



Economic Commission for Africa

**COMPENDIUM OF ECA RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY
THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT
1958 - 1996**

**SOLUTIONS TO
AFRICA'S PROBLEMS**



**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT THEIR TENTH
MEETING**

487 (XIX). United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 291 (XIII) of 26 February 1977, Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also its resolutions 435 (XVII) of 30 April 1982, and 464 (XVID) of 2 May 1983,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/54 of 29 July 1982 and General Assembly resolutions 37/140 of 17 December 1982, and 38/150 of 19 December 1983,

Considering that the programme of the Decade requires regular adjustment during the entire period of the Decade,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission in the preparation of the programme of the second phase and its approval by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Further noting with satisfaction that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has provided funds for the preparation and organization of the four technical consultative meetings during the second phase programme,

Having considered the report on the implementation of the programme of the first phase of the Decade (1980-1983) and the report on the approved programme of the second phase (1984-1988),

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission in the quest for and means of mobilizing resources and securing international assistance for implementing the second phase programme,

Appreciating further the call by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for a second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa to enable complete integrated development of transport and communications infrastructures, which are closely linked with the development objectives in Africa and which would otherwise be incomplete at the end of the current Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

1. Notes with satisfaction the level of success achieved in implementing the programme of the first phase of the Decade and the efforts being made towards the full implementation of the programme of the second phase;

2. Endorses the programme of the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Conakry, Guinea, on 10 February 1984, bearing in mind that the project must be consistent with the grand axes designed to open up the continent in conformity with the decision of the Heads of State and Government as contained in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos;

3. Further endorses resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 84/30 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning recommending that ECA should study the prospect of a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa including an assessment of the first decade and consultations with donors;

4. Takes note of all the road projects approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, recommends the opening up of the African continent and invites each member State to speed up implementation of transport and communications routes accorded priority in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos;

5. Requests member States:

(a) To vigorously pursue the financing of their national projects and provide the local cost components;

(b) To furnish the Commission and the other agencies with the necessary information on financing and physical execution of projects;

6. Appeals to donor countries and international financial institutions to participate fully and positively in the two technical consultative meetings on broadcasting scheduled for 1 to 6 June 1984 at Harare, Zimbabwe, and on air transport scheduled for 20 to 23 November 1984 at Libreville, Gabon, and in particular to provide technical and financial resources on liberal terms to African countries for the implementation of the second phase programme;

7. Appeals once more to donor countries and international financial institutions to lend substantial financial support to the second phase programme and accord particular attention to the financing and implementation of transport and communications projects of the land-locked countries;

8. Further appeals to bilateral and multilateral technical assistance donors and international financial institutions to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with experts who would carry out specialized activities of the Decade programme;

9. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the financial support which he has provided for the organization of the technical consultative meetings and the preparation of the second phase of the Decade programme;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make every effort to secure and provide to the Economic Commission for Africa the additional resources needed for the implementation of activities mandated in operative paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 38/150;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to intensify contacts with bilateral and multilateral donors and African countries so as to enhance proper and complete implementation of the Decade programme and to ensure the preparation of relevant financing documents and prompt follow-up on interest expressed by donors and financial institutions in financing Decade projects during technical consultative meetings;

12. Further expresses its appreciation to Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support which he has provided for the preparation of the second phase of the Decade programme and for strengthening the Decade Coordination Unit;

13. Appeals also to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide funds to the Economic Commission for Africa during the next programming cycle to enable proper monitoring of the implementation of the second phase programme and particularly for strengthening the Decade Coordination Unit;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission:

(a) In collaboration with other United Nations specialized agencies and African intergovernmental organizations to jointly organize co-financing meetings involving the appropriate number of donors for certain regional projects and transport corridor projects;

(b) To intensify efforts to contact as many donor countries and financial institutions as possible to promote the Decade programme;

15. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to assist African member States in ensuring prompt follow-up of interest expressed by donors in financing projects during the Technical Consultative Meetings by preparing relevant project documents in bankable format for submission to the various donors and financing institutions;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit to the eleventh meeting of the Conference a progress report on the implementation of the second phase programme;

17. Invites the specialized agencies of the United Nations to lend more support, within their respective areas competence, to ECA in the discharge of its duties as the "lead agency" responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Decade programme.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

488 (XIX). Development of the African remote sensing programme

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with appreciation the steps already taken by the Executive Secretary as highlighted in his biennial report for 1982-1983 towards the implementation of its resolutions 280 (XII) of 28 February 1975 on the introduction of remote sensing technology into Africa and 313 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 concerning the establishment of a remote sensing programme in Africa,

Realizing that the achievements reported in the said report have been accomplished through utilizing mainly extrabudgetary resources which, all along have been inadequate for the development of the programme,

Further realizing that as a result of inability to provide counterpart financial resources to execute pilot projects in remote sensing applications through the establishment of model remote sensing centres which will clearly demonstrate the potentialities of the technology for resource development and rational utilization, potential technical cooperation partners are unwilling to make available their expertise and financial aid,

Conscious of the benefits to be derived from the applications of remote sensing to communications and natural resources development and to the solution of many of the phenomena affecting Africa's social and economic development, especially those concerning desertification, drought, environmental monitoring including early warning systems and pollution, as well as Africa's long-term development,

Recalling also relevant recommendations adopted by the United Nations Second Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82) concerning the role of the United Nations and particularly the allocation of adequate resources to the regional commissions involved in the development of space technology applications,^{1/}

Mindful of resolution 37/90 adopted by the General Assembly during its thirty-seventh session concerning the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

1. Urges all member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to give moral, political, material and financial support to the African Remote Sensing Programme;
2. Requests the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide adequate resources, on regular basis, to the Economic Commission for Africa for the implementation and development of the African Remote Sensing programme.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

489 (XIX). African demographic training institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 367 (XIV) of 28 March 1979 which, *inter alia*, requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to start negotiations with the host governments to modify the statutes governing the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* (IFORD) to make them regional in character and to enable all the countries served by the institutes to take full part in their management and financial support,

^{1/} Final Report UNISPACE-82, A/CONF.101/10, paras., 433, 434 and 437.

Recalling further General Assembly decision 37/444 of 21 December 1982 which approved the amended statutes of both institutes,

Taking note of the generally expressed need by the Demographers' Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers for facilities for middle-level training,

Aware of the continued need of African countries for demographers and of expertise to ensure the integration of population variables in African development planning,

Taking note of the precarious financial state of IFORD consequent to regionalization which is due to the insufficiency and irregularity in the receipt of contributions from the member States,

Taking note also of the issues raised by United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Evaluation Missions and the efforts being made to resolve them,

Concerned about the reduction in UNFPA funding of the training institute and the poor prospects for future funding of the institutes,

Conscious of the economic crisis of unprecedented proportions which the African countries are experiencing and the efforts which they are making to overcome this crisis and the need of these countries for increased international support,

1. Urges African Governments to discharge their responsibilities to the institutes by participating fully in their management and by paying their contributions promptly;

2. Further urges the African representatives on the Governing Council of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to bring to the attention of the Council the concern of African countries on the reduction in the funding of the institutes and to appeal to the Council for continued support to the institutes at least at their 1983 levels;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to work out in conformity with the statutes of RIPS and IFORD an equitable system for determining the contributions of the member States to the financing of the institutes;

4. Requests also the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the training institutes, to examine ways of organizing **ad hoc** middle-level training courses for the benefit of member States;

5. Draws the attention of the Governing Councils and Advisory Boards on Studies of the institutes to the need for looking into the issue of harmonizing the curricula of these institutes;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to explore possibilities of raising funds from donors to support scientific research projects of the institutes.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

490 (XIX). Infrastructure posts for the ECA secretariat in the field of population

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 which called upon the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned to assist, when requested, in further developing and strengthening national and regional facilities for training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population,

Recalling also the Economic and Social Council resolution 1763 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 in which the Council expressed the desire that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in the elaboration of its plans and programmes, should take into account the resolutions adopted by the regional economic commissions in dealing with the population problems of areas covered by them,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System which in section IV of its annex requested that the necessary authority should be delegated to regional commissions and adequate budgetary and financial provision made for their activities,

Further recalling the report of the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers² which, *inter alia*, deplored the decreasing share of assistance being made available by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the regional commissions for demographic data collection, processing, evaluation, analysis and dissemination,

Aware that the regular budget resources to the ECA's population programme have now been considerably augmented thus reducing substantially the contribution of UNFPA to the substantive activities of ECA in the area of population,

1. Draws attention of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the priority which African nations accord to population redistribution, urbanization and migration within their overall population programmes, and the central role of population variables in development planning,

2. Urges the Governing Council of UNFPA and the Executive Director to reactivate effective 1 January 1984 the two P3 and one local level posts which were frozen effective 31 December 1980, for use by ECA in the implementation of its work programme in the area of population estimates and projections, population distribution and urbanization, until such time that regular budget resources are made available for these activities;

3. Appeals to the Governing Council and the Executive Director of the UNFPA to enhance the capacity of the Commission to implement effectively its population programme by reactivating the two P3 and one local level posts mentioned in operative paragraph 2 above.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

491 (XIX). Implementation of the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/66B of 5 December 1980 by which the General Assembly declared the period 1980-1990 as the Industrial Development Decade for Africa; and resolutions 36/182, Section II of 17 December 1981, 37/212, Section II of 20 December 1982 and 38/192, Part II of 20 December 1983, all on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling also ECA resolutions 442 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and 466 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

² E/ECA/CM.8/22.

