

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



23121
PROVISIONAL
E/CN.14/SR.149(12)
12 February 1969

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Ninth session
Addis Ababa, 3-14 February 1969

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING
held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa
on Tuesday, 11 February 1969, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. El Nabi (Sudan)
Executive Secretary: Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner
Secretary: Mr. H.L. Senghor

CONTENTS:

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 2. Report of the Committee on Staff Recruitment and Training

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M69-373

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AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (Agenda item 9)
(document E/CN.14/452)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, introducing the item, said that the main points dealt with in the report of the eighth meeting of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) (E/CN.14/452), which was before the Commission, were payment of contributions and enrolment. The problem in the latter connexion arose from the uneven spread in the number of trainees from the different countries, which fact was sometimes interpreted as a decline in support for the Institute. The report also made reference to the cost per trainee, post-training engagement of trainees and the need to improve the atmosphere at IDEP.

After considering the comments of IDEP's Acting Director on the UNDP mission report on IDEP (attached to document E/CN.14/452), the Governing Council had decided to request the Commission's authorization to submit an application to UNDP in respect of the second phase of the IDEP programme. It had also decided to request the Commission to reaffirm its support for IDEP and to approve the request to be prepared by the Governing Council.

Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) suggested that the Commission should concentrate its attention on sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 18 of the report which called for specific action.

Mr. FALL (Senegal) expressed his wholehearted support for the report of the Governing Council of IDEP.

The Senegalese Government had notified the Governing Council and the Executive Secretary of its intention to increase the number of students it sent to the Institute - and he urged all ECA's member States of the need to do likewise - as well as the facilities it had placed at IDEP's disposal.

Referring to the mode of instruction at the Institute, mentioned in paragraph 19 of the UNDP mission report, he said that some of the difficulties in that regard seemed to arise from the fact that most students were not conversant with both French and English - the languages used at IDEP. No matter how high the quality of interpretation, there must inevitably be some elements that escaped the student if he did not hear lectures in his own language and, for that reason, the Senegalese Government trusted that, in future, preference would be accorded to bilingual candidates. It further considered that the Commission should invite UNESCO to develop the study of languages in Africa.

In conclusion, he said that he was preparing a draft resolution for the Commission's consideration, which he would be glad to discuss with any delegation that might wish to be associated in it.

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria) said that the UNDP mission report merited the Commission's special attention, since it sought to answer such important questions as why African countries were not sending trainees to IDEP, and what were the difficulties it was facing. One basic difficulty was language and, there, he agreed with the Senegalese representative that students attending the Institute should, if possible, be bilingual.

Another problem was the content of the course which, some thought, was too long. Also, it had been suggested that professors from other African universities should be encouraged to come to Dakar and hold seminars with the students at IDEP. The Institute would have to adjust itself to the needs of Africans if their interest in it were to continue, particularly since other institutions, such as IBRD, offered similar courses in development planning. To that end, therefore, the Commission should reaffirm the findings of the report before it and take note of the comments of IDEP's Acting Director on the UNDP mission report.

There was also the question of IDEP's location, the report before the Commission suggesting that the Institute might benefit by being attached to ECA in Addis Ababa, just as similar institutes were attached

to ECAFE and ECLA. The Nigerian delegation did not, however, intend to pursue that point in view of the Senegalese Government's pledge to increase facilities for IDEP.

In conclusion, he suggested that the Commission accept the recommendations in paragraph 18 of the Governing Council's report.

Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) expressed appreciation to UNDP for its support of IDEP. His delegation was gratified to note that the Institute's Governing Council has accepted the recommendations in the UNDP mission report, which also reflected Tunisia's position in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN, noting that there were no further speakers, said that discussion on the item would be deferred pending submission of a draft resolution.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STAFF RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING (Agenda item 15)
(document E/CN.14/CSRT/WP.9)

The DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, introducing the item, drew attention to the report submitted by the Advisory Committee on Staff Recruitment and Training (E/CN.14/CSRT/WP.9).

