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E/CN.14/RES/278(XII)/Rev.1
27 March 1975

ENGLISH

Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twelfth session

Third meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Nairobi, 24-28 February 1975

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

278(XII). Pan-African Telecommunications Network

The Conference of Ministers.

Reiterating its view that, in the design of an intraregional economic system, due attention must be paid to the important role of telecommunications as a tool for accelerating economic and social development,

Recalling OAU Council of Ministers resolution CM/Res.309(XII), adopted in May 1973 and subsequently endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its tenth meeting, which calls on the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the International Telecommunication Union and the Economic Commission for Africa to co-operate in the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network project,

Noting with satisfaction that, through the efforts of the Co-ordinating Committee of the four organizations and of the Governments participating in this regional project, funds for the major part of the project are assured from bilateral and multilateral sources; that efforts are continuing to obtain funds for the other sectors of the Network and that a number of countries involved in the project have already embarked on the implementation of their national segments of the Network,

Commending the action taken by the Co-ordinating Committee to ensure effective technical and financial co-ordination of the project and the close co-operation among the Commission, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the International Telecommunication Union to promote the harmonious development of essential telecommunications services in Africa,

Welcoming the support of bilateral and multilateral financing agencies for the Pan-African Telecommunications Network,

Recognizing that the Pan-African Telecommunications Network project, although a major project, is only an initial step towards the development of an efficient and modern telecommunications network within Africa,

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1. Strongly urges:

(a) The Co-ordinating Committee to continue its efforts to explore and mobilize all possible sources of financing for all the sectors of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network;

(b) The Governments of member States participating in the Pan-African Telecommunications Network project to co-operate with the Co-ordinating Committee so as to ensure that the technical specifications of the various national sectors are compatible and to issue tenders jointly in order to ensure such compatibility and to obtain economic prices;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take immediate steps, in co-operation with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, to arrange for a study on the feasibility of establishing a regional communications satellite system as a complement to the Pan-African Telecommunications Network;

(b) To co-operate with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity with a view to the establishment of a regional telecommunication union to co-ordinate the further planning and development of regional telecommunications networks and operations;

3. Invites the Governments of member States to accord the development of all telecommunication services high priority in their development plan.

183rd meeting.
28 February 1975.