Welcoming resolution CM/Res.941 (XL) adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers at its fortieth session held in Addis Ababa from 27 February to 7 March 1984,

Having considered the report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 28 March 1984 and resolution 1 (VII) on the implementation of the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa adopted at that meeting,

Taking into consideration the information provided by delegates on the actions taken at the national, subregional and international levels on the implementation of the Decade Programme for the IDDA and the various constraints encountered,

Conscious of the urgent need for some member States to intensify their efforts in the implementation of the activities outlined for the Preparatory Phase of the Decade programme and for others to launch activities for the implementation phase,

Reiterating the need to accord priority to the development of strategic core industries that provide intra- and inter-sectoral linkages and essential inputs for the production and processing of natural resources, especially food and agricultural products,

Convinced of the need to undertake concerted actions for the mobilization of financial resources, including technical assistance from the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO and other African and international organizations and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies for the implementation of the Decade Programme,

1. Endorses the subregional initial integrated industrial promotion programmes adopted at the four subregional meetings organized on the promotion of intra-African industrial cooperation within the framework of the IDDA and requests the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO to synthesize and print the programmes into a single document for distribution to all African countries and intergovernmental organizations;

2. Commends the efforts made by several member States and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of activities during the preparatory phase of the Decade programme as reflected in document ID/B/313/(ECA/JID/CML.7/WP/1);

3. Calls upon other member States and African intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts towards the accomplishment of the priority actions to be undertaken during the preparatory phase of the Decade programme as outlined in document ID/310 and to provide information on actions taken to the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats to enable their Joint Committee to more effectively monitor the implementation of the Decade Programme;

4. Calls on member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to undertake urgent measures to endorse the subregional integrated industrial promotion programmes, including the allocation of the necessary resources, as well as other follow-up actions recommended for the effective implementation of those programmes; to this end:

(a) Stresses the need for member States to provide financial and human resources for carrying out pre-investment activities related to subregional and regional projects which constitute a necessary condition for the execution of those projects;

(b) Urges member States to undertake all necessary measures for:

(i) Strengthening indigenous capabilities in consultancy, technology, entrepreneurship, skilled manpower development and negotiations;

- (ii) Consultations among themselves to agree on modalities for cooperation including marketing and financing arrangements as well as on the principle promoter for each project;
- (iii) The identification, production and development of local raw materials and energy resources as inputs for the identified projects;
- (iv) The promotion of trade in raw materials, energy and manufactures;
- (v) Technical consultations on joint investment promotion of identified projects, including the use of TCDC/ECDC arrangements;

(c) Further urges member States to assist and encourage African entrepreneurs, industrialists and marketing and distributing companies to intensify their contribution to investment promotion and implementation of the national and multinational projects; and

(d) Invites the identified intergovernmental organizations in each subregion concerned with industrial development to establish coordinating committee on the IDDA for each subregion and subsectoral technical committees to assist in the coordination, promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the multinational projects;

5. Recommends that in order to take advantage of economies of scale, market scope, and achieve integrated development, certain industries such as metallurgical, petro-chemicals and heavy engineering should be classified regional; others such as building industries (including cement), spare parts, agro-based, agricultural implements (excluding heavy agricultural tractors), chemicals (including basic chemicals), precision engineering, pharmaceuticals; non-metallic mineral products, energy-saving industries and electrical and electronic industry, should be classified subregional;

6. Welcomes the initiative taken to promote cooperation between Latin American and African countries and organizations in the implementation of the Decade Programme and requests the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO to launch similar initiatives with other regions to the developing countries within the framework of TCDC/ECDC as well as within the UNIDO System of Consultations;

7. Calls upon member States and intergovernmental organizations to examine their ongoing and future industrial programmes and identify and send to the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO proposals for inclusion in the programme of activities called for in paragraph 8 below;

8. Requests the secretariats of ECA, OAU and UNIDO to prepare, on the basis of the initial integrated industrial promotion programmes and in consultation with member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, proposals for a comprehensive programme of activities to be undertaken at the national, subregional and international levels for the implementation phase of the Decade Programme;

9. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations General Assembly for its decision to allocate to UNIDO \$US 1 million from the regular budget of the United Nations for assistance in 1984 to African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of their programmes for the IDDA and appeals to the United Nations General Assembly to substantially increase this allocation to an annual minimum level of \$US 5 million and for the allocation to be put on permanent basis. To this end, a similar arrangement should be made for the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it and its MULPOCs to assist member States at subregional level in their consultations, negotiations and investment promotion of multi-country projects;

10. Welcomes with appreciation the generous financial contribution made by a number of countries to ECA, UNIDO and some African regional centres for the implementation of activities related to the Decade;

11. Expresses its appreciation to the African Group at United Nations Headquarters for its commendable efforts in securing the allocation of the \$US 1 million referred to in paragraph 9 above, and requests the Group to intensify its efforts with a view to securing a substantial increase of resources;

12. Reiterates the repeated appeals made to the international community, particularly the UNDP, World Bank, ADB, OPEC Fund, BADEA and other international organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies and financial institutions to increase and intensify their technical and financial assistance on preferential conditions, to African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of their programmes for the IDDA and calls on member States to join and increase their contributions to the African Industrial Development Fund;

13. Thanks the African Development Bank for earmarking \$US 1 billion in its 1982-1986 programme period for industrial projects and appeals to the Bank to allow interested member States to borrow from those funds, on favourable terms, for investment, *inter alia*, for meeting their equity shares in subregional projects, the preparation of pre-investment studies, and for the implementation of subregional projects;

14. Congratulates the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO for the efforts made in support of the actions taken by African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of the priority actions identified by preparatory phase of the Decade Programme, welcomes the actions taken to promote the IDDA not only within but also outside Africa, and in view of the limited results so far achieved requests them to expand, publicize and intensify their assistance to African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of the priority actions for the preparatory phase of the Decade Programme and, based on the commitment of member States, to carry out the follow-up actions for the implementation of projects included in the four subregional initial integrated industrial promotion programmes with emphasis accorded to the:

(a) Integration of the projects contained in the four subregional initial integrated industrial promotion programmes;

(b) Formulation of industrial strategies and policies and elaboration of industrial master plans with particular emphasis on the development of strategic core industries and support areas;

(c) Development of industrial manpower, especially scientific and technological capabilities, including the mobilization of African competencies, both within and outside the continent, for the implementation of the Decade Programme;

(d) Promotion of intra-African cooperation within the framework of existing or future intergovernmental organizations, especially in respect of trade in raw materials and manufacture;

(e) Development of traditional, and acquisition of foreign, technologies;

(f) Mobilization of financial resources;

(g) Development of energy, technology, equipment and appliances;

(h) Survey of African demand/supply requirements, especially in the strategic core industries and support areas as an input into the preparation of an industrial map of Africa;

(i) Preparation of and circulation to all member States a directory of national, subregional and regional centres dealing with industrial and technological studies; and

(j) Continued promotion of the Decade Programme not only within but also outside Africa;

15. Directs the follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa to undertake, at its next meeting, a careful examination of the proposals presented by the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO on the comprehensive programme of activities called for in operative paragraph 6 above taking into account the progress achieved and the problem encountered during the preparatory phase, and transmit them, along with its recommendations to the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, for consideration and approval.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

492 (XIX). African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 1 (VI) section B (b) (V) adopted by the Ministers of industry in November 1981 on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, which *inter alia*, called on all member States, to strengthen the African Industrial Development Fund as one of the mechanisms designed especially to increase the ability of member States to raise the large financial resources needed for the implementation of the Decade programme,

Reaffirming the recommendation contained in resolution 2(VI) also adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its sixth session, particularly with respect to the strict application of articles 13 and 17 of the Constitution of the Fund, which stipulates that the fund should have, as its supreme authority, a Board of Governors comprising the Ministers of Industry, while its management is carried out by the ADB secretariat for a period of five years, after which period the Fund's Board of Governors would review its final and definite structure,

Recalling resolution 1 (I) adopted at the meeting of plenipotentiaries on the African Industrial Development Fund in Addis Ababa in October 1979 authorizing the Executive Secretary of ECA to negotiate with the ADB a management agreement for submission to the Board of Governors of AIDF for approval,

Noting with satisfaction the results of negotiations between ADB and ECA which place emphasis on the principal responsibility of the Board of Governors consisting of Ministers of Industry in defining the aims, objectives and policies of the Fund,

Taking note that with 15 member States having signed or ratified the constitution of the AIDF, the minimum number of 12 has been attained, thus making it possible for the Fund to be operational,

1. Invite those member States, which are not yet members of the AIDF, to accede to its constitution as soon as possible and appeals to those member States which ratified the constitution of the Fund to pay their contributions;

2. Requests the ECA secretariat to disseminate information on the constitution of the Fund to all member States with a view to enabling the Fund to expand its membership;

3. Agrees that the African Development Bank should undertake the management of the AIDF under the policy direction of the ministers of Industry of those member States which are members of the Fund in their capacity as members of its Board of Governors;

4. Requests ECA, in cooperation with OAU and UNIDO, to finalize with ADB the detailed management agreement for consideration and approval by the Board of Governors of the ADB and of the AIDF.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Caracas Declaration adopted at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/171 of 15 December 1980, in which the need for strengthening of efforts and activities at the regional and subregional levels in crime prevention and criminal justice was emphasized,

Having considered the report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Deeply concerned about the increasing criminality of different forms and dimensions in many African countries, which is having an adverse impact on the social, economic and other aspects of lives of the people of the region,

1. Endorses the report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

2. Urges member States to consider crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of overall development, to encourage the exchange of data information and experience, joint activities for training and research, demonstration projects of a bilateral and multilateral nature, agreements on the provision of human, financial and material resources and the convening of regional and subregional seminars involving the various modalities of technical cooperation, and to involve the scientific and professional non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. Appeals to the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to support, through its decisions, the efforts of African countries in fighting problems relating to the growth of criminality;

4. Requests the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to support the appointment of a United Nations Regional Adviser for the African region in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

5. Invites the United Nations and all United Nations agencies to give all assistance possible to African States in their efforts to achieve a concentered socio-economic development within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action in order to improve the living conditions of the people, thereby reducing crime tendencies resulting from poverty, unemployment, overcrowded slums, etc.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

The Conference of Ministers

Convinced of the importance of the full implementation of the specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year (A/36/215), as well as of the recommendations endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/48,

Recognizing that the preparation for the observance of the International Youth Year will contribute to the reaffirmation of the goals of the New International Economic order and to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Convinced of the imperative need to harness the energies, enthusiasm and creative abilities of youth to the tasks of the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action for economic development of Africa including the Final Act of Lagos,

Aware that, for the International Youth Year to be successful and in order to maximize its impact and practical efficiency, adequate preparation and the widespread support of governments, all specialized agencies, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public will be required,

Taking note with appreciation of the Report of the Economic Commission for Africa on the Situation of African Youth in the 1980s (Document ECA/SDEHSD/IYY/83/WD.2) and the report of the regional meeting on the International Youth Year (E/ECA/CM.10/28) including the regional plan of action on youth, and congratulating ECA for positive orientation of these documents,

Mindful of the existing cooperation arrangement between the Executive Secretariat of ECA and the general secretariat of the OAU,

