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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING
held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa
on Monday, 10 February 1969, at 5.55 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Lissouba (Congo, Brazzaville)
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner
<u>Secretary</u>	Mr. H.L. Senghor

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M69-369

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND ADOPTION OF
COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION. (Item 2 of the Agenda) (continued)

(E/CN.14/L.349/Rev.3)

The CHAIRMAN said that almost half the time allocated for the commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the ordinary work of the ninth session had been devoted to consideration of a matter which would have a decisive bearing on the African countries' approach to such problems as that of under-development. He was proud to have been associated with such action to initiate the second Development Decade.

As previous speakers had said, Africa had derived little benefit from the first Development Decade. As it neared its end, it was necessary not only to review the work which had been done in the continent, but also to take stock of the reasons which had prevented the achievement of greater success and unity and to resolve to work together to make the next decade a decisive one for African development.

That would necessitate a fundamental re-organization of the continent's essential tool -- ECA -- and the harmonization of its economic and political organizations.

The four draft resolutions before the Commission (E/CN.14/L.349/Rev.3), though bearing the names of certain countries as sponsors, were in fact submitted by the whole of independent Africa as an expression of its victory over itself.

Mr. MAVOUNGOU (Congo, Brazzaville) introduced draft resolution I.

Mr. MBOYA (Kenya) introduced draft resolution II.

Mr. BENGLIA (Senegal) introduced draft resolution III.

Mr. OBU SANU (Nigeria) introduced draft resolution IV.

Mr. MBOYA (Kenya) drew attention to a typographical error in the English text of draft resolution IV. The words "Calls upon" should be inserted before sub-paragraph (a) in paragraph 8.

Mr. OMABOE (Ghana) said that the draft commemorative resolutions, which it was his privilege to second on behalf of all delegations, were of historic importance, marking as they did the beginning of a new era in the Commission's existence. They set out the major policies for the coming decade and subsequent years, and contained four main proposals which merited the Commission's full support. First, it should be recognized that Africa's development rested, in the final analysis, with Africans - which meant action and hard work, since development would not be achieved through words alone. Secondly, the United Nations system should be so organized as to enable it to make a significant impact on African development during the second Development Decade. Thirdly, a link should be established between the economic organ and the political organ concerned with the region's development. Fourthly, the Commission should be reorganized with a view to making it a more effective instrument of collective action. At present, member States were somewhat remote from the Secretariat and its work, governments were not sufficiently committed to the Commission's collective decisions and there was a lack of action; operative paragraphs of draft resolution E/CN.14/L.350 were designed to remedy these deficiencies.

It was high time to give practical meaning to the vast amount of information amassed on development over the past decade and, to that end, the Secretariat's structure and functions should be reformed. Also, if it was to play a significant role in the next decade, its resources should be enlarged.

If the main proposals in the draft resolutions were implemented, ECA would be strengthened and thereby enabled to play a more dynamic role in the region's economic and social advancement.

Lastly, he urged that the draft resolutions should not be allowed to meet with the same fate as other resolutions but should be followed up by specific action so that one day the Commission's members could look back with pride to their role in the development of the African continent.

Mr. MASIRE (Botswana) said that the draft commemorative resolutions, which were the outcome of eight days' unremitting work on the part of heads of delegations, distilled the very essence of all major statements made since the beginning of the meeting and, indeed, could be regarded as representing a consensus of opinion. Above all, however, they were based on the experience gained over the past decade in laying the foundations for Africa's future economic development and for the second Development Decade. For those reasons, he supported the draft resolutions without reservation.

Mr. ASSOUMOU (Cameroon) said that the draft commemorative resolutions, which his delegation would support, met the wish expressed by the President of Cameroon, in his message to the Executive Secretary on the occasion of ECA's tenth anniversary, for improved co-ordination in regard to Africa's economic development, especially in the industrial sphere, and for a closer association of African States in both the planning and execution of development activities.

He welcomed Mr. Lissouba's election as Chairman, particularly as he came from a country in the same sub-region as Cameroon - a sub-region that had in the past been, so to speak, a poor relation in ECA. He congratulated the Executive Secretary on his past achievements and expressed his country's renewed support for ECA. He also congratulated the leader of the Kenyan delegation, Mr. Mboya, on his decisive contribution in the preparation of the draft resolutions.

In conclusion, he said that, while his delegation was fully aware of the difficulties that would be encountered in the implementation of the draft resolutions, it was also confident that the spirit of determination that had been manifest during the discussions would serve to overcome them.

Mr. HITAYEZU (Rwanda) said that the French text of draft resolution I, paragraph 4, line 4, should be amended to read "des pays industrialisés".

The resolutions were a very important synthesis of the work done during plenary meetings and meetings of the heads of delegations and indicated a line of conduct to be followed by African countries and people in the years to come. He hoped the resolutions would not suffer the fate of so many previous resolutions but would be applied by all countries concerned and the international organizations connected with African Affairs. He hoped that they would receive the unanimous and unreserved support of all delegations at the current session.