Part I of the report contained an account of the Advisory Committee's discussions at the two meetings it had held - in May 1967 and January 1969 - since its establishment at the Commission's eighth session. A summary of the conclusions and recommendations arising out of those meetings was to be found in Part II of the report, from which it would be noted that the Advisory Committee had felt that the two main objectives in respect of staff recruitment were Africanization of the secretariat and equitable distribution of staff on the basis of language. With regard to the first of those objectives, the Advisory Committee had considered it essential that member States place qualified and experienced personnel at the secretariat's disposal (E/CN.14/CSRT/WP.9, page 11, sub-paragraph (v)) and had recommended that African Governments be urged to establish a clearance system for United Nations circulars of vacancies (page 12, sub-paragraph (vi)). It had also considered that

a long-term programme was needed for recruiting young graduates (sub-paragraph (vii)) and that it would be difficult to reconcile the United Nations principle of universality with an objective of staffing regional commissions exclusively with nationals of countries in the region. After reaffirming the principle of Africanization and of equitable distribution on the basis of language, the report proposed that a small advisory committee be set up to assist the Personnel Section, and that the Committee's mandate be extended.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) said that there were a number of anomalies in the secretariat which caused his delegation some concern. In the first place, not one of the Directors of ECA's seven divisions was a French-speaking black African; and, of its 22 sections, not one was headed by a French-speaking African. The Executive Secretary's efforts in that direction, since the Commission's eighth session, had not met with much success, at least with regard to the P.4 to D.1 categories of staff. As for the need for experienced staff, the United Nations Personnel Section should adopt a more flexible attitude when it came to the French-speaking countries, remembering that they had not long gained independence.

Secondly, there was the question of diplomas, the secretariat having based itself originally on the requirements of the Anglo-Saxon system of education. The position had, however, now changed and the secretariat should ensure that its French-speaking members were not placed at any disadvantage in that respect.

Thirdly, he noted that 14 French-speaking Africans, 15 English-speaking Africans and 12 non-Africans had been appointed to the secretariat since the Commission's eighth session. Surely, some at least of those 12 posts could have been given to Africans - either French or English-speaking. He recognized the United Nations principle of universality but believed that it should be applied at headquarters, rather than in the economic commissions.

He trusted that the Executive Secretary would take note of those points, to which he had already had occasion to refer at the Committee's meetings so that, by the time of the Commission's tenth session, Africanization of the secretariat would have been achieved.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the report before the Commission contained certain other recommendations that called for comment or action, for example, that the Committee itself should be maintained. Then, there was the recommendation that an advisory committee be set up to assist the Personnel Section. While he would take note of that expression of opinion, he did not think there was any need for such an advisory committee since the practice existed of consultation between ECA's Personnel Section and Directors of Division. Moreover, in his view, it was not within the Commission's competence to issue administrative directives.

As for the recommendation to finance the Committee, since the United Nations did not meet the expenses of the members of its committees, he did not think that ECA could deviate unilaterally from the accepted practice.

On the recommendation that special recruitment missions should, if possible, include one of the Committee's members, he said that he did not know whether that would be acceptable in New York since the Charter specifically stated that such matters fell within the Secretary-General's exclusive competence.

Turning next to the question of Africanization of the secretariat, he said that he had always endeavoured to find people to recommend to New York, ECA not being the appointing body. However, in certain countries, candidates had been particularly difficult to find, for reasons admitted by the countries themselves and their Presidents. Several competent Africans had approached him but their governments had refused to release them. The target of 75 per cent for Africanization of the secretariat had not yet been attained - and it had in fact been suggested that that target was unnecessary.

The Committee had also recommended a long-term programme for the recruitment of young graduates but the secretariat had already embarked on such a programme. Similarly, headquarters already supplied information about post vacancies to all delegations.

The problem of language balance could not be resolved by selecting people from countries that were already over-represented on the secretariat and, only when all countries had filled their quota, would it be possible to determine whether that balance had been reached in terms of numbers. In terms of quality, the Commission would certainly expect the secretariat to place competence first and nobody who fitted that criterion had been turned down.

Lastly, on the question of the number of senior posts filled by Africans, he said that the secretariat had endeavoured to recruit several people with world-wide reputations who had unfortunately not been, and still were not, available for ECA. He would not hesitate to place qualified and experienced people where they could serve the Commission usefully but, if such people were not available, there was very little the Secretary-General, within whose exclusive competence recruitment lay, could do.