1. Endorses the conclusion and recommendations made in the two above-mentioned documents and requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to bring them to the notice of all African countries, with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the Regional Plan of Action on Youth and regional cooperation for the International Youth Year;
2. Invites all African States, which have not already done so, to set up national coordinating committees or other forms of coordination for the International Youth Year;
3. Stress the importance of inter-agency consultation as a useful tool in planning, initiating, promoting and implementing activities in the field of youth at the global and regional levels, in the context of the implementation of all recommendations concerning the International Youth Year;
4. Appeals to all States, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and to the public to make, in due time, generous voluntary contributions for the implementation of African Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
5. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to take all necessary measures for the better coordination of efforts in the field of youth through inter-agency consultative meetings under its aegis in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
6. Stress the importance of establishing a similar coordinating structure for regional youth organizations, including the Pan-African Youth Movement, as a consultative body to the Economic Commission for Africa in carrying out youth-related activities;
7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of OAU, to ensure adequate and effective participation of Africa in the International Youth Year;
8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take all necessary measures to strengthen the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in order to enable it to fulfill the extended mandate entrusted to it in the field of youth including the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Youth;
9. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use all means at his disposal, within the regular budget of the United Nations, to increase the resources designed for the implementation of the International Youth Year programme;
10. Calls upon the secretariat for the IYY to make all necessary arrangements at the appropriate level, for the implementation of the African Regional Plan of Action on Youth;

11. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the secretariat of ECA to take specific measures to increase the dissemination of information on youth;

12. Requests that such global plan of action on youth be considered in an international meeting on youth in early 1985 as an integral part of the celebration of the year;

13. Expresses its full appreciation to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa and to the secretariat for IYY for the successful preparation and organization of the African regional Meeting on the IYY;

14. Expresses also its appreciation to those United Nations agencies and offices, particularly ILO, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, UNICEF and UNV/UNDP for their active collaboration in and contribution to the Regional Meeting.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

495 (XIX). Utilization of existing African facilities for the development of human resources in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 in particular, section IV on structures for regional and interregional cooperation which, *inter alia*, calls on regional commissions to strengthen their relations with the organizations of the United Nations system and to serve "as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions",

Recalling also its resolution 444 (XVII) of April 1982 which, among other things, calls upon African Governments to take a number of measures for accelerated development of African human resources,

Mindful of the recommendations of the African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization, adopted at their first Conference in Monrovia, Liberia, in October 1981, regarding national and regional institutional machineries for the review, and coordination of programmes and policies in human resources development,

Guided by the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa on measures for national, subregional and regional self-reliance in the economic and social development of Africa, which accords high priority *inter alia*, to the development and utilization of human resources,

Conscious of the activities undertaken by the United Nations agencies, the organization of African Unity and other international organizations to help member States to develop human resources in Africa as well as of their technical cooperation and collaboration programmes in institution-building, education and training,

Bearing in mind Africa's initiative to establish and strengthen national, subregional and regional institutions for design research and development training and consultancy for the socio-economic development of the region,

1. Calls upon the United Nations agencies and other international and bilateral organizations carrying out activities in their field of human resources development in Africa to give preference to the utilization of existing national, subregional and regional institutions, and the strengthening and the expanding of such institutions;

2. Urges the United Nations agencies and international organizations to coordinate closely the planning and programming of their activities in the field of human resources development with the appropriate African national, subregional and regional machineries and institutions with a view to ensuring optimal utilization of resources towards Africa's achievement of the goal of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in manpower supply;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to exchange information with other United Nations agencies, international and bilateral organizations and appropriate African institutions on programmes and activities in human resources development in order to facilitate collaboration in the development of human resources for Africa's socio-economic development.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

496 (XIX). Environment and development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of December 1980 on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which, *inter alia*, calls for a mid-term review of the activities of developing countries to deal more adequately with the environmental aspects of development activities, for the international community to increase financial and technical support to drought-stricken countries that are under the stress of desertification, for consideration to be given by all countries to environmental aspects of industrialization in the formulation and implementation of their industrial programmes and for the improvement of the quality of life and environment through human settlement planning and better housing conditions,^{3/}

Taking note of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council decisions 10/4 and 10/6 of May 1982 on environment and development, which calls for assistance to developing countries to address serious environmental problems relating to poverty and underdevelopment,^{4/}

Recalling its resolution 446 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the need to intensify regional cooperation for combating desertification in Africa; resolution 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 requesting for a Scientific Round-table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa and resolution 474 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 calling for the strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters especially the environment coordination capabilities of the Economic Commission for Africa, and for encouraging development of environmental matters training programmes in member States,

Having considered the report of the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment and its annexes dealing with environmental matters,^{5/} namely, the recommendations and resolutions of three joint regional workshops held on:

(a) Combating desertification in Africa,^{6/}

^{3/} General Assembly resolution 35/56, 83rd plenary, 180, annex, paragraphs 156-158.

^{4/} See report of UNEP Governing Council at its tenth session, decisions 10/4 and 10/6 pages 90-92. Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), 1982.

^{5/} See E/ECA.CM.10/13.

^{6/} See E/ECA/ENV/7.

- (b) Industrial environmental impact assessment and environmental criteria for the siting of industry,⁷
- (c) Developing a programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa,⁸

Taking note of the assistance rendered by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to African countries in developing national programmes, and institutional arrangements for combating drought and desertification,

Recognizing that desertification control measures can be improved by the provision of alternative sources of energy for local consumption, the modernization of fuel-wood stoves and kilns for charcoal production from agricultural residues, and by providing alternative or supplementary livelihood systems to local population to prevent over-grazing in arid lands,

Noting that additional causes of desertification in Africa besides over-grazing, over-population, deforestation and soil erosion, are bush fires accentuated by the current prolonged drought in Africa and devegetation resulting from the deleterious gases and fumes from industrial and mining processing plants,

Considering that most African Governments do not, as yet, have guidelines for assessing the environmental impact of industrial activity on the physical and human environments,

Fully realizing the long-term heavy costs that the neglect of the practice of environmental impact assessment might entail after pollution occurred.

Aware that the primary responsibility for promoting awareness of environmental problems and of the concept that environmental protection and development are compatible, lies first and foremost with governments who should develop environmental education and training programmes in line with their socio-economic development plans and policies,

Noting with appreciation that in response to Lagos Plan of Action⁹ and the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decisions 9/12 of May 1981¹⁰ and 11/7 Part Eight A¹¹ on environmental priorities for a regional programme for Africa, the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme has developed a Subregional Environmental Groupings (SREGs) programme, providing a framework for cooperation with the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) in Africa to identify subregional environmental problems and propose common measures to enable African Governments to take immediate action to solve their problems in the spirit of self-reliant regional cooperation,

I. Promotion of technical cooperation, information exchange, technology and expertise for combating desertification in Africa:

1. Recommends that African Governments intensify their efforts in training personnel for combating desertification; promote technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) for sharing experiences and expert knowledge, technology and information on combating desertification; strengthen their national network of agro-meteorological stations under the AGRHYMET programme; conduct an inventory of grazing lands for the suitability of species to maintain the carrying capacity of the land and to provide adequate resource allocations to carry out anti-desertification activities;

⁷ See E/ECA/ENV/11.

⁸ See UNEP/WG.78/4.

⁹ See A/S-11/4, Annex 1.

¹⁰ UNEP/GC.9/15, Report of the Governing Council at its ninth session, page 132.

¹¹ UNEP/GC.11/18, Proceedings of the Governing Council at its eleventh session, Annex I, page 28

2. Urges the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider seriously: (a) the inclusion of the United Republic of Tanzania within the terms of reference of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) to enable it receive assistance in implementing programmes for combating desertification; (b) expanding the scope of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office so as to enable the office assist the States members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in implementing the United Nations Environment Programme on combating desertification and drought, in the same way the UNSO is now assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel region (CILSS);

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies (UNSO, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO), to organize a regional seminar/workshop on the modalities for the exchange of information, technology and expertise on combating desertification between the thirty-four countries in the three subregions (Northern Sahara, Sudano-Sahelian and Kalahari Desert) so affected;

II. Industrial environmental impact assessment:

1. Strongly recommends that African Governments take immediately all precautionary measures for environmental protection in industrial development by:

(a) Adapting the UNEP guidelines for industrial environmental impact assessment and environmental criteria for sitting industry, into national industrial development programmes;

(b) Ensuring that the application of existing industrial codes by developers is reviewed in terms of the national guidelines so developed and that appropriate legislative instruments be established to implement the guidelines;

2. Further recommends that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme assist member States in training manpower for carrying out environmental impact assessment activities within the context of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA);

III. Programme of action for environmental education and training in Africa:

1. Recommends that African Governments formulate integrated environmental education and training programmes and develop specific national environmental institutions, for the implementation of these environmental programmes in the country;

2. Requests member States to initiate the incorporation of environmental components into on-going training programmes at national institutions catering for decision- and policy makers, administrators, managers, educationalists and other professionals whose daily decisions and normal work affect the quality of the environment;

3. Invites Africa Governments to increase awareness of environmental issues and concerns among politicians and in all sections of the community, particularly in the rural population, through the mass media, literacy programmes, political and social gatherings; as well as promoting the exchange of information and experience among African countries;

IV. Regional cooperation on environmental matters in Africa:

1. Strongly urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to increase their support to ECA Environment Section for the effective implementation of the Environment in Africa Work Programme within the context of the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue their cooperation in implementing subregional environmental programmes for solving the specific environmental problems of the countries within the subregions, through the ECA Multinational programming and operational Centres (MULPOCs).

