

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



25240
Dist.
LIMITED

E/CN.14/CAP/4
2 September 1964

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Conference of African Planners
First Session
Dakar, 16 to 27 November 1964

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING,
INCLUDING PROJECTIONS

(Note by the ECA Secretariat)

64-3367

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. In accordance with the programme of work and the priorities adopted by the Commission at its second session, the secretariat devoted most of its time in 1960 to establishing contacts with the governments and to preparing studies of various aspects of development plans and programming. A survey on development programmes and policies in selected African countries was published in the first issue of the Economic Bulletin for Africa which described and classified the plans of about twenty countries. At this stage, apart from North Africa, planning in the continent was related to public capital expenditure only. It was apparent, however, that many governments in Africa were increasingly moving towards the acceptance of a more comprehensive conception of planning.

2. It was against this background that the secretariat organized a meeting of a Working Group on Economic and Social Development at Addis Ababa in January 1962. Its aim was to exchange planning experience gained by the African countries and to discuss problems of common concern. The deliberations of the Working Group covered three main areas: development policies and programming; the establishment of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the African Development Bank. The Institute is functioning and the Bank is now in the final stages of its establishment. The working party which met in January 1962 had emphasized the need for an expert discussion of comprehensive development planning. In October 1962, the secretariat prepared a number of studies for the experts. It was noted that various methods were being used by African countries to assure consistency of projected development in various sectors of the economy. The experts stressed that comprehensive planning requires a thorough analysis of the existing economic and social structure of the country and should not become merely a theoretical exercise. The expert group suggested that further work is necessary to test the applicability to African conditions of detailed models of comprehensive planning.

3. In pursuance of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,^{1/} the secretariat organized, in co-operation with the Bureau of Social Affairs in New York and UNESCO, a meeting of working group of experts on the integration of social development plans with overall development planning. The group met in Addis Ababa in October 1963 to discuss the inter-related problems of planning for balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development. A number of papers prepared by the secretariat and consultants were presented to the working group of experts. The subjects for discussion included, social and institutional factors in development planning; the determination of social standards and goals, and inter-relationship of social goals with economic goals and their consistency; administrative aspects of social planning; and data and research requirements for the integration of social development planning with overall development planning. The secretariat paper which was prepared for the Meeting of Experts has now been revised and is being submitted to this meeting for discussion (Social Aspects of African Development Planning: Patterns and Trends E/CN.14/239 Part B).

4. In compliance with General Assembly resolution, 1708(XVI) the secretariat is undertaking systematic analyses of African development plans as well as experimental work on long-term projection of economic trends in Africa. Such projections would facilitate the formulation of national economic plans in the broad framework of expected long-term economic trends on a world scale.

5. The Commission at its fifth session had strongly welcomed the secretariat's plan to convene a meeting of senior economic planners from all African countries and to prepare a study of co-ordination of development plans (Resolution 80(V)). The secretariat with the assistance of an outside consultant has prepared the first study entitled Co-ordination of Development Plans in Africa (E/CN.14/239 Part B). The work in the direction of co-ordinated development has already been carried a step further by the visits of the three industrial missions in 1963 and the establishment of the sub-regional offices of the ECA.

^{1/} Resolutions 1674(XVI) and 903 (XXXIV)

6. The Commission is now in the process of formulating its concepts and basic philosophy for the economic development of the African continent. A major study dealing with development problems and prospects in Africa is now under preparation. It will not only review the developments in the recent pasts but it will also attempt to indicate the lines of future economic development of the various sub-regions of the continent.
7. Co-ordinated economic development was a necessity in Africa. Industrial research and technological training, which were too expensive for many individual countries, could be developed speedily only through co-operation. The emphasis on sub-regional groupings, however, did not mean that the various sub-regions were to be self-contained units. The goal should be an African common market embracing all countries of the continent. In economic planning the secretariat intended to go beyond the stage of surveys and long-term planning. The African countries should be committed to effecting structural changes in their economies designed to increase per caput income as rapidly as possible. With that end in view the secretariat would investigate how best to achieve a co-ordinated approach to external sources of capital with a view to minimizing competition between African countries; the situation, country by country, in the light of all resources available, and the most effective instruments for harmonizing objectives, and selection of the most important areas for concerted action. A team of experts on economic planning, social services, statistics, hydrology, mining, industry, transport, cartography and housing was available in the secretariat to be sent on short-term missions at short notice.
8. The secretariat has continued to expand its advisory services to countries. Detailed comments and observations were made on the Development Plans of Ghana, Mauritania and Somalia. It was responsible for formulating in early 1964 the Draft Outline of a Five-Year Development Plan of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville). In co-operation with the FAO, it has recently completed a major mission to Zambia and finalized the report entitled Economic Development of Zambia.

ANNEX A

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1964-1965 IN THE FIELD OF
PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Development planning and programming

Group 1 Continuing projects and activities of high priority
Development problems and policies

Origin: Report on the third, fifth and sixth sessions;
Commission resolutions 44(IV), 80(V), 105(VI)
and 109(VI).

Description:

- a) Comparative analyses and evaluation of development plans of the African countries.
- b) Studies in economic and social development planning techniques including their social aspects.
- c) Concrete proposals concerning the co-ordination of development plans of various countries.
- d) Study of the present distribution of income and its relevance to rapid economic development.
- e) Elaboration of an overall strategy of economic and social development appropriate for African conditions.

