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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fourteenth meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the  
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
26-30 April 1993

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-eighth session of the Commission/  
nineteenth meeting of the Conference of  
Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
3-6 May 1993

**ISSUES FROM THE SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND SECTORAL BODIES  
OF THE COMMISSION CALLING FOR ACTION  
BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

This document contains resolutions brought to the attention of the Commission or calling for action on the part of the Commission, which have been adopted by its subsidiary organs since its last session, and which are not otherwise the subject of separate items on the agenda of the present meeting. Reports of these meetings are available for information as Conference room papers and their reference numbers appear as footnotes in this document.

## I. ISSUES BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION

1. The following are resolutions adopted by subsidiary organs of the Commission which are brought to the attention of the Conference of Ministers for endorsement:

A. Fourteenth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19-21 April 1993

2. The Conference adopted the following resolution and provisional agenda:

Women in development, the African Regional Preparatory Meeting (1994) for the World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995) 1/

The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC),

Having considered and adopted the report of its fourteenth meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19-21 April 1993, submits the following omnibus resolution covering:

A. Fifth African Regional Conference preparatory to the fourth World Conference on Women (1995)

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/ endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985,

Recalling also resolutions 35/4 of 8 March 1991 and 36/8 of 20 March 1992 adopted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on preparations for the fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace,

Reiterating the need for a united, African common position at the World Conference,

Aware that many African countries have not yet seriously initiated national consultations for the preparation of national status reports regarding the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Calls upon African Governments which have not yet done so, to establish national coordinating committees and/or to designate national focal points without delay in accordance with the Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8 of 20 March 1992;

2. Urges member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to initiate preparations for their national reports as soon as possible and to ensure their submission to the Commission by the end of March 1994 and to the secretariat of the World Conference in time to serve as contributions to the regional and global review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

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1/ E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XIV/93/11, Report of the fourteenth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

2/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations

3. Calls upon the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, as well as the Bureau of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee to collaborate closely in the preparations of the fifth Regional Conference for the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in 1994 in order to help define Africa's Plan of Action for consideration at the global Platform for Action to be staged at the World Conference in Beijing, China in 1995;

4. Calls further upon the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure close liaison with the African Women Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), which is charged with responsibility for coordinating the African non-governmental organizations and convening the African NGO Forum in Dakar (1994) and Beijing (1995), in order to ensure the full participation of those strategic non-governmental organizations which reflect the priority themes for the Regional Conference;

5. Urges member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute appropriate information and communication campaigns at the national level which would harmonize with subregional and regional strategies for sensitization and awareness-creation among the various interested constituents in the region;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Senegal for its offer to host the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference in Dakar, Senegal in November 1994.

#### B. Women and economic empowerment

Aware that progress in the integration of women in development at the national, subregional and regional levels has been slow and seriously constrained by financial and other productive resources,

Bearing in mind Commission resolution 736 (XXVII) on women and access to resources in the 1990s which also urged member States to step up their activities to promote trade among countries for products produced by women, and also for the creation of the necessary policy environment at the national level for the operation of small and medium enterprises initiated by women,

Anxious that appropriate human capacity-building measures should be promoted for women to enhance their capabilities,

1. Appeals to member States, intergovernmental organizations and the international community to support subregional and regional women's programmes by according special consideration for assistance to those projects concerning women which could further promote women's full integration in development. The forthcoming pledging Conference of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) offers an ideal opportunity for such support to subregional and regional activities;

2. Calls upon African Governments and their partners-in-development to give their fullest support to efforts to create the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs (FAWE) and an African Bank for Women as centrally controlled institutions which could facilitate and enhance the economic empowerment of African women;

#### C. Women and peace

Bearing in mind Commission resolution 737 (XXVII) on the role of women in conflict resolution, adopted by the Conference on 22 April 1992,

Aware that the role of women in the peace process is one of the priority themes on the agenda for

Noting also the concerns of the United Nations Secretary-General regarding an agenda for peace as expressed in his statement to the United Nations Security Council <sup>3/</sup> and anxious that women as a group should actively participate in the new Agenda for Peace,

1. Urges again the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to implement within the limits of the resources, resolution 737 (XXVII) which requested them to assist the Uganda Government in the organization of the Conference on Women, Peace and Development due to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 22 to 27 August 1993;

2. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to submit to the Regional Conference in 1994 the highlights and recommendations of the Kampala conference as a case study along with other pertinent national cases which highlight the role of women in the peace process.