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

497 (XIX). Water resources development and follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, which adopted the report of the United Nations Water Conference and approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan contained therein,

Guided by resolution VIII of the United Nations Water Conference, Mal del Plata Action Plan, which called upon the regional commissions to play a central role in the promotion of intergovernmental cooperation in matters of integrated water resources development and management,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI), of 5 August 1976, which requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make adequate provisions so as to enable the regional commissions to carry out their activities effectively, and resolution 1979/67, of 3 August 1979, which recommends that the secretariats of the regional commissions should be provided with sufficient manpower and financial resources to enable them to discharge the expanded responsibilities assigned to them by the United Nations Water Conference,

Recalling also the recommendation on institutional strengthening at regional level called for in paragraph 82 (iii) of the Lagos Plan of Action,

1. Calls upon governments which have not already done so to establish national committees on water resources in accordance with the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

2. Appeals to multinational, bilateral and intergovernmental technical assistance organizations and the agencies of the United Nations system to coordinate their efforts with the Economic Commission for Africa in assisting African Governments in the development of the region's water resources and to provide financial and material support for the implementation of regional projects in water resources planning, development and rational utilization;

3. Urges the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the President of the World Bank to increase the amount of funds allocated to the water sector in their national and regional programmes for Africa and, in particular, to give more emphasis to rural water supply programmes;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to strengthen the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in its water resources activities so that water experts can be deployed to the MULPOCs to assist member States in the planning and execution of their water development activities and in the follow-up of the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

498 (XIX). Pan-African Documentation and Information System

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 359 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 concerning the project for a Pan-African numerical and non-numerical data bank,

Recalling also resolution 377 (XV) of 12 April 1980 concerning the implementation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System project,

Further recalling resolution 413 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 regarding financial support for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System,

Recalling the resolution on PADIS adopted by the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Noting with concern the continuing poor situation of the documentation, information and library infrastructure in Africa,

Aware of the need to strengthen PADIS,

1. Decides to establish a regional technical committee for PADIS with the following terms of reference:

(a) To establish the overall policy of PADIS, *inter alia* by laying down policy, technical and financial guidelines;

(b) To advise the Executive Secretary on the formulation and implementation of the work programme of the project in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines;

(c) To oversee the execution of the project at all levels of the system;

(d) To take any other action that will enhance the effectiveness and economic viability of the project;

(e) To meet as often as may be required but not less than once a year, provided that during the transitional phase the committee shall meet at least twice a year;

(f) To co-opt specialists drawn from the relevant disciplines as necessary;

(g) To report annually on its activities to the Conference of Ministers through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the whole;

2. Decides further that the committee shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, serving as chairman *ex officio*;

(b) Five high-level experts who shall be elected to represent their respective subregions and who are expert in telecommunications, documentation, library science, information or computer science, to serve in their personal capacity for a period of four years;

(c) A representative of OAU;

(d) A representative of UNESCO;

(e) A representative of UNDP;

(f) Member co-opted in accordance with paragraph 1(f) above, provided that such members shall not number more than three at any time;

3. Further decides that the five members representing member States shall be elected by the Conference of ministers on the recommendation of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, provided that for the four years for transitional phase the first members shall be elected by the Conference of Ministers at its tenth meeting;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to establish as early as possible in each MULPOC a subregional technical committee of PADIS whose principal function will be to monitor the implementation of the project within the subregions concerned;

5. Decides that the chairmen of the subregional technical committees shall be ipso-facto ex-officio members of the regional technical committee.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

499 (XIX). Regional Plan of Action to combat the impacts of drought in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa in which it urgently requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to organize a special Scientific Round Table to examine the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economies and to propose measures that can be taken in the short-, medium- and long-terms to deal with the situation and in which it also requested the Executive Secretary to report on the outcome of the Scientific Round Table to the Tenth Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the Report of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa including the draft Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of drought in Africa,

Noting with concern that drought is a recurrent phenomenon that is likely to repeat itself at some unspecified future dates and also that the current drought period has become abnormally severe, persistent and widespread as evidenced by the fact that the current drought has, except for a brief period, continued unabated since 1968 and that it has spread itself beyond the boundaries of the Sudano-Sahelian region to forested, coastal and other areas of Africa that have hitherto been unaffected by the drought,

Deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of the current drought on the African socio-economic systems, resulting in serious food scarcity, malnutrition, widespread diseases and deaths, depletion of animal stocks, increased poverty, environmental degradation, imbalances and reduction in water resources, human suffering and hardship and in severe dislocations of the fragile economies of African countries,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the Report of the Scientific Round-table on the Climatic Situation and drought in Africa;

2. Decides to adopt the Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Adverse Impacts of Drought in Africa;

3. Urges member States to: (a) adopt appropriate measures, including increased allocation of financial resources, and enhancement of manpower and institutional capabilities within the framework of the Regional Plan of Action, to better predict and combat the adverse impacts of drought; (b) rehabilitate their drought-stricken economies in a coordinated and integrated manner; and (c) design and enforce other appropriate policies for the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action in its entirety

4. Calls upon the international community, including the organizations of the United Nations system, to assist generously the drought-stricken African countries in their efforts to combat the impacts of drought, rehabilitate their economies and implement the Regional Plan of Action on drought.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

500 (XIX). Short-term forecasting in the African region

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African region as well as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Noting the increasing need for short-term adjustment measures in an increasing number of African countries as a result of, *inter alia*, fluctuations in the world economic situation, disastrous natural phenomena such as drought, flood, etc., other factors which cause distortion in the implementation and management of development and distribution,

Aware of the potential and importance of short-term forecasting system in assisting individual African countries to establish early warning systems and to devise adjustment and distribution policies to cope with internal and external economic disturbances,

Taking note of the efforts of the ECA secretariat to establish short-term forecasting systems in individual African countries, and aware of the difficulties these countries have in collecting and compiling complete national accounts data,

1. Calls upon all African countries to undertake and strengthen short-term outlook activities individually and collectively and provide ECA with their published outlook outputs so as to allow for the drawing up of subregional and regional outlooks based on approaches such as social accounting matrices (SAMs) which have the advantages of making up for the imperfection of the national accounts and of sufficiently highlighting the distribution policies;

2. Requests the ECA secretariat to:

(a) Continue to assist individual African countries on request, to establish short-term forecasting systems based on approaches such as SAMs including the creation of national capabilities to follow-up on the models,

(b) Concertize the cooperation efforts with other national and pan-African institutions particularly the African Development Bank and the Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and other international agencies in mobilizing the necessary resources so as to effectively assist individual African countries to construct SAMs and to implement short-term forecasting systems.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

501 (XIX). Perspective studies in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 470 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on perspective studies in African countries,

Bearing in mind the urgent need for African countries to adopt measures to deal with the structural weaknesses of their economies with a view to achieving a clear transformation of the African economy in line with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Taking note with concern of the deteriorating economic conditions in the African region worsened by persistent drought conditions,

Taking note with interest of the secretariat's study entitled, ECA and Africa's Development, 1983-2008: A preliminary perspective study which highlights the alternative prospects of Africa in critical areas,

Aware of the usefulness of perspective studies at the national, subregional and regional levels especially in respect of assessing necessary actions at all these levels for the successful implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action,

1. Appeals to member States to undertake perspective studies on their respective economies;
2. Calls upon all research institutions, development institutions and universities in collaboration with ECA and OAU to continue to critically examine the study so as to stimulate new initiatives and actions for the successful implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action at all levels;
3. Requests the ECA secretariat to strengthen and continue its work on perspective studies in close cooperation with national planning organs and taking into particular account the following basic elements:
 - (a) The vulnerability of the African economies to the international economic environment;
 - (b) The effects of the drought and desertification on the economic performance of African countries;
 - (c) The realism and feasibility of the various targets and strategies;
 - (d) The need for a further disaggregation and extension of the study to cover perspectives of sub-groups of African countries;
 - (e) The undertaking of yearly sectoral analysis and projections especially at the subregional and regional levels so as to cover the key sectors during the five years between the period of the updates;
 - (f) The usefulness of analyzing several scenarios including sensitivity analysis on elements such as balance-of-payments and, capital availability constraints;
 - (g) The importance of examining, in detail additional variables like science and technology and financial requirements;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to:

(a) Provide, on request, technical assistance to African Governments and subregional groupings in establishing work on perspective studies at the national and subregional levels;

(b) Establish a specific schedule of reviews to be undertaken in the updating of the study and ensure the involvement of MULPOCs in the monitoring of the various critical areas and sectors in their respective subregions.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

502 (XIX). Pricing Policies in the African least developed countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the importance of pricing policies in encouraging productive activities and, especially, in increasing productivity and output in the agricultural sector,

Aware of the critical food supply situation in the African least developed countries,

Cognizant of the perverse effects of various economic and financial stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and the limited success such programmes have had and their cost, especially in low income countries,

Recognizing that current institutional pricing structures and price legislation need to be brought up-to-date,

Mindful of the dearth of statistics on production costs in sectors as vital as agriculture,

Recalling that steps urgently need to be taken to bring about national self-sufficiency,

Further recalling the experiences gained in formulating pricing policies and meeting the terms of the stand-by arrangements with the International Monetary Fund and the world Bank by many African least developed countries,

1. Takes note of the study on pricing policies in African least developed countries presented by ECA secretariat in collaboration with UNCTAD;

2. Requests the African least developed countries to bring their institutional structures for fixing, controlling and monitoring prices up-to-date and into line with the economic situations they face, to make appropriate price-fixing arrangements for agricultural producers so that the said producer may increase their output accordingly, and to check the current trend which allows middlemen to make exorbitant profit and favours some urban consumers at the expenses of the rural sector;

3. Requests the ECA secretariat to make the study more comprehensive and to take into account all the parameters that could enable the definition of an appropriate pricing policy;

4. Invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to include in their economic and financial stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and undertaking to adopt adequate measures aimed at identifying the detrimental and beneficial effects and make compensatory arrangements for any adverse effects that the African least developed countries may encounter as a result of such programme;

5. Requests UNDP, the World Bank and IMF to give the ECA secretariat the necessary financial backing to provide coverage for all the 26 African least developed countries and cope with the various subjects selected for investigation to enrich the study on pricing policies in the African least developed countries.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

503 (XIX). Measures for the effective implementation of the substantial new programme of action in African least developed countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 397 (XV) of 12 April 1980 entrusting the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries with the responsibility for ensuring the coordination of efforts, establishing priorities, monitoring and evaluating progress under the Comprehensive New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries, and its resolution 481 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on measures for accelerating the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African least Developed Countries,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/195 of 20 December 1983 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries,

Taking note of the tremendous efforts made by the African least developed countries in the preparation of their respective country review meetings, especially in devising policies aimed at ensuring the successful implementation of their national programmes,

Noting that the review meetings so far organized have not totally met the expectations of the least developed countries, since the commitments made by donor countries and organizations have not fully matched the provisions of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Expressing deep concern at the disappointing results of the negotiations on the Substantial New Programme of Action at the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Belgrade, in June-July 1983,

Noting with great concern the worsening economic situation of the African least developed countries caused by natural calamities such as drought and desertification,

Further noting with satisfaction the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the African economic crisis and his efforts to mobilize the international community to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance in favour of African countries, especially the least developed among them and also the appointment of a Special Representative on the African economic crisis,

Deeply concerned by the considerable reduction in official development assistance especially on the concessional terms from all external sources to the African least developed countries since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action in 1981,

Bearing in mind that the intergovernmental group of experts on least developed countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will meet at a higher level in September/October 1985 in order to carry out the Mid-term Global Review of the Substantial New Programme of Action and to consider the possibilities of holding a global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the end of the decade,

Aware that the least developed countries should mobilize and allocate a greater part of their domestic resources to the implementation of their development projects and improve substantially their absorptive capacity through internal arrangements or with the support of donor countries and agencies,