Mr. NEAL (Liberia) said that his delegation regarded ECA as a technical body. As such, it could not adequately serve member States if political considerations were injected into its operations. While Africanization of the secretariat was obviously desirable, the limitations in that connexion had to be recognized, in which connexion he referred to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report before the Commission.

He agreed with the Executive Secretary that the Commission could not operate outside its terms of reference and also with his remarks regarding the recommendations to finance the Committee and to establish an advisory committee. While he also agreed with the broad considerations of Africanization and language balance as outlined in the Committee's report, he believed that the efficiency and long-term aims of ECA - a professional organization - it should be remembered - should not be sacrificed for those considerations.

Mr. MALUMBA (Democratic Republic of Congo) said that, after hearing all the previous statements, he appreciated the Executive Secretary's difficulties in reconciling the technical criteria with the more emotional aspects of the matter. For that reason, without touching on any of the fundamental issues, he would propose that the Advisory Committee's mandate be extended so that the Executive Secretary could have the benefit of its assistance in his efforts. A draft resolution had been prepared in that connexion, which he was ready to read out to the Commission.

Mr. OLU SANU (Nigeria) expressed his country's agreement with the fundamental aim of the Committee that the secretariat of ECA should be Africanized to a great extent. The table contained in Annex IV of the document showed that a rather large number of non-Africans held policy-making posts, whereas the overall direction of the economic policy of the Commission should be mainly in the hands of Africans. On the other hand, as ECA was part of the United Nations, it had to accept the principle of universality and the quota system in allocating posts at the various grades and an increase in the number of senior posts held by Africans in ECA would mean a corresponding reduction in those they held in New York and Geneva. It should not be forgotten that the problem of the equitable distribution of posts concerned not only Africa but all States Members of the United Nations. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had also rightly pointed out that Africanization should not be done at the expense of efficiency. It was understandably difficult for newly independent countries to release the specialized technical staff they themselves so badly needed. The list of the countries which had been approached to release staff and had felt themselves unable to do so had not been included in the Report due to the objections of certain members of the Committee but was available for consultation.

As articles 100 and 101 of the Charter said that recruitment was the exclusive responsibility of the Secretary-General, ECA could not legitimately take over. His delegation, therefore, agreed that the Advisory Committee should continue in existence but only on the same basis as before. An African from Tunisia had recently been appointed Director of Personnel at United Nations Headquarters and it was to be hoped that he would use his knowledge of African problems to serve the interests of ECA.

His delegation would sympathetically consider the preliminary draft resolution referred to by the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on condition that it was within the context of the statements already made on the subject.

Mr. BELAI ABBAI (Ethiopia) said that his delegation supported the Africanization of ECA in principle but not at the expense of the efficiency and universality of the secretariat. There was great competition from governmental and other institutions and private enterprise for the services of any Africans with university degrees or specialized experience and the Executive Secretary's difficulties in obtaining the release of highly qualified staff by member Governments should be borne in mind. Although his delegation supported the equitable distribution of posts both regionally and linguistically, that should not be over-emphasized in a professional and technical body such as ECA, which was primarily intended to foster the economic and social development of Africa.

The secretariat should be congratulated on having increased the proportion of African staff from 52.6 in 1967 to 62.39 on 15 December 1968. He understood that the information about vacant posts was normally sent to the Foreign and other relevant Ministries in the various countries. They should also be advertised in the newspapers.

Efforts should be made to attract young university graduates and other specialists to ECA either as a career or for a period of from 2-3 years, after which they could return to their own countries, where the training acquired would be extremely welcome.

He agreed that the standard of recruitment should not be relaxed since recruitment of half-educated staff rather than those with the experience necessary to carry out the work of ECA might lead to member States losing their confidence in the Commission.

He had no strong feelings about whether the life of the Committee should be prolonged. It could continue in an advisory capacity so long as it did not contravene the principles of the Charter.

His delegation doubted whether the Committee's recommendation concerning financing was either desirable or necessary at the present stage.

Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) said that the Commission had been wont to adopt high-sounding resolutions calling for the immediate Africanization of ECA, yet it was member States themselves which were reluctant to release competent officials. His delegation hoped that the Executive Secretary would show the list of the States which had been unwilling to release qualified staff to serve in ECA at least to Heads of delegations, because it thought that unless there were frank discussion of that question, all resolutions on Africanization would be worthless. It would also like to know if any suitable candidates submitted by governments had not been accepted.