Mr. MALUMBA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his feeling that the current session would be different from preceding sessions had been amply justified by the four draft resolutions before it, all of which his delegation unreservedly supported. They referred to all matters connected with Africa and, as a whole, constituted an effective way of furthering African development. It had several times been said that the African States had not adopted ECA as their own. He thought that their attitude had now changed and that they had come to the present session with a new feeling towards it and a determination to ensure the success of the next Development Decade.

Mr. BOUDJAKDI (Algeria) agreed that the Chairman's statement that the decisions made on the occasion of ECA's Tenth Anniversary, immediately before the beginning of the next Development Decade, irrevocably committed the Africans, in their fight against underdevelopment, to rely above all upon themselves as members of one large family. The draft resolutions would provide them with working methods better adapted to cope with problems which were becoming increasingly complicated and would enable them to look forward to much more favourable results in the future.

His delegation was pleased to support the draft resolutions for those reasons and also because one of them laid down the nature of the

relations between the two important organizations to which the African countries belonged - the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity - and would enable them to work in growing harmony towards positive economic and social achievements.

Mr. GONDWE (Malawi) said that he hoped the Botswana representative's remark that the resolution represented a consensus would not mean that delegations would have too many reservations concerning them and that in any case they would not concern matters of principle, because those embodied in the draft resolutions were the result of deep and careful thought.

It might be asked how the Commission could propose changes that would give ECA a structure differing from that of the other United Nations regional commissions. The answer was that the suggestions tailored the ECA to suit Africa's needs. His delegation hoped that the resolutions would not remain mere paper and that decisive action would be taken to ensure attainment of the objectives embodied in them.

Mr. PRATT (Sierra Leone) suggested that a drafting change should be made in the English text of draft resolution IV by the insertion of the word "organs" after "policy-making" in paragraph 8.

His delegation was pleased to support all four draft resolutions, which showed how ECA could make a practical contribution to the second Development Decade. The first draft resolution called upon the African countries to be self-reliant and adopt a more constructive approach to their problems. Although self-reliant, they were not selfish and recognized the inter-dependence of all countries in the world, and therefore addressed the second draft resolution to the developed countries, requesting them to note certain action they should take in a spirit of mutual dependence. The third draft resolution proposed certain changes in the structure and functions of ECA, with due emphasis on the importance of sub-regional activities. The fourth considered Africa on a broad plane and stressed the importance not only of cordial relations between the two African organizations but also of harmonious efforts to work together for

African development. The resolutions as a whole, therefore, showed that the African countries were determined, during the next decade, to grapple with their own problems in a realistic manner by means of their own efforts and whatever assistance was available from other sources.

The ECA must develop from a purely academic institution into an operational one and become, as the Secretary-General had said, the window through which the United Nations looked at Africa.

A proper understanding of the four draft resolutions showed that they operated within the terms of reference of the Commission. During the discussions there had been some advocates of changing those terms of reference but institutions were made to work, not through the written words of their constitutions but through the enthusiasm and perseverance of their members. Since the Commission's terms of reference had in no way been changed, he hoped that all delegations would be able to support the draft resolutions. That would mean that they had the support of the Governments of most member States, since more Ministers had come to the current session than ever before. He felt that the adoption of those resolutions would bring about not revolution but evolution in Africa.

Mr. BGOYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that resolutions were meaningful only if implemented. African countries should therefore undertake to give effect to the terms of the resolutions, for only in that way would they put an end to the political and economic exploitation they had long endured. Merely to realize the need for unity would not result in unity. Tanzania therefore supported the resolutions unreservedly and called on all Governments to take them as seriously as they did their national programmes.

The developed countries were urged to take a more sympathetic view of the problems of African development. It was to be hoped that that plea would be heeded, but Africans must be prepared for the worst and put themselves in the position that, if the attitude of the developed countries remained unchanged, they would be able to ensure their own development. Successful implementation of the resolutions would mean

that Africans had properly assessed their problems and refused to submit to further exploitation.

Mr. MALEKOU (Gabon), referring to draft resolution I, suggested that the word "Recognizing" in the third preambular paragraph be replaced by the words "Aware of". His delegation lent its full support to the draft resolutions.

Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that his delegation supported the four draft resolutions which were the fruit of arduous endeavours and long experience. It wished, however, to enter a reservation with respect to the first operative paragraph of resolution IV. Anxious always to avoid duplication of work and to see ECA become an effective instrument for African development, Tunisia was not opposed to close co-operation between the Commission and the Organization of African Unity. It was convinced, however, that in view of the proposed institution of a Conference of Ministers in which the opinions of all governments would be represented and of the links already existing between ECA and OAU to require the co-ordination of activities within the framework of the Commission at its ministerial level and the OAU Economic and Social Commission - whose abolition it had advocated at the Algiers Conference - would only overburden the operational machinery. He reiterated, in that connexion, the opinion his Government had expressed at the Algiers Conference, namely, that ECA should be the only body responsible for implementing the decisions on economic and social matters of the OAU Conference of Heads of State and Government.

Mr. ABBAI (Ethiopia) thanked the drafting committee and particularly its Chairman, the representative of Kenya, for the excellent work it had done.

The CHAIRMAN, observing that there were no further comments, suggested that draft resolutions I, II, III and IV should be adopted as resolutions of the ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.