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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Executive Committee
Seventeenth meeting

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
10-12 October 1977

African Regional Centre for the Development,
Transfer and Adaptation of Technology

Progress report by the secretariat

1. Since progress was reported on this project at the sixteenth session of the Executive Committee (E/CN.14/673) several developments have taken place.
2. The proposed field mission was organized in two teams under the overall direction of Mr. E. Lartey as follows:

Team A

- Mr. E. Lartey (Ghana), ECA consultant also representing UNESCO
- Mr. I. Thiam, WIPO
- Mr. J. Karuga, UNCTAD
- Mr. T. Jakubczyk, FAO
- Mr. T.S. Karumuna, ECA
- Mr. F. Fluitman, ILO
- Mr. R. Andaray, WIPO
- Mr. A.B. Kocherich, WIPO

* See also: Interagency Mission on the Establishment of an African Regional Centre for the Transfer, Adaptation and Development of Technology (E/CN.14/ACTT/1, E/CN.14/ECO/122); Report of an interagency meeting to consider the Report of the Interagency Mission for the Establishment of an African Regional Centre for the Transfer, Adaptation and Development of Technology (E/CN.14/ACTT/2, E/CN.14/ECO/127/Add.1); Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of African Experts on Aspects of Technology Development in Africa (E/CN.14/ACTT/6, E/CN.14/ECO/127/Add.2).

Team B

Mr. R. Ouahes (Algeria), ECA consultant
Mr. G.F. Pflieger, UNIDO
Mr. I. Thiam, WIPO
Ms. Liguier-Laubhouet, WIPO

3. Both teams assembled in Addis Ababa for general briefing and then embarked on field work. Team A covered the following countries: Kenya, Algeria, Egypt, the Sudan, Madagascar, Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia and Ethiopia. Team B covered the following countries: the United Republic of Cameroon, Zaire, Nigeria, Ghana, the Niger, Senegal and Mali.

4. On their return to Addis Ababa between mid-June and mid-July, the two teams worked on a joint report which has already been circulated to member States as document E/CN.14/ECO/122.

This report has since then been considered by an interagency meeting attended by representatives of OAU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and WIPO held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 10 September 1977. The report of the Mission and that of the interagency meeting (E/CN.14/ACTT/2) have just been examined by an intergovernmental meeting of African experts, whose recommendations (E/CN.14/ACTT/6) will be submitted to the meeting of African plenipotentiaries to be held in Kaduna, Nigeria from 10 to 15 November 1977 pursuant to resolution 87 (IV) of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held at Nairobi in May 1975.

5. The secretariat wishes to draw attention to some practical issues related to the establishment of the Centre:

(i) Location of the Centre

At the meeting just ended, the representatives of Ethiopia and Madagascar stated the wish of their countries to be considered as a possible location for the Centre in addition to those countries listed in the Lartey Report. However, consideration of this issue will be based on the replies of member States to a letter asking Governments wishing to host the Centre to complete questionnaire covering the facilities they have to offer.

(ii) Budget

Rough estimates of the capital and recurrent costs of the Centre for its first 5 years are annexed to document E/CN.14/ECO/122. More detailed information concerning those costs will not become available until the work programme of the Centre has been completed. As the report indicates, this will take at least 6 months. Clearly, this work will involve a great deal of consultation with member States, national institutions and international institutions and agencies. Thus, funds will be required both for the preparatory stage and for the substantive operations to be carried out later. UNDP has informally indicated a strong interest in making some contribution to the establishment and operation of the Centre contingent on the priority given to the project by member States as reflected in the complementary contributions they are prepared to make towards the budget.

of the Centre. In this connexion the secretariat wishes to point out that it has been the experience of a number of developing countries in which some measure of regulation has been exercised in respect of technology transfer that such regulation has resulted in considerable and almost immediate savings in foreign exchange. In countries with programmes for large capital investments, such savings could well exceed the \$1 million annually. Direct financial benefits accrue to Governments through State enterprises with substantial investment programmes. Therefore, investment in the Centre should yield considerable direct and indirect benefits to member States far exceeding such investment.

6. The Intergovernmental meeting of Experts held in Arusha from 3 to 8 October 1977 was attended by representatives of 24 States members of ECA and of France, an associate member. It was also attended by observers from UNCSTD, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and UNESCO.

7. The meeting recommended the establishment of an African Centre for Technology and agreed on amendments to the objectives and functions of the Centre as outlined in document E/CN.14/ECO/122. It discussed such questions as the role of the Centre in the area of industrial technology, the need for a draft agreement between the Centre and its host country, the relation between national centres and other national institutions whose activities have considerable bearing on matters relating to technology, the need to monitor technology with respect to its impact on the human environment and the staffing of the Centre. It went on to consider the provisional work programme.

8. The meeting also gave detailed consideration to, and approved a constitution for the Centre, which has been annexed to its report (E/CN.14/ACTT/6), deferring consideration of article 14 (on status, capacity, privileges and immunities) to the meeting of plenipotentiaries.

9. In view of the very short time available between now and the meeting of plenipotentiaries (10-15 November 1977) in Kaduna, Nigeria, it would be most helpful if members of the Executive Committee could:

(a) Ensure full participation by their respective countries. Although invitations have already been issued through the appropriate channels and another set was distributed to participants at the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts, it would still be most desirable if members of the Executive Committee would intervene to ensure full and effective participants by their respective countries;

(b) Ensure that the plenipotentiaries are given authority to sign the Constitution of the Centre subject to agreement on Article 14 whose discussion has been deferred until the meeting of plenipotentiaries;

(c) Ensure ratification of the Constitution of the Centre as soon as possible after the meeting of plenipotentiaries so that the Centre can be established early in 1978 and the Council can hold its inaugural meeting during the first half of 1978.