With regard to paragraph (xiii) of part II of the document, his delegation saw no reason why even countries which were over-represented in the United Nations should not supply staff for ECA until other countries were able to provide suitably qualified candidates in order to achieve Africanization, especially in the higher grades. He hoped that the Executive Secretary could be given that latitude.

Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that the quality of the Africans recruited had been the subject of long discussion in the Committee. It was obvious that, as most member States had only become recently concerned with economic and social development, even the most developed of them should find it difficult to release experienced people. On the other hand, no one could understand African's problems better than themselves and it was important that they should do the real work of ECA. It was, therefore, to be regretted that most States only submitted second-class candidates for ECA posts. He drew attention, however, to the Committee's recommendations concerning training. Many candidates, although not experienced, were graduates and had the requisite education to enable them to benefit from such training. Their candidates should, therefore, be carefully considered and not rejected merely because of their lack of experience.

The training programme should include language courses since all members of international institutions should be able to speak its working languages, which might be increased to three when their brothers from the Portuguese colonies had achieved their independence.

Annex V, Table 4, mentioned a South African member of the staff. If the latter was an exile, his nationality should be changed, since it was surprising that the Commission's staff should include a national of a country which had been excluded from it.

Mr. BOTAN (Somalia) considered that, in the interests of Africanization, there was a case for somewhat relaxing the recruitment standards for professional staff to enable young African professionals to have the experience of working in an international organization, but that that should be done only within reasonable limits.

He would be grateful if the Executive Secretary could give a list of the countries which had not been approached with regard to recruitment.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that every member State was periodically approached by Headquarters with regard to recruitment.

Mr. LOKA (Dahomey) said that, contrary to what several representatives appeared to understand, the Committee had never asked for Africanization at the expense of quality, but merely that preference should be given to Africans among candidates of equal value and that non-Africans should only be recruited temporarily until suitable candidates existed. While appreciating the importance of competence, it was not logical that countries which had been independent for less than ten years should be able to submit candidates with long experience.

There appeared to be some confusion about the exact implications of resolution 184(VIII) and he thought it would be preferable for him to read it in full. Having read out the resolution, he said that he did not think that the Committee had exceeded its terms of reference.

He did not think that the proposed establishment of an advisory committee to act in the interests of the staff was anti-constitutional since such committees existed in most administrations.

It was difficult for the Committee to work without being in possession of all relevant information and he had asked the Executive Secretary for a list of the countries which had refused to release staff to ECA.

He thought that the presence of a member of the Advisory Committee would add weight to any ECA recruitment mission.

He, therefore, hoped that the Commission would give serious consideration to the report and accept it as a whole because it was the fruit of long discussion and he did not consider it anti-constitutional.

Mr. MAGINGA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, although African countries admittedly found it difficult to produce experienced candidates at short notice, people could never acquire experience unless they were given the opportunity to do so.

The colonial countries had always said that Africans were not yet experienced enough to govern themselves. Yet they had become independent and were tackling their problems with no less zeal than the developed countries. They certainly had their difficulties but so had the much more experienced developed countries.

Technical efficiency did not necessarily come from the diplomas. A man experienced in the requirements of his own country might be much more useful to it than someone who had gained a too specialized degree abroad. Sociologists were always influenced by their own culture and those from different backgrounds did not have the same approach to problems. For instance, European sociologists usually felt intellectually interested rather than involved in African problems. A construction engineer, however experienced, would tend to use the materials to which he was accustomed without realizing that they had to be imported and paid for with valuable foreign exchange, whereas the country possessed substitutes which were possibly better suited to local conditions.

Some of the general statements had referred to the African countries' lack of confidence in ECA. That was partly due to its tendency

merely to produce papers and run seminars led by experts from outside Africa who gave answers to questions which did not conform to the African countries' own experience. Some of them were working at a tempo normal when they had entered an international organization 10 to 20 years before and did not realize the dynamism of modern Africa.