Noting with gratitude the spirit of those countries which have already implemented the 0.15 per cent share of their GNP as Official Development Assistance to the least developed countries as provided for under the Substantial New Programme of Action,

1. Strongly urges those African least developed countries that have not yet organized their meetings to take all the necessary measures to do so in 1984 or at least before the Mid-Term Global Review meetings in 1985;
2. urges African least developed countries (i) to adequately prepare themselves for the Mid-Term Global Review meeting in 1985 in order to make practical proposals for the adjustment of the Substantial New programme of Action if need be, so as to expedite its implementation during the second half of the decade; (ii) to provide the necessary information and statistics to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa so as to be able to prepare a substantive regional assessment of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action during 1981-1984;
3. Further urges the African least developed countries to ensure the establishment of adequate new follow-up mechanisms at the country level or the strengthening of already existing mechanisms in order to maintain contacts with donors before and after review meetings;
4. Affirms that the principal objective of the country review meetings should be to secure additional resources and not to be a mere forum for the exchange of views on the countries' development strategies, policies and public investment programmes and projects and, to that effect, donors should send high level representation from their respective aid agencies to attend the country review meetings and make firm commitments on the programmes and projects;
5. Requests the lead agencies, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to utilize local experts, the expertise within the United Nations system, especially the Economic Commission for Africa for the drawing up of the documentation for the country review meetings in African least developed countries so as to reduce expenditures for the preparation and organization of these meetings;
6. Calls upon donor countries in the context of paragraph 63 of the Substantial New programme of Action to substantially increase the flow of financial resources and other support measures with the aim of achieving the 0.15 per cent target of their GNP as official development assistance to least developed countries or double their official development assistance to the least developed countries by 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter;
7. Urges donor countries and multilateral financial institutions to (a) provide financial assistance to the African least developed countries on very favourable terms and conditions taking into consideration the special peculiarities of the economies of these countries, (b) alleviate the debt burden on the African least developed countries through retroactive adjustment measures or equivalent actions and most desirably, the complete cancellation of debts, (c) to contribute substantially to the local recurrent cost of the priority projects which they are funding in the least developed countries, (d) to endeavor to improve aid delivery procedures in order to enhance the absorptive capacity of the least developed countries and, wherever possible, to harmonize such procedures so as to create a condition for possible co-financing of projects;
8. Welcomes the provision by some donors of assistance to African least developed countries mostly in the form of grants as well as in more flexible forms such as local recurrent cost financing, maintenance aid, rehabilitation aid, as well as balance-of-payments support, adapted to the special needs of the African least developed countries and in response to their deteriorating economic and social situation caused by the natural calamities;

9. Calls upon the international community to provide support for the priority areas identified by the African least developed countries in their country programmes on the basis of the provisions of chapter 1 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, particularly food and agriculture, manufacturing, exploration and development of energy and technical resources, human resources development, expansion and diversification of exports, development of transport and communications, and improvement in planning, implementation and management capabilities;

10. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Representative on the African economic crises for the efforts that they are deploying in mobilizing assistance from the international community to alleviate the current economic crisis facing Africa and appeals to the international community to respond positively to the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on the progress in the implementation of this resolution to the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries in 1985.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1985.

504 (XIX). Transportation and marketing of natural gas by pipeline

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 83/28 adopted by the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning meeting in Cairo in March 1983 on the preparation of a study on natural gas in Africa,

Conscious of the importance of this study for the development of natural resources in Africa, especially with regard to satisfying the needs of African countries in natural gas, particularly in the Sahelian countries,

1. Supports the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in his endeavour to undertake a comprehensive study on the distribution of African natural gas by pipeline in order to market it in Africa and possibly transport it to Europe; the study should include a comparison of various modes of transport;

2. Appeals to the international community, especially the organizations concerned, namely the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the African Development Bank and the World Bank to support and cooperate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme to ensure the success of the study.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

505 (XIX). Strengthening ECA as an executing Agency

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which, inter alia decided that the regional commissions shall have the status of executing agencies in their own right,

Recalling the agreement signed on 1 March 1977 between UNDP and ECA designating ECA as a participating and executing agency for UNDP intercountry projects,

Having considered the biennial report of the Executive Secretary for the biennium 1982-1983,

Noting with satisfaction the progress which ECA has achieved as an executing agency of UNDP and other intercountry projects within a short space of time to the extent that it is now one of the largest executing agency of UNDP-financed intercountry projects in Africa,

Also noting with concern the administrative difficulties being experienced by ECA in the implementation of these projects due to lack of differentiation between procedures and rules which should apply to its role as an executing agency as distinct from its normal regular budgetary activities in the recruitment of project personnel residing outside Africa and those above level L.5 and in the procurement of project equipment and supplies costing above \$US 20,000,

Noting further with regret that the rate of implementation by ECA of UNDP and other intercountry projects has decreased substantially due to the above-mentioned constraints, which create unnecessary delays,

Bearing in mind the current critical economic situation of Africa and the expectation of member States that ECA secretariat should play an increasing role in assisting them in expeditious execution of operational projects funded by resources from the United Nations system, other than multinational and bilateral funding sources,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to relax the administrative constraints mentioned above by realigning the rules of recruitment and procurement with those of other United Nations executing agencies so that ECA would be able to promptly execute projects thereby putting it on the same footing as the other executing agencies in the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the twentieth session of the Commission the progress in the implementation of this resolution.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

506 (XIX). Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and Self-reliant Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/87 of 25 November 1981 and 1982/42 of 27 July 1982 on convening of an International Conference on Population in 1984, which, *inter alia*, invited the regional commissions to consider at their annual sessions in 1984, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, with a view to formulating suggestions and recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level, and to transmit those suggestions and recommendations to the Conference for its consideration,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/6 of 26 May 1983 on the International Conference on Population, 1984, which requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite all States, representatives of national liberation movements, the United Nations Council on Namibia, government, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/76 of 26 July 1983 on Cross-sectoral review of population, which decided to continue to attach high priority to population programmes and activities as contributing to the social and economic development of developing countries and urged that increased financial support for population activities be made available and that competent entities of the United Nations system take appropriate action accordingly in a coordinated manner in their respective programmes of work,

Recalling further its resolution 366 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on priority population programmes of ECA, which requested the Executive Secretary to give high priority to and initiate programmes of assistance to countries on studies analysis and institution-building activities in priority areas on population and development interrelationships, infant and childhood mortality, levels, patterns and future trends in fertility and population distribution and development,

Taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population (E/1984/28 and E/1984/28/Add.1),

Reaffirming its commitments to the population programmes spelled out in the Lagos Plan of Action and reiterated in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 1983,

Noting with satisfaction efforts undertaken jointly by ECA and UNFPA to develop national expertise in the field of population,

Noting also preparatory work so far undertaken at the global and regional levels to ensure active participation by African countries at the international Conference on population scheduled to meet in Mexico in August 1984,

Taking note of the report of the Second African Population Conference held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, from 9 to 13 January 1984,

1. Approves the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and Self-Reliant Development adopted by the second African Population Conference;
2. Requests the States members of the Commission to ensure that their delegations to the International Conference on Population and to future United Nations Population Commission meetings use the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action as document of reference to ensure adequate consideration of the priority interests of Africa in population activities;
3. Further requests the UNFPA and donor countries and agencies to increase resources given to African countries to speed up the implementation of this programme;
4. Directs the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to ensure that the principles and objectives of this programme as well as the recommendations contained therein be incorporated in the Work programme of the Commission;
5. Calls on all organizations in the United Nations family, the OAU, intergovernmental, subregional, interregional and national organizations involved in population work in the region to collaborate with the Economic Commission for Africa in implementing this Programme;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh meeting the outcome of the International Conference on Population and progress made in integrating the recommendations of that Conference and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for Population and Self-reliant Development;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report also to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU on the Kilimanjaro Programme of action on Population.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

507 (XIX). Europe-Africa Permanent Link Via the Strait of Gibraltar

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 1982/57 adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations during its second regular session in July 1982 on the subject of the proposed Europe-Africa permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar,

Recalling also the recommendations of the Experts appointed by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe following the adoption of the above-mentioned ECOSOC resolution, contained in the report of the Experts, approved by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1983,

Mindful of resolution 1983/62 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in July 1983 on the subject of the Europe-Africa permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar which, *inter alia*, requests that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa continue to monitor and analyze studies related to this project in accordance with the recommendations of the above-mentioned report,

Bearing in mind the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Conakry in February 1984,

1. Invites governments, international organizations, research institutions and the universities in the Mediterranean area and elsewhere to continue to cooperate with the Governments of Morocco and Spain and with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe, and make concerted efforts in the pursuit of the development of the project for Europe-Africa permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to place at the disposal of the Economic Commission for Africa the resources necessary for the implementation of the recommendations on the proposed permanent link via the Strait of Gibraltar.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

508 (XIX). Biennial report of the Executive Secretary

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 403 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1979-1980,

Recalling also Section IV of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System, which, *inter alia*, stipulates that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 38/199 of 20 December 1983 on special measures for the economic and social development of Africa in the 1980s which, *inter alia*, urges donor countries to provide substantial and sustained levels of resources for promoting accelerated development of African countries and the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, invites all international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, the International Development Association and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to continue actively to consider increasing substantially their development

assistance to Africa and to treat the matter of making a special effort in support of African economic and social development with the urgency it requires, requests the Secretary-General to convene, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Fifth Biennial Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and to take the necessary measures to ensure its success and, in this regard, appeals to donor countries, relevant United Nations organs, international and regional financial institutions and other interested public and private bodies to participate fully and contribute generously to the Fund,

Having examined the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary, 1982-1983 which included an update of the implementation of the work programme of the Commission, 1982-1983,

Convinced that a strengthened secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa is an imperative necessity for the member States of the Commission both individually and collectively, particularly in view of the current economic and social crisis facing Africa,

Taking note with gratitude the resources allocated by the United Nations Development Programme to the Economic Commission for Africa, during its second programming cycle in its capacity as a UNDP executing agency,

