP OF UNACAST

At its ninth consultative meeting, the African Regional Group of UNACAST considered and approved the following three projects for promotion as possible regional or subregional projects among ECA member States.

- (i) Regional centres for marine science and technology
- (ii) Information and documentation centres
- (iii) Research and development centres on solar energy

Following the meeting, the secretariat communicated the views of the African Regional Group to Governments of all ECA member States by circulating, in November 1974, the report of the ninth meeting and drawing attention to the summary of the discussion in paragraphs 20-34 of the report. The Governments were invited to make their observations as to whether the projects deserved further consideration as possible activities which might be undertaken with other countries on a co-operative basis. They were also asked to indicate which countries they wished to co-operate with in the execution of the projects proposed to them:

As of the date of this report, the secretariat had received replies from seven countries all of which indicated interest in the projects proposed to them. The secretariat hopes to receive more replies during the remainder of 1975. It is considered that it would be rather premature to attempt to draw any conclusions on the basis of the few replies so far received.

In the meantime, the secretariat will continue to promote these projects and seek to obtain responses from the various countries that have not replied. At the same time it hopes to initiate consultations at the expert level on the question of the establishment of regional centres for marine science and technology. It is in touch with the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi with a view to setting up concrete pilot projects in the field of solar energy.