To call for the Africanization of ECA was not to introduce politics into its organization but was of vital importance to the African people since they could best be helped by people with the same experience. A man with less good qualifications but 10 years' experience in local government was preferable to one who had acquired his higher qualifications from textbooks written by Europeans. A man, however, experienced, who only spoke French or English could help only a small proportion of the people whereas one who knew the native language would help everyone. He did not wish to advocate the reduction of recruitment standards but thought standards of little use if they could not be translated into reality.

Self-reliance was not produced by major speeches but at the technical level. Africa did not wish to ape Europeans and imitate methods which had not always proved successful, but to acquire its own experience and learn by its mistakes.

His delegation supported a rapid Africanization of the secretariat and considered that at the present stage, it was preferable to have even a large number of staff members from one African country rather than to recruit non-Africans because one country's quota was complete, since people from every part of Africa had much the same approach to problems. He hoped that ECA would re-consider the standard of qualifications for recruitment because the success of the Commission would be gauged not by the contributions of non-Africans, but the number of Africans at its head.

Mr. MUTTI (Zambia) said that he had very little to add to the statement by the previous speaker, except to support the attention drawn by the representative of Dahomey to the impression that the Committee

had exceeded its terms of reference. His delegation considered that the report and recommendations of the Committee conformed closely to its terms of reference and especially to the heading and paragraphs 3 and 5(a) of resolution 184(VIII).

The Committee was not oblivious to the difficulties of certain countries in producing candidates for ECA posts. As several previous speakers had said, the reason why some countries were unable to be self-reliant was lack of manpower.

It was obvious that Africans were better qualified to understand and deal with the problems of their own continent than experts from other countries, many of whom were ex-colonial officers and some of whom were still suspicious of African independence. The Africanization of ECA was therefore essential.

It had been brought to the attention of the Committee that African representation on the other three regional committees was negligible, yet they were not accused of lack of universality.

His delegation formally supported the representative of Dahomey's contention that the report showed that the Committee had carried out its instructions and would support it unless any substantial amendments were made.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the report contained some controversial points. In the first place, the suggestion in paragraph (iii) (b) of Part II of the report ran counter to the provisions of various General Assembly resolutions and would probably not receive favourable consideration at United Nations Headquarters. Secondly, it was unlikely that the suggestion in paragraph (xiv) would be adopted at Headquarters because the Secretary-General, acting in accordance with the powers conferred on him by articles 100 and 101 of the United Nations Charter, formed recruitment missions from his own Secretariat. Thirdly, according to the terms of various General Assembly resolutions, a committee member's expenses could not be paid by the United Nations; it would be unreasonable, therefore, to expect Headquarters to approve the suggestion in paragraph (xv). Fourthly, the Dahomean representative's suggestion concerning an advisory committee to defend staff members' interests was unclear. Would the committee consist of members of the Commission or of members of the staff?

Those points should be rescinded or so modified as to bring them into line with accepted United Nations practice.

Mr. GOWA (Uganda) said that it was generally agreed that the ECA staff should be Africanized and that young university graduates should be allowed to gain experience by working in the Commission. One of the points of controversy was how the Commission was to be enabled to play a more active part in staff recruitment. He agreed with the Executive Secretary that unless paragraphs (xiv) and (xv) of Part II were modified, the Commission would be infringing on the Secretary-General's prerogatives. It would seem necessary, therefore, to delete those paragraphs. As to paragraph (xvii), Uganda agreed that the Committee's life should be extended. It might be advisable, however, to arrange for a certain number of Committee members to retire each year and be replaced by representatives of other countries; in that way, all member states would acquire experience of the Committee's work. His delegation hoped that paragraph (xvii) would be amended in that sense.

Uganda supported the suggestion that ECA should organise language courses for those members of its staff not proficient in both the working languages.

Mr. BOTAN (Somalia) explained that the question he had raised earlier in the meeting had related to the activities of ECA, not to those of the United Nations.

Mr. MALEKOU (Gabon), recalling that the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo had said that he would submit a preliminary draft resolution on the subject, suggested that further discussion should be deferred until the text of the resolution was available.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo should read out his proposed text.

Mr. MALUMBA (Democratic Republic of Congo) read out the text of the preliminary draft resolution prepared by his delegation (E/CN.14/L.357).

Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that in view of the importance of the subject, discussion of the draft resolution should be deferred until the text was available in the Commission's working languages. In the meantime the Commission should discuss the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Senegal and Sudan on the African Institute for Planning and Development (E/CN.14/L.356).