1. Takes note of the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary, 1982-1983, including an update of programme performance;
2. Views with concern the fact that the Commission does not have the necessary resources for carrying out evaluation of programmes and projects;
3. Appeals to those member States which have not yet paid the contributions pledged by them to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to do so urgently;
4. Further appeals to all member States to be prepared to pledge substantial funds to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development when the fifth Pledging Conference takes place during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and twentieth session of the Commission in April 1985;
5. Congratulates the Executive Secretary and his staff on the scope and the high quality of the Biennial Report, 1982-1983;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and the Committee for Programme and Coordination to continue to improve the methods of evaluating programme performance so that information on effectiveness and the physical implementation of projects can be provided to member States;
7. Appeals to the international community particularly the developed countries of Western and Eastern Europe, North America, Japan and members of the Organization of Petroleum exporting Countries and other developing countries in a position to do so, international and regional financial institutions to contribute generously to the Fifth Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;
8. Thanks the United Nations Development Programme for its past support to the operational activities of the Commission and urges it to increase its allocations so as to enable the Commission to continue its good work as an executing agency of the programme;
9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide more resources to the Economic Commission for Africa as the centre for general social and economic development within the United Nations System for the African region so as to enable it in general to assist member States more effectively and in particular develop the required capacity and capability in the field of evaluation of programmes and projects;

10. Decides that the Executive Secretary should continue to prepare his biennial report in the manner in which the one for 1982-1983 has been prepared.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

509 (XIX). Strengthening African capabilities in Science and Technology matters

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provisions of programme elements 2.5 and 5.1 of the Science and Technology Chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action for the economic development of Africa, which require member States to mobilize the adaptive technology potential of the metal-working branch of the informal sector and promote the development of low cost rural technologies,

Further recalling the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and its Operational Plan,

Bearing in mind the measures contained in the Operational Plan, authorizing the conduct of Mid-decade Regional and Global Reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that for Africa such a review would not only mean essentially the review of the implementation of the Science and Technology Chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action for economic development of Africa but would also be invaluable to the OAU and ECA secretariats and the member States in their efforts to implement the said Plan,

Aware of the catalytic role the working Groups of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development established by Commission resolution 445 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 and now required to undertake their tasks on a subregional basis, can play in the development of endogenous African scientific and technological capabilities and of the benefits that such Groups will derive from the results of the review,

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development, made at its second meeting held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 18 November 1983,

1. Approves the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee;
2. Calls upon all member States to give full and active support to ECA secretariat and its cooperating agencies in this regard;
3. Requests all member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and OAU to take these recommendations of the review into account in their efforts to implement Chapter V of the Lagos Plan of Action as well as the Vienna Programme of Action and its Operational Plan;
4. Urges all member States, the OAU secretariat, the ECA secretariat and other United Nations agencies to give active support to the activities of the Working Groups;
5. Congratulates the ECA secretariat for the initiative taken to promote, in cooperation with the government of the Republic of India, the development, demonstration and use of technologies suitable for the rural areas in Africa and for the efforts made in collaboration with the African Regional centre for Technology and the German Foundation for International Development to mobilize the adaptive technology potential in the informal sector of African economies;

6. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the governments of the Republic of India and of the Federal Republic of Germany for the current financial support provided and that promised for the future respectively to promote rural technologies and mobilize the adaptive technology potential in African economies.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

510 (XIX). Increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture in Africa and declining performance of the sector

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 462 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

Having examined the report of the Executive Secretary on the intensive study to ascertain the causes of the apparent discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of that sector (E/ECA/CM.10/21), prepared in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Convinced that the study is very useful not only at the regional level but also at the national level,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and those who assisted them on the useful work they have done;

2. Calls upon member States to undertake such studies at the national level and report thereon to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh session;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide on request, within the limits of the resources of their Organizations, such appropriate assistance as will enable the member States to carry out such studies;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh session the implementation of this resolution.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

511 (XIX). African women and the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985)

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the urgency for an effective intergovernmental regional meeting to prepare the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Africa at Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 26 July 1984,

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

Appreciating the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa in establishing subregional committees and the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development to ensure the participation of women in the deliberative systems of the Commission,

Appreciative of the positive role and guidance given by the subregional committees and the Africa Regional Preparatory Coordinating Committee through their various interventions and resolutions towards the advancement of African Women,

Taking note of the report of the fifth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee,

1. Urges member States of ECA to provide the subregional committees and the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee with the necessary financial resources and support in order to implement the relevant programmes adopted;

2. Expresses its gratitude for the offer made by the United Republic of Tanzania to host the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace/Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development at Arusha in September 1984;

3. Reiterates its appreciation for the efforts being made by the Government of Kenya in preparing for the World Conference and assures the Government, women and people of Kenya of the full support of all African women and their governments in their efforts in hosting the Conference;

4. Further reiterates its call to African member States to fully support the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting/Third Regional Conference and ensure their most effective and high-level participation at the Conference;

5. Calls upon member States to contribute to the Special Trust Fund for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in order, *inter alia*, to facilitate the participation of least developed member countries in the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and the World Conference;

6. Calls again upon the secretariats of ECA and OAU to redouble their efforts to prepare jointly the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting/Third Regional Conference;

7. Urges the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting/Third Regional Conference to consider and adopt strategies for the implementation of measures for the advancement of African women by the year 2000, especially strategies concerning women under apartheid, refugee and displaced women, women in agriculture and food production, and women in industrial development, which should be submitted to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh meeting through the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the sixth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers on the implementation of this resolution.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

512 (XIX). Women and development in Africa: Mobilization of human and financial resources for the ECA Women's programme beyond the United Nations Decade

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, have not yet been fully achieved especially in Africa,

Noting with concern that efforts made by member States and the international community have not yet resulted in the full and equitable participation of African women in the development process,

Considering the increasing needs of the national, subregional and regional machineries for the integration of women in development, in human and financial resources for the integration of African women beyond the United Nations Decade,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/142 of 20 December 1978 which called on the Secretary-General to increase the number of women in United Nations subject to geographical distribution, to 25 per cent over a four-year period,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 37/235 of 21 December 1982 which requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to implement fully the provisions of resolutions 33/143 of 20 December 1978 and 35/210 of 17 December 1980,

Deeply concerned that the proportion of women in professional posts in the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa is one of the lowest in the United Nations secretariat and falls far below the expectations and targets set by the General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 27/1978 of 5 May 1978 which recommended that the General Assembly should take appropriate measures to provide for the financial resources and personnel necessary for the regional research and training centres for women from the regular budget of the United Nations,

Recalling also resolution 21 adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen, from 14 to 30 July 1980, and endorsed by General Assembly resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, requesting the Secretary-General, as an interim measure, to explore the possibility of redeploying vacant posts within the regional commissions to the women's programme,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 38/106 of 16 December 1983 which, *inter alia*, urged the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, to take urgently appropriate measures to ensure that all temporary and permanent senior women's programme officers' posts were continued at the regional commissions within regular budget resources available to them,

Reiterating its call on African Governments and national machineries to ensure that their respective permanent missions to the United Nations and delegations to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly dealing with budgetary matters are well informed on the critical needs of African women and to advocate greater support for the women's programmes by the United Nations,

1. Appeals to member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that more women are recruited or promoted particularly to senior level and decision-making positions in the United Nations system;

2. Urges member States of ECA to provide the Subregional Committees and the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development with the necessary financial resource and support in order to strengthen their role as African intergovernmental organizations and subsidiary organs of the Commission;

3. Requests member States to ensure that middle and senior level women are given every opportunity for training in the techniques of project design, management and follow-up;

4. Calls upon African States and Governments with qualified personnel to make available such personnel to assist other countries in the spirit of collective self-reliance and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) called for in the Lagos Plan of Action;

5. Requests national machineries for the integration of women in development and the relevant departments of planning to ensure that projects involving women are integrated in national development plans and take into full account the needs of poor urban and rural women;

6. Urges the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of ECA to do all in their power to provide a core group of posts from regular budget resources, through the redeployment of vacant posts and the 1986/1987 regular budget submission, to the African Training and Research Centre for Women and the MULPOC women's programmes to ensure their long-term viability beyond the United Nations Decade for Women;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and the international community for the financial and technical assistance given to the ECA women's programme;

8. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme, the Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Decade for Women and all the other United Nations agencies to increase their efforts to provide technical assistance to African women, including appropriate training, scholarships and consultancy services, and to ensure that this assistance is delivered in a timely and effective manner;

9. Strongly requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to redouble his efforts to increase the number of African women in the Commission, especially at the policy and decision-making levels;

10. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to organize as soon as possible a special pledging conference for the regional and subregional women's programmes.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

513 (XIX). Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for the Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Recalling previous decisions taken especially by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its seventh meeting held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 4 February 1982,

Conscious of the beneficial results yielded by previous All-Africa Trade Fairs, held in Nairobi, Algiers and Khartoum for the purpose of stimulating intra-African trade,

Welcoming the offer made by Togo to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair,

Recognizing with appreciation the financial contributions made by the OAU Council of Ministers towards the organization of All-Africa Trade Fairs,

1. Decides to accept Togo's offer to host the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair in 1985;

2. Further decides that the following member States: Algeria, Angola, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Nigeria, the Sudan (previous host), Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe shall constitute an Organizing Committee for the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair under the chairmanship of Togo;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to appeal to the Council of Ministers of the OAU through the Secretary-General of OAU to continue to subsidize All-Africa Trade Fairs particularly the Fourth All-Africa Trade Fair which is scheduled to take place in Lome, in the Republic of Togo.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

514 (XIX). Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts exerted by the Association of African Trade promotion Organizations to realize its objectives and raise extrabudgetary finance for implementing its work programme,

Conscious of the fact that the Association could make a considerable contribution to the development of intra-African trade if given adequate encouragement and support from African countries,

Strongly appeals to:

(a) All member States of the Association that have not paid their contributions to the budget of the Association to do so without further delay;

(b) Those African countries that have not yet joined the Association to do so as soon as possible;

(c) The Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of OAU to continue to assist AATPO in its attempts to mobilize external technical and financial assistance for the implementation of its work programme;

(d) EEC, ITC, UNCTAD and other international organizations and donor countries to consider requests for technical and financial assistance by the Association favourably.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

515 (XIX). Establishment of the African Federation of Chambers of Commerce

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the need for concerted and urgent action on the measures outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action so as to attain the goals of rapid collective self-reliance and self-sustaining development and economic growth for African countries,

Recalling Chapter VII, paragraph 250 (ii) of the Lagos Plan of Action, urging governments to promote and facilitate the establishment of national chambers of commerce (where they do not exist), to include both State and private trading companies, with a view to establishing subregional associations (wherever they do not yet exist) and to agree to facilitate the setting-up of an African Federation of Chambers of Commerce not later than 1985,

Convinced that national chambers of commerce and federations, associations or unions of chambers of commerce can play a more vital role in expanding and promoting intra-African trade,

Taking note with satisfaction of the efforts made so far by the national chambers of commerce of the region, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) and other organizations and individual African countries towards the creation of the Federation,