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
FOR THE FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN,  
DAKAR, SENEGAL, NOVEMBER 1994**

1. Report of the outgoing Chairperson of the fourth Regional Conference on the integration of women in development.
2. The African Woman Today: an overview assessment of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.
3. Priority areas for the twenty-first century
  - (a) Women in the peace process;
  - (b) Equality, education and social issues;
  - (c) Women empowerment;
  - (d) Women, environment and sustainable development.
4. African Platform of Action.
5. Consideration and adoption of the report.

**THEMATIC OUTLINE FOR THE AGENDA OF  
THE FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN,  
DAKAR, SENEGAL, NOVEMBER 1994**

1. WOMEN IN THE PEACE PROCESS
  - 1.1 Wars, political conflicts and civil strife in Africa
  - 1.2 Women, a bridge to peace
  - 1.3 Refugee, returnee and displaced women

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<sup>3/</sup> BOUTROS-GHALI, B., An Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping (Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992), United Nations; New York, 1992, 53 p.

## 2. EQUALITY, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES

- 2.1 Women's rights
  - 2.1.1 Legal literacy
  - 2.1.2 Violence against women
  - 2.1.3 Dissemination of information for and about women
- 2.2 Gender and culture
  - 2.2.1 Socialization processes and gender relations: the girl child
  - 2.2.2 Cultural and traditional attitudes and practices
  - 2.2.3 Education: issues beyond equal access
- 2.3 Impact of endemic diseases and other health-related issues on women

## 3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- 3.1 Women and economic policies in Africa
  - 3.1.1 External debt crisis
  - 3.1.2 Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)
  - 3.1.3 Regional integration
- 3.2 Women in the economic spheres in urban and rural areas
  - 2.2.1 Access to employment
  - 2.2.2 Improving women's management and production capacities in the informal sector
  - 2.2.3 Entrepreneurship development
  - 2.2.4 Access to training, skills, technologies, factors and means of production and markets
- 3.3 Political empowerment of women
  - 3.3.1 Women and the democratization process
  - 3.3.2 Women in governance, politics and decision-making
  - 3.3.3 National machineries and emerging women's organizations and institutions

## 4. WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 Women's access to and management of natural resources
  - 4.1.1 Drinking water and sanitation
  - 4.1.2 Land tenure and food security
  - 4.1.3 Sustainable shelter
  - 4.1.4 Energy and forestry
  - 4.1.5 Women and disaster management
- 4.2 Environment policy analysis, support and training.

B. Sixth meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21-22 April 1993

3. The Conference adopted the following resolution:

Strengthening development information systems  
for regional cooperation and integration in Africa 4/

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned by the ever-widening North-South gap in the flow of vital information as well as in acquisition and utilization of information technology,

Conscious of the importance of information in fostering African regional co-operation and integration, in particular through strengthening of existing regional groupings and the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the need to establish data networks and data bases as specified in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community as well as the emphasis on information technology delineated in the Lomé IV Convention,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/51,

Recalling also its resolutions 716 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991, 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 and 732 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992,

Appreciative of the continuing support given by the International Development Research Centre to the Pan-African Development Information System's (PADIS) activities to strengthen the information capabilities of member States;

Appreciative also of the support given by eleven member States for the submission of the project "Information Technology for Africa" for further consideration by the European Commission in the framework of the Lomé IV Convention,

Noting with satisfaction the performance of the Economic Commission for Africa's development information system, PADIS, in the delivery of technical assistance to member States;

Noting with further satisfaction the proposals of the Executive Secretary to incorporate the activities of PADIS into the programme budget of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the Commission's subregional development information centres as information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Noting with concern the decreasing availability of extrabudgetary resources for implementation and utilization of development information systems and technology,

Further noting with concern the precarious financial situation of PADIS and the need to end its reliance on extrabudgetary sources of funding,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide adequate resources for mandated programmes in Africa, with special attention to those in science and technology for development, in the preparation of his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1994-1995,

1. Requests PADIS to build elements of cost recovery into its delivery of information services and products;
2. Urges member States, in order to receive further needed technical assistance in information systems development:
  - (a) To give priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme Country Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs);
  - (b) To consider development information activities in their 1993 pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;
  - (c) To use, where appropriate, the financial provision under the Lomé IV Convention for this purpose;
3. Urgently appeals to the donor community to support the Commission's activities to strengthen development information capabilities in the African region;
4. Requests the Commission to continue its leadership role in the coordination of development information and technology to respond to Africa's pressing development problems;
5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to seek additional resources for the Commission's subregional development information centres in the framework of the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development;
6. Requests the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, to ensure the provision of four professional and two local level posts as well as resources to permit the delivery of activities to the Commission's subprogramme on information systems development beginning with its 1994-1995 programme budget.