Mr. SALIM (Chad) said that the fact that its report had given rise to so much discussion proved that the Committee had performed its task satisfactorily. It could, indeed, be argued that the report had been submitted by the Commission as a whole for there was not a single Member State opposed to Africanization of ECA's staff. Some delegations had drawn attention to the need to respect the United Nations principle of universality. The Committee had, however, taken account of that principle and, after a long discussion, had decided that it was not necessary to fix a 75 per cent target for African membership and that staff members from other regions could be admitted in reasonable numbers. It should be noted, in that connexion, that the entire staffs of ECAFE and ECLA were recruited from the regions concerned. One hundred per cent Africanization was not yet possible because African countries had not been independent long enough to be able to supply ECA with the necessary experts but an effort should be made to ensure that a reasonable limit was placed on the number of staff recruited from other regions.

It would be regrettable if the reference to the need for a linguistic balance in the staff gave the impression that the French-speaking and English-speaking Africans were striving to obtain equal slices of a cake. That was not the case. What was undoubtedly true, however, was that a French-speaking African would have a better understanding of the problems facing French-speaking African countries. The same held true, of course, for English-speaking Africans and the English-speaking African countries. That was why the Committee, while stressing the need to maintain standards, had recommended that efforts be made to achieve a linguistic balance in the staff. The United Nations quota system had not been ignored. The Committee had recommended, however, that, with a view to accelerating Africanization, the system be operated more flexibly in ECA than in other United Nations bodies. There seemed to be no reason, for instance, why a country whose quota had been filled should not nevertheless continue to supply the Commission with staff until such time as countries with fewer trained staff were able to meet

their obligations to ECA. The Commission should not, therefore, decide to delete paragraph (xiii) on the grounds that the suggestions in it would be unacceptable to Headquarters. Rather, it should approve the Committee's recommendation and refer it to the Economic and Social Council for consideration for it was only after examining the Council's report on the matter that the Secretary-General would be in a position to decide whether or not the quota system could, exceptionally, be relaxed. Similarly, the proposals in paragraphs (xiv) and (xv) should also be referred to the Council, which might, again as an exception, recommend that the provisions of the resolutions to which the Executive Secretary had referred be waived.

His delegation proposed, therefore, that the Commission approve the report as drafted by the Committee. It also supported the preliminary draft resolution read out by the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo and agreed with the comments made by the representatives of Dahomey and Tanzania.

Mr. KOUKA-GANGA (Central African Republic) said that establishment of an advisory committee would enable the Executive Secretary to take account of the Commission's views when dealing with recruitment and personnel matters. Admittedly, the Commission was not empowered to issue administrative directives to the secretariat but every effort must be made to ensure that African problems were dealt with by persons fully cognizant of the African situation. It was to be hoped that, before long, at least 75 per cent of the Commission's staff would be Africans.

The Executive Secretary had seemed to argue that only experienced persons should be recruited to the staff. It should be noted, however, that young graduates often held responsible positions in their own countries and would derive great benefit from a period of service with ECA.

Experience confirmed his delegation's conviction that there should be a linguistic balance in the Commission's secretariat. It was up to the Executive Secretary to ensure that the Commission's wish on that subject was respected. It was satisfactory to note, in that connexion, that the newly appointed Chief of Personnel at Headquarters was a French-speaking African.

Mr. MALUMBA (Democratic Republic of Congo) hoped that the absence of the Executive Secretary did not mean that he did not take the Commission's discussions seriously.

The CHAIRMAN said that the discussions would be reported in the summary record of the meeting which would be read by the Executive Secretary. He suggested that the Commission should, at its meeting on the following day, examine the draft resolution submitted by the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr. FALL (Senegal) asked why draft resolution E/CN.14/L.356 should not be examined at that meeting.

The CHAIRMAN explained that neither the text of draft resolution E/CN.14/L.356 nor that of draft resolution E/CN.14/L.357 was available in the Commission's working languages. They would both be available the following day.

Mr. LOKO (Dahomey) said that there was no reason why the draft resolutions should not be distributed that day. He formally requested, therefore, that the texts be made available for a meeting of the Commission that afternoon.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.