Further taking note of the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

1. Calls upon African Governments to give full support to their national Associations of Chambers of Commerce so as to ensure their effective participation in the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce;
2. Further calls upon African National Associations of Chambers of Commerce to decide without further delay to designate one national representative to participate at the inaugural meeting of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce as required by constitution adopted at the meeting of African Chambers of Commerce held in Cairo in November 1983.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

516 (XIX). Development of Intra-African Trade

The Conference of Ministers,

Mindful of the cardinal importance which the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act attach to the promotion of intra-African trade as the mainstay of the African strategy for socio-economic development and collective self-reliance,

Conscious of the need for the creation and strengthening of African subregional economic groupings with a view to establishing an African Common Market by the year 1990, as required in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the important contribution made by the project financed by UNDP on the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial cooperation in the pursuit of the above-named objectives,

Noting with satisfaction the result of that project in assisting in the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Economic Community for Central African States and other supporting institutions, and the strengthening of existing economic groupings,

Noting further the urgent need for continued assistance in the development of these newly created institutions and the establishment of links among the various economic groupings with a view to facilitating the gradual establishment of an African Common Market,

Taking note of the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

1. Deplores the fact that ECA does not have the necessary resources to continue the project despite the encouraging results achieved so far in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, particularly in the area of promoting intra-African trade;
2. Invites the member States of ECA to promote Intra-African trade and to facilitate such trade particularly the removal of non-physical barriers,
3. Appeals to all African countries and African institutions, especially the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), to provide financial support for activities in this field;
4. Expresses its gratitude to UNDP for having provided the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the project between 1979 and 1982;
5. Requests the Governing Council of UNDP to review the results of the project and reconsider the possibility of continuing financial support so that ECA may continue to assist African member States in the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial cooperation.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

517 (XIX). OAU and ECA assistance to African countries in international negotiations

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the resolution on Africa's participation in international negotiations which appears as Annex III to the Lagos Plan of Action, in particular, the operative paragraph 3 of the said resolution,

Considering the laudable efforts which the OAU and ECA secretariats have made to apply this resolution, in particular, in providing logistical and technical support to the African countries in their preparation to participate in international negotiations,

Taking note of the report of the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Trade and Finance for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 14 May 1984,

1. Requests the ECA and OAU Secretariats to intensify and improve their technical and logistic support to the African countries not only during the meetings and preparatory phase preceding the international negotiations on development issues, but also during the negotiations themselves;
2. Calls upon the two secretariats to assist the African countries in preparing for the international negotiations to define a strategy consisting of solutions to problems to be discussed;
3. Requests further, the two secretariats to provide the African Group with all effective support in the course of international negotiations, particularly in organizing regular consultation meetings to review the issues under negotiations and make the necessary changes in the strategy to be followed in the light of the changing situation;
4. Once again calls upon the two secretariats to make an assessment of the achievements of every international conference by analyzing the issues and problems involved and proposing appropriate measures to be undertaken by the African countries with respect to issues for which no solution has been found.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

518 (XIX). Human settlements

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 316 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, 358 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on institutional arrangements for Human Settlements and 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on the extension of the mandates of the above Intergovernmental Regional Committee to include environmental matters,

Further recalling resolution 8 (IV) of the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry of 26 November 1977,

Taking note of the General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982 on "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless",

Having examined the report¹² of the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, held at Addis Ababa from 16 to 19 January 1984 and the resolutions adopted at the meeting,

Appreciating the activities undertaken by ECA for the development of building materials and construction industries,

Convinced that Housing and Construction needs remain a major constraint to the development efforts of all member States and that appropriate assistance should be given continuously to them in their endeavours to remove those constraints,

1. Endorses the report and resolutions adopted at the second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

2. Urges member States to take steps to implement jointly with the ECA secretariat the specific actions defined in the resolutions adopted by the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

3. Calls upon member States in cooperation with the secretariat of ECA to take necessary steps for a full and successful participation of the African region in the activities of the "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless";

4. Recommends the strengthening of cooperation between the secretariat of ECA, UNCHS, FAO, ILO, UNIDO and all concerned NGOs and intergovernmental organizations in order to promote human settlements activities in the African region;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to take the necessary steps to ensure satisfactory implementation of this resolution.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

¹² E/ECA/HUS/ENV/2 or E/ECA/CM.10/13.

519 (XIX). Evaluation, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 477 (XVIII) of 30 April 1982 establishing the **Ad hoc** Committee on the evaluation, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of the African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU, which requested the Committee to submit its report thereon to the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, and paragraph 264 (i) of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Having considered the report of the **Ad hoc** Committee,

1. **Congratulates** the **Ad hoc** Committee on its report and accepts the findings and the recommendations contained therein, including the desirability of extending the life of the **Ad hoc** Committee as to enable it to complete its work;

2. **Invites** all the member States of the **Ad hoc** Committee to take part in the work and intensify their efforts to implement resolution 477 (XVIII) of 30 April 1982;

3. **Decides that:**

(a) The mandate of the **Ad hoc** Committee is hereby extended for a further period of one year so that it shall inter alia:

(i) Visit the ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions which it had been unable to visit, if necessary;

(ii) Make a more comprehensive study and make positive and specific suggestion for the coordination, harmonization and/or merger of the activities of the ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions including the possible dissolution of some of those institutions;

(b) All the chief Executives of the ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions shall, for the purpose of implementing resolution 477 (XVIII) of 30 April 1982, present to the **Ad hoc** Committee relevant progress reports and information at a meeting to be held between the former and the latter at the ECA secretariat on dates in December 1984 to be notified by the Executive Secretary;

(c) The **Ad hoc** Committee shall submit its second report to the eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers;

4. **Requests** the member States of the ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions as a matter of urgency to give, as required by paragraph 264 (ii) of the Lagos Plan of Action, the necessary political and financial support to those institutions in order to enable them to survive and function efficiently and effectively;

5. **Further requests** the Executive Secretary, the Secretary-General of OAU and UNDP to give every possible technical and logistical support to the **Ad hoc** Committee.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

520 (XIX). External indebtedness of African countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the rate at which the external debt of the African countries has grown especially during the past four years and the difficulties which many African countries are experiencing in meeting their external payments obligations,

Conscious of the need for concrete steps to be taken at national, regional and international levels to deal with the external debt situation,

Noting that a Regional Ministerial Meeting on External Indebtedness of African Countries is planned to take place in Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 June 1984,

Mindful of the need to ensure that the meeting should be successful and of the need to maintain the original dates of the Ministerial Meeting from 18 to 20 June 1984,

1. Decides that the ministerial Meeting should be preceded by a meeting of experts to analyze the critical issues and prepare its recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting;

2. Further decides that the Meeting of Experts should be held from 14 to 17 June 1984 and the Ministerial Meeting from 18 to 20 June 1984;

3. Authorizes that the recommendations of the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Africa's External Indebtedness should be submitted to the 1984 summer session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council annexed to the ECA Special Memorandum on African Economic Crisis.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

521 (XIX). Sessions of the Commission

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 330 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and cooperation in Africa and in which it was decided that the Commission should meet annually albeit, on an experimental basis,

Recalling also that some of the reasons that led to the decision to meet annually were (i) the difficult economic conditions that were likely to face the African region in the 1980s; and (ii) the need to continue to work closely with the Organization of African Unity which meets annually,

Having considered the request by ECOSOC to its subsidiary bodies that currently meet on an annual basis to consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings, and to report on this in 1984,

Observing that the economic conditions facing the African region since 1979 have actually worsened and require more than ever before closer cooperation and regular consultations among member States,

Aware that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa is the only regional economic body that has been charged with the responsibility of sensitizing the Organization of African Unity and the international community through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations to the general economic and social problems of the countries of the region and hence need to monitor regularly the

implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,^{13/} the current economic and social situation in the continent which demands consultations on a regular basis, and the growing number of international negotiations calling for collective African positions,

Aware further that the involvement of the Commission in the United Nations planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation process requires that it examines in one year or the other proposals for medium-term plans, programme aspects of biennium programme budgets and performance reports on the implementation of the Commission's biennium work programme,

Decides to continue to meet on an annual basis subject to the practice being reviewed at the twenty-third session of the Commission and fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in 1988.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

522 (XIX). Strengthening subregional and regional cooperation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 335 (XIV) of 27 March 1979, 418 (XVI) of 10 April 1981, and 450 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) and its resolution 479 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the strengthening of MULPOCs and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/138 of 17 December 1982 on the funding of the core staff of the MULPOCs from the regular budget of the United Nations, and taking note of the catalytic role the MULPOCs have played and continue to play in assisting member States towards the fulfillment of their commitment to the promotion of subregional and regional cooperation and integration,

Recalling further the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its second Extraordinary Session devoted to the economic problems of Africa, held at Lagos, Nigeria, on 28 and 29 April 1980, particularly the provisions concerning the strengthening or creation, as necessary, of subregional and regional economic groupings as a first step towards the establishment of an African Economic Community by the year 2000,

Further recalling with appreciation the continuing efforts to strengthen further the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), established on 28 May 1975, the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and southern African States (PTA) on 21 December 1981, and the establishment of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on 18 October 1983,

Aware of the activities of the various intergovernmental and other subregional organizations concerned with the economic and social development of the African region,

Noting with appreciation the overall assistance that the UNDP has given to subregional and regional cooperation and integration in the African region over the years,

Convinced of the continuing need to strengthen subregional and regional cooperation and integration amongst the member States as a first step towards the establishment of the African Economic Community called for by the year 2000 under the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos,

¹³ A/S-11/14 Annex I and II.