Comments: Work will be continued during 1964-1965 in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations specialized agencies. At its sixth session the Commission decided (resolution 105(VI)) to establish a Conference of African Development Planners, which inter alia will act as a forum for exchange of information on methods and techniques of development planning.

(b) Projections

Group 1 Continuing projects and activities of high priority
Planning techniques and projections for Africa

Origin: Report on the third session; General Assembly resolution 1708(XVI) and ECOSOC resolution 924(XXXIV); Commission resolution 79(V).

Description: Projections for African countries or groups of countries as well as for the continent as a whole, to be undertaken, within the framework of the United Nations programme for projections, in consultation with the Centre at United Nations Headquarters and with the regional economic commissions.

Comments: Experimental work was carried out in 1963. A first set of projections will be made in 1964 based on an aggregate model of growth.

(c) Administrative requirements for the preparation, formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes

Group 1 Continuing projects and activities of high priority
Advisory services and co-operation in technical assistance activities

Origin: Report on the first session, paragraph 61.

Description: Provision of advisory services to Governments at their request in the field of preparation and review of technical problems of economic and social co-operation in the United Nations technical assistance activities, including formulation of country programmes, selection of experts and maintenance of contacts with them in this field. Increasing emphasis will be given to this project during the coming year. The advisory services will be provided by the secretariat, consultants and regional planning advisers attached to it.

ANNEX B

COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS

80(V), 105(VI), 109(VI)

80(V). Planning

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Conscious that planning is above all a political act, at least in its final purpose,

Considering that such planning, if it is to be effective, requires the fulfilment of a certain number of prerequisite conditions,

Noting with great satisfaction the secretariat's plan for a meeting of African experts on planning,

1. Requests the secretariat to include among the first items on the agenda of the meeting a complete and objective study of the following matters:

- (a) Compulsory or flexible, centralized or decentralized planning;
- (b) Design and proper inter-relationships of planning and development institutions with a view to the proper integration of the budgeting, planning and execution of development projects;
- (c) Design and establishment of consultative and advisory bodies for co-ordinated planning at sub-regional and regional levels;
- (d) Suitable areas and projects for co-ordinated and integrated planning at sub-regional and regional levels;
- (e) Elements of choice in priorities;
- (f) Integration or association of manpower;
- (g) Methods of mobilization of the masses and social re-arrangements;
- (h) Possibilities of financing programmes with the individual resources of each country;

2. Asks the secretariat to take all useful measures to ensure the success of the meeting, bringing in international experts acting in their own right and providing for a wide distribution of the conclusions resulting from the study of the above-mentioned points.

105(VI). Conference of African Planners

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Bearing in mind that all independent African States have drawn up or are in the course of preparing national development plans,

Taking note of the research work already done by the secretariat or in progress on the analysis of national development plans, including their economic and social aspects, on projections and on the co-ordination of national development plans,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing emphasis being given to training and advisory services in development planning,

Considering resolution 93(VI) of 27 February 1964 establishing the statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning at Dakar,

Believing that the time has come to establish regular contacts between African development planners, with a view to exchanging information on methods and techniques and to promoting the co-ordination of development plans,

1. Decides to establish a Conference of African Development Planners with the following terms of reference:

- (a) To advise the Executive Secretary and the African Institute of Economic Development and Planning on the annual programme of work and research in economic and social development planning, including projections;
- (b) To act as a centre for the exchange of information on methods and techniques of development planning;
- (c) To promote the co-ordination of national development plans;

2. Requests the Conference to establish working relationships with services, institutions and universities working in the field and in

particular the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;

3. Requests the Conference further to proceed to the election of the Board of Directors of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in accordance with the statutes of this Institute; the delegates at the Conference being specially authorized to do so by their Governments;

4. Recommends that Governments should be invited by the Executive Secretary to include in their delegations to the Conference of African Development Planners, representatives of institutes or university faculties working in this sector.

112th meeting,
29 February 1964.

109 (VI). Social Policy and Development

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering the need for a balanced and integrated social and economic development and the urgency for African countries to direct their efforts and policies so as to accelerate the achievement of their social and economic development,

Conscious of the responsibility for eliminating poverty, diseases and ignorance in Africa as part of the world campaign against the long-standing ills of mankind launched under the United Nations Development Decade, and of the tremendous task of bridging the present gulf in the levels of social advancement between African countries and the developed nations of the world,

Recalling resolutions 44(IV) of 27 February 1962 and 80(V) of 1 March 1963 urging the Executive Secretary to undertake a comparative study of the social aspects of African development plans and the methods of integrating social and economic programmes as part of comprehensive development planning,

Noting General Assembly resolution 1674(XVI) and resolution 903(XXXIV) B of the Economic and Social Council urging the United Nations organs and the regional commissions to intensify their work of planning for balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development, taking into account the interactions of economic growth and social development, and of various economic and social systems,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Expert Group on the Integration of Social Development Plans with Overall Development Planning (E/CN.14/240) in urging the Executive Secretary to intensify work on the methods and techniques of social development planning, including the definition of social goals and standards, the criteria for allocating resources to social programmes and their financing;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to expand technical assistance and advisory services to member Governments with regard to the methods and techniques of social development planning, the integration of social

programmes with economic programmes, the criteria for the allocation of resources for social development, and the definition of social development objectives and policies in relation to the need for accelerated economic development;

3. Urges the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations specialized agencies in undertaking studies of the various aspects of social planning as a basis for technical and advisory services to member Governments.

113th meeting,
2 March 1964.