1. Appeals to the member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty for the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States;
2. Urges the member States that have signed the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;
3. Appeals to member States to increase their support for the MULPOCs by pledging generously to UNTFAD for general or specific projects and by seconding, if possible, at their expense, experts to the MULPOCs on short-term basis;
4. Urges member States and Intergovernmental Organizations within each subregion to use the MULPOCs in their respective areas as executing agencies for the implementation of specific projects;
5. Appeals once more to the UNDP to provide financial support to the operational activities of the MULPOCs in addition to the assistance currently extended to the Women's Programme in the MULPOCs;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to intensify his efforts to secure funds for the operational activities of the MULPOCs;
7. Appeals to all United Nations specialized and other agencies to give financial and other assistance to the African region in the implementation of subregional and regional projects whose final objective is the establishment of an African Economic Community by the year 2000 in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos;
8. Calls upon all agencies of the United Nations system to collaborate more closely with the MULPOCs in implementing their multinational subregional programmes and projects.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

523 (XIX). Tourism

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the importance of tourism in social and economic development,

Conscious that the growth of intra-African tourism requires collective efforts at the regional level in the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Noting that an African regional conference on tourism and cooperation is scheduled to take place in Niamey in October 1984,

1. Urges member States to participate at the highest level in the forthcoming African regional conference on tourism and cooperation;
2. Requests the secretariat of ECA to submit all available studies and documentation on the subject to the Conference.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

524 (XIX). The Meetings of the Policy Organs of the MULPOCs, February/April 1984

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) with headquarters at Lusaka, Zambia, Gisenyi, Rwanda, Yaounde, Cameroon, Niamey, the Niger, and Tangier, Morocco,

Recalling further its resolution 296 (XIII) also of 1 March 1977 on the importance and necessity of economic cooperation,

Conscious of the vital role the MULPOCs play in promoting subregional cooperation and integration of the member States in the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Aware of the work programmes adopted by the meetings of the MULPOC Council of Ministers held at Conakry, Guinea, 14 February 1984; Brazzaville, Congo, 27 to 29 February 1984; Addis Ababa, 12 to 14 March 1984; Kinshasa, Zaire, 23 and 24 March 1984; and the meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC, Tangier, Morocco, 31 March to 1 April, 1984,

1. Endorses the resolutions of the MULPOC Council of Ministers and of the North African Meeting of Plenipotentiaries annexed hereto as Annex I (Lusaka); Annex II (Gisenyi); Annex III (Yaounde); Annex IV (Niamey) and Annex V (Tangier);

2. Congratulates the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) on their achievements in the field of subregional economic cooperation and integration and urges them to intensify their activities in this field.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

525 (XIX). Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/36 of 5 December 1980, the Annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/202 of 20 December 1982, which reaffirms the decision to carry out in 1984 the first overall review and appraisal of the state of implementation of the policy measures, as well as the realization of the goals and objectives, of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling further United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/152 of 19 December 1983, which expresses its deep regret at the lack of progress in the launching of global negotiations which are intended to be one of the principal instruments for facilitating the implementation of the International Development strategy,

Deeply concerned over the lack of real progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in Africa,

Recalling that the primary objective of the strategy should be to promote the development of developing countries in accordance with the objectives of the new international economic order,

Convinced that coercive economic measures adversely affect the economies of the developing countries and their efforts in the field of economic and social development and seriously impede the implementation of the International Development Decade,

Noting that for the implementation of the International Development Strategy to be successful, measures should be taken to build confidence in international economic relations,

1. Urges the Governments of the member States of the Commission to renew their efforts for the purpose of removing obstacles to the implementation of the major goals and objectives of the Strategy;
2. Invites States members of the Commission to bring to the attention of the summer session of the Economic and Social Council in 1984 the views of the countries of the African region regarding the causes which impede the achievement of the major goals and objectives of the Strategy;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the region and to submit it to the Commission at its twentieth session.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

526 (XIX). African Economic and Social Crisis

The Conference of Ministers,

Gravely concerned about the deepening economic and social crisis in Africa and its grave implications for the peoples and economies of the continent,

Having carefully analyzed the nature, causes and impact of the current economic and social crisis as well as the measures necessary to deal with the crisis as contained in the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis,

Aware of the various activities and programmes already being undertaken by the African peoples and Governments to deal with the current crisis,

1. Adopts the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis;
2. Strongly appeals to all African member States to rally behind the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and to participate at the second 1984 ECOSOC session at ministerial level in order to mobilize support for this Special Memorandum;
3. Commends the decision of the 40th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the current crisis in Africa which requested the ECA Conference of ministers to consider the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative and make recommendations thereon to the forty-first ordinary session of the Council of Ministers and to the twentieth ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;
4. Appreciates the efforts taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and implores them to continue to enlist the support of the international community for the efforts of member States;

5. Recognizes that while the primary responsibility for dealing with the crisis lies with the Governments and Peoples of Africa, the magnitude and severity of the crisis make the speedy and appropriate response by all members of the international community, the United Nations, its relevant organs and specialized agencies and other relevant institutions, as well as the significant improvement of the international economic environment necessary conditions for the effective solutions to the current crisis;

6. Calls upon all members of the international community, the United Nations, its relevant organs and specialized agencies and relevant institutions, to take urgent and appropriate measures, as contained in the ECA Special Memorandum, to assist African member States in dealing effectively with the current crisis;

7. Notes with satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, ECA Executive Secretary, as his Special Representative on the Economic and Social Crisis in Africa as well as the establishment of the Nairobi Office and the useful work which this Office has already undertaken;

8. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for having helped the Conference of Ministers to prepare the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis and commends him for the high quality of the document and the depth and comprehensiveness of the analysis and proposals therein;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to transmit the ECA Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis and its annexes to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and appeals to ECOSOC to give this Special Memorandum the solemn and serious consideration it deserves and to take appropriate measures to assist the African member States in averting the impending catastrophe;

10. Further requests the Secretary-General of the OAU to transmit the Special Memorandum and annexes to the 20th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

527 (XIX). Special appeal to the London Summit of Seven Major Industrialized Countries of June 1984

The Conference of Ministers,

Having reviewed once again the economic and social crisis which has engulfed the whole of Africa and the serious impact which it has on the social and economic conditions of the African people,

Gravely concerned by the deterioration in the economic and social situation of the African countries triggered by the unprecedented drought which now affects 34 African countries, and the devastating impact of the global economic recession,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for the development of the African economies rests with the Governments and peoples of Africa,

Further recognizing that the scale and the complexity of the problem makes it difficult for the African countries to deal with it by themselves and that there is therefore an urgent need for massive assistance from the international community,

Commending the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in bringing to the attention of the international community the present serious and devastating economic crisis in Africa, and noting with satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, as his special representative on the present African economic crisis with the establishment of a temporary office in Nairobi to assist in dealing with the crisis,

1. Strongly appeals to all Heads of State and Government participating at the London Summit of Seven major Industrialized Countries to be held in June 1984 to come to the assistance of the African countries through the mobilization of massive resources to deal with the present economic and social crisis in Africa;

2. Expresses its appreciation to those member countries of the international community who have taken special measures to implement the decisions adopted at the earlier meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to meet the aid targets of 0.7 per cent of their Gross National Product in official development assistance to developing countries, and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries, of which African LDCs constitute the majority;

3. Further expresses its deep appreciation to those bilateral and multilateral donors who have responded favourably to the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the economic crisis in Africa;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit this resolution to the London Summit of Seven Major Industrialized Countries to be held in June 1984.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

528 (XIX). Meteorological services to combat drought in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the climatic situation and drought in Africa,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/68 of 29 July 1983 on the climatic situation and drought in Africa,

Aware that the drought in Africa is a terrible affliction which has caused suffering among hundreds of thousands of African people,

Notes with appreciation the statement of the Secretary-General of the World meteorological Organization to the Conference of Ministers on the meteorological and climatic aspects of drought in Africa,

Realizing that drought is a recurring climatic, non-periodic phenomenon which cannot be currently predicted accurately by cycles or trends and must be studied scientifically,

Considering that practical and useful steps can be taken now to help African countries make better use of existing weather and climatic data and techniques to combat drought,

Being convinced that increased efforts on the causes, characteristics and prediction of drought in Africa - both physical and statistical - will assist the African Governments concerned to prepare long-term plans to mitigate the effects of possible future drought, especially from the point of view of optimum land use,

Recognizing that the availability of adequate meteorological and climatological information is essential to carry out reliably these studies,

Noting also with satisfaction the results of the AGRHYMET Programme being implemented by WMO in the Sahel for the inter-State Committee for Fight against Drought (CILSS),

1. Urges member States to support the balanced development of their national Meteorological Services, thereby ensuring that these services can make their fullest contribution to serve the socio-economic development in their respective countries in order to assist the African Governments on a sound scientific basis, in their efforts to mitigate the effects of drought, and other weather-related disasters as well as in the major efforts for the rational exploitation and conservation of their natural resources (particularly vegetation, water, marine and energy resources) and the solution of related environmental problems;

2. Invites member States to promote individually and collectively their efforts in atmospheric science research, particularly to those problems of relevance to the weather and climatic anomalies occurring in Africa and to the application of meteorology to socio-economic activities;

3. Invites further the member States to consider fostering their cooperation and collaboration in the field of meteorological research;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to study with WMO and other concerned United Nations organizations and specialized agencies the feasibility of establishing an advanced centre for meteorology in Africa or any other alternative institutional mechanisms and to submit the study to the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the cooperation of ECA in all projects which WMO is considering for all drought-stricken regions in Africa including projects such as the AGRHYMET programme.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

529 (XIX). A substantial assessment of the roundtables and consultative group meetings

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling paragraphs 111 and 113 of the Substantive New programme of Action (SNPA) recommending the setting-up of national mechanisms for regular and periodic review and implementation of the SNPA,

Further recalling its resolution 482 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the first round of review meetings for African least developed countries,

Noting with concern that the review meetings so far organized have not totally met the expectations of the least developed countries,

Aware of the importance of the Mid-Term Global Review of the progress in the implementation of the SNPA to be held in September/October 1985 under the auspices of UNCTAD,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to urgently prepare an appropriate framework to enable African LDCs to assess the implementation of the SNPA and to forward on time the individual country's assessment to the ECA secretariat;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank to make an assessment of the roundtables and consultative group meetings so far organized, before the next meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers of African least developed countries.

233rd meeting,
26 May 1984.

530 (XIX). Vote of thanks to His Excellency Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Commission to Organise the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and the Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Ethiopia

The Conference of Ministers,

Deeply grateful to H.E. Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Commission to Organize the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia, and to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their most generous hospitality, warm and fraternal reception, and full cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa which has enabled the Commission and its subsidiary organs to hold seven major meetings at Addis Ababa at short notice within the last three weeks, namely: the third meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Whole on Trade and Finance for African Development, the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries, the fifth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, the fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, the Intergovernmental Extraordinary meeting of Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning, the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries and the nineteenth session of the Commission/tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the fact that the cooperation given by the Government of Ethiopia to the Commission in the arrangements for the holding of the aforementioned meetings in Addis Ababa has provided a momentous opportunity for the representatives of member States of the Commission to consider various aspects of the deteriorating economic and social conditions of Africa, especially the current economic crisis, and to propose measures for accelerating the development of the continent and arresting the crisis,

1. Addresses its gratitude to H.E. Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Commission to Organize the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia and to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their warm hospitality and for the facilities generously made available to the Commission and all participants in the aforementioned meetings, which contributed largely to the success of their deliberations;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Socialist Ethiopia.